



# The Lindale News & Times



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## Countywide cleanup planned for May 3-29

Smith County residents will get to take one free trip to the landfill during the annual Smith County-wide Cleanup, set for May 3-29 said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

The Smith County Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes Unit and Commissioners Court are once again offering the County-wide Cleanup program, which allows residents to take one truck-load of bulky items (3 cubic yards of solid waste) to the Greenwood Farms Landfill for free.

One voucher per resident can be obtained in-person only at the Courthouse Annex, 200 E. Ferguson in Tyler, or any of the Justice of the Peace/Constable Offices throughout the county, including the Precinct 5 JP/Constable: 2616 S. Main Street in Lindale.

The vouchers can be picked up now but cannot be used until May 3-29.

Greenwood Farms Landfill is located at 12920 Farm-to-Market Road 2767, Tyler, seven miles east of Loop 323, off of Old Kilgore Highway.

The landfill has recently started charging to take mattresses. The Smith County Voucher includes only one free mattress. Additional mattresses will cost \$50.

Items not accepted: hazardous waste, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, gasoline, oils, acid, batteries, Asbestos, wet paint, Freon, whole tires, televisions, computers, refrigerators and freezers.

The Greenwood Farms Landfill is open from 6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 6:30 a.m.-noon Saturday. Its phone number is 800-678-7274.

For more information about the Countywide Cleanup, visit: [www.smith-county.com](http://www.smith-county.com)

The vouchers are available to be picked up by Smith County residents at the following locations:

- The Annex Building, (first floor offices) 200 E. Ferguson St. in Tyler
- Precinct 1 Constable: 308 E. Ferguson in Tyler
- Precinct 2 JP/Constable: 15405 Highway 155 South in Noonday
- Precinct 3 JP/Constable: 313 E. Duval Street in Troup
- Precinct 4 JP/Constable: 14152 Highway 155 North in Winona

## United Way of Smith County surpasses \$1.4 million goal

The United Way of Smith County has announced more than \$1.7 million has been raised during this year's campaign, which concluded March 31, publicity officials announced.

The total of \$1,743,861 surpassed the organization's goal of \$1.4 million, which was set during its kickoff event in August, 2020.

The United Way of Smith County  
**Continued on Page 2**



## Swan First Baptist Church Food Bank

Open each Tuesday, the food bank at Swan First Baptist Church, located at 11364 U.S. Highway 69 North, provides help to those in need. For more information on the church and the food bank, call 903-882-6432.

Photo by Mary Vandiver

## LISD hires two new curriculum directors

Two new curriculum directors have been hired by the Lindale ISD, said publicity spokesperson Courtney Sanguinetti.

Candace Widemon, currently in her second year as principal of E.J. Moss Intermediate School, will become Elementary Curriculum Director and Jennifer Lane, now serving as District Curriculum Director for the Bullard ISD, will become Secondary Curriculum Director.

Widemon began her career at Lindale ISD in 2006, serving as a teacher, assistant principal and principal.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to take on the leadership role as an Elementary Curriculum Director in Lindale ISD," said Widemon. "I am grateful to our school board and administration for entrusting me with such a great responsibility. I look forward to working with administrators and campus level educators across the district to continue to cultivate and support our capacity for excellence in curriculum and instruction."

Widemon earned her bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Texas at Tyler.

She also holds a master's degree in Education Administration from Lamar University. She will be taking over for current curriculum director, Jane Silvey, who is retiring from Lindale ISD after serving in the district for 8 years.

"Mrs. Widemon has been a very successful administrator in our district for many years," said Stan Surratt, LISD Superintendent. "We look forward to the continuous growth of school curriculum under Mrs. Widemon's leadership."

Lane will be joining the Lindale ISD starting the 2021-2022 school year.

She began her career in education in 2006 with the Tyler Independent School District.

"I am excited and honored to be chosen to serve as Secondary Curriculum Director for Lindale ISD," said Lane. "I am deeply passionate about teaching and learning and I am looking forward to working with all of the phenomenal educators and administrators in the district to support individual, campus, and district goals for student success. Being welcomed into the Lindale family is such a privilege and I can't wait to soar with the Eagles!"

Lane earned her Bachelor of Science degree at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a master's degree in Education from the University of Texas at Tyler.

"We are excited to bring Mrs. Lane to the Lindale ISD," said Surratt. "Her experience in curriculum and instruction has prepared her for her role as Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction. Her vision and leadership will certainly have a positive impact on the education of our students."

## Council hears plans concerning 24-hour emergency care site

By Terry Cannon

Lindale City Council members received a preview of CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital's plans to offer 24-hour emergency room care in the city during their regular meeting Tuesday, April 20 in city hall.

CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital President Jason Proctor detailed the plans for the facility to be located at Trinity Mother Frances Healthpark-Lindale, 3203 South Main Street.

Proctor said the facility will have new exam rooms, trauma room, a full-service imaging center and a laboratory.

"There are few topics that get (CHRISTUS officials) excited as much as our growth," Proctor told council members. "We truly appreciate the willingness of the city to allow us to come here."

The Healthpark-Lindale facility has been in Lindale since 2004 and operates within 40,000 square feet, Proctor noted, adding the economic impact for Lindale would be significant.

According to CHRISTUS figures, the new round the clock emergency care center will generate some \$6.5 million for the Lindale economy.

"This facility will be capable of supporting the needs of other communities as well," Proctor

said, referring to points north in Mineola and to the west in Hideaway.

The emergency care facility will add 25 more jobs and will complement the 911 service for the area.

"We are also looking at bringing more specialists to the area as well," Proctor said.

He said construction bids for the facility will go out in June with an opening scheduled for April or May of 2022.

"We are very excited to have this facility for Lindale," councilman Bryan Summerville said.

Medical staff at the new facility will include board-certified Emergency Medicine physicians and nurses, as well as the specialty providers in cardiac, orthopedics and sleep medicine that already see patients the HealthPark.

The HealthPark also contains a physical therapy suite, and the health and fitness center.

The new Lindale Emergency Care Center will also be accepting ambulance traffic, so patients can ask their ambulance providers if the new ER is the right place for their care, Proctor said.

