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# Lindale News & Times

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50¢

## SECURITY FOCUS ...

### LISD continues to work to ensure campus safety

By Terry Cannon  
Editor

In the wake of the tragic shooting at Uvalde Elementary School which claimed the lives of 19 students and two teachers, school districts across the nation are reviewing their security measures and plans – including the Lindale ISD according to Superintendent Stan Surratt.

"We are going to review everything," he said, adding "but we're not looking at making any major changes because we beefed up security three years ago and we've still got a lot of great things in place."

Surratt, who expressed sadness and shock at yet another school shooting said the district has been proactive in making sure each campus and school facility is secure and will provide a safe environment for students, staff and parents.

"During the past three years, we've added buzzer systems on each campus, added more security guards and installed more cameras," he said.

Surratt said many parents and community members have reached out with ideas and concerns in the wake of yet another senseless school tragedy.



Each school in the LISD has several safety measures in place on their respective front entrance, such as the camera and buzzer setup at College Street Elementary, which also has a sign clearly indicating there are no guns allowed on campus. Photo by Terry Cannon

"There's been quite a bit of concern, for sure," he said, "and people have called with suggestions."

In addition to current measures, Surratt said future discussions

would include additional steps for each campus.

"We'll probably review all our policies and make sure all our employees are involved in any security measures we review," he said.

The Uvalde massacre has spurred Texas lawmakers into action, which will result in more requirements for local districts.

"Without a doubt, the state is going to require (the LISD) to require

more training for our officers, but we are already looking to do that," he said.

More than anything else, Surratt believes, the solution to this problem lies in the fact that just about anyone can get an assault weapon.

Security measures can go only so far, he believes.

"(The assault weapon) is the most sold gun in America," he said. "We need our legislators and politicians to step up and find a solution. They have to address the issue of easy access to these type of weapons, how people with mental illness can have access to them."

Beyond laws and lawmakers, Surratt also feels society at large must demand change.

"As a society we must address it from every aspect," he said. "There just has to be controls on the access to these type of weapons. We need some sort of red flag system where school systems, hospitals and police departments work together to make this system work."

And, Surratt said, too much legislation isn't the answer either.

"We need to find a proper balance to solve the problem," he said. "Because, realistically, you can do everything to try and be safe and still have an incident."

## County's 321st District Court makes move into annex building

By Casey Murphy  
Smith County PIO

Judge Robert Wilson, who presides over the majority of Smith County family law cases in the 321st District Court, is excited about moving into his new courtroom, which took place earlier this week.

After more than a year in the making, the former meeting space and county employee exercise room has been reimagined into a beautiful, state-of-the-art courtroom.

As of Monday, all of Judge Wilson's court hearings will be taking place on the fifth floor of the Annex Building, located at 200 E. Ferguson St. His office has also moved to the same area.

"We are beyond excited to make the move to our new courtroom," Judge Wilson said. "We have intentionally designed it with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment to enable us to offer our litigants the best experience possible for their day in court. This technology will enable us to offer cutting edge remote appearances for some parties and witnesses. This will be especially helpful in allowing parents in CPS (Child Protective Services) cases expanded access to their kids' hearings when they cannot appear in person due to challenges with geography, transportation, incarceration or other circumstances. I am grateful to Judge Nathaniel Moran and the Commissioners for making this a reality and for believing in our mission at the 321st

to help children and families find hope and stability."

Renovations to the fifth floor of the Annex for Judge Wilson's new courtroom, jury room and offices has cost about \$504,319 so far and is being paid for with American Rescue Plan Act funding.

On Tuesday, May 31, Commissioners Court approved moving two additional sheriff's deputies to the Annex Building for increased security because the relocation of the 321st District Court will increase traffic to the facility.

Judge Wilson's move to the Annex Building will free up his former courtroom on the first floor of the Courthouse, located at 100 N. Broadway Ave., for a new District Court.

House Bill 3774 was signed by Gov. Greg Abbott and created the 475th District Court, which will be Smith County's fifth district court when it opens Jan. 1, 2023.

The last district court added in Smith County occurred in 1977, when the county's population was about 100,000. Currently, the population is about 230,000 people.

Texas Representative Matt Schaefer authored the legislation on the House side after coordinating with local County officials about the need for a new court. Senator Bryan Hughes authored a companion bill in the state Senate.

Currently, there are four district courts in Smith County – the 7th, 114th and the 241st District Courts preside over civil and criminal felony cases, while the 321st Dis-



Judge Robert Wilson's court hearings are now taking place on the fifth floor of the Annex Building, located at 200 E. Ferguson St.

trict Court presides over family law cases. County officials anticipate that adding the 475th District Court will reduce the jail population.

Under existing state law, Governor Abbott has the power to appoint

the new 475th District Judge initially, but that appointment would only be effective until the next succeeding General Election in November 2024, at which point the citizens of Smith County will elect

a succeeding judge for the position.

For more information about the 321st District Court, visit [www.smith-county.com/government/elected-officials/district-court-judges/321st-district-court](http://www.smith-county.com/government/elected-officials/district-court-judges/321st-district-court)

## ET Food Bank's Summer program includes Lindale facility

The East Texas Food Bank has kicked off the Summer Food Program at 27 East Texas locations so children will not go hungry during the summer break, said publicity spokesperson Rebecca Berkley.

In Lindale, meals will be available at Bigmama's Love Arc, 1414 South Main, Suite 10.

"The Summer Food Program began in 2005 to fill the meal gap left when the school year ends and children lose access to free and reduced-price meals they depend on for nourishment," said Dennis Cullinane, East Texas Food Bank CEO.

In 2021, the East Texas Food Bank served 28,811 meals to children. "This year we believe the need will be greater with the rising costs of food and are preparing to serve 50,000 meals across East Texas," added Cullinane.

The meals are provided at various community sites Monday-Friday. There is no need to register and no proof of age or income required.

Some locations offer breakfast and lunch but all offer lunch. For the full list of locations and serving times visit [EastTexasFoodBank.org/Summer-Food](http://EastTexasFoodBank.org/Summer-Food) or by calling 903-597-3663.

**The East Texas Food Bank**  
Established in 1988, the East Texas Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief nonprofit in East Texas covering 26 counties. ETFB provides over 25 million meals each year to 200 partner agencies and feeding programs. Our mission is to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas. For more information, visit [EastTexasfoodbank.org](http://EastTexasfoodbank.org)

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# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## Yep, my heroes have always been cowboys...

My heroes really have always been cowboys. The best cowboy I ever knew raised me. Before ranch accidents and crippling arthritis he rode like the wind. He and a horse in motion were something to see.

When the Gladewater Round Up Rodeo rolls around every year I get a little homesick for a way of life that is mostly just precious memories for me.

Later in life my Dad was more likely to rope cattle while riding the hood of a beat-up pickup truck driven by Mom than from a horse. I am still amazed he didn't get run over. I don't know if that speaks to his athleticism or Mom's driving skills.

I have also seen Dad try to separate two full grown, fighting bulls while his border collie bit the neck of one and shook until that Brangus beast moved away from Dad a few cracked ribs too late.

Daddy taught me to corral cattle on foot or by truck, vaccinate, brand and more. Don't ask about the 'more'. Jim Bardwell can too, because my Daddy said that 'cowboying' came with marrying me. But that is an entirely different column.

When I was a kid the ranch across from ours had a private rodeo arena, the 4G-O and all I had to do was walk across FM 709 to get a taste of cowboy competition. Soon our fifth generation Working B Ranch and the old 4G-O may be claimed by eminent domain and Japanese High Speed Rail. I want to cry every time I think about it. But memories can not be taken, even by eminent domain. And those memories are nearly all good ones.

We will make a few memories of our own this week right here in Gladewater.

