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# THE WHEELER TIMES

(USPS-680-960)  
VOLUME 89, NUMBER 9

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

SINGLE COPY **50c**

“Wheeler: town of friendship and pride”



**Congratulations, Nicholas Sparks and David Uribe.** These young men earned a chair in the Texas State Band in February. Thanks to John Bratton for the information and pictures.

**Congratulations, Summer Meller and Stormie Meriwether;** they are headed for state the last of May with their voice solos.

(Continued Page 3)



Summer Meller, Ariel Lohberger and Stormie Meriwether

## STORM REPORT



As Reported by . . .  
**Stormie Meriwether,**  
Twelfth Grade Student

Dearest Friends, The practice for our UIL Band Concert Contest went great. We are ready and in my heart I know we will get all ones! I hope the band goes to State!

In 2020, I got a 1 in Vocal Solo and qualified for State. COVID cancelled the State Meet. I've waited two years to get another chance. On

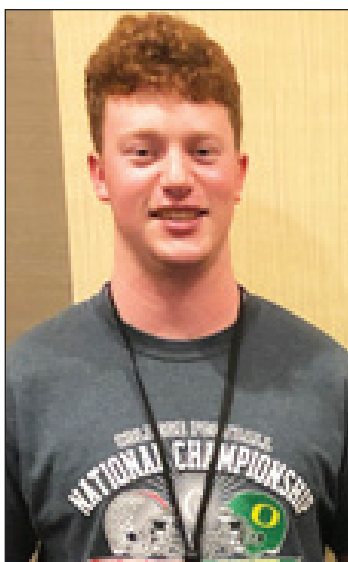
(Continued Page 4)

## Soloist Meller & Meriwether Headed For State

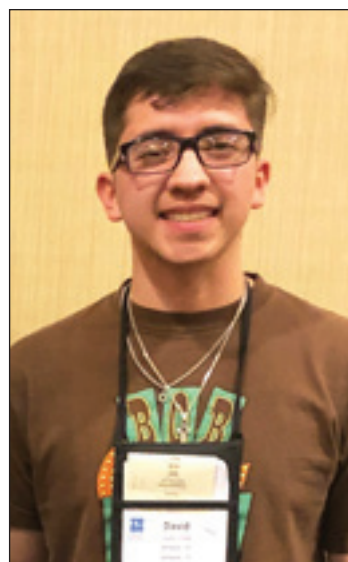
Local students entered the Regional UIL Music Vocal Solo contest on Saturday, February 26th, 2022, which was held at Canyon High School. Stormie Meriwether, a senior at Wheeler ISD, and Summer Meller, a junior at Fort Elliott CISD, both competed with solos, and both received a Superior rating on their solos.

Both girls are private students of Ariel Lohberger,

(Continued Page 4)



Nicholas Sparks



David Urbie

## David Urbie & Nicholas Sparks Participate In All-State Band

The Association of Texas Small School Bands is pleased to announce the selection of the 2022 ATSSB All-State Band. High school students from across Texas auditioned in twenty-two

different regions for a place in their respective All-Region Bands. The top chairs in each region advanced to one of the five area auditions held on the weekend of January

(Continued Page 6)

## Parkview Employees Request Cost Of Living Pay Increases

A regular called meeting of the North Wheeler County Hospital District Board was held at the hospital at 6 p.m. on January 17, 2022.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roy Laughlin, Chairman Pam Hibler, Vice-Chairman Janie VanZandt, Secretary Marla Ford, Member  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Roger Brown, Member  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Monica Kidd, CEO (by telephone); Jace Henderson, CFO; Cecil Gaither, DON and Maintenance; and Ray Jennings, Ambulance; Dr. Eric, M.D.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER: Roy Laughlin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with a prayer.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:  
a. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: December 20, 2021  
b. PATIENT CENSUS  
c. PAYMENT OF BILLS  
d. INVESTMENTS – Currently, there are three CDs at Happy State Bank totaling \$1,112,323.20.

e. QAPI  
f. DATE OF NEXT MEETING  
(Continued Page 2)



Earl Jolly

## Memorial Service Held For Earl Jolly

Memorial services for Earl Dee “Papa Dee” Jolly, were conducted Friday, February 25, 2022 at 11:00 AM in Cornerstone Church in Wheeler. Private family burial was in Wheeler Cemetery in Wheeler prior to the

(Continued Page 2)

## Chamber Membership Drive

The Wheeler Chamber of Commerce hosted a Taco Supper/Membership Drive Tuesday, February 22. A good crowd was in attendance.

