



The Lindale News & Times



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Thursday, July 1, 2021

Vol. 122, No. 26

1 Section, 8 pages

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LISD finishes 5th in UIL Lone Star Cup

Success for the Lindale ISD is common knowledge around East Texas and now the rest of the state is aware of its lofty standing as the district earned a fifth place finish in the recent UIL's Lone Star Cup among Class 4A contenders.

Lindale was the only East Texas district in Class 4A to earn a top five designation. Carthage finished 15th in the standings, which are compiled from points awarded for academics, football, marching band, basketball, volleyball, track and field, golf, tennis, softball, baseball, team tennis, cross country, spirit, soccer, one-act play and theatrical design.

LISD accumulated 81 points in the Cup standings, while Argyle (148 points) won the Class 4A title.

Others in the top 10 among Class 4A schools included Canyon, 108.5; Boerne, 94; Melissa, 85; Corpus Christi Calallen, 73; Midlothian Heritage, 73; Salado, 72.67; China Spring, 67 and Corpus Christi Tuloso-Midway 67.

Carthage had 58 points while Bullard and Gilmer tied for 24th with 48 points.

This past year, Lindale ISD won a state championship in academics and military marching band as well as earning a trip to the Class 4A state football championship in December, 2020. LISD teams also won district titles and playoff victories in several team sports in 2020-21.

Four points are awarded for district and state championship appearances in team sports, while playoff wins are worth two points. Teams finishing in the top five at the state championship level in individual sports are also awarded points with 10 points going to those winning first place.



Patriotism, flags and Fourth of July

The nation's 245th birthday is coming Sunday and many Lindale businesses, such as Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home, have gotten into the spirit by displaying Old Glory for the past several days.

Photo by Terry Cannon



Members of the Lindale High School No. 1 University Interscholastic League Academics team gather by the Performing Arts Center at the high school. (See story inside)

College Street Elementary lands new assistant principal

Steven Hitt, currently a teacher at Lindale High School, has been hired as the new assistant principal at College Street Elementary, LISD officials announced.

Hitt will take over for Kylie Prudhomme, who is moving to E.J. Moss Intermediate School as assistant principal.

Hitt began his career at the Lindale ISD in 2015 as a high school chemistry and pre-AP biology teacher.

"I am excited and honored by the opportunity to serve as the assistant principal at College Street Elementary," said Hitt. "I look forward to

working with the staff to continue the tradition of excellence."

Hitt received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology and his Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Tyler.

"Mr. Hitt has been an exceptional teacher in our district for many years," said Superintendent, Stan Surratt. "His demeanor and professionalism set him apart from other principal candidates. I look forward to watching Mr. Hitt grow as a school administrator in the Lindale ISD school system. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Hitt as our new assistant principal at College Street Elementary."

Commissioners OK sale of road bonds; county rating good

The Smith County Commissioners Court on Tuesday (June 22) voted to approve the sale of the fourth tranche of voter-approved road bonds at a lower-than-expected interest rate after receiving five competitive bids, said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Specialized Public Finance Inc. bid general obligation bonds, which will net the county \$7.75 million towards the fourth and final year of the first phase of the County's Road and Bridge Bond package.

Steven Adams, managing director of Specialized Public Finance

Inc., gave a brief presentation to the Commissioners Court, and reaffirmed that Smith County's very high rating of AA+ helped the interest rates on the 10-year maturity bonds. He also noted that the \$7.75 million in bonds will be deposited into the County's project fund in July.

Smith County received five bids on the bonds, with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. submitting the winning bid at a true interest cost

Continued on Page 2

Commissioners hold first FY 2022 budget workshop

Smith County Commissioners Court held its initial workshop on Tuesday (June 22) to discuss the first working draft of the Smith County Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

This budget will take effect on Oct. 1, 2021.

The targeted tax rate for FY22 is 33.5 cents per \$100 valuation, which is the same as FY21. This rate is about 7/10ths of a penny below Fiscal Year 2021's No-New-Revenue Rate. The No-New-Revenue Rate for FY22 will not be known until late summer.

Judge Nathaniel Moran started the workshop with an overview of the budget, which he themed, "In the Blue" because the budget is focused on significant increases to law enforcement salaries across the board.

"We want the very best law enforcement personnel in Smith County and we are determined to get it by supporting all of our law enforcement agencies. Our financial investment this next year in law enforcement salaries should speak volumes about the appreciation we have for our men and women in uniform and where our priorities are as an organization," he said.

In addition to law enforcement salaries, the current draft of the budget also focuses on support services staffing and Road and Bridge funding.

Judge Moran said estimated revenues from sales tax for FY22 are \$21.5 million, up from \$19 million in FY21, which is helping to fund the large increase to law enforcement salaries while keeping the property tax rate among the lowest in the state.

Additionally, at this point, the County is planning to utilize at least \$4.8 Million from its general fund reserves to help keep property taxes low. This equates to a 3 cent savings against the property tax rate, which generates just more than \$1.6 million for each penny on the tax rate.

