

Lindale News & Times

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Smith County Commissioners court vote to lower county tax rate

This past week, Smith County Commissioners voted unanimously to propose lowering the tax rate by half a cent.

The proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 will go down from 33.5 cents to 33 cents per \$100 valuation.

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran said the Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rate at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 23. The court will also plan a public hearing on the proposed FY23 Budget at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 23.

A proposed budget has been filed and the Commissioners Court is scheduled to vote on the Fiscal Year 2023 budget on Sept. 6.

Moran said the court would vote on adopting the proposed tax rate and budget in September. They will not take effect until Oct. 1, 2022. The proposed tax rate is lower than FY22, even after absorbing the Road and Bridge Bond Phase 2 that was passed by voters in November. The first tranche of the bonds was sold

during the Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday.

"As you look at our tax rate over time, we are trying to stay the course and be good stewards of tax payers' money," Moran said at an earlier meeting. "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 has themed this year's budget as "Stay the Course."

"Over the last six years, we have stayed the course on trying to make good budget decisions and looking strategically long-term," Moran said. "When I became the judge in 2016, the tax rate was 33 cents. Because of fiscally responsible decisions made over the past six years, I am proud that we are going to end my tenure at that same rate while simultaneously increasing our funding for roads and bridges improvements by almost 3 cents."



Commissioners set Nov. 7 bond election for county courthouse

The Smith County Commissioners voted on Tuesday, Aug. 9 to call a Courthouse Bond Election for Nov. 8, 2022 said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of the bond election with Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips voting no.

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran and Commissioners Neal Franklin, Cary Nix and JoAnn Hampton all voted in favor to call the bond election.

The vote was taken during Commissioners Court regular weekly meeting in the courthouse after 13 people spoke on the issue.

Phillips, who represents the Lindale area on the court, said there is a need for a new courthouse and one would be built eventually. He asked that the court delay calling a bond election because of several issues regarding today's economy.

Hampton said the need for a new courthouse has been discussed since she became a commissioner in 2003 but it has never been put to a vote to let the community decide.

"I think it is time that we call this election," she said.

Nix said the voters want a chance to vote on the issue so he agreed it was time to let them choose.

Franklin said he has been asking a lot of people in the community their opinion, and 90 percent have said they were in favor of a new courthouse.

"As the future county judge ... I look forward to building this courthouse," he said.

Moran said the court's vote on Tuesday was a procedural vote to allow Smith County voters to make the decision on whether they want a new courthouse.

"They have the opportunity to decide what they want for their courthouse," he said. "The decision, I think, is right for the present time. Despite current issues, we have remained strong here in Smith County."

The judge said the county has been studying the courthouse issue for 23 years and have never put it up for the community to vote on it. He said the Commissioners Court needs to step out of the way and let the community vote.

"There's never a perfect time to call a bond election like this ... that's what has held up the court for the last 23 years."

Commissioners held a special-called meeting Aug. 1, to discuss the Courthouse Bond proposal and heard from 16 speakers at that meeting.

After Tuesday's approval, the Nov. 8 Election will include a bond for the \$160 million Courthouse and the \$19 million parking garage together on the ballot. The projected tax impact for the Courthouse and parking structure would be 3.67 cents, resulting in an increase on tax bills of \$73.40 per year for a \$200,000 home.

In 2000, a task force of 50 community members was formed and came up with a Master Plan that showed the need for a new Courthouse, Parking Structure, Sheriff's Administration Building and Jail.

In 2007, a second study by a different Commissioners Court and different consulting firm showed the need for a new Courthouse, along with a Jail and Sheriff's Office.

Since then, a Jail Bond passed that added on to the Jail, (the Jail Bond is expected to be paid off in 2022), and the Jail Administration Building has also been renovated and paid for with cash.

In 2020, Fitzpatrick Architects designed a new Courthouse after dozens of community and public meetings were held by the County Judge and Commissioners Court. The projected cost of those same designs has seen inflation in the last couple of years, bringing the estimated cost from \$125 million to \$160 million for the new Courthouse, with an additional \$19 million for a parking structure.

The current courthouse, built in 1955, was planned for two courtrooms and now holds seven. In 1950, Smith County's estimated population was 74,701, which has grown to 233,479 in 2020, according to the latest Census.

The plans for the new Courthouse include security features that the space of the current Courthouse does not allow.

The location of the planned Courthouse, on the east side of the square, was chosen by stakeholders because of its lowest cost to taxpayers, among other benefits, he said.

For more information, visit: www.smith-county.com/online-services/online-county-services/court-house-planning



The weekly story time at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library this past week was an extra special occasion which featured Lattes for Literacy, sponsored by the Cooperative Teachers Credit Union, Camp V Tyler and Chik-Fil-A. The library's Children Director Penny Turner, right and East Texas Educators Association's Kallie Hamill. Courtesy photo



The Chik-Fil-A cow presented a special story time for youngsters and adults this past Friday at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library as "Lattes for Literacy" was held at the library. The event was sponsored by the Cooperative Teachers Credit Union, Camp V Tyler and Chik-Fil-A Lindale.

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Only 129 shopping days left 'til Christmas ...

My birthday is this Friday but we celebrated it August 6. Jim gave me tickets to see Peter Frampton (my fourth time) followed by Lynyrd Skynyrd. The best part of the gift was meeting the famous musician/rock star. Frampton was one of the staples of the Guitar Hero game that introduced his music to an entirely new generation. In my youth he was one of the biggest selling rock stars of the time.

Well, this old Baby Boomer got a kick out of the front row seats and the Meet & Greet which was attended by two couples. TWO! (Todd and Neta Clifton eat your hearts out!) The other fans received a letter, as did we, that Frampton would not be able to attend. We decided to make sure and camped out. The letter was intended for band member fans, not the Frampton guests. Persistence paid off once again.

We actually got to visit with the once famously handsome rock star whose golden brown locks caused female fans to swoon. Well, no problem there. First, I have never been a swooner for looks, and second, that great guitarist no longer has those flowing locks. But man, can he play.

His passion for music was evident from the first lick of the guitar to the last lick of the swoon worthy encore. Frampton loses himself in the music and the moment. There is a life lesson there I am sure.

Lynyrd Skynyrd was everything a music fan would expect. Raucous, LOUD, (so loud that I am saving for hearing aids), patriotic, redneck and emotionally engaged. Why then was I waiting for the last strains of "Freebird" to leave?

There is such a difference between someone doing something well for money and doing something passionately because they are lost in what they are doing. Getting lost in the magical moments of excellence is something I strive to

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



experience.

Jim Bardwell has given me some amazing gifts over the years. Consider that I am not a "diamonds are a girl's best friend" kind of gal.

Besides concerts and meeting my Guitar Hero, Jimmy has given me a musket ball from the Battle of San Jacinto. (I

have a crush on Sam Houston.) I have an autographed picture of a 'rabbit' (pooka) drawn by Jimmy Stewart labeled "Harvey" in Mr. Stewart's own hand. Jim once took me to Dunleith Plantation in Natchez, Mississippi to meet Greg Iles, a best selling author who autographed a book per my hubby's request: "To Suzanne, a true Southern Belle". (I thought I was Scarlett O'Hara until I was 40 when I then realized I was just a loudmouthed Melanie.)

I also have a piece of the Berlin Wall, a signed picture of Eric Clapton, a wild assortment of snow globes, and a bracelet that tells a part of our story in charms.

