

Lindale News & Times

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1900"



Thursday, March 9, 2023

Vol. 12, No. 10

1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

LISD schools locked down after phone threat made

Lindale ISD schools were on lockdown for approximately an hour after a threat against the district's administration building was phoned into the Lindale Police Department shortly after 8 a.m. on Monday, said LISD Communications Director Courtney Sanguinetti.

Numerous law enforcement agencies arrived at the administration building and E.J. Moss Intermediate School – East and West campuses – at approximately 8:17 a.m. after the threat was received, Sanguinetti said. Those responding included units from the Lindale ISD Police, Lindale Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Rangers, Smith County Precinct 4 Constable's Office, Smith County Precinct 5 Constable's Office, Smith County Sheriff's Office, Smith County Fire Marshal's Office, Tyler Police Department, the Lindale Fire Department and the FBI.

Lindale ISD already has a LISD Police Officer stationed at every campus as normal procedure. After preliminary and secondary sweeps of the E.J. Moss East and West campuses, authorities gave the all clear.

"We received an anonymous call," Lindale Police Chief Dan Somes said. "The caller was advising that he was armed and he had explosive devices. We had units very close, so the response was quick."

All campuses are now open and determined to be safe. There will be extra counseling and resources available to students who may need them. There will also be extra police presence on all campuses as a precaution.

"We appreciate all of our parents, our staff," said Lindale ISD Police Chief Joey King. "We've had a big response, we appreciate all of them. We just ask you to be patient. We just ask, mainly, that parents be patient just for today and tomorrow as we get through this,



but again we appreciate all of their support."

The investigation is still ongoing and district officials said more information will be released when available. District officials also said all threats are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and as always the LISD will work with officials to conduct a full investigation.

Students join fight to end DUI deaths

Drunk drivers claim the lives of hundreds of Texans every year, and spring break can be a particularly deadly time. TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is working with college students around the state to highlight the dangers of impaired driving by sharing stories from people who have experienced the consequences firsthand.

One person in Texas dies every 7 hours and 43 minutes in a DUI-alcohol (driving under the influence) related traffic crash. In 2021, 1,134 people in Texas were killed and 2,565 seriously injured because someone chose to get behind the wheel while impaired. During spring break of 2021, Texas recorded 874 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes, resulting in 31 deaths and 107 serious injuries.

"The loss of life on our highways is tragic," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It is all the more tragic to know that the vast majority of these lives lost could be prevented. Our message to students is this: Help keep yourself and others safe by finding a sober ride, taking a cab, using a rideshare, or simply staying put. There are severe and deadly consequences to drunk driving, and we don't want to see lives and futures destroyed."

TxDOT is partnering with college campus-based U in the Driver Seat, a peer-to-peer program led by students at Texas A&M University, focused on saving lives by preventing traffic crashes. Student leaders from around the state will join the campaign and urge their fellow students to always find a sober ride.

Drinking and driving is an all-too-often regrettable decision with far-reaching consequences. Beyond the inherent risk of injury and death—to the driver, passengers or other innocent bystanders—driving while intoxicated is often accompanied by a lingering emotional and financial toll, resulting in legal, career, and mental health repercussions. Every day, impaired driving devastates the lives of offenders and survivors.

Throughout March, TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign will host outreach events at key spring break locations.



Lady Eagles rise in state soccer standings

By virtue of their 16-4-2 season record, the Lindale High School Lady Eagles soccer team rose to the No. 19 spot in the most recent Texas High School Girls Coaches' Association state rankings.

The Lady Eagles, currently in second place in District 14-4A with a 9-2 record, improved their ranking from the No. 23 spot a week ago.

Lindale fell to Bullard, 1-0, this past Friday in showdown with district leaders. The Lady Panthers are 10-1 in league play. They defeated Lindale on Jan. 31, 5-3.

Recent district wins for the Lady Eagles include an 8-0 thrashing of Brownsboro (Feb. 28) and a 4-0 shutout of Athens on Feb. 25.

Lindale has scored 59 goals this season and allowed just eight.

Against Brownsboro in Lindale, the Lady Eagles put the game away in the first half by booting in six goals. Against Athens, Lindale took a 2-0 lead into halftime then posted two more scores in the second half.

The lone district blemish for Lindale came in a 5-3 setback to Bullard on Jan. 31 in Lindale.

Two home games, March 10 against Chapel Hill and March 13 against Grand Saline will finish up the season.

The bi-district playoffs get under way on March 25. In other recent action for Lindale, the Lady Eagles lost, 3-1, to Sulphur Springs after trouncing Cumberland, 8-0 in a district match on Feb. 17.

On Feb. 10, the Lady Eagles drilled Grand Saline, 14-0 and on Feb. 7, defeated Chapel Hill, 5-0, while on

Feb. 3, the Lady Eagles disposed of Van, 6-1, after scoring five times in the first half.

In the non-district match against Sulphur Springs, Lindale trailed 2-1 at the half before the Lady Wildcats posted another goal in the second half to secure the win.

Against Cumberland, the Lady Eagles raced to a 3-0 lead at the half and put things away in the second half with five more goals. This was Lindale's second win over the Lady Knights after taking a 3-0 victory in January.

In the Grand Saline win, the Lady Eagles rattled the net eight times in the first half to coast to the win.

TGCA STATE RANKINGS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Class 4A | |
| 1. Celina 18-0-0 | 14. Wimberley 15-2-2 |
| 2. Stephenville 15-0-1 | 15. Lorena 14-3-1 |
| 3. West Plains 19-1-1 | 16. IDEA Riverview 11-2-0 |
| 4. Burnet 19-2-1 | 17. San Elizario 19-4-0 |
| 5. Boerne 18-2-0 | 18. Godley 11-1-0 |
| 6. Jacksonville 17-1-1 | 19. Lindale 16-3-2 |
| 7. Wichita Falls 15-1-1 | 20. Caddo Mills 16-2-2 |
| 8. Bay City 18-2-0 | 21. Needville 16-3-0 |
| 9. Columbia 16-2-0 | 22. Pinkston 12-2-1 |
| 10. Lumberton 13-1-1 | 23. Henderson 11-2-3 |
| 11. Giddings 13-3-2 | 24. Lake View 12-3-3 |
| 12. Salado 20-2-0 | 25. Uvalde 14-5-0 |
| 13. Livingston 12-0-1 | |

Another successful Rotary Wild Game Dinner Night

The Lindale Rotary Club's annual Wild Game Dinner Night, which benefits local groups and charities, was held recently in the Lindale High School cafeteria with a full house in attendance.

In addition to the wild game dinner, patrons enjoyed raffles, live and silent auctions, card games and a Split the Pot with valuable prizes.

Local Rotarians are hoping this year's event sur-

passes last year's soiree, which brought in more than \$12,000 for local nonprofits that make a big difference in the communities.

Beneficiaries from last year include:

- Bethesda Health Clinic
- Boy Scouts Troup 351
- Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County

Continued on Page 2

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



BEGINS
MARCH 12

Daylight saving time starts this Sunday

Spring is approaching, and so is daylight saving time, which starts at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 12. Clocks jump ahead an hour, so if you forget to adjust the time you are liable to show up for church an hour late and miss the service.

The first two countries to use daylight saving time were Germany and Austria in 1916. They did so to save fuel used for artificial lights during World War I. The United States followed suit in 1918.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has reintroduced legislation to make daylight saving time permanent across the country, which he says would end the "antiquated practice" of changing clocks twice a year.

"This ritual of changing time twice a year is stupid. Locking the clock has overwhelming bipartisan and popular support. This Congress, I hope that we can finally get this done," Rubio said in a statement Thursday.

The bill, called the Sunshine Protection Act, passed the Senate last year by unanimous consent, meaning no senators opposed it. But it stalled in the House and expired at the end of the last session of Congress.

If it is enacted, daylight saving time, which begins in March and ends in November, would become permanent year-round in the U.S.

American Samoa, most of Arizona, Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands do not observe daylight saving time and would not be required to under the legislation.

Several senators in both parties co-sponsored the original bill, including James Lankford, R-Okla., Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., Rick Scott, R-Fla., Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., and Ed Markey, D-Mass.

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

My hero, Gen. Sam ...

One of the men in my life celebrated his 230th birthday March 2. I have been in a close relationship with him since 1978 when I wrote my Masters' thesis about him. He is my hero for several reasons, not the least of which was his ability to start over and in the effort change the course of history in the process.

