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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Gary Borders

Wildfire chances grow across state

The risk for wildfires across the state has risen along with the hot and dry conditions, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

"With the recent uptick in wildfire activity, Texas A&M Forest Service has mobilized additional personnel and equipment to assist with response," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief.

"State and local firefighters are prepared to respond quickly but we need Texans to be careful and prevent wildfire ignitions while conditions remain hot and dry."

Nine out of 10 wildfires cross the state are both human-caused and preventable. The most common causes of wildfires during summer are debris burning and equipment use. That includes parking in dry grass and dragging trailer chains.

The forest service reported seven active wildfires as of Friday, most of which were 90% contained. However, the Blum Fire covering an estimated 300 acres was only 40% contained, while the Classic Canyon Fire in Coryell County, covering 150 acres, was 20% contained.

There are 150 counties in Texas with burn bans.

Abbott signs tax relief bill; goes to voters

With Gov. Gregg Abbott's signature on an \$18 billion property tax relief package, now it's up to the voters in November to approve a proposed constitutional amendment that would put it into effect.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that, if passed in November, homeowners would be eligible for a \$100,000 homestead exemption, with those 65 and older getting an additional \$40,000 exemption.

The omnibus measure also exempts many smaller businesses from paying franchise taxes and implements a pilot program to limit annual property tax appraisal value increases.

Voters also will decide the fate of 13 other proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot.

Besides the property tax measure, the propositions include creating a broadband infrastructure fund; creation of a Texas energy fund to build new electric generating plants; and creation of a water fund to finance water projects in Texas.

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Lindale players take part in a passing drill Monday morning on the first day of practice for the 2023 season. Photo by Terry Cannon

New year, same goal:

Eagles look for playoff success in '23

By Terry Cannon
Editor

And so it begins -- again.

This week, Texas high school football players are sweating out any excesses they may have accumulated since the final day of school in May in preparation for what they hope is a schedule that won't conclude until December.

The Lindale High School Eagles have been hard at it since early Monday -- 6:30 a.m. to be precise. The varsity and junior varsity have been on the field -- including breaks -- each day until 12 noon. The freshman team goes from 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Head Coach Chris Cochran, now in his sixth season at the LHS helm, has been eager to put his players through their paces and work to improve on last year's 8-5 record.

Experience, he feels, will go a long way to add more to the win total in 2023. The Eagles return 17 seniors from last year's 4-2 District 9-4A club.

"(The seniors) are a solid group," Cochran said. "They do things the right way and we've developed several leaders from that core."

Clint Thurman, a first team all-district quarterback selection last year, is a key leader in the locker room, Cochran said.

"He brings a sense of confidence to the offense and that will help our offensive line grow up faster," said Cochran.

The coach also pointed to lineman/tight end Carson Plunkett and wide receiver Marcus Field as other capable leaders for the Eagles.

On the other side of the ball, Cochran is ready to see some improvement from a unit that allowed 439 points in 2022.

"We know we have to defend better and it starts with stopping the run," he said. "In critical games you have to stop the run, make the other team one-dimensional and then you can get to the quarterback."

Of the 439 points allowed, 191 came from two opponents: Chapel Hill and Kilgore. These sets of Bulldogs are well armed again and, along with Lindale, be favorites to win the league title.

Chapel Hill won the district title a year ago with a 6-0 mark, while Kilgore finished second at 5-1.

The regional quarterfinals was an all-Bulldogs affair with Chapel Hill outlasting Kilgore, 24-21 to advance to the state semifinals. Chapel Hill then

Continued on Page 2

Lance Phillips surrenders to authorities after court incident

Lance Phillips, son of Smith County Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips, turned himself into authorities this past weekend after evading arrest on a contempt of court charge last Thursday in Winona, officials said.

Smith County Precinct 4 Constable Josh Joplin confirmed Phillips surrendered on Saturday, July 29.

Phillips was booked into the Smith County Jail on charges of making a false report inducing an emergency response, evading arrest and being in contempt of court. Bond was set at \$105,000.