But the first gift my Prince Charming ever gave me was at church camp in Athens when I was 13 years old. It was an orange flower from lakeside which he managed to have deposited on my bunk pillow with a note that said: "Love, Mr. Me".

Well, "Mr. Me", I love your ability to give the most amazing gifts.

Maybe I should prime the pump here and say that I can not wait for Christmas! After all, there are only 129 shopping days left.



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



Texas gas prices lowest in nation

While gas prices nationwide dropped below \$4 per gallon average last week, the state boasts the lowest prices in the country at an average of \$3.49 — 50 cents below the national average, according to AAA Texas.

"Retail gasoline prices in Texas fell for the eighth consecutive week," said AAA Texas spokesperson Daniel Armbruster. "While gas prices will likely keep dropping in the near term, it is unclear how long the trend will last. Demand for fuel jumped seven percent across the U.S. this week and regional fuel supplies fell by around three percent."

Drivers fueling up in College Station are paying the most on average at \$3.72, while those in the Brownsville-Harlingen area have the cheapest fuel at \$3.19, according to a report by KWTX-Waco.

Voter registration deadline is Oct. 11

Eligible Texas voters must be registered by Oct. 11 in order to cast ballots in the Nov. 8 general election, according to Texas Secretary of State John Scott.

"Even though we're still two months away from the voter registration deadline, it's never too early to make sure you're registered, update your registration information if you need to, and prepare yourself to vote in the upcoming election," Scott said.

Texas law requires eligible voters to be registered 30 days before Election Day. Since the 30th day before Nov. 8 falls on a Sunday, prospective voters have two extra days to register this year.

Voters can visit the state's official voting website — VoteTexas.gov — for more information.

Scammer posing as TDI employee

If someone calls claiming to be a Texas Department of Insurance employee offering to meet at one's home to discuss insurance needs, it's almost certainly a scam. That's according to a TDI news release, which notes the agency only calls people who ask for assistance.

The agency's fraud unit received a report from a person who was contacted by someone claiming to be a TDI employee and offering to come over and review insurance needs.

"The individual who received the call did the right thing by not providing any personal information and contacting us," said Chris Davis, head of TDI's Fraud Unit. "This may have been an attempt at identity theft or other crime."

Anyone needing help with an insurance issue or suspecting insurance fraud can contact the TDI help line at 800-252-3439.

All state oil and gas records now online

Have you been wondering about that working pumpjack in the strip-mall parking lot in Longview? (Yes, there is one.) The Texas Railroad Commission has recently completed placing all historic oil and gas production records online.

The RRC database covers oil production dating back to 1931 and gas back to 1937. More than 1,300 rolls of microfilm containing about 2.2 million images in the RRC's central records were digitized.

"This is a significant undertaking and a historic moment for the Commission," Matthew Herzon with RRC, said. "Not only does it give the public quick and easy access to the information, but it can also save staff time that's spent researching for public information requests. Requesters can now get historical production information with the click of a mouse if they wish, and our staff can devote time for other tasks."

COVID-19 cases dip slightly

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week dipped slightly to 72,715 with 194 new deaths reported, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 3,174 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday, a slight drop from the previous week.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Whence workers

Recent data indicates that the Texas economy continues to generate jobs at a torrid pace. In June, the state added 82,000 positions, pushing the year-over-year gain to 778,700. The



6.2% growth rate is second only to Nevada, which Texas dwarfs in size by a factor of more than nine. In May, Texas had about 974,000 jobs open, and fewer than 508,000 unemployed persons. The pace of expansion may moderate given challenges such as inflation, higher interest rates, and greater uncertainty on many fronts. Nonetheless shortages are most assuredly going to persist.

Long-term demographic patterns are not encouraging. Texas is better situated than most of the country given our younger population, opportunities relative to other states, and higher birth rates. Even so, as the baby boom generation continues to leave the workforce, they will be missed.

It's also uncertain when or even if some of the pandemic disruptions will be completely resolved. It is exceedingly difficult to find childcare in many areas, and it can be very expensive. The pandemic also accelerated decisions to leave the workforce for thousands of people, some of whom will not return (although the participation rate is now only about 1% below pre-COVID levels).

It will be difficult to maintain our health and quality of

life without conscious efforts to attract people into the workforce, and we certainly can't sustain economic expansion. Part of the long-term solution may well be automation and capital investment, but until we invent robots to prepare food, provide home health care, and work in retail stores, that alone will not solve the problem. In fact, over the long sweep of history, technological advances have increased — not decreased — the demand for workers (although the nature of the jobs has radically changed).

Clearly, there are individuals on the sidelines who could potentially be enticed to work (the participation rate peaked around 2000). As shortages become more acute, we'll see rising wages and added benefits. Childcare, parent care, flexible hours, and remote or hybrid options will be increasingly offered by forward-looking firms. Some potential employees would look favorably on incentives such as tuition grants and other support for additional education, advancement opportunities, and a greater sense of being valued and appreciated. Ensuring potential workers have access to methods to enhance their employability is also worth exploring, whether that's literacy initiatives (a topic for another day), English classes, or basic skills of other kinds. Investment in public education is also imperative.

Sensible immigration reform for individuals of all skill levels is essential, simply because Texas and the United States need the workers. Texas must also be a welcoming state and avoid discriminatory social policies. The solution is "all of the above" — and then some!

Stay safe!

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Lindale Rural Water announces restrictions for water use

Due to high demands for water, officials with Lindale Rural Water have announced all outdoor water use — except for livestock — has been prohibited.

Lindale Rural Water officials say water consumption is three times more than usual, prompting the implementation of Stage II restrictions.

This ban will be in effect until further notice, officials said. For more information, call 903-882-3335.

Lindale Rural Water isn't associated with the city of Lindale.

Incredible tale of the “Tex-Mex Cowboy from Forney”

If we were able to have a camp fire (which we can't because of the county burn ban, don't you know) the following tale would be perfectly suited for telling as the wood crackled and the night grew darker.

Thanks to longtime Lindale resident Edsel Loving, we've got a pretty good story to share, one which he recently received from 1951 Lindale High School classmate Ross Martin.

Martin who lives near San Antonio, related the following account to Edsel who was then kind enough to pass along to us. Might have the makings of one of those TV movies.

Anyway, for lack of a better term, let's just call it “The Many Adventures of the Tex-Mex Cowboy from Forney.” And...we're off.

Back in 1958, Christian met W.C. Mantius, the “Tex-Mex Cowboy” from Forney, who proceeded to regale Christian with one of the most fascinating tales he'd ever heard.

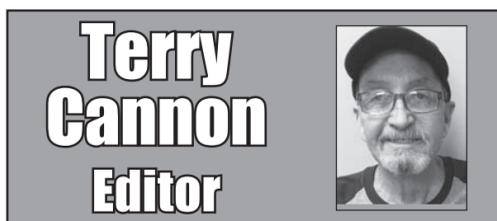
Mantius, who by 1958 had made a lot of money from cotton, was a graduate of Forney High School in the early 1900s. He went on to Texas A&M in College Station and became a telegrapher.

“He said he spent four years to learn how to do that,” Christian said. “Seems to me you could learn Morse Code in about six months.”

Anyway, after earning his telegraphy credentials, he wound up in East Texas – specifically, Lindale.

“His college professor asked what he was going to do after he graduated and he said he wasn't sure,” Christian said. “So he gave him a train ticket Lindale and said there was a job there because the previous telegraph operator had killed a man and had left town.”

Good enough for our man Mantius, so he arrived in Lindale and went to work for Lennis Pierce Sr., whose office was near where the Lillie Russell Memorial Library now stands.



