



# The Lindale News & Times



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50¢

## Smith County officials help minority communities get COVID vaccine

By Casey Murphy  
Smith County Public Information Officer

Four people came together earlier this month with an idea of vaccinating the minority communities in Smith County against COVID-19 and after only a couple of weeks of planning, they were able to vaccinate nearly 1,500 people during four days of pop-up vaccine clinics held at Tyler-area churches.

"We wanted to bring the vaccines to the people in our African American and Hispanic communities," Smith County Precinct 4 Commissioner JoAnn Hampton said. "By bringing these vaccine clinics to their churches, we thought they would be more comfortable in coming to get a vaccine."

Commissioner Hampton, along with Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance President/CEO Nancy Rangel, Tyler Metro Chamber Board Chairman Derrick Choice, and Lisa Williams, with Black Nurses Rock Tyler, sent out invitations to local churches for their congregations to sign up for the vaccine clinics. They were held March 16-19, at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church and St. Louis Baptist Church in Tyler, and New Zion Baptist Church in Winona.

The Northeast Texas Public Health District and Christus Trinity Mother Frances employees administered the vaccines at the clinics while many volunteers from several agencies donated their time.

Commissioner Hampton said they had great turn outs at all three locations during the four days of clinics. She said they targeted the elderly and people with medical conditions living in underserved areas of Smith County, who had not been able to get a COVID-19 vaccine because of long waiting lists or because they did not have the technology to register.

"Some of the folks in our communities did not have access to a computer to go and sign up for the vaccine online," Choice said. "We were able to get with local pastors and word of mouth to create this successful outreach event."

He said the turnout was beyond their expectations.

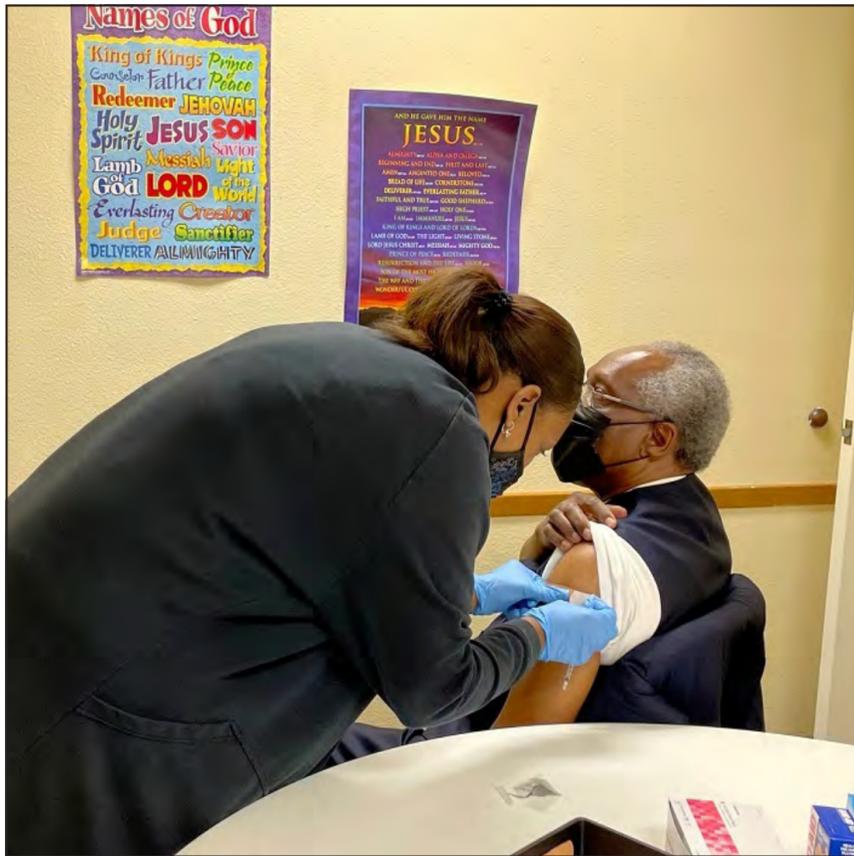
"I believe from the moment we reached out to folks they were happy to hear from us, and talked about how long they had been trying to get vaccinated," Choice said. "They knew us and trusted us, and I believe it only supported our mission when folks arrived and we were there working to ensure they were taken care of."

Choice said their goal was to get those vulnerable populations vaccinated, especially in the Hispanic and African American communities. It is important to meet the people where they are, thus the reason we scheduled clinics at some of the churches in our community, Choice said.

"The clinics being mobile eliminated barriers such as access to transportation," Williams said. "Many residents walked and car-pooled. People could identify with their culture and feel comfortable while receiving the vaccination and education regarding the vaccine. Everyone who entered the door was excited to come and receive their vaccine."

Mrs. Rangel said the "grand response" they saw with the mobile clinics demonstrated how great the need is in the community.

"As President/CEO of the Tyler Hispanic Business Alliance, we were proud to partner and serve our East Texas community, and assist in getting members of our community vaccinated and combating against the loss of any additional lives," she said.



Dr. S.L. Curry Jr., pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Winona, took the opportunity to get the COVID-19 vaccine when the pop-up clinic was at his church on Friday, March 19. Courtesy photo

## Lindale ISD employees get COVID vaccines

More than 200 Lindale ISD employees have received both doses of their Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, district officials announced.

The process began this past week with officials with UT Health East Texas administering the vaccines.

Eagle Pharmacy partnered with LISD in December, 2020, giving LISD staff the opportunity to get a head start on receiving the vaccine.

"We want to thank Eagle Pharmacy for providing this opportunity. They are the ones responsible for contacting the school and setting this up," said Stan Surratt, LISD Superintendent. "It is a wonderful opportunity for our teachers and staff to get the vaccine early. Each employee who gets it is a true hero because they are protecting themselves, their families, their coworkers, the students, and really the whole community. We're all in this together."

Those who work in the education field are for the first time included among the priority groups to be vaccinated.

## Council OKs pay raises, bids for new community center

Lindale City Council members approved mid-year cost of living raises for city employees and agreed to accept bids for the renovation of the Kinzie Center at Pool Park during the board's recent meeting March 16 at City Hall.



DAUGHERTY

The council also approved a renewal of the lease with Lamar Advertising concerning the city's billboard on I-20 and U.S. 69.

Mayor Jeff Daugherty noted that since Lindale's economy continues to flourish – despite the ongoing pandemic – city employees were due a raise at this time instead of the first of the year.

"Our economy has continued to grow and we felt it was the right thing to do (concerning the raises)," he said.

As to the Kinzie Center renovation, the building has been gutted and as soon as a bid on the construction is accepted work will begin on a redesign and upgrades.

"This is going to be a really, really nice community center," Daugherty said. "The whole area will be upgraded."

Future plans call for a series of sidewalks, connecting Lindale

ISD's E.J. Moss Intermediate School, Lindale Junior High School and Velma Penny Elementary to lead into the refurbished community center and a new park.

Also, the baseball fields currently at Pool Park will be relocated to Faulkner Park, which the mayor believes will be an improved venue for youth softball and baseball.

There is enough unused land at Faulkner, Daugherty said, to have a wagon-wheel design of baseball and softball fields, allowing for not only a better experience for players and parents but should attract tournaments to the city, which will in turn supply dollars into the city coffers.

In other action, the council:

- Approved the final subdivision plat of The Crossings at Mission Ridge at 15497 CR 431 in Lindale;
- Approved a resolution for continued participation with the steering committee of cities served by Oncor and the payment of six cents per capita for the steering committee fund;
- Approved a resolution denying Centerpoint Energy's 2021 annual GRIP adjustment;
- Heard an update concerning the damage inflicted on the restrooms at Darden Harvest Park.

## LHS boys, girls track teams win Blackberry Relays

The Lindale boys and girls varsity track teams won the annual Blackberry Relays this past Friday held at Eagle Stadium with the boys accumulating 185 points and the girls scoring 187 points.

Chapel Hill was second in the boys division with 162 points, followed by Sulphur Springs with 125 and Whitehouse with 118 points.

On the girl's side, Sulphur Springs was second with 186 points, followed by Chapel Hill with 110 and Whitehouse with 94.

The Lindale junior varsity boys finished second with 146 points while Whitehouse won with 151 points. For the junior varsity girls, Lindale finished third with 135

points while Chapel Hill was first with 178 points.

For the varsity, Jordan Jenkins racked up first place finishes in the 100 meter dash and the 200 meter dash, while Case Brooks was first in the 110 meter hurdles and the 400 meter relay team of Mekhi Harley, Jacob Seekford, Evan Alford and Case Brooks took first place as well.

In the field events, Casey Poe won the shot put and Justin Ferris won the high jump.

For the girls, Baylee Daughtry won the 200 meter dash and Bethany Routt was first in the 400 meters.

In the girl's field events, Bailey Wood won the long jump and Savannah Petty was first in the

discus.

### BLACKBERRY RELAYS RESULTS (Lindale results only)

- BOYS**
- 100 METER DASH: Jordan Jenkins, Lindale, 11.4, (1<sup>st</sup>); Brett Maya, 11.8, (5<sup>th</sup>); Alex Sandlin, 11.9, (6<sup>th</sup>).
  - 200 METER DASH: Jordan Jenkins, 23.23, (1<sup>st</sup>); Levi Thornton, 24.9, (10<sup>th</sup>); Brett Maya, 25.7, (11<sup>th</sup>).
  - 400 METER DASH: Mekhi Harley, 53.7, (2<sup>nd</sup>); Gavin Renfrow, 53.5 (7<sup>th</sup>); Josh Mahanna, 54.01, (10<sup>th</sup>).
  - 800 METER RUN: Michael Thompson, 2:10.59, (3<sup>rd</sup>); Ryan Shepa, 2:16.4, (5<sup>th</sup>); Alejandro Gutierrez.
  - 1600 METER RUN: Michael Thompson, 5:04.9, (3<sup>rd</sup>); Jacob Kenny, 5:08.2, (5<sup>th</sup>); Ryan Shepa, 5:25.3.

