



The Lindale News & Times



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Thursday, Dec. 8, 2021

Vol. 122, No. 49

1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



The Pride of Lindale Marching Band led the way for the Lindale Rotary Club's annual Christmas Parade this past Saturday.

Holiday EVENT CALENDAR

City holiday events scheduled throughout the season:

The completion of another Lindale Rotary Club Christmas Parade this past weekend signaled the beginning of the holiday season in the city while other events are scheduled the rest of December, city officials said.

Featuring local dignitaries, the "Pride of Lindale Marching Band" from Lindale High School, dance troupes and lots of candy and treats being handed out to the youngsters along the route, the parade began at E.J. Moss Intermediate School on Saturday night and finished up near First Baptist Church downtown.

While there were no events scheduled for Picker's Pavilion this year, the venue was open for photo opportunities following the parade.

In the week leading up to the parade, city utility workers were busy brightening Main Street by attaching glittering Christmas trees to utility poles.

In addition to the other activities taking place on Saturday, a Christmas Movie in the Park – "The Grinch" – was shown after the parade in Darden Harvest Park.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to appear in Lindale and ride throughout the city greeting youngsters of all ages beginning at 10 a.m.

City officials also said Picker's Pavilion will be open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily until Jan. 1 so visitors can enjoy the Christmas decorations and have photo opportunities.



Lindale City Council members Bryan Summerville, right, and Yvette Martin, left, waved to spectators during the Lindale Rotary Club's annual Christmas Parade Saturday night.



The bright and festive Lindale Youth Cheer float was one of many to participate in the Lindale Rotary Club's annual Christmas Parade Saturday night.

Photos by Terry Cannon

Moran announces bid for Congress; Commissioner seeks county judge post

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran officially became a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from District 1 this past week as he announced his intentions in downtown Tyler.



MORAN

conference on Monday.

Franklin, a Tyler native, has served as Tyler Fire Department Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator for more than seven years.

Gohmert has served in the House since 2005 and announced his bid for the AG post on Nov. 22.



FRANKLIN

Moran joins fellow Republicans Aditya Atholi and John Porro as well as Democrat Stephen Kocen in the race. The primary is March 1.

U.S. District 1 includes Smith and Gregg Counties, extends east to the Louisiana border, north to near Lake Bob Sandlin, south to just past Teaselville and near Van to the west.

During his announcement, Moran said he will represent the values of East Texans in Congress and rely on his experience from his five years as County Judge. He will seek to build relationships while in Washington while holding firm to his principles.

The core of his political beliefs, Moran said, include faith, family and freedom.

Moran said he is planning campaign stops across the District 1 region and will be busy campaigning from now through the primary. He has 13 months left on his term as Smith County Judge.

Gohmert previously served as Texas' 7th District Judge and was appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to fill a vacancy as Chief Justice on Texas' 12th Court of Appeals in 2002. That six-month term ended in 2003.

The list of GOP challengers to Paxton includes Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush and former Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman.

Democrats lined up against Paxton include civil rights attorney Lee Merritt, former Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski and Rochelle Garza, a former lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Paxton's opponents cite his legal woes – which include a 6-year-old fraud indictment – as why he is unfit to continue as Attorney General. Paxton has pleaded not guilty.

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Local woman certified by TJC Fire Academy

Another class of future firefighters has recently graduated from the Tyler Junior College Fire Academy, publicity officials announced.

A total of 20 cadets from across East Texas were certified, including Mariah Millington of Lindale.

Tyler Drennon was class valedictorian, and Kooper Hand was salutatorian.

Graduates and their hometowns: Cody Beamer, Rusk; Tanner Block, Mineola; Caleb Bolin, Forney; Alex Burch, Tyler; Cole Castleberry, Grand Saline; Hunter Cockrum, Wills Point; Carson Deese, Flint; Tyler Dokupil, Marshall; Gage Dowdle, Whitehouse; Tyler Drennon, Tyler; Westley Eastman, Trinidad; Carson Ezell, Flint; Landon

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



State lowers price cap for power providers

The state's Public Utility Commission last week lowered the maximum allowable wholesale price for electricity by almost half, from \$9,000 per megawatt hour to \$5,000.

The move came after prices soared to the maximum during last February's deadly freeze, causing financial havoc along with the widespread power outages. A number of electric providers declared bankruptcy after being faced with enormous bills, including Brazos Electric Power Cooperative and Griddy Energy.

As the Austin American-Statesman reported, the state's largely deregulated electricity market provides financial incentives to prompt power generators to deliver more electricity to the grid during peak demand. But those incentives came with steep prices, and some Griddy customers received electric bills of nearly \$10,000. Those bills were ultimately forgiven under an agreement negotiated by the attorney general's office.

Peter Lake, chairman of the PUC, said lowering the price ceiling will "make sure the people of Texas are not exposed to those extraordinary high prices" again, the Statesman reported.

However, the CEO of the state's largest power generator worries the state has not done enough to insulate itself against another deadly freeze. Curt Morgan of Vistra Corp. said that while his company has spent \$50 million this year weatherizing more than a dozen plants, the state still hasn't ensured a reliable supply of natural gas. The Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the natural gas industry, is still working to finalize rules that would set weatherization mandates. However, those rules would not go into effect until early 2023, the Texas Tribune reported.

Morgan told legislators that Vistra's plants couldn't get enough natural gas to run anywhere near full capacity during the freeze.

"Why couldn't we get it?" Morgan said. "Because the gas system was not weatherized. And so we had natural gas producers that weren't producing."

State to get \$35 billion in infrastructure funds

In the next five years Texas will get more than \$35 billion in federal funding for roads, public transportation and water system improvements, The Dallas Morning News reported. The funding is part of the massive infrastructure bill Congress passed in November to provide \$548 billion in new investments across the country over five years.

The state's road system got a "D+" in a 2021 report card from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"Current funding levels and resources from the state's gas tax are inadequate to keep up with Texas' projected growth, leaving a \$15 billion annual gap through 2040," the engineering report said.

The federal funding also includes \$1.2 billion for Texas airports, \$537 million to replace and repair bridges and at least \$100 million for broadband expansion, according to The Morning News.

Webinars explain tuition fund

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund is offering a series of webinars to provide an overview of the state's prepaid college tuition plan. In addition, the webinars will explain scholarship opportunities that are available.

Anyone interested can sign up for a webinar at www.texas-tuition-promisefund.com/events/.

...lessons on losing a friend

"Time is what we want most, but what we use worst..."

William Penn

Sometimes life stabs you in the heart when you least expect it. Last Friday I drove to Corsicana to attend the funeral of one of my best 'kid' friends. Daphne always packed a powerful laugh and a load of enthusiasm for life into her 5' nothing body. The blonde with the ice blue eyes was often my sidekick, if not leading the way in a long list of high jinks during our teen years.

The far too young minister who preached her funeral marveled that she had recently zip lined at her 'advanced' age. I wanted to throw a hymnal at him...and not just for Daphne. He sure didn't know her very well, if at all. She had just returned from a trip to Bahrain when she shockingly had a stroke. She was in shape, active and healthy, living life to the hilt.

