

STATE CHAMPS

Weatherford Christian baseball team claims state title.
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State lawmakers advance school safety

By MADELYN EDWARDS
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State lawmakers have less than one week to make decisions on topics like school finance and property tax reform.

As of Monday, House Bill 3703, related to expanding the use of cannabis oil, was passed

Forced annexation bills also move forward

by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services unanimously. The next step for the bill is to be considered by the full Senate.

HB 3703, authored by Rep. Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth, would add multiple sclerosis,

epilepsy and spasticity to the medical conditions that can be treated with CBD oil. The Senate committee's version of the bill also includes seizure disorders, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, terminal cancer and autism. This version eliminated

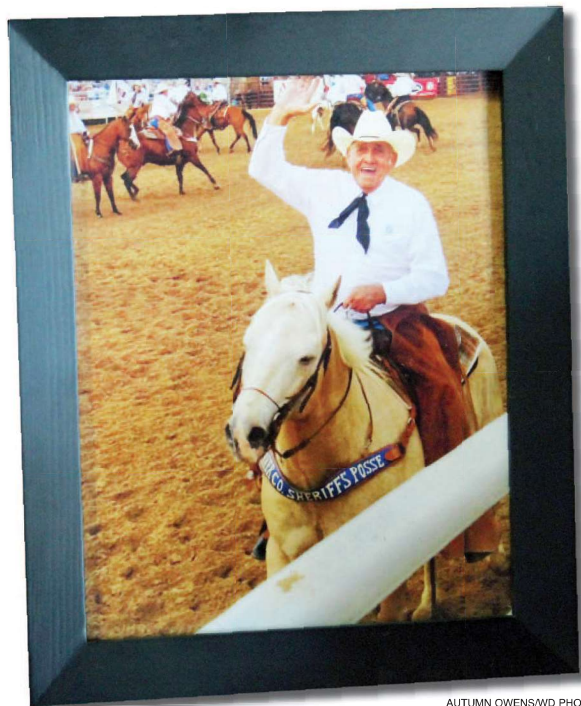
the requirement for patients to see two licensed neurologists before accessing CBD oil and keeps the 0.5 percent cap of THC in medical CBD oil. During the committee hearing, some testifying expressed concerns that the bill did not

include post traumatic stress disorder in the list of ailments.

Senate Bill 11, regarding school safety, was passed unanimously by House Committee on Public Education last week, and the bill will now proceed to the full House for consideration. SB 11, authored by Sen. Larry

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Man of many hats



AUTUMN OWENS/WD PHOTO

Coy Carter looks back on 90 years in county

By AUTUMN OWENS
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Coy Carter has worn many hats throughout his life in Parker County and on May 19 celebrated his 90th birthday, and recently his 60 years as a member of the Parker County Sheriff's Posse.

Carter was born in Horseshoe Bend in 1929 and has not only been a member of the PCSP, but has served as the Parker County sheriff, a constable and a county commissioner.

"I went in [the sheriff's posse] in 1959 under Acme Shaw who was the captain at that time and I've been in there for 60 years now. I got my plaque," Coy said. "I feel real good to get 60 years and I got a lot of friends, I hope."

Coy's son, David Carter, has also been a PCSP member for the past

"I've had a good life and the good Lord has really been good to me to let me live as long as I have, and be as healthy as I am."

- Coy Walker

seven years and said he has some big shoes to fill. "My dad is known throughout the county as a man who tells the truth and he's just been a leader of the family," David said. "If someone said something about him, it was always good. There haven't been two people in my whole life that ever said anything bad about him."

David said the sheriff's posse is a great organization to be a part of.

"We're all sworn in deputies, so we go on manhunts and searching for missing people," David said. "If

they have a cattle truck turn over somewhere along the highway and the cattle are all scattered everywhere, the posse gets together and we go gather them all up. So it's an adventure and a neat organization."

The sheriff's posse also participates in parades around the state.

"Everybody says it's not a parade without Coy in there because I'm hollering," Coy said. "I holler and they'll hear me from about half a block or more and people will say, 'Well here comes the sheriff's posse, we hear Coy hollering.' It's a real nice organization and we've had some good people in there and we have some good people in there now."

Coy became the Parker County sheriff in 1961 and held the position for eight years.