When this year's Round Up Rodeo swings out of the chute Wednesday it will be a full course banquet of Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association world class competition. We have a lot to love about Round Up. If you haven't attended in awhile, or ever, you are missing one of, if not the best, entertainment offered anywhere. From little kid Mutton Bustin' and calf scrambles down in the dirt to barrel racing, steer wrestling, bull and bronc riding to bull fighting this is a show you won't want to miss.

The sport of rodeo is one of the most dangerous in America. It requires a level of skill that no other sport does. Barrel racing and team calf roping are precision events. And check out the bull fighters, they may be dressed like clowns, but there is nothing funny about the fact that their very dangerous job is to make sure the cowboys get out of the arena in one piece while they distract 2-ton raging bulls.

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



Now those bull and bronc riders, those tough old boys are a different breed altogether. I always try to visit just a minute with the young cowboys while they get ready for their events.

They are wrapping ribs, knees and elbows. They usually limp, share tape and jokes. They are passionate about their sport, their way of life and supportive of each other despite their seriously competitive sport.

What a parable for the rest of us. Passion, commitment, friendship and encouragement. Sounds like a recipe for living life well. Something we should all strive to imitate and share with others.

We all need to thank the folks who make up the rodeo association who work all year long to bring a world class event to Gladewater, Texas. This dedicated team not only puts Gladewater on the national rodeo radar every year, their event brings nationally ranked cowboys and cowgirls, as well as thousands of dollars to Gladewater in visitor money. To top it all off, all the proceeds from the rodeo go to college scholarships for area students. Scholarships that give kids a hand up and puts them on the road to success. That is pretty dog gone impressive.

Yep, like I said, my heroes have always been cowboys and that is never going to change.

Well done Round Up Rodeo directors, wranglers and sponsors, you give a great gift to this community and continue a legacy that spans over eight decades.

Gladewater is a part of our national rodeo history and it is still making history. Come and share that history this week. You won't be sorry. I promise.

And cowboys, thanks for the memories. Past and present.

**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



### TEA directed to make schools safer

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Education Agency to ensure school facilities are made safer in the wake of the killing of 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary in Uvalde.

In a letter to TEA Commissioner Mike Morath, the governor requested the agency:

- Instruct school districts to identify actions to make campuses more secure prior to the start of the new school year.
- Instruct all school districts to conduct weekly inspections of exterior doors to verify they are secure during school hours.
- Develop strategies to encourage school districts to increase the presence of trained law enforcement officers and school marshals on campuses.

The state has made an initial \$5 million investment to establish a Family Resiliency Center in Uvalde County. The center will provide psychological services, crisis counseling and other health services for those affected by the massacre.

To date, the governor has rejected calls for a special session to consider additional gun control measures. Instead, he has asked legislative leaders to convene special committees to develop recommendations on school safety, mental health, social media, police training, firearm safety and other issues.

### GOP donors urge Congress to act on gun control

More than 250 major Republican donors in Texas signed an open letter published in The Dallas Morning News urging congressional action to increase gun restrictions. The letter was published as a full-page ad on Sunday. It endorses the creation of red-flag laws, raising the age to purchase a gun to 21, and expansion of background checks.

"Most law enforcement experts believe these measures would make a difference," the letter reads. "And recent polls of fellow conservatives suggest that there is strong support for such gun-safety measures."

Texas Sen. John Cornyn is leading bipartisan negotiations on possible gun reform measures.

"We are grateful that our Senator John Cornyn is leading efforts to address the recent tragedies in Uvalde and elsewhere across our great Country," the letter says. "He's the right man to lead this bipartisan effort, as he has demonstrated throughout his career."

Among those signing the letter are major financial supporters of Abbott.

### Inflation increase is highest in 40 years

A report by the state comptroller's office notes that inflation increased to 8.5% nationally in March — "the highest year-over-year percent change in consumer prices since January 1982." Food and energy prices were the leading contributors, with gas prices reaching record levels. The largest source of inflation in food products were in meat, poultry, fish and eggs, up 14.3% in the past year.

The comptroller's report said the increase in prices is likely a "confluence of economic pressures related to the coronavirus pandemic stemming from both the supply side and the demand side."

The pandemic disrupted production and transportation lines in the global supply chains, which are not expected to fully recover until next year. In addition, demand now exceeds production capacity, often leading to empty grocery shelves and nearly empty lots at car dealerships.

Finally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions on that country have contributed to driving up the cost of oil.

### Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

Once again, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide nearly \$318 million in emergency food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for June. All SNAP households will get a minimum of \$95 in additional food allotments on top the regular allotment. More than \$6.9 billion in emergency benefits have been provided to Texans since April 2020.

"We're here to support families when they need us most," said Texas HHSC Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter. "Providing access to fresh, nutritious foods is essential for healthy families."

### Vehicle deaths reach 41-year high in 2021

The number of people killed in vehicle crashes totaled 1,532 last year, with 6,493 major injuries — the highest level since 1981. More than a third of those deaths involved excessive speed, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. With a 16% increase last year in speed-related wrecks, TxDOT is urging drivers to slow down and drive to weather and traffic conditions.

"Speed is the number one factor in roadway crashes in our state, causing 1 out of every 3 traffic deaths," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "When you speed, you increase the risk of death and serious injury in a collision. By observing the speed limit and driving to specific weather and road conditions, Texans can make our roads safer for everyone."

### COVID-19 cases continue to rise

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week rose to 46,946, with 42 new deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is more than double the number of new cases reported a month ago. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state also rose to 1,168, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Embargo!

The European Union (EU) has announced a partial embargo on Russian oil in response to the invasion of Ukraine. By yearend, about 90% of Russian oil import volumes could be affected. It's a major blow to Moscow, which relies on oil and natural gas sales for economic sustainability.

Another piece of the latest sanctions calls for European companies to cease insuring and shipping Russian oil. Even as some countries independently stopped purchasing Russian oil recently, much of it simply shifted from one destination to another (a common occurrence in markets). However, few buyers will risk an uninsured shipment in turbulent times, and with European shippers no longer providing service, it will be much harder to successfully export.

Reducing European reliance on Russian natural gas, which is the real source of its economic strength and leverage, will take much longer. While the liquified natural gas (LNG) market is developing, it will take time to reach levels sufficient to supply Europe. In addition to facilities to liquify the gas where it is plentiful (such as the Texas Gulf Coast, with pipeline connections to major production areas), re-gasification facilities are needed at the other end before the

gas can be used. The infrastructure is extremely expensive and takes years to build (our firm has worked extensively in permitting these projects). The invasion has created both geopolitical urgency and greater opportunities for profit, two key ingredients which will likely accelerate development.

The immediate price effect of the sanctions is apparent, with West Texas Intermediate crude in the \$115 per barrel range as I am writing. As a result, a rapid increase in energy activity is underway. In early 2022, rig counts stood at 274 in Texas and 588 nationally; the latest count is 358 in Texas and 727 nationally. The US oil industry is stepping up to meet global energy needs. Even with challenges such as shortages of workers and supplies and unfavorable federal policy directions, the surge has been impressive. The Permian Basin will set a production record topping 5.2 million barrels per day in June, even with operating rigs still running well below pre-pandemic levels.

The Russian economy is smaller than that of Texas and is dominated by oil and natural gas. Imports by the EU traditionally bring massive inflows to Moscow. It can't happen overnight, but an effective and concerted effort to neutralize Russia's ability to wage war can succeed over time. The EU embargo, although it will bring higher prices temporarily, is a major step on this long journey. The complete trek will require other notable actors and actions, many of which can be facilitated by the vast energy production, processing, and transportation resources found in Texas.

Stay safe!



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# Thanks to LISD, these youngsters are ready to succeed

Graduation night for more than 200 Lindale High School seniors last week was nearly perfect. The weather was mild, there was a nice breeze and the sky was clear.

The stands at Eagle Stadium were nearly full of family, friends and school officials proudly watching their favorite grad or grads finally complete the 12-year public school journey.

These young people are now standing at the doorway of "the rest of their lives" and hopefully some of that near perfection of graduation night will carry over as they search for their right path.