Also during the meeting, the council held public hearings concerning three annexation items. There were no public comments during these hearings and the



Jason Proctor of CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Hospital presented a slide show to Lindale City Council members this past week concerning the hospital's plans for a 24-hour emergency care center in Lindale.

Photo by Terry Cannon

council:

- Approved the annexation into the city limits of Lindale of approximately 3.068 acres located at 13658 County Road 433;
- Approved the voluntary annexation of approximately 1.1 acres located at 602 Perryman Lane;
- Called for a public hearing to

approve a service agreement for the voluntary annexation of land owned by Debra Cole;

- Amended a city ordinance concerning towing services in the city limits to accommodate Crow Towing Services. Police Chief Dan Somes told council members the addition of Crow Towing in the city "will be good

for us" due to the company having a heavy-duty wrecker;

- Tabled an item concerning the use of leased equipment in baseball and soccer concession stands;
- Approved an ordinance denying Oncor Electric Delivery's application to increase distribution rates.

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Jeff D. Daugherty Robin K. Daugherty

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## Gary Borders Capital Highlights



### Health-care expansion defeated in House

A bid to expand health coverage for low-income Texans failed in the Texas House last week, 80-68.

State leaders have long opposed expanding the Medicaid program, which is largely funded by the federal government. The measure that failed last week would have allowed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to negotiate a funding agreement with the feds, called a 1115 demonstration waiver, that would cover more uninsured Texans without technically expanding Medicaid, according to various media sources, including the Texas Tribune.

Just over a week ago, the Biden administration rescinded a federal 1115 waiver approved in the final days of the Trump administration, which would have provided the state billions of dollars over the next decade to cover emergency care for uninsured Texans. The state was exempted from the normal public notice process, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Gov. Greg Abbott blasted that decision, saying it "obstructed healthcare access for vulnerable Texans."

Backers of health-care expansion are pinning their waning hopes on House Bill 3871, sponsored by Rep. Julie Johnson, D-Carrollton. Her bill also uses an 1115 waiver to attract federal funding to expand Medicaid eligibility as well as increased in Medicaid reimbursements to doctors, according to the Tribune. But time is running out with the bill still stuck in committee.

If that bill fails to pass, Texas officials will have to begin renegotiating with the Biden administration to restore the funding. More than 650,000 Texans lost their employer-sponsored insurance during the pandemic. Texas has the highest number and highest percentage of uninsured residents in the nation, according to the Texas Comptroller's Office.

### Mass transit loses even more ridership during pandemic

Mass transit in Texas has been experiencing a decline in ridership the last few years, according to a Fiscal Notes report by the comptroller's office. The outlook has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with steep drops in ridership, revenue and service.

According to census data, "in terms of population share, Blacks and Hispanics are overrepresented among public transit riders, as are those with relatively low incomes. Comparatively large shares of those with jobs in education, health care, recreation and food services — the workers most affected by the pandemic — use public transit to get to work," the report noted.

However, the pandemic has taken its toll on mass service, particularly in urban areas. Houston Metro reported its total ridership in December 2020 was 53.6 percent lower than in December 2019. Research scientists, such as Michael Walk with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, say the use of multiple modes of transportation can make mass transit more appealing to riders.

With the state experiencing explosive population growth, transportation officials hope to keep public transit a viable option both in urban and rural areas, according to the comptroller's report.

### Media ad campaign to boost vaccines begins

A \$1.5 million television and radio ad campaign was launched last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services to encourage Texans to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The ads, in both English and Spanish, feature several doctors urging folks to get the vaccine, as the pace of shot administered has slowed.

"Our research shows that individual health care professionals are the most trusted voices for people deciding whether to get vaccinated," said DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt. "Over the coming weeks we will continue to share messages encouraging various communities to get vaccinated. We are also relying on trusted voices within those communities to speak up and let their neighbors know that the available COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to end the pandemic and restore normalcy."

### Vaccine doses now over 10 million mark; COVID-19 cases steady

The number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reached 10.56 million as of Sunday, according to DSHS. The number of folks who are fully vaccinated hit 7.11 million, which is about 24% of the state's population.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose slightly last week compared to the previous week, to 23,684, with new deaths dropping slightly at 359, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Similarly, lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals was at 2,793 for the same period, down slightly from the previous week, according to DSHS.

## And...

Really we shouldn't have. Important meetings were missed. We often tell ourselves we can't. But the last few days we did...and it was wonderful. Now, don't get me wrong we worked every single day we were on our getaway. Some days required hours of work from our hotel room. Deadlines have to be met regardless of where we are when they hit.

On our last day away we grabbed a lakeside snack at the appropriately named Hanger just to hang out. One of my favorite vacay pics is of my hubby on a phone meeting oblivious to the hot air (how appropriate) balloon going up behind him. We finished off the chips and dip long before the phone meet was done. Despite the meetings, that leisurely day allowed us to handle the stress of the next day.

We left our hotel at 10:30 a.m. for the Orlando airport. Our plane was delayed for takeoff because of weather. We received a text that our connecting flight at DFW to Shreveport was canceled. Our luggage location was somewhere in the 'Twilight Zone'. As we detoured to San Antonio and back up to Dallas our flight time increased and Jim began to look for gremlins on the airplane wing. When we got to DFW the weather worsened and so did the temperature of the hundreds of passengers who were missing their flights. The experience was a revelation.

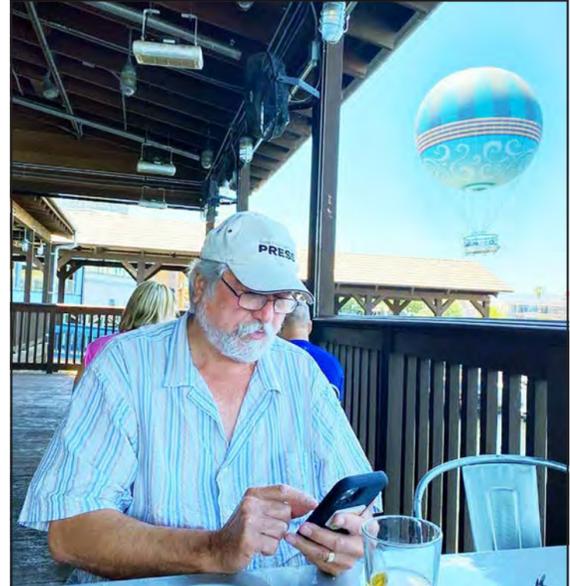
We watched as meltdowns occurred by infants and infantile adults. We ran from terminal to terminal as our flight was changed, canceled and moved until we finally managed to get one to Gregg County Airport which was added as a connecting leg for about 20 desperate people. We saw one guy beat on the skyway door as he watched his plane for Tyler leave. It really was kind of funny. I am sorry. I usually don't enjoy laughing at someone else's expense but dang, Longview is not that far away and there were plenty of seats on that flying cigar tube for that ranting and raving flyer.

