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Sen. Hughes named to various 2021 Texas Senate Committees by Lt. Gov. Patrick

AUSTIN - Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued the following statement today upon announcing his Texas Senate committee appointments for the 87th Legislative Session. Lt. Gov. Patrick also appointed the Select Committee on Ports and the Special Committee on Redistricting.



HUGHES

Sen. Bryan Hughes was appointed chairman of the Senate Committee on State Affairs and also will serve on the following committees - Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, Senate Committee on Nominations, Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence, and Senate Committee on Education.

"The Texas Senate is comprised of proven leaders with the expertise and experience that makes them more than prepared to take on the difficult challenges we face in this new legislative session. The committee appointments I am making today call on all senators - Republicans and Democrats, freshmen and senior members - to play an integral role in crafting public policy that will ensure our state remains strong and every Texan can prosper.

"No one works harder than the members of the Texas Senate. Their commitment to public service is unparalleled and I am proud to serve with them. They have been working throughout the interim and are hitting the ground running. I look forward to a productive legislative session."

Tyler man pleads guilty to fed drug trafficking charges

A 26-year-old Tyler man has pleaded guilty to federal drug trafficking in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Davilyn Walston, publicity official for U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Cox.

Nasir Saleh-Saad Jabr, 26, a.k.a. "Nemo," appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell this past week to enter a plea of guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Jabr was arrested on Dec. 3, 2019, following an armed standoff with law enforcement in the parking lot of the Econo Lodge located at 2631 WNW Loop 323 in Tyler. At the time of his arrest, Jabr was found to be in possession of 111.2 grams of methamphetamine and three firearms. According to information presented in court, Jabr admitted he was responsible for possessing and distributing more than 50, but less than 150 grams of methamphetamine.

Jabr and three others were indicted by a federal grand jury on July 15, 2020.



Young house fire victims identified

Smith County Fire Marshal Jay Brooks has identified the three children who died in a house fire with their mother on Monday, Jan. 11, county officials said.

The children are: 5 year-old boy Elyja Anthony Damé Newman; 2-year-old boy Travis Everrette Harris; and 1-year-old girl Saphira Khalessi Rose Harris.

Earlier this week, Brooks identified the mother who died in the fire as Brittany Stewart, 24.

"The Smith County Fire Marshal's Office is committed to getting answers for the family of Ms. Stewart and her children as to what happened in this tragic fire," Brooks said.

A detailed scene investigation was conducted on Thursday, Jan. 14, officials said.

"At this time the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office is awaiting results from forensic lab testing before releasing its origin and cause of this fatal fire," Brooks said. "Our hearts go out to the families of Ms. Stewart and her three beautiful children, as well as Mr. Harris."

Edwin Harris, 31, survived the fire and suffered non-life-threatening injuries. He is the father of the two younger children.

At 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 11, the fire was reported in the 18400 block of Devonne Drive, off of U.S. Highway 271, in the Starrville area of Smith County.

A volunteer White Oak firefighter who was in the area stopped to help Harris, who was attempting to put the fire out and rescue family members inside the burning home.

A unit from UT Health EMS also arrived and assisted, followed shortly by deputies of the Precinct 4 Constable's Office. The fire grew rapidly and hindered rescue efforts. Harris was transported to a Tyler hospital.

Fire Departments from Winona, Lindale, Red Springs, Jackson Heights, Flint-Gresham and Gladewater, as well as members of the command staff from Emergency Services District 2 and the Smith County Sheriff's Office, responded to the fire, which took firefighters about three hours to extinguish.

Brooks urges everyone to check their smoke detectors to make sure they are working.

Two East Texans jailed for involvement in Capitol riot

Two East Texas men remained jailed for allegedly taking part in the unlawful siege of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, federal officials said.

Ryan Nichols, 30 of Longview and Alex Kirk Harkrider, 33, of Carthage were both arrested on Monday (Jan. 18). Nichols is in the Smith County Jail while Harkrider is being held in the Gregg County Jail.

The Department of Justice criminal complaint charges Nichols with conspiracy and unlawful entry with a dangerous weapon, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds as well as civil disorder, assault on a federal officer, using a deadly or dangerous weapon and aiding and abetting.

Harkrider's complaint alleges conspiracy and unlawful entry with a dangerous weapon, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds as well as aiding and abetting.

The affidavit further states a witness called the FBI on Thursday (Jan. 7) to report Nichols and Harkrider as two of the people who broke into the Capitol building on Jan. 6.

This witness revealed the two men's Facebook accounts and said he or she had seen posts on Nichols' social media which showed both of the suspects at the Capitol building on Jan. 6. A second witness then provided federal authorities with the men's names, ages and places of residence, according to the affidavit.

Federal agents identified Nichols and Harkrider in several photographs and videos posted to social media that depicted their alleged unlawful behavior at the U.S. Capitol Building on Jan. 6.

In two photos captioned, "We're in," Nichols and Harkrider can be seen on the Capitol Building grounds with a large crowd visible behind them.

"In the photos, Nichols appears with a beard and wearing a Marine Corps camouflage hat, American flag face cover around his neck, and a blue jacket, and Harkrider appears with a beard and wearing a blue and gray baseball hat with a Star on it and a tan jacket," the affidavit stated.

LACC annual membership banquet set April 12

Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce officials have announced the 37th annual Chamber Banquet and Auction is scheduled for 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 12 at the Texas Rose Horse Park, located at 14078 Texas Highway 110.

Last year's banquet was moved to the horse park due to the COVID-19 pandemic and proved to be a success.

General admission tickets, which are \$30, are scheduled to go on sale in February, LACC officials said.

The theme for this year's banquet is "Wildcards and Roses."

The silent auction and networking is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., chamber officials said and dinner will be available from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m., the live auction will begin followed by the presentation of awards.

During last year's banquet

Jimmy Hawley, owner of Hawley Disposal Service, was named Citizen of the Year and Dave Wilson was chosen as the Rotary Club's Merchant of the Year.

Lindale High School Principal Jeremy Chilek introduced the students of the year from LHS.

Jenna Thornhill, the salutatorian of the Class of 2020 and Jacob Koeshall, who graduated No. 11 in the Class of 2020, were the recipients.

LISD Superintendent Stan Surratt then introduced the Educator of the Year, Pydi Oliver of Velma Penny Elementary School.

Outgoing Chairman Andy Ford recognized local restaurateur Jeff Crews with the Chairman's Award as well.

In order to help with the comfort and safety of the banquet guests and staff, tables were set up under the Horse Park's covered arena with social distancing in mind.



Tables were spaced several feet apart at last year's Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet at Texas Rose Horse Park to adhere to social distancing guidelines. This year's banquet is scheduled for April 12 at the horse park, LACC officials said.

Photo by Terry Cannon

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Chris Cobler
Capital Highlights



Observers welcome quiet opening to Legislature

The Texas Legislature opened quietly, which delighted everyone after the violence inside the U.S. Capitol the previous week. At the Texas State Capitol, a variety of legislative agendas took center stage at the start of the 87th session, which will run 140 days. Gov. Greg Abbott's goals include ensuring Texans have access to high-quality healthcare, improving public safety, getting Texans back to work and promoting the state's economic recovery.

Many other state organizations announced their agendas, too:

- The Texas Farm Bureau outlined 11 priorities, starting with protecting property owners' rights under eminent domain law. Other legislative priorities include protecting landowners and agricultural producers' rights to surface water and groundwater; legalizing reasonable chemical controls for feral hogs and maintaining all current legal methods of controlling feral hogs; and supporting efforts to install broadband and cellular infrastructure in underserved rural communities.

- Raise Your Hand Texas is focused on making sure public dollars remain in public schools. Some of those policy recommendations include protecting all investments made in 2019's House Bill 3, including the funding for full-day pre-kindergarten; ensuring federal stimulus dollars are used to increase public education funding; continuing to invest in students with the goal of reaching the national average in per-student funding; and opposing any form of taxpayer subsidies to private schools and vendors, such as tax credit scholarships, education savings accounts, vouchers for students in special education and virtual vouchers.

- The Texas Alliance of Energy Producers will be working with lawmakers to avoid proposals to raise taxes, impose new or higher fees, or shift additional regulatory costs onto the industry or mineral interest holders. The alliance also plans to participate in the Coalition for Critical Infrastructure to put forward reasonable solutions to address landowners' concerns about eminent domain.