Of course, those of us who've stacked up more birthdays than we wish to count know life just doesn't want to cooperate.

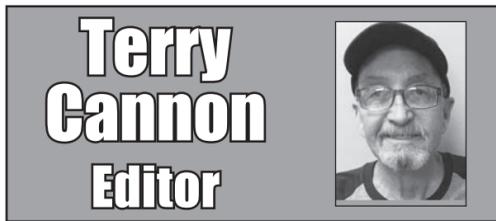
There are pitfalls, rocky roads and emotional highs and lows, but this latest edition of LHS graduates are – like most that preceded them – supremely prepared to face this future simply because of where they have been nurtured for the past dozen years.

From 1960, when I stepped into my first classroom to the present day, I've been personally involved with many school districts, either as a reporter or as a concerned parent and taxpayer.

Some districts have been sorely lacking, others have been led by dedicated professionals whose life mission it was to see their young charges emerge as responsible adults.

Without question, the Lindale ISD stands out above all the others I've been associated with.

At the Early Childhood Center (I've always maintained after visiting ECC you will leave with a smile) youngsters arrive probably a bit apprehensive but also excited about



this new thing called "school."

By the time they've navigated Velma Penny, College Street, E.J. Moss, Lindale Junior High and Lindale High School, these students have been guided by loving hands, making sure they keep on the right path.

During his remarks to the Class of 2022, Superintendent Stan Surratt reminded the graduates that their special night was just the beginning of a journey that would have lots of ups and downs but would include a great many joyous occasions as well.

His message to the grads was simple: embrace the future and make it yours. Life will bring an assortment of challenges and heartbreak, but use the knowledge gained from the mentors from the LISD and you will be in the right place.

Two examples of the type of students produced by this district were Valedictorian Vivian Lehmann and Salutatorian Gavin James, who remarks were both incisive and appropriate.

Lehmann didn't spend 12 years in the LISD, she arrived already in elementary school. Admittedly, she was shy and introverted but found a lifetime friend who realized Lehmann



was vulnerable and alone. Her new friend took her under her wing and "changed my life."

Kindness, Lehmann reminded her fellow students, is essential to being a quality human being.

James looked back on the academic rigors of the LISD and how important these trials were as young minds are being molded year after year.

These two young people are representative of the type of students that walk the hallways on each campus. Their parents, obviously, are very proud of these two young adults, but every Lindale citizen should be equally grateful that the future is in the hands of not just Lehmann and James, but each and every member of the Class of 2022.

This school district is the perfect community partner. LISD taxpayers should feel grateful for the steadfast leadership shown at every level in the district.

## This chore was a real pain in the grass

This past week, I put out one -- just one -- pallet of St. Augustine grass. If you're old like me, this will give you some idea of what you're in for. I call it, "The Stages of Puttin' Out One Pallet of St. Augustine Grass for Old People."

This advice comes from personal experience.

Check air pressure in trailer tires. Notice a bubbled out spot on the sidewall of one of the tires. Better change it. Check spare. Spare's flat. Air up spare. Air leaks out of spare faster than you can put it in. Decision time. Aww heck, it's just little bubble. Maybe you can make it.

Drive to grass place to pick up one pallet of grass. Guy loads a 3,000-pound pallet of grass onto trailer with a forklift. Bubble on tire a lot bigger now.

Prayer time. Pray you can make it home.

Drive 20 miles an hour expectin' a blowout at any minute. Cars lined up behind you like the Macy's Day Parade. Drivers behind you, not happy.

You make it home. Thank the Lord for answerin' yes to your prayer.

Back trailer up in yard. Pick up the pieces of the bird bath you backed over.

Time to get to work.

First row and second row of grass rectangles placed carefully in place.

Third, fourth, and fifth



rows thrown like the bales a hay you used to throw onto that school bus that had been converted into a flatbed hay truck back when you were a kid.

Sixth row, walkin' like Frankenstein to the spot for the next grass rectangle and droppin' it in the approximate place.

Lookin' at the pallet and noticin' that the grass must be multiplyin' because the pallet of grass is not getting any smaller.

Put out another row. Now crawlin' to the water faucet to turn on the water. So thirsty.

Turn the water on while mouth is an inch from the end of the hose. So thirsty.

Flip floppin' on the ground while spittin' out boilin' water.

Note to self: Check temperature of water in hose before drinkin'.

Back to work. Complete another row.

Sweatin' profusely. Nearly out of breath.

Lookin' for an appropriate stick in which to use to push the lung you heaved up back into your chest.

Pallet two thirds down. One third to go.

Makin' the decision whether to use what energy you have left to finish or dig a grave to bury yourself.

Suddenly you're on your back on the ground lookin' up.

Either you've passed out or you're dyin'.

You see a bright light. There's your dead grandma wavin' at you.

"Grandma!"

The light fades and you see the sky. It that an angel standin' over you? He speaks.

"You need some help?" he says. He looks familiar. Oh! It's your grandson. He has come to help you.

Suddenly, you go into supervisor mode.

Grandson finishes in record time without breakin' a sweat and then goes back and straightens all of the rectangles that you laid.

God Bless Grandsons. Thanks Grady. I love you, Bud.

Oh yeah, when your wife asks how it went, you answer that it was a piece of cake.



### Dr. Hand retirement reception

A retirement and appreciation reception for Dr. Wendall and Donna Hand, longtime health care providers in Lindale, was held this past week at their Lindale Health Clinic downtown. Dr. Hand suffered a recent stroke and is unable to continue his practice. Those attending the ceremony included, from left, Lindale Police Chief Dan Somes, Lindale City Manager Carolyn Caldwell and city of Lindale Financial Director David Craft. (Courtesy photo)

## Times of Lindale



**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, June 10, 2021

Smith County Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace Jon Johnson announced plans to seek reelection to continue in the office he's held since 2018, officials said.

Johnson, a Republican, and his wife Kim have lived in Lindale for the past 20 years.

"I have done my best to be an honest, competent, hard-working judge who administers justice fairly and consistently. I want to continue to make a difference in this community for another term," Johnson said in a statement.

A 1986 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a Bachelor's Degree in political science, Johnson earned a Master's Degree in criminology and corrections from Sam Houston State University in 1989.

Prior to serving as a federal chief probation officer for Texas from 2003-2014, Johnson worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and was a federal probation officer. From 2014-2018, he taught law enforce-

ment and criminal justice at Lindale High School.

Johnson and his wife are members of Lindale's First United Methodist Church and the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce.

### FIVE YEARS AGO, June 8, 2017

Three Lindale High School girls soccer standouts were named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association Academic All-State teams, officials announced.

Ashley Flores, Leslie Flores and Hanna Parks were the LHS players named to the team.

In order to qualify for the team, players must be seniors, must have a grade point average of 94 or above for grades 9-11 and must be a team member in good standing.

Lindale's head girls coach Kristen Parson nominated her players for the honor.

### 10 YEARS AGO, June 7, 2012

Lindale High School graduate David Baggett earned a Master's of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from Lamar University in Beaumont. A member of the engineering honor fraternity Chi Epsilon, Baggett previously earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in College Station.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Thank you Terry Cannon for your timely editorial in the Lindale News & Times on June 2. Offering sympathy and prayers after a mass shooting is reactive.

That is what many people, including politicians, do and it seems to soothe their feelings

and make them think that they have done their part in the aftermath of these tragedies.

We need to be proactive and create laws that limit the occurrences of the mass shootings. **PROACTIVE NOT REACTIVE.**

JS Kier  
Garden Valley

## Commissioners OK adding space for upcoming 475th District Court

Smith County commissioners recently declared June as "Elder Abuse Prevention Month" and approved adding space to the district attorney's office to accommodate the new 475th District Court.

Created by House Bill 3774 in 2021, the 475th District Court will be the fifth district court in Smith County which will necessitate adding more space, County Judge Nathaniel Moran said.

The new court will require several new employees and space will be added on the third floor and basement areas of the courthouse.

