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50¢



The East Texas Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving honored three Lindale Police Department officers recently for their dedication to keeping impaired drivers off the road. The officers are, from left, Robert Trombley, Brooke Wedgeworth and Jerrod Shurley.

Courtesy photo

East Texan arrested in connection with deadly smuggling

Federal authorities have arrested an East Texas man in connection with the 53 people found dead in a tractor-trailer on Tuesday (June 28) near Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, officials said.

Christian Martinez, 28, of Palestine was arrested on Wednesday (June 29) and charged with conspiracy to transport illegal aliens resulting in death, according to a news release from federal officials.

Martinez allegedly told a confidential informant he was involved in the operation which federal authorities are calling the most deadly migrant smuggling case in U.S. history.

According to a criminal complaint affidavit filed in the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Texas, Martinez said the deaths occurred because the truck's air conditioning wasn't working.

The informant was identified by Palestine Police and the Department of Homeland Security and that the informant had previously provided accurate information.

Martinez told the informant that the driver, identified as 45-year-old Homero Zamorano, "was unaware the air conditioning unit stopped working and was the reason why the individuals died." Martinez also said Zamorano tried to run away from the tractor-trailer.

Federal authorities also executed a search warrant for a cell phone belonging to Zamorano, who was also arrested on Wednesday.

He is facing the same charges as Martinez.

Zamorano was arrested by the San Antonio Police Department after he was found hiding in bushes after attempting to flee, officials said.

Federal officials found through their investigation that the two suspects had discussed the smug-

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Dishing the dirt at LRML

Randy Harmon and Julia Toombs from the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society were the speakers for the Lillie Russell Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program this past week and dished the dirt – literally. Harmon and Toombs brought some dirt for the kids to sift through and it appears everyone – including the adults – loved getting dirty.

Courtesy Photo

Commissioners hold first budget workshop; hope to maintain tax rate from last two years

Smith County Commissioners held their initial workshop to discuss the first working draft of the Smith County Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 during their regular meeting on June 28, said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

This budget will not take effect until Oct. 1, 2022. The targeted tax rate for FY23 is 33.5 cents per \$100 valuation, which is the same as the last two years.

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran said they would not know the property tax appraisal certified values until late July, and they would not find out the no-new-revenue rate until August.

He said that he plans to keep the Smith County tax rate at 33.5 cents but would work on lowering it if pos-

sible once the budget process comes closer to an end.

The targeted tax rate will remain the same or be lowered while also absorbing the Road and Bridge Bond Phase 2 that was passed by voters in November.

"As you look at our tax rate over time, we are trying to stay the course and be good stewards of tax payers' money," he said. "Every dollar belongs to the taxpayer, and we must do our best to keep it as low as possible, while still fulfilling our statutory duties and providing the level of service the public expects."

Moran started the workshop with an overview of the budget, which he themed, "Stay the Course."

He said last year's theme, "In the Blue," was all about supporting law

Continued on Page 8

MORAN

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Seeing around the bend...

It's easy to believe you are 'around the bend' in today's high stress, overloaded, social media driven world. We long to return to a simpler time. I am guilty of saying that myself, far too often. And, I know better. After all, I am a history girl. I taught American History at the high school and college level. But our collective family history should weigh in too.

My grandparents raised their children in the middle of a Great Depression. I interviewed my Dad and his mother for a Depression & World War II grad course. My 'Nanny' spoke of never wasting a thing, which included making her children's clothes from flour sacks. My Daddy and his little sister rode a horse to school. There was no air conditioning, no entertainment—except self-made, and chores past dark on the farm every night.

This farm family received no stimulus checks, no small business loans, no food assistance. They managed to make their land payments despite fighting through a decade long economic meltdown. "We never knew we had it bad, all we had ever known was hard work and how to get by," my grandmother said in the interview. "We had each other and that was enough."

And this was from a woman who buried two children in the middle of it all. A tragedy that was not uncommon during that time.

The depression era generation of kids grew up to fight a World War sacrificing their youth and innocence, going from the hayfield to the foreign field, and even eventually rebuilding the world.

Their kids had to survive polio, smallpox, chicken pox, measles, mumps and rubella pandemics. And by the way, to fight those epidemics the GOVERNMENT required that we take vaccines for polio and smallpox as they were available. We didn't question whether we were becoming socialist or having our freedoms trampled. Our mommas lined us up when it was time to take the sugar cube with Dr. Salk's polio vaccine saturating it. We kids of that era nearly

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



all have the scar from

the smallpox vaccine as well. My son and his generation have no such scars and their mobility was never threatened by the horror of polio. The Baby Boomers' kids had to take the measles, mumps, rubella and whooping cough vaccines. With fear of vaccines and the growth of unvaccinated kids these diseases, which can cause death and disability, are raising their ugly heads once again.

Now here we are today, once again facing a pandemic that we are just beginning to see the effects of regionally. And things are scary any way you cut it. I worry about the health of my family and our communities. I worry about our family owned businesses and I worry about our future. But you know what? The generations who came before us dealt with more than we will ever face.

Whenever I feel overwhelmed I think of Daddy in his flour sack school clothes working as hard as any adult. I think about the losses, the heartbreaks and the unshakeable faith of people who lived their beliefs daily and didn't give in to poverty, back breaking labor, an unstable world or fear. There were people just like them all over this country. Those people were our parents and grandparents. We have a well-trodden path to follow we just have to look for it. It's there for you and me.

And don't forget, our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were exhausted, anxious and unsure of what was to come, but they kept putting one foot in front of the other until they came through to the other side of the bend. We can do this friends and neighbors.

We already know the way.

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Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Three arrested in deaths of 53 migrants

Three people were arrested last week by federal authorities in connection with a human smuggling incident that left 53 migrants dead.

The migrants were discovered inside a tractor-trailer on San Antonio's Southwest Side, according to the San Antonio Express-News. The victims were from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Eleven other people were rescued from the trailer.

"We are devastated by the news," Cesar Espinosa, an immigrant advocate with FIEL Houston, an immigrant rights organization, told the Express-News. "Unfortunately, this is not the first time, and unfortunately, it won't be the last time that it happens as long as we don't have a pathway for people to migrate safely into the U.S."

Meantime, Gov. Greg Abbott announced additional truck checkpoints would immediately be established targeting semi-trucks, and strike teams consisting of 20 troopers are being sent to the Eagle Pass region "to detect and defer unlawful border crossings and apprehend illegal migrants."

The trailer had passed through a federal Border Patrol checkpoint.

More cases of monkeypox reported

Multiple cases of monkeypox have been reported in Texas by the Texas Department of State Health Services and local health departments. A dozen cases have been identified in people who did not travel outside the state, meaning they were exposed in Texas.

"With the sharp increase in monkeypox cases worldwide, it's not surprising to see the virus spread in Texas," said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, chief state epidemiologist. "We want people to know what the symptoms are, and if they have symptoms, to avoid the types of close contact with other people that can spread the disease."

Monkeypox is a viral illness with symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, and exhaustion. People who develop a rash should avoid direct contact with other people and contact their health-care provider for next steps.

A vaccine is available and can be given to people within four days of exposure.

Additional funding for school safety, mental health

Abbott and other state leaders last week announced the transfer of \$105.5 million to support additional school safety and mental health initiatives through the end of August 2023.

"This additional funding will boost actions the state of Texas has already taken to make schools safer and support the mental health of children, teachers, and families following the tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde," according to a news release.

Roughly half of the funds are going for bullet-resistant shields. Funding is also being provided for mental-health services and other school safety services.

Texans urged to 'stay dry' while boating

Boaters are being urged to fight back against the aquatic invasive species that threaten Texas lakes.

"The best way to prevent the spread of many destructive aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment – every time," said Brian Van Zee with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Zebra mussels and giant salvinia remain the biggest threats to Texas lakes, though other invasive species are being spread, including water hyacinth, crested floating heart and quagga mussels.

Zebra mussels are found in 33 Texas lakes, while giant salvinia is present on 23 East Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes between Houston and Beaumont.

"Boaters need to remove all plants, mud and debris from boats, trailers, vehicles and gear and drain all water from the boat, equipment and on-board receptacles before leaving the lake. In addition, boats should be dried completely before visiting another lake, preferably for at least a week," according to TPWD.

Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

No surprise: It's still hot and dry

Above-normal temperatures and a lack of rainfall in the past month mean the risk of wildfires remains high across the state.

"State and local first responders have been incredibly busy this year without much reprieve and forecast conditions indicate that we may be facing a very busy summer season as well," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief. "We urge Texans to be cautious and prevent wildfire ignitions this summer."

There are three active wildfires, the largest being the Dempsey Fire which covers 11,598 acres and is 60% contained. A total of 181 counties are under burn bans.

COVID-19 cases rise once again

COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week rose to 74,652, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, up 21% from the previous week, with 111 deaths reported. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations rose to 2,460 up 19.7% from the previous week, according to DSHS.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texan as journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park.

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THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

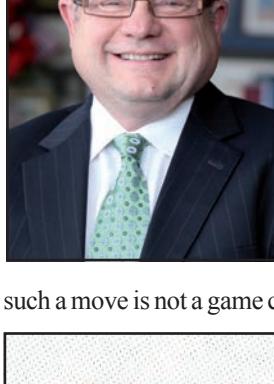
Pain at the Pump

The price of gasoline remains elevated, with the national average briefly surpassing \$5 per gallon before retreating modestly. In parts of the country (particularly those distant from refineries), it's already well above that level. Unfortunately,

I think that prices will generally stay relatively high through the summer driving season before abating to some extent.

One plan which has been put forth is to pause the federal gasoline tax. This approach would likely provide some modest relief in gasoline prices to the extent that the savings are passed along to consumers. However, the federal tax is only \$0.18 (less than 4% of the current cost), so

such a move is not a game changer. In California, where prices



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July 4th local fatality now under investigation

An investigation continued by Texas Department of Public Safety officials on Tuesday concerning a hit-and-run fatality which occurred around 2 a.m. Monday, July 4 on Woodlands Drive (County Road 4191).

DPS Sgt. Jean Dark said she is waiting on the preliminary report and more information will be released when it becomes available.

According to officials, the name of the victim was not immediately released. In addition to DPS units, Lindale Police, Smith County Sheriff's Deputies and paramedics responded.

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

A sweet tooth never really goes away, does it?

Terry Cannon
Editor



Standing in line at the grocery store not too long ago (food shopping is one of my husbandly duties) I glanced over at the candy display and it occurred to me that there were very few I recognized, triggering another geezer moment.

Geezers know what I'm talking about. "By cracky, they don't make things the way they used to!"

Right?

Anyway, I consider myself quite the candy bar aficionado, thank you very much. Today's choices are meager, at least compared to when I was a sprout. The sweet tooth I was born with remains in my head. Just ask my dentist, even though there are fewer and fewer teeth for him to work on.

So if you want a qualified opinion to what candy bars are the best, you've stumbled onto the right place.

Obviously everyone's taste is different, but most prefer some sort of chocolate/peanut/caramel/peanut butter combination. And since I love lists (not to mention how they fill space) here we go with the 10 best-ever candy bars.

Remember, I'm an expert.

10. Mr. Goodbar – It qualifies for a Top 10 spot because it has lots of peanuts. Considering how thin the bar is compared, to say, a Snickers, there's really not enough chocolate to earn a higher

rating. Still, if offered one I'm taking it. It's been around since 1925.

9. Almond Joy – Here's the thing about an Almond Joy: You have to love coconut to want one. I do but of course the fat almonds on top are killer. I loved the old TV commercials that showed all that molten chocolate flowing over the coconut and almonds. First hit store shelves in 1946.

8. Baby Ruth – I can't eat a Baby Ruth without thinking of that hilarious scene from "Caddyshack" when Bill Murray's character is cleaning the country club swimming pool and found a Baby Ruth. That's all I can tell you. Watch the movie to see why it's hilarious.

Anyway, a good combination of chocolate and peanuts. Arrived in 1921 and named after President Grover Cleveland's daughter Ruth, not the baseball player.

7. Hershey Bar – A Halloween staple, the Hershey Bar has been enjoyed since 1900. It's offspring, with almonds, was developed in 1908. Both are ridiculously

delicious and prompted many youngsters to lick their fingers and hands to get the last bit of chocolate. In the summer, you have to eat fast or it's a melted mess.

6. Milky Way – At one time, the Milky Way bar was more square and bigger than today, weighing in at 3 ounces compared to 1.8 ounces. No matter, in my hands its devoured so fast I don't care how much it weighs. Mars began producing them in 1923.

5. 3 Musketeers – A delicious concoction of chocolate covering a fluffy chocolate nougat center, 3 Musketeers' name has an interesting backstory. Introduced by Mars in 1932, the candy had three flavors – chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. Thankfully, they settled on chocolate nougat.

4. Nestle Crunch – Another one that is a bit thin but is absolutely scrumptious. Combining crisped rice with milk chocolate was a stroke of genius by the Nestle Company in 1938. Must have been some corporate espionage involved because

Hershey's came out with the near-identical Krackel bar the same year.

3. Snickers – To my knowledge, the person at Mars who developed the Snickers bar in the 1930s didn't win a Nobel Prize. That's a travesty. I'm thinking I could live on Snicker's Bars – and little else – the rest of my life. A wicked combination of peanuts, tasty nougat and a thick coating of chocolate is magnificent.

2. PayDay – There was a time when I instinctively reached for a PayDay bar wherever they were sold. It's a tossup on what I love more, peanuts or chocolate. But since there's probably more food value in peanuts, that's my choice. A salty, sweet PayDay is terrific with an ice cold soft drink or just by itself.

1. Butterfinger – This is the one – and only – candy bar that outranks a PayDay. A crunchy, honeycombed peanut buttery center covered in chocolate. Are you kidding me? I take back my above statement about Snickers – a Butterfinger is what I could live on the rest of my life. And don't get me started on those bags with the bite-sized ones. Stores lay in an extra supply just for me for Halloween and Valentine's Day. Since its introduction in 1923, Butterfingers have been a joyous addition to everyday life.

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, July 8, 2021

Lindale's American Legion Post No. 15 celebrated the Fourth of July by staging "America's Christian Heritage," which included Post members dressed in costumes recreating Betsy Ross's creation of the American Flag, reading of the Declaration of Independence, the Pledge of Allegiance and the U.S. Constitution. The day also included a barbecue meal, fishing, games and drinks. Patriotic songs were also performed by those in attendance.

FIVE YEARS AGO, July 6, 2021

Two local fishermen earned top honors in the fifth Crappie Anglers of Texas Qualifier Tournament held at Lake Richland Chambers.

Clay Gann of Hideaway and Todd Froebe of Lindale won second place in Division I with a seven fish stringer of 9.27 pounds, which earned them the Slab Bandit Crazy Eight Award.

CAT is a non-profit organization dedicated to the sport of crappie fishing.

With more than 280 members nationwide, it has been instrumental in gaining national attention for crappie fishing in Texas and continues to develop its member's knowledge of crappie fishing through educational meetings, seminars and fishing tournaments.

All CAT tournaments pay back at least 100 percent of the anglers' entry fees.

10 YEARS AGO, July 5, 2012

The Lindale Legends 10U baseball team tied for first in the Lone Star Select Baseball League and the Texas Showtime softball team, featuring several players from Lindale, won the Texas ASA Class A 16U championship which was held at Faulkner Park in Tyler.

Players on the Legends include Gabe Lackey, Colton Taylor, Colton Beeler, Matthew Aubuchon, Zachary Stewart, Austin Evans, Staton Dudley, Reid Trimble, Michael Dotson, Peyton Thedford and Mason Kelly. Coaches for the Legends are Lance Dudley, Travis Taylor, Richard Aubuchon and Kyle Kelley.

Players on the Showtime team include Justice Moore, Sheyenne Atchley, Courtney Lindsey, Rikkilin Hass, Jade Green, Kaitlyn Allen, Hailey Brown, Kathryn Wright, Heather Gilbert and Brooke Brady.

Minibikes provide major fun – and thrills

Rusty Mitchum
Life & Times



I guess kids have a lot more money than we did back when I was a kid. Just look at the toys they've got. Now, I'm not talkin' about little bitty kids, I'm talkin' about junior high aged kids.

