

Lindale News & Times

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1900"



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Vote-by-mail rejections are testing voting law

By The Texas Tribune

With less than a month left to vote by mail in the March primary election, hundreds of applications for mail-in ballots are being rejected as both Texas voters and local election officials decipher new ID requirements enacted by Republican lawmakers.

Barely started down the path toward the first elections conducted under voting restrictions enacted last year by Republican lawmakers, Texas voters and local election officials have found themselves enveloped in a fog of errors, delays and miscommunications as they navigate new rules for casting votes by mail.

Only a small slice of the state's electorate is allowed to cast absentee ballots, and the trickle of requests for mail-in ballots that began in early January is now swelling into the usual pre-election flood.

But hundreds of applications are being rejected — in many cases because voters appear to not know the new rules. Local election workers themselves are still deciphering the procedures, and say they've been hampered by a paucity of help and information from the Texas secretary of state's office. Meanwhile, the state is scrambling to provide training under the crush of advising counties on implementing a multitude of election changes.

"We are bombarded," said Yvonne Ramon, the Hidalgo County elections administrator. "To try to review Senate Bill 1 alone was a monster, and it wasn't just on us. It was on the state. It was on every [election official] at every level."

Signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in September, the voting law known as Senate Bill 1 contained an array of new restrictions on the state's voting process and narrowed local control of elections.

Among its many provisions — and the earliest to be tested — are new rules for voting by mail. Absentee voters are now required to include a state identification number like a driver's license number or a partial Social Security number on their applications for a mail-in ballot. Those numbers must match information in a voter's record or their application will be rejected.

Regular mail-in voters must submit new applications each year, and when counties began accepting them this year, the rejection rates were staggering. Hundreds of applications were deficient, in some cases missing an ID number. In other cases, voters had listed a number that didn't appear to be on file with the local elections office.

The secretary of state's office has been working to backfill its records to include both driver's license numbers and Social Security numbers for most voters, but various Texas counties — including some of the state's largest — did not know they were supposed to check the state's database along with their own when trying to validate an application.



School Board Appreciation Month

Each January school boards across Texas are honored with School Board Appreciation Month. The Lindale ISD Trustees, who oversee one of the top school districts in the state, are from left Gary Camp, Brooks Beeler, Robert McGee, Mike Combs, Karen Gott, Ragan Burgess and Donny Williams.

Courtesy photo

Celebrating School Board Recognition Month

Each January, we honor the community volunteers who serve on their local school boards. The 2022 School Board Recognition theme is Rising Above, which is especially apt right now, given that many school board members are facing unprecedented challenges in trying to navigate controversial topics in K-12 education.

In recognition of School Board Recognition Month, a proclamation was issued by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The proclamation cites school boards as a key part of Texas education. "They work with parents, education professionals, and community members to create successful learning environments for our students. Our school boards continue to be instrumental as they tackle new challenges for Texas public schools and serve the ever-evolving needs of our students," it reads.

"School boards are essential to a strong public education system," Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Executive Director Dan Troxell said. "They provide the local governance and oversight that makes it possible for school districts to serve students, including establishing a strategic plan, adopting policies, approving a budget and selecting and evaluating a superintendent. It's fitting that we celebrate them in January as their leadership is key to the success of every school district in Texas."

With school boards in the news more than ever, School Board Recognition Month this January shouldn't just be business as usual.

"We think it's a perfect opportunity to recognize our school board members for their hard work and commit-



ment to improving outcomes for students across the state," Troxell said. "It's also the right time to remind everyone about the important role school boards have in the governance and oversight of public education."

"With all the headlines, it would be easy to get the wrong impression of what school boards actually do," Troxell said. "Here at TASB, we want to bring the focus back to the key work of our volunteer school board members, who are elected to help their districts establish a strategic plan, create budgets, adopt policies, and select and evaluate their superintendent."

Troxell urged school districts across the state to help get that message out.

Online payment for property taxes urged by Jan. 31 deadline

Smith County Tax Assessor-Collector Gary Barber is reminding property owners that taxes are due at the end of this month, and he is urging people to pay online, said public information officer Casey Murphy.

Barber noted payments can be made easier than ever this year as taxpayers can scan the QR code on their statement, which will then lead to the payment page on their account.

"I think it will be a game changer in how people pay their property taxes," Barber said.

The Tax Office mailed out 177,175 property tax statements in October, and Monday, Jan. 31 is the deadline for paying them.

In addition to the online method taxpayers can make their payments in person, through the Tax Office's drop-box at the Cotton Belt Building, or by mail (it must be

postmarked on or before Jan. 31, to be accepted as an on-time payment through the mail).

Barber said for those who want to pay in-person at the Tax Office, should expect long lines and wait times.

Taxpayers are encouraged to go online at publictax.smith-county.com to pay their tax bills with debit or credit card or e-check, which is the easiest and fastest way to pay, Barber said.

When you pay online with an e-check (bank account and routing numbers are needed), it is free. You can skip the line at the Tax Office and do not have to pay postage or credit card fees.

It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to make sure all accounts are included and banking information is correct to avoid additional fees.

Barber asked that when dropping off property tax payments in

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

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

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

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

Once delinquent, 7 percent penalties and interest are added to what is due. Those fees increase

Council OKs Sanderson abatement

A tax abatement and a performance agreement with the Lindale Economic Development Corporation for Sanderson Farms was approved by Lindale City Council members Tuesday night in City Hall.

Sanderson Farms, one of the leading chicken processors in the nation, has been in full operation at the Lindale Business Park since 2019.

The Lindale facility serves as a hatchery for the birds, which are then shipped to a processing plant in Winona. The feed for the chicks is from a facility in Mineola.

The tax abatement agreed to with Sanderson Farms when the company decided on these East Texas locations included several goals the company had to meet such as a certain number of employees and other related items.

LEDC President Susan Gill told the council that Sanderson is required to have a workforce of at least 75 people and that the company has 125 employees.

East Texas economic development officials — which included those from Smith County, the Tyler Economic Development Council and the cities of Lindale, Mineola and Winona — estimated the 10-year economic impact for the area would be in the neighborhood of \$1.43 billion when the company announced its intention to locate to the East Texas area.

Gill said the company has qualified for a \$125,000 abatement for 2021 from the LEDC.

In other action the council:
● Adopted a distracted driving policy and a seat belt usage policy for the city of Lindale. There has been a policy on the city's books for several years, but this action is required to be eligible for grants from the Federal government.

● Approved the city audit for fiscal year 2020-21. Kevin Cashion of the CPA firm Gollob Morgan Peddy in Tyler presented the audit

Continued on Page 2

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



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THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Where Have All the People Gone?

The Census Bureau recently released population estimates by state for the period from July 2020 to July 2021. The total US population scarcely changed, but there were seismic regional shifts. Let's take a quick tour.



The Northeast lost nearly 366,000 residents and the Midwest lost almost 94,000. The South increased by over 816,000, and the West gained 34,000. The perennial lure of the Sun Belt endures.

The Texas population grew far more than any other state, up over 310,000 for the year. Florida (211,000), Arizona (98,000), and North Carolina (94,000) also saw substantial rises, as did Georgia, South

Carolina, Utah, Tennessee, and Idaho (all up at least 50,000). Again, the South dominates.

The states with the largest shrinkage between 2020 and 2021 include New York (down over 319,000), California (-262,000), and Illinois (-114,000). Populations declined in 18 states, including Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania.

One obvious factor is that Texas ranks only behind Utah among states with the youngest populations (tied with Alaska) with an average household size well above the national average. The result is a higher natural rate of increase from patterns in births over deaths.

