

**BRIEFLY**

**Baylor Bookstore sets fashion show**

Baylor Bookstore will present a Fashion at the Fountain Style Show at noon Monday at Baylor's Fountain Mall, 1201 S. Fifth St.

The free event will showcase Baylor apparel merchandising students modeling the store's newest clothing lines from brands like Dapper Bear, Nike, Under Armour and Vera Bradley.

The event also will include food trucks, puppies, raffles, special guests and giveaways.

For more information, call 469-274-1877.

**Genealogical meeting**

The Hill County Genealogical Society will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the Hill County Courthouse Annex, 126 S. Covington St. in Hillsboro.

Russell Keelin, Hill County Historical Commission chairman, and Joyce Reid, Hill County historical marker chairman, will discuss the requirements to acquire a state historical marker.

Also, Garland Lively will discuss the process he used to acquire the Hill County marker for Spivey Crossing, which will be dedicated at 2 p.m. April 9 at Lebanon United Methodist Church, 373 S. Hill County Road 2202.

For more information, call Cleo Y. Davis at 283-5098 and leave a message.

**Connally showcase**

Connally Independent School District will present its third annual showcase of students in its gifted-and-talented program from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Commons Area at Connally High School, 901 N. Lacy Drive in Lacy Lakeview.

Students will be on hand to display and discuss projects they have completed this year.

For more information, email lkreder@connally.org.

**Healthy Soul Food**

Waco Alumnae Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. is having a Healthy Soul Food Cooking Demonstration and Health Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Waco Family YMCA, 6800 Harvey Drive.

The free event will include demonstrations by professional chefs, health and wellness screenings, nutrition seminars, exercise classes, door prizes and more.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1VkJzjHR>.

**Retired teachers**

The Waco McLennan County Retired Teachers Association will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Stilwell Retirement Residence, 5400 Laurel Lake Drive.

State Sen. Brian Birdwell will talk about upcoming legislative issues that will affect retired teachers, and Frank Walker will discuss security for seniors.

For more information, call 715-0934 or email lhalenbama65@gmail.com.

**Submit items for Briefly in printed or typed form to Briefly, P.O. Box 2588, Waco 76702-2588; fax to 757-0302; or email to goingson@wacotrib.com at least one week before an event.**

**THE PULL OF SCOUTING**



Staff photo — Rod Aydelotte

Cub Scout Omarion Lacy, 11, pulls on a rope with Lexie White, project assistant with the Longhorn Council, during a Scout meeting with Boy Scouts of America Pack 1400. The event at

New Deliverance Church, 1400 N. Fifth St., included activities such as rockets and leather work to attract area youth to the newly formed Scout group.

**Monahans Sandhills draws fans from far and wide**

By **BOB CAMPBELL**  
Odessa American

**M**ONAHANS — West Texas has plenty of sand but few sand dunes worthy of the name, so it is with a sense of adventure and wonder that people encounter the towering, timeless dunes of Monahans Sandhills State Park.

Visitors come from everywhere — 45,000 last year — to camp, cook out and let their children run and slide down dunes as tall as 50 feet.

Site Manager Michael Smith of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department said the park's 3,840 acres are in a giant dune field reaching northwest from Crane County into southeast New Mexico. "We're well-located and pretty much the only thing between somewhere and somewhere else," Smith told the Odessa American.

"It's part of one of the largest shinnery or Havard oak forests in the world, 40,000 to 50,000 acres. The trees are mostly 2 to 4 feet tall. The dunes have been here for a long time. They blew in from New Mexico sometime after the last Ice Age and settled in the Permian Basin. They're absolutely beautiful, an incredible resource.

"Spring break is busy, and we had 940 children and adults for Easter last year."

Named for the late Conrad and Kathlyn Dunagan, of Monahans, the Dunagan Visitors' Center features a geologically based "Secrets of the Sand" section and rents green, blue and orange sand discs for \$2.25 for two hours.

Admission is \$4 for people ages 13 and older and \$3 for 12 and younger. Wax is provided to make the discs and toboggans slide better.

Opened in 1956 as a state park, the attraction is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and the visitors' center is operated from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Camping behind big dunes here on Feb. 26-27, Boy Scouts



Odessa American — Jacob Ford

Dana Hamilton slides down a sand dune sideways on a sled at Monahans Sandhills State Park near Monahans.

from Midland's Troop 331 had only seen crows and mealworms, but Smith said mule deer, red foxes, bobcats, javelinas, feral hogs, cottontail rabbits, jack-rabbits, owls, hawks and other birds inhabit the park along with Dunes Sagebrush Lizards, which are only found in this part of the world.

There are 26 campsites with water and electricity, and there is a sewer dumping station near the entrance four miles east of Monahans off Exit 86 on the north side of Interstate 20. The park is 33 miles west of Odessa. Noting it only has five employ-

ees, Smith said, "We'd like to get another maintenance specialist and a park policeman."

Sitting at a picnic table, Efrén Lujan had brought his wife and three daughters.

"We live in Monahans, so we come out pretty often on Saturdays and Sundays when the weather is nice, just bring the kids and get with the family," Lujan said.

"The girls enjoy it and ask us to bring them. We'll bring something to barbecue and spend all day sometimes."


Mark and Lisa Holdman, of Midland, and their grandson were

leaving their RV, one of a half-dozen in the area, in their pickup "to go gather up firewood and cook steaks and bake potatoes in a little while," Holdman said.

"We've been here since Friday and will stay tonight. We like the whole scenario. It's a place where our grandson can run."

TP&W Regional Director Mark Lockwood said the park is leased to the state by the Sealy & Smith Foundation of Galveston, and the Friends of Monahans Sandhills State Park.

"It's a unique opportunity as far as recreation is concerned," he said.



# senior DAY

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