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50¢



Hughes chairman of powerful Committee on State Affairs

AUSTIN— On Monday, Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Tyler) was appointed Chairman of both the Committee on State Affairs and the Committee on Jurisprudence. Along with these chairmanships, Senator Hughes will serve on the Committees on Finance, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development, and Nominations.

"I am grateful to Lt. Governor Patrick for reappointing me as Chair of the Senate Committee on State Affairs and for giving me the additional honor of serving as Chair of the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence. I will use these positions of leadership to support the limited government and free market policies that have made Texas a beacon of hope in our nation and the world.

"It is an honor to serve on the Senate Committee on Finance with Chairwoman Joan Huffman as our state seeks to steward a \$33 billion surplus. Texans can rest assured that under her leadership, we will produce a balanced, conservative budget. I also am honored to serve as a member of the Committees on Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development, and Nominations. Each of these committees plays a vital role in our state.

"I look forward to working with Chairs Huffman, Kolkhorst, Birdwell, and Campbell to advance policies for Texas' brightest future."

Council tables sidewalk issue

Lindale City Council members tabled discussion concerning a bid to Hartbeat Construction for the Lindale Sidewalk Improvements project as part of the Texas Department of Transportation's Safe Route to School program during their regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday night (Jan. 17) at city hall.

Hartbeat Construction has submitted the lowest bid of \$774,134.

Also the council approved a general capital expenditure for two Chevrolet Tahoe's for \$94,398 and equipment for \$23,420.

Police Chief Dan Somes noted Chevrolet officials have told him no new police vehicles can be ordered but in this case these were ordered two years ago pans are available for the next month.

In other action the council:

- Approved the city audit for the past fiscal year which ended on Sept. 30, 2022 as submitted by Kevin Cashion of Gollob Petty Morgan in Tyler.

Smith County Deputy Constable K-9 retired to live with handler

The Smith County Commissioners Court approved the retirement of Precinct 5 Deputy Constable K-9 Hunter during their regular meeting on Tuesday (Jan.17).

Hunter will now live with his longtime handler Deputy Constable Kevin Petty.

Petty has been working with Hunter since 2016, when the dog was donated to the office by MuttNation located in Lindale. Recently, Petty has noticed that Hunter is having a hard time with some activities that is normal for a Dutch Shepherd breed.

He believes that after more than six years of service, he should retire from active duty, Precinct 5 Constable Wesley Hicks said.

"K-9 Hunter and Deputy Petty have developed a strong bond over these years, with Deputy Petty stating that he probably spends more time with Hunter than his own family," Hicks said.

Hunter has assisted federal, state and local law enforcement agencies numerous times, resulting in the apprehension of criminal suspects, Hicks said.

Petty will continue working for the office without a K-9. Another deputy in the office has a dog working with him already, Hicks said.

Blaze, handled by Precinct 5 Deputy Constable Alvin Gordon, has been on the job for two years and is tasked with locating drugs and other illegal contraband as well as assisting in manhunts. A Belgian Malinois, Blaze, is just over four years old and weighs approximately 70 pounds.

"I would like to thank Deputy Petty and K-9 Hunter for their years of service and dedication to this office and to the citizens of Smith County and Precinct 5," Hicks said.

"I think it would be cruel not to do something and we shouldn't make that type of mistake," said



Smith County Precinct 5 Deputy Constable Kevin Petty and his K-9 Deputy Hunter. Courtesy photo

Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Pam Frederick acknowledge the special link between officers and their K-9 partner.

"The bond is remarkable and we should definitely do this," she said.

County Judge Neal Franklin was happy to have the chance to give Hunter a proper retirement.

"I'm glad we have the opportunity to let the dog stay with his handler the rest of his life," Franklin said.

In other action, commissioners:

- Set a public hearing for Jan. 31 concerning the partial road closure of County Road 473 in Precinct 3.

County Engineer Frank Davis told commissioners his office received a request for the road closing, adding there are no residents

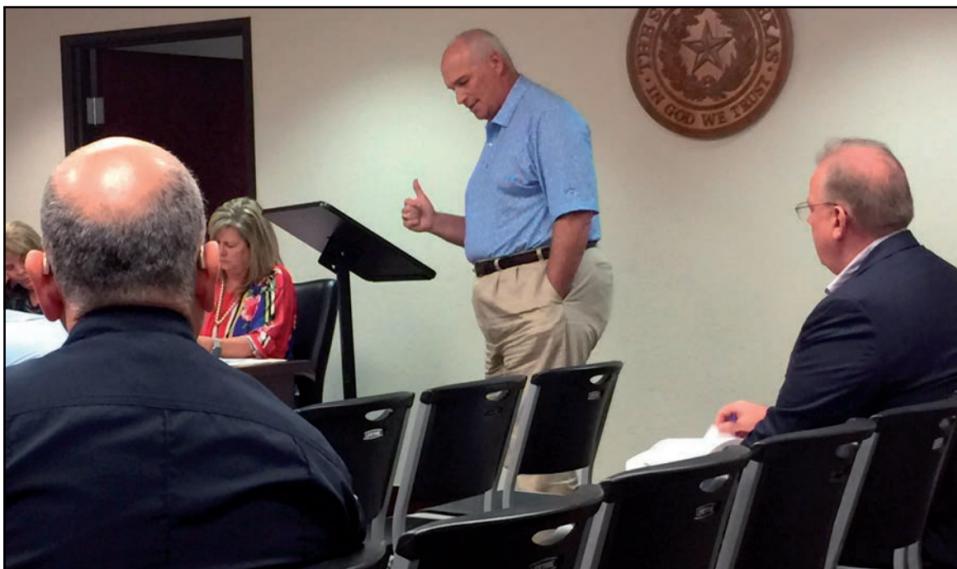
on this section of CR 473.

- Approved spending approximately \$148,000 for repair work on the Juvenile Services Building. The stucco building has been plagued with leaks virtually since the day it was built.

"Three years after it opened, we found the stucco had problems and in order to prevent leaks we will need to do this," said Facilities Director Edward Nichols, adding this would prevent leaks for approximately 10 years and a permanent solution would cost in the millions of dollars.

"It sounds like to me that it wasn't built right in the beginning," Phillips said.

Franklin backed the proposal for the 10-year fix, saying "This is something we need to take care of even if it does cost us a couple of hundred thousand of dollars."



Kevin Cashion of Gollob Petty Morgan in Tyler reviewed the city of Lindale's audit with city council members during their regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Photo by Terry Cannon

Cashion reviewed and discussed the audit with the council.

"You continued to grow and have faced a lot of challenges during the year but everything looks great," he said.

- Approved an application package for the Kinzie Community Center. City Manager Carolyn Caldwell noted that this package would be focused mainly for appliances in the center for approxi-

mately \$12,000.

- Repealed a city ordinance regarding the 2021 edition of the International Building Code and International Fire Protection which was passed at the previous meeting.

Gov. Abbott, UT System break ground on UT Tyler Medical Ed. building

TYLER—Texas Governor Greg Abbott joined UT System leaders Monday to break ground on UT Tyler's new Medical Education Building, which will house the university's new School of Medicine and the 7th medical school within the UT System. Gov. Abbott, UT System Chairman Kevin Eltife, UT System Chancellor James Milliken and UT Tyler President Kirk Calhoun joined hundreds of community members to mark the start of the \$308 million project, expected to be completed in March 2025.

"As East Texas continues to grow, so does its need for more highly skilled and well-trained healthcare professionals," said Governor Abbott. "I am proud to be here today at UT Tyler Medical School's historic groundbreaking as we celebrate the achievements and progress Texas has made to expand healthcare access and educational opportunities across our state. Creating this school was a priority in the 87th Legislative Session, and I thank members of the legislature, President Calhoun, and Chairman Eltife for their hard work to ensure this important legislation reached my desk. Together, we are fostering greater health outcomes for the people of East Texas and empowering the next generation of doctors, nurses, and medical staff to serve all Texans."

The Medical Education Building, a planned five-story, nearly 248,000-square-foot facility, will be constructed on roughly five acres in the heart of Tyler's medical district in Midtown. It will support interdisciplinary education for graduate medical students, resident training, and nursing as part of a medical education program expansion throughout the UT Health East Texas Health System. It will include classrooms, simulation labs, clinical and operating room training spaces, and multipurpose event and lecture spaces for the UT Tyler School of Medicine and graduate medical education programs.

"Today is another great day for East Texas as we see tangible steps forward in our longtime efforts to enhance health care access and quality in the region by training new professionals," said Kevin P. Eltife, chairman of the UT Board of Regents. "This building will launch UT's first medical school in East Texas, which stands to serve and care for this community for generations to come."