Moran said adding the space now will enable the county to "stay ahead of the curve."

Additionally, the 321st District Court is scheduled to move to the Courthouse Annex prompting the need for more security personnel, which commissioners did by reclassifying two vacant detention center officers and moving them to the annex in security positions.

"We know tensions can be high when it comes to family matters," Moran said. "We want to make sure that there's appropriate security personnel beyond just the bailiff in the court."

In declaring June as Elder Abuse Prevention Month, Precinct 4 Commissioner Joann Hampton read a resolution

which pointed out there were 1,170 elder or disabled cases of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation investigated by Texas Adult Services personnel and home case workers in Smith County in 2021.

Of those cases, 597 were confirmed as being abuse, neglect or exploitation.

"Elderly abuse is grossly underreported because the elderly being abused find it very difficult to tell anyone and are usually ashamed and sometimes afraid," Hampton said, adding it is residents' duty to reach out to those in need and work together as a community to reduce the neglect of elderly and disabled people.

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# Master Gardeners host workshop, fundraiser

By Elizabeth Waldrop

## Smith County Master Gardener

The Smith County Master Gardener Association is hosting a Workshop fundraiser -- "Summer Stars, Texas Superstars: Plants for Here and Now" from 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Friday, June 10 at Glass Recreation Center 501 W 32nd Street in Tyler.

The workshop will be \$20 for pre registrants and \$25 at the door the day of the event. The first 100 registrants will receive a swag bag full of gardening goodies.

All attendees will be registered for door prize drawings and refreshments will be available. All funds raised will support Smith County Master Gardener Education programs and Scholarships.

This workshop will focus on Texas Superstar plants, Earth Kind Landscaping techniques and best practices for landscape and vegetable gardening in Northeast Texas.

Texas Superstar Plants are Texas Tough selections made by the Texas A&M Extension Horticulturists for proven performance across the state of Texas.

These plants have been trialed at locations throughout the state to ensure they are superstars when it comes to reliability and bloom power.

The Texas Superstars plant program is an extension of the Earth-Kind Landscaping program.

Earth-Kind Landscaping uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment.

The objective of Earth-Kind Landscaping is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and

landscaping principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. Earth-Kind Landscaping encourages water conservation, reduction of chemical fertilizer and pesticides, landscaping for energy conservation and reduction of landscape related waste entering landfills.

Many plants in the program are perennials or self-seeding annuals, which return year after year. Plants are evaluated to handle Texas's heat, humidity and highly variable winters.

All the plants have outstanding beauty throughout their growing season. They are sustainable and grow with little care, pesticide or fertilizer use. These plants and corresponding gardening techniques that will be discussed are economical, reliable and highly productive.

Using Earth-Kind selections can also reduce the amount of time and water that a gardener needs to use to keep gardens in tip top shape.

Not only will we discuss Texas Superstars but also, varmints in the garden and how to deal with them, other common issues such as fungus and plant disease. We will give you a plan for how to handle these problems as they crop up to save your garden and your sanity.

For more information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/SmithCountyMasterGardeners> and our website, <https://txmg.org/smith/events/> for registration and other information.

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

## OBITUARY

### Jacob Wayne Grona

Jacob Wayne Grona, beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, and friend, passed away on May 19, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 26 years old.

He is survived by his parents, Patrick and Susie, sister Katie, grandmother Joellen Eysnogle, two aunts, Joanie DuVall (Michael) and Lori Diaz (David), beloved dog, Stevie and many close friends. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Ernest and May Roy Grona, and his maternal grandfather, Robert Eysnogle.

Jacob was born on June 26, 1995, in Corpus Christi where he spent most of his childhood life until 2009.

His family moved to East Texas and Jacob graduated from Lindale High School in 2013 where he was a part of an all-star cast in the production, "A Taste of Sunrise." His love and skill for theater landed him a number of roles throughout high school and in the community. One such role was Theophilus

North in which he says "I want to be surrounded by a constellation...of people. And I want to know that my star played a part in the constellation of others."



Those who knew Jacob lost a shining star in their constellation. His hearty laughter and kind soul made an im-

print on everyone he came across, and his star will continue to shine bright in our hearts.

Aside from acting, Jacob had a passion for helping others. He was a great listener and empathic, especially to those who struggled with substance abuse. He was working at a recovery center and taking classes to become a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC).

A celebration of Jacob's life will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 at 1 p.m. at Comanche Trace, 2801 Comanche Trace Drive, Kerrville, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to [harmreduction.org](http://harmreduction.org) or Freeman-Frits Dog Rescue & Shelter.

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17117 FM 1253  
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### Community Church

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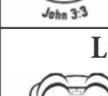
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Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

**Friday, May 27, 2021**

Chief Somes and Officers Philpot and Capps responded to a business alarm at 100 block Ballard Dr, unfounded. Officer Capps responded to a criminal mischief at 900 block Mt Sylvan St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Capps responded to a business alarm at 400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a residential alarm at 800 block Pineland Ln, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Capps responded to a criminal trespass at 13400 block I-20, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a 911 hang up at 15600 block Brittan Ct, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a warrant service at 300 block S Main St, arrest made. Officer Gillham responded to a driving while intoxicated at 2500 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Shurley and Officer Wells responded to a welfare concern at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

**Saturday, May 28, 2022**

Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a business alarm at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a welfare concern at 500 block Circle Dr, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a public service at 300 block Hamrick St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a business alarm at 14000 FM 849, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to an assist EMS at 800 block Greenwood Cir, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to an accident at 2800 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Shurley and Officer Mumej responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Sgt Houghton responded to a suspicious vehicle at 200 block N Main St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Wells responded to a disturbance at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Wells responded to a welfare concern at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wells responded to a suspicious circumstance at 800 block E South St, settled at scene. Officer Wells responded to a suspicious circumstance at 800 block E South St, unfounded. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a stolen vehicle at 3500 block S Main St, report taken.

**Sunday, May 29, 2022**

Sgt Houghton and Officers Jackquet and Wells responded to an assist other agency at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officer Wells responded to a suspi-



cious vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers, Sgt Lazarine, Sgt Houghton, Detective Fortunas and Officers Shurley, Wells and Mumej responded to a burglary in progress at 400 block Grace Ave, report taken. Officer Shurley and Officers Wells and Mumej responded to a business alarm at 13800 block Hwy 69 N, false alarm. Officer Shurley and Officers Mumej and Wells responded to an assist smith county at 1500 block Hideaway Ln, settled at scene.

**Monday, May 30, 2022**

Detective Fortunas and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to an inquest at 500 block Hamrick St, report taken. Sgt Houghton responded to a suspicious person at 300 block Perryman Rd, unfounded. Sgt Houghton and Officer Jackquet responded to an accident at 900 block Mt Sylvan St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to a business alarm at 500 block N Main St, false alarm. Officer Shurley and Officer Mumej responded to a stolen license plate at 200 block Francis Dr, report taken. Officer Allen and Officer Wells responded to an assist other agency at 552 E I-20, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Shurley, Allen, Mumej and Wells responded to an assist EMS at 300 block S Industrial St, settled at scene. Sgt Houghton and Officers Allen and Wells responded to a loud noise complaint at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Mumej and Wells responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Officer Allen responded to a suspicious vehicle at 900 block Mt Sylvan St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Allen and Wells responded to a reckless driver at 200 block Margaret St, warning issued.

**Tuesday, May 31, 2022**

Sgt Houghton and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 13800 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 200 block W Centennial Blvd, settled at scene.

Officer Jackquet responded to an accident at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Sgt Lazarine and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Allen and Officer Wells responded to an assist smith county at 13300 block Country Meadow Ln, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Mumej responded to a possession of drug paraphernalia at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, citation issued. Officer Allen and Officer Wells responded to a suspicious person at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene. Officer Allen and Officer Wells responded to a suspicious circumstance at 300 block Braziel St, unfounded.