According to Joplin, Lance Phillips, 40, was in court in support of Cody Voss, who was with Derek Phillips, Lance's brother, on the night of March 28 when officers initiated a traffic stop on Voss which ended in the arrest of Derek and Voss, as well as Smith County Clerk Karen Phillips.

Voss had a pretrial hearing on Thursday, July 27, regarding a failure to identify a charge.

However, according to Joplin, Lance Phillips came to court instead of Voss on Thursday, saying he was going to stand in for Voss.

Judge Curtis Wulf told Phillips that he was not allowed to do that since he's not an attorney and the event was only a pretrial hearing.

At this point, Joplin said, Lance Phillips argued with the judge's statement, which prompted the judge to order Phillips to leave the courtroom because he continued to argue.

After being told to leave, Phillips walked toward the door yelling, "Curtis Wulf is a criminal!"

Wulf then ordered officers in the courtroom to take him in custody on contempt of court.

At that, Lance Phillips ran away, went outside, and ran across State Highway 155, narrowly avoiding being hit by an 18-wheeler, Joplin said. Joplin and a deputy pursued Phillips but they believe he was picked up by someone in a vehicle who fled the scene with him.

Residents urged to postpone burning

The Smith County Fire Marshal's Office is encouraging citizens to postpone all burning activity in the near future as the weather conditions in the area continue to pose a threat for wildfires, said County Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index moved into the low-600 range this past weekend for Smith County, and it will likely rise daily if the current weather pattern holds.

While incident responses to grass fires is currently lower when compared to last year's totals for the end of July, calls for service over this past weekend have increased.

In addition to discouraging outdoor burning, the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office encourages citizens to use extreme caution when conducting any operation outdoors that could result in the ignition of a fire.

During the past week, the county has experienced situations where improperly maintained trailers have produced sparks that ignited dry vegetation along the roadway.

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service, "the most common causes of wildfires during the summer months are debris burning and equipment use, which includes parking in dry grass and dragging trailer chains."

Citizens pulling trailers should ensure that safety chains are properly connected and not dragging on the roadway. Additionally, it is important to refrain from driving or parking on dry grass.

The heat from a vehicle can sometimes ignite vegetation beneath the vehicle. Underinflated or poorly maintained tires can also pose a risk. In the past week, the county has responded to fires caused by tire failure, resulting in sparks created by wheel rims in contact with the road surface.

For those conducting outdoor welding operations, it is important to keep the area clear of vegetation, wet down the work area, keep water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby, and have a spotter to watch for sparks.

Additionally, outdoor welding operations should be avoided on windy days. Finally, it is important to never leave any outdoor burning or spark-producing operation unattended, including outdoor cooking.

Residents can help prevent these types of fires by ensuring that grills are kept clean of excess grease. Additionally, grills should be placed in an open space away from tall grass, shrubs, and woodpiles. Ensure that grills, along with any coals, are completely cool when completing cooking operations.

Especially in windy conditions, smoldering coals can easily reignite and produce embers that can be blown into nearby dry vegetation.

Lindale man sentenced to 30 years for child sex crimes

Colin Wade Turner, 67 of Lindale was sentenced to 30 years in prison this past week after pleading guilty to multiple child sex crimes in 2022, officials said.



Turner was arrested on Dec. 2, 2022 on five counts of possession of child pornography and one count of indecency

with a child.

On Tuesday, July 25 he pled guilty to the charges in Judge Kerry Russell's court. Russell sentenced him to 20 years on the indecency charge and 10 years for the possession of child pornography charge.

The sentences are to be served concurrently.

After a tip was received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the investigation was initiated.

The center had received information from the Microsoft Corporation reporting a user uploaded eight files of apparent child pornography on multiple dates utilizing the Microsoft Bing Image Search.

On Oct. 31, 2022, a search warrant was obtained for an apartment on CR 472 in Lindale. Once the warrant was executed, law enforcement found more than 2,100 pictures depicting child pornography on electronic devices in Turner's possession, the affidavit said.

