

INSIDE

## End of discussion

Mike Pound, Page 4

INSIDE

■ On the morning of the fall equinox, the city of Burleson is hoping volunteers from around the community will come together to start the season off with a clean slate. **Page 3**

SPORTS

■ Indians dominate Black-cats on Saturday to move to 2-0. **Page 7**

Tuesday  
September 11, 2012

CLEBURNE

# Times-Review

12 PAGES ■ VOLUME 103 ■ NO. 181

JOHNSON COUNTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢ WEEKDAYS — \$1.50 SUNDAYS

## Burn ban still in effect for Johnson County

### Commissioners go forward with gym renovations

BY LAURA ZAMORA  
REPORTER3@TRCLE.COM

Johnson County commissioners addressed several items in a regular session meeting Monday morning,

including whether or not to rescind the county-wide outdoor burn ban they enacted earlier this summer.

Commissioners decided not to rescind the ban and tabled further discussion, despite Precinct 1 Commissioner Rick Bailey mentioning the decent amount of rain his precinct received over the last month.

"If you do a quick overview, we got a whole bunch of rain but it was

spotty; Not everyone got the same amount," Precinct 3 Commissioner Jerry Stringer said. "We just did not get that much in the central part of the county."

County Judge Roger Harmon said while a lot of areas received good rain, others haven't and it's better to keep the ban intact for now to be safe.

Commissioners approved ASR's

bid to renovate Brown Gym for the personnel department. Personnel Director Randal Gillespie recommended starting with small steps. The county purchased the gym from Cleburne ISD in June 2010 to expand its facilities.

"We encourage our employees to think healthy," Gillespie said. "Start with baby steps, possibly a portion of this, and see the partici-

pation. If it goes as planned, then we can come back and finish."

The cost to renovate two workout rooms totals about \$4,000, Gillespie said. The gym and hallway renovations should cost about \$16,000. Gillespie's recommendation for starting on a "portion" of the gym included both those areas. A third area, the locker room,

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## Sparking pride



Reagan Mead, a Cleburne High School freshman, takes a slice of pizza at the new serving line in the cafeteria. Monday was the first day the new line opened, allowing students to cut down on the wait time and crowds in the lunchroom.

Amber Washington/CTR

## Cleburne High School debuts new cafeteria

BY AMBER WASHINGTON  
REPORTER@TRCLE.COM

When the serving lines opened Monday for lunch, students at Cleburne High School wasted no time voicing their opinions about the newly-renovated school cafeteria serving area.

"Our school looks great now," quipped one student.

"It looks a lot more modern," said Melanie

Looper, a freshman.

Amid all the comments, Child Nutrition Director Kim Chance just smiled. The cafeteria remodel had been in the back of her mind for some time, and to see it come to life is wonderful, she said.

Despite feeling a little more rushed than usual, Chance said she was pleased with student and employee feedback.

Some noted that the serving area looked more like a college food court than a high

school cafeteria, which Chance said she had hoped for.

Cleburne ISD trustees earlier this year approved the renovations, which took place over the summer and the last couple of weeks. The final piece of equipment was ready to go by 10 a.m. Monday. Up until then, students only had one area where they could pick up food, making lines long and more crowded than

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## Electrical wiring could be source of house fire

BY MATT SMITH  
MSMITH@TRCLE.COM

A Saturday house fire resulted in damage but no injuries. Cleburne firefighters responded at 4:15 a.m. to the 600 block of Granbury Street on a report of smoke in the home.

Firefighters arrived to find the occupants outside, but no initial signs of smoke or fire. A search uncovered smoke emitting from the wall and floor behind and beneath the kitchen stove. Firefighters pulled tile flooring away then used saws and other tools to access the area in question. Firefighters located the fire in the beams of the pier and beam flooring. Access proved difficult, according to reports, given the fire's location where several beams and floor supports come together.

Electrical wiring found at the point of the fire provided the only obvious heat source, according to reports. Firefighters also noted a water leak near the area. Firefighters knocked the fire down and soaked the area to ensure it was out. Firefighters also noted that a breaker on the home's electrical panel had tripped.

The homeowner said he smelled smoke then saw light smoke near the back of the house when he got up to go to work. The man reported no previous problems with the home's electrical or water systems.