"This session will have some unique challenges due to COVID protocols and how the legislative process will be conducted," Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said. "It will be different, but what has not changed is the importance of making sure the voices of farm and ranch families are heard at the Capitol."

Raise Your Hand Texas officials said lawmakers can keep their promises to education despite the tight budget outlook.

"Even during this difficult budget cycle, the state has options to continue investing in and fully funding public education. These options can give our schools the ability to provide the services our students need and to effectively implement targeted interventions for learning loss that occurred over the last year due to COVID-19," Raise Your Hand Texas wrote in a statement.

Jason Modglin, energy alliance president, encouraged lawmakers in search of revenue to consider whether all energy sources are paying as much as oil and gas producers.

"Renewable energy projects in the state do not pay a severance tax to the state like we must do," Modglin wrote in Shalemag.com. "Those arguing Texas and the U.S. should fully transition to renewable energy sources have offered no plan for how they will fund schools, roads and water infrastructure in the same way oil and gas severance taxes do. For example, electric vehicles are currently not required to pay for the use of roads like gasoline and diesel vehicles must."

Connecting rural Texas

Regular readers of "Capital Highlights" know of readers' high interest in improving the access to high-speed internet for rural Texans. Connected Nation Texas recently asked lawmakers to offer their thoughts on the need.

"Many of the counties I represent do not have a hospital or even a doctor, and broadband can help bridge the healthcare gap these rural residents face," said Sen. Charles Perry, a Republican representing West Texas' District 28.

Connected Nation Texas does not do any lobbying for legislation, but state program director Jennifer Harris said she anticipated many lawmakers would try to offer solutions this session.

Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, and Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, have announced their intent to file legislation aimed at expanding access. They said their bill would "affirm the state's commitment to closing the digital divide for Texans who lack either access to internet service or the means to subscribe to the services offered in their community."

"The coronavirus pandemic has underscored the need for reliable access to the internet and exposed the breadth of ways in which connectivity impacts daily life," Ashby said in a statement. "It's my hope that passage of this bill will ensure our state is serious about working to make 21st century investments in favor of economic development, education, healthcare, public safety and the many other industries which benefit from connectivity."

The upcoming legislation includes:

- Creation of a broadband development office within the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- A broadband development program funded by the newly established broadband development account.
- Establishment of a broadband development map to be updated regularly and published by the office.

"...you gotta laugh to keep from crying."

A lot of jokes have been made about 2020 and its aftermath. We have faced a pandemic which didn't just target our bodies, but also our jobs, businesses and pocketbooks. To top it off, we have had contentious elections, frightening violence from all directions, and a lot of worry about the unknown. That is a truckload of reality to grapple with daily.

But the fact that there are so many jokes about 2020 gives me hope for 2021, as optimistic as that may be. You know why? You gotta laugh to keep from crying. My worn out, rancher, cowboy daddy taught me that. Every year in agriculture is like playing the odds. Overflows, droughts, tornadoes, livestock pandemics, locusts of biblical proportions...you know, just another day on the ranch.

I learned to laugh at the knee of a master. So let's look back at some of our favorite 2020 slam dunk jokes that hit painfully close to home and pray (hard) for a better 2021.

"If 2020 was a person I'd sue him for pain and suffering."

"At the beginning of 2020 I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds...only 15 more to go!"

"Whose idea was it to sing 'Happy Birthday' while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake."

"My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, 'Throw this and wherever it lands, that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends.' Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge."

And for the pun lovers among us:

Suzanne Bardwell



"Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow remains to be seen."

Rationalization is a national pastime, here is one of my personal favorites:

"My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!"

And, here are a couple of personal faves that hit a little too close to home:

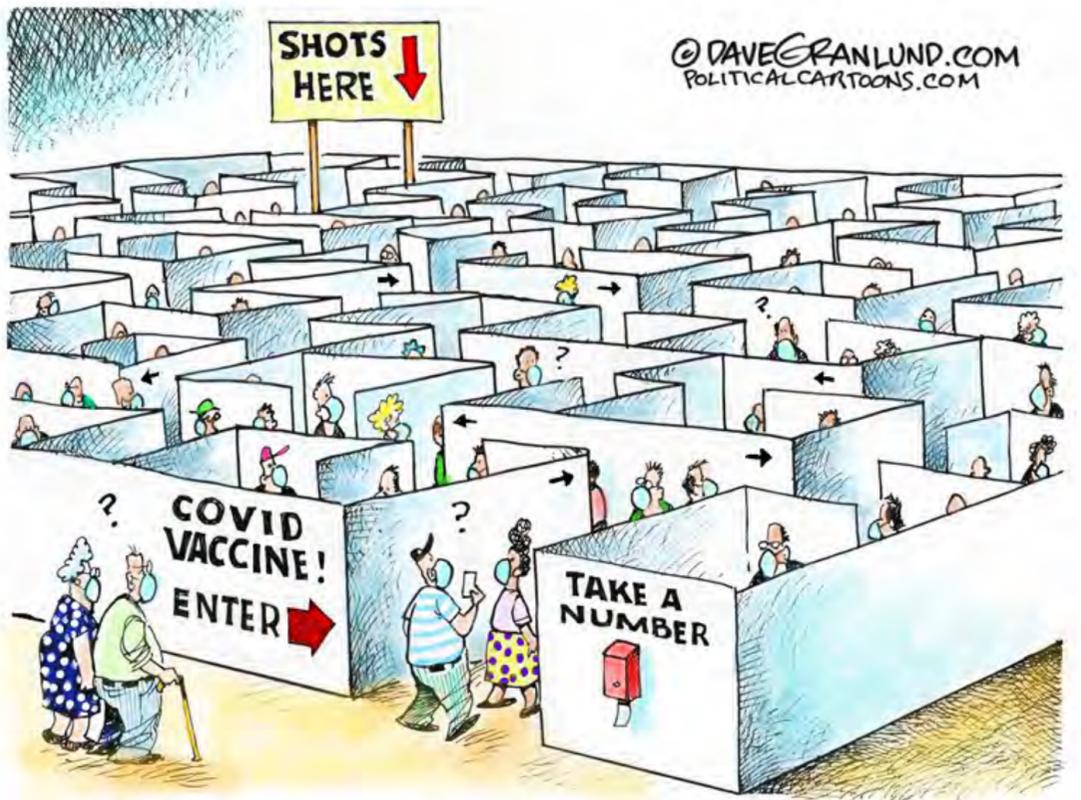
"If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other." And

"After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason."

Wait, one more from my house:

"This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog, we laughed a lot."

So dear friends and neighbors let's remember to laugh. After all, laughing is, and will always be, the best form of therapy. When we share laughter we share ourselves and hope for tomorrow.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Strength Amidst Chaos

I first saw the US Capitol as a student about five decades ago. For the past 40+ years, it has been part of my professional life - testimony, hearings, meetings, meals, receptions, and crunching numbers.

Whenever I am there, I find a few moments to pause in the imposing rotunda, peruse the nearby statues, or perhaps climb to the top for a closer view of Constantino Brumidi's breathtaking "The Apotheosis of Washington." Even the hallways are majestic.

I marvel at the glistening white dome and recall Abraham Lincoln's words in 1862 to a young chaplain dispatched by General Grant. He spoke of the criticism of finishing it as war raged and said "If people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign that we intend the Union to go on."

This edifice transcends a mere building. It is where the laws, both magnificent and ignominious, which govern this quarter-millennium grand experiment (quite young by historical standards) in merging democracy (via a republic) and capitalism into a great nation, are forged.

I always get chills when I enter the Capitol. It is never routine. Witnessing this hallowed ground desecrated and lives lost within its storied walls is a travesty.

When I consider these events as an economist, something truly amazing surfaces. As financial markets opened on January 6, prior to the siege, they surged

upward for unrelated reasons. They remained there throughout the day and those immediately beyond, and global markets generally followed suit.

Markets collapsed after 9/11, when the House initially rejected key legislation to quell the Great Recession, and as the severity of the coronavirus first became apparent. They often fluctuate dramatically in response to an offhand remark by the Federal Reserve Chairman or even a single company missing an earnings estimate by a few cents. Yet, on this most consequential day, they scarcely noticed.