Complicating the entire, and I mean the entire last week of our vacation, as well as the airport trekking about, was the fact that I had walked HUGE blisters onto the balls of my feet. I hobbled. I walked on the sides of my feet. I groaned. It was pitiful, but worth the pain and the effort.

On our next to last day we managed to get reservations for "Star Wars Ride of the Resistance". BUT, we were on late standby and my pessimist honey was convinced we would never be called. So, we left Hollywood Studios and rode the skyliners around the (Disney) World and limped back to our room where I peeled off my sticky socks while I cried sticky tears. And then the text came. 45 minutes before the park closed. Our standby group was called. We threw on our shoes...sticky socks and tears again...and I hobbled as fast as my poor old blistered feet could go to the boat transportation which took FOREVER to get rolling. We got to the park at closing and the very kind and grinning gate attendants told us to go to the ride anyway and said that we might get lucky. Of course, it was at the opposite end of the park.

I hobbled as fast as I could go and when we got there the ride was

## Suzanne Bardwell



broken down...with an interminably long line. And the park was CLOSED. And they let us get in line. And, we met a wonderful young woman from California pushing her father's wheelchair. He was old school "Star Wars" and so were we. We all hung in there and made the 'ride' that wasn't a ride. It was an experience that was worth the excruciatingly painful feet, the effort, the time, and the trip.

Our true blue dependable son, Josh, picked us up at the Longview airport after midnight and dropped us home on his way to fight fire caused by a lightning strike.

The next day we continued our comedy of errors by driving our un-inspected truck a mile and a half to pick up Jimmy's SUV at the mechanic and then it was on to Shreveport airport to pick up my lonely little Buick. And, at long last, our getaway was over. Now, if these dad blasted blisters will just go away all will be back to our usual 'ab' normal work routine. You know, everyone needs a break before they break. This was ours. AND it was wonderful.

# THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

## Outlook for the US Economy

The forecast for US economic recovery is improving. In March, 916,000 net new jobs were added across the nation, led by leisure and hospitality, education, and construction. The unemployment rate fell to 6.0%, and the number of unemployed dropped to 9.7 million. Overall, activity is in a much better place than the lows experienced in April 2020, though it has not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

As I've discussed previously, one positive sign is that initial claims for state unemployment benefits have dropped to levels seen in past downturns prior to the pandemic. Initial claims are a barometer for the numbers of jobs that are disappearing, and it's good news that they have fallen (they recently plummeted to less than 600,000). While claims remain well above pre-COVID levels, they are no longer unprecedented.

Other positive signals include the gradual opening up of more

businesses as states are able to relax social distancing requirements.

As long as hospitalizations remain under control and the vaccine rollout continues, a return to activities such as travel and dining out will boost the recovery. On the other hand, if variants and caseloads trend upward too far (as is occurring in some parts of the country), we could see increased uncertainty and other problems.

Additional federal spending will enhance growth potential, whether through stimulus checks or spending of other types. The Federal Reserve remains committed to keeping low interest rates until the economy reaches pre-pandemic performance, which will spur near-term expansion.

Supply chain issues continue to disrupt some industries. The pandemic caused closures of manufacturing facilities, and shortages of specific items (such as semiconductors) persist. In addition, interruptions such as the blockage of the Suez Canal and weather challenges have exacerbated the problem. Time will be required to restore full efficiency, but this phenomenon is unlikely

to dramatically constrict growth. While obstacles remain, the US economy is expected to recover and see significant progress during the next five years.

The Perryman Group projects that over the 2020 to 2025 period, real gross product will expand from the current level of an estimated \$18.4 trillion to \$22.9 trillion, a 4.41% annual rate of growth. Employment is forecast to grow by 17.4 million to reach 160.4 million in 2025 (a 2.33% annual pace). Expansion is

expected to be most robust over the next year or two as past losses are recouped (with gross product likely expanding by 7% or more in 2021), returning to more normal levels through the end of the forecast horizon.

From the outset, I have emphasized that the economy could surge forward once we reached a sustainable situation with the virus. We are now seeing the beginnings of the next "Roaring '20s." Stay safe!!



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**Owners: Jim & Suzanne Bardwell**

**Publisher: Jim Bardwell**  
**Editor: Terry Cannon**  
[news@lindaleneews-times.com](mailto:news@lindaleneews-times.com)  
**Advertising: Mary Vandiver**  
[advertising@lindaleneews-times.com](mailto:advertising@lindaleneews-times.com)

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Other Bardwellink publications include: The Gladewater Mirror and White Oak Independent

## United Way of Smith County surpasses \$1.4 million goal

**Continued from Page 1**

ty has been serving the East Texas area for the past 80 years.

"This past year has shown us just how important it is to come together in support of our neighbors going through a crisis," said United Way of Smith County Board Chairman David Stein. "Most families in Smith County are one paycheck away from a major hardship. Our local United Way wants to make sure every single dollar raised stays here to support programs serving on the front lines to meet those needs."

More than 200 local companies and nearly 7,000 individuals participated in the 2020 campaign. Thanks to the organization's

Community Pillar Sponsors, all donations made by Smith County residents each year remain local and go directly to meeting needs in the community.

"One major driver of this increase has been companies stepping up to provide COVID-19 relief," said James Sheridan, campaign chairman for 2020. "Our team is committed to working hard again in 2021 to meet the increased needs here in Smith County. We celebrate this victory for our community, but we anticipate local families will still face many challenges in the months and years ahead." During the past 80 years, United Way of Smith County has given back more than

\$65 million into local nonprofit programs that collectively address some of the biggest issues facing Smith County residents. In addition to raising and allocating funds, United Way of Smith County's in-house programs include the 2-1-1 East Texas Help Line and the East Texas Center for Nonprofits.

