



83rd Year, No. 25 • 7820 Wyatt Drive, White Settlement, Texas 76108 • www.suburban-newspapers.com • June 22, 2023 From the Sports Desk with John English From the City of White Settlement

Athlete Sports Desk with John Engl Athlete Spotlight: Brewer Bear Basketball's Nash Pena



The Brewer boy's basketball team lost some players to graduation this past school year and fans can expect to see a few new faces leading the way for the Bears in 2024. One such player is **Nash Pena**, a sophomore that was called up from the JV squad to add strength to Brewer's perimeter game, and whom coach Jason Porostovsky said has a lot of potential.

"Nash is a good three-point shooter," Porostovksy said. "We moved him up to the varsity as a (continued on page 2)



We would like to invite the community to come out for the annual Summer Celebration event on Saturday, July 1 at 6 p.m. at Veterans Park, located at 8901 Clifford Street.

NS

PARK

Come out for great food from different food trucks, music, shopping from local vendors, and activities for the kids!

HITE SETTLEMENT

6

Then top the night off with a spectacular firework show starting at 9:45 p.m.

From the City of White Settlement Community Clean Up this Weekend

Just a reminder that if you have extra bulk the next Community Cleanup Weekend is Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to get rid of excess limbs, brush and bulk by bringing them to the Corner of Melrose and Meadow Park. This is for White Settlement residents only. Remember to bring proof of residency (driver's license or most recent water bill)!

SUBSCRIBE!

From White Settlement ISD Register for the Grace Baptist Back to School Bash by July 15

Grace Baptist Church will provide free school supplies, hair cuts and more for families who qualify for free and reduced meals!

Click here to register by July 15 for the annual Back to School Bash!

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Sports Desk (continued from page 1)

spark off the bench. Nash also has a good have the potential to make a run. understanding of the game."

goals for Pena in 2024.

"We need Nash to sharpen his threepointer to where it's automatic if left open," Porostovksy said. "We also need Nash to focus on his defensive side of the game."

Pena, 15, said he enjoyed his first season on varsity and said he was pleased with his season was probably the first home game," growth as a player.

"Overall last season was a success," Nash said. "I believe that we definitely exceeded expectations. The outcome wasn't what we wanted, but we progressed a great portant role for the Bears next season. amount from the beginning of the season. My goals coming into the season were to win and see overall improvement in my game. I think both of those were accomplished, and I definitely learned a lot from the previous year of basketball."

Pena said his main objective for next ability to shoot the three." season is to go farther as a team than Brewer

sophomore because we needed a possible did last year and said he believes the Bears toughness and shooting.

"I'm feeling good about the future, and Porostovksy said he had a couple of I'm working hard," Pena said. "I'm trying to get in the gym almost every day to see success for this upcoming season."

The Brewer shooting guard, who is also into fashion, said reflecting on 2023, one moment stands out to him in particular.

"I believe my favorite memory from last Pena said. "The environment was great and hitting a game-tying three to eventually win the game was an awesome feeling."

Porostovksy said Pena could play an im-

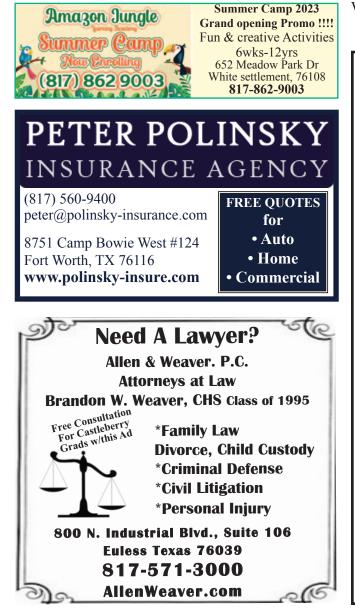
"We believe Nash has a real shot at earning minutes and climbing into the rotation," Porostovsky said. "In our offensive system, we really thrive when we have a shooter on the floor that can space the floor and open up driving lanes for others through their

For this off season, Porostovksy said he would like Pena to work on his defensive

Pena's Favorites

Favorite Athlete: Luka Doncic Favorite Sports Team: Dallas Mavericks Favorite Food: Pasta Favorite Movie: "Spiderman Into The Spider-verse" Favorite TV Show: Spongebob Book Currently Reading: "Ugly Love" Favorite Musical Group or Performer: Drake







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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From White Settlement ISD White Settlement Jets Honored at June 19 School Board Meeting

at the June 19 meeting. The Jets competed at the Area 11 Special Olympic Bowling competition and WSISD Special Olympics Basketball Tourney.