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022**

Officer Philpot responded to an accident at 1100 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 300 block Rita Dr, settled at scene. Chief Somes and Officer Philpot responded to an assist other agency at the 800 block Mallory St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a welfare concern at 1100 block CR 4191, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 17000 block W I-20, unfounded. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a 911 hang up at 300 block Hamrick St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a public intoxication at 300 block Bowers St, arrest made. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to an assist smith county at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a public service at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

**Thursday June 02, 2022**

Officer Ramsey responded to a public service at 13300 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious person at 2500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at 200 block Wood Springs Rd, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a damaged property at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a deadly conduct at 900 block Stewart St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a welfare concern at 17000 block I-20 W, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a loud noise complaint at 800 block E Hubbard St, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a warrant service at 3500 block S Main St, arrest made.

## Dallas man sentenced for sex trafficking

A Dallas man has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison for sex trafficking of children in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Davilyn Walston, publicity spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston.

Laderrick Dedemon Smith, also known as "Freeway," 22, pleaded guilty on Aug. 24, 2021, to sex trafficking of children and was sentenced to 240 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Sean D. Jordan on May 26, 2022.

According to information presented in court, in April 2020, HSI and the Arlington Police Department, with the assistance of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, rescued a minor victim who had been sex trafficked by Smith, including during the COVID pandemic lockdown.

Through investigation, officers learned that Smith had trafficked the minor victim, and others, out of a hotel room in Plano, within the Eastern District of Texas. Smith placed ads on sites with photographs of the minor victims and offered them for sex. Smith communicated with prospective buyers, set rates, and arranged for the commercial sex acts.

Smith also installed a tracking device on the minor victim's cell phone so that the minor could not leave the hotel, obtain food, or seek medical treatment without his knowledge.

In sentencing Smith, the district court found that Smith kept the minor victim in his custody, care, and supervisory control, and that Smith unduly influenced the minor victim to engage in commercial sex through fear of bodily injury. The Court ultimately sentenced Smith to a total term of imprisonment of 20 years, to be followed by a term of supervised release of 15 years, during which time Smith will be required to register as a sex offender.

"Protecting children from predators like Smith is one of our top priorities," said U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston. "I'm proud of the work our partners at the North Texas Trafficking Task Force do hunting for those who prey on children. He who harms a child will suffer the wrath of law enforcement and will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

"Child sex trafficking is one of the most deviant crimes we investigate in our agency," said acting Special Agent in Charge Christopher Miller, HSI Dallas. "The work of our law enforcement partners of the North Trafficking Task Force has proven to be invaluable in removing these dangerous predators from our communities, while at the same time providing much needed assistance to those victimized by their perpetrators."

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations-led North Texas Trafficking Task Force and the Arlington Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa Miller.

### Gunman sentenced to 20 years for shooting during carjacking

A Port Arthur man has been sentenced to federal prison for violations in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Charles Robert Knatt, 20, pleaded guilty on Aug. 11, 2021, to carjacking and use of a firearm during a crime of violence and was sentenced to 240 months in federal prison today by U.S.

District Judge Marcia A. Crone.

According to court documents, on March 15, 2021, law enforcement officers responded to a carjacking and shooting in Port Arthur where they found a man shot in the arm at his residence. The victim told officers that as he walked out of his house to go to work, he was approached by an unknown male -- later identified as Charles Knatt -- who was armed with a gun.

Knatt forced the victim to his knees and pointed a pistol at the victim's head demanding money and the keys to his truck.

When the victim gave Knatt his keys and wallet, Knatt got in the victim's truck and backed out of the driveway. The victim attempted to run inside his house, however his front door was locked and he could not get in due to Knatt stealing his keys. The victim began to frantically ring his doorbell and beat on the door in order to wake his wife and get inside the house, at which point Knatt exited the truck and fired several shots at the victim, striking him one time in the arm. Security cameras at the victim's home captured the carjacking and shooting on video. Three days later, Knatt turned himself in to police after seeing news reports about the carjacking and shooting. Knatt admitted to law enforcement that he stole the victim's truck and shot him. Knatt was indicted by a federal grand jury on May 6, 2021.

"Make no mistake about it, there are predators out there like this guy," said U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston. "The Port Arthur Police and ATF have joined forces to stop violent offenders and we will pursue each one until they are in jail."

"Working with our local, state, and federal partners is the most effective way to combat violent crime," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Fred Milanowski. "This case sends a very clear message to those using firearms in crime and creating a threat to the public that law enforcement will work together at every level to keep the public safe."

"I would like to thank United States Attorney Brit Featherston and his staff, Beaumont ATF, the dedicated women and men of the Port Arthur Police Department and citizens of Port Arthur for collectively bring this case to a successful conclusion," said Port Arthur Police Chief Tim Duriso. "Hopefully, the conclusion of this senseless and violent crime gives the victim and his family closure, and assures the public, law enforcement is working diligently to ensure their safety."

This case was prosecuted as part of the joint federal, state, and local Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program, the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts. PSN is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime.

This case was investigated by the Port Arthur Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Quinn.

## Four Lindale residents indicted by county grand jury

Smith County Grand Juries handed down 83 indictments for the period from April 28 through May 5, including four from Lindale, said Grand Jury Coordinator Marieliza Martinez.

Lindale indictments include: -- Quintlin Jimerson, 33, burglary of a habitation on April 8, 2022;

-- Jacob Davis, 39, evading arrest with a vehicle on March 31, 2022; -- April Christian, 43, injury to a child/elderly/disabled on Oct. 25, 2021; -- Ryan Pruitt, 23, unlawful possession of a firearm on Sept. 15, 2021.

## County jail bookings include Lindale resident

Smith County law enforcement reported several arrests and jail bookings in the past two weeks with one Lindale resident among those taken to the county jail.

William Kevin Zweck, 25, of Lindale, was arrested on Monday, May 30 on a charge of aggravated assault date/family/house with weapon. Zweck was taken to Smith County Jail with a \$25,000 bond.

Officers with the Lindale Police Department arrested Robert Maynard Hodgson, III, 45, of Mineola on Saturday, May 28, on a charge of theft of property between \$30,000 and \$150,000. Hodgson was taken to Smith County Jail with a \$100,000 bond.

Other arrests and jail bookings included:

-- Daniel Wade Boyd, 61, of Tyler was arrested on Friday, May 27, on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Boyd was released the same day from Smith County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

-- Deputies on Friday, May 27, arrested Anaya Marionana Cameron, 19, of Tyler, on two counts of assault peace officer/judge/insufficient bond. Cameron was taken to Smith County Jail with bonds totaling \$50,000.

-- Deputies on Saturday, May 28 arrested Steven Ross Cobb, 50, of Tyler, on five theft warrants out of Caddo Parish. Cobb was taken to Smith County Jail without bond.

-- Deputies on Friday, May 27 arrested Travis Brax Davis, 24, of Chandler, on a warrant of burglary of habitation/bond violation. Davis' bond was set at \$300,000.

-- Deputies on Friday, May 27, arrested Chase Collin McDonald, 23, on warrants of credit card or debit card abuse, aggravated assault public servant, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and evading arrest or detention. McDonald remained in Smith County Jail on bonds totaling \$309,000.

-- Joshua Tranair Meekings, 26, of Tyler was arrested on Monday, May 30 on a warrant of injury child/elderly/disabled person with intent serious bodily injury/mental. He remained in Smith County Jail on a \$1 million bond.

-- Deputies on Monday arrested William Kevin Zweck, 25, of Lindale, on a charge of aggravated assault date/family/house with weapon. Zweck remained in Smith County Jail on a \$25,000 bond.

-- Tyler Police officers on Tuesday, May 31 arrested Jose Andrade, 65, of Irving, on a charge of aggravated assault against public servant. Andrade remained Tuesday in Smith County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

-- Tyler Police officers on Monday, May 31 arrested Deandre Devon Benson, 25, of Tyler, on a warrant of aggravated robbery out of Morris County. Benson remained in Smith County Jail without bond.

