



The Lindale News & Times



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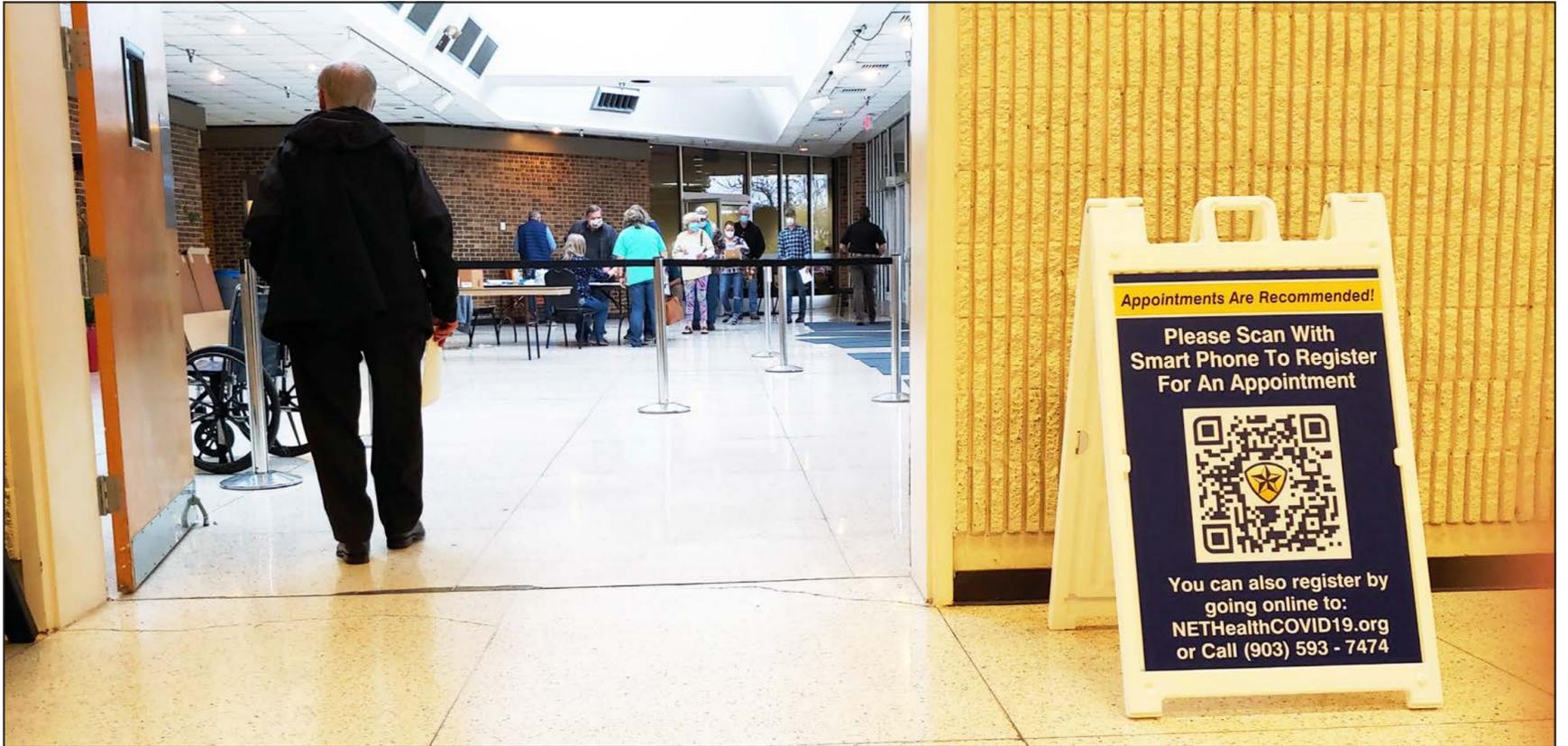
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50¢



Harvey Convention Center is one of the locations in Smith County where residents can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Others include the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler as well as area pharmacies. Photo by Susan Duncan

LISD continues to thrive despite pandemic

By Terry Cannon
Editor

Perhaps you've heard: a pandemic of global proportions continues to close businesses, force people indoors for long, uncomfortable periods of time and is wreaking havoc with school districts across Texas and the nation.

Yet in the Lindale ISD, things are as close to normal as possible which is another way of saying the district continues its upward arc.

Superintendent Stan Surratt, now in his 13th year of being in charge of the district, has a succinct explanation as to why the LISD continues to thrive while others may be struggling.

"It's certainly been a group effort," he said. "Our students, families, staff and employees have all bought into masking up, washing hands and keeping a safe distance."

Very few of the district's students are taking at-home instruction, Surratt said. Approximately 98 percent of the students are on their respective campuses.

"What we found was that our students were so eager to get back to being in school and around their friends that they were more than

willing to take the necessary precautions (for the pandemic)," he said. "Our staff has taken a leadership role and has taken masking seriously and are doing everything they can to protect the students and themselves. Everyone is pitching and doing their part."

This translates into a safer environment for everyone and helps keep the district's education standards at its usual lofty level.

There have been times during the past year when students have had to quarantine at home because of possible exposure to the virus, but the numbers of positive tests remained low.

"(At the beginning of the outbreak) our biggest concern was the spread of the disease," Surratt said. "Families were scared. Employees were scared. And while we're not perfect - some have gotten the virus - we have taken a proactive approach which has protected just about everyone."

The Lindale community also benefits from the district's commitment to safety, Surratt said.

"All the things we are doing we are doing for everyone in our community," he said. "You just can damage these kids' education. Once you lose half a year, you are way behind."

A local pharmacy has also played an important role by providing vaccinations to staff and employees of the district.

"That's gigantic, to have that type of community support where our staff members can become immune," he said.

Surratt, like a good portion of the LISD staff and workers, has been vaccinated. It's a relief for sure, he said.

"It's like a burden is lifted off of you once you get that shot," he said.

EXCELLENCE IN ALL AREAS

The district's academic success isn't a regional phenomenon anywhere. The word is out, not just in the state, but the nation as well.

"We get phone calls all the time from people wanting to come visit and wanting to know how about our academic excellence, extracurricular success and how we've managed COVID," Surratt said. "I've even had people from California who are interested in moving into our district."

Athletically, many teams have been in the spotlight, from the state-title runner up football team, the highly successful tennis team, the juggernaut that was the LHS volleyball team and currently the

Continued on Page 8

Two Lindale High School chorale students earn Texas All-State Musician honors

Xander Dickerson and Sarah Richardson, members of the Lindale High School Chorale, have earned the prestigious honor of being named a Texas All-State Musician, LISD officials announced.

Dickerson and Richardson, who faced several challenges with perseverance and dedication throughout this school year, were chosen for this honor through a competitive process that began last fall and included District, Region, and Area levels.

Dickerson and Richardson sing with the LHS Chorale under the direction of Kerry Baham, a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, a 19,000-plus member organization headquartered in Austin.

This is the students first time to perform as a member of a TMEA



XANDER DICKERSON

All-State organization.

Dickerson is the son of Crystal Spencer and Kenneth Dickerson. Richardson is the daughter of Deborah and Mark Richardson.