With a planned skybridge connection to the UT Health East Texas Hospital, the new medical school will enable hands-on learning of residents in the adjacent hospitals. It will provide outpatient and specialty clinical services with exam rooms, specimen collection and processing, and imaging facilities as well as blended programming and clinical spaces for patient care. Other medical disciplines and services will include women's imaging, women's health, diagnostics, orthopedics, sports medicine, pulmonary care, and a surgery center to support medical residents in the graduate medical education programs.

"It's no secret that as Texas and especially East Texas continue to

Continued on Page 2

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

...Larry King called me "Sugar"

...Larry King called me "Sugar"

Close encounters are a result of experiences 'alien' to our everyday lives. I can't claim to have had one with ET or harmonic chord playing aliens from outer space. But I have had my fair share with celebrities as a result of being Mrs. Jim Bardwell. I was reminded of one of my favorites a couple of days ago when iconic talk show host Larry King passed away from COVID complications.

It was 1990 and Walt Disney World's MGM Studio had closed to the public for premier celebrations of "Dick Tracy" starring Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino and Madonna. And my talented hubby was on the press list, with his handy dandy sweetie sidekick in tow. Buffet

lines were everywhere...so were hospitality 'watering holes' catering to the less disciplined among the thirsty press corps.

We had been gifted with dashing Dick Tracy fedoras. The streets of the MGM Studio theme park were filled with press, celebs, food and drink. As I went through the buffet line that looked like an upscale foodie dream, I realized I had forgotten my fork. I turned back to see Larry King behind me. "Mr. King, could you please pass me a fork?" And the legendary interviewer growled with a grin, "Sure, Sugar, here ya go."

After eating elbow to elbow with Mr. King, maybe near is more accurate, this starstruck country kid with camera in tow, was shown to a cordoned area for pho-



The Best of Suzanne Bardwell

tographers when the premier parade began. At that time of my life, I was a high school journalism teacher, as well as hubby's designated photographer. So I definitely had stars in my eyes, BIG ones. I was in a photo pen with guys from the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun, Orlando Sentinel, New York Times and on and on. Me with my affordable camera, them with equipment costing thousands.

I can't remember who all the celebs were in the parade because Disney Pixie Power pulled as much as it could from the MGM stable of stars. But one of the 'less

notable' celebrities was Morey Amsterdam whose claim to fame came with the '60s TV hit "The Dick Van Dyke Show". Amsterdam was very elderly, and obviously very excited to be there waving excitedly at the crowd.

The very drunk Chicago photographer next to me began to shout "Morey, you're dead. You just don't know it. Go home." And that is when I lost my feeling of professional intimidation. I lost my reticence. I lost my temper and I laid into that drunk hotshot photographer as if I were HIS high school journalism teacher.

And, you know what happened? All the press photogs around me cheered. You know why? I stood up to a bully. They also had my back. I don't know where the shouter went but he stumbled away. When my hubby and I reconnected I could not wait to tell him my story. Of course it may have gotten a little shinier. After all it was the night Larry King called me "Sugar", Dustin Hoffman waved for my camera (my opinion here) and I stood up to a hot shot national press corps guy.

Jim Bardwell wasn't surprised at all. (I don't know what that says, but I think he was proud of me.)

So, Mr. King, thanks for the fork, and the memory. Chicago hot shot, I hope you learned to be kinder. And Sweetheart thanks for opening the world to your church camp, country girl sweetheart. As soon as it's safe, it is time for another adventure. Sugar can't wait.



Gov. Abbott, UT System break ground on UT Tyler Medical Ed. building

Continued from Page 1
grow and thrive, we will need many more doctors and other health care professionals," said James B. Milliken, chancellor of the UT System. "We're grateful that our state and university leaders are taking the steps necessary to address this need. As a result of their commitment, the UT System and UT Tyler will deliver the outstanding education and patient care that all East Texans deserve."

"This is an enormous milestone for UT Tyler and for all of East Texas," said President Kirk A. Calhoun, MD, FACP. "We are excited to take the next step in creating a physical home for the School of Medicine, and on behalf of UT Tyler, I want to thank the UT System and the East Texas community for the continued support of our health care education advancements."

The UT Tyler School of Medicine will be the first in northeast Texas, offering aspiring doctors a chance to train and practice without leaving the region, a critical part of addressing the ongoing physician shortage and lack of health care access in the region. Capital projects funded over the next decade, including the new Medical Education Building, will ensure the new medical school has the environment and tools required to draw and retain exceptional medical school faculty and students and enhance biomedical research and core residency programs.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) granted the School of Medicine its preliminary accreditation, and the first class will enroll in July 2023 and learn at UT Tyler's north campus until the Medical Education Building opens in 2025.

Border security, tax relief and raises top list

For the Texas House and Senate, there is not much daylight between each chamber's priorities in this year's legislative session. Leaders say the focus will be on property tax relief, border security and employee raises. Preliminary budgets from both chambers were released last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported, with a record \$288.7 billion budget for the next two years. The money in the budget is made up of \$93.7 billion in federal funds, \$130.1 billion in state general revenue funds, and \$64.9 billion in other funds.

The tussle likely comes when lawmakers start spending a whopping \$32.7 billion budget surplus sitting in the state's coffers from the previous biennium.

Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick want to provide property tax relief to homeowners, with Patrick proposing raising the homestead exemption to \$70,000 from \$40,000. Both draft budget bills set aside \$15 billion – almost half the surplus – for property tax relief.

Increased funding for border security, public education and for raises for state employees are also in the draft budgets, which are likely to change several times before session's end.

The Texas Tribune reported the preliminary budgets still leave more than \$50 billion in state funds up for grabs. One of the biggest challenges is that state law and the Texas Constitution set limits on how much tax spending can increase between sessions.

Possible end to Confederate Heroes Day?

A 50-year-old state holiday honoring soldiers who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War is again the target of a lawmaker who wants to end the holiday. State Rep. Jarvis Johnson filed the bill, telling the American-Statesman, "This is not the look we want for our state anymore."

Johnson has filed this measure before without success. Confederate monuments on public grounds have drawn complaints across the state, including the Texas Capitol.

The day is observed on Jan. 19, the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee. On occasion, the holiday celebrating slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, which is held on the third Monday in January, and Confederate Heroes Day fall on the same day.

"While (the King holiday) is a reminder that we are all created equal, how do we simultaneously celebrate an ideology that has been linked with oppression and supremacy?" Johnson asked.

Natural gas supplies held up during winter storm

The bout of sub-freezing temperatures blanketing much of the state a few days before Christmas sparked concern for the state's electric grid, which reached its highest peak for the entire year. But the grid held, and natural gas supplies to power plants were ample, state officials said.

The Texas Railroad Commission issued a press release saying, "There was ample natural gas supply to help the state's electricity supply chain and keep Texans safe."

The agency said it would continue to inspect natural gas facilities throughout the winter to ensure "infrastructure is hardened against extreme weather conditions."

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.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Here We Go Again!

Congress should fix the debt ceiling once and for all—but it won't!

As the Treasury Department defines it, the "debt limit is the total amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations..." In the early years, Congress approved individual debt issues as they came up (the US government first went into debt in 1783, six years before the Constitution was adopted). That all changed during World War I, when a "temporary" limit was set to allow flexibility for emergencies. Let the games begin!!



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently notified Congress that the outstanding debt of the United States is projected to reach the limit this week. In response, the Treasury will begin to take "extraordinary measures" to prevent a default. These measures are essentially accounting maneuvers like suspending payments into federal employee pension funds (which will be made up later). These shenanigans will likely get us to about June. Something needs to be done long before that.

It's impossible to overstate the chaos that would ensue if the debt limit were breached. There would be catastrophic economic consequences. A global financial meltdown would occur, and recovery would be difficult. US government debt defines the "risk free" standard and underpins world markets; the implications of a default would be devastating. Economic and financial life would literally never be the same—like an economic pandemic!

Congress has always raised the debt limit—78 times since 1960 (most recently in December 2021). There are often inflammatory threats thrown around, but even a dysfunctional Congress ultimately realizes that the potential fallout is not to be trifled with, and a higher ceiling is implemented. The rhetoric is more heated this time, but the consequences remain the same.

One analogy echoing through the halls of Congress these days is that raising the debt ceiling is like increasing your kid's credit card limit and therefore never discouraging overspending. There are two problems with this comparison. First, it's not their kid—it's them! Congress is responsible for the outlays that have been authorized, not anyone else. Second, the debt covers PAST decisions, not FUTURE ones. Raising the ceiling simply allows the Treasury Department to pay CURRENT legal obligations.