At the time, Lindale was a busy place for transporting fruit and vegetables from the cannery located just behind Pierce's telegraph office.

“There was lots of fruit being shipped out of there,” said Christian. “Sometimes, there would be about a half-dozen loaded boxcars a day.”

In April 1917, the U.S. entered World War I and Mantius joined up as a telegraph line installer.

The Army supplied him with a motorcycle, which he used to get from one installation area to another.

“One day, he was up on a pole and a German shot him down,” Christian said. “After waking up on the ground, he tried to make it back to his camp on his motorcycle.”

But his unit had found some French wine and, well, enjoyed themselves. They boarded a truck and in their state of inebriation, ran over Mantius.

“When they found him the next day, he was in worse shape than when he fell off the pole,” said Christian.

After recovering in a Paris hospital, Mantius wound up in San Antonio and decided to get into the cotton business. But not long after, he changed directions again.

“He wanted to do something else so he went to the Bexar County bank, borrowed \$50,000 then went across the street and borrowed another \$50,000 from the Frost Bank,” Christian said.

(Banks must have had pretty liberal lending policies back then, but I digress)

This \$100,000 provided the means to acquire 50,000 hectares (approximately 125,000 acres) in Mexico and start a cattle business.

“He hired 20 vaqueros and they worked the land and the cattle,” said Christian.

Then one day, trouble arrived in a cloud of dust. It seems that Mantius' land was of interest to noted Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa, who sent a large contingent of riders to “negotiate” with Mantius.

(At that time, Villa, tired of fighting the Mexican government, requested an amnesty from President Adolfo de Huerta in return for recognizing his government. Villa was then granted a 25,000-acre hacienda just outside Hidalgo de Parral in return for his pledge to retire from revolutionary activities.)

“One of the riders said, ‘I am authorized by Pancho Villa to offer you 100 hectares for your land,’” said Christian. “(Mantius) said the problem with that is that I'd have to start over and I don't have the money to do that. The rider then said, ‘The next time we come here, we won't come here to trade. We will take.’”

Sure enough, a few days later Villa's riders returned and all of Mantius' vaqueros vanished. He grabbed a rifle, a blanket and jumped on a mustang and headed for the Rio Grande.

“The problem was that he was still in debt for \$100,00,” said Christian.

Mantius worked a deal with the banks for the debt, began anew in the cotton business and became rich and successful. “He paid back both banks and even became a stockholder in those banks,” Christian said.

I have no reason not to believe Christian's story about his friend W.C. Mantius.

And it's still a ripping good yarn.

Supplying memories of first grade years ago

I can't believe school's started already. Man, when I was a kid you got a full three month vacation, or I should say, the teachers got a full three month vacation.

Oh well, at least I don't have to go back to school. That's one of the advantages of gettin' old -- you don't have to do what you don't want to. Well, most of the time.

A few days ago, I was in the store standin' in the checkout line. I was behind a woman that had a basket full of school supplies.

“Man,” I said. “You must have a bunch of kids.” She smiled, and it wasn't a happy smile either.

“I only have one,” she informed me.

“Wow! All of that for just one kid? What grade is he in?”

“He'll be in the first,” she answered.

“The first grade? Heck, I didn't have that much stuff when I was in junior college.”

“Here's the list,” she said, and handed me a paper. On the paper was a whole bunch of stuff.

“So much for free education,” I said.

“Tell me about it,” she sighed

On the way home, I got to thinkin' about what my mom got for me when I went to the first grade. Yes, I remember the first day of school when I was in the first grade. I can't tell you what I did yesterday, but I can remember what happened 60 some-odd years ago.

Now to be honest with you, I didn't have anything with me the first day, but my sack lunch, and my mom. You see, I was a little young to be in the first grade.

Back then, you could pay, and they'd let you start school a year early. Mom said it was worth every penny to get me out of the house.

Anywho, my mom wasn't the only mom there. All of



the moms talked with the teacher, and she told them what supplies we'd need. My mom already knew because my sister was already in school.

Anywho, when I got home, Mom had already gone to Skillern's Drug Store, and picked up what I needed. It consisted of the following:

- A Big Chief tablet;
- A couple of pencils the size of a small fence post;
- A jar of paste;
- A pair of scissors that had the tips rounded off, so you couldn't stab yourself;

-- And a box of crayons. I didn't get the big box that had the sharpener in it. I just got the box that had two rows of colors. We weren't rich, you know. Anywho, that was it.

We didn't have a backpack to put any of this stuff in, neither. We had a cigar box. In fact, all through the school includin' college, I never had a backpack. I did have a belt that I would put around my books to carry them home, but that was it.

There were some boys when I got to high school that carried briefcases. I think the only reason they did that was because they had to use their belts to hold the holsters that held their slide rules.

If you're not old enough to know what a slide rule is, then you probably had a backpack.

And if you are wonderin', no, I did not have a slide rule. I wouldn't have known how to work it if I did have one.

Anyway, slide rules were for the smart kids, what they call needs now-a-days. Anywho, back to the first grade.

That Big Chief tablet I

told you about was what we learned to write on. And it wasn't easy writin' on it, either. Heck, it was the roughest paper you've ever seen. It had little chunks of wood in it that didn't get melted down, or whatever it is they do to make paper.

If you've ever seen what a first graders handwritin' looks like on a Big Chief Tablet, you'd think the kid had palsy or somethin'. They didn't. They were just writin' around those big chunks of wood.

And what they gave us to write with wasn't any bargain either. It was that big pencil I was tellin' you about. How come they give a kid with little bitty fingers a great ol' big pencil, and when you get big they give you a little bitty pencil. It just doesn't make sense. I mean, you had to hold your shoulder under the eraser end of the pencil just to keep it up.

The jar of paste was just a mess waitin' to happen. It was a glass jar, with a big mouth, and it had a screw on lid that had a brush stickin' in the middle. When you opened the lid, the brush came out with paste all over it.

The only thing was that you couldn't just get a little paste out. You could either get none, or half the jar. And it wasn't worth a hoot gluin' anything together, either.

The only thing I know paste was good for, was watchin' kids eat it. I, myself, never acquired a taste for paste (ooh, that rhymed), but a lot of kids did. Oh sure, I tried it, but it didn't taste all that good to me.

We had a couple of real paste connoisseurs in our

class though. They'd be diggin' it out with their pencils or fingers and such. It wasn't really pretty to watch. Of course they were usually the same ones who ate boogers, too.

The scissors we had were really a joke. You couldn't cut doodlely squat with them. Not that we had a lot of cuttin' to do, except before the holidays. I mean, you'd have to cut out jack o'lanterns and ghosts and stuff at Halloween. That was back when it was OK to say Halloween instead of Fall Festival.

I still haven't figured that one out yet.

You also used the scissors to cut out stuff for Christmas, before that holiday became politically incorrect and you had to say the Holiday Season or some ridiculous thing like that. Heck, they're gonna make it where it's not gonna be fun to be a kid anymore.

Oh yeah, the colors. You see, we didn't call them crayons back then. They were known as “your colors.”

“Everyone take out your colors,” the teacher would say, and you knew she was talkin' about the crayons. Back then, the colors had the name of the color on the paper that went around the crayon.

No, I'm not talkin' about that foo foo language they put on them now-a-days. They had the real name like, green, instead of emerald, or red instead of rose petal, and junk like that. Man, how do they expect a kid to learn his colors if they've got kooky stuff like that on them?