This performance can only mean one thing. The financial markets, where trillions of dollars are exchanged daily seeking to dissect the tiniest bits of information, never perceived that the US

government was in jeopardy. If there had been a scintilla of doubt for a fraction of a nanosecond regarding the stability of the largest and most powerful economy on earth that supports the primary world reserve currency, there would have been a crash of epic proportions.

Markets are always forward-looking. The fact that they ignored this craven attack is compelling testament that the US has the strongest and most resilient political and economic institutions the world has seen. They will remain a source of economic leadership and technological advancement and the foundation of the global monetary system for the foreseeable future. They have often been tested, but never faltered. Lincoln was right. Stay safe.

Stay safe.

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Trust me, it's worth the shot

One day last week, in the still-dark-out time of day, the lovely bride and I boarded the family wagon and headed over to the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler.

We were there to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. One hour and 45 minutes later we were back home. Things couldn't have been smoother. The fine folks at UT Health were professional, courteous and genuinely concerned about our well being.

(I was glad to see everyone – except one knucklehead – was wearing a mask).

In some ways, old age has its benefits and in the area of who qualifies for the initial rounds of the vaccine (among other factors), the lovely bride and I both managed to join others who were deemed ready for a first shot of the Moderna vaccine.

We are due for the second one – booster shot if you will – in about three weeks.

Certainly there are legitimate questions concerning the vaccine and we were careful to check with our health care providers prior to the vaccines arriving in East Texas. We then deemed it safe to forge ahead.

Understandably, with a pandemic this insidious and the need for so many doses of the vaccine to be made available, there have been snags along the way. Even if the disease had been treated as a serious threat by certain politicians a year ago, trying to get a shot in the arm of every American who wanted it would still have been a logistical nightmare.

But now, even though there have been fits and starts to the rollout, those of us in East Texas are fortunate indeed to have at least some



access to this life-saving medicine.

Still, there are a couple of legitimate questions from those who have received the vaccine. Dr. Leana Wen, a visiting professor at George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health as well as the medical analyst for CNN, recently fielded some of these concerns.

For example, after being vaccinated, when does the protection begin and how much does it offer?

She said both the Pfizer and Moderna (the one my wife and I received) require two doses for optimal protection and she recommends getting both doses. It takes approximately two weeks after taking the second dose to develop the optimal degree of protection. That protection, health professionals say, will reach about 95 percent a few weeks after that second dose.

In the rare instance that you still contract COVID, Dr. Wen said it

would be less severe than if you didn't get the vaccine.

Here's my wife and I's most important concern: Can we visit our grandkids now that we've been vaccinated?

Yes and no, Dr. Wen says. Since the vaccine isn't 100 percent effective, there's still that tiny chance those who had the shot can still contract COVID. Also, the vaccine doesn't keep one from becoming a carrier of the virus.

She feels when visiting grandkids, or other family members not living with you, that you continue to be proactive – wash your hands, practice social distancing and above all, wear a mask.

Dr. Wen added that the information received from clinical trials of the vaccine(s) it does provide a lot of protection.

Not only that, but you'll have peace of mind knowing your chances of getting the disease have been drastically reduced.

Older Americans with chronic medical conditions (such as yours truly) have a much elevated risk of severe illness and perhaps death. The vaccine(s) cut that risk substantially.

The doctor adds that just because a person has been vaccinated high-risk activities aren't back on the table.

Remain vigilant, maintain safe habits and – even though it seems to be getting less and less important for a lot of East Texans – WEAR A MASK when you are in public.

Even though it doesn't seem possible, one of these days all of us will be living a somewhat normal life.

The first step for that trip back to normal is getting vaccinated when it's your turn.

Having a beef with the Bard

Back before all this COVID junk hit, and no one was wearin' masks, I was approached by a guy while I was lookin' through the meat section at the grocery store.

"Excuse me," he said. "Are you Rusty Mitchum?" I looked over at him.

"Depends," I said. "Are you a jealous husband?" He got a surprised look on his face.

"No," he stated indignantly.

I smiled. "Well then, I'm your man." I stuck out my hand and he looked at it for a minute and then shook it with a dead fish like grip.

"Uh...o-o-OK," he stammered. "Look, I just wanted to tell you that I just can't read your column." Then he got a smug look on his face.

"OK." I said and turned back to the meat section.

"Wait! Don't you want to know why I can't read it?"

I turned back around and smiled. "Look, if you're havin' trouble with your readin', you might want to talk to a teacher or something. Oh! Or maybe that



Sylvan learnin' joint."

"No!" he exclaimed. "I have no trouble reading. I'm an avid reader."

"Hey, I'm not judgin' you. I went to school with a bunch of slow kids."

"Slow?! I'm not slow! I have an excellent grasp of the written word. But, your column," he expanded, "well, it just takes you too long to get to the point. You know," he said with that smug look again, "William Shakespeare stated that brevity is the soul of wit."

I smiled and nodded. "Hamlet, right?" He looked up like he was thinkin'.

"Uh...I'm not sure," he said.

"Take my word for it," I said.

"It is." Then I chuckled.

"Ol' Willy Shakespeare..... The Bard! Ha! Kinda ironic, huh?"

"Uh.....What do you mean?" he asked.

"You know, ol' Willy talkin' about brevity in a play that has over 4000 lines in it, which took around 4 hours to perform back then. Ironic."

"Huh.....well...uh...."

"And do you know why those people stayed for those four hours to watch that play?" I asked. He gave me a half-eyelid perturbed look.

"I guess you're going to tell me, so they could find out how

it ended, right?" he said sort of snarky like.

"Heck no," I said. "The reason they stayed for the whole thing was because back then they didn't have TV sets to go back home to." He looked at me like I was from Mars or somethin'.

"What?"

"Do you have a TV?" I asked.

"Of course I do."

"Well then, there you go." He got a funny look on his face.

"Wait," he said. "That doesn't make any sense."

I looked at him really serious like. "Hey man, I don't make up the rules."

The guy just stood there and looked at me. Again I smiled at him and he just turned around and walked away.

"Adieu adieu, Hamlet. Remember me." I said after him and then turned, clapped my hands once, and started rubbin' them together.

"OK now. Come now, Horatio! Let's see if they've got any marked down ribeyes."

LETTER TO EDITOR

Timely editorial appreciated

Dear Editor,

Your editorial in today's paper is certainly timely and appreciated. Curious about the procedures of the official acceptance of the electoral votes, I turned on the TV at noon (Jan. 6) and turned it off at 11 p.m. The events still amaze me, but what was most disturbing was that this was a coordinated and well planned attack.

The invaders didn't decide spur of the moment to smash their way into the Capitol; rather they brought with them the equipment needed for the entry breach. I suspect they expected that no harm would come to them as they posted selfies touting their presence.

(Former President Trump) told them it was their duty as patriots to march on the Capitol. The leaders and organizers need to be prosecuted, and those that were duped need to wake up and

learn from this debacle. Those complicit politicians (Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, etc.) need their political careers ended now.

The lies of tainted election results espoused by the former president and supported by most Republican politicians have been proven fallacious in numerous court cases including the Supreme Court.

Not liking election results does not make them wrong.

J.S. Kier
Lindale

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Tips for balanced eating in new year

By Claudann Jones
Smith County Extension Service

This is the month for New Year's resolutions and eating healthier should be at the top of everyone's list.

So often eating healthy can be thought of as a restriction, but I propose that eating healthy is more about balance.

Yes, there are foods that are just straight up bad for us. They hold little nutritional value and are not healthy by any standard. But we live in 2021 and these foods are a part of our world. We can't escape them and sooner

or later, we are going to want to indulge.

That's OK. You can have those foods, but make sure not to overdo it.

Here's an analogy: Reading is a great activity. It can be informational, entertaining, or inspiring. What would happen if all of us read, all the time? Nothing else productive would get done... eventually we'd want people to stop reading so they could write new books!

Even good things like reading need to stay in their place. Finding an appropriate amount of time in your day to read is called time

management and balance. Letting reading take over your life leads to neglecting responsibilities.