Clearly, fiscal responsibility is desperately needed in Washington. The time for progress, however, is during the budget process. Careful analysis of both spending and revenue and meaningful efforts to bring the two in line is the only viable path to better outcomes. Once you have spent the money, you must pay the tab. For now, let's hope that the theater we are witnessing doesn't morph from mildly amusing comedy to tragedy of epic proportions. Stay safe!



Gary Borders Capital Highlights

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in October said the grid is still at risk of failure during extreme winter conditions, such as what happened in February 2021 with Winter Storm Uri.

Overhaul plan for power market gets initial approval

The Public Utility Commission last week approved a potential overhaul of the Texas electricity market in hopes of attracting private investment in new power plants, the Statesman reported. However, the Texas Legislature has ultimate approval. Critics say the plan is untested and could increase electric bills for consumers.

Abbott has already backed the plan, which is an effort to make the power grid, managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, more reliable. It is intended to encourage more private investment in "plants that can turn on and off quickly depending on need."

If approved by legislators, the plan could take up to four years to implement.

State's fragile water infrastructure reviewed

A bipartisan group of 38 state legislators have banded together to educate fellow lawmakers about water security issues, the Texas Tribune reported. Aging infrastructure and lack of funding have created water-supply problems across the state, particularly in rural areas.

Last year there were more than 3,000 boil-water notices issued across the state because water quality was in doubt. Seven of the 10 water systems that issued the most notices were in rural parts of East Texas, the Tribune reported after analyzing data from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. There have already been 79 boil-water notices in January.

The group is not advocating for any specific bills. "Water security is critically important to all Texans and our economy," state Rep. Tracy King, who heads the caucus, said in a statement. "We must continue to innovate, invest and strategize long-term to manage our water resources efficiently."

State's newest historic site

The Texas Historical Commission's latest historic site is 274 years old. Presidio la Bahia was the site of the Goliad Massacre in March 1836. More than 300 Texians were held inside the church before being executed by Mexican forces.

The presidio was established on that site in 1749 during the Spanish colonial period. The fort became the nucleus of the modern-day city of Goliad. The Presidio underwent restoration in the 1960s under the oversight of renowned restoration architect Raiford Stripling of San Augustine. More than 33,000 people visit the Presidio each year, according to its website.

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Truman: President and statesman extraordinaire

During the past 100 years or so there has been a notable lack of statesmen in American politics, a fact that has been magnified dramatically in the past 15 years.

Both major political parties have been divided to a severe degree, pretty much from the first day Barack Obama was in office.

And we really don't need to belabor the disastrous time from 2016-20 when a dictator wannabe occupied 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and did his best to torch our democracy on his way out the door.

All of which would cause considerable teeth gnashing from one of my favorite presidents -- Harry Truman.

Truman's political hero was Andrew Jackson and like the 7th president, was seen as a common man who when he became president most of the country said in unison "Who's Harry Truman?"

The most important day of Truman's life was Thursday, April 12, 1945. He was in his 10th year as a senator from Missouri and with the exception of running the Truman Committee -- which was tasked with finding waste in military spending during World War II -- he was unknown to the bulk of the nation.

But by the end of that day, he was the 33rd president of the United States.

A seriously ill Franklin Roosevelt, who had been elected to an unprecedented fourth term the previous November, died that day in Warm Springs, Ga.,

Truman, who was somewhat of a compromise choice to run with FDR in 1944, was a New Dealer and someone who would be acceptable to most Democrats of the country.

The nondescript Truman wasn't threatening and unlike many in D.C. didn't have a political ego.

But what he did have was an unwavering sense of what



was right and a no nonsense manner that took those who didn't know him by surprise. One of his first tests came a couple of weeks after taking the oath. He was to meet with Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Union's Minister of Foreign Affairs over Stalin reneging on the Yalta Conference agreement concerning Poland.

Truman, true to his character, dressed down the visiting dignitary and let him know in no uncertain terms that the U.S. wouldn't tolerate such brazenness.

Molotov said: "I've never been talked to like that in my life."

Truman replied: "Carry out your agreements and you won't get talked to like that."

Not a bad opening act from a former Missouri farmer/haberddasher who got his start in politics as a Jackson County, Mo., judge.

It wasn't his frank way of getting his point across that elevated him to one of the greatest presidents -- at least in my opinion -- of all time.

He had to make some decidedly tough decisions that are still discussed today. The most controversial was the decision to use the atomic bomb on Japan. It was the first, and hopefully, the last time that weapon would be utilized.

Arguments continue on both sides about using such a destructive force but he was always adamant that he was doing the right thing for his country.

"As President of the United States, I had the fateful responsibility of deciding whether or not to use this weapon for the first time," he said after the war. "It was the hardest decision I ever had to make. But the President cannot duck hard problems—he cannot pass the buck. I made the decision after discussions with the ablest men in our government, and after long and prayerful consideration. I decided that the bomb should be used to end the war quickly and save countless lives—Japanese as well as American."

Critics have said that the constant bombing of Japan would have forced the enemy to surrender, yet it still took a second atomic bomb to bring the Japanese to their senses.

Later, during the Korean War, Truman made the widely unpopular decision to relieve Gen. Douglas MacArthur from his command of the United Nations forces in the region. Truman, as Commander in Chief, order MacArthur to pull back from an invasion of China.

Conservatives, such as Sen. Robert Taft called for Truman's impeachment, but despite the huge drop to his popularity, Truman remained steadfast.

"I fired him [MacArthur] because he wouldn't respect the authority of the President," Truman said. "I didn't fire him because he was a dumb SOB, although he was, but that's not against the law for generals. If it was, half to three-quarters of them would be in jail."

Harry Truman was a rarity by today's political standards: He was honest and unafraid of political fallout.

Unfortunately, there aren't nearly enough of his kind today.

Regardless of technology, creatures will find you

I was in the kitchen the other day and my cell phone rang. When I answered it, I was surprised. It was a phone creature. I could tell because there was a pause after I said hello. It's not often I get a phone creature call on my cell phone.

Phone creatures, for you out there who have never read this junk I write, are what I call those pesky solicitors that call you wantin' to sell you stuff you don't need or want for that matter.

I like to have fun with them at their expense. Janet thinks I'm bein' childish. Sometimes she's a real doo doo head. Anywho, this is how the call went.

"Mr. Mitchum?" the creature asked.

"The butterfly's wings are crunchy," I replied. "I repeat: the butterfly's wings are crunchy."

"Uh....I beg your pardon?" the creature said.

"Give me the counter sign," I said.

"Counter sign?"

"What? You don't know the counter sign?"

"Uh....no sir. I'm calling to make you a fantastic offer."

"Is it an offer I can't refuse?"

"I'm sorry. I don't know what you mean."

"The last time someone made me an offer I couldn't refuse, I woke up in bed with a severed goat head.

"Sir?"

"So," I continued, "you're not with the agency, I assume."

"What agency?" she asked.

"Good. That is the correct answer," I said. "So why didn't you give me the counter sign?"

"Sir, you have me confused with someone else. I am a telemarketer."

"Good cover," I said. "I'm a chicken sexer."

"A what?"

"A chicken sexer," I replied. "I look at little chicks and tell whether they are little boy chickens or little girl chickens."

"That's what you do for a living?"

"No! That's my cover! I can't tell you what I do for a living. Not unless you've got a grade five or higher security clearance."

"Oh," she said. "But Mr. Mitchum...."

"So," I said, cuttin' her off, "since you're callin', I assume the package has been delivered."

"Package?"

"You know; the tamales."

"Tamales? You mean real tamales?"

"It's code," I said.

"Code for what?" she asked.

"Enchiladas," I replied. "That's code, too. You know; a



code for a code. Didn't you read the memo? And, if you did, I hope you ate it afterwards."

"Look sir," she whined.

"Look at what? Give me the coordinates."

"Sir!" she yelled. "I'm no spy!"

"Don't say that word!"

"What? Spy?"

"Aaaaaiiii!" I exclaimed. "Our cover is probably blown now! When they hear that word, it sets the wheels in motion."

"They? Who are they?"

"The listeners; they hear everything. The black helicopters are probably on their way now. Your best bet is to go to the safe house."

"The safe house?"

"Yeah. Taco Bell."

"Taco Bell is the safe house?"

"It's code."

"Code for what?"

"El Chico," I replied.

"But of course it is," she sighed. "Listen. I think you are messing with me."

"I can't mess with anyone. Not since I got shot in the Yukon."