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## LHS softball players participate in All-Star game

Lindale High School softball players contributed to their respective teams' success this past weekend in Whitehouse in the Heart of A Champion All Star game.

Lady Eagles Ellie Watkins (Red Team), Libbi Rozell (Red Team) and Jesika Miller (Blue Team) were the local participants in the game played Saturday at Whitehouse High School.

The Red Team took a 6-4 victory as Kammie Walker from Hallsville led the way with two hits, one run batted in and two runs scored.

Watkins, meanwhile, added a hit to the Red Team's total. Also

For the Blue Team, Hallsville's Jaryn Nelson enjoyed a 3-for-3 night and scored twice. Miller had a hit and scored a run.

Mackenzie Wilson of Henderson slapped double for the Red Team while other hitters included Mallory Pyle, Hallsville; Haleigh Hughes, Elkhart; Ame-

lia Phillips, Edgewood; Payten Nolen, Mabank; Carlee Cline, Mabank; Madelyn Flanery, Tyler Legacy and Maddy Bolin, Grand Saline.

Other Red All-Stars were Maeci Wilson, Brook Hill; Ashton Jones, Carthage; Ashlyn Curbow, Nacogdoches Central Heights; Lauren Simmons, Mineola; Anna Green, Ore City; Lindsay Davis, Troup; Sydney Chamberlain, Union Grove; Maci Jones, Van and Morgan Bengé, White Oak.

Other players on the Blue Team included Emma Barrentine, Brownsboro; Raeligh Strickland, Canton; Alyssa Corona, Como-Pickton; Danyelle Molina, Hallsville; Juliana Harwell, Jacksonville; Callie Sparks, Sabine; Addison Caddell, Sulphur Springs; Maddy Griffin, Troup; Presley Johnston, Tyler Legacy; Lillian Scalia, White Oak and Avery Taylor, Whitehouse.

## Keys to food safety in the workplace

By Claudann Jones  
Smith County Extension Agent  
Family and Community Health

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension observes June as National Safety Month. The month is dedicated to preventing causes of workplace injury. Spending so much time in our workplace lends itself to eating, cooking, and storing food in that workplace, so let's take a look at the cornerstone of food safety in the lunchroom and the home kitchen, the refrigerator.

Improperly stored food is one of the causes of 48 million cases of food borne illness in the US each year. 128,000 of those cases lead to hospitalizations and 3,000 result in death. We don't think of foodborne illness as the cause of our "stomach flu" because symptoms can present 6 days after you have eaten contaminated food in some cases and we certainly don't think contamination of our lunch can occur in the office refrigerator.

### Fridge Basics

For workplace refrigerators and those at home, a refrigerator ther-

момeter is recommended to assure that the internal temperature stays at 40 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or lower. Food kept in between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F for longer than two hours is no longer safe to eat. Such a rule is good to remember after parties and celebrations when large amounts are served.

### Proper Placement

Raw meat, poultry and fish should be kept on the bottom of the fridge to prevent any liquids from leaking and contaminating any food, but especially food that will be consumed without cooking.

### Cool Down Quick

Large quantities of hot food, like a pot of soup or a large cut of meat should be divided into smaller portions to cool down more efficiently, thus spending less time in the "temperature danger zone", between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F. Small portions of hot food can be put into the fridge and should be covered to prevent drying out and picking up odors from other foods.

### Wipe Weekly

Finally, leftovers are only good

for 3-4 days. Shared workplace refrigerators should be emptied of leftovers at least once a week. Shelves can be wiped down with a bleach solution (2 teaspoons of bleach and 16 ounces of water) or cleaning product containing bleach. If using a homemade bleach solution, let the product sit on the surface for two minutes, then wipe dry. The office refrigerator is a great convenience that can help add healthy options to our workday meals, but it often goes overlooked as a place that can harm your health.

Taking these steps can help make your lunchtime food safe and flavorful. For more information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Family and Community Health programs, 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.

## BBB warns of utility company imposters

Summer is officially here. Rising temperatures mean high air conditioning bills which can lead to scammers being able to "save you money."

Officials with the Better Business Bureau advise consumers to be on the lookout for government and utility company representatives imposters who are offering phony home energy audits and services and provides the following information about what you need to know to spot the scam.

"The idea that someone will come in and offer a quick fix solution, while appealing, is often a ploy to try and steal your information," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Serving Central East Texas said. "Resist the urge to act until you have done your homework."

### How this scam works;

You are contacted over the phone or in person at your front door. The "representative" introduces themselves as working for your utility company or with the energy division of your local government. They may even show you identification, but it isn't real.

Scammers inform you that you could be saving big on your energy

bill. Some con artists will even insist on a tour of your home. These individuals may offer to install filters, thermostats, or other energy equipment to lower your bill, or they may say simply you are eligible to pay less.

In either case, they'll ask you to sign a contract and possibly even run a credit check. They will also ask for billing information, including your debit or credit card number.

In the end, you won receive any discount on your energy bill and any services. The equipment you were promised won't be delivered. That's because this "home energy audit" is a scam. You may, however, be charged the fees mentioned in the contract, and your personal information will be in the hands of a scammer.

### BBB advises the following:

Don't agree to anything on the spot. No matter how good the deal seems or how urgent the individual makes their offer seem, take time to do your research. Tell the person you need time to think about their offer and hang up or close the door. Scammers may tell you you'll miss out on the deal, but taking immediate action isn't worth

getting scammed

Go to the source. Contact your local government agency or your utility company directly to confirm whether they really are offering energy audit services. This is the quickest way to find out if you are dealing with an impostor.

Get help. If you aren't sure about what you're being offered, talk to someone. Call a trusted friend or family member or contact your local BBB to find out if it you are dealing with a scam.

### For more information

Learn more ways to protect yourself from scams by reading the BBB's tip on avoiding impostor scams. You can find additional information at [BBB.org/AvoidScams](http://BBB.org/AvoidScams). To report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices, please call BBB at (903)581-5704 or use BBB Scam Tracker.

Remember, great businesses are out there. Always look for the BBB seal; it's the Sign of a Better BusinessSM. Start with companies you can trust by going to [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). Look for the seal. It's the sign of a better business.



**District Attorney visits Lindale Rotary**  
Smith County District Attorney Jacob Putman was the guest speaker this past week at the Lindale Rotary Club and discussed methods and procedures of his office, specifically in the area of white collar crimes. Rotary member Darla Strickland is shown with the district attorney. (Courtesy photo)

## Lindale American Legion Post plans flag retirement ceremony

The American Legion Jordan-Duncan Post 15 in Lindale is scheduled to hold a formal Flag Retirement Service at the Lindale Veteran's Memorial beginning at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, officials said.

The Lindale Veteran's Memorial is located downtown behind the Lillie Russell Memorial Library.

Approximately 150 flags collected from the community will be retired, officials said.

Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony.

The retirement ceremony will be held in conjunction with National Flag Day, celebrated each June 14.

"Old Glory" is a symbol of a nation comprised of people dedicated to freedom and independence and



to veterans who have served the United States down through its history the flag represents a symbol that their past and continuous service has been worthwhile.

Public Law 94-344, also known as the Federal Flag Law, is the law concerning how to handle the American flag.

Adopted in Congress in 1923, the code has been revised several times over the past 99 years.

"The flag, when it is such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning," the code reads.

Thus, the disposal of such flags should be appropriately somber and dignified.

## TxDOT officials urge drivers to slow down and save a life

Last year the number of people killed in vehicle crashes in Texas reached a level not seen since 1981, and 34 percent of those deaths involved speed, according to Texas Department of Public Transportation spokesman Jeff Williford.

In 2021, speed was the main reason we saw 163,756 traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 6,493 serious injuries and 1,532 fatalities. That's why TxDOT's "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign is urgently reminding motorists to slow down and drive a safe speed.