In the past year, the 2-1-1 call center has logged multiple record-breaking days. The needs are increasing drastically, and it is anticipated that will continue through 2021. Anyone in East Texas in need of assistance can dial 2-1-1 to speak with a representative. The line is open 24 /7. For more information, log on to [www.UWSmithCounty.org](http://www.UWSmithCounty.org).

# As the dirt flies: Lindale continues to build and build

It's been just a little over five years since Susan Gill took over as president of the Lindale Economic Development Corporation, and considering the activity in and around Lindale, she and the LEDC must be doing something right.



Susan Gill

Throw a dirt clod in any direction and you are likely to hit some new project, new business or new

construction.

If you want to watch her face light up, just mention how much obvious activity is going on in virtually every corner of the city.

Recently, she sent out her "Berry Interesting" quarterly newsletter highlighting new projects, residential growth and the always-healthy sales tax figures.

Gill has nearly two decades of experience in helping areas expand their economic growth. Prior to arriving in Lindale, she worked an economic group from Longview. Those working

## Terry Cannon Editor



in economic development for cities and regions understand it's one of those hurry-up-and-wait situations.

Which is why all the activity in Lindale is so promising. It's happening right before our very eyes. Projects include:

-- A multifamily development for 10 units is being built on Blackberry Blvd. and Harpole St.

-- Garden Hills Apartments, Phase 3 at 15307 FM 16 West is near completion;

-- Dominos Pizza is relocating next to Schlotzsky's at 2807 South Main;

-- Fusion Performance/Fusion Athletic Club will be open this summer. It is located at 140 Eagle Spirit Drive;

-- Altra Federal Credit Union's new location is at 404 South Main Street.

-- Eagle Pharmacy has enjoyed

enough success to open another location in the former Elliot's Pharmacy on FM 849 near Hide-away and

-- Eagle Aesthetics and Supplements, a 24-hour gym and supplement store, will be the tenant at 17815 Highway 69 North.

Not to be forgotten is Liberty Crossing, the first street to be completed off the just completed Interstate 20 frontage roads. It opened Feb. 1.

One of the main attractions for people wishing to relocate to Lindale is its first-class school district, long considered one of the best in the state. And there are several subdivisions planned in the area to accommodate these new families wanting to take advantage of this award-winning district.

Some include:  
--High Country Acres, County

Road 472 and CR 433, featuring 30 half-acre lots;

-- The Grove, CR 498 just south of CR 41-2, featuring 35 half-acre lots;

-- Colonial Manor, phase 5, 24 half-acre lots located at CR 4101 and CR 4102;

-- Sweet Bay, FM 849 just south of Ruby Trails, 22 half-acre lots.

One of the true indicators of just how well things are going for a city or region is how much money is being spent by consumers and businesses -- in other words, sales tax figures.

Lindale's sales tax numbers are rarely low, and in fact, they've shown a steady upward progression for many, many months.

The March 2021 numbers, which are based on sales in January, were 20.5 percent higher than the same period in 2020.

And for the first quarter of 2021, Lindale's sales tax revenue is 12.2 percent higher than the first three months of 2020.

Clearly, businesses and families are choosing to locate in this friendly little city in northern Smith County.

Makes for some pretty good days at the LEDC.

# Shape of things to come while shopping

My wife Janet and I were out shoppin' the other day. No, I don't like to shop, but sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do to keep your woman happy. Anywho, we were walkin' along when this young man walks up with some brochures in his hand.

"Excuse me sir," he said, "may I ask you a few questions?"

Now, usually I'd politely decline sayin' somethin' like, "Thank you, but I'm not interested." Like I said, that's what I would usually say, but not this time.

The reason bein' was that I was bored out of my gourd. I hate shoppin'. I don't mean I dislike shoppin', I hate it, and I'll usually do just about anything to get out of it.

So when the young man asked me, I stopped walkin' and said, "Sure. What's up?"

Well, when I stopped Janet stopped, too. I looked at her. She was starin' a hole through my head. I knew what she was thinkin'. She was thinkin', "What are you doing, you idiot?"

She thinks that a lot, you know. "Thank you for your time," the young man said. "It won't take a minute."

"Take all the time you want," I said, and then looked and smiled at Janet. She didn't smile back.

"Sir," he said. "How would you like to get into shape?"

"Hal!" laughed Janet. I looked at her, not smilin' this time. I

## Rusty Mitchum Life & Times



looked back at the young man.

"In shape for what?" I asked.

"Uh... you know, uh... in better shape than you are now," he stammered.

"Who says I'm not it good shape?" I asked.

"I do," said Janet as she raised her hand.

"Nobody's talkin' to you," I said to Janet.

"Look at me," the guy said. "Wouldn't you like to be in the shape I'm in?"

"No offense, buddy," I said, "but you look a little wormy to me."

"Let me ask you these questions," he said. "Maybe it will help you decide," and he looked down at a clipboard.

"Are you frequently out of breath?"

"Yes," said Janet.

"He asked me," I said.

"I was answering for you," she replied.

The young man made a check on his paper. "Do you feel older than you are?" he asked.

"He is older than he is," said Janet.

"Would you pipe down?" I said. The guy made another check.

"Hold on buddy," I said.

"Where is this all leadin'?"

"Sir, I'm just trying to establish if you are out of shape."

"My shape is fine," I said.

"Yeah," said Janet, "if you're a Macy's Day balloon."

"Hey!" I said.

"Sir, what if I could tell you how you could lose 20 pounds of ugly fat?"

"What are you going to do?" asked Janet. "Cut off his head."

I glared at her. She smiled at me.

"No," the guy said. "I represent a gym and we can put you through a series of tests to evaluate your needs, and then, not only recommend exercises, but what you should eat, and also a way of life to help you maintain your health."

"Look bud," I said. "Why would I want to do that?"

"Sir, don't you want to live longer?"

"Oh, you can promise me I'll live longer?"

"Well, no sir. No one can promise that."

"But I will look better in my casket, right?"

"Sir?"

"And I'll die healthy, too."

"Well...uh....."