She was always a risk taker. She liked fast cars, flying, dancing and travel. Her former husband, another friend from our high school years, told me that she once found a letter from her mother to a relative, which was never mailed, in the glove compartment of a family car. The letter called Daph "our little rebel". She was never really a rebel, but she definitely was strong-willed.

If not for her I probably wouldn't be writing this column or married for 46 and a half years to my church camp sweetheart. I would have gone to SFA single and not to East Texas State University married. The story goes like this:

Daphne had read in our church denomination's regional newsletter that my sweetheart's cousin, on whom she had a crush, was going to be speaking at Longview's First Christian Church. She decided we would sneak off on Sunday morning and drive two and a half hours (two for us...still two for me now) to Longview. I told my grandmother, with whom I lived at the time that I was going to church with a friend... which was true...sort of...

First, I had to throw my Corsicana Daily Sun paper route. I was a sophomore in college with three part-time jobs and getting that paper on the lawns at the crack of dawn was one of them. The press had a problem. I was late and always impatient Daphne, along with her sister, left without me. I had never driven outside of Navarro County

Suzanne Bardwell



but I felt compelled to point my little blue Capri east on Highway 31 and hit the accelerator. When I finally got to Longview's Spur 63, I asked a man in a red shirt driving a white Cadillac how to get to First Christian Church. He asked me if I was from Longview to which I replied, "No Sir." He said, "you will never find it, follow me." And so I did...he waved me off as I turned into the church's parking lot. I've often wondered about that serendipitous moment. This was well before GPS and smartphones ensured we arrived where we wanted to end up.

I made my way to the church's balcony where my friends were. And there he was...a tall, good looking skinny kid, all hair and gorgeous eyes. The same kid I had fallen in love with at church camp. He was beyond excited to see me, running up the steps and wrapping me up in a great big hug. To this day I can describe my sweetheart's suit and the wide '70s tie he had on that long ago Sunday morning.

We all went out for pizza after church. As my church camp sweetheart took me back to my car, we stopped at the stop sign between First Christian Church and Trinity Episcopal. I looked at him and told him to "kiss me". He did and I knew I was going to marry him. And we did just that, a little less than six months later, with Daphne as one of my bridesmaids.

I had not talked to my friend in years and that is a shame...my heart-breaking shame. Daphne, thank you for all the fun we had growing up. Thanks for the laughter, the adventures and the tears that came from our friendship. My world is a little smaller and a little less shiny with knowing you are no longer in it.

And to you, my dear readers, friends and neighbors, if there is someone out there who made a difference in your life with their friendship and love, maybe, just maybe, you should let them know today how much it meant. Time never stands still and the clock stops for no one.



Local woman certified by TJC Fire Academy

Continued from Page 1

Grammer, Alto; Kooper Hand, Henderson; Nathan Johnson, Crandall; Nelson Justiss, Bullard; Harrison Marszalek, Tyler; Mariah Millington, Lindale; Seth Moore, Tyler; and William Schoenfeld, Wills Point.

TJC Fire Academy director is Capt. Andy King, and TJC Fire Protection Technology program coordinator is Jeff Akin.

Enrollment is currently under way for the next fire academy class. Application deadline is May 6.

To work in Texas as a paid firefighter, applicants must earn a Texas "basic structure fire suppression" certificate. As part of this process, applicants must also submit their fingerprints and undergo a criminal history background check.

Students must meet the standards set forth by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, and NFPA 1001-2013, Standards for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications.

Upon successfully passing the state exam and completion of a medical certification — either emergency care attendant or emergency medical technician-basic — graduates may apply for certification as Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, Hazmat Awareness and Hazmat Operations. Upon completion of the fire academy and EMT-b courses, the student will receive 30 hours of college credit.

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended. For more information, go to TJC.edu/FireAcademy.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Coming Back ...

In early 2020, COVID-19 plunged the economy into freefall, abruptly reversing a historic expansion. Although the sharp declines only persisted for about two months, almost 1.5 million jobs disappeared across Texas.

The loss of income and financial security for millions of families and small businesses added to the immeasurable human costs and tragic loss of life associated with the pandemic and measures required to slow its spread.

Some 21 months later, we are finally reaching the point where many geographic areas are back to their pre-pandemic levels of employment. However, the recovery has been uneven (as expected), and some places still have far to go. Let's look at how Texas and its metropolitan areas are faring based on the most recent (October)

estimates.

In February 2020, Texas employment was nearly 13.0 million. By April 2020, it had fallen to 11.5 million. Recovery began fairly quickly, as the economy was relatively healthy going into the pandemic and no major structural problems were prevalent.

As businesses reopened through the summer, jobs began to be restored; the state has added jobs in 17 of the past 18 months. The pace has been variable, largely tracking the ebb and flow of the severity of the virus. In October, the seasonally adjusted Texas unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% as the economy added 56,600 jobs. The latest total of 12.9 million is only slightly below the pre-pandemic level.

Several metropolitan areas have exceeded their February 2020 employment. Abilene, Amarillo,

Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Dallas-Plano-Irving, Killeen-Temple, Lubbock, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Sherman-Denison, Tyler, and Waco now enjoy job numbers which are at or above those observed before the pandemic.

Beaumont-Port Arthur, Brownsville-Harlingen, College Station-Bryan, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Fort Worth-Arlington, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Laredo, Longview, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, San Antonio-New Braunfels, Texarkana, Victoria, and Wichita Falls remain below February 2020.

One common denominator among most of the places slower to recover is the greater importance of oil and gas activity (upstream and downstream). In fact, some of the most energy dependent markets

are further below prior peaks than the worst days of the pandemic for the state as a whole. This pattern will be reversed in the coming years. Tourism destinations are also suffering disproportionately. Conversely, improvement has occurred more rapidly where economies are either particularly diverse or closely tied to industries (such as technology-oriented sectors, logistics, and professional services) amenable to remote work or subject to less harm (or even benefitted from the calamity).

Things are clearly moving in the right direction, with many parts of Texas topping pre-COVID-19 employment levels. While the growth we should have seen during this period has largely been foregone or at least deferred, we are now proceeding along an upward trajectory. Stay safe!!

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Owners: Jim & Suzanne Bardwell
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Editor: Terry Cannon
news@lindaleneews-times.com
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.

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Touch of Elfin Magic

The "elves" were busy helping make sure there were enough cookies and baked goods on display at Santa's Bake Shop, a benefit held for the Lillie Russell Memorial Library this past Saturday. (Photo by Terry Cannon)

Lockout begins and baseball owners still cry financial foul

For all non-baseball fans out there, here is a primer on the three seasons within the baseball calendar: spring training, the regular season and the Hot Stove Season.

Spring training usually begins in February, the regular season at the end of March/first of April and the Hot Stove Season kicks off after the World Series in November.

In a normal year the Hot Stove Season warms the hearts of fans everywhere.

This year, however, things aren't quite as warm and fuzzy.

On Dec. 1, baseball owners locked down the sport because there hasn't been a Collective Bargaining Agreement made with the Major League Baseball Player's Union, which delays spring training, and the regular season will more than likely be delayed as well.

And as it has been for eons, the main issue is, of course, money.

