

Lindale News & Times

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50¢

Lindale man gets life for murder of girlfriend in Florida

Billy Earl Baker, 52 of Lindale, was sentenced to life in a Florida prison recently by a Monroe County (Fla.) jury for the murder of his girlfriend at a Key West, Fla., beach in 2017, authorities said.

Candice Wesson Cooper, 38 of Big Sandy was found dead on Smathers Beach in Key West.

Baker was arrested on Jan. 29, 2018, at his home in Lindale taken to the Upshur County Jail before being extradited to Florida.

On March 27, 2018 Baker entered a not guilty plea and requested a jury trial, according to court documents from the 16th Judicial Court in Monroe County.

Baker has maintained his innocence, including in a letter submitted to the court prior to his sentencing.

In the letter, Baker said "I don't know what caused Candy's death. I do know I'm not responsible for her death. If anyone really knew Candy and me they would know I would never hurt her in any way."

The court recommended that Baker receive mental health counseling, life skills training, and any substance abuse counseling that he may need.

In 2017, Key West police officers arrived at Smathers Beach checking on a report of a woman who had allegedly passed out in the water and drowned. According to the arrest affidavit, Baker provided a statement on the night of Wesson Cooper's death.

Baker and Wesson Cooper drove to the Keys for a beach trip, the affidavit states, but went to their hotel room instead. Later they decided to swim back to their vehicle instead of walking, according to the affidavit.

Baker told police while he was floating and Wesson Cooper was floating behind his left shoulder a few feet away.

"Billy said he did not hear or see anything, but when he looked over at Candice she was floating face down in the water and not moving," the affidavit stated. "Billy said he let Candice float for a few minutes thinking she was playing around."

Baker then ran to the couple's vehicle and called 911 after he got Wesson Cooper to shore. A passerby tried to revive Wesson Cooper with CPR but was unsuccessful.

During a police interview the next day, Baker refused to answer further questions without a lawyer. Police then allowed Baker to leave, according to arrest records.

The woman who assisted Baker while he was on the beach with Wesson Cooper told police she saw Baker straddling Wesson Cooper who was not wearing a shirt, the document said.

She realized Baker was on the phone with a 911 dispatcher who was talking him through CPR, and the woman jumped in to help Baker administer CPR.

According to the affidavit, the woman told police Wesson Cooper looked purple and had a white foam emitting from her nose and mouth. She said to police Baker appeared panicky, according to the document.

The woman told police Baker was not doing CPR when she came to his aid. She said she had almost pushed Baker off of Wesson Cooper to start giving her CPR.

A detective who interviewed family members and close friends learned the couple had trouble with alcohol.

According to arrest records, "Billy and Candice would be intoxicated early in the morning and then would get into arguments, sometimes while they were working together."

The affidavit goes on to state "based on the Medical Examiner's autopsy report and Candice's family and friends claiming Billy and Candice's relationship had a history of violence recently, there is probable cause that Billy committed the crime of murder in the second degree."



LHS art students honored by commissioners

The Smith County Commissioners Court honored the Lindale High School Art Club for winning the People's Choice Award in the Downtown Holiday Window Decorating Contest for the mural the students painted on the Smith County Annex Building in Tyler. Precinct 4 Commissioner JoAnn Hampton made the presentation to LHS art teacher Rebecca Harrison, who recognized students Kinley Sumner, Saul Harris, Sawyer Sharif, Alicia Fain, Ireland Cornejo and Payton Spearling.

Courtesy photo by Casey Murphy

Red Cross offers ways to handle cold temps

Winter weather poses unique challenges to people faced with bitter cold, snow and ice. The American Red Cross has steps you should take to stay safe if you are in the path of winter storms.

"Cold weather is impacting our area," said Keith Rhodes, Regional Executive of the American Red Cross of North Texas. "Whether trying to keep your home warm or having to be outside in the coldest hours, you can follow these steps to keep your home and family safe."

HEAT YOUR HOME

It's that time of year when many people resort to space heaters and other sources to keep their homes warm. To reduce the risk of heating related fires, the Red Cross recommends these steps (More home fire safety information available here):

- * All heaters need space. Keep children, pets and things that can burn (paper, matches, bedding, furniture, clothing, carpets, and rugs) at least three feet away from heating equipment.

- * If you must use a space heater, place it on a level, hard and non-flammable surface (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs, carpets or near bedding or drapes. Plug power cords directly into outlets - never into an extension cord.

- * Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended and use a glass or metal fire screen to keep fire and embers in the fireplace.

- * Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home.

- * Turn off portable space heaters every time you leave the room or go to sleep.

WATER PIPE SAFETY

- * Protect pipes from freezing by taking the following precautions:

- * Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.

- * Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.

- * When the weather is very cold

outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.

- * Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.

- * If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

- * See additional tips <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm/frozen-pipes.html>

Also, if you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.

Voter registration under way, new rules in effect for voting in March Primary

A new set of rules are in place for Texas voters wanting to cast ballots in the March Primary elections, according to information provided by the League of Women Voters in Texas.

In order to cast ballots by mail, voters must be 65 or older, sick or disabled, out of the county during early voting and election day and being eligible to vote while being in jail or involuntary civil confinement and those who are expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after election day.

Voters are urged to read the application carefully and to provide their contact information on the application.

Texans were able to apply to vote by mail beginning Jan. 1 and those over 65 or are disabled wishing to vote by mail must apply each year.

Voters who will be absent from the county during early voting and Election Day must apply for each election in which they want to vote by mail.

The application deadline is Feb. 18 for the Texas Primary Election.

Voters must use the new Application for Ballot by Mail available at their County Election Office or from the Texas Secretary of State's website votetexas.gov. These applications must be received, not post-

marked, by the Feb. 18 deadline.

Counties may contact voters if there is an issue with their application or ballot and a new vote by mail tracking system has been made available by the Texas Secretary of State.

Voters who are already registered to vote in Texas may update their voter registration online if they moved within the state or changed their name.

The voter will need a Texas driver's license or personal identification card, their Social Security Number and voter registration card Voter Unique Identifier number.

Voters may find their VUID number on their voter regis-

tration card, by calling their County Voter Registrar or at votetexas.gov by entering their name, county and date of birth.

Texans who apply for a Texas driver's license may apply to register to vote at the same time. When Texans update their driver's license online, they may update their voter registration at the same time.

Learn more and find voter education videos at www.lwvtexas.org.

COVID-19 cases down; ICU beds nearly full

While the number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week dropped to 295,501 — a decrease of more than 130,000 — the state's intensive care unit beds are approaching capacity once again. The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University also reported 1,212 deaths, up nearly 25% from the previous week.

The drop in new cases has health officials hopeful the omicron variant has peaked. Hospitalizations in Texas of lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 dropped slightly to 12,760, with only 317 available ICU beds in the entire state, according to the Texas Department of

State Health Services.

"The vast majority of the people who are critically ill are either unvaccinated or have significant comorbidities," Dr. James McCarthy, chief physician executive at Memorial Hermann, told the Houston Chronicle. "We are not seeing middle-aged, healthy, vaccinated individuals in the ICU like we did in the previous wave."

A total of 16.896 million Texans are fully vaccinated, according to DSHS, which is 58% of the state's population. An additional 5.85 million Texans have received a booster dose.

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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.



Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Two proposed amendments on May ballot

Voters who go to the polls for municipal and school board elections on May 7 will also be asked to decide on two proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution.