Eating healthy is no different. Cake can have a place in your life, but make sure you are managing your nutrition and eating a balanced diet.

Here are some things to consider as you strive to eat more balanced.

Is this food nourishing?

If not, will it replace foods that are nourishing in my diet?

Will eating this food bring me joy?

Do I actually want to eat this? Remember, being healthy is

about our overall habits, not what we do occasionally or even some of the time.

For more information contact the Smith County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health at 903-590-2980 or email at cmjones@ag.tamu.edu. Like our Facebook page: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County. Stay well and stay safe.

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Tips for traveling with your pet

By Texas A&M University
Veterinary Staff

Pet owners choosing to travel domestically while following the appropriate precautions during and after the COVID-19 pandemic may be apprehensive about leaving their animal companion at home.

While carrying a pet cross-country may seem daunting, with proper planning, owners should be confident that they can get their furry friend where they need to go.

Dr. Christine Rutter, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that pet owners need to notify their airline, lodging, and veterinarian of their intention to travel with their pet as early as possible.

Owners should also reach out to the appropriate authorities to ensure their pet has the proper documentation.

"Technically, any transport of an animal across state lines requires a USDA health certificate issued by a USDA certified veterinarian," Rutter said.

It is best to check the specific requirements of your destination to ensure that you are in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations when you arrive.

When obtaining the proper documentation from your veterinarian, owners should ensure that their pet is up to date on all vaccinations, heartworm prevention, ectoparasite (such as fleas and ticks) prevention, has a registered microchip with current contact information, and has a legible tag on their collar or harness. Tags should include a pet's name, an emergency phone number, and any pertinent

medical information.

"If your pet receives daily medications, be sure you have enough to last through your trip and ask your veterinarian if it would be worth having a paper copy of prescriptions in case medications get lost," Rutter said.

Owners of pets who rely on a medical device, such as a glucose monitor or pacemaker, should speak with their veterinarian about what resources are available near their destination. If your pet struggles with anxiety or motion sickness, ask your veterinarian how to best accommodate their needs during travel.

"Many of our pets don't live terribly exciting lives when it comes to travel, so the hustle and bustle of travel can come as a real shock," Rutter said. "Weeks before you travel familiarize your pet with the crate or carrier that they will be traveling in. Hiding treats or feeding your pet in the carrier, providing a comfortable bed in the carrier, and going on short car drives in the carrier can help make the travel experience less scary."

Rutter also recommends keeping your pet in a travel crate or carrier when they are unattended in a new environment. This keeps your pet out of mischief and ensures that your pet is in a safe and familiar place.

Owners can also help foster a familiar environment for their pet by using the same litter their cat uses at home when traveling, and by feeding them a consistent diet. Avoiding the introduction of new food and treats while traveling may also reduce the risk of digestive incidents.

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Blood drives scheduled for Carter BloodCare

Officials with Carter BloodCare have announced a pair of blood drives will take place this weekend and on Monday, Jan. 25.

On Saturday, Jan. 23, the Big Sandy Lion's Club will be hosting a blood drive on at 108 E. Broadway in the parking lot of Austin Bank.

The drive will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and will take place in the Carter BloodCare bus.

On Monday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the South Tyler Rotary Club will host a drive at 4202 South Broadway in the parking lot of the First Christian Church.

To receive more information contact Dalton Dickerson at 903-526-0880 or Rickey Caughron at 903-918-9393.

To reduce wait times, appointments are encouraged and blood donors can complete the medical history questionnaire online on the day of donation, before arriving to give blood. This helps manage "social distancing." Donors and staff are required to wear masks; and surfaces are cleaned between each donor.

Carter BloodCare continues to offer COVID-19 antibody testing on successful donations, for a limited time. Donors can retrieve their results within one to two weeks through a secure portal on the blood center's web site that donors set up following a donation.

Potential blood donors may volunteer beginning at age 16 with parental

consent; 17-year-olds may give independently and there is no upper age limit for donating blood. For more information on donor eligibility and to make an appointment, call 1-800-366-2834 or visit carterbloodcare.org.

Blood is not easy to come by, especially this time of year and during a pandemic Carter officials are quick to point out.

However, hospitals continue to order blood products for their transfusion-dependent patients at all hours, when moments could mean the difference between life and death.

Carter BloodCare reminds the community that even in the midst of a pandemic, it is still safe to donate blood

and patients are counting on those donations.

Carter BloodCare continues to offer COVID-19 antibody testing on successful donations, for a limited time. Donors can retrieve their results within one to two weeks through a secure portal on the blood center's web site that donors set up following a donation.

Potential blood donors may volunteer beginning at age 16 with parental consent; 17-year-olds may give independently and there is no upper age limit for donating blood.

For more information on donor eligibility and to make an appointment, call 1-800-366-2834 or visit carterbloodcare.org.

OBITUARIES

OLER C. ALBRITTON

A graveside service for Mr. Oler C. Albritton, 90, formerly of Lindale, was held Jan. 15, 2021 in the Lindale City Cemetery with Brother Jimmie Dietzel officiating and under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home of Lindale.

He passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 at an East Texas hospice facility. He was born on Aug. 27, 1930 in the Jamestown Community of East Texas.

GEORGE "CHARLIE" MCPHERSON

A graveside service for George "Charlie" McPherson, 69, formerly of Lindale, was held Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021 at the Lindale City Cemetery with Bro. James Cowart officiating. Services were under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale.

He passed away Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 at his residence in Cleburne, Texas. He was born on Feb. 5, 1951 in Vina, Ala.

Election deadline Feb. 12 for school, city elections

The election filing deadline for places on the Lindale City Council and Lindale ISD Board of Trustees is Feb. 12, with two seats to be contested on the city council and three for the school board.

For the city council, Mayor Jeff Daugherty's seat and the Place 2 seat, currently held by interim council member Yvette Martin, are to be decided by city voters.

On the school board, Mike Combs, Place 5,

Donnie Williams, Place 6 and Brooks Beeler, Place 7 will be up for re-election.

For more information on filing or on the filing deadline, contact Lindale City Hall at 903-882-3422 or the Lindale ISD at 903-881-4000.

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 793 CR 313W Tyler TX 75706
 903-597-6131
 Pastor Stephen Nipp

Bethel Baptist Church
 FM 16 West, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8275

Bible Baptist Church
 16173 CR 431, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-1454

Carmel Baptist Church
 10969 CR 481, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3852
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 13745 FM 16 East, Lindale, TX 75771
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 903-882-3392
 Ryan Surratt

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 903-882-5106

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 903-882-9558

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 903-574-2672
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 Van Highway, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-9500

First Baptist Church
 Hwy 69 (in Swan) Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6432

First Baptist Church of Lindale
 110E Hubbard St. Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3396
 Tom Buck

Foundation Baptist Church
 715 S Main St. Lindale 75771
 903-881-9490

Garden Valley Baptist Church
 17816 CR 442, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7671

Greater Hopewell Baptist Church
 10480 CR 492 • Tyler, TX 75706
 903-882-4726



Hopewell Baptist Church
 11804 CR 494, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-5381

Hopewell Valley Baptist, Church No 1
 CR 429 • Van, TX
 903-882-5136

Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church
 13073 Hwy 110 N • Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3890
 Bruce Rudd

New Harmony Baptist Church
 10251 FM 727, Tyler, TX 75704
 903-593-5811

Red Springs Baptist Church
 Red Springs, TX
 903-858-2365

St Mary Baptist Church
 12050 CR 452,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8066

Thompson Hill Baptist Church
 14657 CR
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-0849

Walnut Springs Baptist Church
 211 Walnut Springs,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7858

Wood Trails Baptist Church
 11804 CR 494,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-5381

CATHOLIC
Holy Family Catholic Church
 16314 FM 849,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-4079
 Fr. Matthew Stehling, Pastor

St. Joseph the Worker Tridentine Latin Mass
 5075 FM 14
 Tyler, 75712
 903-593-5055
 Rev. Joseph Valentine, FSSP

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church of Christ – Lindale
 211 W. Hubbard, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6455

Church of Christ – South Main
 2425 S Main St, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8933

Church of Christ – Swan County
 Road 471, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8009

EPISCOPAL

St Luke's Episcopal Church
 16292 FM 849, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8118
 Rev. John Carr