A young girl also reportedly made an outcry about being grabbed inappropriately by Turner.

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

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.



Stroke of love ...

My daddy is my hero. He always will be. Dad was a man of faith who dearly loved his God, his family, his land and his animals. Just imagine John Wayne in the best of his western roles. A powerful presence, strong and absolutely confident in his convictions, as well as a man respected by everyone who knew him. That was my dad.

When Dad talked, people listened. His laugh was truly joyful. More a giggle than a laugh when he was really tickled. His eyes twinkled when he laughed. If he was angry you knew it and you backed up as far as you could. He held himself and his children to high standards. His work as a rancher was his life and his love. My mother was his heart.

And then one hot, hot summer, Dad plowed without the benefit of his air conditioned cab because his arthritis was bedeviling him ferociously. I am certain dehydration, overwork and stress led to his second stroke which was massive. He was still strong, still agile, dangerously so, but he could no longer process what others were saying. He could speak clearly but we might as well have been speaking Russian. The frustration was enormous. The anger large when he found we had hidden the keys to tractors and trucks. He still managed to mow the yard on the riding lawnmower. His only route to productivity and independence. For a man who lived to work it was more than he could bear.

If it is a big word. One of the most heartbreaking in our vocabulary. If Daddy had had his stroke during the week when better medical staffing would have been available. If the young ER resident had ordered a CAT scan immediately. If he had only given Dad the shot that would have prevented damage. If...indeed.

When I received the call from my aunt in the middle of the night I raced to Corsicana 20 miles over the speed limit the whole way. I didn't leave his hospital for days except to run to the house to shower. We eventually got him airlifted to Trinity Mother Francis but it was too late.

Too late to stop the damage. Too late in so many ways. In the course of the next few weeks my Dad insisted on going home. My Mom desperately wanted him home. So against the doctor's recommendation we skipped residential rehab. It was a mistake. A big one. Daddy's frustration and

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



anger grew to the point of explosion and I wasn't there to intervene. And then I was... because it was necessary.

Many heartbreaks have come my way, as they do to all of us, during the course of my life. I have done many hard, hard things that I didn't want to do, but the hardest I have ever done was to put my great big wonderful Daddy into a car with my Mom and his beloved sister and take him to the Waco Veterans Psychiatric Unit for commitment. My heart broke completely. So did my Mom's and Aunt's. There are no words to describe the devastation of the responsibility.

But one thing I learned from my Daddy was how to do the hard things in life. To do what had to be done. He would say, "pray and hope for a better tomorrow". And I did. For five months the doctors worked on creating a pharmacological cocktail that would allow my Daddy to live out his life on his beloved ranch with his lifelong sweetheart.

The 'cocktail' changed my Daddy too, but the essence of who and what he was was always there. He continued to pray the most beautiful prayers. He never failed to tell my Mom that he loved her and he spent his days being driven down the road to see his cattle, his land and what he had built with his life. We lost him in 2010.

I miss him every single day. I always will.

That is the beauty of a life well lived and a person who loves well. Their legacy is generational.

Strokes are one of my greatest fears. For obvious reasons. But, I know how great the gift was of seeing my Dad and Mom go through those last years together. The hard things create the best lessons. And, the best lessons are nearly always built on love. Those lessons may hurt...and hurt deeply, but they nearly always show the value and depth, the meaning of life and love. Our reason for being.

For that I am most grateful.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Heat wave ...

Texas has thus far endured a heat wave of historic proportions in the summer of 2023. The higher-than-normal temperatures have created health issues for many residents and impacted quality of life for millions of people. Not surprisingly, the effects do not stop there.

As with any extreme weather event, excessive heat affects the economy in dynamic and complex ways. Substantial losses occur as a result of lower agricultural yields and an overall decline in productivity across multiple industries. Even morbidity and mortality increase. These losses are partially offset by gains in other sectors, such as increases in utility consumption.