Continued on Page 8



A Lindale High School pole vaulter clears the bar on his second try this past Friday during the Blackberry Relays held at Eagle Stadium.

Photo by Terry Cannon

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Jeff D. Daugherty  
 Robin K. Daugherty

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## Gary Borders Capital Highlights



### PUC chair resigns in wake of call to energy investors

Arthur D'Andrea, the chair and sole remaining member of the Public Utility Commission, resigned late last week at the request of Gov. Gregg Abbott. D'Andrea pledged to remain on the PUC until Abbott names a replacement. In the announcement Abbott said in part, "Texans deserve to have trust and confidence in the Public Utility Commission, and this action is one of many steps that will be taken to achieve that goal."

Texas Monthly obtained a recording of a March 9 call D'Andrea had with investors to discuss the fallout from the mid-February power crisis, in the midst of a fierce statewide winter storm. In that 48-minute call, D'Andrea promised to put the "weight of the commission" in opposing efforts to reverse skyrocketing power rates during the blackouts.

Those efforts are being spearheaded by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who in effect controls the Texas Senate. That body passed SB 242 last week, calling on the PUC and the Electrical Reliability Council of Texas to correct what Patrick called "billions in pricing errors that occurred" during the winter storm.

However, House Speaker Dade Phelan has called repricing "an extraordinary government intervention into the free market, which may have major consequences for both residential and commercial consumers going forward." The House is holding hearings on restructuring ERCOT and related issues this week.

### Rise in pedestrian fatalities rings alarm bells

With spring arriving and COVID-19 restrictions easing, state officials warn that pedestrian deaths continue to increase each year. They urge both drivers and pedestrians to watch out for each other. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, pedestrian fatalities account for one in five of all state traffic fatalities.

In 2019, the latest year for which figures are available, 5,973 traffic crashes involved pedestrians, resulting in 669 deaths and 1,317 serious injuries.

The two leading causes of pedestrian fatalities are: 1) Pedestrians failing to follow traffic safety laws and being struck crossing streets and roadways, and 2) motorists failing to yield the right of way, driving distracted or driving too fast.

TxDOT's pedestrian safety campaign is a component of #EndTheStreakTX, a social media effort to encourage drivers to make safer choices, such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, not texting while driving, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The last deathless day on Texas roadways was Nov. 7, 2000.

### COVID-19 vaccinations up more than million in a week

With more than 900,000 additional COVID-19 vaccines arriving in Texas this week, the state has now administered more than 9 million doses, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. More than 3 million are now fully vaccinated, roughly 10.8% of the state's population.

Nearly one in seven of all Texans at least 16 years of age are now fully vaccinated, according to DSHS. Anyone over the age of 50, health-care workers, long-term care residents, people with chronic health issues, and school and childcare workers are all eligible for the vaccine.

You can find a list of vaccine hub providers at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2u5een4w>

### COVID-19 cases, deaths in state still dropping

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas dropped again last week, with 27,672 reported, down about 12 percent from the previous week. Deaths also dropped, with 932 reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That's down 16.5% from the previous week.

Hospitalizations of confirmed COVID-19 patients also continue to decrease, with 3,620 in Texas hospitals as of Sunday, according to DSHS. That's down 14.1% from the previous week and 75% lower than the record high of 14,218 hospitalizations in mid-January.

### Nature Challenge launched by forest service

The Nature Challenge website has launched, connecting Texans with ways to explore the outdoors, acquire new skills and get involved in their community. The collaboration between the Texas Children in Nature Network, Texan by Nature and the Texas A&M Forest Service encourages Texans to explore nature and earn digital badges to track their progress. The website, [naturechallenge.tamu.edu](http://naturechallenge.tamu.edu), features an interactive map and resources for users of all ages.

"The Nature Challenge provides the perfect opportunity for every Texan to have fun and learn something new while enjoying the physical, mental and emotional benefits of being in nature," said Joni Carswell, CEO and President of Texan by Nature.

Nature-related organizations are encouraged to use the site to pro-

## ...memories, magic & birthdays

I am fond of claiming to be a child bride. I married my sweetie when I was 19, so in today's world that claim rings true. I met that tall, handsome East Texan when I was 13. It was at church camp in Athens...and whatever teen magic, divine intervention and just flat out attraction that sparked, it stuck. And I am so glad that it did.

We were married five years before we went on our first vacation and that was to San Antonio. I was a history teacher who had never been to the Alamo. My master's thesis was on Sam Houston so a trek to San Jacinto soon followed. Jim once gave me a musket ball from the San Jacinto battlefield. Oddly, that gift is one of the most romantic I have ever received.

That is one of the neat things we share, Jim has a minor in history and our mutual fascination has taken us down backroads: to find international boundary markers between the Republic of Texas and Louisiana, to explore the mysterious Mounds near Natchez, pilgrimages to battlefields, graveyards and motorcycle road trips that require mandatory historical marker stops.

As empty nesters we finally learned the joy of travel as play, and its necessity in stress packed lives. Jimmy showed me Tombstone where I met Ike Clanton's great-grandson. Las Vegas where I met L. Frank Baum's ("Wizard of Oz") great-grandson, and on a steam engine trip from Durango to Silverton I met an English (as in England) professor who was a Dylan Thomas scholar with a kid-like fascination for steam engines. I have met descendants of those massacred at Wounded Knee in 1890...at Wounded Knee in 2007...a Buddhist monk from Tibet visiting the Grand Canyon...a fading TV star who played Apollo on the original "Battlestar Galactica". He visited with me for hours at a Sci-Fi convention. Richard Hatch told me all about the soon to be "Battlestar Galactica" where he would be a recurring character. You know, the series that has a cult following and now a (Katee Sackhoff) tie-in to the "Mandalorian" series.

Are you seeing a trend? It is not where we are but who we meet and

## Suzanne Bardwell



the stories they tell because we ask. But really, the most important part of my adventure of a lifetime with my sweetheart is that he is the one I am sharing it with. That sounds sticky sweet and full of rainbows and unicorns, as one of my friends is fond of saying. So you do need to know that, yes, my sweetheart can drive me over the edge. Yes, he knows where all my buttons are waiting to be pushed. Yes, he lacks patience and often doesn't listen carefully. And yes, sometimes I would like to whack him with a 2x4.

BUT, he loves dogs, the country, my family, history, music and me. That is a lot to appreciate in a shared life. My Sweetheart's Birthday is Thursday. We have a much needed getaway planned in a couple of weeks which is a serendipitous b'day present that simply fell our way. And I can't wait to make new memories.

But old memories are cherished too. I remember so very clearly, that long ago day at the lake when I met a skinny, long-haired East Texan who chose me for the camp dance and just a few years down the road, me for life. And I chose right back. And it is a choice we have made over and over across our lifetime together.

I hope that you, dear reader, are choosing happiness and joy when you have the opportunity. Life is far too short and stressful to not do so. And while you are navigating the journey, occasionally try that road less traveled and never hesitate to get to know the characters along the way. The memories are gifts that continue to give throughout a lifetime.

Happiest of Birthdays Sweetheart and thanks for all the memories. May we have many more adventures in the years to come.



## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Imperfect, Yet Essential ...

The latest stimulus comes with a price tag of \$1.9 trillion, adding to the \$4 trillion authorized last year. The final bill is a "mixed bag," with numerous provisions crucial to sustaining the recovery but others less essential. Such is inevitably the case when anything of significance grinds its way through the Congressional sausage-maker. Make no mistake, however, a substantial package was indeed necessary.

Many Americans will be receiving \$1,400 checks, with the first payments beginning to arrive. An extra \$300 weekly in unemployment for a year, an expansion of

the child tax credit, and other payments will also bring funds to many households. Money will go to schools, state and local governments, and vaccination programs.

Certain pensions are among the beneficiaries. In addition, there are subsidies for buying health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and to certain states that opt to expand coverage. There are provisions to help small enterprises, key sectors, and other elements of the economy.

These outlays and others are generally aimed at partially relieving the financial stresses many families are facing, which in all too many cases have become both extreme and enduring. In normal times, about 70% of the US economy is driven by consumer spending; pumping money into the spending stream will enhance

overall growth. Other stressed entities are also supported, decreasing the chances of future meltdowns.

There is merit, however, to the claim that relief could have been more targeted. Even if an individual did not miss any paychecks through the pandemic, for instance, an aid check will still be forthcoming if income requirements are met. Moreover, many cities and states have not seen the notable declines in revenues which was feared. Distribution policy is rarely done with a scalpel, but rather a machete. Other provisions introduce questions of fairness or the incentives which are generated. At some point down the road, the total level of debt will come into play.

As I began saying a year ago, this crisis was precipitated by the

pandemic, and the keys to coming back robustly are (1) getting the virus under control and (2) keeping our economic structure and integrity together in the interim. The CARES Act helped initially, as did aggressive actions by the Federal Reserve, but this situation became worse and lasted longer than anticipated. The "skinny" bill passed last year was both too long in coming and insufficient in magnitude to hold things together.