"Don't tell me," she said sarcastically, "that's code, too. Listen buster, I've got better things to do than to talk with a nut."

"Does this mean I'm not gettin' my tamales? And by tamales I mean enchiladas."

She screamed and then hung up.

"Heh, heh," I laughed as I turned off my phone. Have you ever felt like someone's eyes were on you? I was feelin' that feelin' right then. I turned and there was Janet, standin' in the doorway with her arms crossed.

"What?" I asked.

"I'm about to make you an offer you can't refuse," she said.

I smiled. "Okay," I said, "but I get to wear the cheerleader outfit this time."

She tilted her head to the side, gave me one of those half-eyelid looks, and growled, "What is wrong with you?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another vote for seeking the truth

Dear Editor,

A recent letter writer was certainly correct in her last paragraph: "We must speak truth to power in the face of all their lies. I'm pledging to do everything I can to protect our freedoms and our democracy against the House's extremist attacks -- I hope others will join me" -- with one exception -- the Senate's extremist attacks on the previous administration and Christian values.

There was, indeed, ample reason for election denial.

There should have been more thorough investigation into many state's election results. Perhaps the results would have been the same, but we would be more convinced that results were certified correctly.

We have a terribly divided Congress as is our nation. The Biden administration is tearing down and destroying our democracy by telling lies, condemning Christian values, aiding inflation growth by cutting oil supply, over spending, thus increasing our national debt and allowing vastly increased illegal immigration -- not to mention the deceitful issues tolerated in the Biden family.

President Trump may not be the best choice for president, but until one appears available, he is the best choice.

The real answer to changing our terribly divided country is intensified prayer to our God for a great awakening to occur.

Edmund Kaup
Lindale

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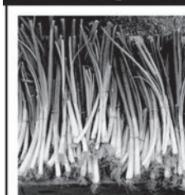
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Dietary supplements: what you need to know

By Claudann Jones
Smith County Extension Agent
Home, Community Health



Many adults and children in the United States take one or more vitamins or other dietary supplements. In addition to vitamins, dietary supplements can contain minerals, herbs and many other ingredients.

Popular supplements include vitamins D and B12; minerals like calcium and iron; herbs such as echinacea and garlic; and products like glucosamine, probiotics, and fish oils.

Products sold as dietary supplements come with a Supplement Facts label that lists the active ingredients, the amount per serving, as well as other ingredients.

The manufacturer suggests the serving size, but your health care provider might decide a different amount is more appropriate for you.

Some dietary supplements can help you get adequate amounts of essential nutrients if you don't eat a nutritious variety of foods. However, supplements can't take the place of the variety of foods that are important to a healthy eating routine.

Some dietary supplements can improve overall health and help manage some health conditions.

For example:

-- Calcium and vitamin D help keep bones strong and reduce bone loss.

-- Folic acid decreases the risk of certain birth defects.

-- Omega-3 fatty acids from fish oils might help some people with heart disease.

-- A combination of vitamins C and E, zinc, copper, lutein, and zeaxanthin (known as an AREDS formula) may slow down further vision loss in people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Many supplements contain active ingredients that can have strong effects in the body. Always be alert to the possibility of a bad reaction, especially when taking a new product.

You are most likely to have side effects from dietary supplements if you take them at high doses or instead of prescribed medicines, or if you take many different supplements. Supplements can also interact with some medicines in ways that might cause problems.

Here are a few examples:

-- Vitamin K can reduce the ability of the blood thinner warfarin to prevent blood from clotting.

-- St. John's wort can speed the breakdown of many medicines and reduce their effectiveness (including some antidepressants, birth control pills, heart medications, anti-HIV medications, and transplant drugs).

-- Antioxidant supplements, such as vitamins C and E, might reduce the effectiveness of some types of cancer chemotherapy.

Consult your health care providers about any dietary supplements you're taking. They can help you determine which supplements, if any, might be valuable for you.

For more information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Family and Community Health programs, contact the Smith County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health at 903-590-2980 or email at cmjones@ag.tamu.edu.

Like our Facebook page: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County. Stay well and stay safe.

Smith County Master Gardener Library series continues Feb. 17

The Smith County Master Gardeners are again partnering with Tyler Public Library to offer its 2023 speaker series with its next installment scheduled for Feb. 17, publicity officials said.

Focused on relevant gardening topics for Smith County and the surrounding area, the series of presentations entitled, "Master Gardeners at the Library", will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Fridays in the Library's Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler.

This year's lineup includes:

Feb. 17: Andie Rathbone
"Prep Now for a Beautiful Garden Later"

Learn from a Smith County Master Gardener what you can do in our colder winter months to ensure a beautiful garden when spring arrives.

March 17:

Elizabeth Waldrop

"The Physic: Gardens that Heal, Gardens that Harm"

A Smith County Master Gardener gives an exploration of Physic Gardens, natural medicine both ancient and modern, and the plants that have been panacea and poison through time".

April 21: Katy Barone
"No-till Garden for Small Spaces"

A Smith County Master Gardener shows how to transform that small space into something beautiful with little effort.

May 19: Dr. David Creech
"Japanese Maples, Azaleas, Camellias and More-How Many Varieties Are Enough?"

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All events are free and open to the public.

For additional information follow the Master Gardeners on Facebook, check out our website: <http://txmg.org/smith/events/> or call 903-590-2980 of 903-590-2994.

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

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Lindale Police Department call log for Jan. 13-Jan. 19:

FRIDAY, JAN. 13: 10:21:50 AM, Poss Controlled Substance, 300 blk S Main St; 1:38:20 AM, Suspicious Vehicle, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W; 2:38:41 AM, Suspicious Vehicle, 13000 blk Hwy 69 N; 10:34:26 AM, Motorist Assist, S Main St / W Hubbard St; 11:24:59 AM, Public Service, 15000 blk FM 16 W; 3:30:13 PM, Vagrant, 3500 blk S Main St; 4:17:46 PM, Public Service, 100 blk Ballard Dr; 7:01:42 PM, Suspicious Circumstance, 200 blk Stadium St; 7:54:15 PM, Suspicious Vehicle, 3200 blk S Main St; 9:06:40 PM, City Ordinance Violation, Ballard Dr / S Main St; 9:46:16 PM, Dog bite, 700 blk E Hubbard St; 10:57:05 PM, Loud Noise Complaint, 15000 blk CR 467.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14: 9:08:32 AM, Public Service, 100 blk Ballard Dr; 10:27:23 AM, Driving While Intoxicated, 900 blk Mt Sylvan St; 2:08:09 PM, Accident, 2100 blk S Main St; 4:53:04 PM, Accident, 600 blk Jack Dr; 5:16:10 PM, Criminal Mischief, 100 blk E Centennial Blvd; 8:55:56 PM, Welfare Concern, 200 blk Charles Dr; 10:48:38 PM, Verbal Disturbance, 15000 blk Brittain Ct; 11:03:07 PM, Public Service, 600 blk S Main St.

SUNDAY, JAN. 15: 11:18:44 AM, Illegally Parked Vehicle, 100 blk Ballard Dr; 11:49:25 AM, Alarm Business, 500 blk S Main St; 3:21:09 PM, Suspicious Circumstance, 900 blk S Main St; 7:23:23 PM, Assist SCSO, 15000 blk FM 16 W; 8:48:48 PM, Alarm Business, 3300 blk S Main St; 11:01:43 PM, Motorist Assist, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W.

MONDAY, JAN. 16: 10:39:17 AM, Suspicious Circum-



stance, 3500 blk S Main St; 11:02:58 AM, Criminal Trespass, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W; 11:40:37 AM, Welfare Concern, 15000 blk Spring Oaks Dr; 1:04:25 PM, Public Intoxication, 3500 blk S Main St; 3:18:40 PM, Suspicious Person, S Main St / Centennial Blvd; 4:32:17 PM, Suspicious Person, 1300 blk Hamilton Dr; 5:12:26 PM, Theft, 13000 blk FM 2710; 6:38:08 PM, Assist SCSO, 3500 blk S Main St; 10:47:45 PM, Suspicious Circumstance, 13000 blk FM 2710; 10:49:20 PM, Welfare Concern, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W.