TMEA sponsors the Texas All-State audition process to promote students' dedication to their musical knowledge and skill and to encourage educators to support their



SARAH RICHARDSON

students in this development. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive.

More than 50,000 students from around the state initially entered the audition process, and 1,860 students have been selected for 2021. This competitive process begins throughout the state in auditions hosted by 33 TMEA

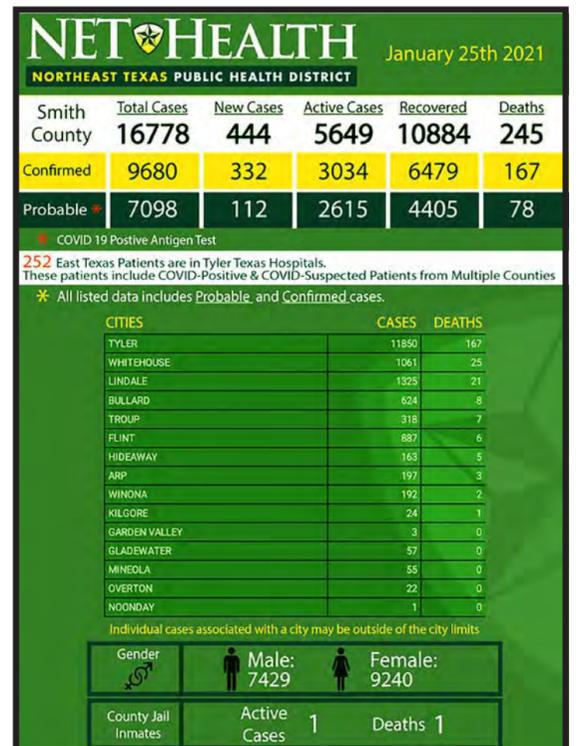
Regions.

Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part. From this ranking, a select group of musicians advances from their Region to compete against musicians from other areas in eight TMEA Area competitions.

The highest-ranking musicians judged at the TMEA Area competitions qualify to a TMEA All-State music group.

Because of the impacts of the pandemic, TMEA will not host a 2021 performance event. The Texas Music Educators Association is an association of over 13,500 school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education.

To learn more about TMEA, go to www.tmea.org/centennial.



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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Chris Cobler Capital Highlights



Lawmakers start \$7 billion away from target

Texas House and Senate leaders appear to agree on their proposed budgets. Next, they just have to figure out how to cut \$7.2 billion.

Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, worked with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to propose a state budget of \$119.7 billion in general funds. House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, proposed the same budget figure, indicating a collaborative spirit at the start of the 87th session.

That spirit will be tested as legislators try to meet Comptroller Glen Hegar's budgeted revenue forecast of \$112.5 billion.

"We have many tools available to balance this budget, which will require us to re-establish our priorities, stretch every dollar and find more efficient ways to deliver services," Nelson said in a statement.

Among the priorities she set:

- ✓ Maintaining the education funding increases and teacher pay raises established in 2019, including \$3.1 billion to fund enrollment growth for public education and \$1 billion in additional state aid related to property tax compression in the 2022-23 biennium.

- ✓ \$5 billion for payroll growth and continued reforms to the Teacher Retirement System passed last session.

- ✓ \$8.1 billion to fund higher education institution formulas.

- ✓ Combined projected funding of \$8 billion for mental health across 24 state agencies, including an increase of \$19.5 million to maintain operations for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium; more than \$1 million in new funding to create a peer-to-peer counseling network and increase access to licensed mental health providers for Texas Law Enforcement Officers; and \$145 million to continue community mental health grant programs.

- ✓ \$352.6 million for women's health programs, including the continuation of the Healthy Texas Women program's enhanced postpartum care services implemented by the Legislature last session.

- ✓ \$57.6 million to continue fighting human trafficking through prevention, detection, victim services and the justice system.

- ✓ \$1.3 million to perform necessary maintenance on the Texas Election Administration Management System, which manages voter registration in Texas.

- ✓ \$39.1 million in new appropriations to fortify security at the Texas Capitol, including additional troopers and enhanced safety measures.

- ✓ \$30.4 billion to the Texas Department of Transportation to address the state's transportation needs, including \$26.4 billion dedicated for highway planning, design, construction and maintenance.

Phelan's statement indicated the same support for public education and also included an appropriation of \$74.2 billion for the Texas Medicaid program, including \$27.4 billion in general revenue. The House version includes an additional \$920 million to address projected caseload growth.

"The decisions we make during the 87th legislative session will have lasting effects on the future of our state, which is why the House will work to improve our business climate, foster economic prosperity, and do what's right for our students," Phelan said.

Strawberry fields forever

You don't find many strawberry fields in Texas, but that could change if a seed planted by the Texas Department of Agriculture takes root.

The department has awarded a second grant to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to research and test how the state's farmers can make more money growing strawberries.

Leading the project is AgriLife extension's Russ Wallace, a horticulturist in Lubbock. You might call him the John Lennon of Texas strawberries.

"We're extremely excited about what we've learned thus far to successfully grow strawberries in Texas and increase profitability," Wallace said in an AgriLife news release. "This is the next step in our ongoing research where we'll be doing more work with shading trials, fine-tuning fertilization and additional work with herbicides."

Strawberries have some juicy potential as a specialty crop because consumers have shown an increasing hunger for locally grown produce, ag experts say, although they don't often use bad puns.

One of the research sites is Atascosa County's Poteet, the self-proclaimed strawberry capital of Texas. Poteet Strawberry Festival organizers recently announced the event will go on April 9-11.

Some readers of the festival's Facebook page criticized the move as having the potential to spread COVID-19 faster than jam on toast.

Festival organizers responded that "we've been working and hoping for a blessing that we can continue, within allowable restrictions or capabilities, but still continuing as possible. We hope all goes well."

With your permission, gentle readers, we'll close here with this Beatles' opening stanza and try to leave you with a song in your heart:

Let me take you down
'Cause I'm going to Strawberry Fields
Nothing is real
And nothing to get hung about
Strawberry Fields forever

...Larry King called me "Sugar"

Close encounters are a result of experiences 'alien' to our everyday lives. I can't claim to have had one with ET or harmonic chord playing aliens from outer space. But I have had my fair share with celebrities as a result of being Mrs. Jim Bardwell. I was reminded of one of my favorites a couple of days ago when iconic talk show host Larry King passed away from COVID complications.

It was 1990 and Walt Disney World's MGM Studio had closed to the public for premier celebrations of "Dick Tracy" starring Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino and Madonna. And my talented hubby was on the press list, with his handy dandy sweetie sidekick in tow. Buffet lines were everywhere...so were hospitality 'watering holes' catering to the less disciplined among the thirsty press corps.

We had been gifted with dashing Dick Tracy fedoras. The streets of the MGM Studio theme park were filled with press, celebs, food and drink. As I went through the buffet line that looked like an upscale foodie dream, I realized I had forgotten my fork. I turned back to see Larry King behind me. "Mr. King, could you please pass me a fork?" And the legendary interviewer growled with a grin, "Sure, Sugar, here ya go."