Moran said they received a preliminary property valuation analysis from the Smith County Appraisal District, but won't receive the final certified tax roll until July 25. He reminded the public that the Smith County Appraisal District is not part of Smith County government, and, while the Smith County Commissioners Court sets the tax rate, the Appraisal District independently sets property values for all taxing jurisdictions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & SALARIES

Moran has been working closely with the Sheriff's Office on the issue of vacancies in detention officers at the Smith County Jail. According to Judge Moran, attacking this problem is a multi-faceted approach, but one element that is needed is increases in salaries — especially among entry level positions. In the current budget proposal, an entry level deputy is proposed to receive a 25 percent increase in pay; courthouse security officers are proposed to receive a 32 percent pay increase at the entry level; and entry level jailers will receive a 23 percent pay increase.

Other law enforcement agencies in Smith County, including Constables Offices, will also benefit from these increased salaries. Precinct 5 Constable Jeff McClenny provided salary survey information at the request of Judge Moran to compare the pay of Smith County Constables to others in Texas. The analysis determined that Smith County was substantially below average on Constable pay scales. The draft budget includes a 21 percent increase for Constables. McClenny called it a "big increase" that works to bridge the gap.

Commissioner Neal Franklin said raising the salaries for law enforcement was vital in attracting employees.

"We want to say loudly and clearly with our numbers that we stand behind law enforcement," Moran said.

Commissioner Terry Phillips said he hoped that approving the increases in jailer pay will solve the overtime problem. Non-law enforcement County personnel are expected to receive a baseline pay increase of 4 percent this next fiscal year, after receiving no pay adjustment last year while the County buckled down during the pandemic.

INVESTING IN EMPLOYEES AND VEHICLES

The proposed budget would also add new employees in the following departments: Facility Services, Human Resources, Purchasing, District Attorney's Office, Justice of the Peace Precinct 5, Constable Precinct 4, Road and Bridge, Tax Office, the Sheriff's Office, and the Animal Control Department. Many of these departments support all of the other elected officials and have not seen growth in their numbers in many years, despite increased demands. Moran said he received requests for 29 new employees but he only included 14, which would bring up the total county employees to 877.

The County Judge said the proposed budget also includes purchasing 37 new vehicles for \$1.757 million. That includes a \$100,000 contingency for emergency purchases that arise during the budget year. Vehicle prioritizations was based on a number of factors, including mileage, age, use, vehicle condition, maintenance history and other budgetary constraints.

"We are making a substantial investment in vehicles this year since we purchased very few vehicles last year in our attempt to keep spending extremely low and reduce the tax rate during the pandemic. We knew then that we would need to make up for that during this next fiscal year," Moran said.

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Democrats sue over defunding legislative branch

House Democrats filed a petition with the Texas Supreme Court on Friday, seeking to overturn Gov. Greg Abbott's veto of funding for the legislative branch.

As the Austin American-Statesman and other media outlets reported, House Democrats were joined by the AFL-CIO and caucuses representing Black and Latino lawmakers in asking the court to determine the governor's actions were unconstitutional.

Abbott used his line-item veto power to abolish funding for the legislative branch in the next biennial budget, which takes effect Sept. 1. He was angered by the last-minute walkout of House Democrats to stop consideration of various voting law changes pushed by the governor and Republican legislators.

"Abbott's veto is an abuse of power, an act of legislative coercion and a threat to democracy, the result of which is clear and immediate harm to the people of Texas," said Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus.

"The Legislature is a co-equal branch of government and the separation of powers is enshrined in our state constitution," Turner said. "The governor doesn't get to simply cancel another branch of government when he doesn't get his way."

Abbott's veto struck \$410.2 million allocated for the Legislature and numerous agencies that provide support to lawmakers.

Besides state lawmakers, who make \$600 a month, Turner said the veto could affect up to 2,000 employees of the Texas Senate and House and those agencies.

Special session set for July 8

Abbott has called for a special session beginning July 8, his office announced last week. He said in a press release that the items to be addressed "will be announced prior to the convening of the special session." Abbott had said previously that he would ask legislators to work on two priority election bills that died when the Democrats walked out, as well as a bail bill that also failed.

On Friday, Abbott urged county judges across Texas to submit their two-year projected budget for expenses related to what he terms the "ongoing border crisis." The projections, submitted online, will be used by the state to request additional border security funding during the upcoming special session.

On Friday, the governor also urged jailers statewide to assist border sheriffs with operating detention facilities and providing jail beds for people arrested on state charges related to crossing the border illegally.

PUC outlines disconnection procedures

The Texas Public Utility Commission met Thursday with its newest member, Lori Cobos, being sworn in by Chairman Peter Lake.

As previously reported, the PUC has ended the moratorium on disconnections in effect since February. The first day for potential disconnections is June 29. Customers have specific rights under PUC rules when it comes to potential disconnections for nonpayment.

The PUC publishes a "Know Your Rights" page on its website, which can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/6byxdy97>.

Commissioners OK sale of road bonds; county rating good

Continued from Page 1

of 1.07 percent.

"It is good to see that the County's strong financial position and conservative approach to budgeting and spending has resulted in a AA+ bond rating and the ability to save tax payers even more money by selling bonds at such an incredibly low rate," Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran said.

Commissioner Terry Phillips agreed and said, "This is the lowest we've ever paid."

The bonds are rated AA+ by Standard & Poor's Rating Services, which is equivalent to that of the United States federal government.

"Everything the County can do is being done by the County," Adams said. "It's a very good financial rating."