Reasons for the movements are many and varied, but there are some common themes. First, states gaining population typically have lower tax rates. The Tax Foundation estimates that the effective state and local tax rate in New York (the highest) is 14.1%, which translates to almost \$10,000 per person. Other population-losing states are also high, with California ranking 8th (\$7,529 per person) and Illinois 10th at \$6,450. Texas is 47th at 8.0% (just \$4,143 per person), Florida is 43rd, and Arizona is 45th. Tax burdens clearly affect household budgets and are particularly problematic with the pandemic still causing financial stress and inflation rising. There is, of course, a point at which taxes are insufficient to support adequate investments in infrastructure, education, health and safety and other public priorities essential to maintaining quality of life and prosperity over time. Texas faces long-term challenges in this regard.

Destination states also generally have higher economic growth rates and, hence, greater opportunities. Texas and Arizona are two of only four states which have fully recovered jobs lost during the pandemic. COVID incidence and policies have also played a role in some location decisions.

The cost of living is yet another consideration. Typical apartment rental rates and home purchase prices are lower in the growing states, and many of the most expensive markets are found in population-losing states. For example, in Los Angeles, average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is almost \$4,700, compared to \$2,544 in Dallas or just \$1,693 in Austin.

I expect these shifts to continue for the time being. Texas, here we come! Stay safe!

Lindale's Tardiff named 1st Vice Chair at ETCOG

New officers for the East Texas Council of Governments have been announced for the new fiscal year with Lindale City Councilman Bob Tardiff elevated to the board's 1st Vice Chairman's position, officials announced.

Camp County Judge A.J. Mason is the new chairman. The new Board and Executive Committee Officers serving for FY 2022, and Executive Committee members will two-year terms.

The ETCOG Board of Directors appoints the Executive Committee responsible for carrying out the policies, programs, and services established by the Board on behalf of our 14-county region.

Board Officers

Chairman - Camp County Judge A.J. Mason

1st Vice Chairman - Lindale Councilman Bob Tardiff

2nd Vice Chairman - Harrison County Commissioner

William Hatfield
3rd Vice Chairman - Rusk Mayor Ben Middlebrooks
Secretary/Treasurer - Smith County Commissioner JoAnn Hampton
New Executive Committee Terms

Anderson County - Judge Robert Johnston

Camp County - Judge A.J. Mason

Harrison County - Commissioner William Hatfield

Rusk County - Commissioner Robert Kuykendall

Van Zandt County - Commissioner Tim West
Wood County - Mayor Randy Dunn

"I am grateful for the volunteer service rendered by all of our elected officials and particularly want to thank and congratulate our new Chairman, Judge A.J. Mason, and the rest of our ETCOG Officers and Board members for their selfless dedication and service to our region," said ETCOG's Executive Director, David Cleveland.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Registration form shortage as deadline nears

Less than a week remains before the Jan. 31 deadline to register to vote in the March 1 primary. While Secretary of State John Scott publicly assured Texas voters that "every single eligible Texas voter will be able to register to vote if they have not done so already," the League of Women Voters on Friday threatened to sue his office if the nonpartisan group isn't provided with additional voter registration forms.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the league contends the state has decided to "sharply limit" the number of voter registration forms distributed to the league and other groups, claiming that is a violation of the National Voter Registration Act.

"It is crucial that the Secretary of State's office act swiftly to provide the necessary voter registration forms for the people of Texas. The deadline to register to vote for the upcoming primary election is quickly approaching, and Texas is one of 11 states without online voter registration," said Grace Chimene, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Sam Taylor, assistant secretary of state for communications, told KUT.org that supply chain issues have made it harder and more expensive to get paper, which means the Secretary of State's office will be giving out fewer voter registration forms to groups ahead of elections this year.

"We are limited in what we can supply this year because of the paper shortage and the cost constraints due to the price of paper and the supply of paper," he said.

Texas is one of the few states that does not have online voter registration.

Leander man charged for threatening election officials

A Leander man is the first person to be charged by federal officials in a case brought by a task force formed to combat threats against election officials. Numerous media outlets reported that Chad Christopher Stark posted a message last January on Craigslist, saying it was time to kill a Georgia elections official.

"Georgia Patriots it's time for us to take back our state from these Lawless treasonous traitors. It's time to invoke our Second Amendment right it's time to put a bullet in the treasonous Chinese [Official A]. Then we work our way down to [Official B] the local and federal corrupt judges," Stark wrote, according to the indictment.

The three officials allegedly threatened were not named.

The Texas Tribune reported Georgia officials were especially targeted by a flood of hostile messages after they refused to back then-President Donald Trump's claims of election fraud. Election officials across the country have faced criticism and personal attacks by Trump supporters claiming the election was stolen. No widespread instances of election fraud have come to light despite dozens of investigations.

State again reaches record job level

The Texas Workforce Commission reported last week that the seasonally adjusted state unemployment rate dropped to 5.0% in December, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month. The state added 50,000 nonagricultural jobs last month — marking job gains in 19 of the last 20 months. The state set another record level of employment with more than 13 million jobs.

"Seeing a second consecutive month of record-setting employment, with more than 13 million jobs, highlights the underlying strength of the Texas economy," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "This economic strength creates an environment for Texas employers to continue to create jobs and provide opportunities for the workforce in the Lone Star State."

The state has added 694,000 jobs since December 2020.

COVID-19 cases set record high

Spurred by the omicron variant, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week climbed to a record 433,584, with 971 new deaths reported as well by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the state has recorded 5.9 million cases and 78,055 deaths — equivalent to the entire population of Cedar Park.

Hospitalizations in Texas of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients also continued to rise, up 36% from the previous week at 13,324, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. That figure is approaching the record high of 14,106 set in January 2021.



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Editor: Terry Cannon
news@lindalenews-times.com
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Seal work on Highway 69

Work crews were busy recently sealing portions of U.S. Highway 69 in Lindale, from Interstate 20 to north of downtown. Traffic was down to one lane during the work.

Photo by Terry Cannon

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Arresting TV? Not so much nowadays

A few days ago, I received an email from my good friend Dave that made my day.

He had taken a selfie while he was wearing a Deputy Barney Fife T-shirt and noted that if he was unfortunate enough to have to go to the emergency room, he would make sure to wear this shirt so the staff would make sure to "nip" his ailment "in the bud."

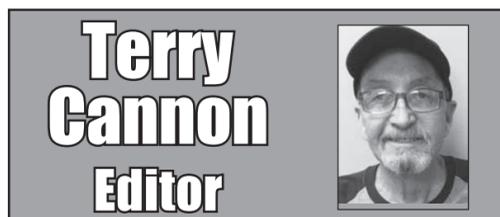
Although I can't imagine anyone not knowing the "nip it" phrase it's something ol' Barn would say when discussing of child rearing or dealing with romantic problems.

Once, his girlfriend Thelma Lou was on the receiving end of his wrath concerning someone who was trying to make time with her.

"You've got to nip it Thelma Lou," he shouted. "Nip. It. In. The. Bud!"

See, our man Barney was deputy sheriff in the bucolic TV community known as Mayberry and was second in command to Andy Taylor, who didn't wear a gun but nonetheless commanded respect from all of Mayberry's citizenry.

To this day, Dave and I are stalwart aficionados of The Andy Griffith Show. It didn't take long after we met while in Commerce in the early 1970s to know we both enjoyed the exploits of Barney (played perfectly



Terry Cannon
Editor



Some clever marketing people came up with this great T-shirt. Maybe Floyd the Barber had a side gig with the British rock band.

by Don Knotts), Floyd the Barber, Opie, Gomer Pyle and town drunk Otis.