Here is a short dirty lesson about the man known as The Raven.

As a fatherless youth he often crossed over and spent summers with the Cherokees. As a young man under the command of General Andy Jackson he distinguished himself in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend against the Creek Indians who were making hash of Jackson's troops.

Old Hickory was in a rage with his white hair standing on end as he whipped his white horse around yelling commands at his splintered troops. Sam, a young ensign who was being treated for an injury sprang onto his horse and charged the Creek inspiring an advance that saved the day and winning Jackson's admiration and affection.

Sam who was raised without a father looked to Jackson to fill that role. Jackson looked to Houston as the son he never had who was destined to shape America's future.

As governor of Tennessee Sam married a sweet young thing who apparently was in love with someone else. She abandoned the statehouse and Sam for her lover. Sam retreated to his Cherokee family and stayed drunk for some time. But eventually he emerged from his embarrassment and hangover to be called to the Capital by Jackson who was now President and Commander-in-Chief. Sam who met the President in his buckskins earned a turn of Jackson's back and tossed a bag of coins with the comment to return when he was dressed as a civilized man.

Shortly after their time together Sam made his way to the Mexican territory known as Texas and the wild young man grew into a visionary leader of historic legend. He also fell in love with a good woman who helped him be a better man.

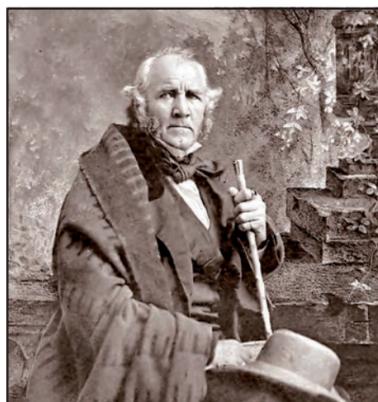
Sam Houston was the kind of man who could stand up to ridicule, just and unjust criticism, the tragic loss of men he admired at battles like Gonzales and Goliad, and the kick in the gut that was the Alamo and its "13 Days of Glory".

Who do you think was blamed for the loss of those heroes?

Sam Houston led the rag-tag revolutionary army in what was derisively called the Runaway Scrape until he backed his army onto a bayou that he knew he could defend with his limited troops. And with the burning of a bridge by Deaf Smith he was ready to win a war and birth a nation.

Sam Houston served as president of the Republic of Texas and a senator and governor of Texas. As the Civil War approached he was the Unionist governor of a pro-secession state.

Houston begged legislators not to support secession and



they brutally kicked him out of the governor's office. While they voted for secession he stood on the steps of the Capitol and begged Texans to vote against the bill. After it passed elderly ex-governor Sam Houston toured the state begging voters to vote against secession. He stood on the steps of many a courthouse, including the one in Gilmer speaking directly to the people who more often than not pelted the elderly hero of San Jacinto with rotten fruit. Yet he futilely rode from town to town in the effort to stem the tide.

Long ago I presented a paper on my hero at the East Texas Historical Association and used the book "The Great Designer" by historian Lorena B. Friend as my main source. When it was over, a tiny older woman approached me and drawled in a lovely Southern accent, "I used to say I was the last woman in Sam Houston's life. Suzanne, I now pass that title to you."

And so, as Miss Lorena's self-declared "last woman" I share with you the words of this very flawed man. The words that made him a hero for the ages.

"Some of you laugh to scorn the idea of bloodshed as the result of secession, but let me tell you what is coming... Your fathers and husbands, your sons and brothers, will be herded at the point of the bayonet... You may after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, as a bare possibility, win Southern independence... but I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of state rights, the North is determined to preserve the Union..."

If you go to war with the United States, you will never conquer her, as she has the money and the men. If she does not whip you by guns, powder and steel, she will starve you to death... I predict the civil war which is now at hand will be stubborn of long duration..."

In the name of the constitution of Texas, which has been trampled upon, I refuse to take this oath. I love Texas too well to bring civil strife and bloodshed upon her."

Sam Houston was deposed from office on March 15, 1861 and died on July 26, 1863, with his wife Margaret by his side. His last words were "Texas! Texas! Margaret."

Sam Houston sacrificed everything he had ever won or deeply wanted for his convictions. Texas and our nation could use a few more statesmen like him today.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Open for Business ...

There has been a move afoot of late in Texas to reduce or eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies in settings such as higher education and hiring. Such efforts run counter to my boyhood notions of Texas as an open and welcoming place. Irrespective of any purported rationale behind these efforts, they put the state on a slippery economic slope with potentially substantial adverse consequences.

We have studied these issues and engaged in extensive research and modeling to analyze potential economic implications of policies which appear to be discriminatory or exclusionary. Empirical studies indicate that non-discrimination protections encourage the location of knowledge workers and young workers in an area, thus contributing to the attraction and retention of high-growth industries conducive to long-term economic growth. In fact, research has demonstrated that non-discriminatory employment policies foster enhanced growth in technology enterprises. These positive effects would likely be magnified by policies assuring access to housing, public places, education, and employment opportunities. As the nation faces long-term shortages, a skilled workforce will be the currency of economic development. Policies which make Texas less attractive to this critical resource will be counterproductive.

Similarly, surveys of travelers and convention professionals demonstrate that full access is increasingly necessary for an active tourism market. Social policies which are perceived to be discriminatory can have a detrimental effect on travel and tourism by decreasing the attractiveness of an area to event planners and potential visitors. Controversial laws can reduce numbers of attendees, for instance, which can cause professionals who organize conferences and events to avoid such locations. In addition, scheduling an event in a location with a law that is considered to be harmful by some groups can be interpreted as support for the policy, and some organizations and sponsors will choose to avoid locations with controversial laws in order to avoid the appearance of approval of the public policy.

The potential economic stakes are sizable. In a prior study, we estimated that passing a comprehensive non-discrimination policy would bring Texas over \$100 billion in annual gross product and more than 700,000 jobs by 2045. Business activity also generates tax revenue, and the potential stimulus associated with passage of such a measure would generate notable increases in tax receipts to the State and local governments. Moving in the opposite direction is clearly counterproductive.

Assuring that Texas creates a welcoming environment for all workers and visitors is a key to sustained and accelerated growth in several sectors that are crucial to the future economic performance and prosperity of the state in an increasingly competitive environment. DEI principles are important to ensuring Texas is seen as a welcoming place for all – which is essential to long-term success.

Stay safe!

Texas again leads state in new corporate projects

Texas once again has topped the list for new and expanded corporate facilities added in a year, according to Site Selection Magazine. With 1,028 new projects in 2022, the state had more than the next two states combined – Illinois and Ohio.

"Texas truly is America's economic engine, and we stand apart as a model for the nation," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said, according to The Dallas Morning News. "When choosing where to relocate or expand their businesses, more and more innovative industry leaders find themselves at home in our state."

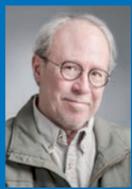
Two projects valued at \$8.5 billion each helped snare the state's top spot: a chemical plant in Orange and a liquified natural gas plant in Corpus Christi. They were followed by a \$5 billion silicon wafer plant in Sherman.

"The Lone Star State's economy is larger than that of Canada, South Korea and Australia," Site Selection said in its March issue.

New court system for businesses proposed

A new court system devoted solely to settling business disputes is being proposed by the state's top three elected officials, though it has its share of critics as well. The Austin American-Statesman reported Abbott, House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in separate announcements proposed the creation of a specialty business court, modeled after the Chancery Court of Delaware. The court has been in existence for more than two centuries and has been emulated by a few dozen states. The specialty business court has been listed as a top priority of legislators during this session.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Abbott said the court would provide consistency in applying state law when businesses end up court disputes. A high-powered lobby group, Texans for Lawsuit Reform, is backing the plan.

"Businesses today know the same case with the same facts can produce wildly varying outcomes simply based on which part of the state it's filed in and which judge is hearing it, and we know attorneys are telling their clients not to litigate in Texas because of this unpredictability," TLR spokeswoman Lucy Nashed Cafrelli said in the Statesman story.

The judges for the business court would be appointed by the governor, according to House bill 19, filed last week. The president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association called that problematic.

"The bottom line is that Texans value electing their judges," San Antonio attorney Laura Tamez said.

Child fatalities drop in last fiscal year

The number of children in Texas who died due to accidents,

maltreatment and unsafe sleep declined by 27% in the last fiscal year. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported 182 children died due to abuse and neglect in the state during fiscal year 2022. The most common causes of fatalities involving neglect were drowning, unsafe sleep, physical neglect and medical neglect, DFPS reported.