After eating elbow to elbow with Mr. King, maybe near is more accurate, this starstruck country kid with camera in tow, was shown to a cordoned area for photographers when the premier parade began. At that time of my life, I was a high school journalism teacher, as well as hubby's designated photographer. So I definitely had stars in my eyes, BIG ones. I was in a photo pen with guys from the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun, Orlando Sentinel, New York Times and on and on. Me with my affordable camera, them with equipment costing thousands.

I can't remember who all the celebs were in the parade because Disney Pixie Power pulled as much as it could from the MGM stable

Suzanne Bardwell



of stars. But one of the 'less notable' celebrities was Morey Amsterdam whose claim to fame came with the '60s TV hit "The Dick Van Dyke Show". Amsterdam was very elderly, and obviously very excited to be there waving excitedly at the crowd.

The very drunk Chicago photographer next to me began to shout "Morey, you're dead. You just don't know it. Go home." And that is when I lost my feeling of professional intimidation. I lost my reticence. I lost my temper and I laid into that drunk hotshot photographer as if I were HIS high school journalism teacher.

And, you know what happened? All the press photogs around me cheered. You know why? I stood up to a bully. They also had my back. I don't know where the shouter went but he stumbled away. When my hubby and I reconnected I could not wait to tell him my story. Of course it may have gotten a little shinier. After all it was the night Larry King called me "Sugar", Dustin Hoffman waved for my camera (my opinion here) and I stood up to a hot shot national press corps guy.

Jim Bardwell wasn't surprised at all. (I don't know what that says, but I think he was proud of me.)

So, Mr. King, thanks for the fork, and the memory. Chicago hot shot, I hope you learned to be kinder. And Sweetheart thanks for opening the world to your church camp, country girl sweetheart. As soon as it's safe, it is time for another adventure. Sugar can't wait.

EDITORIAL

School Trustees shape future...

How would you like to be responsible for the education, safety and success of, say, over 1,500 students every school year? How would you like to be held accountable by every taxpayer in your community, as well as bound by complicated state laws? What would you do if you knew that the students you were responsible for had to meet standards arbitrarily set 300 miles from home in an atmosphere of arrogance, by "We know what is best for you" bureaucrats? What would you do when faced with test scores that must be raised but finding innovative ways to do so are limited by the state. How would you feel knowing that you are responsible for the health of every student and employee in the middle of a pandemic?

What would you do?

Seven of the most important publicly elected officials in our community are our school board trustees. Most of them have full time jobs and busy family lives, yet are committed to serving in an elected position that requires lengthy training, heavy responsibility, hundreds of hours of work, mountains of state regulations and documents to understand and NO pay. Then there is the knowledge that their decisions dramatically impact hundreds of lives and the future of every single student.

School board trustees deserve every bit of appreciation that has been directed their way for work that matters now and for generations to come. Everyday heroes are people with in-check egos and servant hearts. These community servants hold one of the most important positions in any community. They have to be accountable both to the public and to the state. They often find themselves being stopped at church, the grocery store, a sporting event, or at work to answer a question about school business. More often than not, they are stopped regularly to hear a complaint.

We want to thank our area school board members for having a heart for kids, a heart for teachers, and a commitment to the future. Thank you for making tough decisions for the right reasons. Thank you for fading the heat when the decisions are not popular but are right.

The work you do matters in ways most people can not begin to comprehend. It is work that requires the right combination of intellect, work ethic and vision. Never forget that you are writing the future with the decisions you make today.

And readers, the next time you see one of our school board members, thank them for the work they do.

They have earned it.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Friendlier Skies ...

One of the industries hardest hit by the pandemic has been airlines. The sharp decrease in demand for air travel due to shutdowns and

safety concerns has severely crimped revenues and profits. Companies are struggling to maintain service and, in some cases, to survive intact.

According to Airlines for America, 2020 US airline passenger volume was down 56% domestically and 66% internationally compared to 2019. Airlines responded by decreasing the numbers of flights; domestic departures fell 38% and international dropped 45%. Through the third quarter, US passenger airline operating revenue had

experienced pre-tax losses of \$36 billion.

Maintaining air travel infrastructure is essential to both long-term economic sustainability and quality of life. Relief was provided by the CARES Act, which included \$25 billion for airline payrolls as long as layoffs were not implemented through September 1. However, as the pandemic dragged one, airlines were forced to lay off personnel following the end of the stimulus.

The latest bill included \$15 billion for passenger air carriers and \$1 billion for contractors for direct payroll support to protect the jobs of pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, gate attendants, and other personnel. To qualify for funds, airlines must agree to not reduce pay or benefits or furlough any employees through March 31 as well as recall employees

that were furloughed following the end of the earlier stimulus. This aid could have a significant impact in maintaining airline employment going forward.

Of greater significance, the pandemic will likely have long-term effects on the industry. Business travel has been particularly hard hit and has been slower to rebound, as companies have scaled back travel and moved many meetings and conferences to virtual settings. Estimates of the permanent reduction in business travel are as high as 36% (although we project it to be less dramatic). Business travel is a key component of airline revenue (typically around 30%), and higher-priced corporate trips tend to subsidize cheaper leisure fares that fill marginal seats. Less business travel could lead to pricier leisure fares or fewer available

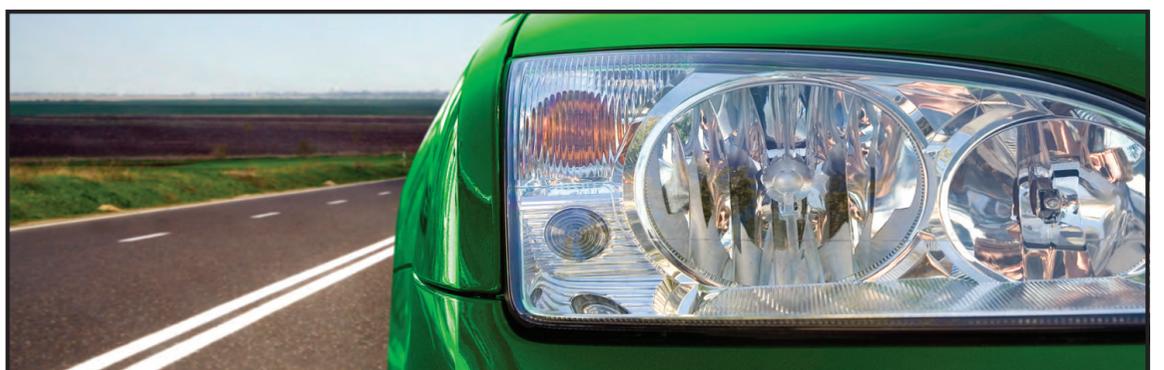
seats and flight options.

Airlines will also have to continue to seek opportunities to manage costs. In addition to reducing flights, some have retired older aircraft, increased cargo business, and taken other steps designed to enhance efficiency. Companies have taken on unprecedented amounts of debt, and credit ratings have been negatively affected.

With vaccination deployment and enhanced therapeutics and safety measures, demand should begin to increase later this year, though a surge is not expected. Pent up desire among leisure travelers will likely be the primary initial source of stimulus.