Deputy Secretary of State Joe Esparza drew the ballot order last week for the two proposed amendments, both dealing with property taxes. The first proposition on May's ballot would authorize the Legislature to cut the property tax limit for the homesteads of elderly or disabled residents "to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year."

According to Ballotpedia.org, the measure would result in a reduction in revenue of \$467.5 million in the first two years it is implemented. The measure passed unanimously in both chambers during the second special session.

The second proposed amendment would increase the homestead exemption for school district property taxes from \$25,000 to \$40,000. That measure, approved by the Legislature in October in another special session, also passed unanimously.

State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, the author of the amendment, said, "People see the need for property tax relief, and Texans are going to cry out for that continuously. This is a great way to bring that home to all of the taxpayers of Texas."

State signs deal with Tokyo

The state hopes to see expanded growth from Tokyo-based small and medium-sized businesses after signing a cooperative agreement with the Tokyo metropolitan government. The governor's office of Economic Development and Tourism organized 18 local economic development partners across the state to provide resources to Tokyo businesses interested in expanding in Texas.

"Tokyo and Texas may be half a world apart, but we are closing that gap by facilitating more investment and economic development between our two regions," Gov. Greg Abbott said. "I look forward to our continued work together as we create a more robust partnership and a more prosperous economic future."

The Texas community partners include cities and economic development corporations from throughout the state. More than 400 Japanese companies have operations in Texas. Japan was the state's sixth-largest export destination in 2020, with more than \$9.8 billion in exported goods, including organic chemicals, industrial machinery, aircraft and spacecraft, fuel and oil.

Deadline extended for

Uri reimbursement for schools

The deadline for public school districts and charter schools to seek reimbursement from the state for damages caused last year by Winter Storm Uri has been extended to Feb. 24, the Texas Education Agency announced. Any district located in an area declared a disaster after last February's storm can apply for assistance for costs not covered by insurance or federal disaster relief.

Schools can receive reimbursement for uninsured damages to facilities, vehicles and computers.

TEA has posted two webinars explaining the program on YouTube, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y76tev3j>

Panel to examine Rolling Pines wildfire

An independent panel has been formed to review the circumstances and causes of a recent prescribed burn at Bastrop State Park that got out of control and burned more than 800 acres. It forced about 250 families to temporarily evacuate, although no structures were damaged. The panel was ordered through the Texas A&M Forest Service and includes wildland fire experts from state forestry agencies in Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma and South Carolina. Prescribed burns at Bastrop and Buescher state parks have been suspended until the review is complete and recommendations are evaluated.

"We fully support this independent review and will continue working every day to earn the public's trust for the continued safe and effective use of prescribed fire," said Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "Prescribed burns are a carefully calculated risk but are essential in managing many of our habitats, landscapes and private and public lands across Texas, including the iconic Lost Pines Forest at Bastrop."

"As a land management tool, prescribed fires are important and help minimize the threat and severity of major wildfires by reducing the amount of existing and dormant vegetation. If left unchecked, the excess of leaves and plants would fuel a minor situation into a major wildfire," according to news release.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Back to School?

As with every other aspect of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the decision process of high school graduates as they weigh work-or-school choices. May 2020 was the worst of the downturn, with millions of jobs disappearing overnight. Simultaneously, most colleges had shifted at least partially to online classes. Family financial strains due to COVID-19 disruptions were also prevalent. It was something of a perfect storm.

During the fall of 2020, almost 63% of 2020 high school graduates ages 16 to 24 were enrolled in colleges or universities, down from 66% the prior year according to data maintained by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021 statistics are not yet available). A drop of this magnitude in a single year is unprecedented.

Rates of college attendance vary by gender and race/ethnicity. For high school graduates ages 16 to 24, the college enrollment rate for young women was over 66% compared to 59% for young men. The college enrollment rate of Asians was highest at 83%, with Whites at about 63%, Blacks at 57%, and Hispanics at 56%.

Education opens doors to better paying positions as well as a lower probability of being jobless. As of December 2021, the overall US unemployment rate for those over 16

was 3.9%, with 3.3% for those 25 and older. Higher levels of educational attainment were linked to lower incidence of joblessness, with unemployment of 5.2% among persons over 25 without a high school diploma, compared to 4.6% for high school graduates, 3.6% for those with some college or an associate degree, and 2.1% for people with at least a bachelor's degree.

The fact that COVID-19 caused a notable decline in attendance is going to impact both potential students and the workforce for quite a while. Some of them doubtless matriculated a year later and enrolled last fall, but it is unlikely that all ground was regained (particularly given attendance data).

During economic downturns, there is typically an increased incentive to enroll in higher education or stay in school due to less competition from the job market (and hence lower opportunity costs). With the pandemic, however, the opposite occurred. Moreover, recent patterns indicate fairly strong growth in wages for young people, including those with just a high school education. Inflation has eroded much of these gains, but nonetheless labor shortages (some of which are long term) are increasing both the numbers of jobs available and the amounts they pay.

Even so, the long-term underlying correlation between additional education and higher lifetime earnings and lower likelihood of unemployment across decades remains alive and well. Let's hope for all of our sakes that this phenomenon abates along with COVID-19 in the near future.

Stay safe!



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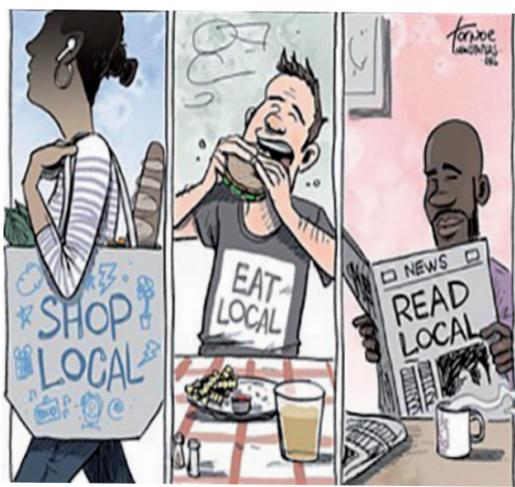
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Filing deadline for school, city scheduled Feb. 18

While there are no primary elections for Lindale City Council members or Lindale ISD Board of Trustees members, there are positions to be decided in the May 7 elections.

For the city, the terms for Bob Tardiff in Place 4 and Bryan Summerville in Place 5 will expire in May.

Both council members began their council service in 2012.

Three Lindale ISD trustees' places will be decided in the May General Election.

Gary Camp will run for the Place 2 position, Robert McGee for the Place 1 position and Dr. Karen Gott, who has filled the unexpired term of Kenneth Cline, is running in Place 4.

Anyone wishing to run in the city or school elections must do so by Feb. 18.

When spring arrives, will there be a season?

In the grand scheme of things, the return of baseball and any possible changes to this nearly-perfect game shouldn't be high on the list of practically anyone's priorities.

But since we (meaning "me") are constantly searching for palatable things for your perusal (in other words, things I can write about which may or may not be interesting) we'll dive back into a baseball discussion once again.

On today's agenda, if I haven't lost you yet, we will cover the state of labor negotiations, a universal designated hitter and Hall of Fame qualifications.

IS LABOR PEACE AT HAND?

Um, probably not anytime soon, but at least the two sides are talking.