Children 3 years of age and younger comprised almost 80% of all confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities over the past 10 fiscal years. However, in the past three years, there has been a marked increase in fatalities involving older children. In all confirmed cases of abuse and neglect, parents were the most common perpetrators.

TPWD celebrates park centennial with grants

As Texas state parks mark their 100th anniversary, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is awarding the largest sum of grants in the program's history. The agency is distributing more than \$2.8 million to create 55 new grant-funded partnerships across the state to promote conservation and recreation.

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) was established in 1996 to introduce under-represented audiences to outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education. Among the projects approved are students monitoring water quality along the Rio Grande, communities of color learning about the cultural history of the Buffalo Soldiers while hiking at Fort Davis State Park, and breast cancer survivors learning to fly fish in the state's rivers. The grants are funded through a portion of Texas' sporting goods sales tax.

Another successful Rotary Wild Game Dinner Night

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- Heart & Hands of East Texas, A Christian Women's Job Corps Site
 - Society of St. Stephen (David Powell Food Pantry)
 - Hope Haven of East Texas
 - Lillie Russell Memorial Library
 - Lindale Christmas Helpers 2021
 - Lindale Fire Department
 - Lindale ISD Education Foundation
 - Mercy Ships and ShelterBox
 - ChristPoint Methodist Church
- Petty's Steak and Catfish from Lindale donated the food and Lindale Candy Company provided sweet treats.

Others who lent a helping hand included Boy Scout Troop 351, Victory Gun and Guitar Works and Dave and Nancy Bowen for the music.

The Lindale ISD provided use of the cafeteria and many Rotarians helped make this year's event another success.



The Press Association

The Lindale News & Times

The Lindale News & Times is published every Thursday. Offices are located at 104 S. Main, P.O. Box 1559, Lindale, Texas 75771. Periodical rates paid at Lindale Post Office (USPS No. 314040). Annual subscription rate is \$35 for delivery inside Smith County, \$40 outside of Smith County and \$50 out-of-state. Any erroneous information reflecting upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of this newspaper will be corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the publisher. Reproduction of any portion of any issue of this newspaper is not allowed without the permission of The Lindale News & Times.

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

104 S. Main St., Lindale, TX 75771
Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (closed Wednesday)

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Owners: Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

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



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Continued from Page 1

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Wild pigs, hardball and other musings

A little of this and a little of that for your 50 cents:

Talk about road hogs

It seems our fellow citizens to the north are facing an imminent threat from unwelcome border crossers that are all too familiar to those of us in the south.

Wild pigs are snorting their way from Canada and are poised to hop over the border any time now.

Labeled "Super Pigs" these porcine pests have drawn the attention of Canadian officials who must be thankful these disgusting creatures are leaving their country.

University of Saskatchewan's Ryan Brook, who leads the school's Wild Pig Research Project, said they've been spotted less than 10 miles from the U.S. border. In fact, Brook believes some of these four-legged destruction machines have made their way to North Dakota already.

Brook pointed out that since there's no real physical barrier between Canada and the U.S., these "super" pests can travel with impunity.

East Texans have been dealing with wild pigs for many years now and we've documented their total disregard for Lindale property and anything else that stands in their way.

A few years ago, while driving home on Jim Hogg Road (irony alert!) I happened upon a sow and several of her offspring, casually blocking traffic while looking for something to eat.

These rotten rascals, said to be neighborhood of six million in the U.S. were brought to the west by Christopher Columbus in 1493. In 1539, Hernando de Soto introduced them to the continental U.S. (thanks for nothing Hernando) when he hit Florida.

As is their want, de Soto's pigs multiplied rapidly, from just around a dozen to more than 700 in no time. These pigs went on the lam and bred with wild boars brought here from Europe in the early 1900s.

The rest, as they say, is history.



A familiar, and really ugly, face.

Texas officials practically encourage anyone and everyone to hunt these crafty critters, who have no natural enemies, breed prolifically and are uncommonly smart.

Now, considering there's a new border threat to the north, should President Biden promise to build a wall along the Canada-U.S. border? He could always get Canada to pay for it, much the same way TDP got Mexico to pay for that never-finished wall.

Wait, what? It was never built and Mexico never agreed to pay for it?

You don't mean it.

It's all in the timing, isn't it?

Major League Baseball has returned and I've got some way early opinions on the rule changes instituted this year, specifically the pitch clock and the shift away from the shift.

First the pitch clock: With no one on base, the pitcher has 15 seconds to throw a pitch, 20 seconds with runners on. A batter must be in the box in eight seconds. Violations result in a ball for pitchers or a strike for batters. I've watched a few Texas Rangers' spring games and the difference is noticeable.

Games move at a better pace and should be finished sooner this season.

That awful shift, which was utilized the most by that group of unrepentant cheaters in Texas' largest city (not mentioning any names, you know who you are) was a mishmash of fielders taking on the appearance of a softball game.

Sometimes four would be lined up on the right side of the infield effectively taking away a left-handed hitters' chance of success. Others resembled a slow pitch softball alignment.

Now, teams must have at least two infielders on either side of second base, with all four positioned on the infield dirt. Infielders may not switch positions unless there is a substitution. All four infielders have to be at least touching the infield dirt.

Good left handed hitters now will have a better chance of getting on base, which brings us to the bigger bases.

Each base is now 18 inches compared to 15 inches from previous seasons. The distance between bases is now reduced, encouraging more base stealing and hopefully, more action.

She learned about gastronomical delights on the road

A few years ago, back before I retired, Janet expressed an interest in goin' with me on one of my road trips.

Well, I knew she would be bored while I was in some gun store talkin' "shop," so I came up with a compromise. I told her I'd take her on a weekend trip and we'd scout out some summer vacation spots.

She agreed to this with one stipulation. We were to eat at some of the same places that I usually eat. You see, when I get home off of a trip, the first thing I do is tell Janet about all the good food I had.

You may not believe this, but I sometimes tend to exaggerate. I know, I know, it is hard to believe.

Well, some of the meals I have out on the road, although delicious, may come from an establishment that is, as the lawyers on the radio say, "Not Board Certified."

Anywho, here's a little of how the trip went.

"What are you doing?" Janet asked.

"Writing," I said.

"But you're driving!" she exclaimed.

"So, I do it all the time."

"What if you have a wreck and get killed?"

"Hmmm," I hummed. "I guess you can cash in that insurance check and find you some young hunk with hair."

"Sure," she said. "Leave it to you to look on the bright side."

"OK," I said, and I put down my pen.

"I'm getting hungry," said Janet.

"Me too. What'cha hungry for?"

"It doesn't matter," she said. Well, when you've been married as long as I have, you know that answer's a lie.

"Let's just stop where you usually do," she continued.

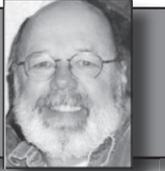
"OK," I said, and I pulled into the first gas station I came to. I went in while Janet waited in the truck. Finally, I emerged with a sack (that's a bag for you Yankees out there) and climbed back into the truck. I tossed the sack in Janet's lap, cranked the beast up (the truck, not my wife) and took off.

"What's this?" Janet asked.

"Dinner," I said. Now where I'm from, lunch is called dinner, and dinner is called supper. I'm tellin' you this so you won't get confused as to what meal we were eatin'.

"You get your lunches at service stations?" Janet calls dinner lunch, and supper din-

Rusty Mitchum Life & Times



ner. Confused yet?

"Sure," I said. "There's an old lady in there that makes the best pimento cheese sandwiches you've ever had. I also got us some chocolate milk to wash them down with."

(I know, I ended that sentence with a preposition or whatever they call it, but hey, that's the way I talk.)

I reached into the sack and grabbed one of the sandwiches and tore the waxed paper off with my teeth.

"Well," Janet said. "I'm not eating this."

"Look," I said. "You said you wanted to eat what I ate didn't you?"

"Well, yeah."

"Well then," I pointed at the sack. "Get after it."

Slowly she opened the sack and pulled out the sandwich. She was holdin' it between her finger and thumb like you do when you pick up a Kleenex that somebody else has blown their nose on. Then she looked at the carton of chocolate milk. "There's only one milk," she stated.

"I thought we'd share," I said, then smiled. "Romantic huh?"

"Oh yeah," she said sarcastically. "We are going to have a better dinner, aren't we?" (She meant supper.)