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## Food prices to increase in 2013, costs could spike by 4%

BY AMBER WASHINGTON  
REPORTER@TRCLE.COM

Food inflation and the drought in the Midwest have caused what could be the perfect storm for a food price hike in 2013, The Food Institute reports.

According to the study, a family of four can expect to spend about \$351.12 more on food in 2013, or \$6.75 each week.

Beef and fresh produce will be

two of the culprits, which will cost a family of four, on average, about \$44 and \$23.44 more, respectively.

"It's hard to project grocery prices into next year because now we're seeing stabilized pricing," said Gary Huddleston, director of consumer affairs for the north Texas region of Kroger. "Some areas are seeing a decrease and some areas are seeing an increase."

Huddleston said Kroger stores try to pass on savings to the con-

sumer by keeping production near its stores. For example, a milk plant is in Fort Worth and much of the produce selection is brought in from local farmers.

"We broke with some special pricing in our meat department," he added. "We were able to do that because of efficiencies in procurement and transportation."

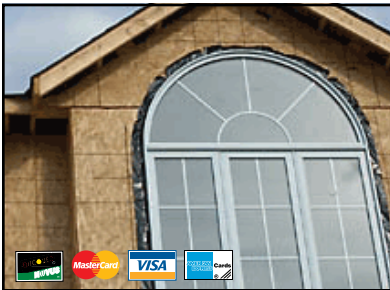
Dennis Price, owner of D's

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Misty Smith checks out the selection of fresh produce at D's Farmers Market Monday. The price of groceries is expected to go up about 4 percent in 2013. Also pictured is King Reagan.

Amber Washington/CTR



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## Local briefs

### OVERLAY PROJECT BEGINS ON MONDAY

The Texas Department of Transportation put out a release correcting previous information concerning planned closures for West Henderson Street in Cleburne.

Work on the street will

begin, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday stretching from Pendell to Robinson streets. Workers scheduled those hours to avoid the morning and evening rush hours. Construction near the Johnson County Courthouse will occur at night. One lane in other portions of the street

will be closed at various times for construction, which is scheduled to complete this fall. The one-mile project includes pavement milling and repair and asphalt overlay.

Project daily road closure information may be found under keyword "Road Conditions" at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov).

— *Special to the CTR*



Amber Washington/CTR  
Mark Lackey looks at some seeds at D's Farmers Market Monday. With prices expected to hike in 2013, some may turn to growing their own produce.

## PRICES

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Farmers Market on Main Street, said he has seen the beginnings of price inflation and noted, "It's going to get high. It's going to get real high."

However, he said, it's not clear exactly how high prices will rise. Fuel and transportation costs will play a factor, especially in the winter months when produce has to be brought in from other areas of the state or out of the country.

Farmers markets are typically able to offer fresh produce at a lower rate than grocery stores, but will still feel the impact of any rising cost, Price added.

The Upper Saddle River, N.J.-based trade association used the United States Department of Agriculture's food price projections for 2013, which indicate families will spend about 4 percent more at the grocery store and 3.5 percent more when they go out to dinner.

Costs to eat at restaurants could spike about \$125 for a

family of four or \$86.73 for two-person households, the study says.

As Huddleston noted, the amount a family spends at the grocery store could vary depending on what items consumers choose to buy. Canned and frozen produce are expected to stay about the same price, offsetting the cost, while poultry prices are also expected to stay low. Those who continue to purchase the same amount of meat might be blaming about one third of their total meat cost on beef.

## WIRING

cont. from pg. 1

**Police calls**

Cleburne police responded to a cellphone theft at 9:50 p.m. Friday in the 1700 block of North Main Street. A woman said she left her cellphone on the bar when she went to the restroom and returned to find it missing. Surveillance footage showed another woman at the bar take the phone, according to reports. The woman, who was still on scene, returned the phone and the victim told police she did not wish to pursue charges for theft.

When police asked the suspect for identification, she allegedly presented

someone else's ID card. Police arrested Aubrey Dell Flores, 20, of Cleburne on a charge of fraudulent use and possession of identification.

Police responded to a house burglary at 1:21 a.m. Thursday in the 400 block of South Anglin Street. Someone stole a 42-inch LG LCD TV and a Sony DVD player from the house.