Debbie Finsterwald welcomed those in attendance and urged those in attendance to join the Chamber and help promote Wheeler. The crowd was informed of families moving to Wheeler and Wheeler County to enjoy our

way of life.

The Chamber runs 100% on dues and sponsorships. Membership dues are as low as \$125 per year, which can be drawn as a draft at \$15 per month. The Chamber maintains a web site at chamber@wheeler-texas.org.

In addition to the dues, members are urged to help sponsorships and work. The

(Continued Page 3)

# Merely Mustard

I began this day with a clear mind and a few ideas of things I might write about. Now I have a jumbled mind and am unable to find much in the way of ideas of things to write about, except for the lack of ideas of things to write about.

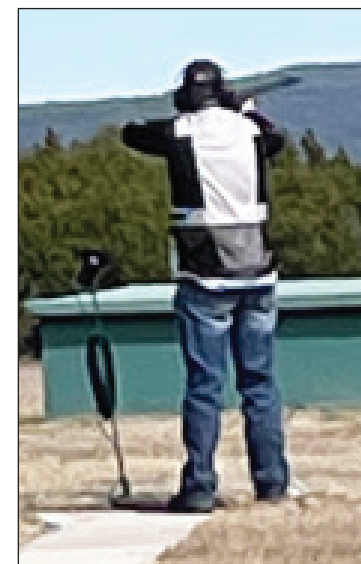
My mind is like my desk: very difficult to keep clean. Almost each of the myriad stimuli encountered, from something seen, to a comment someone makes, takes up a little space; consumes a little processing power, like a computer with

too many processes running in the background; all of this causes fruitful thoughts to not flow particularly easy, or be accessed readily.

The solution to this dilemma is the same as the solution to a cluttered desk

– to clean up! There must be a sort of detox practice employed that has the effect of resetting the mind, which had become encumbered by any of the varied stimuli that were encountered

(Continued Page 2)



Kash Long



Tess Braddock

## Tess Braddock, Kash Long Place At San Antonio Junior Shoot-Out

Kelton FFA students Tess Braddock and Kash Long recently competed in American 5- Stand Trap Shooting in the Open Girls and Boys FFA Division at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Jr. Shoot-Out. Each

placed 2nd after a top 3 person shoot off for a \$10,000 San Antonio Scholarship. Each student received a very generous prize package for their Runner Up positions and look forward to competing next year.



**April Fish:** Wheeler's One-Act play was performed Sunday evening for a local audience. The play "April Fish" is a comedy by Ted Pezzulo. The cast are freshman through senior students; they competed Wednesday, March 2 at Panhandle in District Competition. Pictured are (back row, l. to r.) Braxton Scott, freshman; Marcos Aguilar, freshman; Isiah Lopez, junior; Wes Shaw, Sophomore; Emmanuel Almanza, junior; Jenna Helton, junior; Rosy Gonzalez, junior; (front) Keaton Conner, freshman; Faydra Woollard, Larah Collins, freshman; Sierra Hardcastle, freshman; Sydnei Smith senior; Makenzie Gipson, freshman; Samantha Ramirez, senior; Bryce Richardson, senior; David Uribe, senior and Marshall McNeil, freshman.

