

# Wills Point Chronicle

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## Organization continues charitable mission

Texas Hunt for the Cure provides outings for terminally ill

By David Kapitan  
Staff Writer

A charitable organization with ties to the Wills Point area is currently enjoying its second year of providing children and young adults facing life-threatening or terminal illnesses a chance to fulfill their wishes of experiencing a hunting or fishing adventures of a lifetime.

Texas Hunt for the Cure, founded in 2012 by former Wills Point resident Stacy Stanberry, came into being after the death of 22-year old family friend Derek Cline.

Stanberry explained, "This young man's passion was hunting and fishing. One of his last wishes was to shoot a buck with big horns, but since it wasn't hunting season we knew this wasn't possible. Everyone knew this young man didn't have long to live and I wanted to do something special for him. As we talked on the phone like many times before, about everything you can think of. I asked him if he would like to go on a ram hunt. The ram would have big

horns and it would be awesome to get out into the outdoors for a while. He was so happy about this hunt and so we started setting it up. After changing the dates a few times because of his illness we finally were able to go. It was a Sunday morning that I will never forget. He was so happy and ready to go. Although it was a hard hunt, I don't think he ever stopped smiling the whole trip. We both had the time of our lives that's for sure. He was able to shoot a beautiful big painted desert ram. The young man only lived for a month after the hunt. I can tell you this much, you didn't talk to him without hearing the story of the trip and seeing the pictures of his ram. He was a new person when he talked about it."

Inspired by the impact Cline's hunt, Stanberry set out a goal of helping provide similar experiences for children and young adults battling life-threatening illnesses.

Stanberry recalled, "After seeing the change it made in

See HUNT, 5A



Courtesy Photo

Texas Hunt for the Cure and Stacy Stanberry helped prepare Tremaine Sampson for his hunt of a ram. Sampson posed with his prize ram after the hunt.

## Board revisits past topics, discusses HB 5

By David Kapitan  
Staff Writer

The Wills Point ISD Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting on Monday night, one week later than usual due to the Spring Break holiday. Business items were scheduled include revisiting topics from previous meetings, considering the formation of a district run police department and the adoption of instructional materials, as well as a new discussion item, the presentation of graduation requirements for next year's incoming

freshman class as outlined by House Bill 5.

After opening the meeting by recognizing the accomplishments of state champion powerlifter Stephanie Brown and the award winning high school Ag Mechanics team, business moved to an action agenda item listed as "Consider WPISD Police Dept."

The district had previously discussed the item at its February meeting after a presentation made by Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Student Services Damon Davis.

At that time, Davis out-

lined current security and policing measures in place throughout the district, the current yearly cost to the school, and what the potential costs associated with starting a district run police department.

The "rough estimate" discussed in February came in at approximately \$128,810, with the addendum that the costs could fluctuate depending on salaries offered, the use of preexisting vehicles, and potential changes in the district's insurance policy.

The item cropped up again this month, but board

members were quick to table the motion with two trustees, Shane King and CW Wilson, absent from the meeting. Board members present at the meeting voted to have further discussion on the item as part of an executive session scheduled for later in the meeting.

Nancy Morris, the district's instructional materials/technology and testing coordinator made a presentation to board members on the adoption of instructional materials, including both physical and digital

See BOARD, 4A

## Sales tax revenue streak snapped

By David Kapitan  
Staff Writer

It was plenty of fun while it lasted, but Wills Point's 16-month streak of sales tax revenue gains was finally snapped this month according to the latest figures released by Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs.

The streak, which tied for the second longest since 1990, ends three months shy of the longest streak in the past 24 years.

The record for the longest streak since 1990 was 19 consecutive months, which began in September 1991 and ran through March 1993.

The comptroller's press release on March 12 shows that the city's March 2014 sales tax revenue figures for the city show an \$4,061.92 drop from March 2013 figures.

Wills Point's 5.65 percent loss for the month of March 2014 was the second worst percentage drop in the county, trailing only Edom's 34.94 percent figure.

Other cities in the county fared better, posting percentage gains for the month.

See SALES, 4A

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## Brown captures fourth consecutive state title

By David Kapitan  
Staff Writer

Senior Stephanie Brown capped her stellar lifting career for Wills Point on March 15, winning her fourth consecutive individual state championship in at the Girls State Powerlifting Meet in Corpus Christi.

Brown, lifting in the 165 lb. weight class, lifted 1,010 lbs. That total was 110 lbs. more than the second place finisher.

Brown's performance included setting state records in deadlift, with 440 lbs. lifted, and total weight lifted, 1,010 lbs. lifted.

The deadlift total of 440

See POWERLIFTING, 16A



Courtesy Photo

Wills Point powerlifter Stephanie Brown put herself in elite company at the Girls State Powerlifting Meet in Corpus Christi on March 15, becoming the third woman to win four consecutive state championships.

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from 1A

# HUNT

this young man and the difference it made in not only his life but mine as well, I talked to a few family members and close friends about trying to help other children that are facing these life-threatening illnesses. So with a lot of hard work Texas Hunt for the Cure was born. So far we have taken 11 children on a hunting or fishing trip of a lifetime.”

