

1930 Bowie Enterprise op-ed still applies

I always get a kick out of looking at old newspapers, especially those from Montague County. It's fun to see what was news back then as well as the photos.



My friend Nancy Blackmon brought me a large box of newspapers her late friend, Adeline Clarke Beatty, had saved through the years. Mrs. Bailey was well organized as she noted on the front page items of interest that may be a story about her family, club or something she found interesting.

I've been doing some research about The Bowie News since our 100th birthday will be upon us in two more years. I was excited to see The Bowie Blade and The Bowie News, but then out popped several editions of The Bowie Enterprise.

We never heard of this one, and it is not listed in the Montague County history book story on county newspapers. Its fragile brown pages require extreme care as age has taken its toll, one section crumbled right in my hands.

However, as I continued to dig through the box I found a Oct. 2, 1930 edition of The Bowie

Enterprise, a home newspaper.

When I read the editorial on its front page, that old-time quote "the more things change, the more they continue to be the same," immediately jumped into my mind.

The editorial first asks in its headline, "Are you a citizen of Bowie?" Then it proceeds to urge citizens to offer their loyalty and support to the business community and its development.

Unfortunately, there was a tear right down the center of the column so I have typed it as written in that 1930 edition. See the gray box.

Granted it was a completely different era than 2020. Herbert Hoover was president and about to ask Congress for a massive works program to help pull the country out of the depression that began in 1929 and continues to 1933.

Prohibition was in place until 1933 and the Dust Bowl era was decimating Oklahoma and neighboring states.

Ok, don't get me wrong we are not in the midst of a depression or something similar. Many parts of our nation are thriving, but small town America continues to struggle.

Wages don't keep up with the increased cost of living and the retail landscape continues to change in all facets of business.

How ironic is it the



Are you a citizen of Bowie?

Are you a citizen of Bowie? If so, look about you and note the many other small towns of this size which are committing suicide and wasting away because home business is going to other towns and cities. These object lessons should provide to you that the prosperity this town depends wholly on your loyalty and support. You don't want Bowie to die - you don't want to see empty business houses and residences in Bowie - you don't want business concerns to go broke because it is a black-eye to your hometown. How can you prevent these conditions? Merely by making yourself useful as well as ornamental - by spending your money with home people, by being loyal to

your neighbors - by supporting your own municipal enterprises - by helping to bring more business to Bowie - by friendly contact and boosting among those who should come here to trade. This is a time when we should be ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE in Bowie. With every citizen of Bowie working together for the benefit of the town and community - with 100 percent loyalty prevailing among our entire people - with a friendly spirit of progressive cooperation and intelligent effort, we can keep Bowie growing and prosperous.

Are you willing to do your part?
Reprinted from *The Bowie Enterprise*,
Oct. 2, 1930

same problems small cities faced in 1930 are almost the same they face in 2020.

We all know the retail market will never be the same thanks to Amazon and the worldwide web

that lets me buy something today and it hits my front porch the next day. Granted there are many things we cannot purchase here, but there are many opportunities. There also is a lot to

be said about shopping in your community and county to support our neighbors and friends. Their success enhances and essentially provides the way of life you have chosen for your family.

That lifestyle would not be possible without our local businesses, manufacturing, property owners, civic groups and everyone who drops a penny into the pot.

Yes, we have potholes, rough streets and all the problems any rural city endures. However, there are many good things and we should let visitors and strangers know that. Let's not be the town bashers. If you don't like things try to fix them.

A few years back The Bowie News conducted the year-long Build a Better Bowie campaign to showcase the positive aspects of our town. It was greeted wholeheartedly and continues to be a mantra for our newspaper.

Build a Better Bowie was born out of the closing of Bowie Memorial Hospital and efforts to save it, and now we find ourselves back in that same predicament without a local hospital.

It will be up to this community to show what it will support and what it wants for the future for not only for health care needs, but other community needs and services.

Those visions will vary person to person, but there can be no doubt Bowie's future can be summed up in the words of this 1930s editorial, "it will take one for all and all for one to survive."

Are you willing to do your part?