"Look kid," I said. "I like me just the way I am, even though you and my wife don't. I don't want to die healthy. There's nothin' sadder than listenin' to people at a funeral home sayin' stuff like, 'I can't believe he's gone. He was so healthy.' When I die, I want them sayin', 'I can't believe he lasted this long. He should have been dead years ago.' And another thing; I don't want anyone tellin' me what I should eat. I want to eat what I want to eat. In fact, if I had my druthers, I'd like my last dyin' breath to smell like bacon."

"But what about your wife if you die early?" he asked. "What will she do?"

"Well, let's see. Between the insurance, and all my junk she'll sell off, she'll make out like a bandit."

"Yeah," said Janet. "And I won't have to work so hard keepin' the house clean."

"Keep quiet," I said.

"So buddy," I said to the young guy. "Peddle your propaganda somewhere else. I'm gonna walk right down there and get me a couple of chili dogs and wash them down with a great big root beer. If I die right in the middle of my meal, I will have died happy," and I turned and walked away.

"Well, that was interesting," said Janet. "I'm going into Dillard's. Do you want to come?"

"Naw, I think I'll sit down awhile. I'm outta breath."

# April 30 deadline for non-profits receiving property tax exemptions

Non-profit organizations that qualify under Texas law to receive property tax exemptions must apply to the Smith County Appraisal District by April 30, said Chief Appraiser Carol Dixon.

The April 30 deadline also applies to businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in use.

The non-profit organizations that are eligible for property tax exemptions include but are not limited to: certain charitable organizations, youth development organizations, religious organizations, non-profit private schools, cemeteries and veterans' organizations.

If a non-profit organization meets property tax exemption qualifications, the exemption can be approved immediately after the organization buys or acquires new property during the year.

Non-profit organizations must reapply if the property changes owners; if their qualifications for exemption change; or if they

acquire new property. In most cases, after non-profit organizations are granted a property tax exemption, they do not have to reapply annually unless the chief appraiser asks them to file again.

For more information about property tax exemptions that are available to businesses and non-profit organizations, contact Smith County Appraisal District, 245 S.E. Loop 323, Tyler, 903-510-8600, www.smithcad.org, before April 30.

Details are also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at [comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax](http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax).



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each 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, April 30, 2020**  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lindale ISD's Education Foundation's annual Grant Patrol was altered to a safer – and more unique – method.

Foundation directors and other LISD officials drove by recipients' houses and by the time the parade had finished, teachers from five of the six district's campuses had shared in more than \$35,000 in grants.

The money goes to purchase new and innovative tools for classrooms, said LISD Education Foundation Director Courtney Sanguinetti.

This year's Grant Patrol parade was the first such endeavor by the foundation.

Community donors, businesses, administrators and board members lined up their cars and drove by each teacher's house.

Cars were decorated, balloons were flying, horns were honking and people were cheering as everyone paraded by.

**FIVE YEARS AGO, April 28, 2016**

Ten competitors from Lindale High School qualified for the Class 5A Region II track meet at Maverick Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas at Arlington, after earning medals at the area meet in Whitehouse.

In field events for the girls, Chassity Sims won first in the long jump at the area meet, while Kim Aubuchon took first place in the pole vault.

Sims was third in the triple jump, followed by teammate Ryleigh Rand who also will compete at the regional meet.

Rhyan Rand earned a fourth place finish in the long jump, while Keely Tiiman qualified for the pole vault event by finishing fourth at area.

Landen Smith-Weerts was third in the 800 meter run while Tyra Rodden was third in the 300 meter hurdles.

For the boys in field events, Andrew Spellman will go to Arlington after finishing fourth in the pole vault and Jake Williams took third in the high jump.

Andrew Cox finished fourth in the 1,600 meter run to also qualify for regionals.

**10 YEARS AGO, April 28, 2011**

Freshman Lindale High School golfer D.J. Godoy qualified for the Class 3A state golf tournament by winning a sudden death round over Will Cole of Atlanta, Texas at the Pottsboro Country Club in the regional tournament.

Godoy's two-day total of 151 (73-78) earned a place in the playoff against Cole.

As a team, the Lindale Eagles finished in 7th with a two-day total of 319-343- 662).

Other performers for Lindale included Donner Smith, 75-82-157; Cameron Coulter, 84-92-176; Grayson Kirkham, 87-91-178 and Logan Frazier, 89-103-192.

The state tournament was held May 12-13 at the Roy Kizer Country Club in Austin.

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# Parks and Wildlife Department stocks state's lakes with catfish

Spring is in the air and with that comes one of Texas' best spring traditions, angling for catfish.

Officials with The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are reminding the state's anglers that the Neighborhood Fishin' program helps friends and families to stay close to home, enjoy time in the outdoors, and have the chance to reel in a catfish.

This past week, TPWD began stocking thousands of catfish at 18 Neighborhood Fishin' lakes, including five in Dallas-Fort Worth, four in the Houston area, two each in the Austin and San Antonio areas, and one each in Amarillo, College Station, San Angelo, Waco, and Wichita Falls.

"Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are conveniently located in urban and suburban areas so that Texans don't have to travel to have a great experience," said Craig Bonds, Director of Inland Fisheries.

"Catfish are fun and easy to catch for anglers of all ages and experience levels. If you've never fished before, these are the perfect places to get started. If you are an experienced angler, these are the perfect places to introduce fishing to a friend or family member."

Each of the lakes will receive channel catfish every two weeks through the end of October – with a brief pause during the heat of August.

Neighborhood Fishin' lakes are located in city and county parks with ample parking, restrooms, lighting, and other recreational amenities, in addition to fishing.

All anglers can keep up to five catfish of any size per day without a minimum length limit. At some locations, cleaning tables are available nearby to make it easy for families to clean their catch.

Children under 17 fish for free, but a fishing

license is required for all adults who fish. Fishing licenses can be purchased for as little as \$11 for "one-day, all-water" access.

All proceeds go toward management and conservation of the fish and their habitats.

There are five Neighborhood Fishin' lakes in the Dallas area and for those and others across the state, log on to [www.neighborhoodfishing.org](http://www.neighborhoodfishing.org). Stocking location information and dates can also be found on the Neighborhood Fishin' website.

Anglers are encouraged to use common sense to stay safe and help protect themselves and others. Masks are encouraged in crowded areas where it is difficult to maintain a safe physical distance.