(In fact, it was our love of this old show that caused us to commit what I'm pretty sure is a felony by hooking onto another friend's cable TV line so we could enjoy Andy reruns among other shows. The illegal cable tap extended from our friend's apartment to Dave's then mine.)

Mostly, however, we tuned into Mayberry at the Showdown, a bar where

we both worked. Every afternoon, the bar offered 15 minutes-worth of beers for a dime apiece and once that stampeede had receded, Dave and I – along with a bunch of like-minded fans – would grab a bar stool near the TV and enjoy another episode of Andy bailing out Barney from some knuckleheaded scheme or outsmarting some slick criminal that thought Mayberry was a pushover.

What I find interesting is that even though the show ended in 1968, it is still

enjoyable today. The first five years were the best because once Don Knotts left to pursue a movie career the show's quality quickly diminished.

But from 1960 through 1964, it was as good as TV gets. Each character was perfectly cast and the writers knew after the first couple of episodes that Barney should be the focal point.

Since the mid-1970s, when cable and then satellite services became the thing, the number of quality programs have diminished. A natural transition, actually, because the larger number of stations and networks need more programming which thins the overall product.

Yet truly timeless shows such as Andy Griffith, I Love Lucy, Seinfeld, M*A*S*H and All in the Family, remain entertaining.

In my mind, network television is hardly worth watching, especially the sitcoms. There are some truly good shows on streaming services, such as "Ted Lasso" on Apple TV+ and "Ozark" on Netflix. "Yellowstone," on Paramount Network is outstanding as well.

These shows are proof there are talented people in the television industry and can create something worth watching. But nothing compared to the 1960s and '70s.

Seems like it's time to find another Deputy Fife.

Encounter with a "fan" of stupidity

Back nearly 29 years ago, when I started writin' this column, it was fun gettin' recognized by people who actually read this junk. Oh, don't get me wrong, I still love it, it's just that sometimes I'll run into someone who is not what you would call a real fan. I had one of those encounters the other day.

I was with Janet shoppin'..... Well, let me put that another way. I was forced by Janet to go shoppin' with her. I hate shoppin'.

Anywho, we were in the store and I had gone off tryin' to find something that might interest me when this lady walked up.

"Excuse me," she said. "What did you do?" I asked and then smiled.

"I beg your pardon?" "You said, 'Excuse me,' and I asked what you did," I explained. She just looked at me. It was the sort of look my wife gives me all the time. One of those half-eyelid bored looks.

"I was wondering if you are the man that writes the article in the paper?"

"That's me," I smiled figurin' she was goin' to tell me she enjoyed my writin'.

"Well, I just want to tell you that I do not think you are funny."

"Really?" I said. "You know, you and my wife would probably really get along well."

She looked sort of puzzled. "You mean it doesn't bother you that I do not care for your writing?"

"Not really," I said. "There's a lot of stuff I don't



Rusty Mitchum
Life & Times

care about either."

"Would you like to know why I do not care for it?"

"Not really, but if it'll make you feel better, let me have it. I can take it. Heck, I can take just about kind of criticism. I've been married for 48 years, you know."

Now, sayin' 'somethin' like that usually gets me at least a little smile, but not this time.

"Well, for starters," she said, "I do not like the way you leave the 'g' off of words ending in 'i-n-g.'"

"Well," I said, "my wife doesn't like it when I leave the commode lid up, but I ain't changin' that neither."

She ignored the remark. "Leaving the 'g' off makes you sound ignorant," she said smugly.

"It may be that I am ignorant," I said. "Have you ever thought of that?"

"I do not think you are ignorant. I think you purposely go out of your way to make yourself sound ignorant," she said.

"No," I said, "I'm pretty sure I'm ignorant."

That got me another look. "Another thing," she said, "I do not think a lot of what you write is true."

"Really?"

"No, I don't," she stated. I just smiled.

"Well," she said, "aren't

you going to comment?"

"About what?" I asked.

"About what?" she repeated. "I just accused you of being a liar. Doesn't that bother you?"

"You're not the first person to accuse me of that, and probably won't be the last. Plus, what I think is true and what you think is true, may be different."

"How can you say that?" True is true."

"That is true," I said.

"What?"

"I was agreein' with you." "Hmmp," she said. "Has anyone ever told you that you are exasperating?"

"You mean the way my jeans fit me in the back?"

"What? No! Don't you know what exasperating means?"

"Not really, but it sounds kind of dirty."

"You are impossible, do you know that?"

"Lady, my wife has told me that so many times I've lost count."

"Your wife must be a Saint."

"No, she's a Cowboy fan, although she did root for the Saints back when they went to the Super Bowl."

She gave me another look.

"Do you go out of your way to tick people off?" she asked.

"No, it's a gift," I replied, and then smiled.

"Why are you grinning like an idiot?" she growled.

"It may be that I am an idiot," I smiled.

"AHHHHHH!" she hollered and then tried to compose herself.

"Now, may I ask you a question?" I asked.

She sighed really big.

"OK," she said.

"Why do you read that junk I write if it upsets you so? You don't have to read it, you know."

She got a funny look on her face like she'd been caught with her hand in the cookie jar.

"I have to read it," she said.

"You have to read it? Why?"

"I do not know," she growled. "I just have to read it to see what stupid things you say you've done."

"You need help, lady," I said.

"I know," she sighed. "I know," and she walked off.

About that time Janet walked up.

"I thought I heard a woman holler," she said. "I figured I'd better come and see what you had gotten into."

"It was a fan," I said.

"You have a fan?"

"Yeah. She said she just couldn't stop readin' my junk."

"Really," she said suspiciously. "Then why did she holler?"

"What can I say? I guess I just have that affect on women."

"Tell me about it," she sighed.

After successful 2021, library looks forward to 2022

By Donna Edwards
Lillie Russell Memorial Library

In spite of hardships experienced by all due to health concerns, the Lillie Russell Memorial Library had a successful 2021.

The Crossroads Classic Car show, Holiday Basket Sale and Santa's Bake Shop showed marked increase in revenue and the staff, library board, and Friends are planning many events in 2022 to continue supporting the library as it serves Lindale and the surrounding communities.

Regular events include:

-- Storytime continues every Friday at 10:30 a.m. which features an interesting story, music and crafts.

-- Yarn Club meets on every Thursday at 4 p.m. and is open to all skill levels. -- Garden: A Fresh Start to a Healthier You has its final meeting on Thursday, Jan. 27 from 11 a.m.-12 noon.

Upcoming events include:

-- The library is enrolled in Target Circle from Jan. 1 through March 31, 2022. Vote for your library with any eligible purchase in-store or online.

-- Panda Express in Lindale is holding a fundraiser for the library on 2-11-22 with 50 percent of on-site and online order costs going to the library. Contact the library for details.

Upcoming opportunities include:

-- Your home school group can schedule a library visit that includes story time, scavenger hunt, crafts and music.

Email Director@lillierusselllibrary.org for more information.

--The Friends of the Library meet the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. and the group is looking forward to another busy and successful year. The Friends' Membership Drive will begin soon and anyone interested in joining the group or to volunteer can obtain more information at the library's check out desk or from any Friends' member.

Other events scheduled for the upcoming months include a raffle of framed and matted charcoal drawing of a bronco rider, Ladies Game Day on April 22 and again on Oct. 8, the Holiday Basket Sale in November and December and the book sale which takes place during regular library hours in the book sale room.