As we continue to progress with vaccinations and therapeutics, the economic rebound will be enhanced. The stimulus package provides a bridge to the time when full operations can resume. It also helps individuals, companies, and public entities through daunting challenges. Imperfect, yet essential.

Stay safe!



## The Lindale News & Times

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# Don't be blue, state flowers will bloom

There are several birthrights we proud Texans own. And those poor souls who were -- unfortunately -- born elsewhere are surely going to hear about them if conversations last any length of time.

Several years ago I worked with a guy from California who didn't understand the obsession Texans have with our state. I tried to convince him that Texans had more to be proud of than people from other places but he just rolled his eyes and walked away.

After all -- and no disrespect intended -- what is so great about being from places such as Idaho or Rhode Island or Nebraska? Texas has such a fascinating history, from being a part of Mexico then becoming a separate nation to being the largest state in the U.S. (for awhile at least) that it's difficult not feeling a certain pride as compared to those from other places.

As youngsters we learn about our state tree (pecan, in case you've forgotten), state bird (come on, you know it's the Northern Mockingbird, right?), state mammal (nine-banded armadillo), state dish (chili) and of course, state flower, (the bluebonnet).

It's almost a tradition that when



those magnificent spring days finally arrive, Texans will pack up the kids, find a healthy field of blue and plop them down for a great photo.

Many fields and gardens here in East Texas feature this treat for the eyes and, if you don't mind a bit of drive, the Ennis Bluebonnet Trails will begin April 1 and continue through April 30. This is followed by the Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival, April 16-18.

One thing that has persisted for as long as the flower has been associated with our state is the notion that it is illegal to pick bluebonnets.

Not so, says the Texas Department of Public Safety. In certain areas -- such as private property or one of Texas' state parks -- it is indeed illegal. But it really comes down to being a good neighbor and leaving these beautiful blooms for everyone to enjoy.

According to the Texas State Historical Association, the bluebonnet was named the state flower on March 7, 1901 by the 27th Texas Legislature. This was amended in 1971 to include "any other variety of bluebonnet not heretofore recorded." The folks at the TSHA also point out the bluebonnet did not originate outside Texas, thus making it a bona fide state treasure.

Normally this is the time of year when these gorgeous flowers begin to appear on roadways and fields from north central Texas all the way to Mexico, thanks to the landscaping projects of the Texas Highway Department in the 1930s.

But if you haven't seen any yet, no need to worry. The fine folks at Texas A&M sent out reassuring information, despite that horrific freeze we had.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist Larry

Stein reports that the most of the bluebonnets and other Texas wildflowers were hardly affected by the freeze.

Stein said they were still in the rosette stage of growth and were very close to the ground.

"The snow, more so than the ice, actually blanketed and insulated them, so they are in pretty good shape," said Stein. "The only place I have seen a little bit of minor damage was where the plants were advanced and already sending up a flower stalk."

Since the fall was so dry, there weren't a lot of seeds that came up, Stein said. Also, the bluebonnets along the highways and roadsides could be smaller because of the dry conditions. He suggests if home gardeners shouldn't spare the water on their home bluebonnet fields.

The fall dryness also kept the seeds from germinating and will continue to be dormant until the time is right.

Don't worry, Stein says, when conditions are right they will sprout.

All in all, the horticulturist says the bluebonnet and wildflower season will be delayed because of the freeze, but those beautiful blue blooms will grace our landscape once again.



## Dog catcher? No, just rescue mission

This cute little pup wandered away from home and into the Lindale Crews and Buy Friday morning and was rescued by a Lindale Police Department officer ---- before being returned to his grateful owner a few minutes later. (Photo by Mary Vandiver)



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Beginning this week, the Lindale News and Times will feature a look back at some of the local events as they occurred during the corresponding weeks of the past one, five and 10 years.

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### ONE YEAR AGO, March 26, 2020

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran said he has no intention of signing a generalized "shelter in place" order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as such an order for Smith County residents would "further restrict the activities of citizens and businesses beyond the restrictions imposed at the state level by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott," Moran said.

On March 13, Abbott declared a State of Disaster for all Counties in Texas. He followed that declaration up with his first Executive Order on March 19, relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation, which established certain limitations on activities of daily living including the prohibition of social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and curtailing the operations of certain businesses.

### FIVE YEARS AGO, March, 2016

Round two of the 2016 election season was under way and locally, two candidates signed up for the Lindale mayor's position while others on the city council and Lindale ISD Board of Trustees were unopposed.

Incumbent Lindale Mayor Robert Nelson filed for re-election and was opposed by Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Daugherty. Council members Ginger Sims and Clyde Harper did not draw an opponent and ran unopposed in the May 7 election.

The LISD board was unchanged, with board president Matt Watts, board vice president Kelly Cox joining trustees Donny Williams, Kenneth Cline, Mike Combs, Gary Camp and Robert McGee.

### 10 YEARS AGO, March, 2011

The Lindale ISD Board of Trustees made significant employee changes in the district, prompted by the retirement of longtime teacher, principal and administrator Carolyn Todd.

Todd, who served the district for more than three decades, retired as an assistant superintendent and was replaced by College Street Elementary School principal Dr. Belinda Neal.

Replacing Neal at College Street was Jodie Albritton, who moved into her new position after serving as assistant principal for College Street and Velma Penny Elementary Schools.

Donny Williams, who was also retiring as principal of Lindale High School, was replaced by assistant principal Casey Neal.

# Fast food blues turn into a case of the shakes

I was ridin' down the road a couple of weeks ago and it was gettin' pretty late. I was determined to make it home, but my ol' belly was tellin' me that it was in need of some groceries.

Well, I started lookin' for one of those fast food joints, so I could get in and out and get back on the road. I had the hankerin' for a hamburger and a chocolate shake. They used to call them milksakes, but most places have dropped the

"milk" prefix. Anywho, I saw a place up ahead, and I decided to use their drive-in. Now, let me stop here for a minute and put my two cents worth in about drive-ins. Back when the world was right, you just drove up to the window, and there was a person there to take your order.

They'd write it down, and then in a little while they'd bring it to you. Now, you drive-up, look at a menu, drive a little further, look at another menu, hear an inaudible voice that is talkin' way too fast, comin' from a cheap speaker askin' you for your order.

Don't they train those people how to talk?

Anywho, I drove up to the speaker and waited. I am changin' the name of the place to protect the guilty.

"WelcometoHamburgerHeavencanItakeyourorderplease?" the voice said.

"I beg your pardon?" I replied. "WelcometoHamburgerHeavencanItakeyourorderplease?" the voice said again.

"Sorry," I said. "I still didn't understand you." Then I heard a big sigh.

"Welcome... to... Hamburger...Heaven.... Can ...I ...take ...your ...order ...please?" the voice said slowly, followed by another sigh.

"Yes" I said. "I'dlikeahamburgerwithmustardcuttheonion-



sandachocolateshake."

"I beg your pardon?" the voice replied. "I'dlikeahamburgerwithmustardcuttheonionsandachocolateshake." I repeated.

"Sorry," the voice said. "You are talking too fast."

"Now you know how I felt," I said. I heard another sigh.

"What I want," I said, "is a hamburger, with mustard, cut the onions, and a chocolate shake."

"Do you want mustard or mayonnaise?" the voice asked.

I gritted my teeth. "Mustard," I said, trying to keep my voice calm.

"Do you want cheese on that?"

"No," I growled.

"You want that all the way?"

"Cut the onions," I said, as I felt the vein in my forehead start to throb.

"Would you like something to drink with that?"

"Chocolate shake," my voice was startin' to crack.

"Would like fries with that?"

"No," I replied while beatin' my head against the steerin' wheel.

"Pull to the second window please," the voice said.

I slowly pulled around to the second window. My hands were gripped tightly on the steerin' wheel.

"I am in control," I said to myself several times.

The person opened the window and looked at me. "That'll be six dollars and 15 cents."

"What?" I said. "I'm only gettin' a hamburger and a shake. How much is the shake?"

"Two dollars and seventy five

cents," he replied. I shook my head as I dug in my pocket for the money.

I paid him, and he handed me a sack and my shake. I pulled up a little, so the car behind be could move up. I stopped, pulled a straw out of the sack, and punched it into the X cutout in the lid of the cup.

I took a big draw on the straw, and nothin' happened. I took another one, and the straw collapsed. I pulled the lid off of my cup to look at my shake, and there wasn't any shake, just a big pile of soft served ice cream.

I pulled over into a parkin' spot and got out of my truck with my supposed shake. I crossed the parkin' lot and walked into the place and up to the counter.

"WelcometoHamburgerHeavencanItakeyourorderplease," the kid said.

"Hey look," I said. "I ordered a chocolate shake, and this is what I got."

I showed him the inside of the cup.

"That is a shake," the kid said.

"No it's not," I replied. "It's a cup of ice cream."

"That's the way we make them. Thick and creamy."

"How am I supposed to wash my hamburger down with this?" I asked.

"Uhhh....I don't know," said the kid. "Let me get the manager," and he turned and trotted off.

In minute, up walked another kid. This one looked younger, and wormier, than the first one.

"Can I help you?" he asked.

"I'm waitin' to see the manag-

er," I said.

"I am the manager. Is there a problem?"

"You're the manager?" I asked. I could tell I must have ticked him off because his jaw tightened.

"Yes," he said.