That's middle school aged for all you out there under twenty. When I'm drivin' down the road, especially in the country, I see kids riding around on those four wheelers.

Man, do you know how much those things cost? They ain't cheap. For the price you have to pay for some of those things you could buy a good used Jeep. And a Jeep has a heater.

Don't get me wrong, if they would have had four wheelers back when I was a kid, I'd sure want one, not that I could have afforded it.

Of course, we did have something back then much better than a four wheeler. They are not around anymore. Nope, they've gone the way of the dinosaur. They've gone the way of the Dodo Bird. (That's pronounced "Dough-Dough Bird." I know because I pronounced it the other way once in school, and it won me an all expense paid trip to the principal's office, plus the added bonus of a mouth full of Ivory soap.)

Of course, what I'm talkin' about is the mini-bike. Where, oh where has the minibike gone? Where, oh where can it be? Now, I know a lot of you youngsters out there have never even heard of a mini-bike. Well, ol' Uncle Rusty is gonna tell you all about 'em.

First, the reason that there are no more minibikes is that there is this thing called lawyers. If you do not know what a that is, ask your mom or dad. Chances are that in this day and time, one of them is a lawyer.

Now, back to the minibike.

Simply speaking, a mini-bike was two small wheels upon what sat a lawnmower engine and a kid with no sense. These things had two speeds, stop, and look out Jack I'm comin' through!

Actually, you could go slower speeds than that, but I never knew anybody that did. That is, of course, unless your mom was watching you. They should have been called mini-motorcycles be-

cause they worked relatively the same way.

They had a hand throttle, and hand brakes like a motorcycle, but there was only one gear. Oh, they made some fancy models that had gears and junk like that, but I'm talkin' about the plain ol' minibike.

Now, here's the part that's gonna floor you kids out there. The things cost less than those fancy tennis shoes you're probably wearing. No kiddin', you could buy a plain Jane minibike for less than a \$100. Of course, not many of us had a \$100, so very few of us had a minibike, not that I could have had one even if I did have the money. You see, I had one obstacle growin' up that I never could overcome. It was called a mother.

Even though mothers are the dearest things in the world, they are the biggest fun killers that ever lived. They are probably worse than lawyers, if the truth were known.

It didn't matter how much fun something was, if there was the least bit of danger involved, you could bet that your mother wouldn't let you do it. That is if she knew about it.

Dads, on the other hand, used to be boys at one time, so they remember what it was like. But dads have never won out over moms, and I guess they never will. Anywho, back to the minibikes.

Now, although I didn't have a minibike, I knew several kids that did. One of them was our preacher's kid, Gary Baker. Gary had the cheapest model made, but it was a real go-getter. Man, it would move.

Actually, you weren't really going that fast, but since you weren't riding but a few inches from the ground, it seemed like you were ginrin' (for you Yankees out there, that means goin' fast).

Minibikes were probably meant to carry only one person, but what's the fun

in that? Two kids could ride one, but there were no foot rests for the kid in back, so he, or she, had to either ride with their knees bent with their feet almost touching their rear end, or with their legs spread out on either side of the driver.

The first method was the preferred way, especially if you were riding through the woods. I remember once when my left leg caught a tree. This caused the leg to stop its forward motion.

It also caused my other leg to turn around toward the tree, which caught the driver of the minibike to be trapped behind the second leg and to be jerked off the minibike with me.

Fortunately, no bones were broken, but I did walk funny for a while. But that wasn't the worst accident that I had. Oh, no. The worst was the first time I ever drove one.

Nobody wanted to just ride; heck, everybody wanted to drive. That's the only way you can be in control, you know. And I don't know about you, but I like to be in control. Anyway, Gary decided to let me drive his minibike -- big mistake. Not that I'm a bad driver, it's just that things seem to happen when I'm in control. And they are not always good things.

Anywho, after I had watched Gary, I knew pretty well what to do. He wasn't really confident about turnin' me loose on his bike, so he decided for my maiden voyage, he would tag along as a passenger.

The place for my drivin' debut was a field with a few trees here and there. Well, we took off. We were goin' along pretty good, and my confidence was building. I was lookin' good and feelin' cool.

Then a tree appeared. It jumped up right out of nowhere. I swerved to miss it, and I did. Fortunately, I ducked just in time to miss a low hanging limb. Un-

fortunately, Gary did not. It caught him right on the forehead and snatched him right off that bike.

My shirt, which Gary was hanging on to, was plucked from my body cleaner than a chicken leg at a Sunday dinner. I looked back to see what had happened and saw Gary piled up under the tree. I turned back around just in time to see a dried creek bed in my path.

By the time my brain had told my hands to let off of the gas and squeeze the brake, it was too late. Down I went into the creek bed, and up the other side at full blast. As I reached the top of the other side, I kept goin' up.

This was the first time in my life that I could ever remember being airborne on top of a motorized vehicle. Everything was moving in slow motion. Things appeared smaller below me. Then they started to get larger. The slow motion all of sudden stopped and everything seemed to start moving at an accelerated speed. Then I touched down.

Did I mention that minibikes did not have any suspension system?

Anywho, although my backbone did it's best to impersonate an accordion, I managed to hang on. My rear end was no longer in its proper position though. It had been replaced by my stomach, which was bouncing along pretty good on the seat of the minibike, my legs hanging on either side of the back tire. I flopped around for what seemed like ages, but was probably no more than a few seconds.

Finally, with nobody to control the contraption, it fell over, throwing me into a heap. I vaguely remember the idling of an engine as I tried to untangle my arms and legs.

I also, remember Gary, who now looked like Herman Munster with his swollen forehead, looking down at me. I was grateful that I had survived, but I knew mom was going to be mad if she found out.

I said "if" she found out. She never did. That is until now.

I bet she's lookin' down from Heaven right now thinkin', "Boy, when you get up here you're gonna get it."

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CenturyLink also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

For both programs, a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



Native pollinators are as important as honeybees

By Susan Himes
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

A Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert wants people to better understand and appreciate our native bee pollinators.

"When people see a bee in their garden, many assume it is a honeybee when, odds are, it is actually a native bee," said Molly Keck, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management specialist and entomologist, San Antonio.

She said, in the simplest of terms, a native bee is usually any bee except a honeybee since honeybees are not native to the Americas.

And while bees can look very similar or very different from each other, most bees have a "fuzzy" looking body, unlike wasps who are shiny and "smoother" looking.

Giving credit where credit is due

There are over 200,000 species of pollinators, and about 199,000 of them are insects.

There are over 4,000 species of bees in the U.S., making them the MVP of pollinators. And a bee's work is never done, considering that 90% of flowering plants require a pollinator.

Honeybees play a key role in agriculture, but native bees are just as important, Keck said.

"There are native bee species that are 17 times more efficient as pollinators than hon-



eybees," she said.

Native bees are also better at pollinating some of the most beloved backyard crops — including tomatoes, blueberries and pumpkins — making them the heroes of home gardeners everywhere.

Natives thrive on variety

Whereas honeybees prefer blanketed areas of the same food source, such as a field of a single crop, native bees are all about variety.

The more types of flowers, fruits and vegetables that grow in a garden, the more native bees you can expect to see.

"Essentially, to attract native bees, you want to have many different mini-landscapes inside your yard," Keck said.

She said to get an example of a native bee's ideal habitat, picture an English garden with hedgerows, pasture, plants and flowers.

Bees are drawn to flowers because of their scent as well as the shape of their flower. They also are attracted to bright colors, especially blues and violets. Red they see as dark, like brown and black, and isn't as appealing.

"Native bees feed in 'pockets,' so you don't need as much space to attract them as honeybees," Keck said. "You'll just need a variety of food sources for them."

Although bees may have a harder time finding their way to a garden balcony in a large city, a pollinator garden can be a success anywhere. Having gardens in cities also provides a key nutritional resource in what could be a food desert for native bees.

Texans with yards may consider not having turf everywhere, leaving some land uncultivated and allowing some ground to stay bare. Some native bees, like the mason bee, use mud as mortar to build their homes and having mud on the ground when the weather allows is also attractive.