"Sure," I said as I wiped the chocolate milk out of my mustache with my sleeve. "I've got a real treat in store for that."

"Goody," she said under her breath. "I can hardly wait."

Well, we looked at a few resort spots for vacation, but they were all booked up until the year 2027, which was fine with me because I couldn't afford them anyway. Finally, it was getting dark. "Don't you think we had better find a motel?" asked Janet.

"Naw," I replied. "I know a place on down the road."

"What if it's booked up?" she said.

I looked at her and laughed. "Yeah, right," I said, and left it at that. "What do you say we eat first?"

"OK," she said reluctantly, "but I don't see any restaurants around." I just smiled, then slowed down and pulled off onto a gravel road. Janet said nothin', although I could tell she wanted to. Then we

came to a dead end. There, in front of us, was a little shack with one bare light bulb shinin' above the door. On the door was written one word. "LINKS"

"What's this?" Janet asked.

"Supper," I said as I opened the door.

"You are kidding?"

"No," I replied. "Come on." Now, I know what you're thinkin'. You think Janet stayed in the truck, but you're wrong. There was no way she would have stayed out there alone in the dark. In fact, as I walked through the door you would have sworn she was in my back pocket.

"Rusty!" the man behind the counter hollered as we walked in.

"Hey Luther," I replied.

"What'cha got there?" Luther said as he pointed at Janet.

"This here's my wife, Janet," I said.

"Well, she's better lookin' than that last hide you had in here. Har, har," he laughed as he winked at Janet.

Janet smiled. It really wasn't what you'd call a happy smile, but it was a smile. "What'll y'all have?" he said.

"I'll have a regular, but you'd better just give Janet a half of one, and two Orange Cokes," I said. (Orange Cokes, again, for you Yankees out there, are what y'all call orange sodas.)

"You bet," said Luther.

"What are we having?" Janet asked.

"Hot links," I said. "Didn't you see the sign on the door that said 'Links'?"

"Oh," she said as we walked to one of the three tables in the place. "I figured that was what lived here. I thought maybe Darwin had been right."

"Funny," I said.

"Why did you order me just half of a hot link?" she asked.

"I didn't. You're getting a half an order," I said as we sat down. "We're lucky," I said. "This place is usually packed."

"Wow," said Janet. "Lucky us."

About then, Luther walked up and put a piece of butcher paper on the table in front of each of us. Then out of a big pan he dumped a pile

of little hot links on Janet's paper, then twice as many on mine. Then out of the pocket of his apron, he produced two Orange Cokes and some eatin' utensils.

He popped the tops off the drinks with a bottle opener and then looked at Janet.

"Enjoy," he said, and turned and walked back behind the counter.

Janet had a fixed grin on her face. It wasn't really a smile, just a grin. From between her teeth she spoke.

"What is this?" she asked.

"Hot links," I replied.

"It looks like a pile of guts," she said.

"Don't be silly," I said as I sprinkled some of Luther's secret hot sauce into a puddle on my paper. "Guts don't have meat in 'em, or whatever it is that's in these things."

Then I grabbed a cracker, cut a link loose from the other members of its family, and stabbed it with a fork. Grease squirted out of it like blood from an artery. I looked at Janet. She didn't look so good.

"You OK?" I asked.

She swallowed hard. "I think so," she said.

I sopped the little link through the secret sauce, bit it in half, and chased it down with a cracker and a long pull on the orange.

"Aren't you gonna eat?" I asked as I wiped the grease off of my chin. I noticed little beads of sweat had begun to form on Janet's forehead. You know, after 20 somethin' years of marriage, I believe that's the first time I've ever seen her sweat. Then she jumped up.

"I need some air," she said, and she headed for the door.

"Want me to come with you?" I asked.

"Oh no," she said. "You stay here and eat your guts... I mean hot links. I'll be OK," and she busted out the door.

Luther looked at me, and I looked at him. We both shrugged our shoulders and went back to what we were doin'.

I did get up once to check on Janet. She said that she was OK and told me I could have her half order of links, which I thought was pretty thoughtful of her.

Well, we headed home the next day after a stay in a motel that was a little different than what she had hoped for, but that's another story. Janet was pleased with one aspect of our trip though; she did lose several pounds. I gained a few.

Go figure.

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, March 10, 2022

Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran secured 63 percent of the vote to secure the Republican nomination for the U.S. House District 1 seat for the November General Election.

The District 1 seat became available when longtime incumbent Louie Gohmert vacated the seat to run against Ken Paxton for the Texas Attorney General's seat, but Gohmert finished fourth in the GOP primary with 17.1 percent of the statewide vote.

Paxton was facing a runoff against Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush.

Gov. Greg Abbott easily secured the Republican nomination for another term while the Democrats chose Beto O'Rourke to oppose him in November.

Dan Patrick also easily won his party's backing for Lieutenant Governor by defeating fellow Republicans Daniel Miller, Zach Vance, Trayce Bradford, Aaron Sorrells and Todd M. Bullis, while Mike Collier and Michelle Beckley will go at it again in the May runoff for the Democratic nomination.

FIVE YEARS AGO, March 8, 2018

Precinct 5 Deputy Constable Gary Middleton was honored by the Smith County Commissioners Court and Precinct 5 Constable Jeff McClenny for his 20 years of service in law enforcement, which included stints with the Smith County Sheriff's Office and the Tyler Police Department.

"On behalf of our office we are very appreciative of having Gary," McClenny said. "We thank you for your service to the county and I appreciate your service."

10 YEARS AGO, March 7, 2013

Lindale High School's Mason Terry earned first team honors as the District 16-4A basketball coaches selected the 2012-13 All District teams.

Two more Eagles, Kolton Pierce and Court Brown, were selected to the second team.

The Most Valuable Player award was shared by three standouts: Jacksonville's Dadrian Franklin, John Tyler's Tyus Bowser and Whitehouse's Patrick Mahomes.

Franklin helped Jacksonville construct a 33-win season which included a district championship. The senior forward is committed to play football at Arkansas Tech.

Bowser was John Tyler's leading scorer at more than 18 points per game and helped the Lions to a second place finish in district.

Mahomes, son of former Lindale High School standout Pat Mahomes, is a junior who averaged more than 19 points per game. He is also a baseball and football standout.

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The many benefits of Texas Wildscapes projects

By Greg Grant
Smith County Horticulturist

Creating backyard habitat through the use of native and well adapted plant species not only provides habitat, but also assists in reducing water use as well as the need for potentially harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Texas Wildscapes, coordinated by Texas Parks and Wildlife, is one of the most popular and successful native habitat projects for commercial and residential landscapes.

Texas Wildscapes is a habitat restoration and conservation plan for rural and urban areas. It enables Texans to contribute to wildlife conservation by developing wildlife habitats where they live, work and play. Texas Wildscapes provide the essential ingredients for a variety of wildlife – food, water, shelter, and space. This is done by planting and maintaining native vegetation, installing birdbaths and ponds and creating structure. Feeders can supplement native vegetation but can never replace it. The goal is to provide places for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife to feed and drink, escape from predators and raise their young.

Creating a “backyard habitat” with native and Earth-Kind plants not only benefits wildlife, but it’s less expensive and easier to maintain. These



plants are typically more drought-tolerant, so they need less water and care. Since these plants are also more tolerant of native insects and diseases, they do not rely on potentially harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides, thus reducing potential risks to the environment.

Texas Wildscapes does not provide license to ignore local or county laws, homeowners’ agreements, or other covenants. Please respect local guidelines. Using native and well adapted plants attracts a variety of wildlife. Hummingbirds, for example, are attracted to tubular flowers like salvia, coral honeysuckle, and red buckeye.

You can also attract songbirds to feast on beautyberry, Mexican plum, or possumhaw holly you have planted. Imagine sharing territory with wildlife and experiencing the thrill of seeing a creature in the wild without having to travel any further than your own backyard.

By inviting wildlife and pollinators to seek refuge on your property, you can enjoy and understand the role wildlife plays in your community. Attract wildlife by planting native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses at your home, at school, or at work. It’s the smart thing to do and it’s the right thing to do.

Texas Wildscapes is more than a backyard program. It applies to rural properties as well; even community parks, business offices, churches, schools and apartments can be involved.

You can do more than just attract birds. Every species has its own specific habitat requirements. If you know those requirements, chances are good that whatever you desire – butterflies, frogs or even lizards – will be visiting your site.