Neighborhood Fishin' is supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation through a donation from the 2020 Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest and many local partners across the state.

## Blood drive set at Community Christian Fellowship May 2

Officials with Carter BloodCare have announced Community Christian Fellowship, 15704 Texas Highway 110, has scheduled a blood drive for 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, May 2.

The drive will take place in the parking lot of the church. For more information, contact Moni Guyer at 903-882-8501, ext. 206.

Another blood drive is scheduled from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 1 in the parking

lot of the Van United Methodist Church, 326 West Main Street. It is hosted by the Van Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on this drive call Pat Valentine at 903-368-4015.

## OBITUARY

CHERYL ANN (HOGAN) GRIFFITH



Funeral services for Cheryl Ann (Hogan) Griffith, 74 of Gainesville, were held Friday, April 23 at Meador Funeral Home in Gainesville. A pavilion service was held that afternoon at Fairview Cemetery in Gainesville.

She went to be with the Lord on April 19, 2021 in Nocona, Texas. She was born to Frank and Katie Hogan, Jan. 11, 1947 in Decatur, Texas.

Cheryl was a truck driver for North American for many years among several other companies. She loved the scenery while traveling all over America. When she retired, her passion was taking care of her great-grandchildren. Cheryl was a very loving mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her mother, Katie (Parsley) Hogan; daughters, Sherlene Patrick, Christine Canada and Amy Echols; sister-in-law, Jackie Hogan; nine grandchildren and many great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by father, Frank Hogan; brothers, Timothy Ray Hogan, John Lee Hogan and Daniel Preston Hogan, two grandchildren and great-grandchild.

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  - Life Source Community Church**  
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  - Lone Star Cowboy Church**  
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Friday April 16, 2021

Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a criminal trespass at 13400 block W I-20, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Fortunas responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a theft shoplifting at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Wedgeworth responded to a welfare concern at 552 E I-20, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Dailey, Wedgeworth and Gillham responded to a disturbance at 552 W I-20, arrest made. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a residential alarm at 300 block Helen Dr, false alarm. Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a business alarm at 14000 block CR 4200, false alarm. Officer Dailey responded to a suspicious person at 600 block W South St, settled at scene.

Saturday April 17, 2021

Officers Jackquet and Trombley responded to a found property at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, report taken. Officer Leevey responded to a theft at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, report taken. Sgt Houghton and Officers Jackquet, Trombley and Leevey responded to a welfare concern at 800 block Edgewood Cr, settled at scene. Officers Jackquet and Trombley responded to a burglary of motor vehicle at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, report taken. Sgt Houghton and Officers Jackquet and Trombley responded to a public service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officers Shurley and Allen responded to an assault at 13400 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a residential alarm at 1500 block Whitebear Trl, false alarm. Officers Allen and Capps responded to a public service at 500 block W North St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 900 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officers Allen, Shurley and Capps responded to an assist other agency at 552 E I-20, unfounded. Officer Allen responded to a public service at 700 block E Hubbard St, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to a welfare concern at 3400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps and Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 75 block Miranda Lambert Way, settled at scene. Officers Shurley and Capps responded to an assault at 200 block Charles Dr, settled at scene.

Sunday April 18, 2021

Officer Leevey responded to a business alarm at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, false alarm. Officers Capps, Jackquet, Trombley and Leevey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 600 block Penny Ln, unfounded. Officers Jackquet, Trombley and Capps responded to a parking violation at 21200 block N Hwy 69, unfounded. Officers Capps and Leevey responded to a possession of controlled substance at 2400 block S Main St, arrest made. Officers Jackquet, Shurley and Trombley responded to a warrant service at 200 block S Main St, arrest made. Officers Allen and Shurley responded to a warrant service at 200 block W Valley Dr, arrest made. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious person at 16000 block Lindale Cemetery Rd, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 17000 block W I-20, settled at scene. Officers Allen and Shurley responded to a suspicious person at 3300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Shurley and Allen responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Monday April 19, 2021

Chief Some, Cpt Chambers, Sgt Flores, Sgt Houghton, and Officers Fortunas, Trombley, Jackquet and Leevey responded to a possession of controlled substance at 13600 block CR 472, arrest made. Sgt



Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a welfare concern at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officers Capps and Shurley responded to an assist other agency at 200 block Bonnie St, settled at scene. Chief Some, Captain Chambers, Sgt Flores and Officers Jackquet, Trombley and Leevey responded to an inquest at 400 block Crosby St, report taken.

Tuesday April 20, 2021

Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to a public service at 400 block Hill St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a business alarm at 3200 block S Main St, false alarm. Officers Jackquet and Trombley responded to an accident at 556 W I-20, settled at scene. Officers Leevey, Jackquet and Trombley responded to a possession of drug paraphernalia at 900 block S Main St, citation issued. Officers Jackquet and Trombley responded to a public service at 13500 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officers Trombley, Jackquet and Leevey responded to an assist other agency at 556 I-20, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to a fraud at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers and Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 200 block Mount Sylvan St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to an accident at 800 block S Main St, report taken citations issued. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 21200 block HWY 69 N, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to an assist other agency at 200 block Bonnie St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 21200 block HWY 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 10200 block 110 N, settled at scene.

Wednesday April 21, 2021

Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious person at 1600 block S Main St, unfounded. Officers Ramsey and Philpot respond to a public service at 553 W I-20, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers and Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to an assist other agency at 200 block Bonnie St, settled at scene. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a business alarm at 3200 block S Main St, false alarm. Cpt Chambers and Officers Ramsey, Philpot and Fortunas responded to a stolen vehicle at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene report taken. Sgt Flores responded to an assist other agency at 300 block Braziel St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 100 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a business alarm at 200 block Cooper St, false alarm. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a welfare concern at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a public service at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Dailey responded to a welfare concern at 600 block W Hubbard St, unfounded. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Dailey responded to a loud noise disturbance at 200 block Henry St, settled at scene. Officer Dailey responded to a loud noise disturbance at 17900 block Stacey St, Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 17000 block I-20, settled at scene. Officer

Wedgeworth and Dailey responded to a business alarm at 3200 block S Main St, false alarm. Officers Wedgeworth and Dailey responded to an assist other agency at 15700 block CR 433, unfounded.