Some specifics:

-- Current revenues are divided thusly: Owners, 57 percent, players 43 percent. Doesn't seem like much of a stretch for the owners to agree to a 53-47 split. After all, fans come to see the players, not the owners.

-- Service time manipulation: Young players have been kept in the minors -- which delays their time toward free agency -- longer than necessary. Owners use this tactic to keep players under team control longer and as a result, keep salaries lower.

-- Tanking: For a great example of a team tanking for several years in a row, look no further than the franchise in Harris County. The cheatin' Astros took tanking to a whole new level and by 2017, with the help of illegal, electronic sign stealing, won the World Series. Tanking teams won't sign a mid-level free agent, leading to more teams being artificially bad. There's a compromise on this issue and both sides need to find it.

For baseball diehards such as me, the delay of the best season in sports is a teeth-gnashing development. Especially since, in my humble view, it's because the owners always -- always -- cry in their piles and piles of money about how the game is headed to Hades because the finances are "OUT OF CONTROL!!"

Terry Cannon
Editor



Well, your obedient servant here has proof positive the game is in fine fettle, and it is centered a couple of hundred miles to the west in Arlington.

Last week, those normally parsimonious Texas Rangers belled up to the free agent bar and spent -- wait for it -- more than \$500 MILLION on four players before the lockdown became official.

Now don't get me wrong. It pleased me to no end to see my favorite baseball team finally pry open its pocketbook and toss some coin in the general direction of genuine talent, who hopefully will speed up the journey back to respectability.

But is Rangers' ownership near bankruptcy? Hardly, and as is stated above, there are 500 million reasons why.

Since the Rangers last visited the World Series in 2011 (one of the most painful sports moments of my life after they lost to the Cardinals), they began a journey into the baseball wilderness. When the last vestiges of the talent that built two, back-to-back American League championships disappeared, the team has been bad.

Horrific in fact, as in 102-losses in 2021. Watching last year's team was about as much fun as a root canal.

So it seems the team's ownership was so mortified over last year's face plant that it decided to

practically print money to bring some real-world skill players -- headlined by a great shortstop in Corey Seager and a fabulous second baseman in Marcus Semien.

Which in my usual meandering way brings us back to the financial "crisis" espoused by baseball's owners.

As any dolt should be able to see (which is why its clear to me) how can a team such as the bottom-feeding Texas Rangers spend half a billion dollars on a few players if the industry is in terrible financial shape?

Answer? The game is not in terrible financial shape and the players are well within their rights to get as much of that financial pie as possible.

Which is why the lockout is so hypocritical.

The game is played by millionaires (average salary in 2021 was \$4.1 million per player, according to Statista). Of the estimated 1,955 players who signed contracts going into last season's final month, 112 earned \$10 million or more. Out of that number, 40 made at least \$20 million.

Billionaires, who are paying those salaries, have seen their investments in their specific teams increase exponentially during the past 25 years.

Somewhere in that enormous forest of green, there's a middle ground. It needs to be found. Soon.



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, Dec. 10, 2020

With the usual cast of characters performing admirably, the Lindale High School Eagles dispatched the Kilgore Bulldogs, 56-42, in Nacogdoches' Homer Bryce Stadium to win the Class 4A (Division I) Regional Championship.

With the win, Lindale moved into the state semifinals against LBJ Austin in Humble's Turner Stadium.

"A majority of people who play high school football don't get to do this," said LHS Head Coach Chris Cochran. "We keep telling our guys to soak everything up and stop for a second, take a breath and understand what it's all about."

Juggernaut Jordan Jenkins scored seven touchdowns, rushed for 269 yards on 40 carries and the Eagles' defense stymied the Bulldogs in the second half en route to the win.

With each playoff win, Lindale set a new standard for the school's football program. Until this year, the Eagles hadn't advanced past the Area playoff round.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Dec. 8, 2016

Despite the arrival of some wet weather, the holiday spirit wasn't dampened for Lindale residents as the annual Christmas in Lindale celebration, sponsored by the city of Lindale, was a rousing success.

Rainy weather forced the cancellation of the annual Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade.

But city officials forged ahead with the rest of the planned events for the Christmas Celebration.

Earlier in the day, the Lillie Russell Memorial Library hosted its annual Santa's Bake Shop and Holiday Extravaganza, where people could buy cookies donated by members of the community to benefit the local library.

Inside Picker's Pavilion, youngsters could meet with Santa Claus and discuss their Christmas wish list. After that, they could get their faces painted from Debz Fun Faces.

Keri's Dance Factory presented dance routines for the gathering, while the Lindale American Legion post served hot chocolate.

Vocal entertainment was supplied by Macy Dot Neal and JM Studios enabled those in attendance to capture their memories with photos.

10 YEARS AGO, Dec. 8, 2011

Lindale's Eagles dominated the All-District Team as selected by the 14-3A coaches with quarterback Clay Price being named the District's Most Valuable Player, junior running back Trey Acy named the Offensive Player of the Year, Donte Marsh was named Defensive Player of the Year, Micah Simmons and Sam Schomp were co-Offensive Linemen of the Year, Michael Stiles was Defensive Newcomer of the Year, Josiah Johnson was Kick/Punt Returner of the Year and Head Coach Mike Meador was selected Coach of the Year.

Lindale was 5-0 in district and 10-2 on the season. The Eagles advanced to the Class 3A Regionals before falling to Henderson, 56-20.

Navel maneuvers and loss of fame and fortune

I got a complaint the other day about this junk I write. I really am not good about takin' criticism, but I could understand this one, because I get criticized about it every once in a while.

The complaint was that I had not written about phone creatures for a while.

The reason I haven't written about them, is because I don't get as many as I used to, and most of the ones I get now are recordings. Do you know how hard it is to talk back to a recording?

I thought about recording myself sayin' somethin' and returnin' the call, and let whoever answered listen to my recording about their recording, but I haven't done that, yet.

By the way, for you out there who've not been readin' my junk for very long, and don't know what phone creatures are, I'll tell you.

Phone creatures are what I call those pesky phone solicitors that call durin' supper, or when you're watchin' somethin' good on TV. I like to have a little fun with them. Heck, it's only fair.

They're disturbin' me, so I just disturb them back.

Well, I was watchin' TV the other night, and the phone rang.

The caller ID came up and said some kind of somethin' that didn't ring a bell, so I figured it was a phone creature.

"Yellow," I said in the receiver. There was silence. "Yellow!" I said louder, and then I heard that faint little "click" that told me it was a phone creature.

"Hello, Mr. Mitchum?" the creature said.

"Speak up!" I said. "I'm half deaf."

"Mr. Mitchum!" the creature said loudly. "This is Dewey Havel with Sprint."

"Does my navel have lint?" I questioned.



"No, this is Dewey Havel with Sprint!"

"No, my navel don't have no lint. Does your nose have boogers?"

"Let me explain!" the creature said.

"OK," I said. "Not that it's any of your business, but I'll explain."

"Mr. Mitchum," the creature tried.

"The reason I ain't got no navel lint, is because I ain't got no navel."

"Listen Mr. Mitchum," he started, and then paused. "You don't have a navel?"