For more information see the Wildscapes page on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website and the Earth-Kind landscaping page on the Aggie Horticulture website.

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Commissioners Court OKs using ARPA funds for baseball field for disabled children

The Smith County Commissioners Court on Tuesday (Feb. 28) approved using \$264,654 of its ARPA funding to help build a special baseball field for the new Miracle League of Tyler, said public information officer Casey Murphy.

Also, commissioners approved the creation of the Smith County Reinvestment Zone No. 1 for the area which includes a 412-acre property that will be developed as a new business park and adjacent properties.

Smith County was allocated more than \$45 million in ARPA funds by the federal government, intended as relief funding from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn.

The nonprofit Miracle League promotes recreational and developmental activities for children with mental and physical disabilities.

The county's ARPA funding will help pay for a special rubberized turf baseball field that accommodates wheelchairs and other assistive devices while helping to prevent injuries in case of a fall.

Shannon Glenney, Fund Development Vice President for Miracle League of Tyler, said families were driving up to an hour away for their children to play in a Miracle League in other areas when they decided to start one here.

"Smith County is a community in which we are proud to live and work and raise a family," she said. "With the help of the city of Tyler, we are extremely excited to give back to our community by creating a Miracle League field that will enhance the lives of hundreds of families every year at Faulkner Park."

The city of Tyler is providing the land to build the field, adjacent to its other baseball fields. Miracle League is raising funds to construct the field and the City will maintain it.

"The Miracle League of Tyler will open up the joy of team sports to not only these players but also to their families and friends who are there to cheer for them," Glenney said.

To help the athletes, the Miracle League uses a "buddy" system, pairing each player

with an able-bodied peer. There are more than 350 Miracle Leagues across the country, serving thousands of children and adults who suffer from physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities, which causes them to be excluded from conventional baseball leagues, according to information provided by the nonprofit.

"It is crazy fun, the games are always packed and the score is not important," Glenney said of the baseball games.

"Every child is a blessing and every child deserves to be blessed. This is awesome," Commissioner John Moore said.

Commissioner Ralph Caraway Sr. agreed. "We're meeting a need for the community and the county," he said.

Commissioner Pam Frederick said she would like to participate as a "buddy" during the league's first game.

REINVESTMENT ZONE NO. 1

Tyler Economic Development Council President/CEO Scott Martinez requested that the reinvestment zone be created to encompass an area that includes the new business park planned by TEDC, just south of Interstate 20 and west of Highway 155.

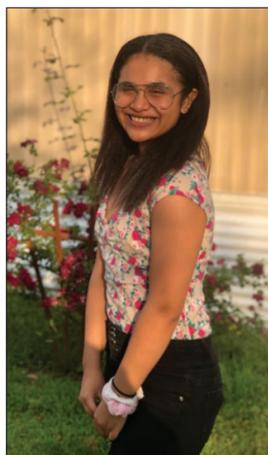
Martinez said creating a reinvestment zone would give TEDC a lot of latitude in what it can do with the 412 acres it has bought for an industrial park that will attract new businesses and hundreds of jobs to the community.

"We are expecting a lot of growth in the next few years," he said. "We are expecting lots of industry and lots of jobs being created there from private business, and that's a good thing."

In October, the Commissioners Court approved using up to \$4.5 of its ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to build a new county road (CR 3344) going to the business park CONNECTING Highway 155 and CR 336. At that time, Martinez said they already had an interested company wanting to be the park's anchor tenant. The business will require 150 acres, could bring in more than \$40 million in capital investment, and create more than 100 jobs, Martinez said.



Sheriff's Office searching for missing teen



The Smith County Sheriff's Office is investigating a runaway identified as Kiana Valdez, 17, who has been missing since March 1, said publicity spokesman Larry Christian.

She went missing from the family residence on Shady Creek Rd near Tyler.

Kiana is a Hispanic female, 5'2", 102 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. The parents do not know what Kiana was last wearing.

She does not have any medical or physical issues and is not on any medication. The parents could not provide information on acquaintances or known locations where she might go and she has no history of running away.

If you have any information as to the whereabouts of Kiana Valdez please call the Smith County Sheriff's Office at 903-566-6600.

For more information on the Smith County Sheriff's Office visit www.smithcountysheriff.com.

Smith County Warrant Round Up begins March 19

The Smith County Collections Department is gearing up for its annual Warrant Round Up, said public information officer Casey Murphy.

"Smith County Courts have hundreds of active warrants they are seeking to clear," Judicial Compliance/Collections Director Sheryl Keel said. "We are encouraging defendants to take advantage of the options available to settle outstanding warrants immediately."

Once the arrest period begins Sunday,

March 19, Smith County will target persons on the delinquent and or warrant list and arrests can take place at any location, including the defendant's home, school or workplace, Mrs. Keel said.

"I urge you to contact the Judicial Compliance Department at 903-590-4624 to make arrangements on your case," she said.

For more information about warrants or citations, visit <https://www.smith-county.com/government/departments/judicial-compliance-collections>

Dallas felon convicted on four charges, sentenced to more than 100 years in prison

A Smith County jury sentenced Jeremy Moffitt, 29, of Dallas to more than 100 years in prison after convicting him on four charges this past week in 114th District Court, said Emily Starkey, spokesperson for the county district attorney's office.

Moffitt was convicted for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, evading arrest causing serious bodily injury, assault on a peace officer and aggravated assault on a public servant.

Jury members assessed terms of 9, 20, 30 and 57 years in prison, respectively. Prosecutors Emil Mikkelsen and Elizabeth Anderson proved that Moffitt, a convicted felon, was arrested for unlawfully possessing a firearm while he was passing through Smith County in 2019.

Following his arrest, he was placed on pre-trial supervision. Due to a pretrial

bond violation, a female officer attempted to arrest Moffitt at the Smith County Pre-trial offices. Moffitt responded by pushing her into the door frame and running away.

He was met in the hallway by a Smith County Sheriff's Deputy, and an altercation took place. During the struggle, the deputy suffered a complete patellar ligament tear, and Moffitt escaped.

A local orthopedic surgeon testified that the ligament tear was a serious bodily injury, and that in spite of surgical intervention, the deputy's knee would never be the same again.

The jury also heard evidence that Moffitt had been continuously involved with the criminal justice system for the past 10 years and had a pending gun charge out of Dallas County.

By law, Moffitt will serve his four sentences concurrently.

TPWD seeks input on Texas Migratory Game Bird proposals

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is taking public comment on the [proposed changes](#) to the 2023–24 Migratory Game Bird Proclamation, publicity officials announced.

These regulations mirror last year's season lengths, timing and daily bag limits. No changes were required due to federal regulatory modifications for season length or daily bag limits.

In addition, staff are not proposing any substantive changes to any migratory game bird hunting season.

Input will be considered before any action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commis-

sion at its March 23 public hearing.

Opportunities to provide comments for or against these proposals include:

Online: At [TPWD public comment page](#) until March 22.

Phone or email: Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted to Small Game Program Director Shaun Oldenburger at (512) 389-4778, email: shaun.oldenburger@tpwd.texas.gov.

In person: The TPW Commission will take public comment on the proposed changes at their meeting on Thursday, March 23, in Austin. Public testimony will normally be limited to three minutes per person.

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Lindale boys earns first place at Panther Relays in Bullard

The Lindale High School varsity boys track team earned first place honors at the annual Panther Relays at Bullard High School this past weekend with 159 points while the varsity girls finished fourth with 78 points.

On the junior varsity side, Lindale's boys claimed second with 116.6 points and the girls team took fourth with 94.2 points.

Second place for the varsity boys was taken by Chapel Hill with 111 points, followed by Bullard with 91.5 and Canton with 71.

First place in the varsity girls division went to Chapel Hill with 132 points, followed by Bullard with 114 points and Canton with 84.

For the boys junior varsity, Whitehouse was first with 166 points and Chapel Hill third with 93 points followed by West Rusk with 92.

First place in the girls junior varsity was Whitehouse with 158 points, followed by Chapel Hill with 117.2 and Mineola with 99.2.