The latest news from the boardroom battle between the owners and players is that the players have eased up a bit on their proposal of having players become free agents after five years instead of six as well not seeking to have revenue sharing – money teams share with other teams – reduced from \$100 million to \$30 million.

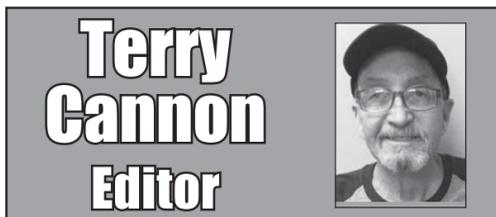
When discussing such enormous dollar figures this may seem akin to a raindrop in the ocean but at least there's been a little movement.

(By the time this week's paper is printed, all this could be moot, but I seriously doubt it.)

Anyway, when baseball's labor issues come up it's always been a hard sell to the public because after all, you're discussing millionaire players taking on billionaire owners.

But it wasn't always this way. Before free agency, most players had to hold down an off-season job to help support their families. Thanks to the reserve clause – which should be future column material – owners could essentially pay players whatever they wanted and most of them did just that.

The players union, strengthened by Marvin Miller in the 1970s, is formidable indeed. The clock is ticking on whether the 2022 regular season starts on time.



Terry Cannon
Editor

My guess is there will be a season, albeit a bit later than usual, and all will be forgiven when the ink finally dries on the new contract.

And that will last until this new contract expires.

WHY NOT A UNIVERSAL DH?

There should be.

You won't find too many baseball fans who are more in love with the history of this fine game as me. Having said that, it would seem I wouldn't want a universal DH, but you would indeed be wrong.

The designated hitter rule exists at all levels of play except one: the National League.

Of course the player's union is adamant about having a universal DH because, duh, it provides more teams for the players' services. It would seem the owners would like a universal DH because it would bring more offense to the National League.

But more than anything else, the National League rules for having pitchers bat for themselves is so arcane and useless it is beyond repair. Not only that, but more times than not, the No. 8 hitter in the National League is pitched around just to get to the weak hitting pitcher. So there's that.

Just change this rule already. It's past time.

HALL OF FAME WORTHY?

This year's Hall of Fame voting produced just one new member to baseball's most hallowed place.

David Ortiz, designated hitter extraordinaire, passed mus-

ter with the national sportswriters who decide such things and will be enshrined sometime this summer.

"Big Papi" was a slugging monster for the Boston Red Sox (after beginning his career with Minnesota) whose numbers – 2,472 hits, 541 home runs and 1,768 RBI – support his hall worthiness.

As is always the case when the hall of fame vote is taken, there is a degree of teeth-gnashing concerning who didn't get in, namely Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens this year whose respective careers will forever be tainted because of performance enhancing drug accusations.

Neither player – unlike Alex Rodriguez who will be on the ballot next year – tested positive for PEDs. Yet one doesn't have to be Sherlock Holmes to be certain these two don't pass the eye test when it came to PEDs.

Early in his career with Pittsburgh, Bonds was a lithe, superb five-tool player who could be compared to Willie Mays. But by the time he got to San Francisco, his physique blew up to almost comic proportions on his way to being credited with the most home runs in a career.

Coincidentally, after retirement, he now looks like he did while playing for Pittsburgh. Go figure.

He "sort of" admitted to using PEDs once upon a time, but said he thought it was "flax seed" oil.

Clemens, a fire balling right hander, won seven Cy Young Awards, 354 games and pitched 24 seasons. According to Baseball-Reference.com, the top 10 pitchers compared to Clemens are all – all – in the Hall of Fame.

Very few pitchers unless they are physical marvels such as Nolan Ryan (who turned 75 earlier this week!) can withstand the strain of taking the mound for nearly a quarter of a century without some sort of medicinal help.

Both Bonds and Clemens, along with Sammy Sosa (another player suspected of using PEDs) reached the end of their 10-year window to be voted in by the sports writers. The cheating cloud that swirled around them has turned into a massive storm.

Loving tribute to Man's Best Friend

I'm a dog person. Always have been, always will be. Don't get me wrong, I like cats, too, it's just that dogs always seem to like you no matter what, and cats..... well, cats are cats.

But this is about dogs.

I don't know if I am politically correct enough to have a dog nowadays. I mean, dogs are so pampered today, I don't think they have the opportunity to be dogs. If you watch TV, you'd believe that a dog has to eat a certain kind of food that is nutritionally balanced or they can't lead a long and healthy life. Well, I just don't buy into that premise.

When I was growin' up, my dogs ate whatever we ate. That's right. Whatever we had for supper, my dogs ate for supper. And they ate well, too. My mom was a great cook and whenever we finished eatin', she would scrape anything that was left on the plates onto one big plate, and then I would take it outside and scrape it into an old half-moon hubcap that served as my dog's food dish. Half the time, I didn't get it out of the plate good until it was all eaten. And I didn't check to see if there were any chicken bones and such in the food, because my dogs didn't care.

They loved bones. They'd crunch them up and swallow them faster than a minnow can swim a dipper.

Now, I'm not tellin' you to do any of this stuff, I'm just tellin' you what we did.

My dogs never went hungry either, because after they ate at our house, then they'd go down the road to the neighbor's houses and see what they had for supper.

My dogs were the neighborhood garbage disposals and the neighbors were glad that they provided this service.

My dogs didn't get baths, either. Well, if we were swimmin' in the creek, they might jump in and wallow around, but they never had a formal bath.

The closest thing they got to a bath was a dippin'. For you ignorant out there, a



Rusty Mitchum
Life & Times

dippin' was what we'd do once or twice a year to get rid of ticks.

Of course, if there were any fleas on the dog, the dippin' took care of that, too. My dad was the neighborhood dipper. He'd fill a big 55-gallon drum with water and pour in the dippin' stuff and stir it up with a stick.

I'd spread the word that Daddy would be dippin' dogs and the neighbors who owned dogs would show up with their canines in tow. You had to tow dogs because they were not really that fond of dippin'.

The way Daddy would dip them was he would grab the dog, pick it up, and plunge them headfirst into the barrel. That way you got the entire dog dipped. The dog would flip right-side up under the dippin' water and shoot out of the barrel like a porpoise and hit the ground runnin'.

They wouldn't be runnin' on all four feet, either. They would be runnin' with the side of their head flattened to the ground while their back legs would be propellin' them along.

That way you knew the tick dip was doin' it's job burnin' those ticks to death. The next day, you'd have a tick free dog.

My dogs hardly ever went to a vet. My dad's rule was, if there was no bone stickin' out or you couldn't see guts, then you got doctored at home. This rule didn't just apply to dogs; it applied to us as well.

Heck, when I broke my finger while playin' in an old fashion barber's chair once while my dad was gettin' his hair cut, my dad set the bone and then tied a couple of popsicle sticks to it for a splint, only after he whipped my rear end for playin' in the barber's chair.

The only time my dogs saw a vet was when the vet would show up at the school once a year to give rabies shots.

Any cuts the dog might have gotten were taken care of with purple medicine, at least that's what we called it. Daddy always kept a bottle of purple medicine that he used on our cows, horses, and whatever other animal we had around when they got cuts.

Now, I know y'all are thinkin' that all of that sounds mighty cruel and the dogs suffered and all that junk. Well, my dogs were all healthy, and lived somewhat long lives.