Anywho, all of this stuff we got for the first grade probably didn't set our parents back more than a couple of dollars at the most. That way, they had more money to spend on us at Christmas. That's right, I said Christmas. If you don't like it, tough toenails.

Man, it's great to be old.

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, Aug. 19, 2021

The board of the Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1 approved a new tax rate for the district following a public hearing held at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department.

A new tax rate of \$.063588 per \$100 valuation was approved and board officials said the new rate will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the Smith County ESD No. 1 from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year. It is also the highest rate the district may adopt without hold an election for voter approval, officials said.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Aug. 17, 2017

The Lindale High School volleyball team won four of five matches to earn a second place finish in the Longview High School Tournament.

The only loss of the weekend came to Pine Tree High School. On the first day of the tournament, Lindale downed Nacogdoches, 25-9 and 25-18, while later that same day defeated White Oak, 25-16 and 25-11.

Lindale downed Spring Hill High School in its first match of the tournament, 25-23 and 25-20.

TEN YEARS AGO, Aug. 16, 2012

Lindale City Council members approved recommendations from the city's Planning and Zoning Commission regarding four plats as well as approving funding for a billboard during their regular meeting at city hall.

Acting on the P&Z recommendations, council members backed four plats in the city. Council members also signed off on a new city-themed billboard to be erected at Interstate 20 and Highway 14.

Council members also approved a 34-cent increase in the city's garbage pickup rate.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hearings show need for voter involvement

Dear Editor,

If we've learned anything from the Jan. 6 hearings so far, it's that Trump and his allies will go to any lengths to gain and stay in power. The hearings have proven that they planned, promoted, and paid for a months-long criminal conspiracy to overturn the election they knew they lost — and which ultimately ended in a violent attack on our country. They must be held accountable in the courts — and we must hold them accountable at the ballot box. Right now, more than 100 right-wing extremists have won Republican primaries across the country, pushing the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen.

All Americans should be alarmed by these victories. Should these candidates win during the general election, they'll continue their criminal conspiracy to overturn our elections. Casting doubt about our elections

and working to overturn them when you don't win is how we start the quick slide into fascism. Stopping this threat is about protecting the freedom to vote, to have our votes decide elections, and to rely on elections to keep our leaders in check. This year, it's up to us to do our civic duty and cast a ballot for democracy champions at all levels of government in the midterms on Nov. 8. It's never been more important to exercise our freedom to vote while we still have it.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ham
Lindale

Dear Editor,

During the Jan. 6 hearings, we've heard from former members of the Trump administration and Republican state officials about how Trump and his allies worked together to try and overthrow our democracy because the 2020 presidential election didn't go their way.

Now, they're working to make sure

all of our elections go their way in the future, whether we vote for them or not. Already, Trumpers in office have changed state laws to weaken our freedom to vote and threatened Republican election administrators who won't go along with them.

Now, they're running candidates for key election administration offices, from secretary of state to county clerk. Should they win their elections this fall, these officials won't hesitate to overturn future elections if they or their MAGA allies lose. This completely undermines the tenets of our democracy. The only way we're going to protect our elections is to fight back and make our voices heard. We have to cast our ballots in the upcoming midterm elections.

It's up to us to hold election deniers accountable at the polls and elect democracy defenders up and down the ballot on Nov. 8.

Sincerely,
Linda Stegall
Lindale

OBITUARY

HOWARD "BULLDOG" CUSTER



Howard "Bulldog" Custer was born in Des Moines, IA, in 1946. He graduated from Urbandale High in 1964, Drake University in 1968, and was sworn in as a USN Aviator in 1968.

He married Nancy Elizabeth Cook on June 29th, 1968. As luck would have it, it was his granddaughter's future birthday. Howard served 13 years in the USN, retiring in 1980. From there, he went to work for Miller Brewing Company for almost 20 years, rising to Executive Vice President. During his time with Miller, he coached and counseled Beer Distributors all over the country, becoming an industry expert in the field. Howard was a great cook, handyman, builder, and volunteer, donating 100's hours of effort each year. He was kind but robust, cranky but funny, but mainly just likable. Best of all, he was an involved and loved husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his immediate family, his Wife Nancy, his son Chris and his Wife Carrie, Brother Richard and his Wife Catherine, Cousin Kevin and his Wife Renee, sister-in-law Gloria and her children Jeff, Ryan, and Adam. He was also survived by his adventure partner, his only granddaughter Avalon Grace. For his "2nd" beloved family, he is survived by Frank Sr. and Carmen Verdugo and their children Veronica, Maria Elena, Margot, and Frank Jr. and all their families.

In the tradition of USN Aviators, Howard will be buried at sea by the USN. Cards and thoughts are welcome. In place of flowers, please send donations to a charity of your choice in his name.

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Friday, Aug. 5, 2021

Officer Wells responded to a fraud at 200 block Francis Dr, report taken. Chief Somes and Cpt Chambers responded to a welfare concern at 600 block Yesterday Dr, report taken. Chief Somes, Detective Fortunas and Officer Ramsey responded to a criminal trespass at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a burglary at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a shoplifting at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to an assault at 200 block Summer Tree Cir, report taken. Officer Gillham responded to a suspicious vehicle at 700 block Pierce St, settled at scene. Officer Gillham responded to a public service at 17600 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to an assist Ems, settled at scene.

Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022

Officer Trombley and Officers Trombley and Soltero responded to a verbal disturbance at 900 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officers Shurley and Soltero responded to an accident at 3500 block S Main St, report taken. Officer Trombley responded to a hit and run at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Officer Mumeley and Officer Wells responded to an assist Ems at 300 block Hamrick St, settled at scene. Officer Wells and Officer Mumeley responded to an assist smith county at 15900 block CR 4140, settled at scene. Officer Mumeley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 21200 block Hwy 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Wells responded to a welfare concern at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wells and Officer Mumeley responded to a suspicious vehicle at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wells responded to a suspicious vehicle at 3500 block S Main St, settled at scene.

Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022

Officer Trombley responded to a welfare concern at 1000 block Carol Dr, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officers Shurley, Jackquet and Soltero responded to a verbal disturbance at 200 block Summer Tree Cir, settled at scene. Officer Trombley responded to a public service at 100 block Ballard Dr, settled at scene. Officer Mumeley and Officer Wells responded to a suspicious person at 300 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Wells responded to a suspicious



vehicle at 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene.

Monday, Aug. 8, 2022

Cpt Chambers and Officers Trombley and Jackquet responded to a business alarm at 400 block S Main St, false alarm. Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a suspicious circumstance at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, settled at scene. Cpt Chambers and Detective Fortunas responded to an assist other agency at 500 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to an accident at 553 W I-20, report taken. Officer Shurley and Officers Jackquet and Soltero responded to a welfare concern at 15000 block CR 463, settled at scene. Officer Trombley and Officer Shurley and Soltero responded to a 911 hang up at 1000 block S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Philpot responded to a fraud at 100 block Ballard Dr, report taken. Officer Trombley and Officers Shurley and Soltero responded to an assist Ems at 200 block Freeman St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and officer Soltero responded to a public service at 500 block Cooper St, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Soltero responded to a dog bite at 400 block Eagle Spirit Dr, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Soltero responded to a suspicious circumstance at 2300 block Pittman Ln, unfounded. Officer Shurley and Officers Soltero and Officer Mumeley responded to a fraud at 100 block E Centennial Blvd, arrest made.