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First Century Christian Fellowship
 10119 Gina Rd., Lindale, TX 75771
 Dr. Lawrence Zillmer

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First United Methodist Church of Lindale
 402 W Hubbard St • Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8506
 Michael Peschke

Harris Chapel Southern Methodist Church
 17069 CR 452 Lindale TX
 903.253.3175
 John Roach, Pastor

Mt Sylvan United Methodist Church
 Mt. Sylvan • 903-882-5479

Swan-Wood Springs United Methodist Church
 Hwy 69, Swan Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6382

NON DENOMINATIONAL

Clearview Church
 13933 Hwy 110 N Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8949

Community Christian Fellowship
 15704 Hwy 110 N Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8501
 David Hickey

Crossroads Community Church
 20465 US Highway 69 North
 Lindale TX 75771-4206
 903-881-9844
 Tim Letsch

Bethesda Church
 2401 S Main St
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7597
 Steven & Camilla Charles

Friendship CME Church
 20428 CR 482
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7269

Garden Valley Bible Church
 17117 FM 1253
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-9665

Grace Community Church
 15567 Wood Springs Rd
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3323

Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church
 1115 Lake Cross Rd
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6966

Life of Glory Church
 14623 CR 463
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7997
 Ed & Becky Colville

Life Source Community Church
 2808 S. Main, Lindale
 Pastor John Offutt

Lone Star Cowboy Church
 23425 FM 1995, Lindale TX 75771
 615-480-0289
 Jayc Harold

River's Edge Church
 18492 Hwy 69 North,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-0555 • Phil Brown

Trinity Fellowship Church
 Shady Lane Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3885 • Ben Steen

PRESBYTERIAN

Bethesda Community Church
 FM2710 • Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3861 • Dr. Everitt Nix

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Friday, Jan. 8, 2021

Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to an accident at 700 block N Main St, report taken. Officer Fortunas responded to a welfare concern at 700 Georgia St, report taken. Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 300 block Mount Sylvan St, report taken. Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a suspicious circumstance at 400 block N College St, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth, Allen and Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a disturbance at 400 block Arthur St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a found property at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021

Sgt Flores and Officer Leevey responded to a disturbance at 200 block W Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Leevey responded to an accident at 3400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious person at 200 block Joyce, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Leevey responded to an assist smith co at 300 block Smith Circle, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Leevey responded to an assist other agency at 13300 block W I-20, report taken. Officers Trombley and Capps responded to a suspicious person at 14600 block Tucker St, unfounded.

Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021

Officers Fortunas and Leevey responded to a warrant service at 300 block S Main St, arrest made. Officer Fortunas responded to a public service at 400 block E Hubbard, settled at scene. Officers Fortunas and Leevey responded to assist LISD at 100 block Stadium Dr, settled at scene. Officer Fortunas responded to an ordinance violation at 17300 block of Stacy St, warning issued. Chief Somes and Officer Leevey responded to a criminal mischief at 21200 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Fortunas responded to an open container at 300 block S Main St, citation issued. Officer Fortunas and Leevey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 2700 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Trombley responded to a welfare concern at 1200 block Brad Cr, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Trombley responded to a business alarm at 17900 block



HWY 69 N, false alarm. Officers Capps and Trombley responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block Mallory St, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Trombley responded to a deadly conduct at 100 block Mallory St, arrest made.

Monday, Jan. 11, 2021

Officer Allen responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded a public service at 800 block Edgewood Cir, settled at scene. Officers Leevey and Allen responded to harassment at 200 block W South St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 500 block Sunset Dr, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Trombley and Capps responded to a public service at 100 block E Van St, settled at scene.

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021

Officer Allen and Leevey responded to an accident at 200 block N Henry St, report taken. Officers Leevey and Houghton responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Houghton responded to a medical call at 900 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officers Allen and Leevey responded to an accident at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Captain Chambers and Officer Leevey responded to a theft at 100 block Mallory St, report taken. Officers Allen and Leevey responded to an accident at 555 W I-20, report taken. Officer Capps and Trombley responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block Mallory St, settled at scene.

Captain Chambers and Officers Capps and Trombley responded to a suspicious person at 100 block Mallory St, settled at scene.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021

Officer Fortunas responded to an attempt to serve at 3500 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Ramsey responded to a stolen vehicle at 200 block Charles Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to a welfare concern at 300 block Summer Tree Cir, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Captain Chambers and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious person at 1100 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Houghton responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Fortunas responded to a suspicious vehicle at 13500 block E I-20, settled at scene. Officer Fortunas responded to a hit and run at 3400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Sgt Flores and officers Ramsey, Wedgeworth and Allen responded to a peace officer warrant at 1500 block Wood Springs Rd, report taken. Sgt Flores responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officers Ramsey and Allen responded to a drunkenness in public at 200 block E South St, arrest made. Sgt Flores and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block Mallory St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 300 block E South St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Allen responded to a public service at 1800 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores responded to an assist smith county at 16900 block Loring Ln, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021

Officer Houghton responded to a public service at 200 block W South St, settled at scene. Captain Chambers, Sgt Flores and Officers Allen, Fortunas and Ramsey responded to a disturbance at 200 block W South St, settled at scene. Officers Gillham and Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1000 block Brad Cir, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a suspicious circumstance at 800 block Brad Cir, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officers Allen, Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a disturbance at 100 block Country Acres Dr, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a public service at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 300 block N Main St, settled at scene.

Three TJC HVAC students awarded by Rees Scholarship Foundation

Three Tyler Junior College students have been awarded \$2,000 scholarships from the Clifford H. "Ted" Rees Jr. Scholarship Foundation, a charitable foundation of the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), TJC public officials announced.

The foundation recently announced scholarship awards totaling \$83,000 to 44 students studying to become technicians in the HVACR and water heating industry.

TJC recipients are Alejandro Alvarez, Tyler; Jeffrey Holtzclaw, Tyler; and Robert Hunt, Bullard.

"Each year, the foundation provides aid to these aspiring technicians, helping to promote careers in the industry and fill good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced," said Stephen Yurek, president and CEO of AHRI. "We are pleased to award scholarships to these qualified and dedicated students,

and we look forward to welcoming them into the industry."

"Workforce development is a major priority for ACCA, and we're pleased to work with the Rees Scholarship Foundation and AHRI to help recruit financial support for deserving individuals," added Barton James, president and CEO of ACCA. "It is our responsibility as an industry to continue to support and encourage careers in the skilled trades, and it starts with training and education."

Since the Rees Scholarship Foundation was founded in 2003, it has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to more than 643 deserving students and instructors.

The Clifford H. "Ted" Rees, Jr. Scholarship Foundation was established to assist with the recruitment and competency of future HVACR and water heating technicians by awarding scholarships to qualified students enrolled in an institutionally accredited school. Eligible

students must be preparing for a career in either residential or light commercial air conditioning, heating, or water heating, or commercial refrigeration.

TJC HVAC/Refrigeration program

The TJC HVAC/Refrigeration program offers hands-on, technical training toward an Associate of Applied Science degree as well as advanced and entry-level certificates. Professors provide one-on-one assistance in a close-knit atmosphere, making the learning process much easier.

Students are prepared to assist in planning, installing, operating and maintaining air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. Upon graduation, they have the necessary skills to work efficiently with engineers, system designers, skilled craftsmen, salespersons and others in the field.

For more information, go to TJC.edu/hvac.



The TJC HVAC/Refrigeration program offers hands-on, technical training toward an Associate of Applied Science degree as well as advanced and entry-level certificates. This TJC file photo was taken prior to March 2020, when COVID-19 protocols were put in place.

UT Tyler names executive VPs for university, UT Health East Texas

University of Texas at Tyler officials announced this week the appointment of executive vice presidents who will lead the combined UT Tyler and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, said senior director of media relations Beverly Golden.

The institutions officially merged Jan. 4 under the leadership of President Kirk A. Calhoun, MD, FACP.

Amir Mirmiran, PhD, has been named provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. Mirmiran was previously provost for UT Tyler. Prior, he served as dean of engineering and computing at Florida International University and vice president of FIU Research Foundation. Mirmiran's research in structural engineering has led to four U.S. patents and more than 130 journal publications.