They didn't sleep in the house, either. Heck, they never came into the house. They stayed outside and slept under the stars. They did have dog houses, but they never went in them, unless it was rainin' or cold. I spent more time in their houses playin' than they did livin' in them.

But the most important part of havin' a dog, was that they were always loved, and they loved back. We didn't just leave them in the yard. We played with our dogs.

Where I went, my dog went. If I went into someone's house, when I came out my dog was waitin' for me. When I went into the woods lookin' for adventure, my dog was right there with me sharin' in the experience.

Not long ago, I was visitin' a place and I looked out the window into the back yard and there was a big ol' dog layin' in the grass. I started out the door and was stopped by the owner.

"You don't want to go out there," he said. "That dog will want to play."

I walked out anyway. Sure enough, the dog saw me, grinned and ran over

jumped up on me and we started wrestlin'.

The owner started apologizin' and started yellin' at the dog. I told him, that the dog was just bein' a dog, and anyway, I was the one that was the instigator.

Havin' said all of this, I goin' to let you read a poem I wrote a long time ago. I've published it before, but it is one of my favorites.

COUNTRY DOG by Rusty W. Mitchum

I'd hate to be a City Dog
I'd just as soon be dead,
Livin' in a small back yard
Just waitin' to be fed.

They'd pet my head, I'd wag my tail
In hopes they'd want to play,
But they'd go back in their house alone,
And in the yard I'd stay.

I'd rather be a Country Dog,
Now there's the life for me,
Just running around, chasin' squirrels
Livin' wild and free.

And when my friend came home each day
Feelin' low and blue,
I'd jump on him and lick his face
Which means that I love you.

He'd hug my neck and call me names
We'd rattle to and fro,
Then he'd grab his gun or rod and reel
And off to play we'd go.

Then at night, I'd lay my head
And dream my happy dreams,
Of fish and squirrels, of birds and snakes,
Of woods and fields and streams.

And every night I'd thank the Lord
For what He'd given me,
And for makin' me a Country Dog
What a blessing that would be.



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, Feb. 4, 2021

As might be expected from a team that earned a berth in the state championship game, the Lindale High School Eagles dominated the 2020 9-4A All-District team as selected by the league's coaches.

Lindale's Jordan Jenkins – who rushed for more than 3,000 yards and scored an impressive 52 touchdowns during the season – was the unanimous choice as the Most Valuable Player in the district.

Lindale senior Airik Williams, who had seven interceptions and 110 tackles for the year, was the unanimous selection for Defensive Most Valuable Player.

Offensive Lineman of the Year honors went to the Eagles' Luke Sandifer and Lindale junior Jacob Seekford was voted the Utility Player of the Year.

Chris Cochran was the unanimous selection for Coach of the Year.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Feb. 2, 2017

Lindale High School's Lady Eagles collected their 22nd win of the season and their fifth in District 17-5A action with a convincing 66-37 victory over Jacksonville in the LHS Gym.

The Lady Eagles are now 22-8 on the season and 5-1 in district play.

Lorin Reue led a balanced scoring attack for the Lady Eagles with 14 points. Amber Walker contributed 11 points, while Alisha Kiser scored 10.

Others on the score sheet for Lindale include Michaela Walker with nine, Taylor Webb with six, Kia Williams with six and Lauren Sumner with four.

Lindale sprinted out to a 17-3 advantage after one period and had a 35-7 cushion at halftime before taking a 47-13 lead into the final period.

10 YEARS AGO, Feb. 2, 2012

Four Lindale High School Eagles were named to the Class 3A Collin Street Bakery/Texas Sports Writers Association All-State team.

Senior offensive guard Sam Schomp was selected to the first team, while Micha Simmons, Trey Acy and Donte Marsh were honorable mention selections.

All four Eagles were first team selections on the 14-3A All District team. Schomp and Simmons were co-Offensive Linemen of the Year while Acy was Offensive Player of the Year and Marsh was Defensive Player of the Year.



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Fishermen reel in Legacy Lunkers

The 2022 Toyota ShareLunker season had a hot start in week one thanks to a pair of Legacy Lunkers from reigning fishery champion O.H. Ivie, officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced.

In week two, Lake Daniel made history by producing its first Legacy Lunker in program history Friday Jan. 14. However, not to be outdone, O.H. Ivie got back on the board with two more Lunkers in week three. The Lunkers bring the season total to five, surpassing last year's January total of four with a weekend still to go in the month.

Tim Broadfoot from Abilene reeled in ShareLunker 611 which weighed in at 13.48 pounds, a pending new record for Lake Daniel. Prior to Broadfoot's catch, the lake record for largemouth bass weighed 12.48 pounds and was caught on Feb. 20, 2016.

Lake Daniel is located in Stephens County approximately 65 miles northeast of Abilene.

Broadfoot caught his fish in about 18 feet of water near some large rocks using a Texas-rig and ultra-vibe bait. Broadfoot fishes at several lakes and indicated how nice it is to have so many great fisheries in the area. Friday, he decided to give Lake Daniel a try and it paid off.

Lake Daniel became the fifth public waterbody in the past two seasons to join the growing list of waterbodies which have produced Legacy Class Lunkers. Eagle Mountain, Lake Tyler, Coleman City Lake, and Lake Travis each logged their first Legacy Lunkers during the historic 2021 season.

"Tim's fish is not only the new pending lake record but also puts Lake Daniel on an ever-growing list of waterbodies from across the state that have produced a Legacy Class ShareLunker," said Kyle Brookshear Toyota ShareLunker Program Manager. "Lake Daniel notches the 75th spot on this public waterbody list.

Milestones like this continue to be a testament to the hard work of our management and hatchery teams as well as the strong partnership between TPWD and Texas anglers, like Tim, who share in these fisheries' management goals."

Josh Jones of Sapulpa, Okla. became only the sixth individual in program history to record his third overall Legacy Lunker. Jones reeled in two from O.H. Ivie in 2021 and was back at it again Friday, Jan. 21 with "ShareLunker 612" that weighed in at 14.13 pounds.

Then on Sunday Jan. 23, Brady Stanford of Midland landed "ShareLunker 613" at O.H. Ivie, which proved to be a season best 15.03 pounds. O.H. Ivie came close to two more Legacy's over the weekend with angler Kayden Tanner logging catches of 12.82 and 12.65 pounds.

Jones had visited O.H. Ivie again in December and landed a 15.10-pound Legend Lunker

before returning to Texas a few days ago.

Brady Stanford and his father headed out together in search of the fish of a lifetime at O.H. Ivie. Stanford said they have been fishing O.H. Ivie for the past month or so looking to land a Legacy Lunker.

Stanford ended up reeling the fish in using an Alabama Rig in about 20-feet of water. Growing up in Midland he's fished O.H. Ivie for about 20 years and this fish is a personal record and fifth double-digit bass.

Once Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologists were notified, they quickly got on the road to collect and transport the ShareLunkers to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, where biologists are providing them top-notch care. Biologists plan to attempt to spawn them with a male offspring of a prior ShareLunker to make bigger, better bass to stock in and enhance

fishing in Texas lakes.

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to TPWD for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2022.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13+ pound Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica mount of their Lunker fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings – a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

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Friday Jan. 21, 2021

Officer Ramsey responded to an attempt to serve at 500 block Sunset Dr, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a welfare concern at 300 block Mt Sylvan St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Philpot responded to a public service at 3400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officers Ramsey and Fortunas responded to a suspicious circumstance at 18300 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officers Gillham and Ramsey responded to a theft at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 700 block Circle Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a business alarm at 1200 block S Main St, false alarm.