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022

Officer Trombley and Officer Jackquet responded to a welfare concern in the 500 Block of S Main St, settled at scene. Officer Jackquet responded to an accident in the 13700 block of Harvey Rd, settled at scene. Officer Shurley and Officer Jackquet responded to a business alarm at the 200

block of W South St, false alarm. Officer Wells responded to a found property in the 3500 block of S Main St, report taken. Officer Wells responded to a suspicious person at the 21200 block of HWY 69 N, settled at scene. Officer Wells and Officer Mumeley responded to a found property in the 3500 block of S Main St, unfounded. Officer Wells and Officer Mumeley responded to a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of Cannery Row, report taken.

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022

Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern at the 500 block of Sunset DR, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to a business alarm on Miranda Lambert Way, False Alarm. Detective Dailey and Officer Ramsey responded to a suspicious person in the 3300 block of S Main St, unfounded. Detective Dailey responded to a welfare concern in the 100 block of E Centennial BLVD, settled at scene. Officer Ramsey responded to an accident in the 3500 block of S Main St., settled at scene. Sgt. Dworaczyk and Detective Dailey responded to a deadly conduct at the 552 mm of I20, unfounded. Sgt. Dworaczyk, Detective Dailey and Officer Ramsey responded to assist smith county in the 800 block of Stewart St, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and Officer Leevey responded to a public service in the 600 block of N Main St, settled at scene. Sgt. Dworaczyk responded to a suspicious person in the 1100 block of Woodlands Park Dr, unfounded. Officers Leevey and Gillham responded to assist another agency in the 200 block of N College St, settles at scene. Sgt. Lazarine, Sgt. Dworaczyk, Detective Fortunas, Detective Dailey and Officer Ramsey responded to a funeral escort in the 200 block of W South St, settled at scene.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022

Detective Dailey and Officer Ramsey responded to a welfare concern in the 16300 block FM 16 W, unfounded. Sgt. Dworaczyk responded to an animal at large in the 500 block of Perryman Rd, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to a suspicious vehicle on the 1100 block of Woodlands Park Dr, settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk responded to an accident in the 300 block of E Hubbard St. settled at scene. Sgt. Dworaczyk and Officer Gillham responded to a warrant service in the 3500 block of S Main St., settled at scene. Sgt Dworaczyk and officer Leevey responded to a business alarm in the 200 block of Cooper St, False Alarm.

Grapeland man pleads guilty to murder-for-hire charges

A Grapeland man pleaded guilty to federal murder-for-hire charges violations this past week in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston.

Reynaldo Campos, Jr., 44, pleaded guilty to murder for hire today before U.S. Magistrate Judge K. Nicole Mitchell.

According to the indictment, on Feb. 9, 2022, Campos contacted an individual who he believed was a hitman, but who was in fact an undercover federal agent, and solicited the "hitman" to murder a former associate of Campos, claiming the intended victim had either stolen drugs from him or owed him money.

Campos discussed the intended murder with the agent on multiple occasions over the next several weeks.

On April 8, 2022, Campos and his girlfriend, Robin Pittman, traveled together from Houston County to Tyler to discuss the murder, to provide the "hit man" with a handgun to be used for the murder, and to

provide the "hit man" with information about the intended victim.

On April 13, 2022, Campos and Pittman again traveled together from Houston County to Tyler to discuss the murder and to provide the "hit man" with approximately one gallon of Phenylacetone/P2P, which is a chemical used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, and a shotgun as partial payment for the murder of the intended victim.

Campos and Pittman were indicted by a federal grand jury on April 21, 2022. Pittman pleaded guilty on Aug. 9, 2022, to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and is awaiting sentencing. Campos faces up to 10 years in federal prison. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Noble.

TP&WD's Big Time Texas Hunts entries available; deadline Oct. 15

This season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Big Time Texas Hunts program is offering Texans some of the very best hunting opportunities in the state, publicity officials announced.

Ten premium guided hunt packages are offered in this year's [Big Time Texas Hunts](#) drawing.

Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for \$9 each or for \$10 each at [license retailers](#), or by calling 800-895-4248.

The deadline to purchase entries is Oct. 15 and winners will be announced within two weeks.

During the past 25 years, Big Time Texas Hunt participants have helped raise more than \$18 million to fund wildlife research, habitat conservation and public hunting access.

The 2021-22 hunting season was the biggest revenue producing year for the program, raising over \$1.32 million.

[Conservation efforts funded](#) by Big Time Texas Hunts include desert bighorn sheep restoration work in West Texas, thousands of acres of brush control work across the state for the benefit of species like mule deer, pronghorn and quail, along with multiple grassland restoration projects.

Public hunting efforts include the funding of numerous public hunting leases and the purchase of hunting equipment like ADA accessible blinds for a number of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

"Hunters pay for conservation and the BTTH program is the perfect example of that," said Kevin Mote, TPWD's Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director. "In our 26th year, we are extremely excited to continue offering hunters an opportunity at once in a lifetime hunting opportunities and raising important wildlife conservation funding at the same time."

Some of the popular hunts included in this year's drawing include an Exotic Safari, where the winner and a guest will have a chance to hunt gemsbok and scimitar-horned oryx at Mason Mountain WMA—plus win a Browning X-Bolt Hunter .270 rifle with Leupold scope being donated by McBride's Guns in Austin, the Texas Grand Slam which offers the winner four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and desert mule deer, and the Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt, a three-to five-day hunt for mature mule deer in the Texas Panhandle.



Rotary speaker from Meals on Wheels

Tiffany Damskov, Executive Director of Meals On Wheels, shared the organization's mission and information about how they serve the elderly of our community at the weekly meeting of the Lindale Rotary Club. She said Meals on Wheels is always looking for volunteers and welcomes those interested. Club member Matt Watts presented the program. (Courtesy photo)

Smith County sells road bonds approved by voters

The first tranche of Phase 2 of the County's six-year Road and Bridge Bond Program was sold Tuesday, Aug. 9, at a better interest rate than expected, said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Steven Adams, with Specialized Public Finance Inc., said nine bids were received on Aug. 8, which he said was a lot of bids "on a bond issue of this size."

In November 2021, the \$45 million Road Bond Phase 2 passed with 62.4 percent of the vote.

Adams said the winning bid was by Raymond James & Associates, Inc., with an interest rate of 3.372 percent. Because the rate is lower than projected, it will allow Smith County to pay a larger amount of principle off in the first payment.

That allows the county to pay future debt with less tax rate increases, he said.

Smith County has an AA+ Bond Rating, ac-

ording to the most recent ratings review conducted in July.

"Having the strong financial rating is really the most beneficial thing for selling these bonds," Adams said.

He said they were setting everything up to have the least amount of tax impact on the citizens with the two Road and Election Bridge Bonds, and with the potential \$179 million Courthouse Bond that will be on the Nov. 8 ballot.

The Smith County Road and Bridge Department has \$18 million in projects planned for this next year.

During Phase 1 of the Road and Bridge Bond, which was for \$39.5 million and approved by voters in 2017, about 200 miles of roads were improved. During Phase 2 of the Road and Bridge Bond, which was for \$45 million, another 283 miles of roads are scheduled to be improved during the next three years.

In all, the County has about 1,200 of linear road miles — the tenth most of any county in the state.

Smith County has also used budgeted funds and cash reserves to pay for road and bridge projects, and it continues to increase road and bridge funding annually so that future projects involving existing roadways will not need bond funding.

The Commissioners Court is planning to transfer an additional \$11 million from general fund reserves to Road and Bridge reserves during fiscal year 2023 to further support Road and Bridge improvements over the next three years.