Around 70 percent of bees nest underground rather than the traditional hives many people envision and that honeybees call home.

That might (not) sting

Although all female bees can sting, most native females won't sting unless trapped, hurt or directly threatened.

"Native bees are unlikely to sting you,"

Keck said. "Honeybees are more territorial and likely to defend with a sting."

In other words, don't try to catch a native bee and you won't have too much to worry about. However, if you are allergic to bees, it is smart to avoid all types, as well as wasps and other flying-insect venoms, Keck warned.

A native bee retains its stinger after a strike, whereas a honeybee sting is fatal for the bee. And male bees? Neither honey nor native has any sting at all. However, there are far more female than male bees, so it is safe to assume a bee you see does have a stinger.

Extinction concern?

Keck said it's important for every Texan to be aware of the need to protect bee habitats, although there is no threat of extinction in our state quite yet.

"I think the amount of undeveloped land we have in Texas is part of the reason our numbers are still good," she said. "But as urban areas expand and the sprawl increases, we could start to see the same bee population problems some other areas face."

Whereas honeybees have been domesticated or managed for thousands of years, native bees are still independent contractors.

"Native bees do an equally important job as honeybees and for some crops like fruit, native bees are even better pollinators," Keck said. "To create an environment for them to thrive is something every Texan can support."

Celebrations of Faith

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Lindale Assembly of God Church
 307 Eagle Spirit Dr, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6179

BAPTIST
Antioch Baptist Church

793 CR 313W Tyler TX 75706

903-597-6131

Pastor Stephen Nipp

Bethel Baptist Church

FM 16 West, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-8275

Bible Baptist Church

16173 CR 431, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-1454

Carmel Baptist Church

10969 CR 481, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-3852

James Cheatham

Central Baptist Church

13745 FM 16 East, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-3179

Byron Howard

Damascus Baptist Church

17052 CR 4105 Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-3392

Bennie Portwood

Dover Baptist Church

21166 FM Road 1995, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-5106

Duck Creek Baptist Church

Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-9558

East Foothills Missionary Baptist Church

810 E South St, Lindale, TX 75771

903-574-2672

Gary Dinger

Fairview Baptist Church

Van Highway, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-9500

First Baptist Church

Hwy 69 (in Swan) Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-6432

First Baptist Church of Lindale

110E Hubbard St. Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-3396

Tom Buck

Foundation Baptist Church

715 S Main St. Lindale 75771

903-881-9490

Garden Valley Baptist Church

17816 CR 442

Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-7671

Greater Hopewell Baptist Church

10480 CR 492 • Tyler, TX 75706

903-882-4726

Hopewell Baptist Church

11804 CR 494, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-5381



Hopewell Valley Baptist, Church No 1

CR 429 • Van, TX

903-882-5136

Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church

13073 Hwy 110 N • Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-3890

Bruce Rudd

New Harmony Baptist Church

10251 FM 727, Tyler, TX 75704

903-593-5811

Red Springs Baptist Church

Red Springs, TX

903-858-2365

St Mary Baptist Church

12050 CR 452, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-8066

Thompson Hill Baptist Church

14657 CR, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-0849

Walnut Springs Baptist Church

211 Walnut Springs, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-7858

Wood Trails Baptist Church

11804 CR 494,

Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-5381

CATHOLIC

Holy Family Catholic Church

16314 FM 849,

Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-4079

Fr. Carlos Piedrahita, Pastor

St. Joseph the Worker Tridentine Latin Mass

5075 FM 14, Tyler, 75712

903-593-5055

Rev. Joseph Valentine, FSSP

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ – Lindale

211 W. Hubbard, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-6455

Church of Christ – South Main

2425 S Main St,

Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-8933

Church of Christ – Swan County

Road 471, Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-8009

EPISCOPAL

St Luke's Episcopal Church

16292 FM 849

Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-8118

Rev. John Carr

LUTHERAN

First Century Christian Fellowship

10119 Gina Rd., Lindale, TX 75771

Dr. Lawrence Zillmer

METHODIST

First United Methodist Church of Lindale

402 W Hubbard St • Lindale, TX 75771

903-882-8506

Michael Peschke</p

Friday, June 24, 2022

Officer Ramsey responded to a burglary at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Ramsey and Philpot responded to a suspicious person at 3500 block S Main St, unfounded. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a residential alarm at 600 block Abbey Rd, false alarm. Officer Gillham responded to a reckless driving at 17800 block Hwy 69 N, unable to locate. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious person at 1400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to an assist smith county at 23000 block CR 455, settled at scene.

Saturday, June 25, 2022

Officer Jackquet responded to a theft at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 556 E I-20, unable to locate. Officer Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 554 E I-20, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a 911 hang up at 13900 block FM 2710, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to an assist other agency at 2700 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley responded to an abandoned vehicle at 100 block Legends Ct, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Wells and Mumey responded to an assault at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, unfounded. Sgt Lazarine, Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Shurley, Wells and Mumey responded to an inquest at 1300 block Lakeside Ct, report taken. Officer Shurley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 21200 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Mumey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 14000 block FM 849, settled at scene.

Sunday, June 26, 2022

Officer Jackquet responded to a welfare concern at 15200 block CR 467, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious person at 400 block S Industrial St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to an assist smith county at 19400 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to an accident at 552 W I-20, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Wells and Mumey responded to a criminal trespass at 13400 block I-20, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Mumey responded to a welfare concern at 13200 block Lauren



Ln, settled at scene. Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers and Officers Shurley and Wells responded to an accident at 554 E I-20, settled at scene. Officer Mumey responded to a city ordinance violation at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Wells and Officer Mumey responded to a business alarm at 3200 block S Main St, false alarm.

Monday, June 27, 2022

Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to an accident at 3200 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Trombley responded to an assist other agency at 12400 block Fm 16 W, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a public service at 600 block Yesterday Dr, settled at scene. Chief Somes and Officer Jackquet responded to a disturbance at 3200 block S Main St, settled at scene. Chief Somes and Officer Jackquet responded to a welfare concern at 554 W I-20, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Jackquet responded to an attempted suicide at 300 block Bonnie St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a civil matter at 400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken.

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Chief Somes, Cpt Chambers, Sgt Lazarine and Officers Dailey and Jackquet responded to a missing person at 13900 block FM 2710, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a Harassment at 300 block E South St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to a parking violation at 13200 block CR 472, citation issued. Chief Somes and Officer Jackquet responded to a public service at 13200 block CR 472, settled at scene. Officer

Trombley and Officer Shurley responded to an assist smith county at 15300 block Simmons Ln, report taken. Officer Trombley responded to an assist other agency at 18900 block Hwy 69 N, unfounded.

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 300 block W South St, report taken. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to an accident at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Philpot and Officer Ramsey responded to a theft at 13800 block Hwy 69 N, report taken. Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious circumstance at 600 block Yesterday Dr, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Philpot responded to a disturbance at 1400 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Leevey and Officer Capps responded to a possession of marijuana at 13800 block Hwy 69 N, arrest made. Officer Leevey responded to a suspicious vehicle at 13400 block I-20, settled at scene.

Thursday, June 30, 2022

Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Philpot responded to a public lewdness at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey and Officer Capps responded to a Harassment at 3200 block S Main St, trespass warning issued. Cpt Chambers and Officer Dailey responded to an ordinance violation at 1500 block Camden Ct, settled at scene. Officer Capps responded to a public service at 21200 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Gillham and Officer Capps responded to a business alarm at 600 block S Main St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officers Gillham and Capps responded to a possession of drug paraphernalia at 1600 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Gillham and Officer Capps responded to a business alarm at 400 block S Main St, false alarm. Officer Gillham responded to an accident at 1500 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a business alarm at 16900 block Village Lake Dr, false alarm. Officer Leevey and Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious circumstance at 17000 block FM 849, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a theft at 900 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Leevey responded to a business alarm at 13800 block Hwy 69 N, false alarm.

Tyler man guilty of using stolen valor to defraud Investors

A Tyler man has pleaded guilty to federal charges in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston.

Derek Robert Hamm, 38, pleaded guilty to wire fraud, money laundering, violating the Stolen Valor Act, using a fraudulent military discharge certificate, and being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

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

As part of the plea agreement, Hamm agreed to pay restitution of at least \$2.3 million and forfeiture of the proceeds of his criminal conduct, including jewelry, automobiles, and cash proceeds in the amount of \$1,675,000.