TUESDAY, JAN. 17: 6:41:54 AM, Alarm Business, 15000 blk CR 463; 7:18:53 AM, 7:18:53 AM, 700 blk S Main St; 8:47:47 AM 8:47:47 AM 13000blk Interstate 20 W; 11:35:01 AM, 3:26:36 PM, Accident, FM 849/W South; 3:40:32 PM, Public Service, 100 blk Ballard Dr; 4:26:53 PM, Motorist Assist, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W; 4:31:56 PM, Welfare Concern, 3200 blk S Main St; 5:09:43 PM, Driving While Intoxicated, 300 blk S Main St; 5:25:06 PM, Disturbance, 100 blk E Centennial Blvd; 6:26:00 PM, Hit and Run, 3400 blk S Main St; 6:35:18 PM, Criminal Mischief, 15000 blk Country Acres Dr.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18: 1:30:49 AM, Alarm Business, 100 blk S Main St; 1:43:24 AM, Suspicious Vehicle, 100 blk Mission Creek Dr; 5:21:28 AM, Disturbance, 200 blk Charles Dr; 7:35:32 AM, Accident, Perryman Rd/S Main St; 8:28:31 AM, Assault-aggravated, 3200 blk S Main St; 9:42:11 AM, Traffic Hazard, Husky Dr/S Industrial St; 11:34:40 AM, Alarm Residence, 200 blk W Van St; 11:47:58 AM, Animal At Large, 1000 blk Mt Sylvan St; 12:20:49 PM, Suspicious Person, 600 blk Jack Dr; 12:33:49 PM, 911 Hang Up Call, 1300 blk Brad Cir; 1:26:38 PM, Public Intoxication, 3200 blk S Main St; 1:39:46 PM, Warrant Service, 3500 blk S Main St; 3:11:31 PM, Reckless Driving, 300blk S Main St; 7:41:59 PM, Reckless Driving, Eagle Spirit Dr/S Main St; 8:29:42 PM, City Ordinance Violation, 900 blk Mt Sylvan St; 9:36:01 PM, Welfare Concern, 500 blk N Main St; 10:58:30 PM, Warrant Service, 3300 blk S Main St.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19: 8:10:01 AM, Assist SCSO, Bonnie St/S Main St; 10:23:13 AM, Disturbance, 500 blk Sunset Dr; 10:28:22 AM, Criminal Trespass, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W; 10:29:20 AM, Assist EMS, 1300 blk Robyn Ln; 12:49:29 PM, Public Service, 100 blk Ballard Dr; 12:58:10 PM, Public Service, 100 blk Ballard Dr; 1:21:52 PM, Assist LISD PD, 900 blk E Hubbard St; 2:45:51 PM, Accident, 1200 blk S Main St; 3:10:37 PM, Special Assignment, 500 blk Sunset Dr; 4:15:46 PM, Public Service, 500 blk Sunset Dr; 5:40:30 PM, Suspicious Circumstance, 2200 blk S Main St; 6:15:44 PM, Loud Noise Complaint, 1400 blk Hillside Cir; 6:55:59 PM, Criminal Mischief, 500 blk Noah Ln; 7:13:09 PM, Attempted Suicide, 1100 blk E Park Dr; 8:09:49 PM, Check In Passing, 13000 blk Interstate 20 W; 8:33:16 PM, Suspicious Vehicle, 13000 blk CR 472; 9:19:47 PM, Alarm Business, 100 blk S Main St.

Women sentenced for federal drug violations

Two women have been sentenced to federal prison for drug trafficking violations in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, publicity spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Brit Featherston.

Tina Gilder, 40, of Houston, and Gina Moreno, 29, of San Benito, Texas, were indicted by a federal grand jury on Jan. 8, 2020, and charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

On Jan. 17, 2023, U.S. District Judge Crone sentenced Gilder to 121 months in federal prison and Moreno to 87 months in federal prison.

According to information presented in court, Gilder and Moreno were both part of a Houston-based conspiracy to traffic kilograms of cocaine through East Texas to the East Coast for distribution. On August 26, 2019, Gilder was stopped and found in possession of four kilograms of cocaine concealed in a hidden compartment in a Jeep.

Moreno was stopped on Sep. 21, 2019 and found in possession of 22 kilograms of cocaine.

Gilder was convicted at trial on Feb. 24, 2022 and Moreno pleaded guilty on Feb. 7, 2022.

These cases were investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Port Arthur Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Anderson.

Dallas man guilty of federal drug trafficking

A Dallas man has been convicted of federal drug trafficking violations in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Eric R. Roberts, 51, was convicted of multiple federal violations, including continuing criminal enterprise; conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana; conspiracy to commit money laundering; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Roberts was found guilty by a jury following a 10-day trial before U.S. District Judge Amos Mazzant.

The jury also returned a verdict for criminal forfeiture of a large amount of property seized from Roberts, including 37 firearms, 8 vehicles, and \$436,295 in US currency.

Four additional co-defendants - Ronald Lewis McGuire, Lowell Eugene Sargent, Philip S. Lala, and Christopher Shaun Ragle -- were found guilty by the same jury of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

The jury found that all five defendants were individually responsible for 1000 kilograms or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana.

According to information presented in court, Roberts was a leader of a large-scale national drug trafficking organization spanning several years, with McGuire, Sargent, Lala, and Ragle acting as drivers.

Roberts was indicted by a federal grand jury on April 15, 2021. He faces up to life in federal prison at sentencing.

Sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This prosecution is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) investigation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level drug traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations that threaten the United States by using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach that leverages the strengths of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies against criminal networks.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Mesquite Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Brent L. Andrus and Ernest Gonzalez.

Northern Smith County fire was accidental, officials say

The Smith County Fire Marshal's Office has determined that a Saturday evening (Jan. 14) fire of a school bus converted into a home was accidental, said County Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

At 6:38 p.m. on Saturday, Smith County Emergency Communications received calls reporting an explosion in the 4000 block of Canyon Circle, in northern Smith County.

After a preliminary investigation, the cause of the fire was an accidental fuel-air explosion most likely caused by a propane leak inside the school bus, which had been converted into a tiny home and was occupied by the resident at the time of the explosion, Smith County Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Chad Hogue said.

The bus was outfitted with gas and electric utilities. The woman who lived there is being treated at Parkland Hospital in Dallas for second-degree burns to her upper body. One dog perished in the fire and one dog survived. The tiny home was a total loss, Hogue said.

Dixie, Lindale, and Red Springs Fire Departments responded to the scene Saturday evening, along with UT Health EMS, Smith County Sheriff's Office and Smith County Fire Marshal's Office.

It's onion time in East Texas

By Greg Grant
Smith County horticulturist



Texans love their onions. Of course, we are home to the "Noonday Onion" as well as the famous 1015Y Texas Super Sweet onion.

And though a native of Pakistan, onions are our state vegetable. Onions are easy to grow if you remember to grow them when the temperatures are cool, and the days are short.

Onions are cool-weather plants that "bolt" or bloom when the weather is hot, and the days are long.

For onion tops to be vigorous, tender, and mild, the weather must be cool. Onions can tolerate frosts but not hard freezes, so they should be planted from bundled bare-root transplants known as "sets" between late January and mid-February.

To make large onion bulbs, it's very important to get them out as early as possible, as late planted onions make small bulbs.

Onions require at least 8 hours of direct sun each day for maximum yield. Like most root crops, they do best in well drained sandy and loamy soils. It is ideal to till in several inches of compost or organic matter and incorporate 2 pounds of a complete lawn fertilizer (15-5-10, 18-6-12, etc.) per 100 square foot of bed or every 35 feet of row before planting.

In smaller plantings use 2 teaspoons per square foot or foot of row. The ideal soil pH for growing onions is 5.5-7.0, so here we generally need to apply lime every few years.

Onions can be grown in raised beds



or raised rows 6 inches high, 18 inches wide, and 36 inches apart. Use a stick or hoe handle to poke holes into the soil 1 inch deep. Place the transplants, root side down, into each hole. Gently firm them in and water immediately to settle the soil around them. Onions can also be grown in whiskey barrel (30 gallon) sized containers.

Onions are relatively easy to grow provided they have lots of sunshine, cool temperatures, and regular moisture when forming bulbs. Around 3-4 weeks after planting or when the plants are 6 inches tall, fertilize them with 1 cup of high nitrogen fertilizer (21-0-0, etc.) for each 35 feet of row.

Sprinkle half of the fertilizer down each side of the row. Lightly work it into the soil and then water. Be careful not to damage the base of the plants. Hand weeding around them is best.

After side-dressing with fertilizer, it is ideal to apply a layer of organic mulch (hay, pine straw, grass clippings, etc.) to conserve water and prevent weeds. Despite what old timers may

have told you, the more foliage your onions make, the larger the bulbs will be when the days start to get longer, and the bulbs begin to form. Every leaf forms a ring in the onion.

Green onions for their tops can be harvested at any time. They are most tender when they are small.

Onion bulbs are ready to harvest when the necks of the plants get soft, and the tops fall over. They should be pulled or dug at this point and allowed to cure for several days in a cool dry area. The tops should then be cut off one inch above the onion.