PANTHER RELAYS At Bullard High School Saturday, March 3 (Lindale results)

VARSITY BOYS

100 METER DASH – Brett Maya, 1st, 10.8; Michael Shannon, 6th, 11.8; Nashad Lee, 12.5.

200 METER DASH – Brett Maya, 1st, 21.9; Dylan Wehr, 3rd, 23.7; Kam Nugent, 26.8.

400 METER DASH – Colter Maya, 1st, 49.8; Hayes Brooks, 5th, 54.1; Alejandro Gutierrez, 56.4.

800 METER RUN – Alejandro Gutierrez, 5th, 2:14.02.

1600 METER RUN – Dax Allen 6th, 5:00.38

3200 METER RUN – Dax Allen,

6th, 11:14.0

110 METER HURDLES – Matthew Kenney, 2nd, 16.94; Trevor Smith, 4th, 17.17; Marcus Field, 17.8.

300 METER HURDLES – Trevor Smith, 44.3; Matthew Kenney, 45.8.

4 X 100 METER RELAY – 42.9, 1st, (Kaden Baze, Brett Maya, Colter Maya, Michael Shannon).

4 X 200 METER RELAY – 1:35.07, 5th, (Henrique Arantes, Nathan Bradford, Layne Lewis, Wyatt Parker)

4 X 400 METER RELAY – 3:33.50, 1st, (Hayes Brooks, Ryder Dennis, Colter Maya, Clint Thurman).

LONG JUMP – Colter Maya, 1st, 19 feet, 2 3/4 inches; Nathan Bradford, 17 feet, 7 1/2 inches; Kaden Baze, 12 feet, 11 1/4 inches.

SHOT PUT – Casey Poe, 1st, 54 feet, 5 inches; Jerry Bloemsmma, 6th, 44 feet, 5 inches; Cameron Hicks, 41 feet, 5 inches.

DISCUS – Gabe Hart, 2nd, 129 feet, 2 inches

TRIPLE JUMP – Marcus Field, 39 feet, 3 1/2 inches; Henrique Arantes, 36 feet, 4 1/2 inches; Dylan Wehr, 36 feet, 2 inches.

HIGH JUMP – Marcus Field, 3rd, 5 feet, 10 inches.

POLE VAULT – Bowman Grace, 1st, 13 feet, 6 inches; Justin Seekford, 2nd, 13 feet; Lucas Harbor, 3rd, 12 feet, 6 inches.

VARSITY GIRLS

100 METER DASH – Kaelyn Kincaid, 13.9; Addison Ridge, 13.9; Madison Whiting, 16.2.

200 METER DASH – Reagan Cates, 28.3; Whitney Dao, 29.7; Addison Ridge, 29.1.

400 METER DASH – Marisol Vela, 1:16.86.

800 METER RUN – Abigail

Kelley, 2nd, 2:36.79.

1600 METER RUN – Abigail Kelley, 4th, 5:59.41; Abigail Hanley, 5th, 6:10.43.

3200 METER RUN – Abigail Hanley, 3rd, 13:43.0; Alexis DeDios, 4th, 13:45.0.

100 METER HURDLES – Kennedy Miller, 5th, 17.89; Kortlen Pierce, 19.12.

300 METER HURDLES – Kaylee Brousseau, 3rd, 49.98; Kylie Carleton 58.94.

4 X 100 METER RELAY – 53.57, (Laniya Daniels, Kennedy Miller, Kortlen Pierce, Addison Ridge).

4 X 200 METER RELAY – 1:52.10, 4th, (Kaylee Brousseau, Reagan Cates, Laniya Daniels, Kaelyn Kincaid).

4 X 400 METER RELAY – 4:30.48, 5th, (Kylie Carleton, Laniya Daniels, Whitney Dao, Lydia Payne)

LONG JUMP – Whitney Dao, 14 feet, 3 1/4 inches; Lydia Payne, 13 feet, 5 3/4 inches.

SHOT PUT – Kaniya Pierce, 5th, 33 feet, 6 1/2 inches; Christiana Ussery, 31 feet, 3 inches.

DISCUS – Maddie Luster, 3rd, 80 feet, 1 inch.

TRIPLE JUMP – Lydia Payne, 5th, 31 feet, 10 inches; Whitney Dao, 30 feet, 7 1/2 inches.

HIGH JUMP – Reagan Cates, 1st, 5 feet; Kayli Vickery, 2nd, 5 feet; Madelyn Little, 3rd, 4 feet, 8 inches.

JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS

100 METER DASH – Ryker Rambatt, 12.8; Creed Rand, 12.7; Noah Surber, 13.06.

200 METER DASH – Jayden Hagen, 4th, 25.8; Ryker Rambatt, 26.3; Noah Surber, 27.09.

400 METER DASH – Cade Hodde, 2nd, 57.11; Carson Ship-

man, 4th, 57.5; Landon Greb, 1:01.08.

800 METER RUN – Chris Brown, 4th, 2:24.76.

3200 METER RUN – Zach Sheppa, 3rd, 12:01.0.

110 METER HURDLES – Chad Ward, 4th, 18.46; Hayden Nations, 21.5; Cole Shamburger, 21.8.

300 METER HURDLES – Chad Ward, 3rd, 46.52; Hayden Nations, 51.55; Cole Shamburger, 51.63.

4 X 100 METER RELAY – 48.13, 5th, (Jayden Hagen, Miller Miles, Kayden Spears, Pat Weldon).

4 X 200 METER RELAY – 1:41.03, 3rd, (Jayden Hagen, Miller Miles, Kayden Spears, Pat Weldon).

4 X 400 METERS – 3:49.26, 4th; (Chris Brown, Ryker Rambatt, Carson Shipman, Kayden Spears).

LONG JUMP – Pat Weldon, 2nd, 17 feet, 10 3/4 inches; Chris Brown, 14 feet, 9 1/2 inches; Chad Ward, 15 feet, 10 3/4 inches.

SHOT PUT – Drew Ragland, 1st, 38 feet, 6 1/2 inches; Trey Rozell, 3rd, 37 8 1/2 inches; Hudson Kinney, 5th, 37 feet, 1 inch.

DISCUS – Trey Rozell, 1st, 100 feet, 10 inches; Gunner Johnson, 4th, 94 feet, 11 inches; Christian Pettway, 5th, 94 feet, 2 1/2 inches.

TRIPLE JUMP – Logan Huerta, 31 feet, 4 1/2 inches; Ryker Rambatt, 31 feet, 2 1/2 inches; Jase Ray, 30 feet, 10 1/2 inches.

HIGH JUMP – Chad Ward, 1st, 5 feet, 10 inches.

POLE VAULT – Reid Campbell, Charlie Yarbrough, 4th (tie), 8 feet, 6 inches.

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS

100 METER DASH – Kayden King, 3rd, 14.21; Alena Garza, 16.0; Payton Speerly, 16.36.

200 METER DASH – Emalee

McKeever, 31.84; Carly Shultz, 34.03.

400 METER DASH – Alena Garza, 6th, 1:13.55; Kaylyn Bielitz, 1:14.74.

800 METER RUN – 3:04.91, 6th, 3:04.91.

1600 METER RUN – Cadyn Haisten, 2nd, 6:24.57; Natalee DeDios, 6th, 6:48.92.

3200 METER RUN – Cadyn Haisten, 2nd, 14.06.00; Natalee DeDios, 3rd, 14:37.00.

100 METER HURDLES – Jolene McKinney, 4th, 19.7; Lauren Stanton, 5th, 19.7; Ava Meier, 6th, 20.3.

300 METER HURDLES – Lauren Stanton, 4th, 56.93; Joeline McKinney, 5th, 57.74; Serenity Fuller, 1:00.54.

4 X 100 METER RELAY – 1:0010, 6th, (Ava Burns, Madalynn Fowble, Kayden King, Emalee McKeever).

4 X 200 METER RELAY – 2:00.39, 3rd, (Ava Burns, Madalynn Fowble, Summer Ishmael, Kayden King).

4 X 400 METER RELAY – 4:47.85, 4th, (Ava Burns, Ireland Cornejo, Summer Ishmael, Jolene McKinney).

LONG JUMP – Kaylyn Bielitz, 12 feet, 7 inches; Serenity Fuller, 12 feet, 2 1/4 inches; Ava Meier, 11 feet, 7 1/2 inches.

SHOT PUT – Serenity Fuller, 1st, 28 feet, 9 inches; Jalynn Gateley, 5th, 24 feet, 2 inches.

DISCUS – Haylee Crawford, 1st, 77 feet, 1 inch.

TRIPLE JUMP – Carly Shultz, 27 feet, 1 inch; Emalee McKeever, 25 feet, 6 1/2 inches; Ava Meier, 25 feet.

HIGH JUMP – Madalynn Fowble, 2nd, 4 feet, 4 inches.