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Some stores raising minimum age for tobacco product purchase

Locals share their thoughts on new policies

By JESSICA POUNDS
By AUTUMN OWENS
CNHI News Service

In an ongoing effort to further prevent youth access to tobacco products, several large chain stores recently announced their companies will increase the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to 21.

Walmart and Sam's Club stores will implement their new policy July 1, with Walgreens following a few months later on Sept. 1.

As details of the policies were revealed, readers shared their thoughts on the Weatherford Democrat Facebook page.

"We have laws in place governing the sale/use of tobacco. It's no the store's place to try to control the legal use of any product they sell," Joe Horner said. "However they

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Survey: 80% of parents say kids' health is excellent

Results revealed from Cook Children's study in 2018

By MADELYN EDWARDS
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According to a survey from Cook Children's Health Care System, 80 percent of Parker County parents describe their child's health as excellent or very good.

The 2018 Community-wide Children's Health Assessment & Planning Survey results were revealed last week at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. The survey includes parent and community leader responses on mental health, abuse and neglect, oral health and healthy lifestyles. The survey was administered in Parker, Tarrant, Wise, Hood, Denton and Johnson counties. This is the fourth time the survey has been dispensed, as the data is collected every three years.

The children's health assessment allows Cook Children's to know where to focus their community efforts, Cook Children's Evaluation Manager Becki Hale said.

"Part of that is asking parents what they think," Hale said. "We also look at data from

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Carter



COURTESY GAIL FOWLER
From left, former Parker County Sheriff's Billy Cain, Coy Carter and current Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler.



AUTUMN OWENS/WD PHOTO
Family members of Coy Carter, center, celebrated his 90th birthday at the Parker County Sheriff's Posse Sunday afternoon. From left, Maxine, daughter-in-law; Candi, granddaughter; Brayden, great-grandson; Coy Carter; Blayne, great-grandson; and David, son.

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"I was running a slaughter house at the time and when I ran for sheriff the first time, I probably knew 80 percent of the people in the county and could tell you where they lived," Coy said. "While I was in the butchering business, people started coming up to me and wanted me to run for sheriff and I told them I wasn't going to do it, but they kept on and on and finally everywhere I went to pick up calves to butcher, people would say, 'We hear you're running for sheriff. We're going to vote for you.' So that's the way it started and I served eight years as sheriff."

David said as sheriff, his father solved more cattle theft cases the first year he was in office than had ever been solved in the history of Parker County.

After his time as sheriff, Coy was a constable and then the Precinct 3 commissioner for the county.

Coy also worked in construction and owned a slaughterhouse called Carter's Processing Plant alongside some family members.

"I was a workaholic and that's why [they said I drove them so hard], but I was right there with them," Coy said with a laugh.

But David said his father has always been an honest man and kept his word running his businesses.

"If he told you he'd build you a house pad for \$1,000 and it ended up costing him \$1,200, you still only paid \$1,000. Very few people do that nowadays," David said. "He didn't do that to people."

Coy also served in the military, trained cut-

ting horses, worked at General Dynamics — now Lockheed-Martin in Fort Worth — and worked at Texas Fruit Growers.

Coy's sister, Rosie Mimms, said it's hard to describe her brother but said 96 percent of the time he is just loving life.

"He's just an all-around super nice guy," Mimms said. "I don't know how to describe him other than he loves to pull pranks on people, he's always upbeat and he's always there to help anybody he can, and he's always been like that."

The community make a trip to the Parker County Sheriff's Posse on May 19 to celebrate Coy's birthday.

"I've had a good life and the good Lord has really been good to me to let me live as long as I have, and be as healthy as I am," Coy said. "I love my kids."

Survey

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community leaders and public data sources so we get a well rounded view of what children's health looks like."

The fact that 80 percent of Parker County parents said their children, ages 0-14, are healthy shows that initiatives to improve children's health are working, Hale said.

"That's a really great statistic, but it also provides an opportunity to continue striving and working until we reach 100 percent," Hale said. "Our data also kind of continues to show that the Healthy Children Coalition of Parker County, led by Cook Children's which began in 2011, selected the right initiative to work on."

Hale pointed out that

the majority of parents have access to neighborhood grocery stores with fresh produce, and parents said they had access to safe parks and outdoor areas for kids to play. These areas align with the initiative of the Healthy Children Coalition of Parker County, Hale said.

The coalition introduced \$210, which is made up of two evidence-based programs, into classrooms to teach third and fourth graders about healthy lifestyles including nutrition and physical activity, Center for Children's Health in Parker County Regional Coordinator Jammie Josephson said.