"I used to have," I said. "It was an innie. But then I started datin' girls and I was showin' out for this real purdy one, and so I was gonna show her how strong I was and I tried to lift the backend of my '57 Chevy. Well, I grabbed up under the back bumper and gave a mighty heave. Then somethin' popped in my belly. I looked down and my innie was now an outtie."

"Do what?" the creature said.

"Yep, not only was it an outtie, it was a big one. Stuck out about three or four inches. Well, I went to the doctor, and he said he could fix it with surgery, but when he told me how much it would cost, I told him to forget it."

"You're kidding me, right?" the creature said.

"Naw, I ain't kiddin'," I replied. "Oh, it took some gettin' used to, but after awhile it came in pretty handy. Like, for instance, when I was takin' a shower. I had a

place to hang the wash rag or my soap on a rope when I wasn't usin' them."

I shut up for a second to give the creature a chance to say somethin', but there was nothin' but silence on the other end.

"You still there?" I asked.

"Uh, yes sir," the creature said. "I'm sorry; I was picturing what you told me in my mind."

"Later," I continued with my story. "I tried to join the army, but they wouldn't take me because of my navel. They said I'd have a hard time crawlin' through the jungle on my belly. Either I'd leave a trail by diggin' a trench with my navel, or get hung up on a root, or somethin'."

"My big break came when they started the Break-Dancin' craze. Boy, howdy, you should have seen me then. I'd get to dancin', and then I'd drop down on my belly and start spinnin' on my navel. My arms and legs would be straight out and I'd just be a spinnin' like a top. I was quite a hit."

"You did this on your navel?"

"Yep, it was quite a sight. I traveled all over the country performin'." But ate stepped in and dropped on me like a ton of bricks."

"What happened?" the creature asked.

"Well, I was scheduled to go on the Ed Sullivan show, for my television debut, and I got in a crowded elevator.

When I got on the elevator there were so many people on there, I

had to squeeze in and turn around to fit. I was the last one in, so I was facin' the door. Well, when the doors closed, my navel got caught sandwiched in between them. You see, my navel was callused up and got hard from all the spinnin' and stuff. Well, we started up, and my navel started down. By the time we got halfway up to the next floor, my navel had been snapped off."

"You are kidding?" the creature said.

"Yep, snapped right off. And you know it left my belly just as smooth as a baby's bottom. Not even a dent."

"That's amazing," the creature said.

"What's amazin' is, that's how I met my wife."

"How so?"

"She was outside the elevator when it broke off, and she grabbed it and she searched and searched lookin' at bellies tryin' to find the one without a navel. Then one day, she came to my house where I was havin' to work for my wicked stepmother and two evil stepsisters, and she tried the navel on me and it fit, and I was miraculously transformed into a handsome prince, and we lived happily ever after."

The creature was silent.

"You still there?" I asked.

"You are a sick man, do you know that?" he said.

"Do you want to hear about my fairy godmother?" I asked, and he hung up.

I was chucklin' to myself as I hung up the phone, and then I stopped. I had a really weird feelin' I was bein' watched. Slowly, I turned around. There starin' at me intently was my wife Janet.

"What?" I said.

"Rusty," she said. "You are not right, do you know that?"

I smiled. "Want to play with my navel?"

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Take advantage of pine needles for your mulch

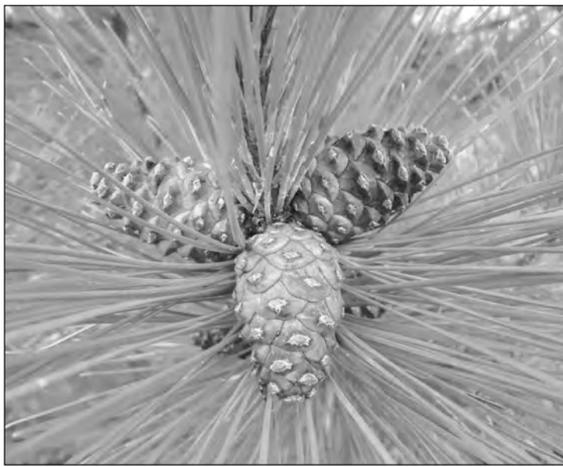
By Greg Grant
Smith County Horticulturist

One of the best methods of growing healthy plants and conserving water at the same time is to use mulch in the landscape.

Experienced gardeners have long known the secret of mulching the garden and all its benefits.

What is mulch?

It's simply a protective ground covering that conserves water, prevents erosion, controls weeds, moderates soil temperatures, and in the case of organic mulches, enriches the soil.



Mulches can be classified as organic or inorganic. The organic mulches are most popular and include straw, leaves, bark, compost and pine needles, the best and most attractive of all in my opinion.

A big advantage of mulching is it reduces soil moisture loss through evaporation. The insulating quality of mulch helps to keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

By maintaining more even soil moisture and temperature, mulch promotes better root growth. Erosion control also is important, especially in steep areas.

Mulch helps to reduce rain, which helps prevent the spread of plant disease. Mulch also suppresses the growth of many weeds. A 4-inch layer of organic mulch should be sufficient to prevent sunlight from reaching the soil, thereby reducing the chance of weed growth.

It's important however to use a coarse mulch so that weed seeds don't germinate in the mulch itself. Mulches should not be piled up against the trunks of plants, but rather form a donut around the base of trees and shrubs.

Another benefit of organic mulches is that they enrich the soil as they decay, forming a rich, dark organic material called humus that provides slow-release nutrients for the soil and improves its texture.

Finally, mulch has aesthetic value. The uniform quality of most mulches when added to the garden floor serves much the same aesthetic purpose as a carpet in a home.

Typical mulches in East Texas:
Bark: This mulch is the most widely available. Barks are available in bags or can be purchased some places in bulk. Bark is relatively easy to apply, but overly coarse nuggets tend to float away in heavy rains. Shredded pine is the most common, but cypress is also available.

Compost: You can make your own compost or buy it. The lack of uniformity may make it less attractive in exposed areas. Unfortunately weeds seeds tend to germinate in the decomposing mulch itself.

Pine Needles: Pine needles make an outstanding mulch and are used in high quality landscapes from East Texas to the East Coast. They are long lasting, don't wash away, and look natural due to our plethora of pines in East Texas.

I use pine needles in my own landscape. There is nothing better for roses and azaleas. Folks in Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio think pine needles are magic and give them credit for many of our beautiful shrubs here.

Since organic mulches decompose over time, they will need to be replenished or replaced periodically. It's a good idea to check the garden every fall and spring and renew areas where the mulch has gotten thin. There is no need to remove the old and replace with new mulch, since soil organisms will work the decomposing organic matter into the soil, increasing the health of the soil.

Greg Grant is the Smith County horticulturist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

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903-882-5381

Hopewell Valley Baptist, Church No 1
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Friday, Nov. 26, 2021

Officer Ramsey responded to an assist smith county at 18200 block FM 16 W, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to an accident at 100 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 554 E I-20, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a public service at 17400 block Stacy St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a found property at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Philpot, Ramsey and Wedgeworth responded to a disturbance at 100 block Hudson St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officers Gillham and Wedgeworth responded to a warrant service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made.

Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021

Officer Trombley and Officer Allen responded to a warrant service at 556 W I-20, report taken. Officer Trombley and Officer Allen responded to a business alarm at 1400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Allen responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Officer Trombley and Officer Allen responded to a suspicious circumstance at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious vehicle at 21200 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a harassment at 15400 block Anna Ln, settled at scene.

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021

Officer Trombley and Officer Shurley responded to a possession of drug paraphernalia at 100 block N Main St, citation issued. Officer Trombley responded to a welfare concern at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious circumstance at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a loud noise complaint at 300 block Brazier St, unfounded. Officer

Monday, Nov. 29, 2021

Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a public



service at Chief Somes block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Sgt Houghton responded to a loud noise complaint at 600 block Fruitdale St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Trombley responded to a warrant service at 200 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Shurley responded to an accident at Chief Somes block S Main St, report taken. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Shelly Ln, unfounded. Officer Capps and Officer Shurley responded to an assist smith county at 19700 block CR 4118, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to an assist smith co at 17200 block Oak Dr, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to an assist smith county at 13900 block FM 2710, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious circumstance at 500 block Circle Dr, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officers Jackquet and Shurley responded to a disturbance at 15300 block FM 16 W, unfounded. Officer Jackquet responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to an abandoned vehicle at 554 E I-20, settled at scene.

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021

Officer Trombley responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, false alarm. Sgt Houghton and Officer Trombley responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main ST, report taken. Sgt Flores responded to a public service at 300 block Helen Dr, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Lt Lazarine and Officers Trombley and Shurley responded to an assist other agency at 700 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet and Officer Capps responded to a criminal mischief at 2700 block S Main St, report taken.

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021

Sgt Flores and Officers Philpot and Ramsey responded to a warrant service at 19900 block CR 4104, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a suspicious circumstance at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to a disturbance at 300 block N College St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at Sgt Dworaczyk Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 2400 block S Main St, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to an assist other agency at 600 block Fruitdale St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a warrant service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a disturbance at 13700 block Harvey Rd, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to an assist other agency at 800 block Brownwood Cir, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a business alarm at 55 block Miranda Lambert Way, false alarm. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a failure to identify at 12100 block I-20 W, arrest made.

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021

Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious person at 15900 block CR 4191, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a criminal mischief at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Officer Fortunas and Officer Ramsey responded to a stolen property at 18400 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a lost property at 900 block S Main St, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to a possession of controlled substance at 200 block Margaret St, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to a suspicious person at 400 block Arthur St, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 200 block N Main St, report taken. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a found property at 3300 block S Main St, report taken. Chief Somes responded to a public service at 50 block Miranda Lambert Way, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a suspicious person at 1600 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 100 block W Hubbard St, settled at scene.

County Records veteran honored for her service

Longtime Smith County employees were recognized during Commissioners Court Tuesday, Nov. 30, for their years of service said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Sandra Lyles has worked for the Smith County Records Services Department for 30 years and is the assistant director.

Smith County Records Services Director Keith Buckner said he appreciates Lyle's hard work and loyalty she has given to the county over three decades of service.

"I love the history of Smith County," Lyles said of why she enjoys working there.

The Records Department have historical records dating back to 1846, when Smith County was formed.

Lyles began her career there in November 1991, as a microfilm clerk, filming district civil documents, before computers were installed in the Records Department.

"My duties involve helping the public, as well as county personnel, obtain and find court documents, retrieve and check out court cases to various courts," she said. "The thing I enjoy the most about working for Smith County is helping customers who are having a difficult time trying to locate certain court documents. It is a good feeling when you have customers leave your office feeling relieved and happy. That lets me know that I have done my job well."

Lyles said as long as she is in good health, she doesn't have any plans to retire anytime soon.

20 YEARS

Glenda Whisenhunt has worked for Smith County



Keith Buckner, director of the Smith County Records Services, helped recognize Sandra Lyles during a recent county commissioners' meeting for her 30 years of service to the county. (Courtesy photo)

for 20 years.

She began in April 2001, as a part-time case aide for the Juvenile Services Department and in November 2001, began working full-time as a criminal deputy clerk for County Clerk's Office.

In April 2002, she went back to Juvenile Services as a full-time administrative assistant. Her duties there have included: appointed data coordinator, personnel administrative assistant, and now H.O.P.E. Academy administrative assistant.

Juvenile Services Director Ross Worley said Whisenhunt is the most organized person he has ever met in his life.

"She is a super great co-worker and an excellent friend so Glenda, congratulations," he said.

Whisenhunt said what she enjoys most about working for Juvenile Services are the people with whom she works.

"Juvenile Services has a close knit 'work family' that makes work enjoyable," she said. "I have always been encouraged to take on tasks that challenge me and I have learned a lot about myself and my abilities."

Whisenhunt hopes to retire this coming year to spend more time with her dad and family.

15 YEARS

Smith County Court at Law No. 2 Judge Taylor Heaton was recognized for 15 years of service with the county.

Heaton began his career at the Smith County District Attorney's Office after becoming licensed as an attorney in November 2006.

In 2009, he was assigned to the juvenile prosecutions division of the DA's Office and worked closely with Smith County juvenile probation, law enforcement, and the Smith County Court at Law No. 3.

During that time, he oversaw the prosecutions of all high-risk juvenile cases for the county and was also responsible for handling the certification and transfer hearings for juvenile offenders whose offenses made them eligible to be tried as adults.

In 2018, Heaton announced his candidacy for the Smith County Court at Law No. 2, a seat for-

merly occupied by retired Judge Randall Rogers. Heaton ran unopposed in the Republican Primary and general election and was sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2019.

Since then, he has proudly served the citizens of Smith County, presiding over criminal misdemeanors, family law, and general civil matters. Heaton also presides over the Veteran's Court of Smith County.

"I am truly honored and blessed to have worked for Smith County for 15 years," he said. "It is my pleasure to be able serve the citizens and help make Smith County a safe and great place to live. I am proud to assist and help everyone have access to our court system."

Heaton said the highlights of his career have been working with the Juvenile Court, presiding over the County Court at Law No. 2, serving the Smith County Veteran's Court, and being able to grant adoptions.

"I look forward to many more years of service to our County," he said.

County Court at Law No. 3 Judge Floyd Getz said he worked with Heaton for more than nine years when Heaton was a prosecutor in his Juvenile Court.

"He was a great prosecutor and he is a great judge," Getz said. "I'm very happy that he is doing what he is doing right now."

Other Smith County employees celebrating work anniversaries who were not present in court include Kalisha Boyd, 20 years at the Auditor's Office; and Jennifer Carnley, five years at the Sheriff's Office.

New U.S. Attorney for Eastern District takes oath

Brit Featherston has taken the oath of office to become the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, said publicity spokesperson Davilyn Walston.

Featherston was appointed to the position by Attorney General Merrick Garland and took the oath of office from Chief U.S. District Judge Rodney Gilstrap.

Featherston will replace former Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District Nicholas J. Ganjei, who stepped down on Nov. 16.

Ganjei began his term on Jan. 20, 2021.