This curing process helps them store longer.

Recommended varieties for East Texas include 'Texas 1015Y' (Texas Supersweet), 'Grano 502', 'Granex' (Noonday, Vidalia), 'Granex 33', 'White Granex', 'Red Granex', 'Candy', 'Burgundy', and 'Texas Legend.' Feed stores and garden centers often offer fresh Texas grown sets or they can be ordered directly from the farmer at dixondalefarms.com.



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Eagles stay atop district basketball standings

Despite an unexpected loss to Athens earlier this month, the Lindale High School boys basketball team, under the direction of Head Coach Chris Grotemat, earned the top spot in District 16-4A with a 5-1 record following a win in Canton on Jan. 17.

The Eagles were scheduled to take on Cumberland (Jan. 20) and Brownsboro (Jan. 24) before returning home to host Van on Jan. 27.

On Friday, Jan. 20, Lindale routed Cumberland's Knights, 51-21, in Tyler. **LINDALE 48, MABANK 39**

On Jan. 10 at home against Mabank, the Eagles posted a 48-39 victory and Grotemat said he was pleased with both the offense and defense in the win.

"This was a terrific effort against a hungry Mabank team," he said. "We were smart, disciplined, and focused throughout."

The Panthers, 3-3 in district, jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first period before the Eagles fought back in the second quarter.

A Logan Dixon three-pointer in the second quarter started the ball rolling for the Eagles, who then got contributions from Amare Baptiste, Ryder Johnson and Cole Collinsworth.

With an 18-point second period, the Eagles owned a 25-24 lead at intermission.

"We had a lot of success in extending some pressure and traps in the half court, and when we weren't able to turn the Panthers over, we were successful in baiting them into some quick, contested shots," Grotemat said.

Five different Eagles combined for 14 points in the third to put the game out of reach.

ATHENS 42, LINDALE 29

In a game that was unlike any the Eagles have played this season, Lindale stumbled a bit in a 42-29 loss to the Athens Hornets in Athens on Jan. 13.

"Our effort in the early going left a lot to be desired," Grotemat said of the

Athens loss.

Grotemat noted that the new, big gymnasium the Hornets call home is a tough place to hit outside shots because of the backdrop and layout.

The Hornets jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the first period, with seven of those nine points coming on offensive rebounds.

In the latter portion of the first period, the Eagles attacked the Hornets man-to-man defense and created some offense on back door cuts and drives to the hoop from Masen Rainey and Connor McClendon.

This resulted in a 14-12 lead for the Eagles after the first period.

But from there on out, points were hard to come by as the Eagles scored just six points in the second and third periods combined.

"Our guys got away from the ball movement and tried to win too many one-on-one matchups," Grotemat said. "That's not our strong suit and Athens made us pay."

As a result, the Eagles committed 10 turnovers in the second and third quarters, allowing the Hornets to take over the game.

Lindale was able to cut its deficit to six points in the fourth, but another flurry of turnovers sealed the deal for Athens.

The Eagles managed to hit just one of 13 three pointers and were six of 10 from the foul line.

A return match with Athens is scheduled for Feb. 7 in the LHS gym and Grotemat is confident his group will be ready if they follow the concept of team basketball.

"We desperately need to beat these guys in the return game at home in a couple of weeks," he said. "But we are going to have to stay true to our identity, especially on offense, and resist the temptation to get baited into a pick-up game."

LINDALE 47, CANTON 45

The Eagles put their disappointing defeat to Athens behind them with a rousing, 47-45, win over the Canton Eagles

on Jan. 17.

"(Our guys) showed tremendous competitive character all night long, and put together what was arguably our best performance of the season," Grotemat said.

With Collinsworth and Logan Dixon hitting key shots Lindale burst out to an early lead in the first period. Ryder Johnson's three pointer capped an 11-3 run.

"I loved our defensive effort," Grotemat said. "Canton has a very efficient offense in terms of shooting percentage, but our guys were really tough on them."

The coach praised the play of Connor McClendon, who was "a revelation in this contest."

He manned up against Canton's star guard, 6-5 Garrett Walker, and effectively took him out of his game.

McClendon's energy rubbed off on the rest of the Eagles as they contested shot after shot and built a 30-17 lead at the half.

Baptiste led the way with six of his game-high 13 points in the second period which paced the Eagles' 19-point second quarter surge.

Both teams were committed to defense in the third period, and Lindale surrendered just six points to Canton in the third.

Lindale began the fourth period with a 34-23 lead.

Grotemat began some situational substitutions and was rewarded with key performances from Carson Plunkett, Kyesen Ripley and Marcus Field.

As the game got late, Baptiste hit a couple of baskets which forced Canton to send Lindale to the free throw line.

This is where the game was decided as the Eagles were rewarded with 16 free throws in the fourth period, and even though Lindale hit just eight of those, it was enough to close out a big win.

"It was a gritty performance from our young men," Grotemat said. "What a special effort and a tremendous response after a frustrating loss in Athens."

Junior High girls down Cumberland; compete in Rains "A" tournament

The Lindale Junior High School girls basketball "A" teams took part in the Rains Junior High School Tournament this past weekend with the 7th graders earning three victories while the 8th graders posted one win.

For the 7th grade, the Lady Eagles defeated Rains, 41-23, Quinlan 46-12 and Kaufman, 33-7.

The 8th graders defeated Kaufman, 55-11, lost to Mineola 33-30 and Rains, 40-29.

Joclyn Grogan and Baylee Brooks led the 7th graders in scoring, while KayLea Williams was the leading rebounder. Makynli Zemer was the steals leader and Joclyn Grogan and Brooklyn Wiggins led the team in assists.

Ella Hutchens, Ma'Kaylin Smith and Tessa Dennis were leading scorers for the 8th graders, while Emma Watkins and Ella Hutchens were the rebounding leaders. Ma'Kaylin Smith led in steals while Kennedy Terry, Ma'Kaylin Smith and Tessa Daniels were leaders in assists.

Ma'Kaylin Smith won the Hustle Award and Ella Hutchens on the Leadership Award.

On Thursday, the Lindale Junior High School girls basketball teams took two games from Cumberland in Lindale.

Cumberland doesn't have a 7th grade or 8th grade B team. The Lindale 7th grade A team won, 29-8 and the 8th grade A team won, 41-14.

For the 7th grade A team, Kaylea Williams was the leading scorer and leading rebounder while Brooklyn Wiggins and Zaidyn Chamberlain were the leaders in steals. Brooklyn Wiggins was the assists leader.

The 8th grade A team was led in scoring by Ma'Kaylin Smith, Tessa Dennis, Emma Watkins and Ella Hutchens. Emma Watkins led in rebounds, while Ma'Kaylin Smith and Ella Hutchens were the leaders in steals. Emma Watkins and Ma'Kaylin Smith were the leaders in assists, while Kennedy Terry won the Hustle Award and Tessa Daniels won the Leadership Award.

Virtual Junior Master Gardeners program scheduled for Feb. 22

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will present the Junior Master Gardener, JMG, National Leader Training Conference virtually Feb. 21-22, said publicity spokesperson Laura Muntean.

The program will be presented in the Zoom format from noon-5 p.m. on Feb. 21 and from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Feb. 22.

For conference details and session overviews go to 2023 JMG NLT Training-Homepage. The cost is \$65 per person. The primary email for the conference is isjmgntconference@gmail.com.

"This year's virtual national leader training will be a dynamic and interactive training conference," said Lisa Whittlesey, AgriLife Extension program specialist and JMG program coordinator. "It will be exclusively and completely accessible as an engaging online training event."

Conference goals

Whittlesey said the goal of the conference is to bring together teachers and leaders from across the nation for formalized training in the JMG curriculum.

The conference is designed to help participants grow from novice gardening educators to empowered leaders and trainers who can introduce and develop youth gardening in their school or local community, she said. Participants will learn to utilize JMG resources, implement best practices for programs, involve local county Extension personnel in programs and reach into schools, afterschool programs and clubs.

"Participants will also learn how to generate funding to support programs and build sustainability through collaborations and partnerships," Whittlesey said.



Fourteen continuing education units will be provided by the Texas Education Agency and offered through AgriLife Extension.

"We also plan to record every session and will try our best to do so," Whittlesey said.

The recordings will be available to participants for up to four months after the end of the conference.

Keynote speakers

There will be two keynote speakers on the first day of the training – one at the session opening and one at the closing.

The opening keynote speaker will be Chris Field, the founder and CEO of the Mercy Proj-

ect and social entrepreneur, speaker and author. Field will speak about the power of positive disruption to create transformation beyond what can be measured during a lifetime.