Saturday Jan. 22, 2022

Officer Jackquet responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a residential alarm at 1000 block Lynn St, false alarm. Sgt Houghton responded to a city ordinance violation at 100 block W Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Allen responded to a possession-controlled substance at 200 block E South St, arrest made. Officer Capps responded to an accident at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Capps responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to an assist other agency at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 700 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block Shelly Ln, settled at scene.

Sunday Jan. 23, 2022

Officer Trombley responded to a business alarm at 70 block Miranda Lambert Way, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to an assist smith county at 14300 block Prairie Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to an assault at 700 block Martha Becker Dr, arrest made. Sgt Houghton and Officer Trombley responded to a welfare concern at 800 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 15200 block CR 467, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton responded to a public service at 2800 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Allen responded to a welfare concern at 1500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

**Monday Jan. 24, 2022**

Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Trombley and Officer Dailey responded to a public service at 15400 block Lindsey Ln, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Capps responded to a public service at 500 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious circumstance at 1200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a suspicious circumstance at 17600 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1100 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Allen and Officer Capps responded to an assist smith county at 18300 block CR 4108, settled at scene.

Tuesday Jan. 25, 2022

Officer Jackquet responded to a business alarm at 2500 block S Main St, false alarm. Sgt Lazarine, Sgt Houghton and Officers Fortunas and Jackquet responded to a suspicious circumstance at 75 block Miranda Lambert Way, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Jackquet responded to a city ordinance violation at 500 block N College St, citation issued. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to a suspicious vehicle at 552 E I-20, unfounded. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to a warrant service at 400 block W Hubbard St, arrest made. Officer Capps responded to a city ordinance violation at 1500 block Corrigan Trl, citation issued. Sgt Houghton and Officers Capps and Allen responded to an accident at 100 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Capps responded to an assist other agency at 900 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Allen responded to a business alarm at 2400 block S Main St, false alarm. Officer Capps and Officer Allen responded to a suspicious circumstance at 600 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps and Officer Allen responded to a parking violation at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Wednesday Jan. 26, 2022

Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 1300 block N Park Dr, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers and Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 500 block Noah Ln, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Fortunas and Ramsey responded to an accident at 100 block N Main St, report taken. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 1300 block Brad Cir, unfounded. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a welfare concern at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Leevey responded to a hit and run at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 12900 block CR 474, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers and Officers Gillham and Leevey responded to an accident at 500 block S Main St, report taken.

Thursday Jan. 27, 2022

Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 100 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 17600 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a city ordinance violation at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Wedgeworth responded to a suspicious circumstance at 800 block Braewood Cir, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a public service at 400 block W Hubbard St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to a suspicious vehicle at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to a verbal disturbance at 400 block Hill St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to a residential alarm at 600 block Sweetgum Ln, false alarm. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 553 E I-20, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a public service at 17300 block Stacy St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a public service at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers and Officers Leevey and Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 552 E I-20, unfounded.

Several Smith County employees recognized by Commissioners

Will Christian was honored during Commissioners Court on Tuesday (Jan. 25) for his 20 years of service with the Smith County Information Technology Department.

Several other county employees were honored during the meeting as well.

"I appreciate this opportunity to honor my friend and colleague," Chief Information Officer Don Bell said. "Will is the first person to reach the 20-year mark in our department. In IT, that is very uncommon to work for one organization for 20 years. It just shows you his dedication to this county."

Christian was a school-teacher before he decided to go back to college and change his career to Information Technology in 1999.

Bell said he graduated from Texas A&M University and worked in a state prison, teaching GED classes, before he began working full-time in IT in December 2001.

Christian said he oversaw IT at the Smith County Emergency Operations Center, from the time they broke ground on the building in 2002, until December of 2008.

Since then, he has worked in the main IT Department and has had a variety of roles, such as Systems Administration, Network Administration, Systems Architect, Systems Analyst, and more recently Cyber Security Analyst.

"I have worked directly or indirectly in public service pretty much my entire adult life and I appreciate the opportunity I was given to pursue that through working for Smith County," he said.

Bell said Christian has always had a servant's heart and through his work, he

has shown his dedication to Smith County – not just to its employees, but to serving the public.

CONSTABLE

Smith County Precinct 4 Constable Josh Joplin was recognized during Commissioners Court for five years of service to the county.

"He's done a good job for the county," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips, who serves the same area as Joplin. "He's a really dedicated person to work with."

Joplin is a graduate of Chapel Hill High School and was the captain of the Arp Police Explorer program during his youth. In 2011, Joplin began working for the Smith County Sheriff's Office as a jailer. He worked as a police officer for the City of Arp, Brownsboro and then the City of Winona, as well as a school resource officer for the Marshall ISD Police Department. He returned to Brownsboro Police Department in 2015 and continued as the department's K9 handler and warrant officer until

January of 2017, when he was elected and sworn into office as the Smith County Precinct 4 Constable.

He enjoys interacting with the youth at numerous school functions and assisting the criminal justice program at Chapel Hill ISD, when requested. He is also an auctioneer and continues to serve as a K9 handler.

ADDITIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

Additional employees who are celebrating work anniversaries in December and January but could not be present during Commissioners Court include:

15 Years: Brandy Evans, Sheriff's Office; Keith Marlowe, and Timothy Morrow, Facilities Services; Theresa "Terry" Morrow, District Clerk's Office.

10 Years: Gina Albritton, Justice of the Peace, Pct.5; Teresa Fuentes, Justice of the Peace, Pct.2; and Tracey Timmons, Sheriff's Office.

5 Years: Alejandro Delgado, Road and Bridge; Tanja Hamilton, Tax Office; Tina

Knighon, County Court; Thomas Chamness, District Attorney's Office; and the following from the Sheriff's Office: Kimberly Fritz, Heather McCarver, Crystal Nicholson, Edgar Nieto, and Dakota Wade.



The Smith County Commissioners honored IT employee Will Christian for his service to the county during this past week's meeting. Seen with Christian is Chief Information Officer Don Bell. (Courtesy photo)

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Lady Eagles dump Kilgore; now 8-1 in district

The Lindale High School Lady Eagles routed the Kilgore Lady Bulldogs, 49-17, this past week to improve their District 16-4A record to 8-1 on the year.

The Lady Eagles are now 17-11 on the season and sit atop the district standings.

Bullard is second at 6-1, Chapel Hill is 7-2, Henderson is 4-3, Spring Hill is 2-7, Cumberland Academy is 1-7 and Kilgore is 0-7.

Lindale's final two district games

are against Bullard on the road on Friday, Feb. 4 and Feb. 8 against Henderson in Lindale.

Brenley Philen led the Lady Eagles in scoring against Kilgore with 12, while Marley Keith scored 10.

Also contributing to the Lindale attack were Brooke Everest with 9, Maggie Spearman with 6, Allie Davenport with 5, Madison Luster with 2, Gabby Saboia with 2, Jillian Ortiz with 2 and Makenna Burks with 1.

EARLIER GAMES

-- On Jan. 21 in Tyler, the Lady Eagles cruised to a 59-23 win over Cumberland Academy.

