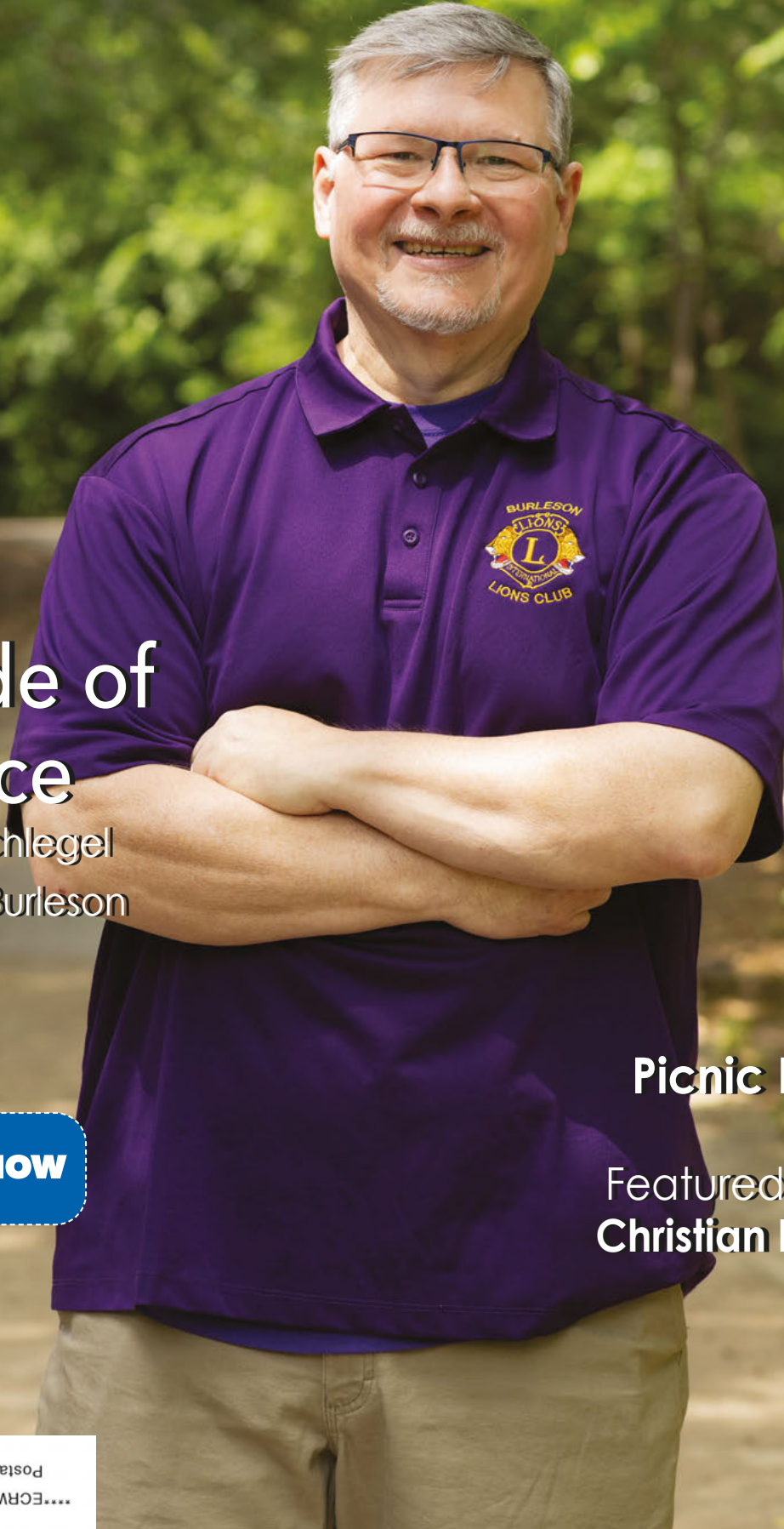


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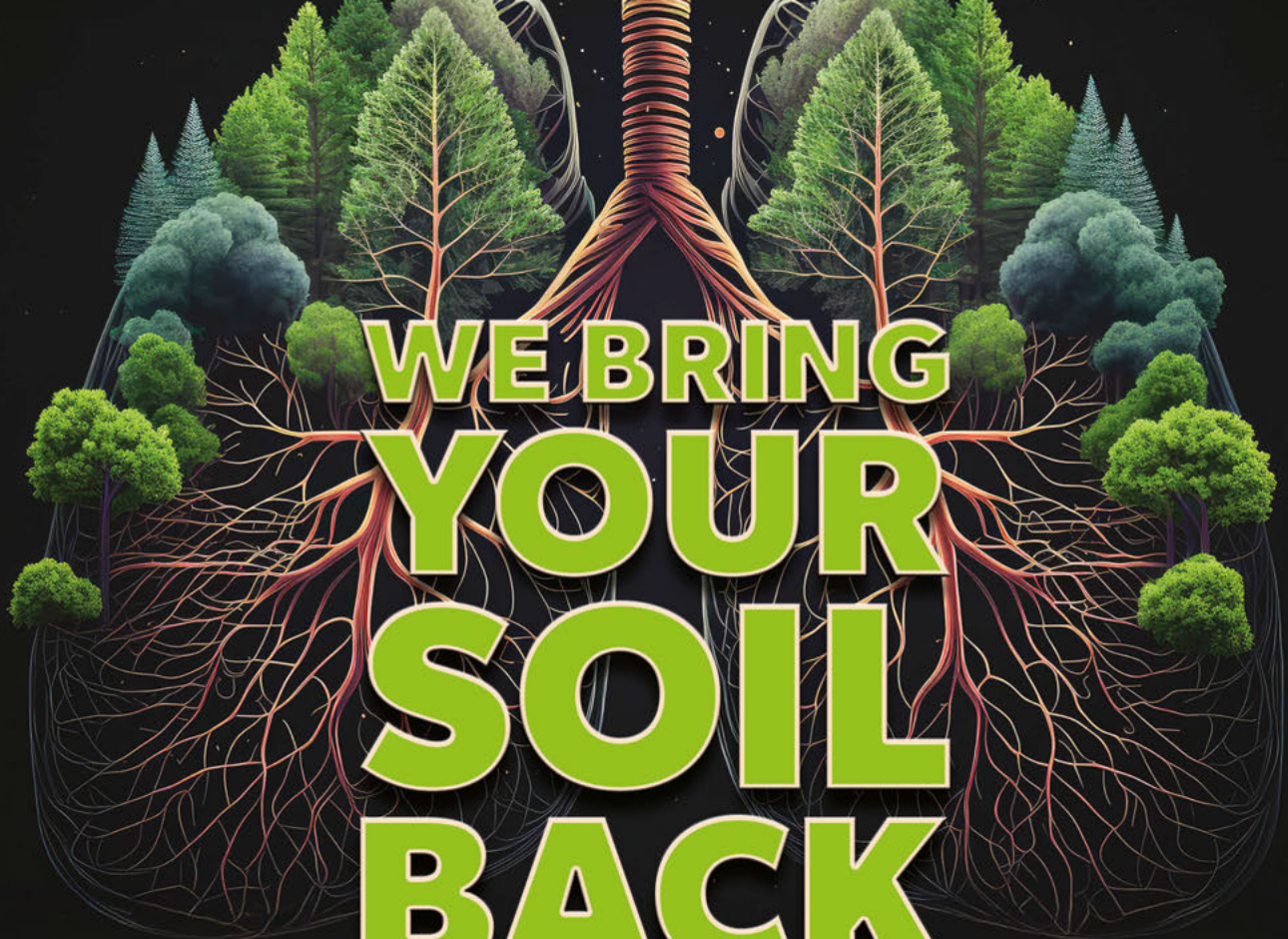
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ON THE COVER

*The incoming
Lions Club
president
continues the
organization's
legacy.*



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PARADE of SERVICE

— By Angel Morris

Rather than slowing down in retirement, Vaughn Schlegel saw it as an invitation to step up. After spending 35 years at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, retiring as the director of program management for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in 2021, Vaughn found himself looking for a way to channel his professional expertise back into the community he has called home for nearly three decades.