The working draft of the six-year plan that covers both maintenance and construction items needed throughout the county can be found at: www.smith-county.com/i-want-to/view/county-road-projects

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Crapemyrtles remain popular in East Texas

By Greg Grant
Smith County Horticulturist

Every self-respecting gardener knows that you grow lilacs in the North and crapemyrtles in the South.

Even New York's Liberty Hyde Bailey knew this. In his 1917 "Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture" he stated that "The crapemyrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica*, is to the South what the lilac and the snowball are to the North — an inhabitant of nearly every home yard."

The crapemyrtle received its common name for its superficial resemblance (although no relation) to the true myrtle (*Myrtus*) and for its crape-like flowers.

The Latin name of the genus, *Lagerstroemia*, was given to the tree in 1759 by the Swedish botanist Linnaeus, in honor of his friend Magnus von Lagerstroem (1696–1759), Director of the Swedish East Indies Company and an avid naturalist.

There are about 55 species of *Lagerstroemia*, all native to Asia and the Pacific Islands. Of all of these, only three are cold hardy

through most of the South, *L. indica*, *L. fauriei*, and *L. subcostata*, with *L. indica*, from China the only one common in Southern gardens.

It is likely the most popular small flowering tree in the entire South. It has been cultivated in its native Southeast Asia for thousands of years. Our crapemyrtle was supposedly introduced to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England in 1759.

Its exact date of introduction into the United States is unknown. Credit is often given to Andre Michaux, who established a nursery around Charleston, South Carolina, around 1786.

Apparently George Washington was one of the first to attempt to grow crapemyrtles. Records at Mount Vernon show that a ship arrived in Philadelphia in April 1799 carrying two plants and seed of *L. reginae*, as well as seeds of *L. indica*.

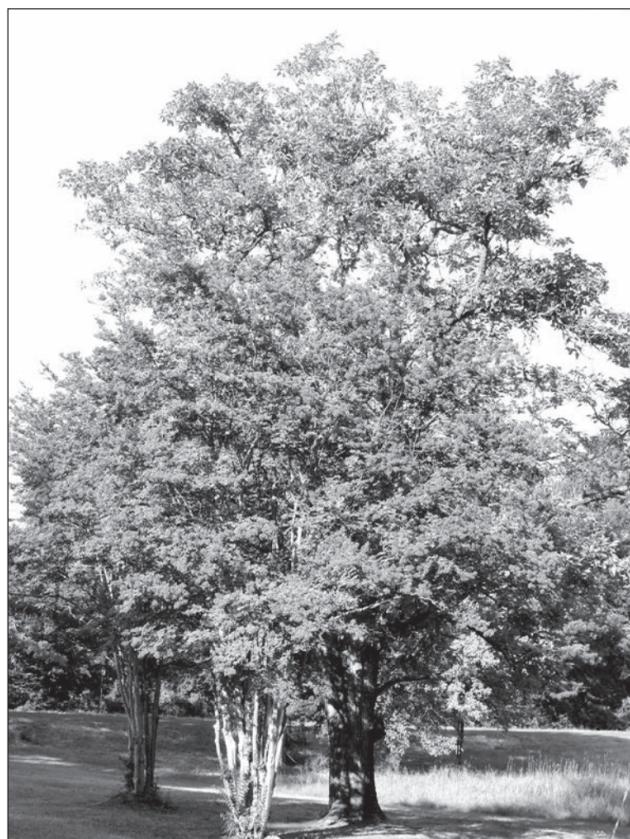
Bernard M' Mahon mentioned *L. indica* in *The American Gardener's Calendar* in 1806. Crapemyrtle was listed among the plants cultivated in 1811 at the famous Elgin Botanic Garden in New York. It wasn't long before it began to spread across

the South.

Records at Prince Nursery in New York show that they were offering the crapemyrtle for sale in 1827. Thomas Affleck mentioned the crapemyrtle in a letter to the editor of the *Natchez Daily Courier* in 1854 but didn't have it listed in his 1851–52 *Southern Nurseries catalogue* in Washington, Mississippi. Montgomery Nurseries of Montgomery, Alabama offered the crapemyrtle in its 1860 catalogue. Langdon's Nurseries, near Mobile, offered four varieties (pink, purple, crimson, and white) in its 1881–82 catalogue.

In Texas, T. V. Munson's Denison Nurseries listed pink, crimson, and purple crape myrtle in 1885, while in Frelsburg J. F. Leyendecker's Pearfield Nursery catalog of 1888 said it was "too well known to require description."

Almost every abandoned home-site in the South is marked by at least one surviving crapemyrtle showing off muscular trunks and exfoliating bark. This toughness and survivability lead to their use as a frequent cemetery ornamental and a common urban street tree.



Crapemyrtles are common to many old home sites in East Texas. (Courtesy photo)

Marketing tips to help small business attract new hires

As small businesses continue their battle to bring on new employees, tactics to attract top talent have evolved.

There hasn't been another choice; they've had to be competitive. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were still [11.3 million job openings](#) at the end of May. The hunt for new hires continues for those needing to bolster their workforces.

To bolster your [recruitment efforts](#), consider implementing some marketing techniques to attract new talent. Just as businesses market their products and services to customers, those same tools can promote the organization and bring attention to open positions. When performed well, recruitment marketing attracts candidates to your organization rather than having to keep seeking them out.

"The competition for new recruits is fierce," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO for BBB Central East Texas said. "If you want to increase the number of ap-

plicants you receive, you may have to find some creative ways to attract attention."

BBB provides the following tips on how to make your business stand out when searching for new hires:

Tell employees what you're all about. The [Great Resignation](#) is still holding steady, and according to [Fortune magazine](#), this situation is partly due to rising inflation. Thus, there are still plenty of workers searching for greener pastures. So, your business needs to position itself as a desirable landing spot. That means spotlighting the unique qualities that separate you from every other employer. So, how do you do that? Begin by sharing your story.

Use your marketing and public relations channels to tell prospective employees how your business began and what drives its operation today. Then, filter that message through the values or [standards](#) that define your organization. For example, if your business [prioritizes trust](#), promote it in a

way that resonates with customers and job candidates.

Employees want to know their work has meaning. Tell them how your organization adds significance to their efforts.

Stay on top of your reviews. Candidates lean on experiences shared by current or previous employees to help determine if your job opening is one they should pursue. So, it's critical for your business to [read and respond to reviews](#) of your organization.

Employee-facing review sites like Glassdoor and Indeed are critical places to monitor feedback passed on by members of your workforce. But that's not all. Consumer-facing review sites often also host those types of comments, so it's important to keep tabs on conversations happening in those areas as well.

How easily your business can manage its employee reviews may vary across platforms. BBB, for example, offers its Accredited Businesses exclusive opportunities to respond and vet reviews of their business and promote positive customer experiences.

Use social to show off your culture. Customers aren't the only ones viewing your social media pages. Potential employees are there too. Take advantage of the opportunity to feature the overall [culture of your company](#).

Rather than keeping the focus on products and services your business provides, offer a behind-the-scenes look at how those offerings happen. Post captivating images of your

workforce and celebrate big organizational wins. Offer candidates a glimpse of what working for your business looks like to see if it feels like a fit.

Weaving those messages and visuals into a paid digital marketing plan may not be a bad idea either. Organic posts only go so far, so allocating some of your advertising budget to boosting recruitment-focused content may mean it gets seen by more job seekers.

Offer Incentives. More companies are now offering [incentives](#), special perks, and employee referral programs to alleviate their hiring headaches. In-person recruiting opportunities — career fairs, for example — have also reemerged as popular hiring options now that the pandemic is slowing down. But those approaches typically require a lot of leg work and may burden a small business's bottom line. For more ideas on creative incentives, check out our [blog](#).