"This is my home; serving and protecting the great citizens of East Texas has been my priority for a long time and it will continue into the future," said U.S. Attorney Featherston. "I am blessed to work with a dedicated team of professionals who make it their daily mission to protect the citizens of this great country. I also look forward to jointly working with our law enforcement partners who bravely protect our communities every day."

Featherston, 61, of Lumberton, is the chief federal law enforcement official in the Eastern District of Texas, which includes 43 counties stretching from the

Oklahoma border to the Gulf of Mexico.

The district includes six fully staffed offices in Beaumont, Plano, Tyler, Sherman, Texarkana, and Lufkin with 120 employees, including 60 prosecutors.

Featherston is responsible for the prosecution of federal criminal offenses in the district and will represent the United States in all civil litigation in the district.

Since joining the office in 1996, Featherston has served in the capacity of First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, and supervisory U.S. Attorney.

He was also appointed Acting United States Attorney in September 2016 and

served in that capacity for 17 months. In January 2018, Featherston became the Justice Attaché for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In addition to prosecuting high-profile cases such as the dragging death of James Byrd, Jr., in Jasper County, Featherston has been instrumental in crisis management operations during numerous Southeast Texas hurricanes, as well as assisting in the establishment of a command post and the investigation and prosecution of crimes related to the space shuttle crash in 2003 in Lufkin.

Featherston was honored to have former United States Attorney Malcolm

Bales and his brother, Tom Featherston, by his side as he took his oath of office from Judge Gilstrap.

Wife Amy and son Ben joined the ceremony by video from Texas Children's Hospital in Houston where Ben has been in ICU since Sep. 30th recovering from a sudden illness.

Ben is a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin and daughter, Anna, is a senior at Texas A&M University in College Station.

For more information about the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Texas, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx>.

BBB urges caution with pop-up shops

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some retailers started turning to outdoor pop-up shops and, while in-store shopping is back, the pop-ups are not likely to go away yet.

These temporary storefronts allow property owners with a way to fill vacant retail space and provide shoppers with a fun way to browse in-person in an open area.

"We receive hundreds of complaints about temporary retail locations every year," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas said. "Reporting everything from poor quality merchandise to difficulty obtaining refunds, unfortunately, consumers have little recourse after temporary shops have closed their doors."

While it is wonderful to support a small local vendor, it is important to consider the following when purchasing from pop-up shops:

Research the company. BBB reviews all businesses, even seasonal ones. Perform a quick check of the company's BBB Profile by going to bbb.org, review the company's rating and customer experience history.

Question the store's stability. If you are purchasing from a seasonal store, ask whether it will be open after the holiday and whether it will accept returns when the season is over. If not, consider buying elsewhere or taking more time to be sure the item is exactly what you want before making the purchase.

Purchase in-stock items only. BBB often receives complaints about items purchased in a temporary shop which are personalized. When the consumer returns to pick up the item, the shop is no where to be found. If you are considering a personalized item, never make the full

payment until you have the item in hand, and it is to your satisfaction.

Review purchase policies. Determine the company's refund and return policies before you buy. If pop-up shops cannot offer concrete commitments on how they will handle any potential problems you may have with their products or services, reconsider doing business with them.

Shop around. While Pop-ups often focus on unique or high-quality gifts which you may not find elsewhere, some are simply mini versions of discount retailers, offering holiday-themed goods which may be available for less at a traditional retailer.

Pay attention to quality. Occasionally, pop-ups sell counterfeit products, so be cautious when purchasing designer goods or the latest "must have" gift. Prices that are dramatically lower than regular retail stores may be a red flag that the items are either stolen or counterfeit. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Understand the terms and service guarantees. If you are purchasing anything which comes with a manufacturer's warranty, inquire about how the product will be serviced if needed and what the cost, if any, might be.

Pay with a credit card. Paying with a credit card can provide additional protections if there are problems and the retailer disappears. Make sure you hang on to the receipt to match it against your credit card statement.

Consider whether the gift is for a hard-to-please recipient. If you are planning a gift for someone who might need or want to return it,

consider buying from a retailer with a long-standing business, strong reputation, and well-established return policies, instead of a pop-up shop. Whenever possible, ask for a gift receipt that would make a return or exchange easier, if necessary.

For more holiday tips, visit the BBB Holiday Tips page. For other tips on how to be a savvy consumer, go to bbb.org. To report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices, please call BBB at 903-581-5704 or use BBB ScamTracker.

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Lindale boys begin season with two straight wins

Starting off the season on the right foot, Lindale High School's boys basketball team collected wins against Dallas Thomas Jefferson (Nov. 13) and Marshall (Nov. 16) before falling to Huntington on Nov. 20 in its home opener.

The Eagles then rebounded to defeat Whitehouse on Nov. 22 and Sabine on No. 23. Both of those games were in the LHS gym.

Lindale 73,

Thomas Jefferson 20

One of Dallas' most revered basketball venues, Loos Fieldhouse, was the site for the Eagles season-opening win over the Patriots.

The Patriots' program has been severely tested in the past couple of seasons, with a tornado destroying the high school in 2019 and COVID shutting down the program last year, but Lindale Head Coach Chris Grotemat is certain the program will regain its luster sooner than later.

"The consensus is (TJ) is poised to take a monumental step forward this year after winning just three games in the past two years," Grotemat said in the aftermath of his team's decisive victory. "Our guys did a tremendous job from the opening jump to the final buzzer."

Walter Smith led the charge early, connecting on 4 first half three pointers Justin Farris played with force and confidence, scoring 7 of his 14 points in the early moments as the Eagles cruised to a 37-8 half time lead.

"This was a contest where we could have gotten away with a lot of bad habits-quick shots, gambling for steals, etc., but the boys avoided those traps," Grotemat said.

Colby Wood got it going in the third period, scoring 6 of his 8 points in the period. Cole Collinsworth scored 8 and dished out 5 assists in his varsity debut.

Masen Rainey and freshman Ayden Pierson, also in their first varsity games, combined for 9 points in the fourth period.

"I am very proud of the way that our young men handled this experience," Grotemat said. "It was an honor to compete in the historic Dallas arena, and obviously, our team had quite a showing."

Lindale 45 Marshall 30

A 23-point first period set the tone for a big first half as Lindale knocked off Marshall's Mavericks in Marshall.

The Eagles' eye from the perimeter was keen as Taegan Terry knocked down three from outside, Colby Wood contributed two more and Ryder Johnson chipped in with one as Lindale raced out to an early lead.

Defensively, Lindale clamped down on the Mavericks, holding the hosts to just one of 8 shooting while forcing six turnovers.

The Eagles took a 33-21 lead to intermission.