In August 2022, prompted by a conversation with his friend, Galen Atkinson, Vaughn joined the Burselon Lions Club ... a move that would transition him from an engineer managing global aeronautics programs to a local leader managing one of North Texas' most beloved patriotic traditions. "I joined to get more involved in my community after retiring," Vaughn said. "I wanted to give back and serve. Galen discussed the club with me and got me to come try it out."

Since then, Vaughn has immersed himself in the club's operations, juggling multiple roles, serving as the 2nd vice president, projects chair, marketing chair and parade chair. This July, he will succeed current President Les Havins to lead the organization. "The Lions Club motto is 'We Serve,'" Vaughn explained. "It is very important to have individuals and organizations whose purpose is to help serve the community. Each member chooses to serve for different reasons, but we all serve to help others, not for recognition."

The Burselon Lions Club's mission is clear: service that improves health and well-being, strengthens the community and supports those in need. "Our primary focus is on the gift of sight, and our largest service project is providing free vision and hearing screenings to area children," Vaughn noted. "I believe our mission is important to serve the community where needed and ensure children can see and hear well enough to learn."

By partnering with school nurses in Burselon ISD and Keene ISD, as well as area private and homeschool groups, the Lions provide essential screenings required by the state. These screenings act as a critical safety net, identifying potential issues before they hinder a child's development. "Last year, we screened over 4,800 students, with about 15 percent of them being referred for a professional exam," Vaughn shared. "We also help children get professional checkups and glasses if they don't have the resources themselves."

While the vision screenings happen behind the scenes in school hallways, the club's most visible contribution to the city is the annual Independence Day Parade. This year marks the 22nd year the Burselon Lions have planned and managed the event.

The parade's success is built on a foundation laid by longtime chairs



Keith Kelly and Kim Malone, who led the event for its first two decades. "Their leadership and all the Lion volunteers over the years helped restart, grow the parade and basically figure out what needed to be done to put on an event like this every year," Vaughn said. "The parade has grown, but it still has the same goal: to provide a fun, family-friendly, positive, patriotic event for the Burleson community."

This year, the 22nd Annual Burleson Lions Independence Day Parade is Saturday, July 4, at Old Town Burleson, kicking off at 9:00 a.m. The event involves a 10-month planning cycle with a committee of 15 volunteers. On the day of the parade, that number swells to 35 Lions on the ground, supported by a vital partnership with the city of Burleson's police, emergency services and public works departments.

Parade statistics include 170 to 200 vehicles, 120 groups, 50 horses and more than 1,000 individual participants marching

along a 2.2-mile route, cheered on by an estimated crowd of 9,000-plus spectators. "The parade planning and execution seems so much smoother now due to our long partnership with the city," Vaughn observed. "Our sponsors are awesome also, with Atmos Energy being our Title Sponsor for the second year. It is our only event used as a fundraiser, and it helps the Burleson Lions raise funds for our service projects.

"Our goal is to keep the parade as one of the top events in Burleson every year," he added. "We want to be able to continue to provide an event that celebrates our country and our community."

Vaughn's commitment to the city extends beyond the Lions Club. He was recently appointed to the Public Spaces and Cultural Heritage Board for the city, further cementing his role as a civic leader. Having lived in Burleson for 29 years with his wife, Connie, he has seen the city evolve while maintaining the qualities that drew

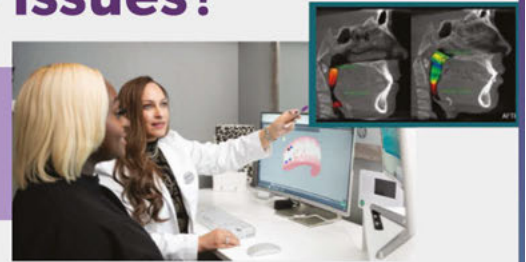
them there in the first place. "We enjoy living in Burleson for the feel of being just outside the more urban spaces and the sense of community around Burleson," he shared. "I am enjoying getting to know more of my community and helping serve that community."