A licensed professional engineer, Mirmiran is the Sam A. Lindsey Chair and Professor of Civil Engineering.

Joseph Woelkers has been named UT Tyler's executive



Amir Mirmiran, PhD



Julie V. Philley, MD,



Joseph Woelkers

vice president and chief business officer. Previously, Woelkers was executive vice president at UT Health Science Center at Tyler.

Woelkers' broad experience includes over 35 years in academic medicine as a senior administrator at three of the largest medical institutions in the world, including the University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Florida.

Woelkers is professor of medicine and professor of healthcare policy, economics and manage-

ment.

Julie V. Philley, MD, has been named executive vice president for health affairs. Previously, she was chair of the Department of Medicine and professor of medicine at UT Health Science Center at Tyler. She is board certified in pulmonary and critical care medicine. A native East Texan, Philley returned to Tyler in 2012 to continue her research efforts in nontuberculous mycobacterial disease and bronchiectasis. She is also principal investigator on a \$2 million National Institutes

of Health grant for convalescent plasma research to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Amir, Joe and Julie bring diverse experience and expertise that will help UT Tyler continue to improve education and healthcare in our communities," said Calhoun. "We are blessed to have this wealth of academic and healthcare leadership here in East Texas to lead the unified UT Tyler."

With a mission to improve educational and healthcare outcomes for East Texas and beyond, UT

Tyler offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate programs to 10,000 students.

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medical research, medical education and excellent patient care. Classified by Carnegie as a doctoral research institution and by U.S. News & World Report as a national university, UT Tyler has campuses in Tyler, Longview, Palestine and Houston.

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Eagles begin district play with win, loss

Lindale High School's Eagle basketball team has begun District 16-4A action and in its first two games defeated Kilgore while falling to No. 20-ranked Chapel Hill.

The Eagles dropped Kilgore 52-40 on Dec. 29 in the LHS gym (which followed a UIL-mandated five-day break) before losing to the Bulldogs, 55-48, in New Chapel Hill.

Head Coach Chris Grotemat was happy with the effort of his club in both games, especially against defending district champion Kilgore.

"Our kids really rose to the occasion and played exceptionally (against Kilgore)," he said. "It wasn't our best shooting effort, and there weren't many eye popping stats, but our kids put together 32 minutes of really solid and largely mistake-free basketball."

Kilgore uses a deliberate offensive attack which arrived in the first period. The Bulldogs scored six straight while Lindale couldn't find the range, allowing Kilgore to pull the ball out and slow things down.

The Eagles trapped and applied defensive pressure, but Kilgore managed to run nearly three minutes off the first period clock by utilizing its stall ball technique. Lindale found itself down, 9-6 midway through the period.

But senior post Jaymond Jackson (who recently announced he will play football for Lamar University in the fall) was a force to be reckoned with in the middle.

Facing double and triple teams, Jackson nonetheless managed to score nine of the Eagles' 20 points in the second period.

This allowed Lindale to take a 26-15 lead at the half. Colton Taylor and Walter Smith found the range from beyond the arc and Lindale's offense was humming.

"Our ball movement was fantastic, and the unselfishness exhibited by the boys to both recognize the matchups Jaymond had on the interior and to continue to feed him was awesome to see," Grotemat said.

Smith connected on a long jumper from the top of the circle and Taylor followed this up with a steal and a layup to build

Lindale's lead to 16 in the third period.

Kilgore managed to cut Lindale's lead to eight in the fourth period, but the Eagles' defense rose to the occasion.

"The boys did a great job of answering any time Kilgore made a run," Grotemat said.

A pair of buckets from Jackson and clutch free throw shooting from Taylor helped seal the deal in the fourth period.

Lindale racked up important points from the foul line, hitting 12 of 17 and outscored the Bulldogs 28-18 in the paint.

"Any win in district play is a good win, and we sure were grateful to come away with a big W in our last game before the new year," Grotemat said.

CHAPEL HILL 55, LINDALE 48

The Eagles were able to build an early 4-0 lead over the No. 20-ranking Bulldogs, but Chapel Hill quickly roared back and forced Lindale into mistakes on the defensive end en route to the 55-48 victory.

"I cannot say enough good things about how well our team performed in preparation for the matchup," Grotemat said. "We had some outstanding practices and film sessions, but we were not able to transfer all that work into success in the early stages of the game."

Mental mistakes and a lack of communication, Grotemat said, played a bit part in the Bulldogs putting up a 23-point first period, but in the next two periods, the Eagles tightened up on defense and allowed just 17 total points.

Ryder Johnson was a force off the bench, scoring five points and hauling down five rebounds while playing solid defense.

Taylor led the offensive effort, scoring 11 of the team's 13 points in the third period. Justin Farris added two more important baskets in the period.

The Eagles managed to cut the lead to three points on two occasions in the second half, but couldn't get over the hump.

"We did a great job protecting the basketball all night but had a tough night shooting," Grotemat said. "That early onslaught proved too much to overcome."

Lady Eagles ranked No. 19 in state; host Kilgore in key district matchup

The Lindale High School girl's basketball team, sporting a 17-4 record on the season and tied for the District 16-4A lead, will host the Kilgore Lady Bulldogs on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the LHS gym.

Ranked No. 19 in the state, Lindale is in a three-way tie with Bullard and Chapel Hill for the district lead.

On Jan. 15, Lindale traveled to Spring Hill and brought home a 58-38 win over the Lady Panthers.

Lily Chamberlain led Lindale with 17 points while Brooke Everest added 12.

The Lady Eagles led after one period, 9-6, as Chamberlain had four points, Everest had three and Shelbi Steen added two.

Spring Hill trimmed the lead to 22-21 at the half, but in the third period, Lindale ran away from the Lady Panthers with a 26-7 run to take a 48-28 lead going into the fourth period.

Steen scored eight points for the Lady Eagles, while Kalaya Pierce scored seven, Marley Keith had six, Kamareea Murphy scored three, Maggie Spearman and Brenley Philen added two and Desirae Pennington scored one.

Lindale was especially deadly from behind the three-point line with Everest scoring all of her points from beyond the arc. Team-wise, the Lady Eagles connected on seven of 15 on three-pointers.

Including Friday's contest, the Lady Eagles have four regular season games

left in the season before the state playoffs get under way on Feb. 11.

Following the Kilgore contest, Lindale will travel to Chapel Hill on Friday, Jan. 29, host Bullard on Feb. 2 and be on the road in Henderson to close out the district season.

"We have had an incredible season up to this point in the year," said Head Coach Daniel Devisscher. "I am proud how hard our girls are working and preparing for each game."

Lindale finished the first round of district action with just one loss on its home court, 54-51, to Chapel Hill.

The Lady Eagles defeated Spring Hill, 65-22 in the district home opener and followed that with two more wins, a forfeit from Cumberland Academy and a 52-48 win in Kilgore.

On Jan. 8, the Lady Eagles traveled to Bullard and downed the Lady Panthers, 39-31 before returning home to defeat the Henderson Lady Lions, 68-23 which also marked the end of the first round of district play.

On Jan. 15, Lindale defeated Spring Hill, 58-38.

Devisscher expects a spirited contest on Friday when Kilgore comes to town.

"I'd love for people to come catch a girl's game this year if they have not been able to and this will be a good one," he said.

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Lindale Junior High Girls down Cumberland

The Lindale Junior High School Lady Eagles basketball teams took on Cumberland this past Thursday night and won three games.

Lindale's 7th grade B team won 36-2; the 7th grade A team won 35-9 and the 8th grade A team came through with a 42-2 victory.

Since Cumberland doesn't have an 8th grade B team, the 8th grade B team split into a Blue and a White squad.

For the 7th grade B team, Abigail Palecek was the leading scorer and Abigail Kelley was the leading rebounder. Kaniya Pierce

was the leader in assists and Baylee Bass led the team in steals.

Abigail Lee led the 7th grade team in scoring, while Alyssa Potts was the leading rebounder. Macy Luster was the leader in steals and along with Menah Harley led the team in assists.

For the 8th grade Blue/White game, which the White team prevailed, 32-12, Kortlen Pierce and Kamdyn Bergbower were leading scorers, while MaKinsey Beaudoin and Kamdyn Bergbower were leading rebounders.