According to court documents, Hamm invented a persona of being a wealthy and successful war hero. Hamm held himself out to be a former member of the Army Special Forces who had served multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries.

He claimed to have been awarded a Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Cross for his service. Hamm also represented that he was related to Harold Hamm, the billionaire oilman in Oklahoma, which he claimed gave him access to financial resources and oil industry expertise. Through this larger-than-life persona, Hamm created an extensive network of friends who introduced him to potential investors.

Those investors believed Hamm's claims and invested in what they expected to be worthwhile ventures spearheaded by a trustworthy and capable entrepreneur.

In reality, Derek Hamm was nothing of the sort. Hamm was not a decorated war hero. He was no oil industry tycoon. He was not related to Harold Hamm. He did not spend investors' funds on the latest oil industry technology or new oil wells.

Within hours of receiving investors' funds, Hamm spent their money on himself and his family, including expensive jewelry, vehicles, and vacations to expensive resorts on private charter planes. All the while, Hamm represented to investors that he had invested their money in successful oil industry projects.

Because of the Hamm war hero persona, the investors trusted Hamm even as their invested funds failed to produce any returns.

Hamm also pleaded guilty to being a prohibited person in possession of firearms and ammunition. Hamm was convicted in Smith County in 2020 for theft of property, a state felony.

As a felon, Hamm is prohibited by federal law from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition. According to court documents, Hamm was in possession of dozens of firearms,

including several rifles with high-capacity magazines, and ammunition for those firearms.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Hamm with federal violations on Jan. 20, 2022. He faces up to 20 years in federal prison. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

Doctors plead guilty in kickback scheme

Fifteen Texas doctors have agreed to pay a total of \$2,831,280 to resolve False Claims Act allegations involving illegal kickbacks in violation of the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, and to cooperate with the Department's investigations of and litigation against other parties, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston.

"These settlements should reinforce the message that the Eastern District of Texas will not tolerate health care providers who seek to enrich themselves through kickback schemes," said Featherston. "We will continue to work with our agency partners to identify those who defraud our taxpayers and we will hold those who have engaged in the schemes responsible."

The Anti-Kickback Statute prohibits offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving remuneration to induce referrals of items or services covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and other federally funded programs.

The Stark Law forbids a hospital or laboratory from billing Medicare for certain services referred by physicians that have a financial relationship with the hospital or laboratory. The Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law are intended to ensure that medical providers' judgments are not compromised by improper financial incentives and are instead based on the best interests of their patients.

The 15 doctors and their settlements include:

-- Louis Coates, D.O., of Garland, Texas, agreed to pay \$87,694;

-- Jason DeMatta, M.D., and Candice DeMatta, M.D., both of Tomball, agreed to pay \$316,142 and \$207,009, respectively;

-- Emanuel Paul ("E.P.") Descant, II, M.D., of Spring, agreed to pay \$256,466;

-- Mitchell Finnie, M.D., of San Antonio, agreed to pay \$582,522;

-- Mark Le, M.D., of Tomball, agreed to pay \$57,900;

-- Richard Le, M.D., of Houston, agreed to pay \$41,000;

-- Robert Jeremy Laningham, M.D., and Rodney Jason Laningham, M.D., both of Conroe, agreed to pay \$470,560;

-- Andres Mesa, M.D., of Houston, agreed to pay \$45,484;

-- Melissa Miskell, D.O., of New Braunfels, agreed to pay \$100,392;

-- Marco Munoz, M.D., of Fort Worth, agreed to pay

\$54,280;

-- Kozhaya Sokhon, M.D., of the Woodlands, agreed to pay \$160,456;

-- Annie Varughese, M.D., of the Woodlands, agreed to pay \$213,888;

-- Paul Worrell, D.O., of Dallas, agreed to pay \$237,487;

As part of their settlements, the physicians have agreed to cooperate with the Department of Justice's investigations of and litigation against other parties involved in the alleged violations of law.

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County employees honored for service

By Casey Murphy
Smith County
Public Information Officer

Smith County Sheriff's Office employee Arlana Bozeman was recognized during Commissioners Court Tuesday, June 28, for 20 years of service.

Since 2002, she has been a detention officer and certified peace officer. She has worked in courthouse security, the jail and for the last two years, in the jail clinic, Sheriff Larry Smith said.

"To stick with it for 20 years in the jail under those conditions, it takes some doing," he said. "We appreciate your work."

Record Services Director Keith Buckner was honored for 10 years of service to the county.

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran said Buckner has the biggest smile

in the county. He said he provides value-based service and excellence in service and has done it with a great personality.

"You work with a great attitude ... and we appreciate that," Moran told Buckner.

Thomas Wilson, Assistant District Attorney – Civil Division, was also recognized for a decade of service.

Smith County District Attorney Jacob Putman said Wilson is incredibly valuable to his office. He works in the civil division of the DA's Office and his duties include representing the county and advising the Commissioners Court.

"It requires incredible knowledge of a variety of laws," Putman said. "Thanks Thomas for your 10 years."

Other county employees celebrating work anniversaries who were not in court Tuesday include:

20 Years: James Meredith, Justice of



Arlana Bozeman, with Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith, was honored for her 20 years of service by county commissioners recently. (Courtesy photo)

the Peace, Precinct 3.

15 Years: Diana Morales, Adult Probation.

10 Years: Timothy Fauss, Juvenile Services; and Andretta White, Sheriff's Office.

BUSINESS Spotlight

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Family members of "Doc" Ballard join recipients of the "Doc" Ballard Award at a recent ceremony. (Courtesy photo)

PUBLIC NOTICE

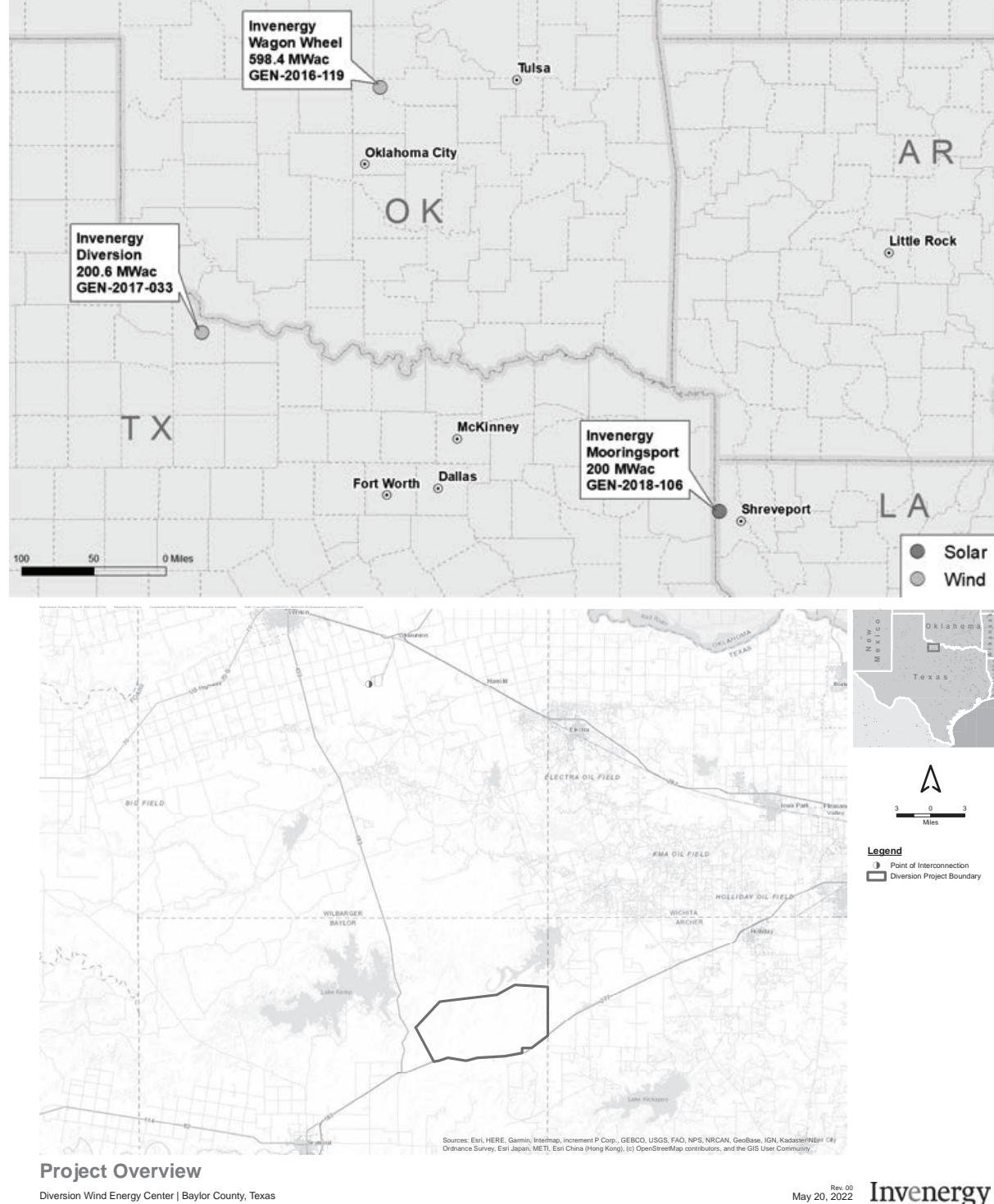
On May 27, 2022, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) requesting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) authorization to acquire three generation facilities (the Selected Facilities), located in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. The docket number and style of the case are PUC Docket No. 53625, *Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Authorization and Related Relief for the Acquisition of Generation Facilities*. SWEPCO has approximately 187,400 Texas retail customers, all of whom are affected by this Application. SWEPCO has filed separate applications for certification of the Selected Facilities with the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