Consisting of both current and former WSISD students, the Jets finished the year winning numerous ribbons and medals at the Area 11 Track and Field competition.

Coaches pictured are Gabi Seals, Mandy Jenkins, Adriane Mas-

The WSISD School Board honored the White Settlement Jets sey, Anna Falcon, Stacy Carter and Jennifer Dexter. Special Programs Director is Kerry Cooper.

> Athletes are: Joselyn Arnold, Elizabeth Blair, Kayleen Defalco, Johan Duran, Joseph Edmonds, Carlos Garcia, Molly Finestead, Alex Hannah, Jack Hare, Jared Harris, Eric Herrera, Solomon Kinyanjui, Kaye-Lynn McElroy, Alfonso Medina, Kiyuntia Morris, Juan Salinas Salazar, Logan Sylva, Kolton Williams and Lexi Woolsey.



From White Settlement Police Department **WSPD** Recognizes Communication Center Achievements

We want to give a shout out to our Dispatch Services team and Manager Brandi Vineyard. Communication centers are routinely audited by the state. Over the past 90 days, the department has been through two separate audits. Under the leadership of Vineyard and our Dispatchers, we were notified that the agency successfully completed the DPS CJIS Security Audit.

The team does a great job in ensuring we are in compliance while meeting and exceeding state standards.

From the City of White Settlement **Beat the Heat at Raymond Spray Park**

The Raymond Spray Park located at 8503 Raymond Avenue in White Settlement is operative everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Sunday, Sept. 24.

The free spray pad is open seasonally, and will close after Labor Day. Remember to activate the water you have to push the button on the pole. Then you will have four minutes of fresh (not recycled) water fun!



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Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From StatePoint Media Furry Friends Can Cause Distracted Driving: Here's How to Stay Safe Behind the Wheel



Summer road trip season is here! Whether your vacation plans include national parks, sandy beaches or major metropolises, you may be thinking of bringing the entire family along, even your four-legged companions.

While we love having them near, dogs aren't always safe passengers. A recent poll commissioned by Selective Insurance, a leading home, auto and business insurance carrier, found that in the past 12 months, dogs caused a majority of drivers to be distracted on U.S. roadways.

The study, conducted online by The Harris Poll, found that of licensed drivers who recently (over the last 12 months) drove with their dogs, 91 percent admitted to interacting with them while driving, including





http://www.wsmuseum.com **FREE ADMISSION - GROUPS WELCOME!** interactions requiring the driver to take their 48 percent acknowledged that they are more than when it is not.

drivers' laps, jumping between seats, or drivers' attention from operating a vehicle," of Safety Management at Selective Insurneed to minimize distractions. That means our beloved pet passengers should be resafe place."

Some of the more hazardous behaviors that drivers engaged in while recently on the road with their dog include giving them your route so you and your dog can take a food/treats/water (36 percent), taking a photo/video of their dog (27 percent) or holding them in place (23 percent) while driving. In addition, 40 percent of drivers sions to give your dog food, a little exercise who have ever driven with their dog confessed to various reckless driving behaviors as a direct result of having their dog in the vehicle, including swerving out of the lane (11 percent) and hard braking (13 percent).

This summer, as you head out with your dog on journeys near and far, help minimize these tips from Selective Insurance:

consider using a partition between the front and back seats.