# Sheriff's Report

NAME	AGE	CHARGE	BOND	RELEASE
LONG,PAXTON	32	THEFT OF PROPERTY >=\$750<\$2500	\$15,000.00	IN CUSTODY
		FAIL TO ID FUGITIVE GIVE FALSE INFO	\$1,500.00	
LAUGHTON,TAMMY	44	RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT	\$2,500.00	IN CUSTODY
THOMAS,EVAN	26	ESCAPE WHILE ARRESTED/CONFINED	\$15,000.00	2/24/22
WILLIAMS,DEJINOBLE	24	BURGLARY OF A HABITATION	\$20,000.00	IN CUSTODY
		BURGLARY OF A BUILDING	\$2,500.00	
RICHMOND,HOPE	22	TAMPER/FAB PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	\$10,000.00	2/25/22
		PROH SUBSTANCE IN A CORR FACILITY	\$10,000.00	
		POSS CS PG 2<1G	\$5,000.00	

IN CUSTODY IN WHEELER CO	
ALVAREZ,JOSE	33
CAMPBELL,AARON	30
COFFEY,JENNIFER	39
DORSEY,NATHANIEL	29
DYLE,KOREE	34
GONZALES-LOPEZ,EPAFRODITO	32
HERNANDEZ,MARCOS	37
LAUGHTON,TAMMY	44
LINDT,JOHN	50
LONG,PAXTON	32
LUNA,EVAN	20
LYNN,JOE	28
MILLER,DAVID	59
PEREZ-DOMINGUEZ,AGAPITO	39
RITCHIE,MICHAEL	47
SANTIAGO-SALGADO,JOSE	29
SHULER,LEE	47
SMITH,ADAM	40
SOMSNITH,VANTHALY	58
SPARKMAN,HEATHER	43
THORNBERRY,BRANDON	28
WATSON,MARCUS	19
WELSH,MELISSA	33
WILLIAMS,DEJINOBLE	24

## Parkview (from Page 1)

ING: FEBRUARY 21, 2022  
Pam Hibler made a motion to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. Janie VanZandt seconded the motion; vote was unanimous.

3. EMS REPORT – RAY JENNINGS: Ray talked about recent ambulance accidents in the state of Texas where two EMS providers were killed during early morning hours. Ray stated

## Merely (from Page 1)

between the point of clear mind and cluttered desk. This detox practice could be any number of things, from sitting quietly, to playing sports or exercising, climbing a mountain, etc. Some psychologists have referred to these resetting practices as “flow states”, a quite nebulous term which I cannot describe and therefore cannot be sure I have accessed, and for which I might have to hire a psychologist (see how that works?) to help determine whether I have accessed it, or not. I think it would be simpler to describe the desired state as simply a mental reset, or detox. But that doesn't have as alluring a ring to it, and as far as I can tell, psychologists don't operate in the realm of the simple, by default.

One of the more effective resetting practices for me is to simply begin cleaning my surroundings. Clearing the material clutter from my physical environment tends to also help clean out the mental clutter. I believe there is a strong connection between physical and psychological clutter, but the determination as to which one causes the other is unclear to me, and that question would be best left to the individual who successfully determines whether the chicken or its egg arrived first.

Incidentally, writing this column can be a mental decluttering practice as well. In those cases, the words flow out without much direction, and the message is not always clear, but it flows nonetheless. It is a bit like the imprecise and unusable release of accumulated pressure when a safety valve opens on an air compressor. Such is the case with this piece, which I convey with my hope that this old brain receives a spring cleaning between this week and the next.

that he participated in the Panhandle RAC covid update meetings. There are some communications issues due to a failed microwave radio. Air purification units have been installed at the station and in the medic units to further reduce contaminants. The IV warmer bags have been replaced to prevent cold fluids from being introduced into patients and causing hypothermia during critical medical or trauma events. 2022 is a relicensing year for both DSHS and CLIA for EMS, and a cost reporting year for CMS. The EMS crew completed the LUCAS CPR online training course as an annual refresher. Ray stated that Roy Nelson is attending the Advanced EMT course, and Tandy Drake is continuing with the Paramedic course. He discussed each medic unit and any issues. The department had thirty calls for service with an average response time of 9 minutes, 51 seconds.