Thursday April 22, 2021

Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 300 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Ramsey responded to an assist smith county at 1700 Block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Flores, Sgt Dworaczyk and officers Wedgeworth and Fortunas responded to an inquest at 500 block Sunset Dr, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a public service at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 16200 block FM 849, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Dailey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 200 block Shelly Ln, settled at scene.



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Suspect remains jailed on injury to child charges

Glenn Caldwell, 45 of Tyler, was arrested by Smith County Sheriff's Office deputies in March on Injury to a Child/Disabled Person by Omission charges and remains in the Smith County Jail, spokesman Larry Christian said. Smith County Judge Taylor Heaton set Caldwell's bond at \$250,000. On March 2, Child Protective Services officials made a report to the Smith County Sheriff's Office regarding a case of possible child abuse after a notification from UT Health Tyler officials concerning a disabled 17-year-old female who had been transported to the

hospital with severe frostbite to both feet. The next day, investigators contacted the victim's father, Caldwell, who said he'd noticed the condition of his daughter's feet on Feb. 23 or Feb. 24. Investigators said he failed to seek medical attention for his daughter until March 1. Due to the severity of the frostbite, the daughter had to have both feet amputated. She had been previously diagnosed with mental developmental delay and intellectual disability. An arrest warrant for Caldwell was presented to Judge Heaton on

March 19. For more information on the Smith County Sheriff's Office visit [www.smithcountysheriff.com](http://www.smithcountysheriff.com). The Sheriff's Office also has a FB page and can be followed on Twitter at @SmithCSO.

"School Night for Astronomy" set Friday

The Mineola Nature Preserve in conjunction with the Astronomical Society of East Texas will be presenting "School Night For Astronomy," an astronomical viewing event, at the Mineola Nature Preserve Pavilion area on Friday, April 30, officials announced. This free event is open to the public and is especially for all public, private and home school students and their parents and is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Solar viewing will begin at 6 p.m. until sunset and celestial viewing to follow at approximately 9:30 p.m. This is a weather permitting event. In the event of rain or clouds, the event will be cancelled. An announcement of cancellation will on our website: [www.asetexas.org/calendar](http://www.asetexas.org/calendar) and our Facebook page: Astronomical Society of East Texas. There will be a "No Star Gazing" sign at the preserve entrance. The make-up date would be announced later. Face masks are recommended and social distancing is to be observed. Dress properly for the weather conditions. Be prepared for Mosquitoes-long pants, long sleeves. Spray insect repellent will not be allowed. For more information on this event, The Preserve and the Society, contact us at [info@asetexas.com](mailto:info@asetexas.com) or text to 903-520-7338. On the web at [www.asetexas.org](http://www.asetexas.org) or Facebook: Astronomical Society of East Texas and Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River.

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# TJC presidents, student senate visit Texas State Capitol

Tyler Junior College President Dr. Juan E. Mejia and TJC Student Senate officers recently visited Austin, where they toured the Texas Capitol and met with East Texas legislators, TJC publicity officials said.

The 87th Texas legislative session gavelled in at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 and is scheduled to conclude on May 31, 2021.

With health and safety being a priority, the processes and logistics at the Capitol are significantly different from past sessions, including the requirement for COVID-19 testing to enter specific and designated areas.

While long-standing, traditional visits to the Capitol by the majority of communities were cancelled this year, East Texas came together and proceeded

with their important East Texas Coalition days in Austin.

In similar fashion, Community College Day at the Texas Capitol was cancelled but not for TJC, whose Student Senate leadership spent two days in Austin, meeting with East Texas legislators, who despite their long days of meetings and hearings, made time to connect with each student from TJC.

According to TJC officials, the school's Student Senate is the only organization in the state that has made this traditional visit during this 87th Texas legislative session.

TJC Student Senate officers making the trip were: Kaden Phinney, executive president, Winnsboro; Juan Lesser, executive vice president, Tyler; Juan Mejia, executive secretary, McAllen; Alex Mejia, parliamentarian, McAllen; Kaitlynn Crowston, public relations officer, Pearland; Jeremy Singleton, sergeant at arms, Jacksonville; Riley Edmonson, freshman president, White Oak; and Samantha McGrew, freshman secretary, White Oak.

In addition to spending time inside the legislative chambers, the student leaders were treated to personal meetings with legislators from the East Texas region, including: State Sen. Bryan Hughes, Senate District 1; State Rep. Matt Schaefer, House District 6; State Rep. Travis Clardy, House District 11; and State Rep. Cole Hefner, House District 5.

"The visit to the State Capitol was like no other," Phinney said. "It was motivational getting to meet our elected officials and have them listen to our ideas."

"We are inspired by the commitment, dedication and expertise of our legislators, and we extend our wholehearted appreciation to each one of them for the time they dedicated to our students," Mejia said. They all serve on important committees, had non-stop meetings and were actively laying out bills; but they added one more meeting to encourage our students to be involved in the legislative process and in the betterment of our communities."

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TJC officials visiting the Texas State Capitol include, from left, Dr. Juan E. Mejia, TJC president; Lauren Tyler, TJC director of student life; Caitlin Ibarra, TJC coordinator of student life; Kaden Phinney, Winnsboro; Juan Lesser, Tyler; Samantha McGrew, White Oak; Juan Mejia, McAllen; State Sen. Bryan Hughes, Texas Senate District 1; Jeremy Singleton, Jacksonville; Alex Mejia, McAllen; Riley Edmonson, White Oak; and Kaitlynn Crowston, Pearland. (Courtesy Photo)

## UT Tyler professor awarded \$380,000 grant from NIH

Dr. May Abdelaziz, BPharm, MS, PhD, with the University of Texas at Tyler has been awarded a \$380,750 grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine bacterial kinases and their role in antibiotic resistance, school officials announced.

Abdelaziz, a Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and health outcomes, received a two-year new competing NIH R21 grant for her project entitled "Mechanistic Insights into VraS Mutations Linked to Bacterial Resistance."

Her research centers around drug discovery and cellular interactions of kinases with a special focus on cancer and antibiotic resistance.

"This is a remarkable achievement that speaks to the high quality of the work, its importance to society and to the competitiveness of UT Tyler research at the national level," said Dr. Steven Idell, MD, PhD, senior vice president for research and dean of the graduate school.