In November 2017, Smith County voters approved a \$39.5 million bond package to improve county roads. That bond package was the first of two phases to significantly upgrade the County road system over a six year period of time.

The second phase of the bond program is expected to be approximately \$45 Million and will likely be presented to the voters for approval in November of 2021.

The money received from this bond sale will fund continued Road and Bridge Department construction projects in accordance with the County's six-year Road and Bridge Bond Program.

Under the direction of County Engineer Frank Davis, the County has been steadily working to complete the planned projects over the past few years. In the first three years of the bond program, more than 170 miles of roadway have been reconstructed or completely overlaid or are under construction under this program.

...melting my heart

The first time my sweetheart proposed to me I was 17. The moon was shining on the lake illuminating the image of a very tall Cross on the gently rippling waves. He had brought a gold ring with a dangling heart that had SB engraved on one side and JB on the other. I was far too young to say yes. My heart has been his, whether I knew it or not, since I was 13 when we met at Christian Youth Foundation in Athens.

When I said yes, I was still far too young at 19. But I did, and a short four months later we were married in a beautiful ceremony at First Christian Church in Corsicana. Our church camp director was one of two pastors conducting the ceremony. The vows we spoke are more true today, 46 years later: "I love you as I love no other. All that I am I give to you, now and forever." Here's the deal, that "love and giving" is a lifetime process. By the time you figure it out you wonder where the time has gone.

Where is the lithe girl with the long hair and infectious smile? Where is that boy whose beautiful eyes could melt ice? No one sees either any longer except for the two of us. And that is the odd thing, our spirits are still the ones from camp. The girl who wore flowers in her hair, the boy who picked her up and held her close. The couple who played in the spillway and had mud fights. The kids who have grown up together and hopefully, grown to be better people together, have built a life sometimes by design, sometimes by default, and most certainly by trial and error.

At 19 and 20 we married in a haze of longing for each other. We left for our junior year of college and grew individually and together. At 28 we had a precious son who brought us great joy and of whom we are still so very proud. Along the way there were arguments, financial and emotional disasters, illness, heartbreaks and loss just as there are in every life. What you do with them is what matters.

I used to say we were very different people with very different backgrounds. That was the way it began but not where it ended. We

Suzanne Bardwell



have grown together over the years. And like many of our friends in the newspaper field, we are partners in business and in life. If you can work together, play together and be together 24 hours a day and not kill each other that is success at the highest levels in my book.

When we were young my sweetheart told me he picked me out because he wanted me to be the mother of his child, that he wanted a certain kind of life that he saw in me. I wanted him because his eyes melted my heart. They still do.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

What a Difference a Year Made

A year ago, the economy had begun to stabilize after two months of cataclysmic decline due to COVID-19 and the massive response. Almost overnight, millions of jobs disappeared, and an economy in the midst of a record-shattering expansion suddenly went into freefall.

While some businesses managed to readily implement remote operations, thousands simply shut down. However, things began to improve fairly quickly as the path forward became clearer, with Texas adding jobs in 12 of the past 13 months. Since April 2020, the Texas economy has regained well over one million jobs (though employment remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels). All major industry groups have added employees, with the lone exception of Mining and Logging (which in

Texas is essentially oil and gas).

The most recent data (May 2021) indicate that Texas added 34,400 total nonagricultural jobs, with unemployment dropping to 6.5%. With decreasing cases and hospitalizations and increasing numbers vaccinated, travel is picking up, and the Leisure and Hospitality industry (the hardest-hit during the pandemic) added 14,200 jobs in May. Professional and Business Services increased by 13,800. Manufacturing gained 3,200 jobs, a particularly positive signal for future growth, and residential real estate and construction is on fire.

Although not yet showing annual growth, a notably encouraging sign for Texas is the beginnings of a reemergence of the energy sector. Global demand plunged almost 30% last spring,

and prices plummeted (even briefly below zero). Today, consumption is within 4% of its prior peak, prices are hovering around \$70 per barrel, and production and rig counts are on the rise. It will be a while before the jobs return in large numbers, but the path is clear.

Around the state, cities are recovering at varying rates. Unemployment is particularly low in Abilene, Amarillo, Austin-Round Rock, College Station-Bryan, Lubbock, and Sherman-Denison. Large, stable industries such as higher education, health care, and state government are important in these areas. Cities in the Rio Grande Valley are recovering more slowly, as cross-border activity remains restricted. Energy-dependent areas are also lethargic but are likely to see

a notable spike as conditions normalize. Some cities have regained all of the employment losses, while others lag well behind.

As we had been expecting from the outset, the comeback has been rapid compared to prior downturns (although the pandemic slowed things down longer than originally anticipated). In prior major recessions, there were issues precipitating the downturn which subsequently slowed the recovery. For example, the 2009 recession was driven by a mortgage crisis and financial meltdown, which took years to overcome. This time, there were no big speculative bubbles or structural issues, which has been pivotal. We're not there yet, but we can see it from here. Stay safe!