As Vaughn prepares to take the president's gavel this July, he looks forward to continuing Lions Club work and ensuring the Independence Day Parade remains a local treasure. His journey from high-level engineering to community service is a reminder that the skills built in careers can find their most meaningful application in one's own backyard. "It is a lot of work, but fun also to serve with such a great group of people — Lions, parade entrants, city employees, sponsors and public attendees," Vaughn concluded. "We Serve." **NOW**

Editor's Note: Learn more about participating in Lions Club at burlesonlions.org.

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What started as a hobby more than two decades ago has grown into a trusted irrigation business serving Burleson and the surrounding areas. Tim Christian began his journey in irrigation in 2002 when he received his state license. For over 20 years, he operated Christian Irrigation on a part-time basis, while continuing in his career as a manufacturing/quality professional in aerospace and then



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Alcon Laboratories. After retiring from Alcon in 2024, Tim began running his seasonal business full time March-November, bringing his engineering expertise and reliability to every project.

Christian Irrigation offers comprehensive services for residential properties and some commercial work including churches and the city's Parks Department. Services include sprinkler system installation and repair, drainage systems including French drains and surface drains, sod installation, outdoor low voltage landscape lighting and small landscape projects including rock beds and paths.

During the spring and summer months, the business is particularly focused on tuneups for sprinkler systems and installing drain systems



to protect against erosion and water damage. After a long winter, sprinkler systems often need adjustments, repairs and testing to ensure they're ready for the growing season. Christian Irrigation helps homeowners and businesses get their systems running efficiently before the heat of summer arrives, but stays plenty busy during the summer and fall months as well.

As a local, established small business in Burleson, Christian Irrigation strives to please every customer they do work for. They build relationships with clients and take pride in consistent, quality work.

Tim stands behind a simple but powerful promise: "No project is too big or too small. We show up and complete the work on time for a fair price," he explained. That reliability has built a loyal customer base over the years who like to refer to Tim as "The Waterboy."

Tim is licensed by the state of Texas as a landscape irrigator, insured and registered in all cities he performs work in. He maintains his qualifications through continuing education courses, staying current with the latest techniques, technologies and best practices in the irrigation industry.

Beyond his professional work, Tim gives back to the community through his church. He heads up a ministry that takes care of work projects for local widows and those in need who might not otherwise be able to afford necessary repairs and improvements.

That servant's heart carries over into how he runs his business, along with his wife, Ronda, who serves as the administrative assistant for the business. Customers aren't just transaction numbers — they're neighbors deserving of honest work, fair pricing and dependable service. For Burleson-area residents looking for irrigation services from someone who will actually call them back, show up and complete quality work, the Christian Irrigation crew offers the expertise of seasoned professionals combined with a personal touch by a local business that cares about their hometown community. **NOW**

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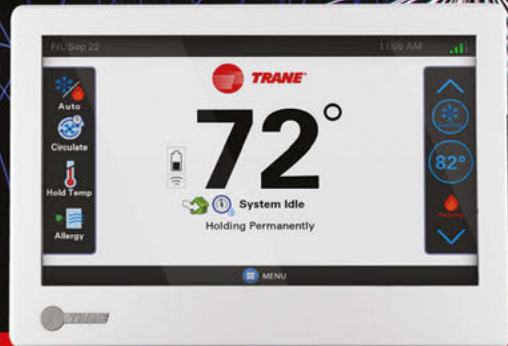


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Zoomed In: Relay For Life

By Jordan DeWald

Judy Long, Sandee Reutebuch and Mary Moore are members of the Relay For Life, Burleson, TX team. Together with the team leader, Sheila Grissom, the group organizes events and partners with local businesses to secure monetary and in-kind donations throughout the year.

Residents of Cedars of Elk Drive, a senior living community in Burleson, have turned their passion for helping others into a powerful force in the fight against cancer. Their dedication earned the group the honor of Team of the Year for the entire South Region in 2025. Together, they raised more than \$7,500 last year through bake sales, Bingo events, raffles and the community's annual Relay For Life event. Sheila emphasizes the importance of the group's work. "Every dollar raised supports the mission of the American Cancer Society, helping fund cancer research and free patient support programs. These services include rides to treatment, lodging near treatment centers, patient navigation, emotional support and more for individuals and families facing cancer."