Through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, SWEPCO has contracted to acquire the project companies owning the following three Selected Facilities, subject to receipt of regulatory approvals and satisfaction of other conditions:

SELECTED FACILITIES

Facility	Size – Megawatts (MW)	State	County / Parish
Wagon Wheel	598.4 MW	OK	Multiple ¹
Diversion	200.6 MW	TX	Baylor
Mooringsport	200 MW	LA	Caddo
Total	999 MW		

Maps showing the locations of the Selected Facilities as well as the location of the Diversion facility within Baylor County, Texas, are provided below.



Project Overview
Diversion Wind Energy Center | Baylor County, Texas

Each of the Selected Facilities is owned by an affiliate of Invenergy LLC. SWEPCO has contracted to acquire 100% of each facility, for a total of 999 MW. In the event that approval is not received from all state regulatory commissions, SWEPCO requests approval in this application to acquire a larger share of the Selected Facilities for the benefit of Texas customers.

The total project capital costs for the Selected Facilities, including all owner's costs, is approximately \$2.175 billion. Closing is subject to regulatory approvals and other conditions, and there are no pre-closing progress or other payments.

Persons with questions about this Application should contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101 or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought, should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the PUCT at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. All communications should refer to Docket No. 53625, and any request to intervene in that docket should include an email address and fax number (if available) as contact information. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is September 9, 2022 and you must send a letter requesting intervention to the Commission which is received by that date.

A copy of SWEPCO's petition may be viewed on the Commission's webpage at <https://www.puc.texas.gov>. The Commission maintains an electronic copy of all filings on the "Filings/Filings Search" section of its webpage. The control number for this proceeding is Docket No. 53625.

¹ Wagon Wheel is located in the following counties in Oklahoma: Garfield, Kingfisher, Logan, and Noble.

County Fire Marshal Brooks recipient of Ballard Award

Smith County Fire Marshal Jay Brooks was honored recently as one of the recipients of the 2022 W.T. "Doc" Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health, Northeast Texas Health officials announced.

Brooks, a former Lindale Police officer and member of the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, was selected along with meteorologist Mark Scirto and Tyler Fire Department Chief David Coble.

The recipients were announced on Friday, July 1.

"Doc" Ballard, a registered professional engineer for the Texas Department of Health and mentor to NET Health, was a leader in protecting the health of the public.

His expertise and administrative skills ensured the environmental controls crucial to the quality and safety of public drinking water and public food service, proper disposal of waste, and the monitoring of radiation.

Brooks was appointed as the Smith County Fire Marshal in 2014 and then again in 2019. He also serves as the Smith County Emergency Management Coordinator and chairman of the Local Emergency Management Committee.

In 1998, Brooks served Smith County as a volunteer recovery diver and firefighter/EMT-B.

He became a peace officer and joined the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office in 2008 as a volunteer deputy and is a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator and a Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator by the National Association of Fire Investigators.

He holds a BBA and an MBA degree from LeTourneau University and has studied engineering at Texas A&M University and Eastern Kentucky University. He holds a Master Peace Officer Certification, Arson Investigator Certification, Fire Inspector Certification in addition to extensive FEMA Emergency Management Training Certifications.

The Chief Meteorologist for KLT-TV Channel 7, Scirto graduated in 1982 from the University of St. Thomas in Houston with a degree in Meteorology and joined KLT-TV in January 1987.

Mark remained as the original Daybreak Meteorologist for four years before moving to KPLC-TV Channel 7 in Lake Charles, La.

In 1994, he re-joined KLT-TV and has been nominated for a Dallas Press Club Katie Award, an honor no other meteorologist in the East Texas area has received. Scirto has held the Seals of Approval from the National Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society since 1989.

Chief Coble began his career in 1984 with the Fort Worth Fire Department reaching the rank of Executive Assistant Fire Chief.

He served as interim Fort Worth Fire Chief before retiring in 2016, then being selected for the position of Tyler Fire Chief in September, 2016.

Chief Coble earned an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Service Administration from Weatherford College, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Dallas Baptist University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas A & M University-Commerce.

He also holds certifications through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) as Master Structure Firefighter, Advance Instructor, Master Fire Inspector, Hazardous Materials Technician and Head of Department. In addition to his fire service duties, Chief Coble serves as the Managing Director of Emergency Services for the City of Tyler and the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Fireworks in the Yard

By Marinda Arney
Smith County Master Gardener

I love bursts of color.

It all started when I was at Disneyland watching the fireworks. The park closed at night with Tinkerbell lighting the fireworks in the sky. It must have been a long time ago because I was sitting on my dad's shoulders. He doesn't let me do that anymore.

I still like fireworks. I go out to the lake to watch them over the water every Fourth of July. I come home and try to figure out how to do that in my yard without catching it on fire.

Every month of the year, I try to have one plant featuring bursting colors of blossoms in my yard. This can be a challenge for lazy gardeners like me. Plants that thrive here naturally (adaptive plants) and native plants make it a lot easier.

Quince the first thing to start the show, this must be where Tinker Bell or some other garden fairy lights the first tiny burst of color of the fireworks season.

Camelias with their glossy leaves, dramatic blooms and their southern charm snubbing the cold to show out.

BOOM: Narcissus followed by Daffodils, Snowdrops popping out in the pansies – a cold weather annual here but they are hard to resist -- while the Hellebores (Lenten Rose) quietly and gracefully glow, preparing you for the next wave of color.

Red then white clover cheering on from the fields and roadsides.

POW POW POW: WISTERIA! So worth the work of taming it for the spring spectacular!

Gardenias opening up for the Azaleas!

Amaryllis: white, red, dark orange, pink striped, Old Fashioned St. Joseph.

Iris: Bearded, Siberian, Louisiana, Dutch, Flag (bog) OH MY!

Star Jasmine bursting with tiny sparkles of white that will perfume the whole yard. Aster and Cleome delicately popping up from the Verbena backdrop competing for attention with the Yarrow, Kwanso Lillies, Daylilies and Cosmos bottle-rocketing up from the flowerbeds. Geraniums clapping from the stands next to the passion flowers climbing over the fence to watch the show.

Crepe Myrtles exploding with color, Rose bushes applauding with blooms, Esperanza cheering with brightness, Echinacea, Zinnias, and Coreopsis jumping in for attention. Cannas waving their flags of colors.

Followed by the sparklers of the Cuphea cigar plant Portulaca, Moss Rose and Lantana showing how its done in our East Texas heat. Altheas and Confederate Rose making one last hoorah.