• Use a dog seatbelt, safety harness or anhands off the wheel or eyes off the road, and chored crate to prevent distractions and provide your dog with some protection if there distracted when their dog is in the vehicle is an accident. A significant 70 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their "We love our dogs. However, some of dogs say their dogs were unrestrained in the their behaviors in the car, such as sitting on vehicle. Yet, 82 percent of drivers who recently drove with their dogs agree that havsticking their heads out the window, divert ing an unrestrained dog in a moving vehicle can distract the driver. Not using a restraint said Scott Smith, vice president and director is risky and could put you in violation of the law. Some states have animal restraint laws ance. "To help keep our roads safe, drivers for vehicles to help keep drivers safe and focused. However, only 24 percent of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs strained in the back seat, and if they need say they are very familiar with such laws in tending, drivers should first pull over to a their state. That's compared to 34 percent who say they didn't know these laws existed.

> Plan ahead and identify rest stops along break. If you need to make an unplanned stop, avoid the side of the road and instead look for a quiet parking lot. Use these occaand most importantly in summer, plenty of water.

> For additional survey findings, along with tips to keep roadways safe and K-9 companions secure, visit Selective.com. For survey methodology, visit selective.com.

"More pets in homes, especially with the driving distractions in your vehicle with introduction of the pandemic puppy, means more Americans than ever may be hitting • Have your dog ride in the back seat and the roads with their pooch on road trips this summer. Drivers should understand the risks associated with taking them along for the ride," said Smith.





Suburban Newspapers, Inc. From the City of White Settlement **Stormwater Drainage Project** at Farmers Branch Linear Park

Construction for the Stormwater Drainage Project at Farmers Branch Linear Park is underway. This project is in the creek between Dale Lane and Redford Lane. The contractor will be inserting a retaining wall to stabilize and reduce erosion between residential properties. Pending inclement weather work should be completed by the first of September of this year.





'inkerLa

At TinkerLab, kids of all ages will enjoy a variety of STEAM-based activities individually or in small groups.

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From White Settlement ISD **Nutrition Department Cooking Up Free Summer Breakfast** and Lunch



The WSISD Child Nutrition Department is providing free breakfast and lunch at Brewer High School and Liberty Elementary this summer!

Any children 18 and younger, individuals 21 and under who are enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled, and individuals under 21 enrolled in an RCCI.56 can receive free meals.

Click the link for location addresses and the meal schedule! https://www.wsisd.com/apps/pages/FreeSummerMeals

Summer Bucket List

- have a family picnic have ice cream for dinner make s'mores in your backyard have a backyard camp out make a pillow/blanket fort blow bubbles run through sprinkler make tie-dye shirts set up a slip & slide neighborhood relay races homemade sno-cone making make chalk art play frisbee play kickball hike at a local park movie night backyard movie night make flower chains search for a 4 leaf clover go to an area pool batting w/water balloons night bowling w/water balloons make a solar oven & cook plau leap frog play red rover game night puzzle night
- finger paint
- make homemade pizza
- have a homemade spa day
- feed the ducks
- make an obstacle course
- geocaching

star gaze make a bird feeder fly paper airplanes make homemade play dough catch lightning bugs make ice cream in a bag play charades pick fruit go for a bike ride go camping put on a puppet show go on a nature walk Find a creek to stomp in splash in rain puddles visit a local historical site visit a local cave learn car maintenance have a picnic eat breakfast for dinner go for a night swim summer book club make kool-aid popsicles have a craft night dance party family service project science experiment nature scavenger hunt homemade nerf gun targets bing watch a family show play frisbee golf family karaoke night fly a kite roller skate outside

Suburban Newspapers, Inc. Texas History Minute Most Decorated Texan of WWI, Marcelino Serna by Dr. Ken Bridges

The generation that fought World War I is now gone, but their legacy of bravery continues to live on.

One of those figures was Private **Marcelino Serna** of El Paso, one of the most highly decorated men of the war. As an immigrant, he fought with uncommon bravery to defend his new home.

Serna was born in April 1896 in a



mining camp in Chihuahua, one of the Mexican states bordering Texas. His family was poor, but Serna wanted a better life for himself. In 1915, determined to find work, he left his family at the age of 19. He came to El Paso in search of the American Dream. Initially, he did not speak English but was able to find work on a railroad maintenance crew. From there, he found his way to Colorado where he worked as a farm hand.