Police responded to a vehicle burglary at 1:47 p.m. the same day. Someone stole a Fluke flashlight, a Tom Tom GPS and a man's wallet from the vehicle in the 300 block of Bales Street.

Police responded to a vandalism at 2:40 p.m. the same day in the 1900 block of Joslin Street. Someone broke the home's back door

window.

Police responded to a theft at 4:23 p.m. the same day in the 2100 block of North Main Street. Someone stole the victim's Apple iPhone and his brown wallet, which pictures a horse and a kneeling man as well as identification items in the wallet.

Police responded to a vehicle burglary at 5:26 p.m. Friday in the 600 block of South Walnut Street. Items stolen include a black Nokia cellphone, a Garmin GPS, a checkbook and a black Maglite.

Police responded to a theft at 8:45 a.m. Saturday in the 600 block of North Main Street. Someone stole an aluminum handicap ramp from a building.

## BAN

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would cost about \$48,000, a section of the project Gillespie suggested commissioners hold off for now.

"This is really, I think, an important step," Harmon said. "Any type of wellness program that provides activity will hopefully extend your health, which would be an important thing for our future plus the quality of life of our employees."

It could also lower health insurance costs, Harmon said.

Commissioners also passed a proposal to establish a Johnson County Wellness Committee Step Program, which Gillespie also discussed.

Employees would purchase pedometers for \$2 and take part in a contest to see who takes the most steps throughout the week. There will be weekly prizes for first, second and third place. Gillespie suggested a budget of \$50 a week for prizes. At

the end of four weeks, the participant with the most steps would receive a prize of the cost of the pedometers, he said. The grand prize money would be solely from the \$2 entry fee paid by employees participating.

Commissioners approved several other agenda items, such as using money from the technology fund to purchase two iPads for each of the justice of the peace offices. The iPads would be for Precincts 1, 2 and 4. They also approved an interlocal agreement with Keene ISD for a 2012-13 school resource officer, similar to the agreement made with Cleburne, Joshua and Burleson ISDs on Aug. 28.

The court agreed to reject a bid for the stonework for Market Square and approved the process to re-bid. Bailey mentioned ideas suggested by residents for activities to take place at Market Square once renovations complete. There will be a good number of activities happening once it's up and running, he said.

Commissioners briefly discussed the \$1.50 annual child safety fee they approved during their last meeting. The court agreed to sign an order to move forward with those fees, which are scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

When discussing a reporting structure for Hamm Creek Park, Precinct 4 Commissioner Don Beeson said the court should assume more of a direct role with the park since it's funded by general funds.

"I would like to see the supervisor down there report at least once a month to give a briefing on operations," he said.

The next commissioners court meeting will include a public hearing on the proposed 2012-13 budget. After the hearing, commissioners will vote on the budget and tax rate. The public hearing and budget vote meeting will be at 9 a.m. Sept. 24 in Room 201 of the Johnson County Courthouse at 2 Main St. in Cleburne.

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Amber Washington/CTR  
Cindy Stephens prepares hamburgers to place in the new serving line at CHS Monday.

## PRIDE

cont. from pg. 1

necessary.

Now, students can choose to pick up their meals from the two different areas.

Television screens hanging in the new nook show the daily lunch special, and give students information on various healthy choices.

"I have access to change the screens, so we'll be adding pictures of the kids and things like that," Chance said.

Chance also said she would be making sure stu-

dents knew exactly what was going on their plate. Monday's screen information read that at least a fourth of a student's tray should be full of whole grains.

The cafeteria remodel was long overdue, because what was in place had been there for nearly 20 years, district officials said.

They said Chance had been instrumental in saving the district money over the past several years, bringing the child nutrition fund balance up to \$444,000 as of August 2011. Fewer cafeteria workers, coupled with more efficient and stream-

lined service, as well federally-designated higher lunch prices, helped raise the fund balance. Finished, the project cost about \$350,000.

"There were no kinks, I didn't add anything, so we should be at or under budget," Chance said.

Students this year will also notice other changes in the cafeteria, because food offerings are moving to align with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. More whole grains, wheats and more vegetables are required on each student's plate.

So far, Chance said, there have been no complaints.

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