Stand out on job boards. Don't be afraid to use [paid advertising](#) to push your open positions. Nearly every job board allows businesses to post jobs, but that doesn't necessarily guarantee those openings get seen by the best candidates.

Advertising your open positions on job boards elevates your listings above others posted on their sites. It places you ahead of competitors when candidates scroll through the list of available positions. And considering how pressed businesses are to attract new employees, those rankings can make a big difference.

East Texas certainly isn't Kansas

By Jolana Damkroger

Smith County Master Gardener

Judy Garland said those words to her dog Toto in the movie "Wizard of Oz". Moving from Kansas to East Texas was very much the same for me.

We arrived on July Fourth weekend in 2020. The yard needed care and the gardens which were outlined around the house were full of weeds. Once I cleaned the beds, it was time to address the heavy clay soil. We had tan, orange, red and black clay.

I consulted with local nurseries and were advised to till in compost.

I hoped to plant all my favorites: tulips, hostas, astilbe, columbine and lilac bushes. Much to my surprise most of those varieties don't grow well, if at all, in East Texas.

So, back to the drawing board. I took measurements of my gardens and drew a map to plan out what and where to plant. I was advised to plant azaleas, camellias, Japanese maples and many varieties of ferns.

None of those grow well in Kansas so I got excited about my new East Texas garden. So many kinds of ferns to plant: holly, Maiden

hair, autumn, arborvitae, and painted ferns!

My new shade garden took on a peaceful tranquil softness.

Still longing for my iris and day lilies my husband and I returned to Kansas in November, 2020 and transplanted all we could to plant in our new garden here.

We even brought four cuttings from a 100-year-old rose bush. All the plants, including the rose, survived and have adapted to different weather and soil. Nights are warmer here and the winters are not generally as long and cold as up north.

I have learned new things about planting in East Texas:

- Plant up not down/deep;
- Plants bloom all 12 months;
- Embrace change as new plants have entered my life. I now know what a crinum is!

Yes, I'm not in Kansas anymore but I'm in the Piney Woods of East Texas and love the year around opportunities for gardeners.

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



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LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS § **Attorney of Record**
STEPHEN HUBBARD
COUNTY OF § **100 E FERGUSON, STE 714**
TYLER, TEXAS 75702
903-533-0018

TO: GARY JOHNSON AND/OR ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS WHEREVER THEY MAY BE FOUND, IN THE ESTATE OF PATTY SUE SWANN, DECEASED:

On the 25th day of March 2022, **SHELLEY SWANN** filed an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** and on the 28th day of March, 2020, an **APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE**, in a proceeding styled **IN THE ESTATE OF PATTY SUE SWANN, DECEASED**, and bearing the number 46340P in the County Court of Smith County, Texas.

The Court will hear the aforesaid **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** and **APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 401.003 OF THE TEXAS ESTATES CODE** on the **Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of publication of this citation**, in the County Court Courtroom in the County Courthouse Annex of Smith County, in Tyler, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid Estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said Application.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk of Smith County, Texas in Tyler, Texas.

In compliance with the law, this citation shall be served by publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in this, the County in which such proceeding is pending, not less than ten (10) days before the return date hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after the date of issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of office, the 2nd day of August 2022, at the office in Tyler, Texas.

KAREN PHILLIPS, COUNTY CLERK
Smith County, Texas

By: Katherine Beard, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Robert Steven Ayala, Deceased, were issued on the 3rd of August, 2022, in Cause No. 46,367-P, pending in the Probate Court in Smith County, Texas, to: Michael Ayala.

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

c/o: **Stephen Hubbard Attorney at Law**
100 E. Ferguson St. Suite 714
Tyler, Texas 75702

DATED the 8th day of August, 2022.

Stephen Hubbard/10140515
Attorney for Michael Ayala
100 E. Ferguson St. Suite 714
Tyler, Texas 75702
(903) 533-0018
(903) 597-7702 (F)
shubbard@hubbard-lawfirm.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS § **Attorney of Record:**
RICHARD B. PATTESON
COUNTY OF SMITH § **218 N BROADWAY STE 304**
TYLER TX 75702
903-592-1121

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS IN THE ESTATE OF KYLE ANDREW JONES, DECEASED:

On the 10th day of August, 2022, **JOE THOMAS JONES** filed an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** in a proceeding styled **IN THE ESTATE OF KYLE ANDREW JONES, DECEASED** and bearing the number **46730P** in the County Court of Smith County, Texas.

The Court will hear the aforesaid **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** on the **Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of publication of this citation**, in the County Court Courtroom in the County Courthouse Annex of Smith County, in Tyler, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid Estate are commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said Application.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk of Smith County, Texas in Tyler, Texas.

In compliance with the law, this citation shall be served by publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in this, the County in which such proceeding is pending, not less than ten (10) days before the return date hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after the date of issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of office, the 10th day of August, 2022, at the office in Tyler, Texas.

KAREN PHILLIPS, COUNTY CLERK
Smith County, Texas
By: Katherine Beard, Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for Estate of Lonnie Outland, Deceased, were issued to Tammy Harrold on 8/10/22, in Cause No. 46608P, by the County Court of Smith County, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to Tammy Harrold, c/o Richard Patteson, Attorney at Law, 218 N. Broadway, Ste.304, Tyler, Texas 75702 within the time and manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HERSHEL L CLEMENT, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on the Estate of **HERSHEL L CLEMENT**, Deceased, Cause No. **46633-P**, now pending in the Probate Court of Smith County, Texas, filed on or about **July 11, 2022**, by **DEBORAH CLEMENT WALKER**, Independent Executor/Executrix of said estate. Claims against the estate should be mailed in care of John E. Trube, Attorney at Law, Post Office Box 6594, Tyler, Texas, 75711.

All persons having claims against said Estate now being administered are hereby required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED: August 3, 2022

JOHN E. TRUBE, Attorney for the Estate of
HERSHELL CLEMENT, Deceased
Post Office Box 6594
Tyler, Texas 75711
903-561-7904
JohnTrube@att.net
SBN: 20246000

Divide & Conquer Living Estate Sale for Joy Bryant

Thurs., Aug. 18 ~ 7:00 - 5:30 | Fri., Aug. 19 ~ 8:00 - 5:30
Sat., Aug. 20 ~ 8:00 - 2:00
3802 Glendale ~ Tyler, TX 75701

Off SSW Loop 323, turn north (inside the Loop) onto Old Bullard Rd. Turn left (west) onto Woodland Hills. Go a few blocks to Glendale.