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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(closed Wednesday)

Telephone: 903-882-8880 Fax: 903-882-8234

Email: classifieds@lindaleneews-times.com

Owners: Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher: Jim Bardwell

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Advertising: Mary Vandiver

advertising@lindaleneews-times.com

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

The Lindale News & Times is published every Thursday. Offices are located at 104 S. Main, P.O. Box 1559, Lindale, Texas 75771. Periodical rates paid at Lindale Post Office (USPS No. 314040). Annual subscription rate is \$35 for delivery inside Smith County, \$40 outside of Smith County and \$50 out-of-state. Any erroneous information reflecting upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of this newspaper will be corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the publisher. Reproduction of any portion of any issue of this newspaper is not allowed without the permission of The Lindale News & Times.

Celebrating our birthday with (Roman) candles

It must be embedded deep in the DNA of most males to want to blow up stuff.

Good thing there's a day of the year for us where we can do just that.

Of course, I'm referring to our nation's birthday in three days hence and the great pleasure of watching or, better yet lighting, fireworks.

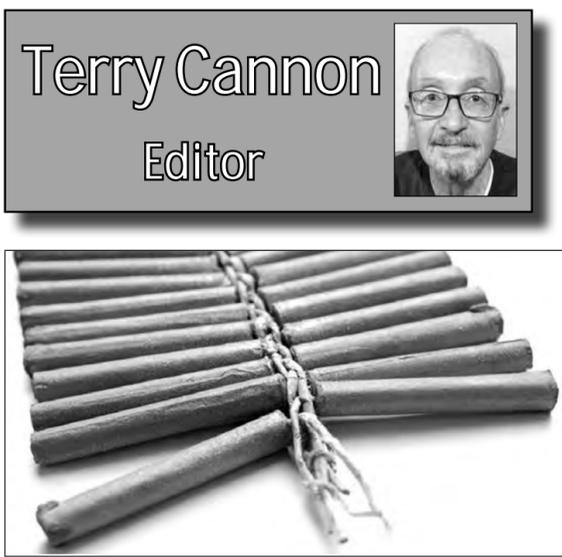
(Obviously, I'm all for handling fireworks in a safe manner because we don't need to endanger our firefighters and emergency personnel any more than necessary).

The history of tossing firecrackers and lighting bottle rockets is interesting and we have our nation's No. 2 president – John Adams – to thank for giving the practice a boost. Actually, he wasn't president at the time he envisioned the idea, just one of the signees of the Declaration of Independence.

Seems as though that before he put his name on that famous document, he wrote to his wife Abigail and said the date, July 4, 1776, would be "the most memorable" in the history of the country.

"I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival (and) ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore."

It appears Mr. Adams was pretty adamant about the "illumination" thing and nothing says "illumination" quite like a Roman candle or a string of



Firecrackers on the Fourth of July really provide a lot of bang for the buck.

firecrackers.

Growing up we celebrated the day, of course, but my folks weren't too keen on the fireworks idea. Not just because it was illegal to fire them off in the city limits of Dallas, but because (huh) they were "dangerous."

Now to a 10 year old, "dangerous" and "fireworks" just didn't compute. We'd hear their admonitions, say something along the lines of "yes, yes, we'll be careful" before jumping on our bikes and dashing off to the nearest fireworks stand.

As mentioned above, fireworks were illegal in the city proper, but you could find fireworks stands on the outskirts. And even though we'd complain about mowing or raking the yard or any other physical labor around the house, we'd never fuss about riding two or three miles to the closest

fireworks stand.

One thing about buying fireworks that I still don't understand is how they are so, relatively speaking, cheap. If memory serves, we could load up on firecrackers or a dozen bottle rockets for less than a dollar. Sparklers, those baby-ish things us "big" kids wouldn't buy (but nonetheless enjoyed) were inexpensive as well.

Usually, we only had a couple of dollars each to spend anyway, which was secured by collecting empty soda bottles and turning them in for the deposit. We were too young to have a "real" job and my paper route days were still a couple of years in the future.

Black Cats were the top of the line firecrackers and only the kids who got allowances could buy those. We settled for the really,

really cheap (and unreliable) off brands which led to the "dangerous" warning from my parents.

Once, I was tired of those cheapie firecrackers not going off so I opened about 15 and poured the black powder on the ground. Being a typical 10-year-old I announced "just watch this" before igniting that pile.

It blew up and scorched my hand pretty well, which was not quite as sore as my backside after I got home.

Proving that age doesn't necessarily result in wisdom, I had another encounter about 45 years later when our two boys and I decided to celebrate the Fourth in true manly style by loading up with every sort of explosive that was (somewhat) legal.

We jumped in the beloved Jeep, stopped at a nearby stand and bought three or four sacks of 'splasive stuff. We soon found a great place to fire away.

Antsy to show off my prowess, I strapped several bottle rockets together and lit the fuse.

Ooops. This bottle rocket bouquet didn't go up as planned instead it streaked on a line toward the Jeep with those sacks of 'splasive stuff in the backseat.

My kids still say they've never seen me move quite so fast, as I tried to avert a pending disaster of epic proportions. Luckily, I arrived in time and tossed the still hissing bundle to the side.

(I still tremble at the thought of having to think of an explanation for my wife as to why our Jeep had been reduced to a smoldering pile of ash).

Happy Fourth of July! And by all means, be careful!



EDITOR'S NOTE: This column comes from the archives of the Lindale News and Times, which is available online for \$2.99 per month. Call 903-882-8880 to set up your online subscription.