"Great," I said. "Look, I ordered a shake and all I got was this here cup of ice cream. All I want is a shake. A chocolate shake. One that I can drink. Is that too much to ask?"

"But that is our shake," said the kid. "It's thick and creamy."

"You can't drink it!" I said, through gritted teeth. "I tried to suck it up through the straw and the straw collapsed, which is a good thing 'cause if it hadn't, my head would have caved in!"

"Would you like a spoon?"

I looked at the kid. I pictured myself grabbin' him by his little bowtie and jerkin' him over the counter. Then turnin' him around and givin' him a wedgie that he wouldn't be able to pick out of his you know what for a week.

Instead, I turned around, walked to the trash can, dropped the cup of ice cream in it, and walked out the door.

I got in my truck, started it, and drove off. When I was about five miles down the road, I remembered my hamburger. I reached into the sack, grabbed it, unwrapped it, and took a bite.

Cheese, mayonnaise, and onions.

My head exploded.

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# OBITUARIES

**BRENDA "SUSIE" BERKENHOFF BRISCO**



Brenda "Susie" Berkenhoff Brisco passed away the age of 80 on March 17, 2021 in Bryan.

Susie was born Jan. 1, 1941 in Hallettsville. She was baptized and confirmed in the catholic faith and graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville in 1959.

She married Weldon Brisco on Dec. 21, 1959 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She and Weldon lived in different places while he was employed in the oil industry. They settled in Hideaway when he retired in 1993. she and Weldon were married for 55 years until his death in 2015.

Susie had the heart of a servant. She was a bedrock member of the Holy Family Catholic Church of Lindale where she devoted much of her time and served in many capacities: Sacristan, St Paul Society, Holy Family Kitchen Captain, Our Ladies' Alter Guild, Extra-ordinary Minister, and Religious Education Teacher.

She was a member of the Tyler Council of Catholic Women and the Legion of Mary. She also spent time volunteering with the local Meals on Wheels program. She loved to garden, cook and visit with family and friends. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy.

She never knew a stranger and will always be remembered for her friendly smile and joyful personality. She was loved dearly by her family, her classmates, and her close friends in Hideaway.

Susie was preceded in death by her husband, Weldon; her mother, Julia Rielschlaeger Hartmann and step-father, Henry Hartmann; and her brother Gus Berkenhoff.

Susie is survived by three sons: Marshall Brisco and wife Myra; Travis Brisco and Mary Dodson, and Russell Brisco and wife Kristine; brother Randy Hartmann and wife Charlotte; sister-in-law Cathy Berkenhoff; grandchildren: Madison Courts and husband Dustin; Morgan Brisco and fiancée Clayton Barbay; Jaycie Brisco and Jaxon Brisco; and step-granddaughter Riley Trahan.

A Memorial Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday March 27, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Hallettsville.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Holy Family Catholic Church of Lindale or Sacred heart Catholic Church of Hallettsville.

**BILLIE GARRETT**



A graveside service for Judge Billie Garrett, age 87 of Lindale, was held Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at the Mount Sylvan Cemetery with Bro. Wayne Fancher officiating.

Services were under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale.

Billie left to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, March 22, 2021 at her residence in Lindale.

She was born in Comanche, Texas on Nov. 21, 1933 to the late William and Hazel (Walker) Barker. Billie was a longtime resident of Lindale and was a member of the Lindale Church of Christ, Lindale Rotary Club, and The Red Hat Society.

Billie was the matriarch to her large family and dedicated her life to

raising her girls. Her favorite days were spent with her girls around her, sharing daily life over a cup of coffee and telling her favorite memories of Pop, her mother Hazel, and time spent with her granddaddy on his farm.

Her years serving as Smith County Justice of the Peace Precinct 5, were one of the highlights of her life. She always enjoyed reminiscing about those good old days.

Billie dearly loved her church family and card days with the ladies, and spending time with her best friend and sister in Christ, Coralee McClenny.

Billie was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, Ernest Eugene Norris in 1974 and Charles Garrett in 2006, 5 brothers and stepson, Ronny Norris.

She is survived by her children, Linda McClenny and husband, Allen of Hideaway; Gary Chumley and wife, Kim of Gatesville; Sharon Walker and husband, Corey of Maybank; Melissa Rice and husband, Raymond of Lipan; Deborah Adams and husband, Chet of Lindale; Denise Mallory and husband, Russell of Lindale; Brenda Yancy and husband, Richard of Tyler; Kathleen Sims and husband, Greg of Lindale; Joni Leonard and husband, Buzz of Topeka, Kan.; Lynda Byrum and husband, Ronnie of Lindale; Sandy Bateman and husband, Larry of Lindale; 26 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren, and several great-great grandchildren.

Serving as pallbearers were grandsons Ryan Mallory, Joel Rice, Tyler Rice, Kole McClenny, Adam McClenny, Zach Chumley, Zane Chumley, Casey Adams, and Dylan Sims.

The family would like to thank Caring Hearts Hospice for the love and care they provided.

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903-597-6131  
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  - 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  
James Cheatham
  - Central Baptist Church**  
13745 FM 16 East, Lindale, TX 75771  
903-882-3179  
Byron Howard
  - Damascus Baptist Church**  
17052 CR 4105 Lindale, TX 75771  
903-882-3392  
Ryan Surratt
  - Dover Baptist Church**  
21166 FM Road 1995, Lindale, TX 75771  
903-882-5106
  - Duck Creek Baptist Church**  
Lindale, TX 75771  
903-882-9558
  - East Foothills Missionary Baptist Church**  
810 E South St, Lindale, TX 75771  
903-574-2672  
Gary Dinger
  - Fairview Baptist Church**  
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
- LUTHERAN**
- First Century Christian Fellowship**  
10119 Gina Rd., Lindale, TX 75771  
Dr. Lawrence Zillmer
- METHODIST**
- 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
- UNITED PENTECOSTAL**
- Pentecostals of Lindale**  
18475 FM 1804 Lindale, TX 75771  
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## Friday, March 12, 2021

Cpt Chambers and Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a suspicious person at 300 block Rita, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a suspicious vehicle at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey and Philpot responded to a suspicious person at 3400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 13400 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a 911 hang up at 13900 block FM 2710, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious person at 200 block N College St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to an id theft at 14600 block Tucker St, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 14500 block Tucker St, settled at scene. Officers Allen and Ramsey responded to a suspicious person at 300 block Rita Dr, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a disturbance at 600 block Linus, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to an assault at 13800 block CR 4200, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene.

## Saturday, March 13, 2021

Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 700 block Sweetgum Ln, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block Stadium St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a warrant service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made. Officer Ramsey responded to an assist other agency at 3500 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Ramsey and Philpot responded to a disturbance at 200 block Summer Tree Cr, settled at scene. Officers Allen and Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 14600 Tucker St, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 200 block S Henry St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a public service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a suspicious person at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Officers Wedgeworth, Gillham and Allen responded to an assist smith co at 13700 block Shannon St, unfounded. Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to an animal complaint at 200 block Summer Tree Cr, settled at scene. Officers Allen and Wedgeworth responded to a disturbance at 13700 block CR 4198, settled at scene. Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious person at 3400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Chief Somes and Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a suspicious person at 300 block Noah Ln, unfounded. Officer Allen responded to a welfare concern at 17500 block Stacy, settled at scene. Officers Gillham and Allen responded to an unsecured property at 500 block Molly Ln, settled at scene. Chief Somes responded to a suspicious person at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to an unsecured property at 400 block Noah Ln, settled at scene. Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to an assist smith county at 13400 block CR 463, settled at scene. Chief Somes and Officers Allen, Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious circumstance at 400 block Noah Ln, settled at scene.

## Sunday, March 14, 2021

Officers Trombley and Leevey and responded to a public service at 500 block Noah Ln, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Lt Lazarine, Sgt Flores, Sgt Dworaczyk, Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley, Leevey, Philpot, Allen and Capps responded to a suspicious person at 13700 block FM 16 W, unfounded. Sgt Houghton responded to an ordinance violation at 600 block E Hubbard St, unfounded. Sgt



Houghton responded to a found property at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken. Sgt Houghton responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Trombley responded to a business alarm at 16200 FM 849, false alarm. Sgt Houghton responded to a suspicious person at 800 block N College, unfounded. Sgt Dworaczyk, Sgt Houghton and Officer Trombley responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block Legends Ct, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a hit and run at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Leevey, Trombley, Dailey and Capps responded to a family violence at 3500 block S Main St, arrest made. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers and Officers Trombley and Capps responded to a disturbance at 500 block Sunset Dr, unfounded. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a suspicious circumstance at 200 block Heritage Ct, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a suspicious circumstance at 800 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a suspicious vehicle at 500 block W South St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps and Dailey responded to a suspicious person at 200 block Heritage Ct, unfounded. Sgt Houghton and Officer Dailey responded to a disturbance at 200 block W Centennial Blvd, settled at scene.

## Monday, March 15, 2021

Cpt Chambers and Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 400 block E North St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a burglary of coin operated machine at 500 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Leevey responded to an assist other agency at 553 E I-20, canceled enroute. Officer Trombley responded to an id theft at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken. Officers Leevey and Trombley responded to an accident at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 2100 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Trombley, Leevey and Capps responded to a public service at 200 block Bonnie St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 200 block Francis Dr, settled at scene. Officers Leevey and Trombley responded to a traffic complaint at 500 block Abbey Rd, settled at scene. Officers Leevey and Capps responded to a business alarm at 13800 block N HWY 69 North, false alarm. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a public service at 300 block Stewart St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a suspicious vehicle at 300 block Boyd St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Dailey responded to an accident at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Dailey responded to a business alarm at 17000 block W I-20, false alarm. Officers Capps and Dailey responded to a suspicious person at 500 block Sunset Dr, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to a suspicious vehicle at 2400 block S Main St, settled at scene.

## Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Officers Leevey and Trombley responded to an animal complaint at 15000 block Country Acres, report taken citation issued. Officer

Trombley responded to a 911 abuse at 900 block Lynn St, settled at scene. Officers Leevey and Trombley responded to a welfare concern at 300 block E North St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a theft at 500 block Pierce St, report taken. Officer Trombley responded to a theft at 1300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a suspicious circumstance at 1100 block Woodlands Park Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a deadly conduct at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Leevey responded to suspicious circumstance at 500 block Pierce St, settled at scene. Officers Philpot, Fortunas, Trombley, Leevey and Jackquet responded to a disturbance at 2700 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Dailey responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Leevey responded to a disturbance at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Dailey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 552 W I-20, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to a suspicious person at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to an assist other agency at 600 block E North St, settled at scene.

## Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Chief Somes and Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to an accident at 552 E I-20, report taken. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a residential alarm at 1100 block Woodlands Park Dr, false alarm. Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to a public service at 200 block Patience Ave, settled at scene. Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 700 block Sweetgum Ln, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a criminal mischief at 200 block E North St, settled at scene. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a suspicious circumstance at 300 block N Main St, unfounded. Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 600 block E Hubbard St, report taken. Officers Ramsey, Philpot and Jackquet responded to a warrant service at 1300 block S Main St, arrest made. Officer Gillham responded to an accident at 2500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to an id theft at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious person at 800 block Braewood Cr, unfounded. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a residential alarm at 100 block Mission Crest, false alarm. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Gillham and Fortunas responded to an inquest at 100 block Legends Ct, report taken.

## Thursday, March 18, 2021

Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 200 block W South St, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to a welfare concern at 800 block Edgewood Cir, settled at scene. Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to an accident at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, report taken. Chief Somes and Officer Fortunas responded to a welfare concern at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to an assist other agency at 13300 block W I-20, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers and Officers Philpot, Ramsey and Jackquet responded to a warrant service at 400 block Cooper St, arrest made. Chief Somes and Officer Philpot responded to a warrant service at 300 block Bowers St, arrest made. Chief Somes and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 553 W I-20, report taken. Officer Gillham responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 500 block E North St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a harassment at 300 block Braziel St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham and Dworaczyk responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1300 S Main St, settled at scene.

# Harrison County men receive federal jail time for meth crimes

Two Harrison County men were sentenced to prison this past week for federal drug trafficking and firearms crimes in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Armando Ivan De La Torre, a.k.a. "Poncho," pleaded guilty on Oct. 6, 2020, to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and use and carrying of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

De La Torre was sentenced to 190 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Rodney Gilstrap, who also sentenced Martin Lopez to 84 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

"Interagency cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies is essential in achieving our mission of dismantling drug trafficking organizations—from top to bottom—and disrupting the flow of drug-related crime and violence into our communities," said Ganjei. "Those involved in this investigation serve as an example of how that cooperation brings about shared success."

According to information presented in court, both men were members of an organization responsible for importing large quantities of methamphetamine from Mexico and distributing it in Marshall.

The ring operated as both direct seller of methamphetamine, as well as a source-of-supply to other drug dealers.

On Feb. 19, 2020, De La Torre and Lopez were indicted by a federal grand jury along with seven other co-conspirators, and charged with violations of federal drug trafficking laws.

Operation Pine Curtain is a long-term drug trafficking and money-laundering investigation that has already resulted in the arrest and prosecution of numerous co-conspirators.

Danny Brian Hernandez, Ronald Charles Parker, Daniel Ramirez, Guadalupe Salvador Diosdado, Erik Alberto Galindo, and Rachel Naomi Hernandez have pleaded guilty and have been sentenced.

Andres Michael Martinez-Juarez, Cristian Leobardo Torres-Santana, Francisco Moreno, Fernie Moreno, Amanda Jean Crisp, and Damarcus Damon Armstrong have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

Several others have been arrested, pleaded not guilty, and are awaiting trial.

This is an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force case and is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Texas Department of Public Safety; the Harrison County Sheriff's Office; and the Marshall Police Department.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lucas Machicek. OCDEF is the largest anti-crime task force in the country and its mission is to disrupt and dismantle the most significant drug trafficking and transnational criminal organizations that threaten the United States. The prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency task forces leverage the authorities and expertise of federal, state, and local law enforcement.

# TxDOT offers tips to reduce pedestrian deaths

As spring approaches, more and more Texans will take to the streets, and TxDOT has an important message for both drivers and pedestrians: watch out for each other, spokesperson Kathi White said.

TxDOT officials warn that pedestrian deaths are continuing to rise in Texas, and now account for 1 in 5 of all traffic fatalities.

In 2019 alone, 5,975 traffic crashes involving pedestrians occurred in Texas, resulting in 669 deaths, a 5 percent increase in fatalities over the previous year. Another 1,317 people were seriously injured.

"From 2015 to 2019, traffic crashes claimed the lives of 3,150 pedestrians," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "To reach our goal of zero deaths on Texas roadways we need all drivers to obey the rules of the road, stay alert and take responsibility for looking out for pedestrians, and for pedestrians to follow safety tips."

Since 2015, TxDOT has spent \$153 million in federal and state funding to upgrade sidewalks, curbs and striping for pedestrian accessibility, safety and mobility. In addition, during that same time, TxDOT awarded \$116 million in grant funding to support more than 120 locally sponsored projects that provide safe routes to schools, multiuse pathways, sidewalks and bike paths in rural and small urban areas.

Crash reports from law enforcement

indicate the two leading causes for pedestrian fatalities are: 1) pedestrians failing to follow traffic safety laws and being struck when crossing streets and roadways, and 2) motorists failing to yield the right of way, driving distracted or driving too fast. Alcohol also is a factor in pedestrian-related crashes, deaths and injuries.

Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users because they aren't equipped with protective equipment, such as airbags, seat belts and bumpers. This month TxDOT is launching a unique, socially distanced outreach campaign near intersections and high traffic areas in the state's major cities to call attention to this reality and deliver messages where people most need to see them—at street level. This "walking billboard" public education effort will use stark, attention-grabbing visuals reminding motorists and pedestrians that "pedestrians don't come with airbags" and "you can't fix a pedestrian at a body shop."

TxDOT offers these safety tips to prevent a deadly encounter:

For drivers:  
 --When turning, yield the right of way to pedestrians.  
 -- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.  
 -- Be cautious when passing stopped buses or other vehicles.

Pay attention and put your phone away—

pedestrians may enter your path suddenly.

Obey the speed limit and drive to conditions.

For pedestrians:

-- Cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks. Look left, right, then left again before crossing.

-- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Don't assume drivers see you.

-- Obey all traffic and crosswalks signals.

-- Use the sidewalk. If there isn't one, walk on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.

-- When walking, put away electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.

-- Wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night

TxDOT's pedestrian safety campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

# MLOTA Spring Art Show planned for April 10-11

The Mineola League of the Arts annual Spring Art Show is scheduled from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, April 10 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 11 at 200 W. Blair Street in Mineola, officials said.

Artists from across East Texas are scheduled to display their works. The show is open to all fine art painters, sculptors and photographers, said show coordinator Sherry Spencer. The show is open from ages 6 to adult.

Registration deadline is Friday, March 26.

Categories include watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel, drawing, sculpture/2D and 3D, stained glass and photography.

A person does not have to be a member of MLOTA to enter an event and all artwork from Texas artists will be accepted according to show guidelines.

The galleries will be opened to the public on Friday and Saturday to view and purchase.

In 2019, the show displayed the work of 95 artists from across East Texas with 305 entries being submitted, Spencer said.

This year's Fine Arts Show Judge will be Linda Lucas Hardy, whose works have been published in magazines and books. Her work has been juried into more than 80 National and International exhibitions and she's won an equal number of awards and honors, many being Best of Show.

Also, she is an 18-year veteran of colored pencil instruction and

has taught oil painting since 2015.

For more information, contact MLOTA at 903-569-8877 or its website at <http://www.mlota.org> and click on Upcoming Events for artist guidelines, brochure, entry fee and registration forms.

## A notice to the patients of Vincent Oyler, MD

Effective April 30, Vincent Oyler, MD, will no longer see patients at UT Health East Texas Physicians in Lindale.

If you were seen by Dr. Oyler, you will receive a letter in the mail providing you with additional information. Medical records may be obtained from UT Health North Campus Tyler's Release of Information department by calling 903-877-7985 or in person at 11937 U.S. Hwy. 271, Building E, Room 126.

 **UTHealth**  
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[UTHealthEastTexasDoctors.com](http://UTHealthEastTexasDoctors.com)

## LHS soccer teams continue winning ways

The Lindale High School boys and girls soccer teams continue play in District 13-4A with the boys compiling a 10-2 district record while the Lady Eagles are 11-7 in district.

Bi-district playoff action began this week for the girls, while the boys were scheduled to conclude their district schedule on Friday, March 19 against Mineola in Mineola.

Standouts for the Lady Eagles this season include junior Emma Bosworth, senior Bethany Routt and freshman Hadlee Scott.