"UT Tyler is a Carnegie classified R2 research university. Dr. Abdelaziz competed with much larger R1 universities across the nation to receive this grant," said Lane Brunner, PhD, RPh, founding dean of the Fisch College of Pharmacy. "The outcomes of this study can lead to life-saving treat-

ments, and we are extremely proud of her."

Kinases are a type of enzyme expressed in all organisms and act as an on/off switch for cells. Antibiotic resistance does not mean the body is becoming resistant to antibiotics but that bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics designed to kill them. Kinases develop mutations that cause them to overcome the drug being given and bacteria to resist antibiotics, becoming what is known as "superbugs." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 2.8 million people in the United States are infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria each year, and more than 35,000 people die as a result.

"My research focuses on how kinases interact with different proteins inside cells, how they control the cell biology and how can we inhibit them or modulate their activity to get a therapeutic outcome," Abdelaziz said. "Kinases produce an effect that counteracts the antibiotic. By targeting these kinases, you can stop the bacterial defenses from building up or re-sensitize the bacteria toward the antibiotics."

This study also expands student research opportunities as Abdelaziz will conduct the work with UT Tyler undergraduate and PharmD students.

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**Teacher Appreciation week** is May 3-7. Ad deadline is May 3rd

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**Graduation** is May 28th. Ad deadline is May 10th for tabs, May 24th for regular paper

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### Honor a Senior 2021

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of the Lindale News & Times  
**Deadline for information, photos and payment is Tuesday, May 11**  
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Send digital information by **Tuesday, May 11** to:  
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# TJC presents televised version Of "Aladdin and his Magic Lamp"

A special presentation of "Aladdin and his Magic Lamp" will be presented by the TJC Academy of Dance via television beginning at 4 p.m., May 9, 15-16 on KLTV in Tyler, said publicity spokesperson Rebecca Sanders.

The special showcase of dance was created originally for television and is directed by TJC Dance Professor and Pre-Professional Program Director Shurrell Wiebe.

Performers include special TJC alumni who are professional dancers, actors and guests from East Texas, the Pre-Professional program of the TJC Academy of Dance, and dance department dancers.

They include: Rayleigh Vendt, TJC Academy alumnus and member of the Texas Ballet Theater; TJC Academy of Dance student Lydia Middleton as the Princess; TJC Academy of Dance student Elexis Wiebe as the Genie; and Actor/Guest Artist James Coats as Aladdin.

"We are so excited to be performing again in our brand-new theater, the Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center," said Wiebe. "Bringing this production to our community through television is thrilling, especially reaching audiences that do not get a chance to visit the theater during COVID."

"This is such a treat to present this special work to a broader audience," said Carolyn Hanna, director of TJC Academy of Dance. "Because of the pandemic, we have been working on this choreography since January 2020. Our dancers have worked so hard, and we are thrilled to present this piece to all dance enthusiasts."

Wiebe is artistic director, while Wiebe, Thereza Bryce-Cotes and Carolyn Hanna handle choreography and Pam Erwin is acting/movement coach.

An anonymous benefactor provided funding for productions and television expenditures.

"This benefactor is making it possible to reach

more of East Texas with the exceptional talent and performing arts programs at TJC," said TJC's Vice President for Institutional Advancement Mitch Andrews. "Also, due to this generous support, gifts from other underwriters are benefitting the Campaign for the Performing Arts and will provide a naming opportunity within the new Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center to honor Thereza Bryce-Cotes, ballet mistress for the TJC Academy of Dance."



TJC Academy of Dance student Elexis Wiebe is the Genie, and Actor/Guest Artist James Coats is Aladdin in the TJC production of "Aladdin and Magic Lamp." (Courtesy Photo)

# Athens man indicted on federal arson charges

Brandon Blake Neeley, 19, of Athens has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Tyler for arson, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for Eastern District of Texas Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

According to court documents, Neeley was arrested on Oct. 5, 2020 as he attempted to leave the scene of a fire at the Dogwood Estates Water Company Pump No. 2 building.

Four days earlier, on Oct. 1, 2020, another building belonging to Dogwood Estates that housed Pump No. 4, was also set ablaze. Dogwood Estates Water Company serves more than 400 Athens-area homes.

After both Pump No. 2 and Pump No. 4 were destroyed, Dogwood was forced to use a backup pump not designed to bear the full load of customer demands. Customers have been asked to limit their water usage until the burned pumps can be repaired or replaced. The two fires caused more than \$200,000 in damage.

"The destruction of the Dogwood Estates Pumps threatened water access for numerous Athens residents who rely on the pumping station to go about their daily lives," said Ganjei. "Protection of our nation's critical infrastructure from criminals, vandals, and saboteurs is a top priority for federal, state, and local law enforcement, and these charges demonstrate that."

Neeley is charged with arson of property used in interstate commerce. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after

considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office are investigating the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan Locker is prosecuting the case.

In another case involving the Eastern District Federal Court, a Jacksonville man was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison for drug trafficking violations, Walston said.

Andres Gallegos, 38, pleaded guilty on Jan. 13, 2020, to possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine and was sentenced by U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker.

According to the court documents, an investigation into drug trafficking in Smith and Cherokee Counties revealed in October 2018 Gallegos regularly sold methamphetamine from his residence in Jacksonville. Gallegos was indicted by a federal grand jury on Sep. 8, 2019, and charged with distributing methamphetamine on Oct. 16, 2018, Oct. 17, 2018, and again on Oct. 26, 2018.

"Over time, cases like this can make a big difference in our local communities," said Ganjei. "Through a sustained, focused effort by federal, state, and local law enforcement, we can make our cities and town safer and drug-free."

This case was investigated by the Smith County Sheriff's Department, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department, the Jacksonville Police Department, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen H. Hurst.

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## LEGALS

### Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Olen Fred Powell, Deceased, were issued to Mary Catherine (Katie) Powell on April 21, 2021, in Cause 45354P, County Court, Smith County, TX. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to Katie Powell c/o Richard Patteson, Attorney, 218 N. Broadway, Ste. 304, Tyler, TX 75702 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

## HELP

### WANTED

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Sat., May 1 - 8:00-2:00

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Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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### EVENTS

**New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show, April 30-May 2, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common St., New Braunfels.** [www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com](http://www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com). Face Masks Required!

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