"Speed is the number one factor in roadway crashes in our state, causing 1 out of every 3 traffic deaths," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "When you speed, you increase the risk of death and serious injury in a collision. By observing the speed limit and driving to specific weather and road conditions, Texans can make our roads safer for everyone."

To reinforce that driving too fast can be dangerous and expensive, TxDOT is partnering with law enforcement agencies across the Lone Star State as they step up their efforts to enforce speed limits during Operation Slowdown June 7-21.

In addition to writing citations, law enforcement vehicles will spend extra time driving on roads reminding motorists what a safe speed looks like. Driving a safe speed often means more than follow-

ing the posted speed limit. TxDOT has these safety tips for motorists:

- Match your speed to road conditions if there's bad weather or you're driving through a work zone.
- Slow down and allow for more distance to stop when traffic is heavy.
- Watch for signs alerting you of reduced speed limits ahead. This month Texas drivers can expect to see the campaign's speed messages on TV, radio, billboards, gas pumps, and social media.

Community events featuring an interactive exhibit of safety quizzes and video displays will be held at Buc-ee's locations along major travel corridors. TxDOT's HERO trucks that assist motorists in need and clear minor crashes on state highways will also be enlisted to prompt speeding drivers to slow down. The "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths

## Periwinkle blight is persistent problem

By Greg Grant  
Smith County Horticulturist

Periwinkle blight (aerial phytophthora) is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora parasitica*. It's the number one disease problem for annual vinca or periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*) and can persist in the soil for several years. Sadly, it's almost always caused by folks not understanding something known as the disease triangle which includes a host, a pathogen, and environmental conditions.

Under conditions of frequent overhead irrigation or rainfall, this disease spreads rapidly. The fungus is often introduced into the landscape by infected plant material.

Aerial phytophthora can be a recurring problem for periwinkles once the disease organism has been established in residential or commercial plantings.

The initial symptoms of disease are the presence of water-soaked, gray green, "greasy" areas on the shoots and leaves. This symptom is quickly followed by a sudden wilting of shoots. As the disease advances within the plant tissues, dark brown lesions develop on the stems. These lesions result in death of the stem or entire plants.

Under wet conditions the microorganism can move from one plant to another merely by leaf-to-leaf contact. When the foliage remains wet, the disease progresses very rapidly. Plants may be killed

within one to two weeks after symptoms appear.

There are some simple rules for growing periwinkles. Ignore them at your own peril.

Do not plant periwinkles until after Mother's Day (or even Memorial Day) each year. They are essentially from Africa and are a summer bedding plant, not a spring bedding plant. They like it hot and dry.

Choose only pristine transplants with no dead shoots or brown lesions on the stems.

Do not use overhead irrigation on periwinkles, always keep the stems and foliage dry, and do not water them at night. Aerial phytophthora is spread by water.

If you repeatedly water peri-

winkles, they will get this disease and die. After being initially watered in, periwinkles rarely need supplemental irrigation in East Texas, certainly no more than once a month during June, July, and August only.

Always plant periwinkles in full sun in well drained soils. In addition to more blooms, this ensures that the plants and soil do not stay too moist.

Do not over-fertilize periwinkles, as new succulent shoots are more prone to the disease.

Remove dead shoots or dying plants immediately and discard them in plastic trash bags with your garbage to minimize the disease in the future. Sanitation is critical in plant disease preven-

tion.

Do not plant periwinkles in beds with a history of aerial phytophthora.

Plant periwinkles in the 'Cora' series, if you can find them, as they have some genetic resistance to the disease.

Chlorothalonil (Daconil) fungicide can be used to protect healthy plants from the disease but will not cure infected plants.

Plant periwinkles in raised beds and containers which provide extra aeration and drainage.

Successfully growing periwinkles is all about sanitation and minimizing water contact with the plants. Keeping them hot, sunny, and on the dry side is the key to success.

# Officials say armyworms won't be problem this year

By Adam Russell  
Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Service

Texas forage producers are facing high fertilizer prices, but Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts do not expect they will face an early outbreak of fall armyworms.

David Kerns, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension state integrated pest management specialist and professor in the Department of Entomology, said recent weather has not created conditions for the early migration of the devastating pest experienced in 2021.

Populations typically build following large rain events and cooler weather. But Kerns said there is no indication that armyworm popula-

tions are building in southern areas of the state following recent weather systems that dropped temperatures and delivered moisture.

Fall armyworms' name is indicative of their active season, but cool, wet weather can trigger outbreaks, Kern said. Populations of armyworms, which are extremely damaging to forage production, typically begin increasing sometime between July and September.

"Fall armyworms typically build up in southeastern Texas, and the moths move northward throughout the eastern half of the state," he said. "Last year, with all the spring and summer rains, that buildup occurred earlier than usual, but conditions are much drier this year despite the recent storm fronts."

No reports of armyworms so far. Fall armyworms are green with brown or black colorations and can be identified by the white inverted Y on their head. They can grow up to 1 inch in length when mature.

The pest got its name because they appear to march army-like across hay fields, consuming the grass in their path.

Amyworm moths can lay up to 2,000 eggs that hatch in two to three days, according to a 2019 report by Allen Knutson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension entomologist, retired.

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension forage specialist, Overton, said there are four to five generations that move throughout the state per growing season. They typically move north from Mexico and

South Texas as temperatures warm in the spring. Generations will push further north into midwestern states, but moths and larvae remain present throughout the state.

Drier, hotter conditions slow their life cycles, Corriher-Olson said. Moths lay fewer eggs and caterpillar growth is slowed. But rainfall and cooler temperatures can trigger major infestations when local populations, new hatches and migrating moths descend on areas with quality food sources.

Corriher-Olson said continued drier conditions overall in southern parts of the state are likely to curb any early issues forage producers may have experienced in 2021.

"I have not received any reports or phone calls, and that tells me popula-

tions in areas where the armyworm migration begins have not reached any level of concern," she said.

No problem until there is a problem

Corriher-Olson said producers typically react to fall armyworm outbreaks when they occur, which has led to product availability issues during the pandemic. She noted, however, that she had not received any reports about insecticide shortages to date.

"Many producers take a reactionary approach to armyworms because of the expense," she said. "Some producers may have products on hand that are left over from last year, but most are going to be monitoring the situation to their south and plan accordingly."



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## LEGAL NOTICES

CAUSE NO. 46253P

ESTATE OF DAVID IRA MILLER DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of David Ira Miller were issued on June 1, 2022, in cause number 46253P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to Annella Evyonne Miller. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

Annella Evyonne Miller,  
Representative Estate of David Ira Miller  
c/o Gregory A. Fraser  
P.O. Box 2562 209 S. Main Street  
Lindale, TX 75771

Dated June 3, 2022.  
Gregory A. Fraser  
Attorney for Administrator of the  
Estate of David Ira Miller

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer Retail Dealer's Off-Premises License & Wine only package Store Permit by West Hill Ranch Group, LLC (dba) WHRG # 3038, to be located at 13411 I-20 W, Lindale, TX 75706. Officers of the said entity: Lamar Frady, Co-CEO, West Hill Ranch Group LLC, Member.

### Notice to Creditors

Letters of Administration for Estate of Robert Marshall Rowden, Deceased, were issued to Robert Alan Rowden on 6/1/22, in Cause No. 46319P, by the County Court of Smith County, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to Robert Alan Rowden, c/o Richard Palterson, Attorney at Law, 218 N. Broadway, Ste.304, Tyler, Texas 75702 within the time and manner prescribed by law.

