

# THE HENDERSON NEWS

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## Rusk County Commissioners adopt resolution supporting statewide county road funding reform

Special to The Henderson News

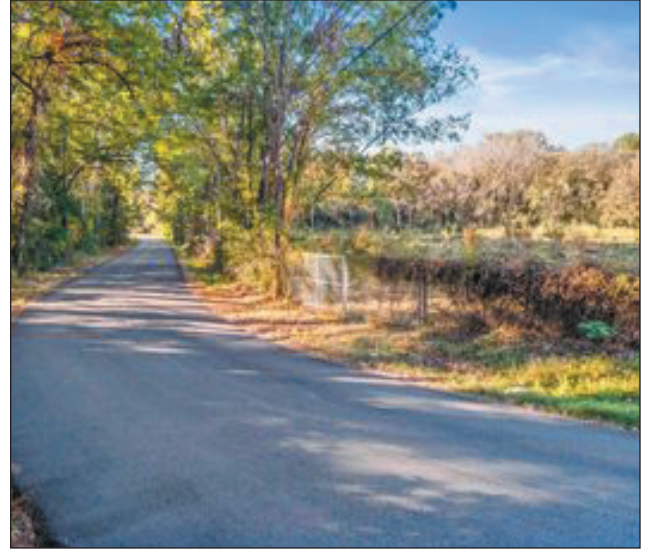
The Rusk County Commissioners Court has formally adopted a resolution urging the Texas Legislature to modernize how county roads are funded, joining counties across the state in support of legislation aimed at improving safety, reducing pressure on property taxes, and creating a sustainable, pay-as-

you-go approach to transportation infrastructure. Texas counties maintain nearly 150,000 miles of public roads, more than half of the state's entire roadway network. Yet the primary state funding source dedicated to county roads - the County and Road District Highway Fund, commonly known as the Lateral Road Fund - has remained effectively unchanged since 1954,

despite decades of population growth, inflation, and rising construction costs. Under current law, only \$7.3 million statewide is distributed annually to all 254 counties from the state motor fuels tax. That amount represents less than two-tenths of one percent of total fuel tax revenue and provides only marginal assistance to counties responsible for maintaining

roads used daily by school buses, emergency responders, farmers, ranchers, and commuters. The proposed legislation supported by the resolution would: Reallocate one penny (5%) of the existing state motor fuels tax to the County and Road District Highway Fund, without raising taxes

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## Chamber hosts West Fraser Job Fair



From Staff Reports

Job seekers in East Texas will have an opportunity to connect with a major employer next week as West Fraser hosts a hiring event in Henderson.

The West Fraser Job Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, located at 201 North Main Street. The event is open to individuals seeking employment opportunities with the global wood products company, which has a strong presence in the region.

Organizers encourage prospective applicants to come prepared to make a positive impression. Attendees must be at least 18 years old and possess a high school diploma or GED to be considered for available positions. Bringing a current resume is strongly recommended, and applicants are advised to dress professionally.

The job fair offers a chance for candidates to meet directly with hiring representatives, learn more about available roles, and potentially begin the application process on-site. Positions are expected to include a range of opportunities, though specific job openings may vary based on current company needs.

For those who prefer to get a head start, applications can be submitted in advance online at www.westfraser.com/careers. Completing an application beforehand may help streamline the process during the event.

West Fraser is known as one of the largest lumber producers in the world and continues to play a significant role in the local economy by providing jobs and supporting workforce development.

Community members looking to enter or advance in the workforce are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to connect with a leading industry employer.

# SAFE AND SOUND



After a grueling two-year process to establish a school district police department, Leverett's Chapel ISD Superintendent Matt Everett proudly presents new LCISD Police Chief Gary Guthrie with his badge. (Contributed Photos)

## Leverett's Chapel ISD establishes Police Department after extensive process to strengthen student safety

Special to The Henderson News

Today marks a major moment in the history of Leverett's Chapel ISD.

In November 2024, with the full support of our Board of Trust-

ees, we began the process of establishing our own school district police department. What followed was a long and challenging journey. There were obstacles. There were setbacks. There were moments where it would have

been easy to stop. After months of work, we were denied in 2025. That moment tested our resolve. But we did not stop.

Through persistence, countless conversations, letters, and coordination at every level, we

continued to push forward. Mr. Gary Guthrie and I remained committed to the vision because we believed in what this would mean for our students, our staff, and our community.

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## \$3.65 million raised for area nonprofits through East Texas Giving Day

Special to The Henderson News

Nonprofits in East Texas benefited from the generosity of 6,429 donors during East Texas Giving Day, the region's recognized day of giving to support local nonprofits. The online fundraising effort began

at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28th, and ended at midnight. Based on preliminary results, donors contributed \$3.65 to support the causes they care about in 32 East Texas counties. "East Texas residents responded with incredible generosity," said Kyle

Penney, President of East Texas Communities Foundation, which hosts the event. "Our nonprofit partners put in tremendous effort to highlight the needs in our communities, and donors answered that call in a powerful way. The results reflect the deep com-



mitment across our region to support one another and improve our communities."

Since inception in 2016, East Texas Giving Day has raised \$24.5 million for participating nonprofits serving East Texas.

During East Texas Giving Day, nonprofit organizations encouraged their donors and the public to make charitable donations online at www.EastTexasGivingDay.org. Donors could choose

among 332 participating charities, and make donations starting at just \$10. Throughout the day, donations to select nonprofits were eligible to be matched thanks to the generosity of individuals and nonprofit business partners that had already pledged funds to the charities they support. This year, \$1 million in match was available on the East Texas Giving Day website.

See GIVING DAY Page 9A



### SPORTS

Area student athletes take home Best Preps honors... more on 10A.



### SCRIPTURE

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord. **Isaiah 54:17**

### WEATHER

Sunny, with a high near 77, low around 54.