Ruth Ann Schwab plays with her mom, Crystal, at a picnic.



Members of Keep Burleson Beautiful took part in Trash Bash.



Friends Mary Slaney, Vicki Whitten and Elizabeth Davidson enjoy Hot Sounds of Summer.



The BISD Fire Academy and Burleson Fire Department celebrate the 2026 graduates of their program.



Sandra Ross celebrates after riding in the Burleson Honey Tour.



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Zoomed In: Matt Motley

By Jordan DeWald

When Matt Motley noticed a neighbor's post on their neighborhood's social media page asking about a community garage sale, he saw an opportunity to bring people together. Having witnessed a similar event organized by a fellow Realtor, Matt already had a vision for how it could work. When several neighbors expressed enthusiasm, he stepped up to make it happen. Matt took on the full scope of organizing: polling participants to find a date that worked for everyone, building a dedicated website and handling advertising and permits. He sponsored the event, covering marketing postcards, signage and all the logistical legwork that goes into pulling off a neighborhood-wide weekend of sales.

By the time Friday arrived, more than 40 homes had signed on. Shoppers filled the streets and, perhaps more meaningfully, neighbors who had never met had a reason to introduce themselves. Before the weekend was even over, people were already asking when the next one would be. Matt summed it up simply: "We will definitely do it again. I have already had another neighborhood reach out and ask if I could help them, so I'll do the same for them."



Miranda, Asa and Ed Pacheco spend an evening in the Plaza.



Melissa and Melanie Pate with Kristy and Madison Phillips walk in memory of Detective Mark Pate at the Got Your Six Run/Walk for the Burleson Police Department.



The Parks and Recreation team for the city of Burleson is ready to serve the community at the BTX Honey Tour Carnival.



James Mills welcomes friends to concerts in his backyard. The series kicked off with artists Walt Wilkins and Brock DeWald.



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American Flag Fruit Cake

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup whole milk

Frosting:

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Decorations:

- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced

1. *For the cake:* Preheat the oven to 350 F; grease a 9x13-inch baking pan.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt.
3. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in the vanilla.
5. Alternately add the flour mixture and milk to the butter mixture, beginning and ending with the flour.
6. Pour the batter into the prepared pan; bake for 25-30 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean. Let the cake cool completely in the pan.
7. *For the frosting:* In a medium bowl, beat the cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth.

8. In a separate bowl, whip the heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Fold the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture until well combined.

9. Spread the frosting evenly over the cooled cake.

10. *To decorate:* In the upper left corner, arrange the blueberries in a rectangle to create the "stars" section of the flag.

11. Arrange the sliced strawberries in horizontal rows across the rest of the cake to create the "stripes." Leave white frosting stripes between the strawberry rows to complete the American flag pattern.

12. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Classic BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches

- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. paprika
- 1 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. onion powder
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 4 lbs. pork shoulder
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups barbecue sauce of your choice
- 12 hamburger buns
- 2 cups coleslaw

1. In a small bowl, mix together the first 6 ingredients.
2. Rub the spice mixture all over the

pork shoulder, coating it completely.

3. Place the seasoned pork in a slow cooker; pour the chicken broth around it.

4. Cook on low for 8-10 hours until the meat is fork-tender and shreds easily.

5. Remove the meat from the slow cooker; shred it using two forks. Discard excess fat; return the shredded meat to the slow cooker.

6. Stir in the barbecue sauce; keep warm until ready to serve.

7. Toast the hamburger buns lightly if desired. Pile the pulled pork onto the bottom buns; top with coleslaw. Cover with the top buns; serve immediately.

Baked Beans

- 6 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 15-oz. cans navy beans, drained
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 Tbsp. yellow mustard
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. In a skillet, cook the chopped bacon until crispy; remove and set aside.
3. In the bacon drippings, sauté the onions until softened.
4. In a large baking dish, combine the beans, bacon and onions. Stir in the remaining ingredients.
5. Bake, uncovered, for 45-50 minutes until bubbly and slightly thickened.



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