Field's most important disruption is Mercy Project, a non-profit he started with the mission of rescuing children from human trafficking in Ghana, Africa. The Mercy Project has earned the prestigious Norman Borlaug Humanitarian Award. To date, it has rescued nearly 250 children, returning them to their families and providing the education that will transform their future.

The day's closing keynote will be presented by NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren, Ph.D. Selected by NASA in 2009, Lindgren has flown two long-duration missions to the International Space Station, the most recent space flight ending in October 2022.

Lindgren and his crew participated in more than 250 different scientific experiments including research in human physiology, fluid and combustion physics, and space science and technology development. Their research included work with the "veggie" experiment, representing the first time a U.S. crew has grown peppers in orbit.

Spotlight programs and concurrent sessions

JMG programs from throughout the U.S. will be spotlighted during the training, including an after-school program in Coastal Mississippi and programs in Nevada, Indiana and Hawaii.

The training will also feature a live Get Growing Houston field trip by Marcus Glenn, Houston Independent School District area manager, who will discuss nutrition and agriculture at the Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm.

Concurrent session topics during the training under the heading "JMG Curriculum" will include:

- Hands-on with JMG Teacher Guide and Youth Handbook.
- Hands-on with JMG Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!
- Hands-on with the Early Childhood Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! curriculum.

- Hands-on with Literature in the Garden and the Wildlife Gardener curriculum
- Hands-on with JMG Level 2.

Concurrent session topics under the heading "Growing Thriving Gardens and Adventurous Eaters" will include:

- Skip's Tips for a Thriving School Garden.
- Gardening After Your First Season.
- The D, E, F's of a Successful Culinary Education Class.
- Attracting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects to the Garden.
- Herb Gardening with Kids.

Concurrent session topics under the heading "Serving a Diverse Range of Audiences in a Wide Variety of Settings" will include:

- Roots, Shoots and Mud in Our Boots.
- Grandfriends: Partnering with Senior Centers in JMG Programming.
- JMG Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! at YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs.
- "Crazy" Boot Camp Gardening.
- Using the JMG Curriculum with Special Needs Adults.

Concurrent session topics under the heading "Growing Leaders, Partnerships, Funding and Sustainability" will include:

- Growing Partners and Sustainability at Your School Garden Programs. Garden Club, Curriculum-Based Classes, Entrepreneurial and Philanthropic Initiatives.
- Tips for Working with Volunteers in Garden Programs.
- Kids Growing in Common Ground.
- Let's Talk! Implementing JMG programs in schools to benefit school community and increase 4-H enrollment.

Conference registration and preparation Due to the virtual nature of the conference, participants must register individually and not as a group. Registered attendees will receive an individual registration link to enter the conference.

Whittlesey said the password-protected website must be used to attend all presentations. The conference portal can be found by going to the conference [home page](#) and clicking the "conference portal" button.

On Feb. 13, eight days prior to the start of the conference, registrants will receive the password required to enter the conference portal and access all sessions. Attendees must have a digital device such as a computer, tablet or smartphone, speakers and a stable internet connection.

"It may be helpful to download the Zoom app to your digital device," Whittlesey said. "There also may be designated times during conference activities that you are able to unmute and speak, and for this you will need a microphone. However, a microphone is not required to successfully participate in the conference."

At 4 p.m. on Feb. 15, a separate virtual get-ready training will be conducted so participants may check their connection and ensure they will be able to hear and see the events at the conference. A link to this Zoom training session will be sent in the Feb. 13 email, along with conference portal password information.

In addition to this live training event, the training video and written instructions will be uploaded to the home page. Additional resources can also be found on the website.

We appreciate our Lindale School Board Members for all their hard work!

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JEAN YVONNE JONES, Deceased, were issued on January 17, 2023, in Cause No. 47,038P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: DANIEL BRAD JONES. 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: **H. CHUCK BAUMAN, Attorney at Law, 400 E Fifth St., Tyler, TX 75701**

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with Texas property code, Chapter 59, Castlerock Storage-Lindale, 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 January 27, 2023 -February 6, 2023 @11:00am. 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:
Alex Greer
Patricia Tompkins

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

In re the Marriage of:
JOSHUA DAYID WAMPOLE
N51337 Condensery Road
Osseo WI 54758
Petitioner,

-and-
MELISSA M. WAMPOLE Case No.14 FA 288
n/k/a MELISSA M. PETERSON
Respondent.

MOTION TO MODIFY CUSTODY, PLACEMENT, CHILD SUPPORT, AND TAX EXEMPTION

TO: Melissa M. Peterson
PO Box 1311
Chandler, TX 75758

The petitioner, Joshua David Wampole, hereby moves this Court for an Order the Judgment of Divorce to award him sole legal custody and primary physical placement of the parties' minor child, to wit: B.J.W. DOB: 10/06/2013

Petitioner further requests that his child support obligation be terminated and that Respondent be required to pay child support to Petitioner. Petitioner further requests that he be allowed to claim B.J.W. as a dependent and exemption each year for purposes of filing federal and state income taxes.

This matter shall be heard as follows:

Before: Family court Commissioner Wendy Sue Johnson
Place: Eau Claire County Courthouse
721 Oxford Avenue Eau Claire WI 54703
Date: February 20, 2023
Time: 11:00 a.m.

HEARING IS TO BE HELD VIA ZOOM ONLY-SEE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPEARANCE.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2023.

Joshua Wampole, Petitioner

Zoom Meeting Information
Meeting Link: <https://wicourts.com.us/j/86232681211>
Meeting ID: 862 3268 1241

LEGAL NOTICE

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 JOHN RALPH MURPHREE, JR., DECEASED:

On the 10th day of January, 2023, **DONNY WAYNE MURPHREE** filed an ORIGINAL VERIFIED ANSWER; CONTEST TO APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP FILED BY **KATHY CATRON** AND COUNTER-APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP BY **KELLI MAPES KRIEG** AT THE REQUEST OF **DONNY WAYNE MURPHREE** in a proceeding styled IN THE ESTATE OF **JOHN RALPH MURPHREE, JR., DECEASED** and bearing the number **46909P** in the County Court at Law #3 of Smith County, Texas.

The Court will hear the aforesaid ORIGINAL VERIFIED ANSWER; CONTEST TO APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP FILED BY **KATHY CATRON** AND COUNTER APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP BY **KELLI MAPES KRIEG** AT THE REQUEST OF **DONNY WAYNE MURPHREE** on the Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of publication of this citation, in the Courtroom in the County Courthouse Annex of Smith County, in Tyler, Texas.

All persons interested in the aforesaid Estate are commnaded 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 publicatio11 said newspaper bears shall be t11e 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 ubder my hand and seal of office, the10th day of January, 2023, at the office in Tyler, Texas.

KAREN PHILLIPS, COUNTY CLERK
Smith County, Texas

By:Katherine Beard, Deputy Clerk

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Divide & Conquer Estate Sale
for Laura Lee (Mrs. Phillip) Taylor
600 Green Lane (at Pecan) ~ Tyler, TX 75701
Thurs., Jan. 26 ~ 7:00-5:30 | Fri., Jan. 27 ~ 8:00-5:30
Sat., Jan. 28 ~ 8:00-2:00

Inside S. Loop 323 and off S. Broadway, turn west onto Fair Lane. Travel 4 blocks and turn right onto Pecan. The house is on the corner of Green Lane and Pecan.

This 3358 sq. ft. home, listed by Realtor Shannon Cross, is for sale; contents and consignments include: Old Master sterling dinnerware; 4 sofas; needlepoint chairs & pillows; game table & 4 chairs; breakfast table & 5 chairs; blue & white selections; custom upholstered chairs; 2 coffee tables; end tables; silverplate selections; full length mink coat; other fur jackets; china; crystal; lovely punch bowl; beautiful vintg. twin bed, vanity, nightstand, & chifforobe; full bed, vanity, and night stand; Portieux Valleyrystal French blue opaline milk glass; copper selections; china cabinet; lovely display cabinet; exceptional custom bedding; linens; lamps; Melink safe; TV's; electronics; Pioneer speakers; 1941 & 1944 Univ. of TX yearbooks; 1943 & 1944 Tulane Univ. yearbooks; Singer sew. mach.; nice L-shape desk & matching lateral file cabinet; 4 drawer file cabinet; vintage stereo; 33 albums; cost. jewelry; clothes; rugs; kitch. selections; glassware; sma.appliances; barware; TV trays; doll house; children toys; highchair; stroller; vintg. Emerson fan; books; Christmas decorations; medical supplies; black Whirlpool refrig.; Hotpoint wash. & dry.; patio furn.; decorative bird cage; birdbath; log rack; yard art; planters; lawncare supplies; ladder; gardening tools; SOOOOO much more!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

Proposals must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 9, 2023

RFQ for Master Planning
Faulkner Park



NOTICE: The City of Lindale is seeking prop from qualified consulting firms to provide servicesto the community to develop a Parks Master Plan. The Parks Master Plan will be a guiding document for future development and redevelopment of the park, baseball, and soccer fields. Please submit your responses to the Request for Qualifications to the address below: City of Lindale, Attn: Jill Childs, Financial Director, 105 Ballard Drive (Physical), P.O. Box 130 (Mailing), Lindale, TX 75771. Proposals must be received no later than **3:00 p.m. on March 9, 2023**, to be considered. The City of Lindale reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit proposals, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. The City of Lindale is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. For additional information please call (903) 882-3422.