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, Jan. 28, 2021

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

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

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

This is the students first time to perform as a member of a TMEA All-State organization.

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

FIVE YEARS AGO, Jan. 26, 2017

The new year has gotten off to a rousing start for Lindale merchants as sales tax revenue for the city rose to more than 21 percent for figures from December 2016, according to figures released by Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office.

All but one Smith County city experienced a gain in revenue as New Chapel Hill was the lone one in the minus category with a negative 20.93 percent.

Bullard posted the highest gain among the nine county cities with an increase of 119.61 percent.

Tyler managed a 6.10 increase.

Across the state, Hegar reported sales tax revenue totaled \$2.44 billion in December, 4.9 percent more than in December 2015.

"Sales tax revenue growth was led by collections from sectors driven by consumer spending — retail trade and information services," Hegar said. "Tax receipts from oil- and natural gas-related sectors continued to decline relative to the previous year."

10 YEARS AGO, Jan. 26, 2012

The Lindale High School Lady Eagles basketball team, ranked No. 19 in the state, disposed of the Quinlan Ford Lady Panthers, 59-42, in the LHS gym.

The Lady Eagles snapped a 29-29 tie with a 20-point outburst in the second period to secure the win.

Leading the way for Lindale were Neely Doss with 18 points, Natasha Malone with 10 points, Hannah Malone with 9, Kalyn Peters with 7, Dimond Edmond with 6, Zhanelle Geathers with 6 and Paige Murphy with 3.

Doss had four three-point baskets for the Lady Eagles

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OBITUARY

BILLY WAYNE HICKS



Graveside services for Billy Wayne Hicks, 92, of Tyler, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, were held Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at Lindale City Cemetery under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home.

He passed away Jan. 17, 2022, at his home in Tyler.

He was born in Lindale to Gover Deller Warren Hicks and Hubert Hall Hicks on May 22, 1929. Billy went to Lindale schools where was on the baseball team and served as president of the FFA. He then served in the U.S. Army, stationed in California, Korea and Japan. He met the love of his life, Sallie Sue West Hicks, at an American Legion dance in the spring of 1952. They married on Jan. 9, 1953. They had four boys — Billy Mike, Mark Wayne, Phil Morgan and Jimmy Don. They spent

many holidays and weekends with sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Abilene and Travis "Bud" Brown and nephew Johnny; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jack and Jean West and nieces Jackie Gail and Michelle and nephews Todd and David.

They also spent many weekends at Lake Tyler with cousins, Charles and Lawanda Vandiver and their children Karla and Ronnie; Bob and Pat Vandiver and their son Kuy; and friends, Milton and Reba Hopson and their children. Billy worked at King Chevrolet for 42 years.

He loved coaching Little League. Many days after work, he would go in the backyard and practice baseball with his boys. Billy loved his boys and grandchildren -- Matt, Alisha, Brett and Mark Thomas; and great-grandchildren Dylan, Brett, Jayse, Bo Thomas, Easley, Luna and the newest great grandchild, Caleb, who was born on Jan. 13. Pawpaw and Mewmaw loved traveling with their grandkids and great-grandkids, especially to Disney World and Texas Rangers games. Dad had a lifelong love of traveling and sports.

He was a big fan of the Texas Longhorns,

Tyler Junior College Apaches, Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers and Dallas Mavericks. One of his many memories was attending World Series games in 2011 and 2012 and visiting Wrigley Field and Fenway Park. Plus, he got to see the Dallas Cowboys in games at the Cotton Bowl, Texas Stadium and AT&T Stadium.

He was a Baptist and a member of Tyland Baptist Church and Pine Brook Baptist Church. Billy was preceded in death by his wife of almost 60 years, Sallie Sue West Hicks, sons, Billy Mike and Mark Wayne; mother, Gover Deller Warren Hicks; father, Hubert Hall Hicks, and sister Dorothy Hicks Munn. He is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy and Michelle Hicks, of Tyler; and son, Phil Hicks, of Tyler; daughter-in-law, Sherrie Hicks, of Lindale; sister Glenda Black of Lindale; brother-in-law, Jack West of Lindale; grandchildren, Matt Begley, of Nashville, Tenn., Alisha Elizabeth Brown and her husband David, of Lindale, Brett Hicks and his wife Carly, of Whitehouse, and Mark Thomas Hicks and his fiance' Britani of Arp; great-grandsons, Dylan, Jayse and Brett Brown of Lindale, Bo

Thomas Hicks of Arp, and Caleb Hicks of Whitehouse, great-granddaughters Easley Galindez and Luna Galindez of Arp, and Cooper Begley, of Garland, nephew of Jimmy and Michelle who was like another grandson.

He had many special nieces and nephews -- Johnny and his late wife Cathy Brown, of Whitehouse, Gail and Danny Johnson, of Lindale, Todd West, of Lindale, Michelle West, of Lindale, David Miller, of Lindale, Nell Godwin, of Tyler, Sandy and Robert Johnson, of Tyler, Mickey Munn, of Lindale, and Myka Kim Scott, of Lindale.

Billy is also survived by his buddy, long-haired dachshund Jack. Many thanks to family friends, Ronny Christie and Billy Ashcraft, who are always so supportive of dad and the family.

Honorary pallbearers were Ronnie Vandiver, of Lindale, Kuy Vandiver, of Tyler, and Ronny Christie, of Tyler. The family would like to thank Dr. Donald Knarr and his nurses, and Dr. Joseph Prud'homme for many years of care. Also, thanks to late pastors, Bro. Bill Vick and Bro. Billy Mosley.

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Friday, Jan. 14, 2021

Lt. Lazarine, Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Fortunas and Ramsey responded to an assist smith county at 14000 block FM 849, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to a stolen vehicle at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a public service at 500 block Penny Ln, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to a disturbance at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a theft at 300 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 2300 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a loud noise complaint at 300 block Braziel St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a residential alarm at 1500 block Wood Springs Rd, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022

Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 300 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a public service at 500 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block N College St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022

Sgt Houghton and Officers Shurley and Jackquet responded to a warrant service at 1900 block S Main St, arrest made. Sgt Houghton and Officer Shurley responded to a harassment at 300 block Kingdom Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Allen and Jackquet responded to a suspicious person at 3300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a business alarm at 800 block Industrial Pkwy, false alarm. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps and Allen responded to a possession of marijuana at 500 block N Main St, arrest made. Officer Capps responded to a loud noise complaint at 1500 block Pearl St, settled at scene.



Monday, Jan. 17, 2022

Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 13300 block W I-20, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a harassment at 600 block Brad Cir, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious person at 556 W I-20, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Shurley and Jackquet responded to a welfare concern at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 300 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious person at 600 block Circle Dr, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Jackquet responded to a public service at 200 block Bonnie St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps, Shurley, Allen and Jackquet responded to a disturbance at 2700 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps and Allen responded to a suspicious person at 55 block Miranda Lambert Way, settled at scene.