Airlines are essential to global efficiency and will be ultimately restored to strength. The path will likely be rocky, but navigable.

Stay safe!



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The Lindale News & Times

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Telephone: 903-882-8880 Fax: 903-882-8234
Email: www.lindaleneews-times.com



Owners: Jim & Suzanne Bardwell
Publisher: Jim Bardwell
Editor: Terry Cannon
news@lindaleneews-times.com
Advertising:
advertising@lindaleneews-times.com
Office Manager: Susan Duncan

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He wielded his “Hammer” against pitchers, racists

When you consider what he went through off the field, it is astonishing Hank Aaron – who died this past week at 86 -- was able to accomplish what he did on the field.

Quite possibly one of the top 10 baseball players to ever grace the game (the Sporting News ranked him No. 5 all time), “The Hammer” posted remarkable statistics for the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves (and later the Milwaukee Brewers) that will stand the test of time in Major League Baseball’s record book.

In a sport in which numbers are the Holy Grail, Aaron’s are eye-popping: 2,297 runs batted in (first all time), 1,447 extra base hits (first all time) and total bases, 6,856, also first. His 3,771 hits are in the top five all time, as are his 2,174 runs. He is also one of only four players to have record 17 seasons of 150 more hits and is second in at-bats at 12,364. Oh, and he averaged just 68 strikeouts per season.

The number he will be remembered for – especially among baseball purists such as myself – is his 755 career home runs, which was accomplished without the benefit of chemical enhancement. He is, to this mind at least, the genuine all time home run king.

Yet this excellence on the field was made even more remarkable due to the fact that he had to face relentless racism and bigotry. A quiet, dignified man, Aaron used the incredible Jackie Robinson as a role model. Robinson, who broke baseball’s color barrier in 1947, also faced horrific racial abuse but emerged as not on a civil rights icon, but a standard bearer for human decency.

Just as Robinson faced death threats and torrents of vitriol because of his skin color, Aaron was subjected to the same hate-filled actions by racists and bigots, especially when he closed in on Babe Ruth’s then-record 714 home runs.



The abuse was so bad Major League Baseball had to assign bodyguards for Aaron to help ensure his safety. Under this type of pressure, it’s impossible to imagine how anyone could go about doing their job, yet Aaron managed to not only survive, but thrive.

Aaron’s daughter received police protection while attending college and the FBI looked into some of the more extreme threats. Aaron kept the letters to remind him of the viciousness that lives within some people.

“The Ruth chase should have been the greatest period of my life, and it was the worst,” Aaron wrote in his 1991 autobiography, “I Had a Hammer.” “I couldn’t believe there was so much hatred in people. It’s something I’m still trying to get over, and maybe I never will.”

After just a month in the Negro Leagues, Aaron who grew up in Mobile, Ala., reached the majors in 1954 with the Milwaukee Braves. He became involved in the civil rights movement and in 1960, he was credited with helping then-Sen. John F. Kennedy win Wisconsin in the state’s Democratic primary.

The Braves moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta in 1966, prompting Aaron to say “I have lived in the South, and I don’t want to live there again. We can go anywhere in Milwaukee. I don’t know what would happen in Atlanta.”

Sports journalist and author Howard Bryant, who penned “The Last Hero,” a 2010 biography of Aaron, wrote that Aaron didn’t consider himself on par with Jackie Robinson, but perhaps he should have.

“Henry had never considered himself as important a historical figure as Jackie Robinson,” Bryant said. “Yet by twice integrating the South — first in the South Atlantic League and later as the first Black star on the first major league team in the South during the apex of the civil rights movement, no less — his road in many ways was no less lonely, and in other ways far more difficult.”

Aaron wasn’t a swaggering superstar, he went about his magnificent career with a low-keyed grace that showed a talented player doesn’t have to insist on the “me first” mantra to be considered great.

He never lost the memory of Robinson and what he did to pave the way for minorities in baseball specifically, and society in general.

“Jackie Robinson had to be bigger than life,” Aaron wrote decades later in Time magazine. “He had to be bigger than the Brooklyn teammates who got up a petition to keep him off the ballclub, bigger than the pitchers who threw at him or the base runners who dug their spikes into his shin, bigger than the bench jockeys who hollered for him to carry their bags and shine their shoes, bigger than the so-called fans who mocked him with mops on their heads and wrote him death threats.”

Henry Aaron was a baseball superstar for sure. But he was a much better human being.

Earthly -- and unearthly -- creatures

This Caller ID is the greatest thing since sliced bread. I can get into whatever character I want, before I answer the phone.

It’s like havin’ ESP or somethin’. I’m tellin’ you this because I got a call from a phone creature this week.

The phone rang, and the ID said, “Unknown Caller.” I thought about it for a second before I picked up the receiver. I cleared my voice and picked up.

“It’s me,” I said in a low, mysterious voice. I didn’t hear anything. I repeated, “It’s me,” then I heard that little click, and I knew for sure it was a phone creature.

“It’s me,” I said again.

“Mr. Mitchum?” the voice on the other end said.

“It’s me. The crow flies south.” I said.

“Uh, I beg your pardon.”

“The crow flies south,” I said. “I repeat; the crow flies south.”

“I’m sorry,” said the creature. “I don’t understand.”

“Give me the counter sign,” I said.

“Sir?”

“The counter sign. Don’t you know the counter sign?”

“Uh, no Sir. I’m afraid you have me mixed up with someone else.”

“Oh,” I said, changin’ to a cheerier voice. “Never mind. Forget what I said.”

“Uh, OK....This is Mr. Mitchum, isn’t it?”

“Uh, sure. Yeah, that’s it. I mean, yeah, that’s my name. Mr. Mitchum. That’s me.”

“OK...uh... Mr. Mitchum, we have a wonderful deal going, where we can set you up with a satellite dish and three receivers at no charge....”

“Nope, don’t want ‘em,” I said.

“But let me tell you about the ...”

“No,” I said. “They use those things to read your mind. I don’t want nobody else readin’ my mind.”

“No sir,” the creature chuckled. “These are for your TV.”

“Ha! That’s what they want you to think. I know. Do you know how I know?”

“I’m afraid you’ve been misinformed,” the creature said.

“No, you’ve been misinformed. I know; I’ve been there.”

“Been where?”

“There,” I said. “You know, up there.”

“Up there?”

“Yeah, up there. Oh, it was horrible. You see, it all started when I



was out in the desert one night lookin’ for an Elvis cactus.”

“An Elvis cactus?”

“Yeah,” I said. “That’s a cactus that looks like Elvis. They’re really rare, you know.”

“Sounds like it,” he said sarcastically.

“Yeah, anywho, I had found one that looked like Michael Jackson, but those are a dime a dozen, so I continued my search. I didn’t realize it, but I had crossed over into a secret government experimental provin’ ground.”

“Area 51?” the creature asked.

“SHHHHH!” I said. “Don’t say that over the phone. Like I was sayin’, I crossed over into their provin’ ground, and that’s when I heard the noise.” I waited for the creature to take the bait.

“What noise?”

“A sort of whirlin’ sound. I ducked down behind a cactus, and the next thing I knew there was a blindin’ light up above me. I looked up and there was a giant round flyin’ machine.”