The Lady Eagles were able to post some impressive wins this year, including a 8-0 blanking of Cumberland Academy on Jan. 26; a 13-0 domination of Grand Saline on the road on Jan. 29 and three consecutive shutouts, 4-0 over Van on Feb. 5 and back-to-back 5-0 wins against Gladewater in Gladewater.

Beginning March 1, the Lady Eagles posted three shutouts in a row, 6-0 twice against Cumberland and 6-0 against Van in Eagle Stadium.

The Eagles have outscored their district opponents this season by a 59-9 margin. Lindale's defense has been stout as well, registering seven shutouts, including five in a row beginning with back-to-back 4-0 wins against Cumberland Academy on March 1.

On March 2, Lindale blanked Van, 2-0 then went on the road to Gladewater and rolled to an 11-0 win. On March 16, the Eagles disposed of Bullard, 5-0 at Eagle Stadium.

Other big wins for Lindale's boys included a 9-1 win over Grand Saline and a 6-3 victory over Mineola at Eagle Stadium.

## Apache Belles stage live performances this weekend

The most recent live performance by the Tyler Junior College Apache Belles was in October, 2019, but that all changes this weekend as Belles take the stage for their 2021 spring show, "Where There is Light," publicity officials announced.

Show times are 7:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday (March 25-27) and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (March 27-28) in Wise Auditorium, located inside the new Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center on the TJC campus.

"Our spring show is the culmination of a year and a half of hard work and many prayers," said Apache Belles Director Jasilyn Schaefer. "It exudes hope and the promise of life going on, and every person associated with the show has given their all to make this special performance happen in our new Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center."

Freshman Kelsie Cook of Lindale will be among the Belles performing.

All seats are \$15, and tickets are available at [Eventbrite.com/e/146418486635](http://Eventbrite.com/e/146418486635).

Due to TJC health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19, audience capacity is

limited per show and face coverings must be worn indoors.

"The Apache Belles did not travel during their spring break but instead stayed on the TJC campus — in daily rehearsals and staying healthy for this show," Schaefer said. "Following the spring show, the team will switch gears for TJC football season, which was postponed from the fall semester. Our first home game is scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, April 2, in Rose Stadium."

"Where There is Light" showcases the versatility and talent of the entire Apache Belles team, with dance numbers including tap, jazz, clogging, lyrical, musical theater and much more.

Artistic director and choreographer is Christy Evans. Schaefer and Evans are both former Apache Belles themselves.

Introducing the 2020-21 team Apache Belle officers include head dance captain Katy McMichael of Weatherford and dance captains, Avery Davis, Deer Park; Gabi Mantecon, Denton; Thelma Medrano, League City; and Grace Soules, Hallsville. Sophomores: Shirlye Bañuelos, Garland;

Megan Chambliss, Joshua; Gaby Contreras- Fort Worth; Landry Fowler, Arp; Charlesia Gill, Houston; McKinley Gregg, Kilgore; April Johnson, Joshua; Misty Jones, Tyler; Jordyn Kerr, Denton; Ashley Sims, Marshall; Kendal Smith, Burleson; Meagan Smith, Hallsville; Julianna Tamayo, Jacksonville; Emmalie Thompson, Victoria; Samantha Tolentino, Abilene; Chloe Walker, Waco; Beatrice White, Belton; and Olivia Wright, Denton.

Freshmen: Savanna Boe, Burleson; Reagan Brown, Arlington; Cydney Cassidy, Montgomery; Keslie Cook, Lindale; Brie Cross, Richardson; Ariel Dagnino, Euleess; Alaina Gunn, Frisco; Bricky Guiffre, Azle; Cassidy Henderson, Lantana; Ashley Jeffrey, Rockwall;

Amirah Kern, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Cassie Lanthicum, Fort Worth; Lily Miller, Midlothian; Haley Neely, Waxahachie; Natalie Minyard, Graham; MaKenna Ross, Longview; and Joselyn Saenz, Alvin.

Belle Guards are: Caden Crawford, Tyler, Christopher Reyes, Jacksonville; and John Wofford, Rusk.

## Local students earn academic honors for UT Tyler fall term

Lindale and Hideaway students are included in the President's and Dean's List for the fall semester at the University of Texas at Tyler, school officials announced.

There were 843 students named to the President's List and 641 to the Dean's List. The Dean's List includes 16 from Lindale, while the President's List includes one from Hideaway and 21 from Lindale.

To qualify for the President's Honor Roll, a student must have completed, in one semester, 12 or more semester hours of undergraduate college-level credit with an "A" in all courses. To be considered for this recognition, a student must qualify as a matriculated student pursuing a first bachelor's degree. This recognition is made in fall and spring semesters.

To qualify for the university Dean's List, a student must have completed 12 or more semester hours of undergraduate college-level credit in the awarding semester with a grade point average of at least 3.75. To be considered for

this recognition, a student must qualify as a matriculated student pursuing a first bachelor's degree. This recognition is made in fall and spring semesters.

Dean's List honorees from Lindale include:

Andrew Ptak, Gracie Spearman, Amie Cordell, Lily Dean, Noah Tew, Madison Beckham, Morghan Davis, Alexys Odama, Whitney Bacon, Christopher Caldwell, Linard Arocha, Saken Sawyer, Kalli Baze, Bailey Tidmore, Abbie Anderson and Ibrahim Snoubar.

President's List honorees from Lindale and Hideaway include:

Hideaway – Taylar Rivers

Lindale – Jason Bottoms, Elizabeth Godoy, Edward Allen, Jady Holt, Ben McFadden, Grayson Pittman, Michelle Grana, Calli Johnson, Madeline Blaylock, Kaitlyn Gibson, Jenna Thornhill, Kaitlyn Salazar, Abigail Fernandez, Kolton Neault, Lauren Lanier, Ashlyn Thompson, Lindsey Roach, Sarah Day, Ty McDaniel, Chase Poe and Jonathan King.

## Virtual TJC Preview Day set Thursday

Potential Apaches and their families can get a free, firsthand look at Tyler Junior College during upcoming online and in-person Apache Preview Day events, TJC publicity officials said.

The virtual event is set for 6-7 p.m. Thursday, March 25, and the on-campus sessions will be held during the week of April 12-16.

"Apache Preview Day is where future students and their parents can get an up-close look at our academic programs and vibrant campus life," said Claire Mizell, TJC director of admissions.

Online sessions will be held on financial aid and scholarships, housing, career planning and enrollment steps.

On-campus participants will get an overview of TJC, take a guided tour of the

campus, hear from admissions, enrollment, financial aid and housing specialists, and take a look at campus activities and organizations. They can also apply for admission and submit their admission and financial aid documents.

"Preview Day was a pivotal event for my daughter and me," TJC parent Natasha Simmons said. "We approached the day thinking that we were just checking off a box, but we left with such confidence and excitement about this new adventure!"

Simmons continued, "I encourage parents and students to attend this event and get acquainted with the TJC staff. The ear of someone who is eager to help guide you through and the knowledge shared is invaluable."

To register, go to [TJC.edu/PreviewDay](http://TJC.edu/PreviewDay).

## Lindale's Saboia sets new junior high track records

Gaby Saboia set two new school records recently as the Lindale Junior High School Girls 8th and 7th grade track teams participated in three meets, school officials announced.

Saboia, an 8th grader, established a new mark of 63.24 in the 400 meter dash in a meet against Whitehouse on Monday (March 22) and later in the same meet, set the school record in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:33.34.

She eclipsed the previous 400 meter time of 64.59 set by Kim McDonald in 1996.

The previous 800 meter record of 2:37.77 was set by Heather Parker in 1999.

On Thursday, March 18, the 7th and 8th grade girls participated in meets held at Eagle Stadium.

### JUNIOR HIGH TRACK RESULTS

March 22 at Whitehouse

(Lindale 8th grade results only)

Lindale: 2nd place, 127 points

TRIPLE JUMP: Gaby Saboia, 2nd, 30 feet, 6 inches; Aspen Ives, 3rd, 29 feet, 11 inches

LONG JUMP: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 13 feet, 9 1/2 inches; Aspen Ives, 2nd, 13 feet, 8 3/4 inches

HIGH JUMP: Rihanna Carrillo, 1st, 4 feet, 4 inches; Kortlen Pierce, 4th, 4 feet, 2 inches; Maddy Fowble, 6th, 4 feet, 2 inches

POLE VAULT: Addison Frazier, 2nd, 6 feet, 6 inches

SHOT PUT: Regan Wooten, 6th, 29 feet, 6 1/4 inches

2400 RUN: Callie Schmidt, 6th, 10:50.00

400 RELAY: Kortlen Pierce, Addison Frazier, Merrick Gary, Kennedy Millier, 5th, 58.75

800 RUN: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 2:33.45

100 HURDLES: Kennedy Miller, 2nd, 19.24; Samantha Breaux, 6th, 19.87

100 DASH: Merrick Gary, 6th, 14.56

800 RELAY: Kaelyn Kincade, Maddy Fowble, Elise Pierce, Andrea Hernandez, 4th, 2:04.81

400 RUN: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 63.24

300 HURDLES: Kennedy Miller, 3rd, 58.99; Ke-yara Jenkins, 5th, 61.07; Kortlen Pierce, 6th, 61.16

1600 RELAY: Merrick Gary, Rihanna Carrillo, Andrea Hernandez, Gaby Saboia, 1st, 4:44.11

LEADING SCORERS: Gaby Saboia – 43 points; Rihanna Carrillo, 15; Kennedy Miller, 15; Aspen Ives, 14.