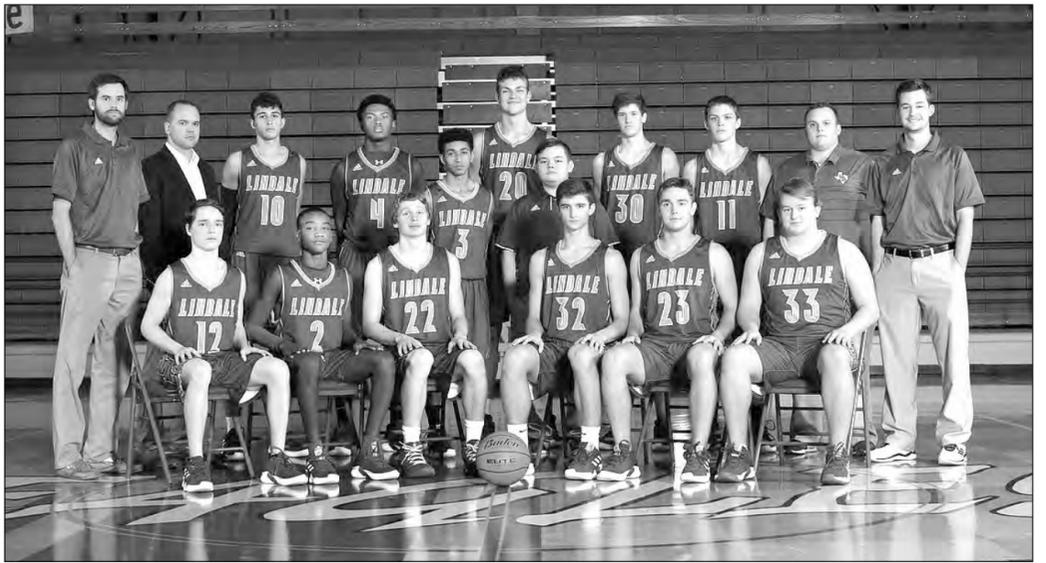
Under pressure from the Marshall defenders, Lindale went just 5 of 17 from the floor in the second half and turned it over 8 times.

"Our kids can learn a lot from this game tape," Grotemat said. "Early in the season, film sessions are every bit, maybe even more valuable, than actual practice reps."

Huntington 68,

Lindale 63 (OT)

The 2021-22 home opener didn't go as planned for the Eagles as the Huntington



Red Devils secured a 68-63 overtime win on Nov. 20.

"I think we stand to learn some lessons from the breakdowns we experienced that could propel our team to greater heights," Grotemat said about the setback.

Lindale hit the ground running in the first period as Taegan Terry found Ryder Johnson on a run out in transition for a quick layup and 30 seconds later, the senior point guard found Walter Smith for another transition layup.

Colby Wood scored on a slick back cut in a half-court offense, and it appeared as though the rout was on.

The Eagles owned a 20-10 lead after one period, but Huntington came alive in the second quarter with 19 points, 7

of those coming from 6-8 senior post Mark Turner.

Grotemat said his club was settling for "good shots, when one more pass would have resulted in a great shot."

Lindale went to halftime down, 29-28, the first time it was trailing at intermission in the young season.

"We played hard throughout the contest, but Huntington, frankly, just played a little bit harder," said Grotemat. "That is not a jab at our boys-but we have another gear or two at which they can play and we are going to have to get comfortable outside of our comfort zone in order to reach it."

After trailing by 11 in the third period, Lindale ran off six unanswered points to trim the deficit to five entering the final

quarter.

Lindale sophomore Cole Collinsworth turned up his game in the fourth and along with contributions from Colby Wood and Taegan Terry, the Eagles began trading baskets with the Red Devils.

With time running out in the fourth and the Eagles down by two, Walter Smith, while being knocked to the floor by a Huntington defender, hoisted a three-point try. Fortunately for the Eagles, Collinsworth was there to put in the rebound to tie the game and send it to overtime.

The Eagles did not make a field goal in overtime, settling for contested jumpers. Lindale also sent the visitors to the free throw line 10 times in the extra period, sinking 7 to seal the game.



Lindale City Councilman Rick Thelan waves to the crowd during the Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade which was held on Saturday. (Photo by Terry Cannon)



Youngsters gladly scooped up candy tossed from Santa's "elves" during the Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade held on Saturday. (Photo by Terry Cannon)



Keri's Dance Factory was represented at the Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade held Saturday. (Photo by Terry Cannon)

Junior High girls take three from Bullard

The Lindale Junior High School girls' basketball teams took three of four games against Bullard Junior High on Monday night.

The 7th grade B team won, 13-8; the 7th grade A team took a 28-13 win; the 8th grade B team pounded the Lady Panthers, 28-3 and the 8th grade A team fell, 34-5.

For the 7th grade B team, Emory Philpott-Cook was the leading scorer, while Cambry Andreason was the leading rebounder. Kyndal Thurmon was the leader in assists and steals.

Emma Watkins, Tessa Dennis and Ella Hutchens were the leading scorers for the 7th grade A team, while Ella Hutchens and Emma Watkins

were the leading rebounders. Madison Devisscher led in assists and Ava Grogan was the team leader in steals.

For the 8th grade B team, Abigail Hanley, Abigail Kelley and Abigale Palecek were the leading rebounders while Kaniya Pierce was the leading scorer. Alena Garza, Kaniya Pierce, Mayzie Piccoli and Abigale Prestridge were the leaders in assists. Alena Garza, Mayzie Piccoli and Kaniya Pierce led in steals.

Sadie Arriola was the leading scorer for the 8th grade A team, Alyssa Potts was the leading rebounder and Abigail Lee was the leader in steals.

"Donuts with Santa" to benefit Project Graduation at LHS

"Donuts with Santa," a benefit for Lindale High School's Project Graduation, is scheduled for 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Lindale First United Methodist Church's gymnasium, officials announced.

Cost is \$8 and will include donuts, drinks, ornaments, crafts and pictures with Santa.

Youngsters under the age of one will be free.

For tickets, log on to ticketfairy.com/event/donuts-with-santa-lhs-pg22.

Warm, dry winter in forecast for state

By Adam Russell
Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service

Conditions are drying around much of Texas, and forecasts are calling for winter weather to be warmer and drier than average.

Commodity producers in much of the state, including the High Plains, experienced a banner year in 2021 due to high commodity prices and above-average precipitation that started in May and delivered timely moisture throughout the growing season.

But soil moisture levels are declining in parts of the state, and the 2022 growing season could hinge on winter weather replenishing topsoil and subsoils or another round of timely summer rains to save the day.

Jourdan Bell, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist, Amarillo, said drought conditions are expanding throughout

the High Plains. The region has not received significant precipitation since September while above-average temperatures were exacerbating soil moisture level declines.

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of the High Plains, West Texas and East Texas are in extreme drought to abnormally dry. West Central, Central and Coastal parts of the state are not experiencing drought, according to the monitor.

A strong La Niña weather pattern is expected this winter, which often means less rainfall and warmer temperatures for the Southwest, including much of Texas.

"Soil moisture indexes are drying out and that is definitely a concern moving into winter and spring," Bell said. "We are continuing to hear weather conditions are expected to be warmer and drier than average, and so moisture could be a challenge for producers looking to make 2022 cropping decisions."

UT Health officials provide tips on how to deal with bladder issues

By UT Health East Texas
Communications

Bladder issues are still a sensitive health subject people tend to avoid talking about – even with their physician. However, issues like urinary incontinence, bladder infections and urinary tract infections are common and may be helped with simple lifestyle changes.

One way to improve bladder health is to modify your diet. Certain foods and liquids can irritate conditions and should be avoided, while other foods can help.

Read the tips below and test them out to improve your bladder health.