“A flying saucer?”

“No, it looked more like a commode lid. But it had lights all around the bottom. Then a light slowly descended, grabbed me, and pulled me up. And the next thing I knew, I was on this here table, nekked as a Jaybird, and surrounded by these little bitty creatures with great big heads and bugged out eyes.”

“Are you for real?” the phone creature asked.

“Wow,” I said. “That’s the same question they asked me.”

“You could understand them?”

“Well, it was kind of weird. They didn’t talk like normal folks. They clicked.”

“Clicked?”

“Yeah, sort of like when you turn the light switch on and off. Well, at least the old light switches. These new one don’t click no

more. I like the old ones that clicked, don’t you?”

“Uh, I never really thought about it. But what happened on the space ship?”

“Well,” I said in a conspiratorial tone, “even though they clicked when they talked, I could understand what they were sayin’. Don’t ask me how, but I could. I didn’t answer his question about if I was real or not, I just turned my head and looked out a window. I could see the earth disappearin’ in the distance. Then I saw one of the little creatures comin’ at me with a long needle lookin’ thing about the size of a knittin’ needle. Then he stuck it in my belly button. I flopped around on that table like a guinea pig on a gas grill. When I settled down, he looked into my face and started clickin’.”

“What did he say?” asked the phone creature.

“He said, ‘Turn your head and cough.’”

“Do what?”

“Yeah, then they pushed somethin’ up my nose and into my brain. I think it was some kind of computer chip or somethin’. Then they flew me back down and threw me back out where I had been hidin’ behind that cactus. I stayed there for a couple of days and finally got up enough strength to crawl back to my car.”

“Did you tell anyone, besides me, about this?”

“Heck yeah, but they thought I was nuts.”

“Really,” the creatures said in a patronizin’ tone.

“Yeah, and the side effects of this chip they pushed up my nose is about to wreck my marriage.”

“How so?”

“Well, for one thing, every time I pass gas, the garage door goes up.” It got really quite on the other end.

“You need help,” the creature finally said, and hung up.

I started laughin’, as I hung up the phone. Sometimes I crack myself up. I was wipin’ the tears out of my eyes when I looked up, and there was my wife Janet, givin’ me one of “those” looks.

“What?” I said.

“You need help,” she said. I started laughin’ again.

“That’s what he said,” I chuckled.

“Do you think we can get that chip in your brain adjusted?” she said.

“What do you mean?” I asked.

“Well, instead of the garage door going up, it would be better if it raised the windows.”

She thinks she’s so funny.

OBITUARIES

BOBBY RAY ASHCRAFT



Services for Mr. Bobby Ray Ashcraft, age 85 of Lindale were held Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021 at the Lindale High School Performing Arts Center with Dr. Tom Buck and Bro. David Attebury officiating.

Interment was in the Lindale City Cemetery with services under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale.

Bobby passed away Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021 at a Tyler hospital. He was born in Lindale on Feb. 14, 1935 to the late Henry Thomas “Buster” and Ethel Fay (Sanders) Ashcraft.

Bobby married the love of his life, Ruth Evelyn (Wood) Ashcraft on March 22, 1957. They were members of the Prairie Creek Baptist Church in Lindale for over 60 years and First Baptist Church of Lindale for the past 6 years.

He graduated from Lindale High School in 1953, Tyler Junior College in 1955, Baylor University in 1959, and received his Master’s Degree in Natural Sciences from Highlands University in

Las Vegas, N.M. in 1969. Bobby received his Administrative Certification from East Texas State University in 1975.

His educational career spanned 36 years and he served the Lindale Public Schools as a teacher, coach, principal and assistant superintendent.

He was currently serving as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board for the City of Lindale. Bobby was a vital part of the Lindale Community and will be dearly missed by many.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Ruth Evelyn Ashcraft of Lindale; daughter, Natasha Ann Skinner and husband, Lee of Midlothian; sons, Donald Bryan Ashcraft and wife, Deborah of Laneville; Steven Ashley Ashcraft and wife, Cindy of Arlington; grandchildren, Steven Ashley Ashcraft II and wife, Reva of Forney; William Thomas Ashcraft and fiancé, Ashley of Waxahachie; Kelton Ashcraft and wife, Stormy of Corsicana; Autumn Ashcraft of Henderson; Marianne Ashcraft of San Antonio; Cody Skinner of Midlothian; Tyson Skinner and wife, Rachel of Red Oak; Nathan Waller of Henderson; Peyton Young of Laneville and Quan Van Hao of Vietnam; great grandchildren, Tanner Ashcraft, Gracelyn Ashcraft, Kendyll Ashcraft, Madi-

son Salzar, Maisa Ashcraft, Austin Ashcraft, Conner Ashcraft, Parker McCoy, Porter McCoy, Prayson McCoy and Aerolynn Ashcraft.

Honorary pallbearers were Bobby’s fellow Planning and Zoning board members, Terry Edwards, Jerry Terry, and Gregory Kilgore.

Serving as pallbearers were Ron Crouch, Dennis Bodiford, Jack Johnson, Paul Akin, Jerry Lockhart, and Kevin Fowler.

HOWARD ROSS HALL



Howard Ross Hall was called to his heavenly home on Dec. 15, 2020 after a month-long battle with COVID-19, less than two months from what would have been his 86th birthday.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Ross was born on Feb. 7, 1935 in Lindale to Henry and Daisy Hall.

He grew up in Lindale, later graduating from Lindale High School. He was a star performer in football, basketball, and track during his years in school. He

married his high school sweetheart, Arlene (Moore) Hall, on Aug. 7, 1953 in the First Baptist Church of Lindale.

Ross attended Henderson County Junior College on an athletic scholarship where he played football and basketball for two years and received his degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1957.

This marked the beginning of a long and successful career in education as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He served as a head basketball coach for 26 years in Wolfe City and Mesquite, his teams winning just shy of 500 games. He became an administrator in Mesquite ISD in 1986 and eventually rose to the position of principal of Mesquite High School in 1992.

He retired from this position in 1994 after serving three years in that capacity. The retirement was in name only. He, with the aid of his wife, spent the next 22 years traveling across Louisiana and Texas recruiting teachers for Mesquite ISD.

He began to volunteer his time as an assistant basketball coach in 1999 at Lindale High School and proceeded in this capacity for the next seven years. Ross received the award for TABC Assistant Coach of the Year in 2002-03

for his efforts in helping Lindale reach the regional finals that year. He was nominated for the honor by Head Coach Alan Simmons, with a letter of commendation from, then player, Casey Camp, helping to reinforce the selection.

Ross had a passion for helping his students and players reach their potential. His life was spent in helping others believe in their own capabilities and assuring them that he was there to help them grow into all that they could be. His influence can be seen and felt through thousands of students he has helped throughout his career.

He was a mentor to many of his colleagues in education and was always ready with a good story to lighten the moment when things seemed to get a little heavy and tense.