### MEET RESULTS

MARCH 18, 7TH GRADE

(Team standing: 2nd place, 148 points)

TRIPLE JUMP: Macy Luster, 1st, 29 feet, 10 inches; Sadie Clay, 4th, 28 feet, 9 inches; Menah Harley, 6th, 27 feet, 7 1/2 inches

LONG JUMP: Mayzie Piccolli, 12th, 12 feet, 7 inches

HIGH JUMP: Abigail Kelley, 2nd, 4 feet, 6 inches

DISCUS: Kirby Kleam, 3rd, 63 feet, 2 inches; Sadie Arriola, 4th, 62 feet; Haylee Crawford, 5th,

60 feet

SHOT PUT: Kaniya Pierce, 1st, 30 feet, 10 inches; Kirby Kleam, 4th, 26 feet, 11 inches; Sadie Arriola, 5th, 26 feet, 6 1/2 inches

2400 RUN: Abigail Hanley, 5th, 11:06.46

400 RELAY: Abigail Lee, Menah Harley, Abigale Prestridge, Macy Luster, 3rd, 55.03

800 RUN: Lauren Stanton, 4th, 2:57.59

100 HURDLES: Abigail Kelley, 3rd, 19.61

100 DASH: Sadie Clay, 2nd, 14.42

800 RELAY: Abigail Lee, Menah Harley, Alyssa Potts, Macy Luster, 2nd, 2:00.58

400 RUN: Lauren Stanton, 5th, 72.54

300 HURDLES: Abigail Kelley, 2nd, 56.56; Samantha McConathy, 6th, 62.28

200 DASH: Sadie Clay, 4th, 30.62; Abigail Lee, 5th, 31.34

1600 RUN: Abigail Hanley, 2nd, 6:57.96; Alena Garza, 3rd, 6:57.98

1600 RELAY –Macy Luster, Menah Harley, Alyssa Potts, Abigail Kelley, 2nd, 4:47.45

LEADING SCORERS: Abigail Kelley, 26 points; Macy Luster, 21; Sadie Clay, 16

### MEET RESULTS

MARCH 18, 8TH GRADE

(Team standing: 1st place, 193 points)

TRIPLE JUMP: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 30 feet, 3 inches; Aspen Ives, 4th, 28 feet, 6 1/2 inches

LONG JUMP: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 14 feet, 6 inches; Aspen Ives, 4th, 13 feet, 6 inches

HIGH JUMP: Kortlen Pierce, 3rd, 4 feet, 4 inches; Rihanna Carrillo, 4th, 4 feet, 2 inches

POLE VAULT: Aubrey Travis and Addison Frazier, 2nd (tie), 6 feet; Samantha Breaux, 4th, 6 feet

DISCUS: Kennedi Pickrell, 2nd, 64 feet, 1 inch

SHOT PUT: Regan Wooten, 2nd, 29 feet, 6 inches; Aubree Hance, 5th, 28 feet, 5 inches

2400 RUN: Callie Schmidt, 1st, 10:52.33; Holli Dunn, 3rd, 10:53.84

400 RELAY: Kortlen Pierce, Addison Frazier, Merrick Gary, Kennedy Miller, 4th, 57.21

800 RUN: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 2:37.44; Marlene Soto, 6th, 3:09.87

100 HURDLES: Kennedy Miller, 2nd, 18.84; Kortlen Pierce, 3rd, 19.46; Samantha Breaux, 5th, 19.76

100 DASH: Merrick Gary, 4th, 14.25

800 RELAY: Maddy Fowble, Aspen Ives, Elise Pierce, Harlee Redfern, 4th, 2:06.53

400 RUN: Gaby Saboia, 1st, 67.26

300 HURDLES: Kennedy Miller, 1st, 59.78; Kortlen Pierce, 5th, 61.49

200 DASH: Kaelyn Kincade, 2nd, 29.65; Maddy Fowble, 3rd, 29.75; Elise Pierce, 5th, 29.92

1600 RUN: Holli Dunn, 5th, 6:52.60; Callie Schmidt, 6:53.47

1600 RELAY: Merrick Gary, Rihanna Carrillo, Andrea Hernandez, Gaby Saboia, 1st, 4:52.17

LEADING SCORERS: Gaby Saboia, 45 points; Kennedy Miller, 20

## Healthy pastures require good grass plan

By Clint Perkins  
Smith County Extension Agent

Establishment of a grass is an important and critical phase of any pasture plan.

A good pasture program incorporates many activities, such as weed control, soil fertility and management to reach the desired forage production. Because of the investment in money and time, grass land establishment should be a well-planned phase of a pasture program. A step-by-step plan of action can make the difference between a productive stand of grass or another year of waiting.

A well-prepared seed bed will help with faster germination, a uniform stand and insure seedling survival. For best results, the seed bed should be smooth and firm with moisture throughout the soil profile. Achieving this type of seed bed takes time and effort.

As little disturbance of the soil as possible is best near planting time to conserve soil moisture and retain the settled seed bed. If the soil is loose or

cloddy near planting, roll with a roller to firm the soil and crush clods.

Many of our East Texas soils require lime to bring the soil pH to around 6. This soil pH is required for optimum growth of most warm-season forages grasses. Lime should be applied based on its Effective Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (ECCE) value. The higher the number and the finer the material, the better the lime and the more quickly the lime will have a neutralizing effect on the soil acidity.

Phosphorus and potassium also need to be applied during seed bed preparation so that they can be worked into the soil. Phosphorus does not leach readily, and Potassium is moderately leachable. Nitrogen fertilizer should be applied in the spring after the grass is growing. Early applications of nitrogen cause a greater weed problem. Fertilize according to soil test recommendations.

Determine the variety of grass you want to plant, then find a source of seeds or sprigs. Target a planting time, seeding or sprigging rate and the best method of

planting for the variety of grass you want to plant. If this is done ahead of time, everything should go according to plan.

If sprigging, use good quality sprigs that are dug from a weed free field and are free of Bahia or common Bermuda grass. Utilize sprigs from an area that contains only the variety you are planting. Bermuda grass should be sprigged at a rate of 30-40 bushels per acre. This will provide a good stand the first year. A lower rate of sprigging may not completely cover the ground the first year. A higher sprigging rate will give a faster rate of coverage.

Bermuda grasses can be reproduced by vegetative transplants. It is most important to remember that these sprigs, may be either stolons, rhizomes, or roots, and are living tissue of the parent plant that have been removed from their normal environment.

In the transplanting process, these vegetative sprigs are separated from the parent plant and put down in a new environment. This is a shock to the transplanted plant. For this reason, the utmost care should be given to the sprigs

in the transplant process. Sprigs should be protected from drying out which could kill them.

Heat and wind are the two drying agents to naturally control. Keep the sprigs as moist as possible. Water them down and put a tarpaulin over them to protect from sun and wind. Do not use sprigs that have been out of the ground for several days unless they have been adequately protected from drying.

When sprigging Bermuda grass it is best to use a machine that is designed to open a furrow, drop the sprig in, cover it properly and firm the soil down around the sprig.

There are planting machines designed to do this and some are equipped to add a light "starter" fertilizer in the process. Many producers will broadcast sprigs and fertilizer on the ground and disk them in. Sprigs left on top of the soil can dry out and die.

After the sprigs have been planted, it is highly desirable to firm the sprigs and soil together by means of some type of roller. This roller operation puts the sprigs into

good contact with the soil, conserves moisture and presses small air pockets out of the soil. It is very important to apply a pre-emergent herbicide that is labeled for establishment, like Direx 4L, within 1-3 days after sprigging to prevent weed growth and competition with the young sprigs. Please follow the herbicide label for recommendations and rates.

It is recommended to let the grass grow 6-8 inches before turning livestock in to minimum graze.

Go out in the pasture and pull up several plants by hand. If the plants do not come up with the root, the livestock should be able to graze without pulling up the plants by the roots.

If the newly planted grass in in a hay meadow, it is not recommended to bale for hay the first year. If you need to harvest hay the first year, do it before mid-September. The grass should be mowed once or twice to promote lateral growth and fill in quicker. Forages should be allowed to go into the winter months with at least 6-8 inches of growth the first year.



Tracy O'Daniel, UT Health East Texas division vice president of quality, works on the art installation project commemorating the patients treated for COVID-19 at UT Health East Texas in the past year. (Courtesy Photo)

# UT Health officials commemorate COVID patients with art display

By Allison Pollan  
Director of Communications  
UT Health East Texas

An artistic installation on the UT Health Tyler skywalk commemorates the more than 3,600 COVID-19 patients treated at UT Health East Texas in the past year.

UT Health caregivers installed 3,654 paper lantern cutouts on the skywalk in advance of the one-year anniversary of the first patient who was admitted to the health system for COVID-19 on March 18, 2020.

Each paper lantern contains the initials of a patient treated at hospitals across the division; larger lanterns symbolize those who passed away and smaller lanterns those who were saved.

"We wanted to commemorate the COVID-19 patients in a way that symbolized hope because it's been such a dark time for all of us through this," said Tracy O'Daniel, division vice president of quality. "We were trying to think of some way to illuminate their lives and celebrate those that we were able to save and honor those that we lost."

O'Daniel said as her team was installing the lanterns this week, several caregivers commented on how emotional it was to see the sheer number of people directly affected by the illness in the past year.

