

Bearkat Buzz

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Bearkats Take Historical Playoff Win Over Bulldogs!



Cushing Wins First Playoff Game In School History

The Cushing Highschool varsity football team took on the Colmesneil Bulldogs on Friday, November 11th. The weather was not ideal being very rainy and thirty-nine degrees. The Bearkats had a great start having the upper hand on the Bulldogs for the entire game. The game came down to a two-point conversion, but the Bearkats held them six inches from the end zone securing the win and cementing their place as the first team to ever win a playoff game in school history.



VETERANS DAY

Bearkats of all ages joined in on Cushing ISDs Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 11th, in remembrance of all those who made the sacrifice to serve in the United States Military.

November 11th, Bearkats of all ages celebrated Veterans Day, at Cushing ISDs morning Veteran's day program, honoring those who answered the call to serve in the United States Military. Dee Cruz, the person responsible for orchestrating the program, gave us some details on the Veterans Day program.

The slide show that was given featured over 300 Veterans that were born and raised in Cushing, graduated from Cushing, or have family members who are currently attending school here in Cushing. They answered the call to serve their country and our community is forever indebted to them for their service.

To Mrs.Cruz, Veterans day is very special. "It is a great blessing for me to see the men and women from our community that have served our great country be honored. Seeing all the pictures from the sideshow of all the families represented- Ayres, Baker, Caver, Gresham, Floyd, Sitton, Upshaw, and Williams just to name a few that have had multiple members of their families serve our country as far back at World War I and every war since then speaks volume about the character of our community. Some of these men paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It's our duty as a member of this community and school family to never let their memory die by honoring them each year. By honoring these all the men and women at our Veterans Day program, we are instilling values in the next generation of our students."

-Dee Cruz
Cushing Elementary Special Programs
Cushing ISD District Testing Coordinator



Our Veterans seated on the court in the Coliseum



Cheyenne Morris performing Taps



Elementary Students waving the American Flag while singing "You're a Grand Ol' Flag"



The Golden Girls

The Bearkat Buzz

Every month the elementary nominates a teacher for teacher of the month. This month however the elementary decided to nominate three outstanding teachers. These teachers Donna Russell, Cheryl Phillips and Sharon Martin, were nicknamed "The Golden Girls." These teachers have a combined experience of over 105 years. Stefani Jackson provided the Bearkat Buzz with an synopsis of "The Golden Girls."

Donna Russell comes from a family of educators; her grandfather was a principal at Cushing ISD in the late 1950s. Her mom was a second grade teacher here for 25 years. She began her career as an educator at Central Heights ISD as a first grade teacher from 1975-2009. She was fortunate enough to get a part time teaching position at Cushing Elementary School.

Cheryl Phillips is a Cushing Alumni and has been married for 50 years to Dwight Phillips. She retired after teaching for 33 years. In that time she taught special education, first grade, second grade, remedial reading and, intervention. After retiring she taught for 3 years at a private preschool.

Sharon Martin has been married to Tim Martin for 42 years and lives in Nacogdoches, TX. She taught elementary for 37 years and retired in 2020 but came back to be an intervention teacher for pre-k through 1st.

Veterans Day Art Contest

Mrs. Spencers High School Art and Floral Design students had the honor to participate in the Veterans Day poster contest. There were 33 students this year that participated in the contest. The reason for doing this contest is for our students to honor our veterans through art. We have been doing this for 7 years and will continue each year.

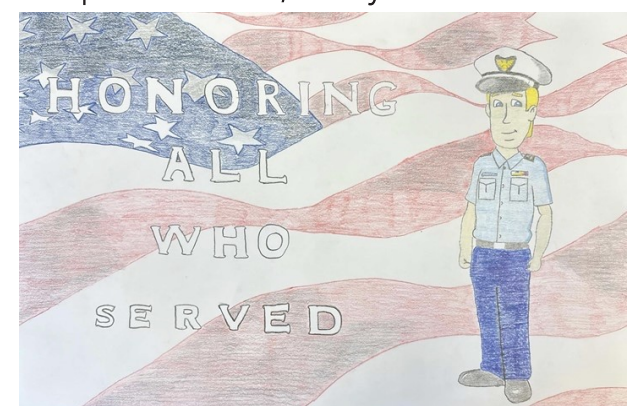
1st place winner Whisper Haley



2nd place winner, Brayden Spire



3rd place winner, Avery Cruz





Hilltop Barbershop



We interviewed local barber, Jake Matlock, about his entrepreneurship of owning his own barbershop.



What made you get into the work that comes with being a barber? What inspired you?

What inspired me to pursue barbering was a young man I was in History class with at SFA. I was struggling with school and I needed something quicker than 4 gears to get me where I needed to be. As we were talking about this, out of nowhere he said, "have you ever thought about Barbering?" In that moment it was like he punched me in the gut, it literally took my breath away. I knew immediately, without a doubt in my mind what I needed to do. The very next day I withdrew from SFA and enrolled into East Texas Barber College in Tyler, Tx.

What made you choose Cushing as your place of work?

I chose Cushing to open the Barbershop because, the town had went for almost 25 years without a barber, and because it was my home town.

How much schooling did you have to take to become a barber?

At the time I was attending Barber School, we had to do a total of 1500 hours, of hands-on barbering. Schooling consisted of knowing the head, face & neck muscles, veins, arteries and nerves. Different types of hair, proper sanitation and disinfection of combs, clippers, and blades. How to approach different types of haircuts, as well as performing shaves, facials, perms, colors and retouch's, and relaxers.

How long did you serve in the military? What branch?

I served for 4 years. I was in the US Army PIR (Parachute Infantry Regiment) Ft. Richardson, Alaska. It was 11 years after I was honorably discharged from the army that I was inspired to pursue Barbering.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

The best part about being a barber is the people. As a barber, my job is to make people feel and look good. Barbers don't just cut hair, we counsel, and listen to peoples problems as well as their successes.

How long did it take you to build your place of work and start your business? What are some challenges you faced during that journey?

My journey into barbering was difficult. Even though the army paid for 100% of my barber college, they didn't pay for the gas to get back and forth to Tyler. Because barber school is a Tuesday-Saturday, 8-5 job/school, I only had a few days a week to make some money to afford gas. This was a huge challenge. In the beginning I was able to stay with a friend in Flint, much closer to Tyler than Cushing. However, that eventually fell through. As a result of this, I knew I would not be able to afford to travel back and forth to Tyler from Cushing. So my next course of action was to pack all my camping gear up into the back of my truck and go set up camp at Lake Tyler. For the next three months of barber school, I lived at Lake Tyler, where I camped in my tent and cooked off my tail gate. All in all it took just about a year and a half to complete school, getting licensed and opening up the barber shop. As fate would have it, this little spot at 811 Cypress Ave. was for rent and opened up as Hilltop Barber Shop on August 16, 2016. The first barber shop back in Cushing for the first time in over 25 years. God has blessed me and it has been such an honor to serve my community from behind my barber chair.