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022

Chief Somes, Captain Chambers, and Officers Shurley and Jackquet responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Chief Somes, Captain Chambers, Sgt Houghton and Officers Shurley, Dailey and Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 200 block Perryman Rd, settled at scene. Sgt Flores responded to a public service at 200 block Stadium St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Shurley responded to a criminal mischief at 14000 block Tucker St, report taken. Officer Shurley and Officer Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 16000 block I-20 E, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious person at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Sgt Houghton and Officer Shurley responded to a welfare concern at 13800 block CR 4200 settled

at scene. Captain Chambers and Officer Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 800 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to an accident at 2200 block S Main St, report taken. Sgt Houghton and Officers Shurley and Jackquet responded to a welfare concern at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block Mt Sylvan St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a suspicious vehicle at 554 W I-20, settled at scene.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022

Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 13300 block W I-20, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious person at 156000 block Brittain Ct, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a city ordinance violation at 700 block N Georgia St, settled at scene. Officers Philpot and Officers Ramsey and Dailey responded to a welfare concern at 300 block Kingdom Blvd, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers, Sgt Flores and Officers Dailey, Fortunas and Philpot responded to a disturbance at 300 block N Henry St, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, false alarm. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 13400 block I-20, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a business alarm at 17900 block Hwy 69 N, false alarm. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious circumstance at 13300 block CR 472. Settled at scene.

Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022

Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 1000 block Summit Dr, Settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, Settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a civil matter at 600 block Brad Cir, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 15300 block Country Acres Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a business alarm at 100 block N Main St, false alarm.

Tyler man faces 330-count federal indictment for various fraud schemes

A federal grand jury has returned a 33-count indictment charging a Tyler man for fraud schemes in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston.

Derek Robert Hamm, 38, was named in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Tyler this past week charging him with wire fraud, money laundering, violations of the Stolen Valor Act, using a fraudulent military discharge certificate, and being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

The Stolen Valor Act of 2013 makes it illegal to fraudulently wear medals, embellish rank, or make false claims of military service to obtain money, employment, property, or some other tangible benefit.

According to the indictment, Hamm held himself out to be a former member of the Army Special Forces who had served multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries.

He claimed to have been awarded a Purple Heart, a Silver Star, and a Bronze Star for his service. In reality, Hamm received none of those awards.

Hamm also falsely claimed to be related to Harold Hamm, the billionaire oilman in Oklahoma, which he claimed gave him access to financial resources and oil industry expertise.

The indictment alleges that Hamm's persona of being a wealthy war hero helped him create an extensive network of friends who introduced him to potential investors.

Hamm then defrauded those investors in schemes related to the oil and gas drilling industry. Hamm did not invest funds as promised. Instead, once Hamm received investors' funds, he spent the money on lavish personal gifts, including nearly \$500,000 on jewelry and vehicles for himself and his family.

The indictment also alleges that Hamm was a prohibited person in possession of firearms and ammunition. Hamm was convicted in Smith County in 2020 for theft of property, a state felony.

As a felon, Hamm is prohibited by federal law from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition. Hamm was also convicted in 2005 for assault of a family member, a domestic violence misdemeanor under state law. According to federal law, Hamm is also prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition due to his domestic violence conviction.

If convicted, Hamm faces up to 20 years in federal prison.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of Derek Robert Hamm, please contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 903-594-3503. Derek Robert Hamm is also known as D. Wayne Hamm II, Wayne Hamm, D. Wayne H., DW Hamm, and RD Hamm.

Among others, this case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Tyler Field Office, with assistance from the Tyler Police Department, the Smith County Sheriff's Office and the Smith County Adult Probation.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your column devoted to Suzanne Bardwell, former owner of the Lindale News & Times, in the Jan. 20 edition.

Suzanne was my friend for more than 20 years, and it was a joy to work for her and Jim in Lindale after I retired from teaching. You were so right -- she was an angel disguised in human form.

She would do anything for anyone. I know there were times that she and Jim might be extremely busy, but she would make time to talk for a few minutes about the newspaper, our side hustle of writing journalism prompts for high school contests or our families who meant the world to us.

God allowed our paths to cross many times over the years, even though we never taught in the same school district,

and it is so hard to realize that I can't stop by and visit with her or that she won't be on the other end of a phone call, email or text.

However, her Suz-isms and WWSD, as Jim mentioned in his column, will stick with us until we see her again.

And since you wrote about her so well, I'll take the liberty of quoting the end of your column here: "I believe our Creator selects earth-bound people to touch others. Suzanne was chosen by God to be one of his angels on earth. She fulfilled her duty admirably. She earned her wings" --and my never-ending respect and admiration.

Susan Duncan
Longview

Dear Editor,

I was so sorry to hear of the death of Suzanne Bardwell.

My niece was one of her students at White Oak. She referred to her as an angel in human form.

Although I only met her a few times, she was the type of person you bonded with immediately.

I felt I truly knew her from reading her stories every week in the Lindale News and Times.

I will miss her stories of family, friends and her experiences in life.

She was an individual that made a difference in so many lives. She will be missed but her memory will continue forever.

Angels have been and will forever be involved and interested in what is happening in the lives of human beings. Her presence will be felt forever.

Love and prayers for the family.

Barbara Wilson,
Lindale

Edibles in the landscape a tasty idea

By Tish Kennedy
Smith County Master Gardener

Tired of mowing, weed eating and fertilizing a lawn that doesn't give you anything in return but a sea of green?

Have you thought about using fruits and vegetables in your landscape? Did you know that the average American spends around 75 hours per year maintaining their landscape? Why not get a return on your investment with edible landscaping.

Edible landscaping is gaining popularity all over the U.S. and not just in rural areas. Suburbanites are embracing this practice too.

Whether you are starting new or just deciding to incorporate some edibles into your existing landscape, now is a great time to start. Experiment by starting with just a few edibles, start small.

Try to choose herbs, vegetables and fruits that you and your family like to eat. Evaluate your space, consider sun, water and drainage. Make sure when you plant that there is easy access to your plants.

Also, keep in mind the size of the plants, height and width at maturity not at planting time. Be mindful but have fun.

Here are a few great edibles for any landscape:

Pepper plants: Capsicum can provide beauty and color. There are more varieties than I can count but, depending on your space and your taste, I am confident that you can find one to fit your needs.

Globe Artichoke: Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus have big showy buds and beautiful foliage. Chard (Beta vulgaris) is as versatile in the landscape as it is in the kitchen.

Kale (Brassica oleracea): It is hardy, easy to grow and



Globe Artichokes feature attractive foliage and buds. It's just as versatile in the kitchen as it is in the landscape.

delicious. There are also a variety of edible flowers, hardy herbs, ornamental fruit trees and berry bushes that can be incorporated into any edible landscape.

There are a number of books and online articles to help get you as you go. One of my favorites is Landscaping with Edible Plants in Texas by: Cheryl Beesley. Another informative book is The Edible Landscape: creating a Beautiful and Bountiful Garden with Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers by: Emily Tepe

Good luck and Happy Gardening.

The Smith County Master Gardener program is a volunteer organization in connection with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

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Eagles topple Henderson, Spring Hill in district

Lindale High School's boys basketball team split a pair of District 16-4A games with Bullard and Henderson recently before taking on Spring Hill, Cumberland and Kilgore in more league action.

The Eagles came close but fell just short to the Bullard Panthers, 59-57 on Jan. 11 and then dumped Henderson 42-35 on Jan. 14.

LINDALE 61, SPRING HILL 54

With time winding down in the game, Lindale's Colby Wood nailed a three-pointer to help the Eagles maintain their lead and eventually take a 61-54 win over district rival Spring Hill in Longview on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Wood's long-range jumper came with just 15 seconds left.

BULLARD 59, LINDALE 57

Lindale Head Coach Chris Grotemat assumed a great deal of the responsibility for the two-point loss to the Panthers in Bullard and praised his club's resilience despite having to deal with an unruly fan base in a hostile environment.