In order to provide a perspective on the economic impact of this summer's heat wave as well as the potential consequences of a long-term trend toward hotter summers, our firm started with detailed baseline forecasts from our US Multi-Regional Econometric Model (which I developed over 40 years ago and have consistently updated, refined, and otherwise lived with since that time). We then merged in an extensive analysis of economic responses to temperature changes over several decades in all 50 states. This process allowed for detailed assessments over several hundred industries. Enough of that!

Assuming the current pattern generally persists through August, with average daily temperatures approximately 2.6 degrees above the long-term average in the state, the net loss to the Texas economy will be an estimated \$9.55 billion in real gross product (a reduction in growth of about 0.47%). The greatest relative losses are found in agriculture (more than 5.7%); the largest absolute losses among major sectors include financial industries (\$3.91 billion), due to losses such as crop insurance, and services (\$2.11 billion), largely because of lethargic performance in professional and business services.

Though dwarfed by overall patterns, some industries actually see gains during extreme heat, such as electric and water providers. The demand for some manufactured goods made in Texas also rises. The primary cause of losses is ultimately attributable to declines in productivity. The higher utility costs lead to some corresponding losses in consumer spending (retail sales is negatively affected by about \$646 million).

Long-term impacts assuming average summer temperatures one degree above the historical average through 2050 were also estimated. In such a scenario, the effects compound over time, with losses to the Texas economy of almost \$400 billion in real gross product in 2050 or about 9.24% below the baseline scenario. Once again, the effects vary greatly across various industries, with agricultural output suffering substantial and sustained declines.

Extreme weather events such as heat waves cost the economy billions. Over a long period of time, persistent temperature increases will have even larger and more profound economic consequences. This stuff matters! In the meantime, stay safe (and cool)!

Bookstores sue over law rating books in schools

Texas bookstores have joined with national organizations to sue in federal court over a new Texas law that requires a rating system for books in schools and seeks to ban sexually explicit books from public school libraries.

The American Booksellers Association and other national groups were joined by BookPeople in Austin, Blue Willow Bookshop in Houston and others in filing the suit, saying the law, due to take effect on Sept. 1, "is unrealistic, limits students' reading options and narrows libraries' book selections," according to the Statesman.

Named as defendants in the suit are several state agencies, including the Texas Education Agency, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the State Board of Education, all of which will be responsible for implementing the law.

"This law is bad for small businesses, like independent bookstores," Charley Rejsek, CEO of BookPeople, said. "The workload, and the monetary aspect that goes along with the workload, is just impossible to meet."

In a tweet responding to the lawsuit, Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, who authored HB 900, said "bring it."

One in five Texans live in flood plain

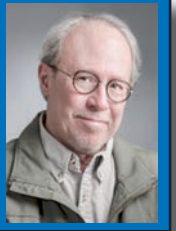
About 20% of the state's population — nearly 6 million Texans — live in an area susceptible to flooding, according to new data gathered by the Texas Water Development Board and reported by the Texas Tribune.

The analysis by TWDB is part of its first statewide flood plan, required by a law passed in 2019 in response to Hurricane Harvey. Flood risks in Texas are increasing as the result of heavier precipitation due to climate change, stronger hurricanes and a rise in sea levels — even as the state's population continues to increase.

In a presentation in mid-July, TWDB staff said one-fifth of the state's land — about 56,000 square miles — falls within an area classified as being in a 100-year floodplain.

The state is likely to spend tens of billions of dollars

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



in flood protection. One of the first projects is the "Ike Dike," a massive gate system planned for the mouth of Galveston Bay, the Tribune reported.

"Getting this program up and running is a really big deal," TWDB Chair Brooke Paup said before the board approved the 15 regional plans, a major step in creating the statewide flood plan. Each region is built around one of the state's major watersheds.

"I know it'll truly go so far to save lives and people's homes," Paup said.