He was deeply loyal to his friends and family, always ready and willing to help. His was a life well spent in service to others. Ross was preceded in death by his parents and his maternal grandparents Joe and Annie Howard, who raised him from his early years. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Arlene, son, Mike and his wife, Cynthia, daughter, Annette Monroe and her husband, Rodney; grandchildren, Lindsay and Ian Gibson,

Grant and Rachel Hall, Whitney and Benton Miller, Brandon Woolley, Brittney Woolley, Austin Monroe, and great grandchildren, Holland and Hildi Gibson, as well as a host of family and friends.

He was interred at a family graveside service on Dec. 18, 2020 at the Lindale City Cemetery.

A memorial scholarship fund has been established in honor of Ross through the Mesquite Education Foundation. Tax deductible donations may be made by check, payable to the Mesquite ISD Education Foundation and addressed to: Mesquite ISD Education Foundation – Ross Hall Endowment Scholarship Campaign, 3819 Towne Crossing, Suite 105 Mesquite, 75150 or online at: mesquitefoundation.org/about-us/named-endowments.

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NET Health officials announce second round of vaccine available

Officials with NET Health have announced that anyone who came to the Harvey Convention Center in Tyler and received their first Moderna vaccine on Tuesday

Dec. 29, Wednesday Dec. 30, or Thursday Dec. 31, is invited to receive their second Moderna vaccine this week. The scheduled days of these

“Second Dose Vaccine Clinics” are Wednesday Jan. 27 and Saturday Jan. 30.

If you are eligible, you can enroll into the NET Health

COVID-19 waiting list by visiting the “Vaccine Updates” section of NETHealthCOVID19.org.

This webpage provides access for anyone to enroll into waiting lists to receive your first or your second vaccine and is the fastest way for anyone to enroll into our waiting list for receiving their first or their second vaccine.

Invitations to make appointments for either of these “Second Dose Vaccine Clinic” days are only made available to (a) persons who received their first Moderna vaccine from NET Health on Dec. 29 – 31 and (b) persons who are currently enrolled into our waiting list to receive their second vaccine.

Persons who received their first Moderna vaccine from NET Health will also need to bring their “CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card” that was given when the person received their first Moderna vaccine. This card was stamped with “NETPHD” and it shows the date when the

person received their first vaccine.

Anyone who received their first Moderna vaccine from a different vaccine provider must receive their second Moderna vaccine from that same vaccine provider.

NET Health will resume the “First Dose Vaccine Clinics” Thursday Jan. 28 and Friday Jan. 29. Invitations to make an appointment for either of these “First Dose Vaccine Clinic” days are only being made available to persons who are enrolled into our waiting list and to persons who are eligible to receive the Moderna vaccine (i.e., Tier 1A or Tier 1B [view attachments]).

“Anyone interested in receiving the COVID vaccine is advised to register into our waiting lists and await receiving contact from NET Health before traveling to the Harvey Convention Center in Tyler,” says George Roberts, NET Health CEO.

To enroll to the waiting list as being eligible to receive the COVID vaccine, interested per-

sons must be either over the age of 18 and working in a profession that qualifies you as being Tier 1A, or over the age of 18 with a qualifying health condition that have been identified by the Texas Department of State Health Services or over the age of 65.

Anyone who completes the recommended immunization against COVID-19 is still advised to continue practicing the evidence-based COVID-19 safety protocols, which include wearing a mask, social distancing, washing your hands frequently, and avoiding large gatherings.

NET Health will continue to schedule appointments for “First Dose Vaccine Clinics” and for “Second Dose Vaccine Clinics” each week.

Invitations will only be provided to persons on our waiting lists, sent to persons who enrolled into our waiting lists first, and are qualified within the Tier 1A or Tier 1B eligibility.

For more information, please visit NETHealthCOVID19.org.



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Friday, Jan. 15, 2021

Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to an accident at 100 block N Main St, report taken. Officer Ramsey responded to a residential alarm at 300 block N Main St, false alarm. Officer Ramsey responded to a hit and run at 13700 block Harvey Rd, settled at scene. Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious circumstance at 200 block E North St, settled at scene. Officers Gillham and Allen responded to an accident at 400 block W Hubbard St, report taken. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious circumstance at 300 block Washington St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officers Gillham, Wedgeworth and Allen responded to a suspicious circumstance at 1300 block Brad Cir, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 15000 block CR 463, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to an assist other agency at 600 block William Dr, settled at scene.



block Sunset Dr, settled at scene.

Monday, Jan. 18, 2021

Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, Settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to an accident at 3200 block S Main St, Report Taken. Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 2400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to an assist other agency at 21200 block HWY 69 N, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a warrant service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps and Trombley responded to an accident at 17080 Block W I-20, report taken.

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021

Cpt Chambers, Sgts Dworczyk and Houghton and Officers Leevey and Philpot responded to a possession of drug paraphernalia at 13400 block W I-20, report taken. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to an attempt to serve at 13400 block WI-20, unfounded. Chief Somes, Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a welfare concern at 13900 block Harvey Rd, settled at scene. Chief Somes responded to a public service at 1000 block Mount Sylvan St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to an accident at 15000 block Wood Springs Rd, report taken. Chief Somes and Officer Leevey responded to an accident at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 3200 block S Main, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a theft at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Trombley responded to a warrant service at 600 block N Main St, arrest made. Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 15900 block Brittan Ct, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 2400 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021

Sgt Flores and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 100 block N Main St, report taken. Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to a public service at 500 block Sunset Dr, settled at scene. Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to a public service at 500 block Sunset Dr, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 500 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Allen responded to an overdose at 700 block E North St, settled at scene.

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021

Officers Fortunas and Ramsey responded to a business alarm at 200 block Helen Dr, false alarm. Sgt Flores and Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Cpt Chambers, Sgt Flores and Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to a stolen vehicle at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham and Fortunas responded to a hit and run at 300 block S Main St, report taken. Cpt Chambers, Sgt Flores and Officers Gillham and Fortunas responded to a disturbance at 300 block Cooper St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officers Ramsey and Wedgeworth responded to a warrant service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made. Sgt Flores and Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to discharge firearm at 500 block E South St, unfounded. Officer Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 2400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Gillham, Allen and Wedgeworth responded to a residential alarm at 200 block W Van St, settled at scene.

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021

Officers Fortunas and Ramsey responded to an animal complaint at 200 block Cooper St, settled at scene. Officers Fortunas and Ramsey responded to an assist other agency at 18900 block FM 1804, settled at scene. Sgt Flores and Officer Fortunas responded to an ordinance violation at 200 block Cannery Row, unfounded. Sgt Flores and Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to a possession of drug paraphernalia at 300 block N Main St, Citation issued report taken. Officer Ramsey responded to assist smith county at 11000 block N HWY 69, settled at scene. Officers Allen and Ramsey responded to an animal complaint at 15200 block W South St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to an accident at 555 E I-20, report taken. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a welfare concern at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 15000 block CR 463, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Wedgeworth, Gillham and Allen responded to an assist smith co at 15100 block CR 431, Unfounded.

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021

Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 556 I-20, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, false alarm. Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 500

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Lady Eagles rout Kilgore, Cumberland; 19-4 on year

The Lindale High School Lady Eagles improved their District 16-4A record to 8-1 and their season record to 19-4 with two big wins this past week.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, the Lady Eagles swamped Cumberland, 84-18 and on Friday (Jan. 22), they disposed of Kilgore 71-48 in the LHS gym.