"It's safe to say that if I graded out my own performance in that ballgame, I'd likely end up on academic probation," Grotemat said. "But I am very proud of our team's effort in the contest and am even prouder of how our boys handled a potentially volatile situation that materialized as our players

attempted to exit the floor after the contest was over."

Grotemat said a segment of the Bullard fan base – mostly adults – "hurled a slew of vulgar and unimaginative epithets at our kids. Our young men showed the poise and character to deescalate the situation and our coaching staff is beyond proud of the composure they demonstrated under extreme duress."

Going into the game against the Eagles, the Panthers sported a 21-4 season record which included four straight district victories.

Lindale attempted some different defensive looks against the hot-shooting Panthers which resulted in the Eagles being able to overcome an early lead by Bullard.

Walter Smith hit a pair of three-pointers and Taegan Terry and Ryder Johnson each hit one apiece to lift the Eagles into the lead as the first quarter wound down.

Colby Wood then converted a couple of baskets from the lane to increase the Lindale margin to 22-13.

The Eagles connected on an impressive 8 of 12 from the field, including 4 of 5 from behind the arc.

Despite a cooling off period in the second quarter, the Eagles' defense helped maintain the lead going into halftime.

"One of the best ways to slow down a really good offense like

Bullard's is to simply make them sit down and guard," Grotemat said. "Not stall per se, but make all of the screens and cuts in our own offense really count so (the Panthers) had to exhaust a lot of energy in defending them."

Amare Baptiste was effective in the pick and roll for the Eagles which resulted in the junior scoring seven points in the period. Lindale took a 36-24 lead to the dressing room.

But a cold spell in the third period along with some defensive breakdowns opened the door for the Panthers, who began to chip away the Lindale lead, which was cut to four.

"I am sometimes guilty of hoarding our timeouts for the fourth quarter, and looking back, I most certainly should have used more of them during Bullard's third quarter run," Grotemat said.

Baskets by Colton Widemon and Cole Collinsworth helped the Eagles stay ahead and by the fourth period they still owned a three point advantage.

After trading baskets to begin the final quarter, Bullard managed to pull ahead by 6 but the resilient Eagles kept plugging away.

"We had a couple of great looks down the stretch that just rimmed out, and I think fatigue played a role in that," Grotemat said. "Our young men are in phenomenal

shape, so when I discuss them running out of gas, it is more of an indictment of my substitution patterns than anything else."

While not pleased with the outcome, Grotemat was happy with his club's effort.

"Our kids' spirits were down after the game, but they had absolutely nothing to hang their heads about. The biggest challenge for us, both players and coaches, is not to allow the disappointment of the close loss to fester."

LINDALE 42, HENDERSON 35

Under first-year Head Coach Gary Carr, the Henderson Lions brought a three-game winning streak into the Lindale gym on Jan. 14.

But a determined Eagle squad plus the backing of its faithful hometown fans proved too much for the Lions in a 42-35 Lindale victory.

"Our home crowds have been phenomenal, and I know I speak for the boys when I say how much we all appreciate the support," said Grotemat.

Justin Farris scored in transition courtesy of a Cole Collinsworth pass and Colby Wood, Ryder Johnson, and Taegan Terry each hit buckets as Lindale took a one-point, 8-7 lead in the first period.

But even though the Eagles' shots weren't falling with regular-

ity, their stingy defense made up for a lack of offense.

Grotemat singled out senior Colton Wideman for his efforts to smother Henderson's inside threat, Jacobo Robinson and along with Walter Smith's offensive eruption the second period – scoring six of his team-high 13 points – the Eagles seemed to be in command. But a rash of turnovers before halftime enabled Henderson to claim a 22-21 lead at intermission.

The Eagles deployed a triangle and two defense in the third period which resulted in holding the Lions scoreless for four minutes.

Even though the shots still weren't falling for the Eagles they managed to outscore the visitors 9-5 heading into the fourth period.

Wood found freshman Ayden Pierson on a back cut to give Lindale a 34-31 lead at the midway point of the quarter.

Henderson was in heavy foul trouble by that point, and after the Eagles recorded three straight stops, Henderson began to foul to extend the game. Smith and Terry combined to go 7-7 from the free throw line down the stretch and Lindale slowly pulled away.

On the night, Lindale held the Lions to just 32 percent shooting, forced 15 turnovers and held Lions' Robinson to just one made field goal

Junior High girls dump Kilgore

The Lindale Junior High girls basketball teams had little trouble disposing of Kilgore this past Thursday in 7th and 8th grade action.

The 7th grade B team won, 45-4; the 7th grade A team won, 54-0; the 8th grade B team clipped the Lady Bulldogs 9-4 and the 8th grade A team won, 18-15.

For the 7th grade Cambry Andreason was the leading scorer, Charlize Reed led in rebounding, Alexia Pinson was the leader in assists and Jaelynn Cocolan and Kyndal Thurmon were leaders in steals.

Ma'Kaylin Smith led the 7th grade A team in scoring, while Jordyn Weesner, Ella Hutchens and Emma Watkins were

the leaders in rebounds. Maddison Devisscher was the assists leader and Ma'Kaylin Smith led the team in steals.

For the 8th grade B team, Mayzie Piccoli led the team in scoring while Sadie Clay led in rebounds and Kaniya Pierce was the leader in assists. Mayzie Piccoli was the leader in steals.

Alyssa Potts, Abigail Lee and Alyssia Romero were the leading scorers for the 8th grade A team, while Abigail Lee led in the rebounding department. Menah Harley was the assists leader while Alyssia Romero and Macy Luster were the leaders in steals. Abigail Lee won the Hustle Award and Alyssia Romero won the Leadership Award.

Lindale's Burckel named to McNeese Honor Roll

LAKE CHARLES, La. -- Lindale High School graduate Brad Burckel earned a place on the McNeese State University Honor Roll for the 2021 fall semester, school officials

announced.

The honor roll lists undergraduate students earning at least a 3.0 or B average while carrying 12 or more semester hours.

Rotary Club accepting nominations for annual Merchant of the Year

The Lindale Rotary Club is requesting nominations for its "Merchant of the Year" Award to be presented at the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet and auction scheduled April 4, 2022, at Texas Rose Horse Park, officials announced.

Nominations will be accepted until 12 noon., Thursday, Feb. 25. They should be mailed to Carroll R. Anderson, P.O. Box 1494, Lindale, Texas 75771-1494.

This award has been presented each year since 1991 to a Lindale area merchant who exemplifies the tenets of Rotary International set forth in the service organization's "Four Way Test," which states "Is it the Truth?" "Is it Fair to All Concerned?" "Will it Build Good Will and Better Friendships?" and "Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?"

Nominees must have exhibited these "Four Way Test" standards in their day-to-day business operations.

Some past winners have been business owners but one doesn't need to be an owner to qualify for nomination.

Previous nominees who haven't been selected may be resubmitted in the same manner as a new nomination.

Nominations should be in writing and explain why the individual is being nominated and how that individual practices the principles outlined in the Four Way Test.

The merchant does not have to be a Rotarian to win the award.