-- Lindale hosted Spring Hill on Jan. 18 and claimed a 69-25 victory. The Lady Eagles opened up a seven-point lead by the end of the quarter then built it to 19-7 at the half and increased the margin to 34-15 by the end of the third period. Spring Hill made a run to get to within 34-25 in the fourth period,

but the Lady Eagles were able to pull away in the final minutes for the win.

-- On Jan. 14 in Henderson, the Lady Eagles suffered their only district loss to date with a narrow, 48-47, set back to the Lady Lions. Lindale managed to jump out to a 23-8 lead in the second period, but the Lady Lions stormed back and tied the game at 23 at halftime.

The Lady Eagles then took a 34-23 lead in the third period, but once

again the Lady Lions rallied to grab the one-point win with a big fourth quarter.

-- Against Bullard in the LHS gym on Jan. 11, the Lady Eagles won a defensive struggle, 28-23. Lindale took a 14-11 lead into the second period but fell behind 20-16 in the third period before rallying to take the win.

-- On Jan. 7, Lindale traveled to New Chapel Hill and brought home a 52-50 win over the Lady Bulldogs.

Lindale boys golf team fires 376 at Spring Hill Invitational tourney

LONGVIEW – The Spring Hill High School golf team won its own tournament this past week at Wood Hollow Golf Club with a team total of 293.

Lindale High School's team of Trent McDonald, Bryce Covington, Tom Bordelanne, Jackson Pullin and Ryan French carded a 376.

McDonald shot a 93; Covington, 92; Bordelanne, 98; Pullin 93 and French 101. Spring Hill was led by second medalist Luke Hurst with a 70, while Redwater's Cole Turner won medalist honors with a 70 and a playoff win.

Jax Stovall of Spring Hill was in a third place tie in the medalist standings with a 71 along with Luke Lawrence of Carthage.

Carthage had a team total of 310 for second place, while Pine Tree's 327 was good enough for third place.

Spring Hill Invitational Wood Hollow Golf Club, Longview

Individual Top 10 — 1, Cole Turner, Redwater, 70; 2, Luke Hurst, Spring Hill, 70; 3, (tie) Jax Stovall, Spring Hill, 71; Luke Lawrence, Carthage, 71; 5, (tie) Marshall Daugbjerg, Pine Tree, 72; Mark French, Spring Hill B, 72; 7, Cale Preston, Carthage, 73; 8, Kaden Phelan, Spring Hill B, 74; 9, (tie) Carson Kraus, Spring Hill, 75; Kylan Liedtke, Pine Tree, 75; Hudson Parr, Trinity School of Texas, 75.

Spring Hill (293): Luke Hurst 70, Jax Stovall 71, Carson Kraus 75, Brennan Ferguson 77, Nick Bodenheimer 79.

Carthage (310): Ethan Wolfe 81, Luke Lawrence 71, Cale Preston 73, Charlie Barber 85.

Pine Tree (327): Kylan Liedtke 75, Marshall Daugbjerg 72, James Brogan 84, Adam Mosley 99, Hayes Daugbjerg 96.

Spring Hill B (328): Mark French 72, Kaden Phelan 74, Ryan McClain 87; Talan Ferguson 94, James Thomas 93.

Whitehouse A (336): Job Hammond 77, Adam Cox 86, Liam Jesionek 92, Luke Wood 86, Jack Lewis 87.

Bullard (341): Stuart Hall 78, Hylend Long 87, Oliver Olds 87, Colton Trahan 93, Mason Mayo 89.

Redwater (342): Cole Turner 70, Alex Calicott 83, Drew Graves 86, Cooper Thompson 97.

Hallsville (349): Trey Crafton 85, Jaxon Garland 85, Karson Hess 95, Joel Hale 84, Dalton Welch 117.

Henderson (365): Jeremiah Coleman 88, Thomas Fielding 91, Troy Pinnell 86, Caden Foster 92, Chase Everitt 90.

Lindale (376): Trent McDonald 93, Bryce Covington 92, Tom Bordelanne 98, Jackson Pullin 93, Ryan French 101.

Tatum A (391): Jackson Richardson 96, Caleb Crawford 87, Caden Calhoun 95, Kade Hyatt 115, Frank Robles 113.

Whitehouse B (464): Eric Watson 110, Michael Ranshaw 120, Aiden Curtis 102, Austin Jones 132, Degen Jensen 147.

Tatum B (523): Eli Rice 152, Kason Henderson 106, Kade Holder 139, Seth Kennedy 143, Caleb Sipes 135.

Medalists: Jack Jones, Pine Tree 89; Carter Terry, Pine Tree 102; Hudson Parr, Trinity School of Texas 75; Gage Bussey, Trinity School of Texas 86; Palmer Mann, Trinity School of Texas 85; Walker Davis, Tatum 127

Eagles win three more district games

The District 16-4A boys basketball season is nearly halfway completed and teams are jockeying for playoff positions.

Lindale's Eagles, who defeated Kilgore 51-36 on Tuesday, Jan. 25 to improve their district record to 4-2 and their season record to 14-10, also downed Spring Hill 61-54 on Jan. 18 and Cumberland Academy, 58-29, on Jan. 21.

LINDALE 61, SPRING HILL 54

The Spring Hill Panthers, under the guidance of alumnus Kerry Strong, needed a win over the Eagles to keep their slim playoff hopes alive. They pushed the Eagles into overtime before eventually losing.

Lindale, bolstered by some deadly outside shooting, kept the Panthers winless in league play (0-6) by overcoming an early seven-point deficit to take a one-point lead into the second period.

Justin Farris connected on a pair of three-pointers to lift the Eagles in the waning moments of the opening period and was helped by 5 points from Amare Baptiste.

"There were no glaring (defensive) breakdowns, but our communication left something to be desired and we were just a little disengaged at times," said LHS Head Coach Chris Grotemat.

With Baptiste's contributions from the field and the free throw line, the Eagles fashioned a 30-26 lead at the half.

The Panthers came on strong in the third period, outscoring the Eagles by 10 and were helped by Lindale's offensive mistakes.

"Turnovers hurt our production and (Spring Hill) hit some tough shots," Grotemat said. "They looked some like guys who were playing for their playoff lives, and it took a Herculean effort for us to match their toughness and grit in the latter stages of the game."

The Eagles' largest deficit in the second half was 6, but Walter Smith went work inside with a pair of buckets and Colby Wood connected from the outside to add some life to the Lindale attack.

Cole Collinsworth's drive down the heart of the lane for a layup pulled Lindale to within a point, at 49-48, with just under a minute remaining in regulation.

The Panthers scored on their next trip down the floor and went up by three points with just under 30 seconds left.

Collinsworth was fouled but couldn't connect on the free throws. However, the Eagles grabbed the rebound and Colby Wood nailed a three-pointer to send the game to overtime.

Wood scored another bucket in the extra session and drilled each of his four free throws in the extra period to help the Eagles secure the win.

"We absolutely stole this one, but credit to our guys for hanging around on an off night and for having the fortitude to make the plays we needed to find new life when Spring Hill had us on the ropes," Grotemat said.

LINDALE 58, CUMBERLAND 29

The Cumberland Knights, also without a district win, traveled to Lindale and became another victim of the Eagles' relentless attack.

Lindale's defense was on full display in

the first half, holding the Knights scoreless for an eight-minute stretch while getting offensive contributions from Collinsworth, Taegan Terry, Ryder Johnson and Colton Widemon.