ONE YEAR AGO,
July 2, 2020

Smith County Commissioners finalized a first draft of the county budget for fiscal year 2021 which included a reduction in property taxes for county residents. County Judge Nathaniel Moran said this first draft of the budget, which would be voted on July 31, included the lowering of the property tax rate from 34.5 cents per \$100 valuation to 33.5 cents. Moran said that even though revenues had decreased because of COVID and other factors, the county's healthy financial condition allowed for the reduction of the rate.

FIVE YEARS AGO,
July 2, 2016

The Smith County Commissioners Court voted to take no action to fill the county's top position after the indictment and suspension of County Judge Joel Baker the previous week.

The Commissioners Court met for the body's weekly meeting for the first time since Baker, the presiding officer of the court, was suspended by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Baker was suspended by SCJC, a commission that Baker recently resigned from serving on during allegations of ex-

PLICIT sexual behavior online while conducting government business on his personal social media page.

The suspension of Baker was announced shortly after the June 21 meeting of the Commissioners Court.

Baker was booked into the Smith County Jail Friday, June 17, after turning himself in to authorities and charged with three counts of violating the Texas Open Meetings Act, which are considered misdemeanor offenses.

10 YEARS AGO,
July 7, 2011

Lindale High School softball standouts Hali Kizer and Devin Moore were selected to the Class 3A All-State Academic Team by the Texas High School Girls Softball Coaches Association. Those earning academic status must maintain a 94 GPA from 9th grade through 11th grade. Kizer and Marsh were also honored by District 14-3A coaches for their play during the league season with Kizer, a shortstop, named the Most Valuable Player and Marsh selected to the All-District first team.

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Seeing...um...not really seeing, red

I am not a shopper. I despise shoppin' and will do just about anything to avoid the unpleasantness of doin' it.

Now I'm not talkin' about buyin' stuff. I'm talkin' about walkin' up and down aisles lookin', comparin' prices, feelin' textures; you know, junk like that. Janet, my wife, loves to shop and by the looks of her shoe and purse collection, she must be pretty good at it.

If I'm in the need of somethin', I walk into the place of business and ask where it is. Then I go get it, pay for it, and leave.

Occasionally, I get stuck havin' to go into someplace with Janet when she needs, or more likely wants somethin'. Most of the time I'll just sit in the Jeep, listen to the radio or nap.

Anywho, this past Saturday, after I had taken her out for breakfast, she said she needed to stop in at a store to check on somethin'. In woman talk that means she had some coupons that were burnin' a hole in her purse and she needed to get rid of them.

Well, it was too hot to sit in the Jeep, so I went in with her. She told me to go see if I could find some T-shirts because she was tired of lookin' at the ones I had.

Actually, I think she was tryin' to get rid of me, so I wouldn't be pointin' out that fact that she probably already had a dozen or so of whatever she would be buyin'.

Well, I moseyed over to the men's department and started lookin' around. I was standin' in the aisle lookin' all around when a voice spoke up.

"May I help you find anything?"



I turned around and there was a young man standin' there. He had a pleasant smile on his face.

"Howdy," I said. "You got any T-shirts?"

"Yes sir," he said. "Follow me."

I followed as he led the way. "Here you go," he said. "Are you looking for anything in particular?"

"Well, my wife said to get some colored one. She said she was tired of lookin' at my black, white, and camo ones."

"I see," he said. "Well, here's a nice one in Apricot Nectar."

"Apricot Nectar?"

"Yes sir. That's the color. Oh, and here is one in Sea Crest, and one in Sunlight, and my favorite, Cerise."

I picked up the one he said was his favorite. "What color did you say this was?"

"Cerise," he replied.

"What color is it really?" I asked.

"Sir?"

"Look," I said. "I don't see colors very well."

"Oh," he said. "Are you colorblind?"

"Yes," I admitted.

Now, let me stop here and tell you that bein' colorblind has been quite a challenge. Not for me it hasn't, but for everyone else. They want to know what it's like and then they want to help me

overcome it. Bein' colorblind doesn't bother me. It really doesn't.

"Well," he said. "Cerise is red."

"Why don't they just call it red then?"

"Uh....well....uh....I'm not really sure."

"Oh well," I said. "I don't guess it really matters."

"Sir, if you don't mind me asking; what color do you see?"

"Couldn't tell you," I said.

"Does it look green?"

"Don't know. I don't know what green looks like."

"Really? Fascinating. You know," he continued. "I saw on Facebook where they have glasses now available to enable colorblind people to see colors."

"Yeah," I said. "I've had a bunch of friends that have sent me that link."

"Are you going to get some?"

"I doubt it," I replied. "It really doesn't bother me. Besides, I looked up the glasses, and it just enhances some colors. It said you still couldn't pass a colorblind test while wearin' 'em."

"Have you been colorblind since birth?" he asked.

I just looked at him and then smiled. "No," I said. "When I was in the first grade I could see colors just fine. One day I was sittin' in class and this kid, who I had whooped that mornin' out

on the playground, called my name. I turned to look at him and suddenly I was hit upside the head with a box of crayons he had thrown. It knocked me out of my desk. When I got up, I noticed I could no longer see colors."

"You're kidding!" he exclaimed.