Past Merchant of the Year winners include:

2021 – Jerry Terry
2020 – Dave Wilson
2019 – R.J. Collins
2018 – Nancy McIntyre
2017 – Octavio De La Cruz
2016 -- James Simmons
2015 – Medder's Brake and Alignment
2014 – Eagle Pharmacy
2013 – Dr. Karen Gott
2012 -- Dale Kile, Medicine Chest Pharmacy
2011 – Zackie Gutzke
2010 – Carla Boyette
2009 – John Pittman
2008 – Amanda Froebe
2007 – Don Hines
2006 – Moe Snoubar
2005 – Debbie Wortmann
2004 – John Roberts
2003 – Delores Goodman
2002 – Scott Cassel
2001 – Polly Smith
2000 – Glenda Dintelman
1999 – Ruth Voyles
1998 – C. James Rutledge
1997 – Jim Withrow
1996 – Jean Compton
1995 – Larry Camp
1994 – Mark Hatfield
1993 – Wilbur Terry
1992 – Jerry Fleming
1991 – Perry Mac Hutchens

Make sure to party safely during Super Bowl

By Claudann Jones

Smith County Extension Agent Family and Community Health

Super Bowl LVI is right around the corner, Sunday, Feb. 13.

This year, the Texas Department of Transportation is teaming up with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to remind football fans and Super Bowl partygoers that designated drivers are the best defense against the dangers of drunk driving.

When Super Bowl celebrations involve alcohol, plan for a ride home with a sober driver. TxDOT and AgriLife Extension want to remind everyone: Drive Sober. No Regrets.

If hosting a Super Bowl LVI party, prepare plenty of snacks and non-alcoholic beverages for guests and the designated drivers. Additionally, do not serve alcohol to minors. If an underage person drinks and drives, the person who provided the alcohol can be held liable for any damage, injury, or death caused by the underage driver. In fact, the alcohol contributor can face jail time if they host a party where alcohol is served to people under 21.

The decision to drive impaired—and the consequences that follow—are irreversible. When heading out for a night of Super Bowl fun, make a game plan and follow these simple tips for a safe and happy evening:

-- It is never OK to drive drunk. Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely after drinking.

-- Use the community's sober ride program if available.

-- If a drunk driver is seen on the road, call 911 immediately.

-- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take their keys away and plan to get them home safely.

Choosing to drive drunk may result in legal and financial hardships, diminished reputation, vehicle loss, and even loss of life. In Texas alone during 2020, 958 people died in vehicular crashes in which the driver was under the influence of alcohol. Punishment for being caught drinking and driving will result in jail time, loss of driver's license, loss of vehicle, and pay up to \$10,000 in attorney's fees and fines.

If you would like to know more about the Watch UR BAC Program, contact: Jeffrey Pearce, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 979-321-5333; or email: Jeffrey.Pearce@ag.tamu.edu.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Watch UR BAC program is a free, statewide program to promote alcohol awareness, the dangers of impaired driving, and friends watching out for friends.

Here's to a safe and fun filled Super Bowl! For more information, contact the Smith County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health at 903-590-2980 or email at cmjones@ag.tamu.edu. Like our Facebook page: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County.

Stay well and stay safe.

Referred to as the "entertainment capital of the world" there is something for everyone in Vegas. Check out the casinos, see a concert, visit Freedmont St. for free live music, or go watch Cirque Du Soleil (it's amazing).

We've selected the Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort and Spa for our stay and we'll visit the Ethel M Chocolate Factory for a premium chocolate & wine tasting! With instructors Brenda Henning and Tiffany Hayes, this Land Ahoy! Quilting Retreat is sure to be a fun time!

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St. Vincent de Paul Society: Spreading The Light of Christmas In Lindale

The local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wasted no time in helping to make Christmas joyful for Lindale residents in need this year. The season began early for them, busy with hot-line calls for assistance through November and December.

The conference team was able to conduct 23 home visits, helping families in the way of financial support, food, housing, utility, emergency and medical expenses.

On Dec. 11, the SVdP team also distributed 520 pounds of groceries to an additional 20 households with their regular Feed the Need project, held the second Saturday of every month.

The SVdP conference also managed their annual Angel Tree program through Holy Family Catholic Church on FM 849.

Each year referred families with children; the Lindale Healthcare and Nursing

Center and Colonial Nursing Center are contacted to collect Christmas lists for children and residents.

Their goals were to assure the 63 local nursing home residents received Christmas gifts; and that "Santa" made it to the homes of as many children as possible in and around the Lindale ISD.

"I loved how Lindale, the small community with a huge heart, reached out to the seniors here at Colonial, especially those without families, through the folks at St. Vincent de Paul. It was a bit overwhelming," said Krista Ray, Activity Director at Colonial Nursing Center.

If interested in supporting the local conference of St. the Vincent de Paul Society, donations are accepted at PO Box 1994, Lindale, 75771, or if you know of someone in need of temporary support, contact us at (903) 590-7609, or by email



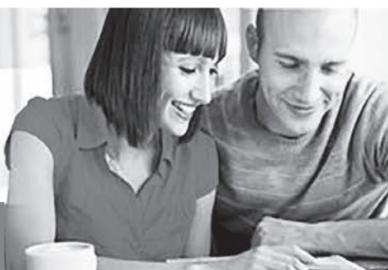
at LindaleSVdP@gmail.com.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides temporary support to those in need

regardless of faith, race or gender and you don't have to be Catholic to become a member.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Rufus P. Burnett, Deceased, were issued on January 19, 2022, in Docket No. 46007P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to:

LARNA D. ROBINSON.

The address of the Independent Executor is:

c/o Adams & Coker, P.C.
4540 Kinsey Dr.
Tyler, Texas 75703

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Date: January 19, 2022.

ADAMS & COKER, P.C.
Attorneys for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private club registration permit by The Thomas Private Club, an Unincorporated Association of Persons dba The Thomas Hotel to be located at 109 East Erwin Street, Tyler, Smith County, TX 75702.

Grace R. Cryer - President
Andrew J. Cryer - Secretary

Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Langston Smith, Jr., Deceased, were issued to Steven H. Fountain on 1/19/22, in Cause 46028P, County Court, Smith County, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to Steven H. Fountain c/o Richard Patteson, Attorney, 218 N. Broadway, Ste.304, Tyler, TX 75702 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTMENT OF CLAIMS

Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the estate of Frances Dossett Swann, deceased, were issued to Thomas Dossett Swann on January 12, 2022, in Cause Number 46038P, in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, which is still pending. All persons having claims against such estate must present the same within the time prescribed by law. Address claims to:

Thomas D. Swann
2703 Cresthill Circle
Waco, Texas 76710

Dated January 18, 2022.

Thomas D. Swann, Independent Executor

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AUCTION

37th Annual DeWitt County All Breeds Bull & Female Sale - Sat., Jan. 29, Cuero Livestock Commission Co. Bulls sell at 11 a.m., Females sell immediately following. Sponsored by the DeWitt County Purebred Breeders Assoc. and the DeWitt County Beef and Forage Committee. For more information: Anthony Netardus, 361-275-0816. Online cattle sale viewing and bidding: cattleinmotion.com.

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REAL ESTATE

Ranches at Deer Crossing (near Stephenville) - Grand Opening Land Sale, Sat. & Sun., Jan. 29-30, 10-acre homesite only \$99,900; 5-acre homesites from \$59,900; 5 acres and new barndo shell only \$119,900. 877-701-3337 x 633, RanchesatDeerCrossing.com.

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Lindale well represented on 2021 All-District team



HUTCHENS



WIDEMON



CURBOW



KEILER MILLER



MAYA



MAZRATIAN



POE

**By Terry Cannon
Editor**

Lindale High School senior quarterback Sam Peterson and sophomore linebacker Jake Curbow were two of the superlative selections from District 9-4A coaches as the 2021 All-District team has been announced.

Peterson was named the district's Offensive Most Valuable Player while Curbow was voted the Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

Eight Eagles were named to the first offensive, defensive and utility teams, while another eight were voted to the second offensive and defensive teams.