4. CNO/Maintenance Report:  
Nurse Staffing - Cecil was presented with a stack of letters from employees requesting pay increases. He then presented those to the board. Cecil stated that some employees have gone onto other jobs paying \$60/hour. Financially, we are in a difficult situation since we cannot compete with those wages. After board discussion with Jace and Cecil, it was decided that Monica, Jace, and Cecil should meet and produce a financial plan related to salary increases. Jace stated that expenses are quickly rising at a higher rate than our overall income. A cost-of-living raise will cost the hospital \$250,000.

b. Kitchen Flooring – Cecil stated that the RPO resurfacing bid on putting down an elite-crete hermetic flake flooring system totaled \$15,950 and will take two days to complete. It will be in the kitchen and dining areas. Related to the liquid oxygen, the company said it would not be cost effective. So, the hospital is on diversion and not accepting respiratory patients due to the lack of oxygen bottles. There are sixty-four bottle s coming from Austin.

c. Covid Mandate – The OSHA mandate was struck down by the US supreme court. The CMS mandate upheld, and all exemptions are still on file.

d. Yearly Census - Cecil reviewed the yearly census with the board, comparing years from 2018 through 2021.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATISTICS  
Jace reviewed Income and Expense statements with the board.

a. Midcoast Suit Update – No update.

b. Cares Act – PRF & ARP - \$820,000 has come in with specific ways it can be spent. The PRF funds will pay for the kitchen floor. CTMP funds of \$255,000 will go toward the new EMR (electronic medical record software program).

c. DSH overpayment for January - We will owe \$87,000 when Jace receives the demand letter.

d. CR Settlement - This is the Cost Report settlement which should be \$500,000 coming to the hospital. We usually get it in December.

6. APPROVE BAD DEBT AND CHARITY

WRITE-OFFS - No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS  
a. Board Virtual Education, Jan 26th, 12-1 pm, Governance Megatrends - All board members are required to attend the training to be held in the hospital board room. There will also be more board training scheduled.

b. EMR progress – Azalea and Thrive have been sent to the attorney to redline. Employees prefer Thrive. The new EMR should be up and running by June 1.

c. Open meetings and Public Information Act training - Janie needs to complete these.

d. Employee satisfaction survey results – Results have not been compiled yet.

8. NEW BUSINESS  
a. First Day for candidates to file for place on the ballot, Jan 19 – Forms are available from Debbie Glassey.

b. Last Day to file for place on ballot, Feb 18

c. Board orders a general election (deadline is Feb 18) - Board will issue the order February if there is competition.

d. Tax Deed approval - This is related to property on Texas Street. Roy Laughlin and Janie VanZandt signed the Property Order of Sale.

e. Policy and Procedure Manual – Nursing - Board signatures were secured on the updated manual.

f. Department Updates - The Lab is fully staffed. Environmental Services has some turnover. There is continuous turnover in Dietary.

g. Marketing/Community assessment – This has been temporarily postponed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be on Monday, February 21, 2022, at 6 p.m.



Taco Buffet was enjoyed by those attending the Chamber Membership Drive Tuesday, February 22.



After eating the youngsters enjoyed Games.

## Wheeler County COURT RECORDS

List of instruments filed in the County Clerk's office from February 17, 2022 to February 23, 2022.

FEBRUARY 17, 2022  
TRUST AFF.-Rita Lenoch to Rita Lenoch Separate Property Management Trust, 2-10-22.  
TRUSTEE DEED-Rita Lenoch Separate Property Management Trust to Huff Land LP, 2-15-22, W/2 Sec. 1, Blk. 4, Brooks & Burleson Survey and W/2 Sec. 2, Blk. 4, Brooks & Burleson Survey (See Exceptions).  
RDT-Capital Farm Credit ACA to Jerry Dan Hefley, et ux, 2-14-22, See Instrument.  
DEED-Jerry Robertson, et al to Michael Wayne Bullock, 1-4-22, 1.47 acs (Lots 1-5), Blk. 88, Woodley's Southside Addition, Shamrock.  
HEIRSHIP AFF.-Erika Sigala, et al to Saul Engles, 2-17-22,