Maddy Fowble, Rihanna Carrillo and Kortlen Pierce were assists leaders and Rihanna Carrillo, Kortlen Pierce, Kennedy Pickrell and Kennedy Miller were the leaders in steals.

Gaby Saboia led the 8th grade A team in scoring and Haylee Rodriguez and Emily Sandifer were the rebounding leaders. Harlee Redfern was the leader in assists and Gaby Saboia was the leader in steals.

The Hustle Award was won by Bre Taylor and Aspen Ives won the Leadership Award.

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Texas College announces partnership with Atlanta-based Propel Center

Texas College in Tyler will enter into a partnership with Propel Center, a global campus headquartered in Atlanta which will support innovative learning and development for the school, said Jake Martin, communications officer.

The Propel Center has served Historical Black Colleges and Universities across the nation, and Texas College will collaborate with Propel Center and the entire HBCU community to bring leadership and career development programming to its students, Martin said.

The partnership's focus closely aligns with Texas College's mission of empowering graduates to engage in life-long learning, leadership, and service.

The first-of-its-kind initiative will serve as a hub for more than 100 HBCUs, and is designed to connect students and faculty from across the community and provide them with the knowledge,

skills, tools, and resources necessary to transform our nation's talent pipeline and workforce. Curriculum options will include AI and machine learning, agricultural technologies, social justice, entertainment arts, app development, augmented reality, design and creativity, career preparation, and entrepreneurship tracks.

"Texas College is excited to join this new initiative with the Propel Center," said Texas College President Dwight Fennell. "We believe our students' introduction to innovative learning will open doors to new career pathways with expanded skill sets that will propel them into cutting-edge positions as tomorrow's leaders. We are grateful for the forward thinking of Ed Farm to create this technologically advanced initiative which embraces the HBCU community."

Students from participating schools will access Propel Center's

online digital learning platform from anywhere, and will also have access to the 50,000 square-foot Propel Center headquarters in Atlanta, equipped with state-of-the-art lecture halls, learning labs, and on-site living for a scholars-in-residence program.

"The HBCU community is a tremendous engine of Black creativity, entrepreneurship, and inclusive opportunity," said Lisa Jackson, Apple's Vice President of Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives. "We are thrilled to join with partners and community stakeholders to support the Propel Center and be part of this groundbreaking new global hub for HBCU innovation and learning, devoted to helping faculty create best-in-class curriculum and ensuring students have access to cutting-edge skills."

Additional information on Propel Center can be found at PropelCenter.org.

BBB offers ideas for erasing debt in 2021

Now that 2021 is under way and many of us have a money-related resolution, the Better Business Bureau Serving Central East Texas can help you keep it, officials said.

If you are in debt, you're not alone. Total American household debt is only rising.

According to the Federal Reserve's Center for Microeconomic Data, total household debt increased by \$87 billion in the third quarter of 2020. Although getting out of debt, especially credit card debt, may seem daunting, it can start you on the road to financial freedom and wealth creation.

"There's an incredible amount of uncertainty in today's environment," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central

East Texas said. "That's why many of us are being extra mindful about how we spend and save in 2021."

If you want to get your finances in order in 2021 and stick to your New Year's Resolution, BBB provides the following advice:

Take a closer look at your credit cards. Credit cards are known for their high interest rates. This can waste a lot of money over time. See if you can transfer your balances to something with a lower rate, but remember to do your research on BBB.org first, as consumers nationwide filed more than 11,000 complaints against credit card companies in 2020.

Make sure to read the terms and contract very carefully – there may be big penalties if you miss a payment.

If you have multiple cards, decide which debt-paying strategy is best

for you. Some experts recommend paying off cards with the highest interest rates first – others recommend paying off cards with the smallest balances first – figure out what works best for you.

Don't waste money on unethical businesses or scams. When you make a purchase or choose a business always check with BBB. Making careful decisions now can save you time, money, and headaches later. Research all companies at BBB.org, and check BBB Scam Tracker regularly to see which scams are happening in your area.

Take advantage of free tools. There are many online tools that can help you manage and reduce your debt. A great place to start is the free and easy-to-use BBB debt solution tool to find options for managing your debt.



LEGAL

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NO. 44915P

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of January, 2021, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Herbert David Randall, III, Deceased, were issued to Julia D. Randall by the Honorable Court of Smith County, Texas, in Cause No. 44,91 SP pending on the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to the address being shown below:

Estate of Herbert David Randall, III c/o Randall J. Cook
Hardy Cook & Hardy, P.C.
2080 Three Lakes Parkway
Tyler, Texas 75703

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of Mary Magdalene Johnson, Deceased, were issued on November 30, 2020, in Cause No. 44866P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: SHERRY N. JOHNSON.

The address for the Dependent Administrator is:

c/o: LEIGH HUNT GOODSON
The Goodson Firm, P.C.
115 W. Ferguson Street Tyler, Texas 75702

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Date: January 13, 2021

THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
Attorney for the Estate

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Divide & Conquer Living Estate Sale for Mr. Paul Fanning Thurs., Jan. 21 ~ 7:00-5:30 Fri., Jan. 22 ~ 8:00-5:30 Sat., Jan. 23 ~ 8:00-2:00

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Outside SSW Loop 323 & off S. Broadway turn west onto Grande and left onto Hollytree Dr. Turn right onto Brandywine Dr. directly across from the tennis courts. This approx. 3300 sq. ft. Hollytree home, listed by Pamela Walters, sold quickly; contents and consignments must go: elegant round glass top dining table & 6 chairs; formal coordinating sofa, chair, chaise, and table; marble top desk, & coffee table; rugs; Salvador Dali signed & numbered art; John Soderberg sculptures including mermaids, full size woman, Nat. Amer. warriors, sea captain, locomotive made of musical instruments; marble pedestals; Beltran Bofill art; Boulanger art; Alex. Calder art; Arie Van Selma art; Souders Texas art; 2 extra-lg. interchangeable cylinders Swiss music boxes; bar cart; bar stools; Wedgwood china; Limoges china; Royal Worcester "Holly Ribbons" china; gorgeous stemware; king bed, nightstands, chest; blue & white selections; antq settee & matching chairs; another antq settee; floor lamps; monkey lamps; other lamps; zebra fabric chaise; 8 black ladder back dining chairs; Harley Davidson selections; Univ. of TX shirts, glassware, mirrors, UT ROTC book (with Farah Fawcett), pillows, flags, books, etc.; men's clothes, Santa Suit; boots, ties; shoes; consigned women's clothes, shoes, costume jewelry; linens; decorative pillows; BBQ grill; fire pit; Caribbean punch set; CD's; 33 records; electronics; camera; 2 two-section leather sofas; books; 4 office chairs; roll top desk; office supplies; file cabinets; ladders; typewriters; phone sets; sm. appliances; refrigerator; golf clubs; Craftsman tool chest; many hand tools; Snapper mower; wheel barrow; elect. wheelchair; soooo much more! Don't miss this one!
Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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AUCTIONS

36th Annual DeWitt County All Breeds Bull & Female Sale Sat., Jan. 30, Cuero Livestock Commission Co. Bulls sell at 11 a.m., females sell immediately following. Approx. 30 bulls and 250 females. Sponsored by the DeWitt County Purebred Breeders Assoc. and the DeWitt County Beef and Forage Committee. For more information: Anthony Netardus, 115 N. Gonzales, Suite E, Cuero, TX 77954, 361-275-0816. If unable to attend the sale in person, cattle sale viewing and bidding can be done on Cattle In Motion, cattleinmotion.com.

43rd Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale Jan. 23, 2021, 12:00 Noon, El Campo Livestock Auction, El Campo, TX. Expecting 100 Bulls. Also selling a group of select females. www.cattlemansale.com Adrian Knight Tx Lic #11102, 903-452-7591; Kelly Conley Tx Lic #9558, 903-850-3449.

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If unable to attend the sale in person, cattle sale viewing and bidding can be done on "Cattle In Motion" (cattleinmotion.com)

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Sam Rayburn logs first Toyota ShareLunker Legacy Class Bass Entry of 2021

The second weekend of the 2021 Toyota ShareLunker season produced the first Legacy Class largemouth bass at Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Angler Travis Moore reeled in the 13.44-pounder using

a Carolina rig during the Bass Champs tournament Saturday January 9.