The Eagles quickly built a 6-2 advantage in the opening minutes of the game which ballooned to 20 by the half.

Standout Walter Smith wasn't in the Eagles' lineup against Cumberland after suffering a minor knee injury in practice the day before. But Grotemat, citing some good work from the LHS trainers, feels Smith will be back for the second half of league play.

Collinsworth replaced Smith in the starting lineup and the Eagles didn't miss a beat.

"Cole doesn't get his name called out in pregame a whole lot, but he is a finisher who can always be counted on to close out tight games, just as he did against the Panthers earlier in the week," Grotemat said.

The Eagles' transition game was simply too much for Cumberland to handle as Justin Farris and Baptiste were able to break away for easy layups.

Grotemat cited the play of reserve Masen Rainey.

"(Rainey) gave us a huge spark off the bench," Grotemat said. "I will be the first to admit he does not get the playing time he deserves, but the junior forward is a critically important member of our team and always makes a positive impact when his number is called."

The Eagles' run game slowed a bit in the second period and had too many turnovers to suit the coaching staff, but Lindale nonetheless held a double-digit lead going into the third period.

"Our defensive energy was off the charts," Grotemat said. "Getting the win was great, of course, but in the grand scheme of things, our team needed to demonstrate that they could lock in on all the minute details that help good teams become great."

The coach felt as though the team managed to maintain its intensity and focus in the second half without needlessly running up the score or embarrassing the Knights.

All 11 players played healthy minutes down the stretch. Johnson and Terry combined for 25 on an economical 11-20 shooting from the field.

Farris was a perfect 4-4 from the floor, and while Wood had a quiet night in the scoring department, the senior guard was a thorn in the side of Cumberland on defense.

Ayden Pierson continued his steady play, logging a career best 19 minutes.

Baptiste brought the crowd to its feet with a big time dunk on a third quarter fast break to give the Eagles a 40-12 lead and followed that up with another monster slam midway through the fourth quarter, off a tremendous look-away pass from junior guard Logan Dixon.

Will Hutchens put the exclamation point on the victory, when he thundered down the lane and made a layup created from some high pick and roll action between the big man and Collinsworth, giving Hutchens the game's final bucket and assist number four for Cole on the night

Eagles down Grand Saline, 4-2, in soccer

With two goals from Will Locknane, the Lindale High School Eagles boys soccer team knocked off Grand Saline, 4-2, in a District 13-4A match in Grand Saline this past week.

In addition to Locknane's scoring, Izac Perez and Griffin Cook registered goals for the Eagles.

Lindale was scheduled to travel to Chapel Hill on Tuesday in another district contest.

EARLIER GAMES

The Eagles, 5-4-3 on the season, are 1-1 in district play.

--On Jan. 26, the Eagles hosted Cumberland Academy's Knights and lost, 2-1, in a district encounter.

-- In another home game, but not a district game, the Eagles hosted Hallsville and came out with a 0-0 tie.

-- On Jan. 16, the Eagles hosted Oak Cliff Faith Academy and came away with 2-1 win in a non-district encounter.

-- The Eagles clipped county rival Whitehouse, 1-0, on Jan. 15 in Lindale.

-- On Jan. 15, La Vega High School traveled to Lindale and fell, 1-0, to the Eagles.

-- Scoring two goals in the first half and a third in the second half, Lindale dumped Livingston, 3-1 on Jan. 14.

-- On Jan. 13, the Kilgore Bulldogs scored four second half goals to defeat the Eagles, 4-0, in a non-district tournament game.



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Lindale FFA member earns purchase certificate at Fort Worth Rodeo and Show

Luke Tomlinson, a member of Lindale High School Future Farmers of America, caught a calf during the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo's Calf Scramble recently, earning a \$500 purchase certificate for a show heifer and the chance for up to \$16,000 in scholarship awards, publicity officials announced.

The calf scramble took place on Jan. 24.

Tomlinson's parents are Amanda and Stan Tomlinson of Lindale. Tomlinson's award was sponsored by Superior Synthetic Grass & Turf.

Tomlinson will use the purchase certificate toward the cost of a heifer that he will raise and exhibit at next year's Stock Show.

Exhibitors that submit monthly reports and a final essay may be eligible

for scholarship awards that can range between \$500 and \$16,000.

One of the Stock Show's most popular events, the Calf Scramble gives 20 students an opportunity to catch 10 calves during one of 23 performances of the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo held Jan. 14-Feb. 5. Those not catching calves receive a pair of Justin Boots courtesy of the western footwear maker, which is one of the underwriters for the event.

Since its beginning in 1987, the Fort Worth Calf Scramble program has distributed almost \$4 million to nearly 8,000 Texas students providing funds for the purchase of their beef or dairy heifer and more than \$3.6 million in scholarships has been awarded to more than 1,600 students in recognition of their hard work and completion of the program.

Lindale High School's Lawless to coach FCA All-Star soccer team

Lindale High School soccer coach Jason Lawless has been selected as one of the head coaches for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Heart of a Champion All-Star Soccer game, officials said.

The coaches for the All-Star Game were announced at First Christian Church in Tyler. The games are scheduled for June 3 at a site to be determined.

Lawless and Brook Hill head coach David Collins will be co-coaches of the Blue Team.

Kilgore head coach Tom Wait will coach

the Red Team along with Rockwall's Tony Bowles.

Lawless and Collins played college soccer together at East Texas Baptist University.

Nacogdoches head coach Kendra Lockett will coach the girls' Blue Team and will be assisted by Megan Coppedge of Mesquite Horn.

The girls' Red Team will be coached by Whitehouse head coach Wendy Knight and Bullard head coach Tiffany Cooksey.

The games are scheduled for June 3 at a site to be determined.

OBITUARY

Dennis Taylor

Services for Dennis Taylor, 71, of Lindale, are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Caudle-Rutledge Funeral Home with Bro. James R. Cowart officiating.

Interment will be in Bethesda Cemetery in Lindale.

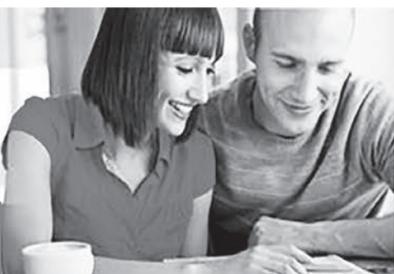
Taylor, former Smith County Precinct 5 Constable, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 29, in Lindale.



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Margo Hirsch Adams, Deceased, were issued on January 26, 2022, in Docket No. 46047P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to:

DEBORAH BERKMAN ROOSTH.

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 26, 2022.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice to Creditors

Letters of Administration for the Estate of Raymond E. Finke, Jr., Deceased, were issued to Robert E. Finke on 1/26/22, in Cause 46076P, County Court, Smith County, TX. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to Robert E. Finke c/o Richard Patteson, Attorney, 218 N. Broadway, Ste.304, Tyler, TX 75702 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mack Everett Mahoney, Jr., Deceased, were issued to Nita Jane Mahoney on 1/26/22, in Cause 46079P, County Court, Smith County, TX. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to Nita Jane Mahoney 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 TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of FRANCES JEANNINE MATLOCK, Deceased, were issued on January 26, 2022, in Cause No. 46068P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: LINDA LITTLE and MICHAEL MATLOCK.