Hale said \$210 is just one of many partners aim to prevent obesity in Parker County.

However, the percentage of county parents who identified their child's health as excellent or very good has decreased by 4 percent compared to 2015's survey.

"That kind of continues to show that there's still work to be done and that's what we try to stay focused on," Hale said.

Healthy living for kids relates to their parents' habits and what conversations about nutrition that parents are having with their kids, Josephson said.

"Healthy begins at home," Josephson said. "It's the parent's habits and what the parents are doing and how the parents are talking to the kids, and if they're not having those conversations, then how do kids know how to be healthy?"

Tobacco

Continued from Page 1
have the right to make the decision as to what, and how, they will sell their products. Anyone buying the product will simply find another source."

Shelly Ann said if people age 18 can go to war, then they can smoke if they choose to.

"We have laws in place already," Ann said. "Why do they need to make the law more strict? And if you can send the kids to war then I think at 18 they can smoke if they choose to."

Brittany Ennis said she doubts it will make a difference.

"Considering people over the age of 21 would buy them for me as a teenager...I seriously doubt that this will make a difference," Ennis said.

Mike Skaggs liked the decision of the businesses. "Well done," Skaggs said. "Good call on this one big retail."

Teresa Waldrep Renert said they should quit selling cigarettes all together. "Everyone knows what it does to your body," Renert said.

Nicole Marc Blanton had a similar opinion to Shelly Ann's comment.

"If you can legally vote, get married, join the military and die for this country then they should be able to buy cigarettes or drink a beer," Blanton

said. "If you going to regulate one then regulate it all. Where does it stop, 21, 25..."

John Scudder, Wal-Mart's U.S. chief compliance and ethics officer, said the company plans to conduct about 8,000 secret-shopper visits during the remainder of the year. Associates who fail to ask shoppers under 40 for identification will be subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

"We unequivocally acknowledge that even a single sale of a tobacco product to a minor is one too many, and we take seriously our responsibilities in this regard," he said.

Walmart and Sam's Club stores will also discontinue the sale of fruit- and dessert flavored e-cigarette products.

U.S. Food & Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said evidence shows youth are especially attracted to flavored e-cigarette products, and that minors are able to access these products from both brick-and-mortar retailers, as well as online, despite federal restrictions on sales to anyone under 18.

"The most recent data show more than 3.6 million middle and high school students across

the country were current e-cigarette users in 2018," he said. "This is a dramatic increase of 1.5 million children since the previous year."

"The data also showed that youth who used e-cigarettes also were using them more frequently and they were using flavored e-cigarette products more often than in 2017. This is particularly troubling given that research shows that kids using e-cigarettes are more likely to take up combustible cigarettes."

Richard Ashworth, president of operations for Walgreens, said studies have shown cities that have enacted Tobacco 21 laws have seen a sharp decline in tobacco use among young adults 18-20 years old.

"We've seen positive results from other recent efforts to strengthen our policies related to tobacco sales, and believe this next step can be even more impactful to reduce its use among teens and young adults," he said. "Through ongoing training and certification for pharmacists and technicians, we also continue to help and support people looking to quit the use of tobacco in their lives."

Weatherford Democrat reporter Autumn Owens contributed to this report.

Legislature

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Taylor, R-Friendswood, would put measures in place for school district employees to respond to emergencies including access to a telephone or electronic communication, establishment of threat assessment teams to identify harmful behaviors in students and creation of school safety committees to recommend updates to districts' emergency plans.

SB 18, about free speech on college campuses, was passed by the full House last week in a 97-49 vote on third reading.

The bill, by Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, aims to further free speech rights on college campuses and establishes discipline for students who interfere in free speech and a process to address free speech violation complaints. SB 18 would need to be signed off on by Gov. Greg Abbott before becoming law.

Earlier this month, HB 347, which would end forced annexation statewide, was passed by the Senate in a 25-6 vote and was sent to the governor's office for signing. The

House concurred with bill amendments to the bill made in the Senate. HB 347, by Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, would aim to end municipalities' ability to annex property into the city limits without property owners' consent. Last fall, Parker County voters passed a proposition to end forced annexation in the county.

Another one of King's bills HB 793 related to preventing contractors from boycotting Israel was signed by Abbott earlier this month. The bill was effective immediately.

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