POLE VAULT – Ava Burns, 5th, 6 feet, 6 inches.

Lindale Junior High Girls win Bullard meet, set two records

The Lindale Junior High School girls track teams earned a first and second place, respectively, in a recent meet at Bullard Junior High School highlighted by two new school records being set.

Brooklyn Wiggins' 28.42 time in the 7th grade 200 meters set a school record while Madison Devisscher set a new mark in the 8th grade 2400 run of 9:43.00, which broke the previous mark of Misty Padgett of 9:45.42 set in 1996.

Wiggins' new record eclipsed the time of Lawana Jenkins who ran a 28.95 in 1995.

The 7th grade Lady Eagles accumulated 196 points to win their meet while the 8th graders took second with 179 points.

For the 7th graders, Rachel Kelley and Breelyn Gordon shared top point honors with 26 apiece while Madison Hopson had 25, Brooklyn Wiggins scored 21 and Harper Kinney finished with 20 points.

The 8th graders were led in points by Kyndal Thurmon and Ella Hutchens with 24 points, followed by Lilly Johnson with 20 points and Madison Devisscher with 18 points.

7TH GRADE RESULTS (Lindale participants only)

Triple Jump – Breelynn Gordon – 2nd Place (28'10 1/2); Baylee Brooks – 3rd (28' 1/2); Tiana Silva – 5th Place (25' 11)

Long Jump – Breelynn Gordon – 2nd Place (13'8 1/4); Brooklyn Wiggins – 3rd Place (13'4 1/2)

High Jump – Rachel Kelley – 3rd Place (4'4)

Pole Vault – Bella Bunton – 1st Place (6'0); Dylan Grace – 2nd Place (6'0); Baylee Brooks – 3rd Place (5'6)

Discus – Harper Kinney – 1st Place – (62'10); KayLea Wil-

liams – 4th (53'11); Maci Gateley – 6th Place – (47'3 1/2)

Shot Put – Harper Kinney – 1st Place – (28'0); KayLea Williams – 3rd Place – (26'7 1/2)

2400 Run – Kyleigh Harrison – 6th Place – (11:35.00)

800 Run – Madison Hopson – 1st Place (2:41.51); Harper Lewis – 6th Place (2:54.72)

100 Hurdles – Rachel Kelley – 1st Place (19.83); Joclyn Grogan – 4th Place (20.83)

100 Dash – Bella Bunton – 5th Place (14.76)

800 Relay – MaKynli Zemer, Breelynn Gordon, Baylee Brooks, Brooklyn Wiggins – 1st Place (1:58.87)

400 Run – Madison Hopson – 1st Place (1:08.13); Alayna Ogden – 4th Place (1:11.01); Addyson Hance – 5th Place (1:12.81)

300 Hurdles – Rachel Kelley – 1st Place (54.90)

200 Dash – Brooklyn Wiggins – 1st Place (28.42); Tiana Silva – 6th Place (30.76)

1600 Run – Bailey Parsons – 6th Place (6:50.19)

1600 Relay – MaKynli Zemer, Breelynn Gordon, Madison Hopson, Alayna Ogden – 1st Place (4:45.38)

8TH GRADE RESULTS (Lindale participants only)

Triple Jump – Tori Cooper – 5th Place (29'11); Kyndal Thurmon – 6th Place (29'6 1/2)

Long Jump – Ella Hutchens – 4th Place (13'8 1/2); Jordyn Weesner – 5th Place (13'3 1/2)

High Jump – Lilly Johnson – 2nd Place (4'6); Jordyn Weesner – 3rd Place (4'4) Ma'Kaylin Smith – 5th Place (4'4)

Pole Vault – Caydence Thompson – 1st Place (7'6); Julianne

Schlensker – 5th Place (6'6); Kimber Simpson – 6th Place (6'0)

Discus – Ella Hutchens – 1st Place (86'5)

Shot Put – Ella Hutchens – 2nd Place (34'1); Lexi Pinson – 3rd Place (33'5); Tessa Dennis – 4th Place (30'8)

2400 Run – Madison Devisscher – 2nd Place (9:43.00); Bella Van Dyke – 3rd Place (10:26.00); Bernadette Malmgren – 4th Place (10:46.00)

400 Relay – Tori Cooper, Ma'Kaylin Smith, Brooke Gissell, Kaidance Smith – 3rd Place (54.06)

800 Run – Brooke Lewis – 6th Place (2:50.76)

100 Hurdles – Kyndal Thurmon – 1st Place (17.226); Lilly Johnson – 2nd Place (17.546)

100 Dash – Tessa Dennis – 6th Place (14.087)

800 Relay – Tori Cooper, Ma'Kaylin Smith, Brooke Gissell, Kaidance Smith – 3rd Place (1:54.646)

400 Run – Ahlyvia Luwizhi – 4th Place (1:09.047); Ella Hutchens – 5th Place (1:10.550)

300 Hurdles – Kyndal Thurmon – 1st Place (51.697); Lilly Johnson – 4th Place (55.944); Caydence Thompson – 6th Place (56.536)

200 Dash – Brooke Gissell – 4th Place (28.774); Kaidance Smith – 5th Place (28.968)

1600 Run – Madison Devisscher – 1st Place (6:10.078); Bella Van Dyke – 5th Place (6:30.062); Bernadette Malmgren – 6th Place (6:41.073)

2400 Run – Madison Devisscher, 1st, 9:43.00

1600 Relay – Ahlyvia Luwizhi, Brooke Lewis, Kyndal Thurmon, Ma'Kaylin Smith – 3rd Place (4:37.851)

Make sure you plan a sober spring break

By Claudann Jones
Smith County Extension Agent
Family and Community Health

Spring Break in Texas is a very popular time for young adults and college students to head to the beach and it's vitally important to make sure a sober driver is a top priority.

This can be a particularly dangerous and deadly time on Texas roadways. Each spring break, too many young, promising lives are cut short due to the fateful and regrettable decision to get behind the wheel and drive drunk.

In an effort to stop this deadly trend, Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension Service's Watch UR BAC program and The Texas Department of Transportation are partnering to raise awareness on impaired driving during the spring break holiday. The message is for everyone to arrive at their destination sober, safe, and smiling.

Even one life lost is too many. This campaign reminds young adults to know how they are getting home before they start drinking.

There are many ways to find a sober ride home, such as asking a friend or family member to be a designated driver, taking mass transit, or using a rideshare service.

In Texas, it is illegal for anyone under 21 to consume alcohol. The state's legal limit for intoxication is .08 blood or breath alcohol concentration for those over the age 21.

Law enforcement officers can arrest drivers for having a BAC below .08 with probable cause based on the driver's behavior.

Drivers under the influence of alcohol may face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time, and could lose their license.

Know the signs of an alcohol overdose and when someone needs emergency medical care. If any of the following signs after drinking are observed, do not hesitate to request emergency assistance:

- Unconsciousness
- Vomiting
- Seizures
- Slow breathing
- Slow heart rate
- Clammy skin
- Delayed responses
- Low body temperature
- Skin or lips turning blue
- Paleness

Remember: It is never OK to drink and drive. Designate a sober driver, or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.

For more information, contact: Bobbi Brooks, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Watch UR BAC program, by phone: 979-321-5224; or email: Bobbi.Brooks@ag.tamu.edu. Website: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>.



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When you feel the need for **A LITTLE HELP** give us a call

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Alittlehelpplease52@gmail.com

Lindale, Texas

County employees recognized for service; Commissioners approve tax abatement

Jaime Calderon was recognized Tuesday, Feb. 28 during the regular weekly meeting of the Smith County Commissioners Court for five years of service with the county Facilities Services Department, said public information officer Casey Murphy.

Calderon is one of two groundskeepers for Smith County, working hard to keep the grounds groomed, safe and presentable, Facilities Services Director Ed Nichols said, adding that he is a dedicated employee who always has a smile on his face.

"Thank you for all of your hard work and I look forward to many more years to come," he said.

Eric Muller was not in court but is celebrating his 20-year anniversary with the Smith County Adult Probation Department.

"I started 20 years ago and developed, designed and installed the computer network at Adult Probation from scratch," Muller said. Adult Probation has its own stand-alone computer network and Muller makes up its Information Technology department.

"I've greatly enjoyed all of the benefits of working for Smith County," he said. "People don't seem to appreciate the vast amounts of time we get off, benefits and retirement packages."