## LAWN MAINTENANCE:

mowing, weed eating, trimming.  
Call: 903-571-1978 or 903-882-6395

## ESTATE SALE

Everything must go sale:  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. June 10,  
8 a.m. – 3 p.m. June 11;  
13961 CR 468 – Tyler

Collectible antiques, crystal, depression glass, milk glass, furniture

## YARD SALE

Multi Family yard sale Saturday June 11th from 8-3  
Brand new baby and wedding cards 12 per box \$6  
each, book risers, AC window unit, clothes, home  
decor, new mini blinds  
11284 CR 4102  
Lindale Texas 75771



**TWO Divide & Conquer Estate Sales**  
**Sale #1 Estate of Joan & Glenn Taylor**  
Thurs., June 9 - 7:00 - 5:30 • Fri., June 10 - 8:00 - 5:30 • Sat., June 11 - 8:00 - 2:00  
**607 Woodland Hills - Tyler TX, 75701**

Off SSE Loop 323, turn north (inside SSW Loop 323) onto Old Bullard Rd. Turn left (west) onto Woodland Hills. The contents/ consignments of this 3667 sq. ft. home must go: din. table & matching hutch; Duncan Phyfe din table; farmhouse table & 6 chairs; breakfast table; wooden chests; Eng. oak Welsh dresser; another display cabinet; sterl. & silverplate serv. pcs; crystal; decanters; Tiffany & Co. cups & saucers; Spode "Marlborough Sprays" china; Coalport china; Lenox "Eclipse" china; Bridgwood "Indian Tree" china; Spode Copeland "Blue Bird" china; Spode Christmas dishes; misc. chairs; fireplace tools; extra-long Mid-century sofa; barley twist gate leg table; chaise lounge; end tables; jade/ soapstone items; A. C. Gentry framed print of Christ Episcopal Church; W.A. Slaughter framed bluebonnet print; framed ribbings; vintg. desk; sofa; entry tables; rugs; wicker sofa, chair, table; framed art; recliner; full link mink coat; mink stole; cost. jewelry; wedding dresses; evening wear; clothes; shoes; purses; men's suits; boots; copper and brass items; brass samovar; brass umbrella/cane holder; canes; linens; decorative pillows; wall sconces; needlepoint; drop leaf table with 4 chairs; lateral file; colorful plates & serving pieces; stemware; barware; Rose Festival books; dolls from around the world; abundance of Asian selections; 4-poster full bed; lamps; 2 desks/tables; lovely desk with leather insert top; file cabinets; office chair; shelves; Univ. of TX and Tyler High Sch. yrbooks; 1976 R.E. Lee yrbk; glassware; luggage; vanities selections; Christmas items; flatware; 2 refrigerators; sm. appliances; pitchers; kitchenware; cookbooks; canisters; bakeware; knife sets; planters; vases; frames; toys; dolls; games; shelving units; Whirlpool wash. & dry.; patio table, chairs, cart, settee; pagodas; yard art; great basket selections; framed U.S. Ryder Cup Team Captains; TV armoire; TV's; electronics; Stereographic Library; many books, movies, CD's, records; hand tools; horse head hitching posts; wheel chair; shower chair; Coleman cooker; ladders; heavy duty dolly; sooooo much more! You don't want to miss this one!!!  
Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com or EstateSales.Net

**Sale #2 Two Day Estate Sale**  
**of Dorothy & LCDR Frank M. Conklin, Jr.**  
Thurs., June 9 ~ 7:00 - 5:30 • Fri., June 10 ~ 8:00 - 5:30  
**TWO DAYS ONLY Will NOT be on Saturday**  
**407 Brighton Court ~ Tyler TX, 75701**

Off SSE Loop 323, turn north (inside the Loop) onto Old Bullard Road. Turn left (west) onto Brighton Ct. It is VERY close to sale #1. Please park at the SOMA Church across the entrance from Brighton Ct.

This garden home sold quickly by Sheri Hanna. The following contents must go: din. table/ 8 chairs; sofa; loveseat; club chair; glass top coffee table; rugs; server; lawyer's bookcase; Mid-century coffee table; Francis I sterling dinnerware; Rogers Brothers "Flair"; sterling and silverplate selections; Wedgwood "Mid-winter" stoneware; 2 other set of flatware; Nortake "Elegant" china; Castleton china; silverplate punch bowl/ cups; sofa table; blue & white selections; misc. sterling serv. pcs; breakfast table/ 4 chairs; stack tables; round table; 4 parson chairs; brass fire screen; fireplace tools; glass top coffee table; queen bed unit; TV armoire; off. chair; off. supplies; computer desk; another desk; wooden file cabinets; Univ. of TX yrbk; other UT selections; 2 flat screen TV's; framed art; beach scenes; shells; sand dollars; framed needlework; linens; tablecloths; clothes; shoes; purses; ties, caps, belts; Naval pea coat; small appliances; canisters; iron skillet; stemware; decanters; coffee server; barware; wine holder; wall sconces; movies; CD's; tapes; Hardy Boy books; books; military books; movies; electronics; printer; military jet posters; model jets; shelves; patio furniture; Weber grill; like-new hospital bed; walkers; crutches; wheelchairs; weights; ladders; battery charger; Coleman lanterns; golf clubs; golfing selections; binoculars; holiday decorations; refrigerator; Whirlpool wash. & dry.; hand tools; yard tools; gardening supplies; sooooo much more!  
Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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# 7TH ANNUAL FLAG EXCHANGE

## June 13- June 17

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### Tyler man indicted for capital murder in March shooting deaths of dentists

Steven Alexander Smith, 40, of Tyler has been indicted by a Smith County Grand Jury for capital murder in the deaths of two Tyler dentists after both were shot at their dental office on March 16, county officials announced.

Smith remains in the Smith County Jail on a \$3 million bond.

Blake G. Sinclair, 59 and Jack E. Burroughs, 75, died from gunshot wounds after the shooting at Affordable Dentures and Implants on State Highway 31 East.

Smith was indicted on May 5 in the 114<sup>th</sup> District Court.

In addition to the capital murder charge, Smith was also booked for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon when he allegedly pointed a gun at one of the nurses at the dental office.

The nurse was working on Smith's dentures in a patient room at the clinic, officials said, and according to the nurse the suspect was telling the nurses what to do which made them uncomfortable.

She said Smith "has always been a difficult patient and was not happy with how they were doing the procedure."

After the nurse told Burroughs about the situation, Burroughs told Smith he was no longer going to be a patient because of the problems he was causing, officials said.

Smith then became angry, the nurse said and pushed Burroughs to the ground while attempting to take his dentures.

She then called for help as Smith went to his vehicle, officials said. According to the nurse, Burroughs and Sinclair were at the front door watching Smith go to his vehicle.

Smith then began "walking very fast" back to the business at which time Burroughs attempted to lock the door, but Smith forced the door open and knocked Burroughs to the ground.

According to information from the arrest affidavit, Sinclair then grabbed Smith from behind and a fight ensued. It was then, according to officials, Smith pulled his gun and began shooting at Burroughs and Sinclair. Both were taken to a local hospital and later pronounced dead.

After wounding the dentists, he pointed his gun at the nurse and told her to unlock the door leading to the patients' rooms. She said she refused and Smith left.

After a witness provided Smith's vehicle description and license plate number to authorities, he was arrested at his home in south Tyler, officials said. A deputy waited on Smith and arrested him when he arrived home.

### 'Night And Day' returning to Cozy Theater

Jackson's Theater in Gladewater will host a tribute show called "Night and Day" featuring Rat Pack and the Big Band Era. Audiences will hear the songs that made music history including some crooning along with Frank Sinatra's and Dean Martin's most popular hits.

Opening Night begins Friday, June 10th with repeat performances on 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.. The theatre is located at 108 E. Commerce Ave., Gladewater.

"This will be a tribute to all songs of the Big Band Era. There will be some campy, some comedy and wholesome music arranged by David Morris and myself," said Jackson Foltyn.



# GLADEWATER ROUND-UP

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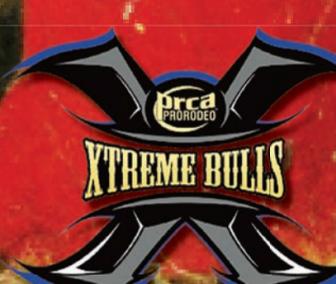
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