A packet can be picked up from city hall or obtain a copy from the city website at www.lindaletx.gov

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PUBLIC HEARING - NOTICE City of Lindale

The City of Hope invites all Families, Providers, and community members to attend Public Hearing to discuss General Residential Operation Program in the community. The facility will provide housing for children who are displaced from their families. We will provide services for up to 15 children between the ages of 6 to 17 years.

Location:
14020 County Road 4111,
Lindale, TX 75771
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023
Time: 10 am – 2 pm
If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact
Applicant/Permit Holder:
Santhosh Thomas at 214-680-1623
Administrator:
Kui Cogan at 903-360-3221
State Inspector:
Yolanda Love, HHSC Licensing Inspector at 903 258 8795

If you cannot attend but want your opinion considered, please send correspondence to the Residential Child Care Licensing Inspector Yolanda Love via email at Yolanda.Love01@hhs.texas.gov or via US Postal Service at: 1819 Mineola Hwy Tyler, Texas 75702

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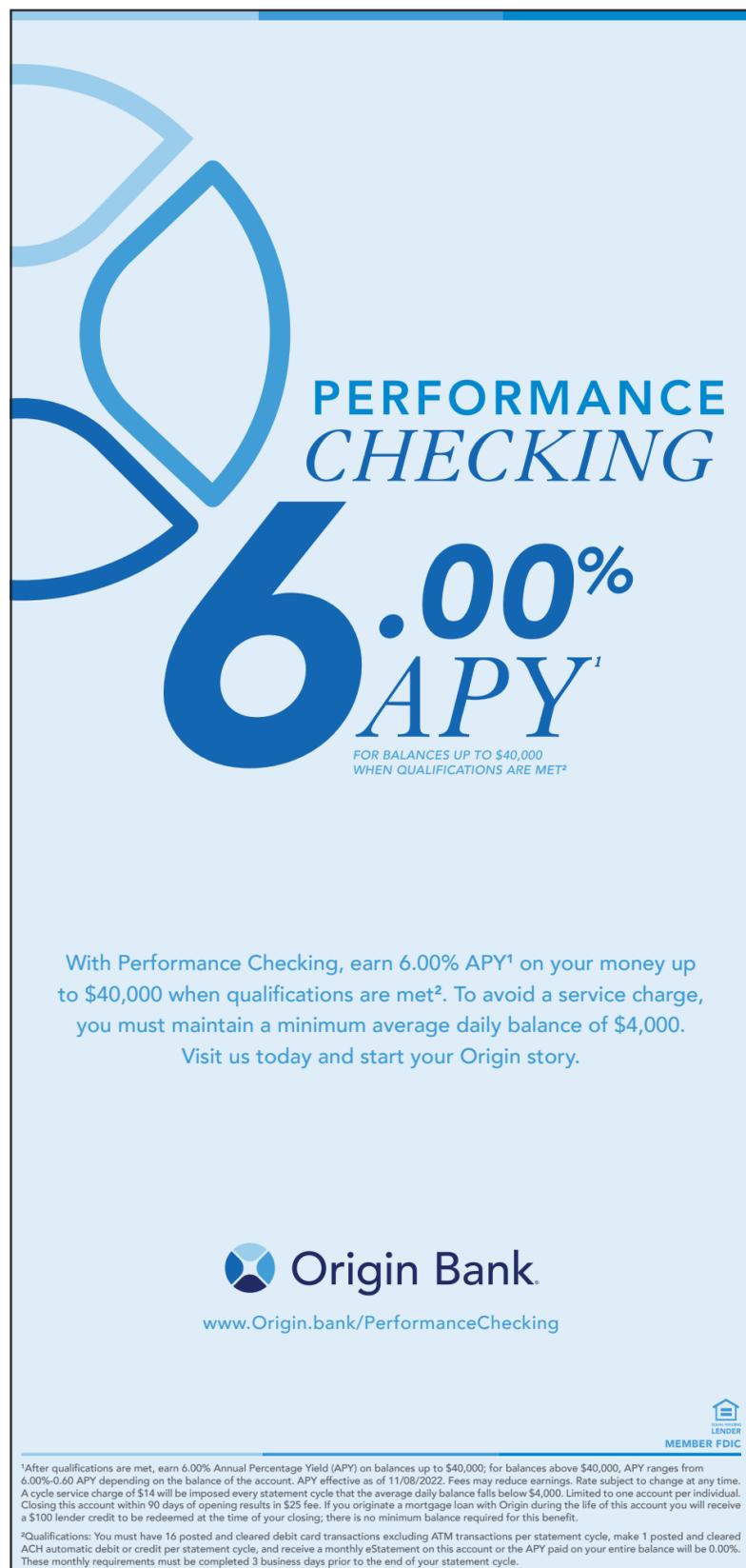
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²Qualifications: You must have 16 posted and cleared debit card transactions excluding ATM transactions per statement cycle, make 1 posted and cleared ACH automatic debit or credit per statement cycle, and receive a monthly eStatement on this account or the APY paid on your entire balance will be 0.00%. These monthly requirements must be completed 3 business days prior to the end of your statement cycle.

LIBRARY SCHEDULE ...

Busy month ahead for Lillie Russell Library

The month of February is full of fun and interesting things at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library with meetings, story times and informative workshops.

In addition, the Friends of the Library are planning another successful year.

After another annual Event Sponsor Drive in January, the Friends will be holding a Membership Drive in February.

A book sale as well as a plant sale are on the schedule for Saturday, May 13 and on Friday, Sept. 29, there will be a Ladies Game Day at the Hideaway County Clubhouse.

Another book sale is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14 and the Holiday Basket Sale returns in November and December.

Also in February, the UT Tyler Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Management Workshops are scheduled and will continue through May.

A \$5 gas card will be available for each blood pressure class attended.

To register for the workshops, call 903-877-1436, email at lifestylechangeprograms@uthct.edu or online at uthct/lifechange-programs-workshop-registration.

Local author and Lindale Police Department Sgt. Mike Lazarine will be on hand for a Meet the Author session which he will discuss his book, "The Hunted: The Road to Revenge." Light refreshments will be served.

Tax season has arrived again and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will be available to help with your taxes four times in February. To schedule an appointment, call 903-392-0180 and leave a voicemail, including a return phone number.

The Library's schedule of events for February includes:

- THURSDAY, FEB. 2: AARP, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Yarn Club, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEB. 3: Preschool Storytime – "Groundhog Day," 10:30 a.m.
- SATURDAY, FEB. 4: Elementary Storytime: "Valentine's Day," 10:30 a.m.
- TUESDAY, FEB. 7: Adult Game Day, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8: Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Management and Greeting Card Quilting Workshop, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- THURSDAY, FEB. 9: AARP, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Yarn Club, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEB. 10: Preschool Storytime – "Valentine's Day," 10:30 a.m.
- SATURDAY, FEB. 11: Therapet, by appointment only, Call 903-882-1900.
- SUNDAY, FEB. 12: Friends of the Library Meeting, 2 p.m.
- TUESDAY, FEB. 14: Adult Game Day, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- THURSDAY, FEB. 16: AARP, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Yarn Club, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEB. 17: Preschool Storytime, "Fairy Tales," 10:30 a.m.
- SATURDAY, FEB. 18: Elementary Storytime, "Fairy Tales," 10:30 a.m.
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22: Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Management and Meet the Authors, Lindale Police Department Sgt. Mike Lazarine, 12 noon-3 p.m.
- THURSDAY, FEB. 23: AARP, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Yarn Club, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEB. 24: Preschool Storytime, guest speaker and face painting, 10:30 a.m.
- SATURDAY, FEB. 25: Therapet, by appointment only



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