"I think it's impactful for people because if you're not dealing with it every day, you don't realize how many patients it is," O'Daniel said. "So as people are walking by, they're gaining perspective of how many patients have come through UT Health."

She noted that each lantern represents far more than just one person when you factor in all the friends and family members connected to each patient.

Dr. Tom Cummins, division chief medical officer, said despite the difficulties the past year has presented, caregivers have risen to the challenge and continued to provide exceptional care even in the most trying times.

"Working together, we managed this crisis," Cummins said. "We moved quickly as the pandemic started, and we learned to be flexible in our approach to a new disease."



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# New Texas poll finds bipartisan support for expanded voter access

AUSTIN - Eighty-six percent of Texans believe the 2020 elections in Texas went well, and 97% reported a good personal experience voting, according to a new statewide poll released today by Secure Democracy. Leading Republican pollster Chris Perkins of Ragnar Research Partners also found strong bipartisan support for policies and legislation

that increase accessibility and accountability within the Texas election system.

Among the key findings, there is general, bipartisan support across Texas for:

- Extend early voting by one week: 73% of all voters support; 58% of Republican voters support
- Increase number of polling locations: 84% of all voters

support; 80% of Republican voters support

- Electronic ballot tracking system for mail-in ballots: 83% of all voters support; 75% of Republican voters support
- Regular voter roll audits: 91% of all voters support; 94% of Republican voters support
- Investigate before canceling voter registration: 84%

of all voters support; 86% of Republican voters support

Texas voters also overwhelmingly support voter access and oppose the threat of felony prosecution when it minimizes voter assistance:

- Voters should have necessary assistance returning ballots: 81% of all voters support; 75% of Republican voters support

- Threatening with felony prosecution for an accidental vote: 61% of all voters oppose, 51% of Republican voters oppose
- Felony for providing assistance: 62% of voters said no to felony charge and 73% said no to felony charge for assisting more than three voters.

"Accessibility and accountability within Texas election systems

receive strong support among Texas voters," said Chris Perkins of Ragnar Research Partners.

"Texans want to expand the accessibility of early voting and expand the number of polling locations available on election day. Further, Texas voters are ready to increase the election system's accountability and support regular voter roll audits and an auditable tracking system for mail-in ballots and electronic voting machines. Voters are not interested in using the threat of felony prosecution when it minimizes voter assistance."

Perkins added, "Overall, Texas voters see the Texas election system as well managed and do not believe significant voter fraud occurred in Texas."

"Texas voters across the state, including strong majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independent, want policies that continue to improve voter access and bolster election integrity without being excessively restrictive," said Sarah Walker, executive director of Secure Democracy.

"There's clear confidence in Texas elections. Texas lawmakers can and should unite to advance common-sense election integrity measures that will help ensure voter access and accountability in Texas elections."

Commissioned by Secure Democracy, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that works to improve election integrity across the United States, the Ragnar Research Partners poll of 1,002 Likely Voters across Texas was conducted, March 7 through March 9, 2021, via live callers to landlines and cellphones and has a margin of error of ±3%.

# Lindale athletes join rosters for FCA postseason games

Several Lindale High School youngsters were among the approximately 300 athletes named to the rosters of the Northeast Texas Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Heart of a Champion annual postseason games scheduled this summer, publicity officials announced.

Rosters were announced by FCANET Director Robert Bardin this past Sunday in Tyler.

Athletes will compete in cheer, football, softball, baseball and soccer.

Lindale's Airik Williams, the District 9-4A Defensive Player of the Year, will join football teammates Jaymond Jackson and Corey Sanders on the Red Team while another teammate, Luke Sandifer, will play for the



AIRIK WILLIAMS



COREY SANDERS



JAYMOND JACKSON



LUKE SANDIFER

Blue Team.

"This is a great opportunity to suit up one more time with my teammates," said Williams, a defensive back who has signed to play with the University of Mary

Hardin-Baylor.

Other Lindale athletes selected for the Heart of Champion games include:

- Bethany Routt, girl's soccer Red Team

- Ozzy Saavedra and Ruan Santos, boy's soccer Red Team
- Brandon Burckel, baseball Blue Team
- Bethany Deupree, Cheer Squad

The 2020 All-Star event had to be canceled due to COVID-19 and this year will mark the 11th anniversary of the first All-Star week, officials said.

It will also be the 10th football and cheer Heart of a Champion Bowl game, the fifth softball and sixth baseball games. This will be the first soccer game.

The NETX FCA Heart of a Champion All-Star week was created with the intent of providing the resources required to

fund the ministry of NETX FCA that reaches over 200 schools in the 17-county area, Bardin said.

The boys and girls soccer and baseball and softball games will be held on the UT Tyler campus on Friday, June 4.

The girls soccer match is scheduled for 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 8 p.m.

The matches are set for Citizens 1st Bank-Perkins Soccer Complex. The softball (at Suddenlink Field) and baseball (Irwin Field) are scheduled to both begin at 7 p.m.

The football game is Saturday, June 5 at CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

# LHS boys, girls track teams win Blackberry Relays

Continued from Page 1

- (6th).
- 3200 METER RUN: Jacob Kenny, 11:19.37, (4th); Afrai Abdelshahid, 12:10.37, (6th).
- 110 METER HURDLES: Case Brooks, 16.6, (1st); Corey Sanders, 18.6, (3rd); Evan Alford, 19.8, (6th).
- 300 METER HURDLES: Case Brooks, 43.5, (2nd); Corey Sanders, 46.7, (5th); Airik Williams, 47.7, (6th).
- 100 METER RELAY: Jordan Jenkins, Jacob Seekford, Levi Thornton, Alex Sandlin, 44.3, (3rd).
- 200 METER RELAY: Jacob Seekford, Brett Maya, Evan Alford, Alex Sandlin, 1:35.2 (3rd).
- 400 METER RELAY: Mekhi Harley, Jacob Seekford, Evan Alford, Case Brooks, (1st), 3:34.410.

FIELD EVENTS

- LONG JUMP: Jordan Jenkins, 19 feet, 11 3/4 inches, (2nd); Jacob Seekford, 19 feet, 8 1/2 inches, (4th); Isaac Pollard, 16 feet, 6 3/4 inches (11th).
- SHOT PUT: Casey Poe, 43 feet, 7 inches, (1st); Ty Kelly, 37 feet, 7 inches, (7th); Braxton Field.
- DISCUS: Ty Kelly, 105 feet, 5 1/2 inches, (6th); Casey Poe, 98 feet, 3 inches, (8th); Brodie Theim, 77 feet, 2 inches.
- TRIPLE JUMP: Corey Sanders, 41 feet, 1 1/2 inches, (3rd); Evan Alford, 39 feet, 5 1/2 inches, (6th); Josh Mahanna, 35 feet, 11 inches, (11th).
- HIGH JUMP: Justin Ferris, 6 feet, (1st); Evan Alford, 5 feet, 8 inches, (3rd).
- POLE VAULT: Bowman Grace, 13 feet, (2nd); Trenton Harbour, 13 feet (3rd).

GIRLS

- 100 METER DASH: Baylee Daughtry, 13.1, (3rd); Libbi

- Rozell, 14.3, (6th); Madisyn Luwizhi, 14.9, (7th).
- 200 METER DASH: Baylee Daughtry, 27.1, (1st); Bethany Routt, 28.2, (2nd); Madisyn Luwizhi, 28.8, (4th).
- 400 METER DASH: Bethany Routt, 1:04.6, (1st); Laniya Daniels, 1:07.5, (4th); Landri Laing, 1:49.3, (6th).
- 800 METER RUN: Breanna Biggar, 2:48.6, (2nd); Landri Laing, 2:48.8, (3rd).
- 1600 METER RUN: Lily Chamberlain, 6:34.6, (4th); Laicha Zuniga, 6:36.6, (5th).
- 3200 METER RUN: Cadyn Haisten, 13:58.09, (2nd); Lily Chamberlain, 14:22.29, (4th); Laicha Zuniga, 14:42.0, (5th).
- 100 METER HURDLES: Gabby Johnson, 22.5, (2nd).
- 300 METER HURDLES: Marleigh Thurman, 53.2, (2nd); Gabby Johnson, 55.03, (3rd).
- 100 METER RELAY: Brooke Everest, Libbi Rozell, Laniya Daniels, Bethany Routt, 53.9, (4th).
- 200 METER RELAY: Reagan Cates, Brooke Everest, Madisyn Luwizhi, Bailey Wood, 1:55.9, (3rd).
- 400 METER RELAY: Baylee Daughtry, Bailey Wood, Breanna Biggar, Reagan Cates, 4:30.5, (2nd).

FIELD EVENTS

- LONG JUMP: Bailey Wood, 16 feet, 5 inches, (1st); Emilee DeWolfe, 13 feet, 5 1/2 inches, (5th); Reagan Cates, 12 feet, 3 inches, (10th).
- SHOT PUT: Savannah Petty, 28 feet, 5 inches, (4th).
- DISCUS: Savannah Petty, 89 feet, 2 inches, (1st).
- TRIPLE JUMP: Brooke Everest, 30 feet, 7 3/4 inches, (3rd); Emilee DeWolfe, 30 feet, 3/4 inches, (6th); Brylee Bergbower, 29 feet, 1 3/4 inches, (7th).
- HIGH JUMP: Bailee DeWolfe, 4 feet, 5 inches, (3rd); Brylee Bergbower, Reagan Cates.
- POLE VAULT: Preslie Walters, 9 feet, 6 inches, (3rd).



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