In 1917, the United States entered World War I and initiated the first draft since the Civil War. Federal officials stopped Serna in Colorado and asked his draft status. In spite of his status as a Mexican citizen, Serna, like so many other immigrants, volunteered to fight for his new country. After three weeks of basic training at Camp Funston, Kansas, he was assigned to the 335th Infantry of the 89th Division and sent to France.

In France, his unit found itself in the middle of fierce battles, some of the worst faced by American units. German assaults were relentless. Casualties were high. Serna and the men of his unit fought on. On Sept. 12, 1918, his unit was pinned down by intense machine gun fire. Twelve troops were killed. Serna volunteered to scout ahead to find a way to knock out the German positions. He crept alone until he reached the machine gun, threw four grenades at them, killing six. He captured eight others and returned to his unit. Two weeks later, he followed a German sniper to the enemy trenches and laid down fire. He killed 26 German soldiers and captured the remaining 24.

For his actions, he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest medal in the army. He was personally decorated by Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. Marshal Ferdinand Foch, commander of the French forces, awarded him the Croix de Guerre, France's highest award. The Italian army also honored him for his bravery. He was the first

Hispanic ever awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. When army officials discovered that he was a citizen of Mexico, the army offered to send him back to Mexico as a hero. Serna declined, preferring to stay with his fellow soldiers and help his adopted country fight on to final victory.

He received two Purple Hearts for injuries under fire. In November 1918, just days before the end of the war, he was shot in the legs by a German sniper. He returned home from the war as one of the most highly decorated Texans of World War I.

In May 1919, Serna was given an honorable discharge and left the army. He married in 1922, a long marriage that produced six children. He officially became a U.S. citizen in 1924. He took a series of various jobs before settling in El Paso and working at a canning factory. Not long afterward, he began working at El Paso's Fort Bliss as a civilian worker in the quartermaster's office. Some time after the opening of the William Beaumont General Hospital at Fort Bliss, Serna took a job working at the facility. He spent many years working as a plumber, still helping his fellow soldiers by keeping the hospital running, before his retirement in 1961. He remained active in his church and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The only Hispanic to receive the Medal of Honor during World War I was Private David Barkley of Laredo, and one of only three Texans to be so awarded. Barkley died on Nov. 9, 1918, two days before the end of the war, when he drowned while completing a scouting mission against the German lines. He was only 19. In spite of Serna's actions and numerous efforts by politicians and community organizations, he never received the Medal of Honor during his lifetime.

Serna died at his home in El Paso in 1992 at the age of 95. He was buried with full military honors. In 1995, Texas Congressman Ron Coleman proposed legislation to posthumously award Serna with the Medal of Honor. The measure did not pass.

In 2017, however, the port of entry at Tornillo, just southeast of El Paso, was renamed in Serna's honor. Another congressional attempt to honor Serna with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2021 failed.

In 2022, State Sen. Cesar Blanco of El Paso pushed through a measure that gave Serna the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, one of only 16 Texans ever so honored.



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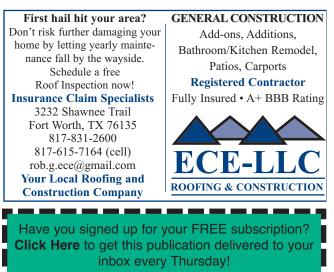
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Three Day Weekend Forecast



Friday, June 23:

<u>AM</u> - Mostly sunny; high near 95. SE wind 10 to 15mph, with gusts as high as 20mph.
<u>PM</u> - A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. SE wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph.



Saturday, June 24:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny and hot; high near 99. S wind around 15mph, with gusts as high as 25mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear; low around 80. S wind 15 to 20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph.



Sunday, June 25:

<u>AM</u> - Sunny and hot; high near 105. S/SW wind 15 to 20mph, with gusts as high as 30mph. <u>PM</u> - Mostly clear; low around 81.

Extended Forecast Click Here