This 2923 sq. ft. home, listed by The Pamela Walters Group, is for sale; contents must go: din. table & chairs; 2 china cab.; 2 marble top entry tables; glass top entry table; antq. hutch; clawfoot antq. table; set of 4 chairs; curio cabinet; break. table; formal desk; "Asian Song" china; crystal; "Chateau" sterling dinnerware; stainless flatware; gold toned flatware; great décor; rugs; 2 sofas; wingback chairs; other misc. chairs; antq. barley twist table; lamps; wall shelves; piano; violin; music stand; coffee tables; framed art; wall scones; copper selections; brass fireplace fender; painted fireplace screen; wall tapestry; blue & white selections; teapots; tea sets; cups & saucers; Toby mugs; Depression glass; Carnival glass; red glassware; secretary; 2 settees; antq. clock; books; vintg. stereo; cedar chest; quilts; linens; bedding; queen bed; 2 full beds; mirrors; clothes; hats; purses; coat; jewelry; pottery jugs; Chr. decorations; chaise lounge; vintg. vanity; bedroom chests; dressers; nightstands; ottoman; drum table; decorative pillows; baker's rack; Asian fishbowls/ planters; Asian umbrella stand; elephants; porcelain birds; Kenmore washer & dryer; refrigerator; sm. appliances; Corning ware; dishes; cookware; clothes; purses, shoes; Singer sew. machine; sew. notions; fabric; vintage Samsonite luggage; puzzles; canning jars; albums (33's); many Christmas decorations; vintg. milk cans; file cab.; patio furniture; 2 patio serv. carts; clay pots; plant stands; garden statues; hand & gardening tools; yard art; ladders; fishing tackle; sooooo much more!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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Lindale, Texas



ORDINANCE NO. 12-2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LINDALE SANITATION ORDINANCE OF 2021 (12-2021), AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND TRASH IN THE CITY OF LINDALE, TEXAS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN DEPOSITS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY THEREFOR; CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND A REPEALER CLAUSE.



ORDINANCE NO. 13-2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER AND SEWER RATE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LINDALE AND REPEALING ALL PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES:

WHEREAS, it has become necessary and desirable to revise the rates for water and sewer service supplied by the City of Lindale to customers in order to both provide reasonable compensation to the City of Lindale therefor and provide water and sewer service at reasonable rates to customers of the City of Lindale; and

WHEREAS, the rates hereinafter set out have, after investigations by the City Council of the City of Lindale, been found to be fair and reasonable.

NOW, THEREFOR, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Lindale, Lindale, Texas:

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EAVES, VENTS AND GUTTERS HOME HARDENING

Features :

- Vents to attics and other concealed spaces should be covered with mesh screen to keep embers from entering
- Mesh screens should be no larger than 1/8"
- Close or box in eaves to prevent embers from gathering and igniting a fire
- Clean gutters of any debris. Embers will easily collect in gutters.



Is your home hardened against wildfires?

Construction materials, and the quality of the space surrounding it, are what gives a home the best chance to survive a wildland fire. Embers from a wildland fire will find vulnerable spots in your home. There are measures you can take to increase your home's survivability during a wildfire.

Roofs are the most vulnerable surface where embers land because they can lodge and start a fire. Roof valleys, open spaces and rain gutters are all points of entry. Use Class A fire-rated roofing materials such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, or clay tiles. Inspect the roof and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember intrusion.

Vents into the attic, or other concealed spaces, can let embers enter the home and ignite combustible materials. Use 1/8th inch mesh screen to cover vents to keep embers from entering. Embers can gather under open eaves and ignite exposed wood or other combustible material. Close in, or box in, eaves to prevent embers from gathering and starting a fire.

Combustible siding or other combustible, overlapping materials, provide surfaces or crevices for embers to gather and ignite. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, or stucco.

Remember, if it's attached to the house, it's part of the house!. This includes fences, decks, and patios. Embers can collect in or on combustible surfaces or under decks and ignite materials.

For more information, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ProtectYourHome/>.

SIDING AND GAPS HOME HARDENING

Features :

- Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, or stucco.
- Also use dual-pane tempered glass windows. Radiant heat from flames can crack windows
- Combustible siding or other combustible, overlapping materials, can allow embers to gather and ignite.
- Embers can enter gaps around doors, garage doors, and windows. Check during the daylight and seal any gaps.



DO YOU HAVE A HARDENED HOME AGAINST WILDFIRES?

Features :

- Fire Resistant Construction Materials
- Protected from Ember Intrusion
- Defensible Space



ROOF HOME HARDENING

Features :

- Class A fire-rated materials such as metal, composite shingles, concrete, or clay tiles.
- Roof valleys and open spaces clear of any debris
- Inspect roof and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration
- Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry



The Lindale High School varsity coaches, trainers and staff are ready for the new football season.

Photo by Terry Cannon

Lindale readies for season opener in Kaufman

By Terry Cannon
Editor

Although Lindale High School Head Coach Chris Cochran isn't one to take things for granted, he is confident his Eagles will be competitive enough to earn another playoff berth in 2022.

But it won't be because the players feel as if the postseason is a given.

"Our kids know they have to go to work each year," Cochran said. "(Getting to the playoffs) each season is the standard we set, but they know they better take care of their business because it's not a given."

Lindale returns seven offensive and eight defensive starters from the 2021 team, which finished 7-5 (5-1 in district) and a spot in the area playoffs after defeating Lumberton in the bi-district game.

"The way last year ended left a bad taste in our mouth," said Cochran. "We had a solid year, were able to build some momentum but weren't satisfied with the way it ended."

El Campo defeated Lindale, 56-42, in the area round before being knocked out in the regional semi-finals, 24-21, by Little Cyprus-Mauriceville.

Several experienced players graduated but Cochran is confident the returnees will be able to improve on a weekly basis that by the time district play arrives, his club will be in prime position for another deep playoff run.

Part of the plan of making sure his Eagles are ready to take on the tough customers in District 9-4A is to schedule heavyweights in pre-district.

And that begins on Aug. 26 in Kaufman against a

Lions team forecasted to challenge for the top spot in District 8-4A.

Like Lindale, Kaufman advanced to the area round of the playoffs after finishing 3-3 in District 7-4A (Division II) behind Melissa and Paris.

The Lions moved up to Division I this season and will take on Paris, Anna, Nevada Community, Mabank and Sulphur Springs in league play.

Kaufman will probably count heavily on their defense this year with linebacker Jordan Nails, defensive back Braxton Garrison and defensive back Julian Prox leading the way.

"They lost some players but we know they will always play hard," Cochran said about the Lions. "We like playing them. They are well coached and they always have a lot of good

athletes."

Last year, the Eagles were ahead, 36-24, going into the fourth period.

Kaufman, however, scored twice late in the game to earn the win.

"We certainly didn't like the way that game ended,"

Cochran said. "We just didn't find a way to win."

After Kaufman, the Eagles will have their home opener against Pine Tree, followed by a road game in Van. The final pre-district tune up will be against always-tough Gilmer at Eagle Stadium on

Sept. 16.

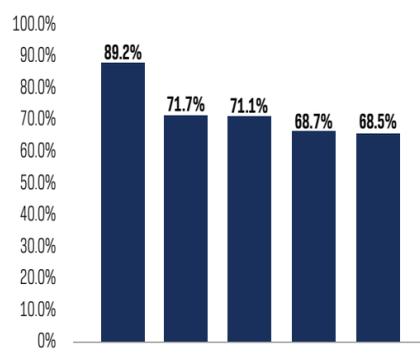
"You want to build toward district play," said Cochran. "The coaches have stressed with our kids that they have to have a relentless effort every week and the execution will come."

CONSUMERS TRUST NEWSPAPERS

Here's further proof that advertisers and marketers seeking a trusted media should hire newspapers. Products in a newspaper's portfolio show up in the Top 5 "trusted advertising channels" rated by U.S. consumers. So says Nielsen's 2021 Trust in Advertising Study. Seven out of 10 consumers said they either trust completely or trust somewhat four of the channels that include newspapers or products they offer advertisers. The top channel applies also to newspapers because their readers are informed consumers.

Top trusted advertising channels among U.S. consumers

Nielsen 2021 TIA Study: US | Trust Completely/Trust Somewhat



Special note: The Relevance Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience, measurement, data, ad analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 21 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.



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