Clemency ap. created for certain survivors

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Feb. 20 established a clemency application specifically for survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence.

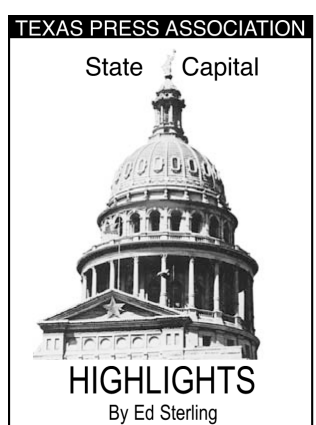
The application, crafted in coordination with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, includes a section that affords the applicant an opportunity to provide a statement to the board regarding their human trafficking or domestic violence victimization.

Human trafficking and domestic violence, according to the governor's office, often lead victims down a path of offenses that entraps them in a vicious cycle of abuse and associated crime.

Abbott's announcement coincides with the launch of a new public awareness campaign informing survivors that they can submit an application for Board of Pardons and Paroles to review and consider recommending that the governor grant a full pardon for crimes committed while under the grips of a trafficker or an abusive partner.

"Texas is committed to empowering the survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking, and one of the surest signals of that goal is laying out a true path to redemption and restoration," Abbott said.

"The gubernatorial pardon plays an important role in this redemption process, because it offers a second chance to survivors with criminal convictions resulting from their abuse or exploita-



tion. I am grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles as we work together to develop a stronger justice system that promotes redemption, restoration and transformation," Abbott added.

In his recent announcement proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Abbott applauded state lawmakers for passing legislation to provide survivors with "streamlined access to a clean criminal record and a fresh start."

AG leads in support of act

Some 42 state attorneys general joined Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a Feb. 20 letter expressing support of the Bankruptcy Venue Reform Act of 2019.

If passed by Congress and signed into law by the president, the federal legislation would prevent forum shopping during bankruptcy litigation.

ors to choose whichever court they prefer."

Currently, Paxton said, individuals can only file bankruptcy in their district of residence. Corporations, on the other hand, have a wide choice of possible venues, which can be manipulated to their own advantage, he added.

Update: Coronavirus

The Texas Department of State Health Services on Feb. 21 announced the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed three cases of novel coronavirus 2019 in people under federal quarantine at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The first was a traveler who returned on a U.S. State Department-chartered flight from Wuhan City, China.

The others returned on a State Department flight for passengers from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Yokohama, Japan. The individuals are currently isolated and receiving appropriate care at medical facilities.

There were no other reported cases in Texas and officials said the risk of contracting the virus for all Texans remains low.

The Department of State Health Services offers information on "COVID-19" for the public, health care professionals, health departments and labs at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

In other news, the DSHS on Feb. 21 reported there have been 15 pediatric flu-related deaths reported this sea-

son in Texas.

The agency urged Texans who have not taken this season's influenza vaccine to get vaccinated without further delay. More information can be found online at www.texasflu.org.

AG sues over explosion

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Feb. 21 announced that Texas Attorney General Paxton had filed a lawsuit against TPC Group Inc. and TPC Group LLC for violations of the Texas Clean Air Act and the Texas Water Code pertaining to the Nov. 27, 2019 explosion at its Port Neches plant.

The lawsuit requests that the court grant injunctive relief, civil penalties, reasonable attorney fees, court costs and investigative costs to the state.

The lawsuit also includes claims that TPC Group caused numerous violations of TCEQ's air quality program from January 2018 through September 2019.

TCEQ Executive Director Toby Baker and House State Affairs Committee Chairman Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, applauded Paxton for taking legal action.

"Through this suit, the state can learn what caused the incident, how to prevent such occurrences in the future and adequately penalize all violations," Phelan said.

Early voting to end soon

The Texas Secretary of State's Elections Division

has posted answers to common questions relating to voting in the March 3 Super Tuesday party primary elections.

The answers are:

—Any registered voter may vote early in person;

—Early voting by personal appearance began on Feb. 18 and will end on Feb. 28; and

—Voters may vote at any early voting location in their county of registration.

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