Border concertina razor wire made by inmates

The miles of concertina razor wire strewn along the banks of the Rio Grande by Texas authorities — and

the subject of a suit by the Department of Justice — is manufactured by inmates in an East Texas minimum-security prison unit, the Corpus Christi Caller Times reported.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice was authorized to purchase nearly \$1.1 million worth of equipment to make the wire, according to the Legislative Budget Board's contract database, the Caller Times reported. While the prison system has been making such wire for the state's 100-plus prison units for some time, the new machines are allowing expanded production for use on the Texas border.

The new unit was shipped to the Powledge Unit near Palestine in East Texas. That prison also has a metal manufacturing unit.



Linemen practice a drill Monday morning during Lindale's first day of football practice. Photo by Terry Cannon

Eagles look for playoff success in '23

Continued from Page 1
fell to Boerne, 35-0.

But before Lindale begins to look at the district competition, the Eagles will once again try to navigate the gauntlet of some serious pre-district competition including Gilmer, Van and Kaufman.

The daunting non-district schedule is by design, Cochran said.

"Anyone who has

watched us play knows we use our non-district games to prepare for the district schedule," he said.

"You have to bring your 'A' game each week in our district."

The Eagles will be on the road for their first league contest, at Henderson on Sept. 22.

Homecoming against Athens will be Sept. 29 at Eagle Stadium then Lindale

takes on Kilgore on the road on Oct. 6.

But the head coach knows that the rest of the league will provide stiff competition as well.

"Palestine's speed is always concerning," he said. "Jacksonville is always athletic and Henderson has a new coach this year who will bring a lot of excitement so it's going to be super competitive."

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Nearly eight decades later, the dark cloud remains

This Sunday, Aug. 6, will mark 78 years since the world was changed forever.

That was the day an American B-29, the Enola Gay, dropped a single bomb which exploded over Hiroshima, Japan and led to the end of World War II.

You really don't have to be a history nerd – like me – to know that payload was the first of two atomic bombs dropped on Japan in the span of three days. The second was dropped on Nagasaki on Aug. 9.

Obviously, the launching of the atomic age in August, 1945 was history-shaping event. From that day forward, the human race has lived on the precipice of total annihilation, fearing that unhinged world leaders would suddenly decide to push the button and blow up our planet. Lord knows there's enough of these nutcases, both home and abroad, that these fears are well founded.

It's hard for most of us to imagine a time when total world destruction wasn't an actuality. My generation grew up with duck and cover drills, Civil Defense public service announcements and the specter of mushroom clouds billowing over our country.

But just how did the United States become the first nuclear-armed nation?

It's a fascinating story involving the Nazis, Albert Einstein, Franklin Roosevelt and a gaunt, brilliant physicist named J. Robert



Oppenheimer.

Christopher Nolan's current biopic "Oppenheimer" is receiving high praise for telling the complex and fascinating story of Oppenheimer, who was chosen by the government to help develop the bomb before the Nazis. (The thought of Hitler having such a destructive weapon is still enough to cause nightmares).

According to those who know such things, Nolan's film stays very close to the facts of Oppenheimer's life which is a rarity among biopics coming out of Hollywood.

But before Oppenheimer headed the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, N.M., we must start in Berlin, 1938. That's when the Nazis discovered nuclear fission but their invasion of Poland in 1939 resulted in many Nazi physicists being drafted into the army, stalling the program.

By this time, Albert Einstein was living in the U.S., having fled persecution in Germany. A group of scientists afraid of Germany's atomic research, realizing his notoriety, convinced Einstein to contact President

Roosevelt about putting nuclear research on the front burner.

FDR heeded the warning and the Manhattan Project was under way.

Born in New York City in 1904, Oppenheimer earned his Ph. D in physics from the University of Gottingen, Germany in 1927. He joined the faculty of California-Berkeley and made notable contributions in the fields of physics and quantum mechanics.

Government officials brought him on board in 1942 to work on the super-secret Manhattan Project. The next year he was named director of the project at Los Alamos.