Cut Out or Limit

Some beverages and foods contain properties that irritate our bladders. Try cutting out potential irritants for a week and then adding one back into your diet every two or so days.

Take note of any bladder changes when you reintroduce a food or drink back into your diet.

Avoid alcohol and beverages that contain caffeine. Even carbonated beverages, with and without caffeine, can have a negative impact on your bladder health.

Citrus fruits, spicy foods, chocolate and tomato-based products can all irritate your

bladder.

Find Your Perfect Hydration Level

Staying hydrated is important for overall health but is a large component in bladder and urinary tract health.

Water is best for bladder health and should be at least half of the liquid you consume. However, if you have an overactive bladder, increasing fluid intake means you will have to urinate more often.

Talk with your physician about how much water you should be consuming per day. He or she can recommend not only amounts, but when you should be

drinking water.

Remember that adding citrus fruits, artificial flavors or carbonation to water could counteract some of the benefits.

Stay Regular

Constipation is always aggravating and can be even worse for those with bladder issues. Straining during bowel movements can put extra stress on the pelvic floor and cause damage.

Prevent constipation naturally by getting enough fiber in your diet. Foods like fresh vegetables (green peas, broccoli, brussels sprouts), beans, lentils, fruits (raspberries, pears, apples), quinoa, oat-

meal and whole wheat pasta have high amounts of fiber.

Having to cut out your morning cup of coffee or favorite spaghetti sauce may seem drastic, but remember that you may only need to cut out a few things or limit amounts.

Take time to test what irritates your symptoms and discuss issues with your physician. Keep track of your bladder habits and discuss options for improving the health of your bladder.

For more information and to find a urologist near you, visit <https://uthealth-easttexas.com/services/urology>.

UT Health officials announce prostate seminar Dec. 21

UT Health East Texas is offering a free, virtual seminar at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, publicity officials announced.

The seminar will feature a presentation titled Asking for a Friend: What all Men Should Know about their Prostate by Steven Lomax, MD, urologist with UT Health East Urology in Tyler and Jacksonville.

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

When you register, you will also have the chance to submit a question in advance through the message box. The presentation will premiere on our 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.



Singer, songwriter Mosley to appear at Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church

Singer, songwriter and storyteller Daryl Mosley is scheduled to appear in concert at 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12 at Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church, organizers announced.

The church is located at 13090 County Road 434 in Lindale.

Mosley has been performing for more than 30 years and has earned three Song of the Year awards and has been named Songwriter of the Year twice.

The concert is free to the public but a love offering will be taken.

For additional information, contact Patty Lindley at 502 262-0428.



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Neyland McCrary, Deceased, were issued on December 1, 2021, in Cause No. 45,853P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: BRENDA CROUCH MCCRARY.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Kyle G. Waggoner, Attorney at Law, at PO Box 1152, Mineola, Texas, 75773.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by Lindale Cannery Hotel, LP d/b/a Springhill Suites located at 505 N Main Street, Lindale, Smith County, Texas 75771. Cannery Tradition, LLC - General Partner; Thomas Kirkland - Managing Member of General Partner.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's Off-Premise Permit by Lindale Cannery Hotel, LP d/b/a Springhill Suites located at 505 N Main Street, Lindale, Smith County, Texas 75771. Cannery Tradition, LLC - General Partner; Thomas Kirkland - Managing Member of General Partner.

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Lindale Independent School District Request for Quotes

Lindale ISD is seeking quotes from approved vendors of the Texas Buy Board or Region 7 Vendor Co-op for furniture in new additions of the Early Childhood Campus and College Street Elementary.

Scope of work includes 14-16 classrooms and auxiliary areas to be delivered in late July, 2022.

Quotes will be received by Lindale ISD at the following location: Administration Building, 505 Pierce St., Lindale, TX 75771. Quotes received after specified date and time will not be accepted.

Specifications may be obtained from Deputy Superintendent Jamie Holder at 903-881-4001, or by email at holderjt@lisdeagles.net

Quote Due DATE AND TIME: January 5th, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

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Aug. 15-21, 2022

New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour ▶ Home games for New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ.
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Bob's Baseball Tours - Field of Dreams Tour Aug. 15-21, 2022: Home games for Chicago (Cubs/White Sox), Brewers and Twins. Also a visit to the Field of Dreams movie site. Tour begins/ends in Minnesota. New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2022: Home games for New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ. Tours include deluxe motor coach transportation, additional sightseeing opportunities and quality game tickets/hotels. Call for a FREE brochure: 507-217-1326.

AUCTIONS

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What is the value of real Christmas trees in Texas

Christmas trees have been a tradition in the United States for over a century and today, when most families begin searching for the perfect Christmas tree, it comes down to one question – real or artificial? While there are many pros and cons to having a real or artificial tree during the holiday season, one thing is certain – real Christmas trees add great value to both the national and state economies.

“There’s just something special about having a real Christmas tree around during the holidays,” said Aaron Stottlemyer, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Resource Analyst. “Not only are they beloved for the authenticity they bring to celebrations, but they add so much value to our economy and benefit the environment.”
When it comes to Christmas tree farms, many



‘Tis the season

City of Lindale utility workers have been busy this week installing Christmas decorations along Main Street. The festive touch will adorn a good number of the light poles up and down Main Street and help build holiday cheer for the season.

Photo by Terry Cannon

might think of northern states, covered in white, glistening snow. Actually, Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, almost 350 million Christmas trees are currently growing on 15,000 tree farms across the country, covering 350,000 acres.

For the Lone Star State, Dr. R. R. Childers was the first on record to plant Christmas trees in 1935 in Jasper, Texas. And since the 1970s, entities such as Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M University and Stephen F. Austin University have been working on growing optimal species in the state to increase production and sales for Christmas tree growers. The most commonly grown trees in Texas are Virginia pine, Afghan pine, eastern redcedar, shortleaf pine, Arizona cypress and Leyland cypress.

These species thrive in Texas soils and tend to be hardy, fast-growing trees. They also contribute to the state’s economy, by providing jobs and income to Texans.

Artificial trees made of PVC plastic became fashionable in the 1980s, but even as they have grown in popularity over the last 40 years, real Christmas tree sales remain higher across the nation. On average, Texas sells over four million real Christmas trees per year, about 12% of the U.S. total. And while you can

purchase trees from large retail stores, many tree sales come from local growers.

“Texans can take pride when purchasing real Christmas trees,” said Stottlemyer. “By purchasing real Christmas trees, they are supporting local growers and benefitting rural Texas economies.”

Texas A&M Forest Service recently conducted an economic study showing just how much value the real Christmas tree industry adds to the state. Including total direct impacts and all other ancillary industry activities, in 2020 the Christmas tree industry generated over \$800 million and supported nearly 7,000 jobs with a payroll of \$260 million.

When contrasted with artificial Christmas trees, the nation and state do not see nearly the economic benefits as provided by real trees, as they are largely manufactured in foreign countries.

“Unlike artificial Christmas trees, the real Christmas tree industry has a continuous cycle of economic benefit for our state,” said Stottlemyer. “There is a significant domestic economic impact from real Christmas trees considering that they are planted, managed, harvested, processed, transported and sold only to start the entire cycle again by planting new seedlings each year.”

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