The Lady Eagles are ranked No. 18 in the Texas High School Girls Coaching Association state rankings.

The girls showed their support for the Travis Gray family by wearing gray bows on their shoes during the game.

Gray, the athletic trainer for the school district, passed away recently due to complications from COVID-19.

"The girls and I are very thankful to the community for coming out to support our team," said Head Coach Daniel Devisscher. "The gym was full of great fans and our girls were very excited. Our hearts go out to the family of Travis Gray. We are all praying for the family."

With the win over Kilgore the Lady Eagles are in a three-way tie for first in district with

Bullard and Chapel Hill.

The next two district games will decide the playoff positions for the three teams as Lindale goes to Chapel Hill on Friday, Jan. 29 and will host Bullard on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

LHS 71, KILGORE 48

Three players hit double digits for the Lady Eagles in their win over the Lady Bulldogs with Shelbi Steen leading the way with 16 points, followed by Brenley Philen and Lily Chamberlain with 12 apiece.

Lindale jumped out to a 19-8 lead after one period and owned a 37-18 advantage at the half.

The Lady Eagles kept the pressure on in the third period, outscoring Kilgore 18-9 to take a 55-23 lead into the fourth period. Steen scored six points in the third, with four of those coming from the free throw line and Philen added four and Brooke Everest scored four in the quarter.

Everest finished with eight points on the night for Lindale while Kalaya Pierce also had eight.

Other scorers for Lindale included Maggie Spearman with six, Desirae Pennington with

five and Marley Keith with four.

LHS 84, CUMBERLAND 18

With three players scoring in double figures, the Lindale High School Lady Eagles secured their 18th win of the season with an 84-18 rout of Cumberland this past week in the LHS gym.

Lily Chamberlain led the way with 21 points while Brenley Philen added 17 and Shelbi Steen scored 11.

Lindale jumped out to an 18-8 lead after one period, expanded the margin to 49-12 at the half and slammed the door shut in the second half by allowing the visitors just six points.

The assault continued in the third period with the Lady Eagles scoring 35 points in one of their biggest quarterly outputs of the season. Lindale was 7 of 10 from the free throw line and hit on five three pointers for the game.

Other scorers for the Lady Eagles included Kalaya Pierce with eight, Desirae Pennington with seven, Brooke Everest with six, Maggie Spearman with five, Makenna Burks with five and Marley Keith with four.



The Lindale High School girls' basketball team wore gray ribbons on their shoes in remembrance of athletic trainer Travis Gray. (Courtesy Photo)

Eagles secure district wins

With five District 16-4A games remaining on the schedule, the Lindale High School Eagles boy's basketball team is positioning itself for the bi-district playoffs, which is scheduled to

begin in the middle of February.

Recently, the Eagles clipped Bullard 56-53 in the LHS gym and followed that with a 41-28 road win over Henderson.

BULLARD GAME

The Eagles and the Panthers traded baskets for most of the first period before a flurry of Bullard three-pointers enabled the visitors to take a 32-28 lead at the half.

Known for shooting from distance, the Panthers continued to fire away and when they missed, Lindale failed to secure some important defensive rebounds.

"We have up eight second chance points in the opening period," said LHS Head Coach Chris Grotemat. "Those put backs have much deeper implications than just the points we surrender. Giving an opponent easy looks around the rim is a surefire way to give the opposing players confidence."

Offensively, the Eagles man-

aged to stay close using the shooting skill of Walter Smith and burly Jaymond Jackson. Smith connected on two of four three-pointers in the first half.

Seniors Josh Mahannah and Airik Williams provided spark and energy off the bench and their defensive efforts fueled a 10-2 run at the beginning of the third quarter to enable the Eagles to take a 42-40 lead going into the fourth period.

Taegan Terry canned a huge three-pointer to give the Eagles a 56-50 lead with just over two minutes left and the defense clamped down to secure the win.

"We did not play to our established standard on this night, and we were very lucky to steal a win against a team that came in and

played a little tougher and smarter than we did," Grotemat said.

HENDERSON GAME

On Jan. 12, Lindale traveled to the unfriendly confines of Henderson High School, a notoriously tough place to play where the fans are rabid supporters of their Lions.

Lindale went scoreless for nearly three minutes of the first period before Colton Taylor knifed his way through the middle of the lane for a layup. Both teams had trouble finding the range in the first quarter, but Lindale's offense began to click in the second period, hitting 54 percent from the field.

Terry put in a layup while Jackson and Ryder Johnson combined for 10 points to help the Eagles

carve out a 22-16 halftime lead.

"We turned the ball over a little bit too much in the first half for my liking," Grotemat said. "But we were doing a great job of contesting every shot they took. A coach has to feel good anytime his team can hold a league opponent to just 16 points in a half."

Despite offensive struggles in the third period, Lindale continued to apply heavy defensive pressure which helped secure the win.

Jackson scored a game-high 17 points and Colby Wood sank three key free throws down the stretch.

"Any win is a good win in district play, however, and a road win is just icing on the cake," Grotemat said.

Junior High School girls split four with Kilgore

Lindale Junior High School's Lady Eagles basketball teams took on Kilgore this past Thursday night (Jan. 21) and split four games with the Lady Bulldogs.

The 7th grade B team won, 9-5; the 7th grade A team fell 22-8; the 8th grade B team won, 11-7 and the 8th grade A team lost 23-13.

For the 7th grade B team, Mayzie Piccoli and Abigail Palecek were leading scorers, while Abigail Kelley and Abigail Palecek were leading rebounders. Mayzie Piccoli was the leader in steals and Abigail Kelley was the assists leader.

Menah Harley, Macy Luster, Alyssa Potts and Sa-

die Arriola were leading scorers for the 7th grade A team, while Macy Luster was the leader in rebounds. Alyssia Romero and Macy Hodde were leaders in assists and Menah Harley led the team in steals.

For the 8th grade B team, Kamdyn Bergbower was the leading scorer and rebounder, while Kennedy Miller and Rihanna Carrillo were leaders in steals.

Gaby Saboia and Haylee Rodriguez were leading scorers for the 8th grade A team while Harlee Redfern and Bre Taylor were leaders in rebounds. Gaby Saboia was the leader in steals and Merrick Gary won the Hustle Award.



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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 Nektarus, 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.

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January is School Board Recognition Month, and Lindale businesses are shining a spotlight on those who serve as LISD trustees. A heartfelt thank you to those who guide the district: Gary Camp, Brooks Beeler, Mike Combs, Robert McGee, Ragan Burgess and Donny Williams (not pictured- Kelly Cox)

Thanks to our generous school board members who make Lindale schools the best!

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LEGAL

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Independent Administration of the Estate of John David Foreman, Deceased, were issued to Julia Lynn Foreman on January 19, 2021, in Cause No. 44965P, County Court, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to Julia Lynn Foreman c/o Richard Patteson, Attorney, 218 N. Broadway, Ste.304, Tyler, Texas 75702 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010412001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Lindale, P.O. Box 130, Lindale, Texas 75771, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010412001, which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at an annual average flow not to exceed 1,300,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on September 25, 2020.