"It was a great day on the water at Sam Rayburn," said Moore. "After about 15 or so casts and

few good bites, I finally hooked into my first 2021 bass and it was a giant 13.44 — pounder. We initially weighed her in the boat before taking her to the tournament weigh in where Chad

with Bass Champs put her on the scale to get the official number. My heart started beating fast and I was so excited I could have jumped up and down, but I kept my composure."

Once Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries biologists were notified Saturday evening, they quickly got on the road to collect and transport "ShareLunker 586" to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, where biologists are providing her top-notch care. Biologists plan to attempt to spawn her to make bigger better bass to stock in and enhance fishing in Texas lakes.

"This was one of the best days of my life," added Moore. "I've caught a few 12 pounders and hand full of 10 pounders, but this one here is special for me for sure. As a bass fisherman, this is what we fish for every time we go out on the water."

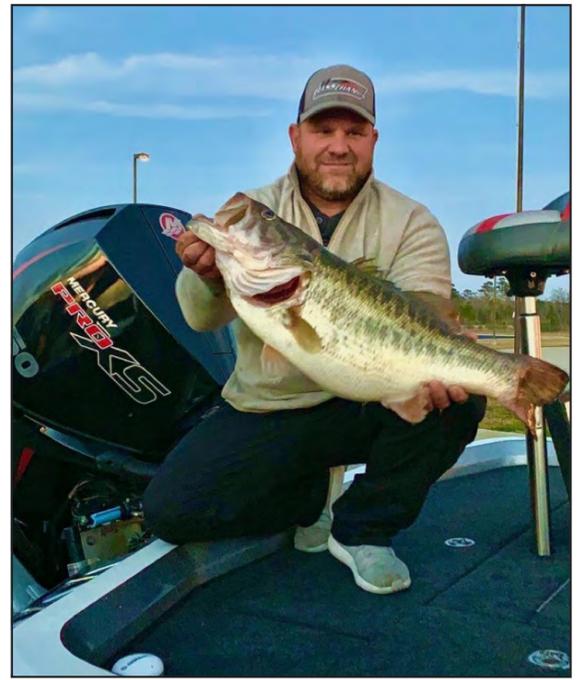
Saturday's catch by Moore was the first Legacy Class largemouth on the lake since 2018. Stacy Spriggs caught SL576 that weighed in at 13.06 pounds with a length of 27 inches on the final day of the 2018 season.

"We are excited to start off the new year on such a positive note with having a ShareLunker so early in the spawning season," said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Kyle Brookshear. "Great management work has been happening at Rayburn and we feel that it's primed to keep producing these world class size fish. This fish along with the others to be donated for spawning this season will continue to help create our ShareLunker broodstock and produce bigger better bass in Texas fisheries."

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2021.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica of their lunker fish. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings; a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than 8 lbs. or 24 inches during the calendar year 2021 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual



Travis Moore reeled in the 13.44-pounder using a Carolina rig during the Bass Champs tournament Saturday January 9 to be the first Toyota ShareLunker this season.

Livestock issues top concerns at AFBF virtual convention

WACO—Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) delegates weighed in on livestock market issues, crop insurance and feral hogs, among other issues, during the business session of the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) virtual convention Thursday.

The Holcomb fire and the COVID-19 pandemic led to an increase in retail meat prices, while the price paid to ranchers fell significantly. It was a topic that led to much discussion among the delegates, which resulted in new policy to help provide stability in markets.

Delegates supported policy to increase negotiated sales in fed cattle markets and called for increased transparency in livestock pricing, as well as for an in-house study on the issue of

price discovery in the cattle market and other livestock species. Delegates also approved a TFB resolution supporting legislation and regulation that incentivizes the development of livestock and poultry processing facilities.

"There were several livestock topics of interest, but there were some specific livestock marketing issues that were discussed at length by delegates. These issues include the percentage of negotiated trade, transparency and those types of things. They've been discussed in past business sessions, but it's clear these livestock marketing issues were of high interest to our folks this year," TFB President Russell Boening said.

New AFBF policies on crop insurance include improving hur-

ricane protection coverage under the Risk Management Agency. The changes would provide protection against both hurricane-force winds and excessive precipitation, both of which Texas farmers and ranchers saw in 2020 with Hurricane Hanna.

Farmer and rancher delegates approved a TFB resolution supporting perimeter fencing, as it refers to feral hog control, as an eligible conservation practice and activity under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources and Conservation Service.

Delegates also updated dairy policy, calling for a re-examination of the 2018 Farm Bill's modification to the milk price formula and improving equity in USDA's Federal Milk Marketing Order revenue sharing pools. They also reaffirmed support for allowing dairy farmers the opportunity to cast an individual and confidential ballot during milk order referendums.

Revising the labor policy was passed by the delegates. New AFBF policy emphasizes the importance of reforming the H-2A program by expanding it to provide visa workers for both season and year-round employment.

During the business session, Boening was re-elected to another two-year term on the AFBF Board of Directors from the Southern Region.

For the first time in AFBF history, delegates met and voted virtually due to COVID-19.

"Not very much has changed from the way we started adapting in March to all of the pandemic impacts and challenges. We've done a lot of Zoom meetings, taken advantage of the technology to stay connected," Boening said. "No matter what you're doing, you've had to adapt. And I think Farm Bureau has adapted, and I think agriculture has also adapted to the challenges. Hopefully, as we go forward, we'll get back to what's closer to normal for all of us."

Boening noted optimism in the agricultural community has increased. "It's rained across much of the state. We do know that there's still dry pockets. Commodity prices have improved. So, I think the mood is good," Boening said. "There's a little apprehension moving into the new administration, but that's understandable. Anytime you move into a new administration, you have things to work out and work on."

NHTSA gives DMV recall grants to Texas

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration today announced that three States will receive a total of \$1.3 million to inform vehicle owners about open recalls. The States' motor vehicle departments will use the funds to provide recall information with vehicle registration and at other points of contact.

"The U.S. Department of Transportation is proud to work with these three States on this commonsense solution to help drivers find and repair unremediated vehicles on American roadways," said Acting U.S. Transportation Secretary Steven Bradbury.

The three States that will receive the grant funding are California, Ohio and Texas. California registers over 36 million vehicles on an annual basis, Ohio registers more than 12 million vehicles, and Texas conducts 18 million safety inspections per year.

The recall notice the State motor vehicle departments will provide to consumers will include a brief description of the defect, the nature of the recall, and information on getting it fixed immediately at a manufacturer's authorized dealer. States were also encouraged to consider recall notification during driver's license renewal, emissions checks, or safety inspections.

In 2017, NHTSA signed a \$222,300 cooperative agreement with Maryland, launching a two-year pilot program to provide open recall information to consumers when they register a new vehicle or renew a registration. Over the course of the two-year pilot program, Maryland had nearly 4.3 million vehicle registrations renewed, with more than 1 million safety recalls identified. According to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, 47.8% of these recalls were at least two years old, reaching owners who may have been unaware of recalls on their vehicles.

In 2019, there were 966 safety recalls affecting more than 53 million vehicles and motor vehicle equipment in the United States. Despite recall notices and public warnings, NHTSA estimates that 25% of recalled vehicles still go unrepaired.

Vehicle recalls are serious and can pose a safety risk to drivers and their families. All vehicle recall repairs are free at the vehicle brand's dealership.

During the summer, NHTSA launched its free mobile SaferCar app. After the user enters a vehicle identification number or selects a car seat or tire, the app automatically checks whether a recall is open and alerts the user when a new recall is announced. The app is available for both iOS and Android devices. Vehicle owners can also check for recalls any time by using NHTSA's VIN lookup tool at [NHTSA.gov/recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls).

fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co. and Stanley Jigs also provide additional support for this program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/



CJ Oates from Lago Vista, TX entered the 2nd ShareLunker Legacy Class bass of 2021 last night, SL#587! The 13.02 pound Lunker hails from Lake Austin and is its first Legacy Class entry since 2014. This brings Lake Austins total to 21 bass over 13lbs!! Congratulations, CJ and thank you for your contribution to helping make bass fishing bigger and better in Texas!

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