I looked at him again. "Of course I kiddin'," I laughed.

He looked at me and tilted his head and smiled. "You got me," he said.

"Sorry," I laughed. "I saw an openin' and I jumped for it."

"Well," he said. "I'm sorry you're colorblind."

"Thanks," I replied. "It's really not that big of a deal. Anywho, how much is that red one?"

He looked at the tag. "It's only \$25."

"\$25? Is that for a pack of three?"

"Uh, no sir. Just one."

"Wow! Heck Son, it ain't even got a pocket on it."

"Pocket?"

I smiled. "Hey Bud, thanks anyway, but that's just a little too rich for my blood. But, I sure appreciate your help."

"Yes sir," he smiled. "And I hope your colorblindness gets better."

I just smiled and shook my head. Kid's these days.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of the Lindale News and Times there was an error in the story concerning the new community center at Pool Park which noted baseball and softball games would be relocated to another park. That park is Faulkner Park.

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Managing insects on vegetables and herbs

By Melinda Myers

Homegrown fresh vegetables not only taste better; they are more nutritious. Plus, you can control what products are applied to the plants to control insect pests and disease.

The first steps to growing a productive vegetable garden and protecting your harvest begin with proper planning and care.

Select the most disease-resistant varieties available when planning your garden. Then plant them in properly prepared soil with the amount of sunlight they require.

Provide the necessary ongoing care and your plants will be healthier and better able to tolerate pest problems.

Even when you do everything right; problems can still arise. It's just a part of gardening.

Further reduce the risk with regular visits to the garden. Check along the stems and under the leaves for any clues that insect pests have moved into your garden. It is much easier to manage small populations of harmful pests than after

they have had time to rapidly reproduce.

At the same time, look for lady beetles, green lace wings and other good guys that eat a variety of garden pests.

Leaving a few pests to attract these good guys is often an easy, yet effective way to manage the harmful ones.

Enlist the help of songbirds by attracting them with birdbaths and feeders. Many birds supplement their diets with insect protein. Just protect young seedlings as many birds also like fresh greens.

If you need to lend nature a hand, remove small populations of insects by hand or use a strong blast of water to knock aphids and mites off plants. This is often enough to manage the damage and minimize their impact on your garden harvest.

Barriers of floating row covers can keep cabbage worms, onion maggots, Japanese beetles, and some other insects from laying eggs on their favorite plants.

Cover the plants with the fabric at planting, anchor the edges and leave enough slack for plants to grow. Uncover flowering plants as soon as blossoms

appear if bees are needed for pollination.

Set out yellow bowls filled with soapy water. The yellow attracts aphids and some other harmful pests. The insects gravitate toward the yellow, then crash into the soapy water and die.

If the problem insects are winning the battle, you may be tempted to reach for chemical controls. Instead, look for the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) certification on product labels. This independent non-profit organization reviews products for use in organic gardens, production, and processing.

By working with nature and investing some time and creativity you can safely minimize insect problems and maximize your garden's harvest.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Summit* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Lady beetles are one of the good guys, helping to control populations of aphids and other harmful insect pests in the garden.

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Friday June 18, 2021

Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to an assist other agency at 500 block Pierce St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 200 block Mission Crest Cir, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block N Main St, report taken. Officer Fortunus responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Fortunus responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Fortunus responded to a hit and run at 900 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 900 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Ramsey responded to a business alarm at 2600 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a theft at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to a criminal mischief at 100 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to a Suspicious Circumstance at 500 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to a business alarm at 1400 block CR 1200, false alarm.



Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 300 block Bowers St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a loud noise disturbance at 13400 block CR 472, unfounded. Officer Shurley and Officers Jackquet and Allen responded to a business alarm at 15500 block CR 463, false alarm. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 13700 block FM 16 W, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Jackquet and Allen responded to an assist smith county at 11800 block CR 461, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block Mounty Sylvan St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 2800 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 21200 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Jackquet and Allen responded to disturbance at 15500 block Brittan Ct, report taken. Officer Shurley and Officers Jackquet and Allen responded to a welfare concern at 300 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, false alarm.

responded to a welfare concern at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, unfounded. Officer Shurley and Officers Jackquet and Allen responded to a suspicious circumstance at 500 block W Hubbard St, unfounded. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 300 block N Main St, settled at scene.

Tuesday June 22, 2021

Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a disturbance at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious person at 500 block E South St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a welfare concern at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a public service at 17600 block CR 4112, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene.

Wednesday June 23, 2021

Sgt Flores and Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a criminal trespass at 200 block Cannery Row, arrest made. Cpt Chambers responded to an assist other agency at 800 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a theft at 13400 block CR 472, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to a criminal trespass at 400 block W South St, citation issued. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Gillham and Dailey responded to an assist other agency at 200 block Mount Sylvan St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious person at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Officer Gillham and Officer Dailey responded to a disturbance at 1200 block Perryman Rd, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block Mount Sylvan St, settled at scene.

Thursday June 24, 2021

Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 100 block Timber Park, settled at scene. Officer Gillham and Officer Dailey responded to a suspicious person at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Gillham and Officer Dailey responded to a welfare concern at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham and Officer Dailey responded to a residential alarm at 700 block N Boyd St, false alarm. Officer Gillham and Officer Dailey responded to a hit and run at 3300 block S Main St, report taken.