Lot 1, Blk. 6, Parklane Estates, Wheeler.  
FEBRUARY 18, 2022  
RDT-Bokf NA to Urban Fund II LP, 12-29-21, See Instrument.  
RDT-Bokf NA to Urban Oil and Gas Partners B-1 LP, 12-29-21, See Instrument.  
FEBRUARY 21, 2022  
Holiday  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022  
TRUSTEE MD-James Glenn Cox Revocable Living Trust to Benincosa Joint Revocable Trust, 1-28-22, SE/4 Sec. 11, Blk. A-3, H&GN Ry. Company Survey.  
TRUSTEE MD/ROY. DEED-Commonwealth Trust Company, et al to Barbara Dilsheimer, et al, 1-25-22, See Instrument.  
MD/ROY. DEED-Commonwealth Trust Company to Barbara Dilsheimer (Trustee), et al, 1-25-22, See Instrument.  
MD/ROY. DEED-Commonwealth Trust Company to Brovic LLC, et al, 1-25-22, See Instrument.  
MD/ROY. DEED-Commonwealth Trust Company to Brovic LLC, et al, 1-25-22, See Instrument.

(Continued Page 3)

Fort Elliott Elementary Cougars of the Week Feb. 21 thru Feb.25



First Grade Charley Hughes



Fourth Grade Tommy Hefley

For all your . . . Insurance Needs, See **Koepke Legacy Insurance Group**  
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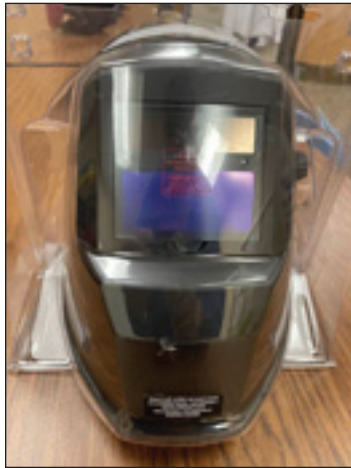




This is a portion of the crowd at the Chamber's taco supper and re-organization meeting.



Wheeler Pre-K celebrated the date Twoday, 2-2-22



Wheeler's Marshall Auto donated new welding helmets to the Kelton FFA.

**Storm** (from Page 1)

Saturday, February 26, I sang in the Regional UIL Vocal Solo Contest and I did it! I get to go to State to sing! The best part is that Summer Meller got Superior also and we get to go together! My parents and my Pop went to hear me sing. It was a fun day and I am very excited to go to Austin! Thank you, Mrs. Lohberger for being our teacher. You are awesome!

The One Act Play is ready for contest this week. Break a leg, guys!

Next week will be the Little Dribblers Basketball. The Senior Class will have concessions. Please come to support the little guys. They



Wheeler Pre-K also celebrated Twin Day Tuesday, February 22 of 2022.

are so cute!  
Go Seniors '22!  
My big dog, Wally, is gone. We will miss that sweet boy. He was loyal, protective and loving. Thank you Drs. Ben Ed and Lee Ann for helping us when we needed you. That's it!



Ridley Cathey 10th place in class two of the Durocs at the 2022 Houston Stock Show.

Wheeler Area - Baseball Signups  
Contact: wheelertxsports@gmail.com

Cost: \$40  
Age: 4-16

ONLINE: March 1st - March 11th (Deadline) \$40 +reg fees  
(<https://wheelersports.sportngin.com/register/form/557707248>)

FORMS: Wheeler City Hall (under the water tower), M-F 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm

IN PERSON: Sunday, March 6th from 2pm-3pm at the Rogue Theater 406 Main Street in Wheeler.

A coach/volunteer meeting will be held on March 22nd at 6pm at the Rogue Theater 406 Main Street.