Chrysanthemums winding us down from Tinkerbell's wand preparing us for Poinsettias in pots to hold us over for the next wave of Tinkerbell's presence.

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

Getting ready for pumpkin season

By Greg Grant

Smith County Horticulturist

What child among us, or in us, doesn't like picking out a pumpkin for Halloween?

And what baby boomer didn't grow up hoping Linus would finally see the Great Pumpkin? And who doesn't wish they could grow their very own? It's not easy in East Texas, but it can be done.

The key is planting during the late summer and providing water until fall arrives. There are a number of obstacles in your way, including powdery mildew, viruses, and squash vine borers.

Pumpkins require warm soils to germinate. They cannot tolerate frost or freezes. To produce a fall crop of jack-o'-lanterns, plant the seed approxi-

mately four months (generally around July) before the first killing frost. Different varieties have different number of days to reach maturity, so be sure to check the variety description and add about 25 days for slower maturity in the fall. Nobody said it was easy! Pumpkins should be planted in hills 4 to 6 feet apart and thinned to the strongest two plants seven to ten days after sprouting.

Pumpkins require at least eight hours of direct sun each day for maximum production. They aren't choosy about soils as long as the soil drains well. Ideally, till in several inches of compost or organic matter and incorporate 2 pounds of a complete lawn fertilizer (15-5-10, 16-6-12, etc.) per 100 square feet of bed or every 35 feet of row before planting.

The ideal soil pH for growing pumpkins is 6.0 to 7.5.

Pumpkins are direct seeded into the garden and make very large plants around 6 or more feet in diameter. Create a raised row about 6 inches high and 12 inches wide.

Multiple rows should be around 8 feet apart. Pumpkin seeds should be planted in groups of seed every 6 feet. This is known as planting in hills. Open a shallow depression about 1 inch deep and 4 inches wide with a hoe. Drop four to five seeds evenly spaced apart in the hole and cover lightly with loose soil using a hoe or garden rake.

About three weeks after thinning your pumpkins, apply an additional application of fertilizer. This is known as

side-dressing. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons of a high-nitrogen fertilizer (21-0-0, etc.) around each hill, being careful to keep it off the plants. Work the fertilizer into the soil lightly with a hoe or rake and water.

After side-dressing, it is ideal to apply a layer of organic mulch (hay, straw, grass clippings, etc.) to conserve water and prevent weeds.

The most common pest problems on pumpkins are cucumber beetles, squash bugs, white flies, squash vine borers, powdery mildew, and viruses.

Control the insects as they occur with appropriately labeled insecticides following all label directions. There is no cure for a virus but controlling the insects spreading it will help lessen its occurrence.

Pumpkins should be ready to harvest 90 to 120 days after planting the seed, depending on the variety.

The pumpkins are ripe when they are fully colored and have a hard rind and a woody stem. Cut the pumpkin from the plant with a pair of hand pruners leaving a 3- to 4-inch stem on the fruit.

Fall pumpkins can tolerate frosts without damaging the fruit but should be harvested and protected if the temperatures are going to dip below 30 degrees.

Recommended pumpkin varieties in Texas include 'Big Max', 'Connecticut Field', 'Funny Face', 'Jack-B-Little', 'Jack O'Lantern', 'Jackpot', 'Small Sugar', and 'Spirit Hybrid'. Pumpkins are native to Central and South America.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SOK TAN, Deceased, were issued on June 29, 2022, in Docket No. 46495P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to ROM PHATH.

Claims may be presented to the following address:

ROM PHATH
Independent Executor
Estate of SOK TAN
6603 Spring Hollow Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78249

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

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with Texas property code, Chapter 59, Castlerock Storage-Lindale, located at 19375 US Hwy 69, Lindale, TX 75771, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a Landlord's lien. Units will be sold as-is to the highest bidder online at www.storageauctions.com July 13, 2022 thru July 25, 2022 @10:00am. Cash Only. Cleanup deposit and sales tax required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Units include the personal household belongings of the following tenants: Crystal Martin

CAUSE NO. 46333P

ESTATE OF § IN THE COUNTY COURT
MARGARET TURENTINE § OF
DECEASED § SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Margaret Turentine were issued on June 29, 2022, in cause number 46333P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to Thomas Malachi Turentine, Jr. 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:

Thomas Malachi Turentine, Jr.,
Independent Executor
Estate of Margaret Turentine
c/o Gregory A. Fraser
P.O. Box 2562
209 S. Main Street
Lindale, TX 75771

Dated June 29, 2022.

By: Gregory A. Fraser
Attorney for Independent
Executor of the
Estate of Margaret Turentine

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, THAT:

The City of Lindale, Texas proposes to institute annexation proceedings to enlarge and extend the boundary limits of said city to include the following described territories, to-wit:

- 1.) Property located at 17361 Cory Ray LN Lindale, Texas 75771 and being described as Lot No. 19 of the Eagles Peak Subdivision according to plot of said Addition recorded in Cabinet C, Slide 189-C of the plot records of Smith County Texas.
- 2.) Property located at 13397 Choice Cr. Lindale, Texas 75771 and being described as Lot No. 70 of the Eagles Peak Subdivision according to plot of said Addition recorded in Cabinet C, Slide 189-C of the plot records of Smith County Texas.
- 3.) BEING 38.432 acres of land situated in the R.W. Chapman Survey, Abstract No. 220, and the S.M. Hagerty Survey, Abstract No. 436, Smith County, Texas, being all of that certain called 36.620 acre tract of land described in a warranty deed with vendor's lien from Christopher Taylor and Stephanie Taylor to Highlands Tyler LLC, as recorded in Instrument Number 202101039262 of the Official Records of Smith County, Texas,

For a complete description of above listed properties contact City of Lindale City Hall.

A public hearing will be held by and before the City Council of the City of Lindale Texas on the 19th day of July at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chamber at the City Hall of Lindale, Texas located at 105 Ballard Dr, for all persons interested in the above proposed annexations. At said time and place all such persons shall have the right to appear and be heard. Of all said matters and things, all persons interested in the things and matters herein mentioned, will take notice.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ELLA LAWSON MURPHY, DECEASED

Administration of the estate of Ella Lawson Murphy, has been commenced by the issuance of original letters testamentary to the undersigned on June 22, 2022, by the County Court of Smith County, acting in cause number 46401P, styled *In the Matter of the Estate of, Ella Lawson Murphy, deceased*, in which court the matter is pending.

All persons having claims against the estate are notified to present them to the estate's resident agent for service, Howard Tagg, at his offices located at 5620 Old Bullard Road, Suite 105, Tyler, Texas 75703, within the time prescribed by law.

Dated: 6-28-2022

Pamela Salinas: .
20327 Spillway Road
Winona, Texas 75792
Independent Executor
Estate of Ella Lawson Murphy, deceased

Notice to Creditors

Letters of Administration for Estate of Rickey Lynn Helms, Deceased, were issued to Ryan Lynn Helms on 6/29/22, in Cause No. 46345P, by the County Court of Smith County, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to Ryan Lynn Helms, c/o Richard Patteson, Attorney at Law, 218 N. Broadway, Ste.304, Tyler, Texas 75702 within the time and manner prescribed by law.

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Divide & Conquer Estate Sale of Shirley (Mrs. Robert) Jenkins

Thurs., July 7 ~ 9:00-5:30 | Fri., July 8 ~ 8:00-5:30 | Sat., July 9 ~ 8:00-2:00

3935 Hanover Place - Tyler, TX 75701

Off SSE Loop 323 (east of Putt-Putt), turn right onto University Dr. Go beyond Grace High School, beyond Lazy Creek, and turn left onto Omen Road; then turn right into Charleston Park (near The Cowan Center). Enter Charleston Park and turn right; park ONLY on the right (south) side of the street.