Saturday June 19, 2021

Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 700 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a disturbance at 200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a hit and run at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a criminal mischief at 200 block Highlands Dr, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to suspicious circumstance at 400 block Eagle Spirit Dr, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a theft at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to a public service at 300 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to a welfare concern at 500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth and Officer Dailey responded to suspicious circumstance at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Sunday June 20, 2021

Officer Capps responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard

Monday June 21, 2021

Officer Capps responded to a welfare concern at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a welfare concern at 100 block Hamrick St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to an accident at 700 block N Main St, report taken. Cpt Chambers responded to a suspicious circumstance at 15800 block CR 4191, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers, Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a warrant service at 3300 block S Main St, arrest made. Cpt Chambers and Sgt Houghton responded to a welfare concern at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Jackquet

A&M AgriLife Service offers online help for sellers at farmer's markets

By Paul Schattenberg
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a new online resource for people interested in selling food products at farmers markets in Texas.

"Consumer demand for food that is locally produced and marketed is generating increased interest throughout Texas," said Rebecca Dittmar, AgriLife Extension program specialist, Ker-ville. "And as interest grows, so does the number of farmers markets and the interest of producers who want to sell their products at these markets."

Dittmar said the purpose of the new course, Texas Farmers' Markets: Becoming a Vendor, is to help educate potential vendors on the rules and regulations of the state's farmers markets and help them understand what products they are allowed to sell, and under what conditions.

The course costs \$10 and is

available in the Business and Finance section of the AgriLife Online Courses site at <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu>.

Something for everyone Dittmar said those who may be interested in the course include small-acreage farmers hoping to expand their customer base, younger adults who have started

gardening or raising chickens and have excess product to sell, and older generation farmers and hobbyists looking for ways to generate income.

"The course addresses farmers market rules and regulations set statewide through the Texas Administrative Code and Texas Department of State Health

Services," Dittmar said. "It is intended to be comprehensive and touch on many of the different items that can be sold at farmers markets in Texas."

Other items covered include:

- When a permit will be required.
- Basic food safety practices, which can be done on site at the

farmers markets.

-- Tips and materials needed for a successful booth at the farmers market.

She said the course is also being offered for continuing education units for health inspectors and sanitarians as approved through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Other related publications and courses from AgriLife Extension include:

- Selling Foods Made at Home: Texas Cottage Food Law.
- Cooking Up a Cottage Food Business.

For more information, contact Dittmar at 830-353-1305 or rsdittmar@ag.tamu.edu.



A new online course, Texas Farmers' Markets: Becoming a Vendor, will address the basics of what is needed to sell products at Texas farmers markets. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)



The Smith County Commissioners Court recently accepted the Safety Achievement Award, along with Smith County employees in the HR and Purchasing Departments, from representatives from the Texas Association of Counties. (Courtesy photo)

Smith County Receives safety achievement award

Smith County received the 2020 Safety Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool during Commissioners Court on Tuesday (June 22), said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

The award was earned for the County's record of commitment to safety in the workplace, as well as for controlling workers' compensation claims, she said.

To qualify for the award, the county must participate in Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool's Workers' Compensation Program, have a safety program or accident prevention plan and meet additional criteria.

Through its commitment to safe practices among county employees, Smith County works to reduce employee injuries and obtain substantial savings for taxpayers by minimizing workers' compensation costs.

The County is one of 12 members statewide to have earned the award.

Governed by a board of county officials, the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool has provided counties with protection against risks and liabilities for 47 years.

Its risk control programs and services, delivered to more than 412 members, help Texas counties promote safety and save tax dollars.

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Lindale student earns Master's Degree from Northern Colorado

The University of Northern Colorado recently conferred degrees to Spring 2021 graduates, including a student from Lindale, school officials said.

Katie Burns earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching Physical Education, Physical Activity Leader from the school, located in Greeley, Colo.



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Lindale, Hideaway students named to TJC president's, dean's lists

Tyler Junior College has recognized 1,354 students named to the president's and dean's lists for their outstanding academic achievements during the Spring 2021 semester, including students from Lindale and Hideaway, publicity officials announced.

The president's list consists of 473 students who completed 12 or more hours of college-level courses with a 4.0 grade-point average.

The dean's list consists of 881 students who completed 12 or more hours of college-level courses with a minimum 3.3 grade-point average.

Lindale and Hideaway students named to the president's list are:

HIDEAWAY: Jacob Allen, Kandace Campbell, Jonah Flores, Andrew Mcniel

LINDALE: Melissa Blight, Reece Calverley, Katherine Crofoot, Heather Darden, Kayla Daughtry, Kody DeWolfe, Shanna Fleming, Sydney Freeman, Jordan Gibson, Josie Howard, Emily Huber, Collin Kelbe, Heather Lay, Ricardo Maldonado, Dylan Martin, Eva Mejia, Caleb Moore, Alicia Mullings, Julia Nelms, Savanna Nunn, Megan Romine, Brittany Rote, Ethan Thornton, April Watters, Abigail Willson

Lindale and Hideaway students named to the dean's list are:

HIDEAWAY: Sidney Arnold, Ryan Esparza, Savannah Mantz, Jace Phillips, Jordan Tweedell, Grace Yancy