We are excited for the opportunities this brings for our children in the community. We want to celebrate this and we are looking to host an OPENING DAY this year on Saturday, May 7th!!! We want to invite everyone out to come and watch a parade, opening ceremony, introduce the players/coaches/volunteers and kick off their season with their first game! It will be a fun day for all, so mark your calendars now!!!

Dates to note:  
3/11/22 - 3/11/22 - Registration/Signup  
3/11/22 - LAST DAY to Register/Signup  
3/22/22 - Parent/Coach/Volunteer Meeting  
End of March - Practice starts  
5/7/22 - Opening Day to kick off season!

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# CONGRATULATIONS

## **Stormie Meriwether & Summer Meller, State Bound Soloists**



*Stormie Meriwether*



*Summer Meller*

Students of Ariel Lohberger, representing

**Wheeler High School and  
Fort Elliott High School**



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# CONGRATULATIONS

## DAVID URIBE & NICHOLAS SPARKS

### MEMBERS TEXAS ALL-STATE BAND



Nicholas Sparks is awarded a three-year scholarship by the President of ATSSB.



David Uribe was awarded the Kenner Memorial scholarship and a three-year scholarship.

#### All-State (from Page 1)

8th. Wheeler competes in Area West which stretches from the top of the panhandle all the way to El Paso. The Area competition was held in Levelland. Upon completion of the Area round, approximately 270 students were selected for All-State honors.

The ATSSB All-State Bands rehearsed in conjunction with the Texas Music Educator Association (TMEA) conference in San Antonio, Texas on February 9-12th, 2022. The culmination of the TMEA conference was the concert performance of the All-State Band in the Lila Cockrell Theatre of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in downtown San Antonio.

Seniors, Nicholas Sparks and David Uribe were

selected as members of the Band. For both students, with was the third year in a row to earn this honor.

"Making All-State three years in a row truly showed me that hard work does pay off," Sparks said. "After watching my sisters compete at a high level in Cross Country and Track as a kid, it made me aspire to do the same as them. They molded to path for me to work hard and be persistent which eventually paid off and helped me accomplish the awesome feat that not many people are able to experience."

According to Band Director John Bratton, the odds of making the All-State Band even one time are slim, to say nothing of the odds of having a three-peat.

"Starting at the Region level, we don't just compete against students from other

2A schools," Bratton said. "Our students go up against much bigger schools to compete for these honors, so it's a big deal to even make the Region Band, and advancing to Area and State for kids from 2A schools is just extremely rare... especially to have two students who have both made it three times."

While in San Antonio, the students were placed into a band with the other All-State musicians and spent most of their days preparing for the concert, with the evenings free to enjoy the city.

"Something memorable about my all-state experience was enjoying san antonio with some of my closest friends. We explored the riverwalk and other close buildings," Uribe said.

The students were also able to visit the exhibit hall of the TMEA convention, and

try to play many unusually instruments as well and hear world-class performers.

During the concert, both David and Nicholas were awarded scholarships for earning a spot in the group for at least three years during their high school careers. In addition to the general scholarship, Uribe was also awarded the Kenner Memorial Scholarship. This is a scholarship for students who wish to pursue a music education in college and according to the president of the ATSSB organization, Uribe is the first student from a 2A high school to receive this award.

"I am thankful for having the opportunity to make the All-state band three times. Along with many memories, i am also thankful to receive 2 scholarships that will help me further my education," Uribe said. "I enjoyed making

new friends and also playing music with the best musicians in Texas."

Dr. Caroline Beatty of Texas State University served as the clinician-conductor of the All-State Band. The group premiered the piece: "Rising" by Clifton Jones which was commissioned by the ATSSB. Other pieces included "La Tragenda," "In Two Places," "Tribute," and "Carmina Burana."

"Working on music with such talented musicians in such amazing places under extraordinary conductors will always be something I'll never forget," said Sparks. "It was a true honor getting to represent Wheeler ISD and I just hope that people are able to learn from us and strive to be better at whatever they do so that they can experience what we did."

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