This Charles P. home, listed by The Pamela Walker Group, has sold! Contents must go! 2 dimples, chairs, tables, sofa, couch, sofa, matching sofa, 4-poster bed, dresser, nightstands, Westmoreland ("George & Martha") sterling dinnerware, stemware, lawyer's bookcase, ladder back chairs; antiq. wickerstand; sm. kitchen island; painted TV armoire; 2 TV's; bookshelves; sofa table; floral arrangements; blue & white items; milk glass; quilt; tablecloths; bedding; linens; decorative pillows; clothes; shoes; costume jewelry; lamps; clocks; framed art; sm. appliances; cookbooks; KitchenAid mixer; canisters; knife sets; cookware; colorful dishes; salt & pepper shakers; pitchers; few dolls; desk; off. chair; many Dept. 56 Dickens Village selections; Hallmark ornaments; Christmas / fall decorations; roosters; checker table; games; puzzles; Legos; needlepoint; cookie jars; Dickens spoon set; movies; CD's; records (33, 45, 78); books; highchair; card table & chairs; vacuum; trunk; camp; supplies; vintg. canister; tent; Coleman lantern in case; pistol case/ rifle sleeve; political pins; vintg. typewriter; wash. & dry.; refrig.; hand 'yard tools'; \$oooooo much more!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



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WANTED

FREON WANTED: Certified buyer looking to buy R11, R12, and R500

Commissioners hold first budget workshop; hope to maintain tax rate from last two years

Continued from Page 1

enforcement, which remains one of the continued focuses of this year's budget.

"Over the last six years, we have stayed the course on trying to make good budget decisions and looking strategically long-term. From year-to-year, we have focused on different priority areas, but in looking back over each of the last six years, we are able to see a balanced and prudent approach to tackling multiple items in the county that needed to be addressed. More is to come in the future," Moran said.

He said the best example of that is the Road and Bridge operations during the last six years, which included two road bonds passed by voters, and an increase of the dedicated amount within the existing tax rate that will perpetually fund Road and Bridge operations from 2.9 cents to a proposed 4.75 cents this year — all of which has been done incrementally.

Moran's budget overview includes four primary areas of focus: the new 475th District Court; law enforcement staffing; Road and Bridge funding; and Judicial Support Services/Clerk Pay Scale.

The new 475th District Court was created by the Texas Legislature and will go into effect Jan. 1, 2023.

It will require staffing for several departments, including the District Attorney's Office, District Clerk's Office, indigent defense and appellate attorneys, court staff and security, which is expected

to cost the county nearly \$1.5 million.

The focus on law enforcement staffing will include five additional patrol deputies, one new digital forensic tech, one new training deputy, one new part-time training assistant, one new courthouse bailiff for the 475th District Court, two new courthouse security personnel (already added this year), and the reclassification of a crime scene tech to a criminalist.

The focus on Road and Bridge Department funding will include the continuation of increasing the dedicated portion of the tax rate for Road and Bridge to eventually be 5 cents per year so that the department is adequately funded in the long-term.

Smith County has planned to use about \$2.22 million in ARPA (the American Rescue Plan Act) funding next year for 43 vehicles for eight offices/departments. The budget includes \$805,000 for another 14 vehicles that cannot be purchased with ARPA funding due to federal requirements.

Total new positions requested from elected officials and department heads for next fiscal year was 38, while Judge Moran included 26 new positions in the draft budget. Most of those were necessary because of the addition of the 475th District Court.

Others were supplemental positions for the District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office, especially in the area of patrol of duties.

The working draft budget includes an increase of spending relating to either salary increases or added personnel in the amount of about 4.9 Million. This includes a 5 percent increase for base line employees and 3 percent for elected officials, which is meant to offset the escalating inflation seen over the past year and help retain employees whose skillsets are transferable to the private sector for increasing wages.

machinery and equipment purchases.

The fourth area of primary focus includes raising the salary scale for clerks working in several departments, including the County Clerk's and District Clerk's Offices, Justice of the Peace Offices, and the Tax Office. Salaries for the clerks countywide will increase an average of 15.86 percent.

Smith County has planned to use about \$2.22 million in ARPA (the American Rescue Plan Act) funding next year for 43 vehicles for eight offices/departments. The budget includes \$805,000 for another 14 vehicles that cannot be purchased with ARPA funding due to federal requirements.

Other notable budget matters for FY2023 include reduced anticipated revenue for housing federal inmates from \$2.4 million in FY22, to \$0; increasing the amounts budgeted for inmate meals from \$1.15

Moran said they received a preliminary property valuation analysis from the Smith County Appraisal District, but won't receive the final certified tax roll until later this summer.

He reminded the public that the Smith County Appraisal District is not part of Smith County government, and, while the Smith County Commissioners Court sets the tax rate, the Appraisal District independently sets property values for all taxing jurisdictions.

Other notable budget matters for FY2023 include reduced anticipated revenue for housing federal inmates from \$2.4 million in FY22, to \$0; increasing the amounts budgeted for inmate meals from \$1.15

million to \$1.8 million; and increased operating contingency from \$500,000 to \$1 million for potential unexpected inflation.

During the day-long budget workshop, several elected officials and department heads made presentations to the Commissioners Court to justify their requested expenditures and personnel.

The Court went through each section of the draft working budget to discuss any other notable anticipated changes from the prior year.

The Commissioners Court also heard from Civil Air Patrol and the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County for public service funding requests.

Moran will formally file a proposed budget on or

before Monday, August 15, and the Commissioners Court is scheduled to vote on the Fiscal Year 23 budget on September 6. Another budget workshop is planned for July 26, where the public is invited to attend and provide feedback.

There will also be public hearings scheduled after the proposed budget is filed and before it is adopted.

Public hearings are planned for Aug. 23 during Commissioners Court at both the 9:30 a.m. regular meeting, as well as a special called meeting at 5:30 p.m.

To watch the Commissioners Court Budget Workshop or view the presentations from the meeting, visit: www.smith-county.com/i-want-to/search/commissioners-court-records

TPWD Accepting 2022-23 Drawn Hunt Permit Applications

AUSTIN — New opportunities and scenery are available to hunters this fall through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) drawn hunt permits program, now accepting applications for a shot at almost 10,000 permits in 62 hunt categories.

The permits allow drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas. Among the offerings available through the online system are hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator, dove and guided packages for exotic species and big-horn sheep.

"This season, we will conduct drawings in 62 hunt categories," said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD Public Hunting Program Coordinator. "These drawings include selections for U.S. Forest Service Antlerless Deer Permits, both adult and youth hunts, 18 e-Postcard Selections for hunters using the \$48 Annual Public Hunting Permit (APH), and hunts conducted on 10 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in Texas."

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current APH permit to apply.

New areas included in this year's drawn hunt catalog include the Muleshoe NWR and Powderhorn State Park. Devil's Sinkhole SNA, Lost Maples SP, Village Creek SP, and Stephen F. Austin SP have re-entered the program this season. TPWD also created two new NWR hunt categories, for Antlerless

Deer and Alligator.

An interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area, and all applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically.

To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID number from the applicant's hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees are \$3 or \$10 depending on the hunt category. Adult hunters that are selected may also need to pay a Special Permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as the Youth-Only hunts, require

no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

The first application deadlines are in August. Aug. 1 is the deadline for the alligator hunt categories, pronghorn, and private lands dove hunts, and Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery deer, general exotic and javelina. Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of the month from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1.

A full list of category deadlines can be found online. Hunters can apply up to 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the application deadline, and after the application is submitted, they can check their drawing status online at any time.

East Texan arrested in connection with deadly smuggling

Continued from Page 1

gling operation.

Martinez' initial court appearance took place in Tyler on Wednesday and was transported to San Antonio.

If convicted, both defendants could face the death penalty or life in prison.

According to federal documents, Homeland Security Investigations responded to the scene of the smuggling attempt where SAPD arrived after receiving 911 calls from concerned citizens.

Officers discovered multiple people dead and incapacitated inside and around the tractor trailer.

HSI confirmed that 48 individuals at the scene were found deceased. Of those 22 were Mexican nationals, seven Guatemalan nationals, two Honduran nationals and 17 of unknown origin but suspected to be undocumented non-citizens (UNCs). HSI confirmed the undocumented status of the deceased individuals by utilizing a mobile fingerprint device.

Sixteen of the 64 undocumented individuals were taken to local hospitals for medical evaluation where five died at the hospital. Officials are working with foreign consulate offices for proper notifications to family members of the deceased.

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