Since its founding, the organization has worked hard to expand its impact, reaching out to local hospitals “to reach as many children as possible that are facing these illnesses” with dreams to go on a hunting or fishing trip.

Texas Hunt for the Cure has already worked with Children’s Medical Center of Dallas, contacted Cooks Medical Center of Ft. Worth and put together plans for making similar arrangements with children’s hospitals across Texas.

Asked about a favorite or memorable trip, Stanberry stated, “It’s hard to pick my favorite trip because they are all so special to me, but the with Justin Dearing from Canton is one that I think of often. Justin has MS and is in a wheelchair, but his goal was to spot and stalk a 4 horn ram.”

Dearing’s hunt will be included as part of an upcoming television on the Pursuit Channel.

The show will air on

March 31 at 7 a.m., and re-aired on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. and April 4 at 5:30 p.m. The show will be presented by the Lone Star Outdoor TV crew.

Another young hunter with local ties, Tyler Autry, will also be featured on the show. Stanberry stated, “Tyler Autry will be hunting for a corsican ram. Tyler came straight from Children’s hospital for his hunt. Nothing was going to stop him from his chance to hunt. Both of these young men are from Canton and love to hunt as you will see. Please take the time to watch this show, it will change your life I promise.”

Texas Hunt for the Cure is currently putting the finishing touches on several other big plans, including hosting their first annual big bass tournament on April 19 at Cedar Creek Lake hosted by Go Fish Guide Service, setting up a booth for the second consecutive year at the Wills Point Bluebird Festival (on April 26), and hosting their second annual golf tournament on May 17 hosted by Country View Golf Course in Lancaster.

Plans are also in the works for an annual get together of past participants to share stories, and relive past hunts.

Board members for Texas Hunt for the Cure include Stanberry, Kristi Hoggatt, Ginger

Hoggatt, Larry Grean, Wendy Green and Andrea Sanford. Sponsors and volunteers also contribute time and money to the cause.

Stanberry noted, “We are a 501(c)(3) corporation so it’s a tax write-off as well as helping a child fulfill their dream. We have no paid employees so every dollar goes to taking these children on these trips of a lifetime.”

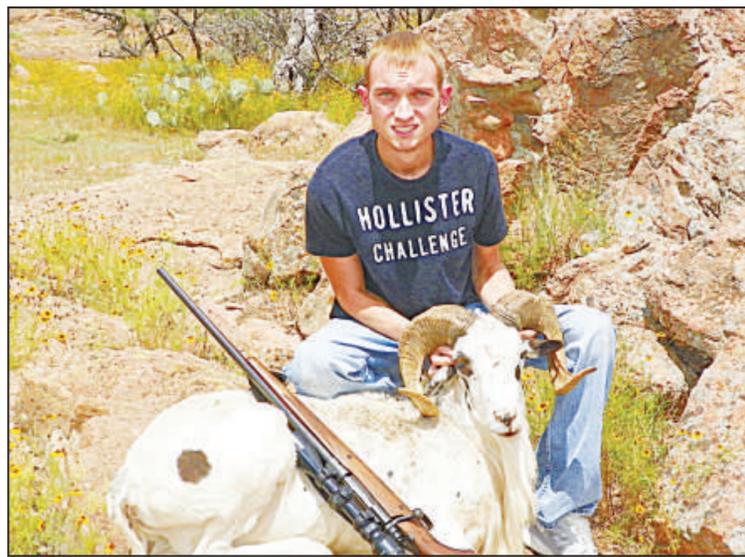
Stanberry continued, “This experience has changed so many people’s life that it’s hard to believe that it all started with one young man named Derek Cline that wanted to go on one last hunting trip. I am so happy that I was the one that was chosen by the man up above to take him and fulfill his dream. It has changed my life in ways you could never imagine.”

Anyone that may know a child facing a life threatening illness that is interested in a hunting or fishing trip, interested in volunteering or donating to Texas Hunt for the Cure, or participating in an upcoming Texas Hunt for the Cure event can find more information by visiting the group on its website, [www.texashuntfortheure.com](http://www.texashuntfortheure.com) or on its Facebook page. Additionally, Stanberry can be reached by calling 972-750-8631 or 214-329-5144.



Courtesy Photos

Above, thanks to the efforts of Texas Hunt for the Cure, Justin Dearing, a Canton youth with MS, reached his goal of spotting and stalking a 4 horn ram. Dearing, along with Tyler Autry, will be featured on an upcoming TV show. Right, Texas Hunt for the Cure took Surgio Gonzales, Jr. on a memorable fishing trip with assistance from Randy Parkers Guide Service.



Courtesy Photo

Derek Cline was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma in Nov. 2009. During final months of his life, Cline shared with family and friends his desire to shoot a buck prior to his passing. Family friend Stacy Stanberry volunteered to take Cline on the trip, which eventually helped lay the groundwork for the founding of Texas Hunt for the Cure.

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