The facility is located at 17940 County Road 4112, Lindale, in Smith County, Texas 75771. The treated effluent is discharged to Mill Creek, thence to the Old Sabine River Channel, thence to Sabine River Below Lake Tawakoni in Segment No. 0506 of the Sabine River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is high aquatic life use for Mill Creek. The designated uses for Segment No. 0506 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=db5bae44afbe468bbddd36of816825of&marker=-95.402222%2C32.524722&level=J2>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Lindale City Hall, 105 Ballard Drive, Lindale, Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ PUBLIC MEETING: You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at WWW14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/ or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea informaci6n en Espanol, puede Hamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Lindale at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Kyle McCoy at (903) 882-3422

Issued: January 15, 2021

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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)

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

City of Lindale will receive bids for Repainting of Elevated Water Towers & Ground Storage Tank #5 until 2:00 p.m., on February 12, 2021, at City Hall, 105 Ballard Drive, Lindale, Texas 75771, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Proposals received after that time and date will not be accepted.

Bids are invited upon the several items and quantities of work as follows: Bids are invited upon the several items and quantities of work as follows: The work to be performed under this contract consists of furnishing all labor, tools, equipment, materials, superintendence, insurance, and any other requisite necessary for:

- Blast cleaning (SSPC-SP10) and repainting of the interior of the existing 250,000-gallon elevated water tower adjacent to Lindale High School (the High School Tower).
- Blast cleaning (SSPC-SP1) and repainting of the exterior of the existing 50,000 gallon, multi-legged, "Tin Man" elevated water tower in downtown Lindale (the Downtown Tower).
- Blast cleaning (SSPC-SP10) and repainting of the interior and exterior of the existing 250,000-gallon ground storage tank adjacent to the Wal-Mart parking lot (GST #5).

The above listed items of work shall include but not be limited to:

- Coordinate the draining of said tanks/towers with City of Lindale personnel;
- Performing blast cleaning as required to address rusting and existing paint system failures;
- Repair pits and voids;
- Re-painting of the ground storage tank and the two towers with the appropriate paint systems.

All quantities are estimated and subject to change. Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at the office of The C.T. Brannon Corporation.

Bid Documents are available at no cost on Dropbox. Email request to Debbie at spears@brannoncorp.com.

A cashier's check payable to the order of the City of Lindale, in the amount of five percent (5%) of bid, or Bid Bond issued by a surety licensed to do business in Texas in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

The City of Lindale reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

In order to assure that all potential bidders receive any corrections or addendums to the specifications, an official "Bidder's List" will be maintained in the Engineer's office for the project. Any notices of changes in the specifications will be sent to those on the "Bidder's List" and the Engineer will not be held responsible for those not on the list.

Shop Smart
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LISD continues to thrive

Continued from Page 1

girls and boys basketball teams. And as usual, the Pride of Lindale Marching Band brought home more honors this year.

"Our band won state in the first military marching band contest," he said. "To be the first state champion ever was very special. They made history."

So how does the LISD continue to outperform virtually all other

school districts in the region?

"Our staff, students, parents, support staff and the community have all bought in to what we are trying to accomplish," Surratt said. "When you have smart, talented students and community support, you're going to have a lot of success."

This winning culture is self-sustaining, Surratt said, because very talented people want

to be associated with the district.

"(New employees) are familiar with the culture," he said. "We have a lot of fun because being successful is fun."

It seems as if the superintendent can't wait to get to work each day.

"This is a very, very special place," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of our district and our community."



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Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce and Chick-Fil-A restaurant officials cut a ceremonial ribbon on Monday (Jan. 25) to mark the opening of the restaurant located at the intersection of I-20 and U.S. Highway 69.

Courtesy Photo

Smith County man jailed on murder, aggravated assault charges

Demarkus Bircher, 21 of Tyler, remains in the Smith County Jail on murder and aggravated assault charges stemming from a shooting which occurred around midnight on Tuesday, Jan. 19, Smith County Sheriff's Office spokesman Larry Christian said.

Deputies responded to a shooting call in the 3200 block off Jackson Avenue in the New Chapel Hill area and located two victims, Argusta Stansell 48 of Winona, who sustained a gunshot wound to the chest and Kendrick Gill, 41 of Tyler, who sustained a gunshot wound to the leg.

Both victims were transported to UT Health Tyler by EMS personnel, where Stansell died from his

wounds. Gill underwent surgery for his leg wound and is currently in critical condition.

Smith County Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace Jon Johnson performed the inquest at the hospital and ordered Stansell's body to be transported to Forensic Medical in Tyler for an autopsy.

State District Judge Robert Wilson issued arrest affidavits and authorities located Bircher at his residence and took him into custody, where he was booked into the county jail with bonds of \$500,000 on the murder charge and \$300,000 on the aggravated assault charge.

For more information on the Smith County Sheriff's Office visit www.smithcountysheriff.com.

County property tax payments must be postmarked by Feb. 1

Since Jan. 31 falls on a Sunday this year, those mailing their property tax payments must have them postmarked on or before Feb. 1, said Smith County Tax Assessor-Collector Gary Barber.

Payments can be made online, in person or through the Tax Office's new drop-box in Tyler.

In October, Barber's office mailed out 186,000 total property tax statements. The bills are due upon receipt, and must be paid online, walked in, dropped in the drop box or mailed.

"This drop box will allow customers to drop off their property tax payments without mailing it or coming in the building," Barber said.

Barber asked that when dropping off property tax payments in the drop box, people write their phone numbers on the envelope so the Tax Office can call them if any issues come up or questions need answered. He also said they will not accept cash left in the drop box.

He said there is a sign pointing

to the drop box, which is on the Glenwood Boulevard side of the Cotton Belt Building, located at 1517 W. Front St. in Tyler.

Taxpayers are encouraged to go online at publictax.smith-county.com to pay their tax bills, which is the easiest and fastest way to pay, Barber said.

When you pay online with an e-check (bank account and routing numbers are needed), it is free. You can skip the line at the Tax Office and do not have to pay postage, Barber said. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to make sure all accounts are included and banking information is correct to avoid additional fees.

The Tax Office also takes payments in person with cash, check, money order and debit or credit cards. A 2.5 percent fee is added to debit or credit card payments.

Barber said his office does take partial payments, and he encourages people to pay what they can, when they can since late fees are only added to the balance due.

Once delinquent, 7 percent

penalties and interest are added to what is due. Those fees increase by 2 percent for each month payments are late. If the property taxes are not paid by July 1, 2021, there are 33 percent in penalty, interest and collection fees added to the account, Barber said.

For those who have paid off their mortgage company within the last year, and who have not received a property tax bill directly, Barber asks them to call his office as soon as possible. Everyone who owns property in the state of Texas owes property taxes unless exempted by law, he said.

The Tax Office in the Cotton Belt Building, is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Property tax payments can also be made in person at the Tax Office Substations, at 2616 S. Main St. in Lindale; and in Nooday, at 15405 Highway 155 South. For more information, call 903-590-2920 or visit <https://www.smith-county.com/government/elected-officials/tax-assessor/property-taxes>

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