LINDALE: Armia Abdelshahid, David Ambler, Joshua Anschutz, Payton Arnold, Autumn Browne, Brandon Burckel, Riley Chris-

tion, Keslie Cook, Nathaniel Cox, Jonathan Crofoot, Aja Curry, David Daughtry, Sadie Dutton, Ashley Flores, Alyssa Giordano, Hali Gipson, Christian Grana, Lindsay Hawkins, Collin Hill, Rachel Holmes, Hannah Holt, April Hullett, Jacob Hupp, Eli Kenna, Makena Koch, Sarah Krol, Reina Lopez, Christopher Manning, Philip McClellan, Rebekah McFadden, Alison Miller, Elizabeth Montgomery, Rebecca Nichols, Jagger Ochoa, Kayla Poindecker, Alyssa Ramsey, Ryan Shank, Caden Simmons, Mary Simmons, Mary Starkey, Copeland Taylor, Jasmine Taylor, Olivia Thomas, Britney Thurman, Henry Waggoner, Victoria Washington, Levi Watson, Alyssa Williams, Kevin Willis, Andrea Willoughby, Stephen Wilson, Timothy Winn, Lacy Wolfe, Mark Wright, Celeste Young

Texas College names Duncan as VP for Academic Affairs

Dr. Jan E. Duncan has been appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas College in Tyler, said the school's communication officer Jake Martin.

Duncan comes to the college with experiences and expertise in several levels of secondary and postsecondary education.

Most recently, she served as an instructional designer for the use of Blackboard for grade levels K-12.

She was responsible for leading and executing the design, devel-



Dr. Jan E. Duncan

opment and evaluation of complex training curricula, materials and programs to meet strategic organizational initiatives in the virtual space.

At the postsecondary level, Duncan has served as an administrator and associate professor in the area of educational program preparation. She has guided students through the licensure process for teacher certification as well as helped to accredit educational programs as teacher training centers that would lead toward licensure.

Additionally, she has served in the department of technology as a professor of undergraduate courses in advanced educational technology.

Duncan also has experience in acquiring grants, having received funding for several grants which have ranged from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million including the NASA Professional Grant for Math and Science (awarded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the HIV Prevention and Education Services Grant (awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services).

She earned a baccalaureate degree, two master's degrees and a doctor of philosophy degree from Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss.

LACC wins state award

Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Shelbie Glover recently accepted a first place award (Division 2) from the Texas Chambers of Commerce in the Print/Electronic Publication Category of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executive's Communication Award Program. "This is an honor to receive the award and I am accepting on behalf of the Lindale Chamber Team," Glover said. (Courtesy photo)

UT Health East Texas offers seminar on back pain

UT Health East Texas is offering a free, virtual seminar at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 15, "Back Pain: Is It Always a Herniated Disc?" said publicity spokesperson Allison V. Pollan.

The seminar will be presented by David Olvera, MD, board-certified and fellowship-trained interventional pain specialist from UT Health East Texas Physicians Tyler.

The seminar is free, and you registration can be made in advance at UTHealthEastTexas.com/seminars to receive an email with the direct link before the presentation starts.

Those registering will also have the opportunity to submit a question in advance through the message box. The presentation will premiere on UT Health's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/UTHealthEastTexas](https://www.facebook.com/UTHealthEastTexas).

UT Health East Texas provides care to thousands of patients each year through an extensive regional network that includes 10 hospitals, more than 50 clinics, the Olympic Plaza Tower, 13 regional rehabilitation facilities, two freestanding emergency centers, regional home health services covering 41 counties, an EMS fleet of more than 50 ambulances and four helicopters, and a comprehensive seven-trauma center care network, including the region's only Level 1 trauma facility.

As a partner with The University of Texas System, UT Health East Texas is uniquely positioned to provide patients with access to leading-edge research and clinical therapies while training and educating the next generation of physicians and other health professionals. The nationally recognized UT System also includes UT MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, as well as three other major university medical centers located throughout the state.

LISD wins another UIL Academic title

For the third time in the past four years and the sixth time in its history the Lindale ISD can boast of having the No. 1 Uni-

versity Interscholastic League Academics team in the state as Lindale High School recently bested Argyle for the Class 4A

championship, district officials announced.

Argyle had won the Class 4A title the previous 12 years.

Lindale's previous state titles were won at the Class 5A level.

"I could not be more proud of our students and UIL coaches," said Superintendent, Stan Surratt. "To capture another state championship in UIL Academics is remarkable.

"Lindale ISD is known for its great academic achievement and this 6th total State Championship in UIL Academics certainly strengthens this reputation. I am so equally proud that our students won the District Championships at every level in UIL Academics; 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade and high school levels. What a year for Lindale ISD."

The UIL Academics State Meet consists of 22 events including Math, Science, One-Act Play, Spelling, Current Events, Computer Applications, Accounting, several Journalism events and several speaking events.

Preparation for UIL Academics begins during the summer, where teachers attend workshops and students attend summer institutes. Students compete at invitational tournaments throughout the fall and winter, before most competition begins in the spring.

Lindale also won the UIL Academic District Championship at every level possible, 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade and high school. LIS captured the Regional UIL Championship as well.

Happy Birthday America!

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