Other employees who are celebrating work anniversaries with the County in February include:

- 10 Years: Lauren Fite, Sean McClanahan, and Wynthia Saverig, Sheriff's Office
- 5 Years: Kenneth Stewart, Road and Bridge Department;



Jaime Calderon, left, was recognized this past week by the Smith County Commissioners for his five years of service with the county's Facilities Department. His supervisor is Facilities Services Director Ed Nichols. (Courtesy photo)

and Tamika Carter, Kristina Ferrell and Katherin Hill, Sheriff's Office.

TAX ABATEMENT

Also during the Feb. 28 meeting, Commissioners approved a five-year tax abatement for Averitt Express to construct a

new regional logistics hub near TEDC's planned industrial park.

Tyler Economic Development Council President/CEO Scott Martinez said the company currently has a small facility off of Highway 155, but they want to add a 20,000-square-foot regional office facility -- resulting in an estimated \$10 million investment -- next to it. The investment would add 25 new jobs over the next three years, with an average salary of \$71,000, with benefits. Averitt Express currently has about 20 employees in Smith County, he added.

"Averitt Express is a leading freight transportation and supply chain management provider with international reach. Based in Cookeville, Tennessee, our company plans to expand operations in Smith County to include the construction of a new, state-of-the-art service center. This investment will allow for a greater depth of services for customers and associates throughout the state, as well as the creation of additional jobs for the community. Averitt looks forward to expanding our presence in this region of Texas" said Barry Blakely, Averitt Express Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

The project is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2024.

The Smith County tax abatement agreement is for 80 percent for the first two years, 60 percent for the following two years, and 40 percent for the fifth year. TEDC estimates that Smith County would forego up to \$107,000, at the current tax rate, and collect taxes up to \$76,000 over the five-year abatement period.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the **ESTATE OF H. DALE BEGGS, DECEASED**, were issued on **FEBRUARY 28, 2023**, in Cause Number **47,181P**, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Smith County, Texas to **KATHERINE J. BAILES** and **KENNETH DALE BEGGS**, Independent Co-Executors.

The address of record for **KATHERINE J. BAILES** and **KENNETH DALE BEGGS** is: **c/o Thomas M. Alleman, Attorney at Law, 100 E. Ferguson, Suite 901, Tyler, Texas 75702.**

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Timothy Curtis Gill, Deceased, were issued to me, Jesse Louise Gill, on February 22, 2023, under Docket No. 47176P in the County Court at Law #3 of Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against said Estate, which is being administered in Smith County, Texas, are hereby required to present the same to me, at the address below given, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Jesse Louise Gill, Independent Executor
Estate of Timothy Curtis Gill, Deceased
c/o Ralph E. Allen
100 East Ferguson, Suite 901
Tyler, Texas 75702 Dated February

Dated February 28, 2023
By: RALPH E. ALLEN, Attorney

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gerald Edmund Thompson, Deceased, were issued on February 27, 2023, in Cause No. 47,022P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: **BRENDA KAY THOMPSON**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Kyle G. Waggoner, Attorney at Law, at PO Box 1152, Mineola, Texas, 75773.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **VIOLA RETTIG**, Deceased, were issued to **SEBRIA LORRAINE MITCHELL** on February 27, 2023, in Cause No. 47199P, pending in the County Court at Law No: 3, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Executor, c/o: **MICHAEL C. COKER**, Attorney at Law, 4540 Kinsey Drive, Tyler, Texas 75703, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DORIS JUNE GRIGSBY STANLEY**, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2022, in Cause No. 46,004P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: **KERRY LEE STANLEY**. 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 March 17, 2023 thru March 27, 2023 @10:00am. Cash Only. Cleanup deposit and sales tax required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Units include the personal household belongings of the following tenants:
Louise Moseley

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JERRY LAWSON HARGROVE**, Deceased, were issued on February 27, 2023, in Cause No. 47,148P, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 3, Smith County, Texas, to: **RITA L. HARGROVE**. 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

Divide & Conquer Moving Sale for Mrs. Betty Baty

Thurs., Mar. 9 - 7:00-5:30 Fri., Mar. 10 - 8:00-5:30 Sat., Mar. 11 - 8:00-2:00
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Outside SSW Loop 323 and off the Jacksonville Hwy. (south of Grande and north of FRESH), turn east into Hollytree West. Turn left onto Firestone CR.

This 2682 sq. ft. home (listed by Newberry Real Estate) sold quickly. Contents must go! din. table/8 chairs; ornately carved antq. din. table, chairs, cabinet, sideboard, settee, and barley twist chair; Henredon barley twist side tables; antq. marble top buffet; vintg. platters; rugs and runners; antq. bench; bar stools; antq. display cabinets; nightstands; triple dresser; queen bed; twin wicker headboards; white wicker table and hanging light shade; white rocker; several antq. folding rockers; chaise lounge; nesting tables; antq. octagon table; wall sconces; lamps; vanity bench; 2 blue leather club chairs & ottomans; upholstered "clover" ottoman; recliner; printers; off. supplies; desk armoire; desk; 6 off. chairs; luggage; shells; men, women, children's clothes; decorative pillows; sewing notions; fabric; games; puzzles; vintg. dolls; crafts; holiday décor; Christmas trees; Spode "Christmas Tree"; other Christmas dishes; many frames; hand-stitched items; linens; speakers; TV's; CD's; electronics; yard bench, glider, bird house, St. Francis; planters; bird feeder; yard & hand tools; ladder; tree trimmer; hose; sprinklers; sooooo much more!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOffEastTexas.com

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EMPLOYMENT

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas is accepting proposals for construction of 10 new homes in the Vega Land Subdivision. Deadline: Feb. 28, 2023 by 3 p.m. CST. Specifications: Purchasing@ktttribe.org or 830-773-2105.



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LISD's Surratt says vouchers are "welfare for the rich"

By Terry Cannon
Editor

Last week, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott visited Corsicana to promote his plan of private school vouchers, which he says would give parents control of their children's education.

The governor cited parental unhappiness over "woke" agendas being taught in public schools and these taxpayer-funded vouchers would allow parents to have more control over the education their children are receiving.

"Parents are angry about woke agendas being pushed on their children in our schools," Abbott said during a speech at Park Meadows Academy, a church and school that stresses a Christian education. "Our schools are for education, not indoctrination."

Don't believe it, says Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt.

"This is just the governor trying to check off another box in case he wants to be a presidential candidate," Surratt said. "Republicans think this is a priority that needs to be checked off. I don't believe parents want this because we have all kinds of polls that show parents are happy with the way things are."

As far as Abbott's national political aspirations are concerned, a recent national news poll had him with 2 percent in the GOP presidential race.

The governor has said he isn't considering the 2024 race but his aides have acknowledged he could revisit the issue after the Texas legislative session ends in May.

Surratt has voiced his concerns over vouchers in the past, calling them "welfare for the rich."

"The parents that would benefit from this are already sending their kids to private schools," he said.

As to the "woke" agenda being force fed to students, Surratt vehemently disagreed.

"The woke agenda is a lie," he said. "It's not true at all. It's a shame (politicians) are trying to scare people that this is happening."

Abbott says his plan would "protect parents' rights."

Politicians across the country have found this topic to be fertile ground for winning votes as parents are demanding more input in their children's education.

Abbott believes the Texas legislature is ready to approve a voucher plan. Surratt says it does indeed have a chance to become a reality and as is the case with similar actions, it comes down to money.

"I think the legislature is going to approve it because it would appease a lot of rich donors," Surratt said. "It's sad that taxpayers are going to foot the bill for those kids that are already in private schools."

As far as the difference in curriculum with private vs. public schools, Surratt feels th.

"There would be no accountability and control over their curriculum," he said. "It's just huge additional cost to the taxpayers."

Other state education experts, such as former Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa, agree with Surratt that vouchers aren't the answer.

"We already have diminishing resources for schools. School districts are very challenged with all of the issues of shortage of teachers, et cetera, et cetera. And so the resources will split again," he said.

Hinojosa agreed with Surratt's view on accountability.

"(Private schools) don't have to take the state exam, and they don't have to comply with discrimination issues," he said. "They get to cherry-pick the kids, and in reality, as we've seen in other states, 80 percent of the kids that go to vouchers were already in private schools. They didn't get them rescued out of the inner city."

Surratt also believes that vouchers don't adhere to a true conservative agenda.

"This simply doesn't make sense from a conservative point of view," he said. "It's just welfare for the rich."

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