The address for the Independent Co-Administrators is:

c/o: LEIGH HUNT GOODSON
The Goodson Firm, P.C.
115 W. Ferguson Street
Tyler, Texas 75702

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

Date: January 28, 2022

THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
Attorney for the Estate

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale 9:00AM-February 18th, 2022 - Lindale Storage West, 14623 CR 463, Lindale, Tx. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Tenants : Hillary and Charles Williams

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Pests, weeds, beaver control among continuing education topics

By Susan Himes
Susan.Himes@ag.tamu.edu

The Pineywoods Continuing Education Conference will be held Feb. 11 in Gilmer. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service event will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative, 1200 W. Tyler St.

The cost is \$35, payable at the door. The conference is limited to the first 60 registrants. Lunch is provided courtesy of Legacy Ag Credit.

Preregister by Feb. 4 by calling the AgriLife Extension county offices in Harrison, 903-935-8413; Cass, 903-756-5391; Upshur, 903-843-4019; Gregg, 903-236-8429; or Marion, 903-665-2421. Onsite check-in for registered participants will begin at 8 a.m.

“The counties presenting this annual program have worked diligently to provide participants with relevant and current information on key topics that affect beef cattle and forage production,” said Shaniqua Davis, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Gregg County. “This conference also allows agricultural license holders an opportunity to obtain continuing education units.”

Five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units are available: three general, one laws and regulations, and one integrated pest management.

Topics and speakers

Experts will cover a wide range of pest management, pest control and pesticide topics. The conference topics and speakers include:

— Beaver Control for Landowners, Penny Wilkerson,



Aquatic weed identification is among the topics at the Pineywoods Continuing Education Conference Feb. 11.

Texas A&M AgriLife photo

Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist, Queen City.

— Integrated Pest Management for Livestock Operations, Michael Hampton, Central Life Sciences regional sales manager, Winnsboro.

— Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Mark Matocha, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agricultural and environmental safety specialist, Bryan-College Station.

— Aquatic Weed Identification and Chemical Control, Brittany Chesser, Ph.D., aquatic vegetation management specialist, Bryan-College Station.

— Handling and Disposing of Agricultural Chemicals, Matocha.

Texas Comptroller Observes National Unclaimed Property Day

(AUSTIN) — Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar joined other unclaimed property administrators to celebrate the second annual national Unclaimed Property Day Feb. 1.

“I am proud to have returned nearly \$2 billion dollars to Texans since becoming Comptroller, and we are continually looking for new ways to return even more,” Hegar said. “I am proud to have given back more money than any other Texas Comptroller since the Unclaimed Property program was launched in 1962. This effort is part of my continued commitment to focus on customer service and provide taxpayers with transparent and accountable government. The money belongs to the people of Texas, and I encourage everyone to visit ClaimItTexas.org to see if the state is holding

some of their unclaimed property.”

According to officials with the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA), nearly 33 million people in the United States have unclaimed property. Unclaimed property includes things such as forgotten utility deposits or other refunds, insurance proceeds, payroll checks, cashier’s checks, dividends, mineral royalties, dormant bank accounts and abandoned safe-deposit box contents. Businesses generally turn property over to the unclaimed property program after it has been considered dormant for one to five years.

The Comptroller’s office has returned more than \$3 billion in unclaimed property to rightful owners since Texas’ unclaimed property program began in 1962. The state is currently holding more than \$7 billion in cash and other valuables through the program.

There is generally no statute of limitations for unclaimed property the state holds, which means there’s no time limit for owners to file a claim — they can do so at any time.

For more information about the unclaimed property program, or to search for unclaimed property and begin the claims process, visit the Comptroller’s unclaimed property website, ClaimItTexas.org, or call 800-321-2274 (CASH). Texans are also encouraged to check MissingMoney.com or FindMyFunds.com to search for property that may belong to them in other states.

The Unclaimed Property Division is producing a series of videos to promote its efforts with Chet Garner, of The Daytripper.

Rusk County man behind bars for theft of livestock, other charges



Charles Allen Robinson Jr. arrested near Kilgore for crimes committed in Rusk, Shelby, Upshur and Henderson Counties

When Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Special Rangers Larry Hand and Bo Fox showed up to Charles Allen Robinson Jr.’s home with a warrant Jan. 27, the accused didn’t go easy. In fact, it took the duo plus Department of Public Safety troopers and Rusk County Sheriff’s

Department deputies to finally get him into custody — which only meant more trouble for Robinson.

He faces the following charges:

Third-degree felony, Theft of Livestock, Shelby County, related to the theft of 157 cows

Third-degree felony, Theft of Livestock, Shelby County, related to the theft of 26 heifers

Third-degree felony, Issuance of Bad Check, Shelby County, related to payment for cattle

Third-degree felony, Theft of Livestock, Upshur County, related to theft of 13 head of cattle

Evading arrest, Rusk County

Resisting Arrest, Rusk County

Harassment/Bond Forfeiture, Upshur County

Insurance Fraud, Henderson County

All the crimes were committed in September and October 2021. The arrest was the culmination of a lengthy investigation led by Hand.

The special ranger would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following agencies and departments: Shelby County District Attorney’s Office, Upshur County District Attorney’s Office, Rusk County Sheriff’s Office and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers.

Robinson’s bonds are pre-set at \$267,000. The bonds on the three Shelby County felony warrants will be set upon his arraignment there. The investigation continues with other charges possible. Upon conviction, the Theft of Livestock charge in Texas carries a penalty range of 2 to 10 years in state prison and/or \$10,000 fine.

At this time, Robinson remains in custody.

Hand said this case is a good reminder it’s important for any livestock business to maintain good, clear accounting records and never accept partial payment.

“But if something goes sideways,” he said, “TSCRA can step in to help. We’ve been doing it since 1877.”



Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith congratulates Mitchell (Mike) Burton on his retirement from the Smith County Sheriff’s Office.

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PRESLIE WALTERS is the daughter of Camela and Chet Walters. She is the secretary for the National Honor Society and a member of the varsity volleyball and track and field teams. Outside of school, she is a member of the Texas Vault indoor pole vaulting team and an active volunteer with the East Texas Food Bank and the Paul Powell Food Pantry. Preslie believes she is impacting the world by pursuing academic excellence and mentoring her peers in their academic goals. She plans to attend Texas A&M University and study pre-medicine. Preslie’s future goals include becoming a doctor who specializes in neurology.

ARYAN PATEL is the son of Nalini and Vipul Patel. He is a member of the National Honor Society, speech and debate team, marching band, ensemble band, and the University Interscholastic League competition teams. He is also an active volunteer with the East Texas Food Bank and a participant in a job shadowing program with Christus Trinity Pain Clinic. Aryan believes he is impacting the world as a crisis text line volunteer, where he helps individuals who are struggling with anxiety and depression. He plans to attend Texas Tech University and study biochemistry. Aryan’s future goals include working as a doctor or surgeon, specializing in neurology.

EMILY HAVENS is the daughter of Bonnie Havens and Hayden Havens. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the varsity cheerleading and golf teams. Outside of school, she participates in a club volleyball team and teaches Sunday school for Rose Heights Church in Lindale. Emily believes she is impacting the world by maintaining a positive attitude and sharing the love of Jesus with others on a daily basis. She plans to attend Texas A&M University and study pre-medicine. Emily’s future goals include working as an orthopedic surgeon.