In addition, six more were voted to the honorable mention team.

Kilgore High School Head Coach Clint Fuller was named Coach of the Year, while Bulldog senior quarterback Davin Rider was named the district's Most Valuable Player.

Chapel Hill junior offensive lineman Keviyann Huddleston was selected as the Offensive Lineman of the Year and Chapel Hill freshman Demetrius Brisbon was voted the offensive Newcomer of the Year.

Mabank's Caleb Goforth was chosen the Defensive Most Valuable Player and Kilgore senior lineman Alex Chavez was voted the Defensive Lineman of the Year.

Jermny Walker, a Palestine senior, was chosen the Utility Player of the Year.

**2021 9-4A ALL-DISTRICT TEAM
FIRST TEAM OFFENSE**

Quarterbacks: Da'Marion VanZandt, junior, Kilgore; Jaccobe Robinson, junior, Henderson.

Running backs: Isaiah Ross, junior, Kilgore; Taj'Shawn Wilson, junior, Palestine.

Fullbacks: Grant Yudisky, senior, Athens; Shedrick Dudley, junior, Palestine.

Wide Receivers: Jermaine Roney, senior, Kilgore; Deue McGregor, junior, Chapel Hill; Tyson Berry, junior, Chapel Hill; **Jacob Seekford, senior, Lindale.**

Tight Ends: Ty Stedman, junior, Palestine; Demontrell Candie, junior, Kilgore.

Offensive Line: Will Hutchens, junior, Lindale; Casey Poe, sophomore, Lindale; **Trey Mazratian, junior, Lindale;** Alex Cervantes, senior, Kilgore; McCabe Wheeler, senior, Kilgore; Raul Carrasco, junior, Mabank; Dyllan Drummond, sophomore, Chapel Hill; John Hayes, senior, Athens; Jarrett Henry, senior, Palestine; Mason Mitchell, senior, Palestine.

Kickers: Chris Baldoza, senior, Kilgore; Adolfo Tamayo, senior, Chapel Hill.

Kick Returners: Jermaine Roney, senior, Kilgore; Tyson Berry, junior,



SEEKFORD



WATTS

Chapel Hill.
Utility: Cason Watts, junior, Lindale; Deuce Davis, senior, Henderson; Jamauri Manning, sophomore, Athens; Ti Crawford, sophomore, Palestine; Carson Bowden, senior, Mabank; Samari Willis, Chapel Hill; Omarion Smith, senior, Kilgore.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Linemen: Colton Widemon, senior, Lindale; Keiler Miller, senior, Lindale; Peyton Christian, junior, Kilgore; Kalzen Burrows, senior, Mabank; Jatlavon Watson, senior, Chapel Hill; Ladainia Mosely, senior, Chapel Hill.

Inside Linebackers: Brack Dyer, senior, Chapel Hill; Ty Stedman, junior, Palestine.

Outside Linebackers: JK Davis, senior, Chapel Hill; Shedrick Dudley, junior, Palestine.

Safeties: Chris Ervin, senior, Kilgore; Zaylon Stoker, sophomore, Kilgore; Carson Manning, junior, Mabank; Solomon Macfoy, senior, Chapel Hill; Taj'Shawn Wilson, junior, Palestine.

Cornerbacks: Brett Maya, junior, Lindale; Corey Rider Jr., senior, Kilgore; Matthew Tyeskie, junior, Kilgore; Izaya Brooks, senior, Chapel Hill.

Punters: Luke James, senior, Palestine; Trust Carlston, senior, Henderson.

Punt Returner: Solomon Macfoy, senior, Chapel Hill.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Quarterbacks: Ty Arroyo, junior, Athens; Beau Kilgore, senior, Mabank.

Running Backs: Yo'Corus Porter, senior, Henderson; Rickey Stewart, freshman, Chapel Hill; Je'Corey Roberts, senior, Athens.

Fullback: Elijah Walker, sophomore, Palestine.

Wide Receivers: Evan Alford, senior, Lindale; Matthew Tyeskie, junior, Kilgore; Corey Rider Jr., senior, Kilgore; Jamal Robinson, junior, Henderson; Jaden Crane, junior, Athens; Jorlen Ray, sophomore, Athens.

Tight Ends: Cody Swaim, senior, Lindale.

Offensive Linemen: Ethan Heller, junior, Lindale; Cory Watts, junior, Lindale; Taylor Hill, senior, Kilgore; Justin Flores, junior, Kilgore; Brandon Browning, junior, Mabank; Jacob Medford, junior, Henderson; Corey Johnson, junior, Chapel Hill; Nathaniel Ruiz, senior, Chapel Hill; Slade

Haresnape, junior, Athens; Kaleb Hagans, senior, Palestine.

Kickers: Trust Carlston, senior, Henderson; Luke James, senior, Palestine.

Kick Returners: Ty Miller, senior, Mabank; Cordarius Grange, senior, Henderson.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Linemen: Christian King, junior, Lindale; Corey Johnson, junior, Chapel Hill; Hunter White, sophomore, Athens; Devin Fields, senior, Henderson; Quan'Tae Gage, senior, Palestine; Devin Howland, junior, Chapel Hill.

Inside Linebackers: Ryan Stanton, junior, Lindale; Ti Crawford, sophomore, Palestine; Kaleb Tate, sophomore, Henderson.

Outside Linebackers: PJ Wiley, sophomore, Kilgore; Jamauri Manning, sophomore, Athens; Daniel Waddleton, junior, Chapel Hill.

Safeties: Samari Willis, senior, Chapel Hill; Tobiaus Jackson, senior, Henderson; Jon Denmon, freshman, Palestine.

Cornerbacks: Ty Miller, senior, Mabank; Jayvin Mayfield, sophomore, Chapel Hill; Daylon Garrett, senior, Henderson; Benjamin Clerkley, senior, Palestine.

Punters: Sam Peterson, senior, Lindale; Jose Jaime, senior, Kilgore.

**HONORABLE MENTION
(Lindale players only)**

Yahir Soto, senior, offensive lineman; Patrick Daniels, sophomore, running back; Judson Long, senior, wide receiver; Omarr Webber, senior, defensive lineman; Alex Romero, sophomore, cornerback; Seth Baggett, freshman, kicker.

LHS players, support staff named Academic All-State

As a testament to the academic and athletic reputation the Lindale ISD enjoys, nine football players and four athletic trainers have earned Academic All-State recognition from the Texas High School Coaches Association, district officials announced.

Tight end Cody Swaim and trainer Meagan McClendon were named to the Academic All-State First Team.

Second team honorees include defensive lineman Cody Davis, quarterback Sam Peterson, wide receiver Isaac Pollard, wide receiver Jacob Seekford and running back Kasey Villarreal.

Earning honorable mention status include wide receiver Evan Alford, trainer Carly Hilliard, wide receiver Judson Long, trainer Chloe Nations, trainer Maddie Villarreal and linebacker/defensive lineman Colton Widemon.

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Longview - South:	1201A East Marshall Avenue	Longview, Texas	75601	(903) 234-0641
Tyler:	3640 Troup Highway	Tyler, Texas	75703	(903) 509-2316
Lindale:	904 S. Main, Suite A	Lindale, Texas	75771	(903) 200-4922
Kilgore:	1012 North Kilgore Street	Kilgore, Texas	75662	(903) 986-3630
Gladewater:	1400 East Broadway Avenue	Gladewater, Texas	75647	(903) 845-6477
Henderson:	627 US 79 N.	Henderson, Texas	75654	(903) 655-8226
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