By the time the project was fully up and running, it employed approximately 130,000 people across the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada at a cost of \$2 billion, or \$24 billion in today's money. Most of that was spent on construction of facilities to produce material capable of sustaining a nuclear chain reaction, which in turn, created the massive explosive power of the bomb.

Following the Trinity Test

at Alamogordo, N.M., on July 16, two bombs arrived at the U.S. naval air base on the island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands. Three weeks later, Hiroshima was in ashes. Three days later, Nagasaki was leveled. Oppenheimer's life was never the same.

J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, because of Oppenheimer's earlier associations with left wing groups, suspected he was a spy for the Soviet Union and had him under surveillance even before the U.S. entered World War II.

The FBI provided Oppenheimer's enemies with this information and in 1953 he was up before a congressional security hearing because the former director of the U.S. congressional committee on atomic energy, said "more probably than not" Oppenheimer was a Soviet agent.

A Congressional hearing concluded that Oppenheimer should have his security clearances revoked permanently despite many of his colleagues vouching for his patriotism.

More than anything else, Oppenheimer was concerned that the escalation of weapons of mass destruction would loom over our world forever. He advocated not more weapons, but treaties to keep a lid on the bottle holding the nuclear genie.

For those of us who've lived our life under this dark cloud, it's crystal clear he was right.



End of Summer fun at the LRML

Each year the Lillie Russell Memorial Library wraps up the Summer Reading Program with a special program for the youngsters including water fun put on by the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department. The Best Day Bubbles turned out to be soapy fun for the youngsters. (Courtesy photo)



EDITOR'S NOTE: This column comes from the archives of the Lindale News and Times, which is available online for \$2.99 per month. Call 903-882-8880 to set up your online subscription.

ONE YEAR AGO, Aug. 4, 2022

Following comments from county residents during a public hearing, Smith County Judge Nathaniel Moran recommended putting a proposal on the Nov. 8 ballot for a new county courthouse, which would include both the \$160 million courthouse and the \$19 million parking garage.

"The citizens of Smith County should have the opportunity to make this decision and determine the future of their courthouse," he said. "It's their money and their courthouse."

There were 15 residents speaking in favor of the bond election, while one person recommended putting the project on hold.

Moran gave a recap of the community discussion that has addressed the needs for a new courthouse for the last 23 years.

In 2000, a task force of 50 community members was formed and came up with a Master Plan that showed the need for a new Courthouse, Parking Structure, Sheriff's Administration Building and Jail. In 2007, a second study by a different Commissioners Court and different consulting firm showed the need for a new Courthouse, along with a Jail and Sheriff's Office. Since then, a Jail Bond passed that added on to the Jail, and the Jail Administration Building has also been renovated and paid for with cash.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Aug. 2, 2018

The Lindale City Council voted to accept a \$400,000 matching grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for improvements to Darden Harvest Park in downtown Lindale.

The grant was part of the TP&WD's Land and Water Conservation Fund. The city was to match \$353,000 along with \$47,000 donated funds.

Council members also voted to halt all the projects that were in the process of being constructed that would be covered under the grant application. The funds would go to the completion of the splash pad at the park, as well as additional walking trail, disc golf, picnic areas and irrigation.

10 YEARS AGO, Aug. 1, 2013

Lindale ISD trustees voted during their regular meeting to increase the district's maintenance and operation rate, which necessitated the trustees calling for a tax ratification election for Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Trustees also voted to decrease the total tax rate by two cents, including a four cent tax decrease on the interest and sinking tax rate.

By state law, any increase in the M&O rate must be ratified by voters.

Board members voted to increase the M&O rate to \$1.08 per \$100 property valuation.

The two cent M&O increase will generate approximately \$275,000 in school funding primarily for the purchase of technology for classrooms and additional security at the elementary campuses.

"This new rate will be lower than our current tax rate and generate some needed extra funding for the school district," Lindale ISD School Board President Matt Watts said. "This is an excellent opportunity for our schools to continue to conservatively manage our funds and improve the quality of education we provide."

The tooth, whole tooth and nothing but the tooth

Janet and I had just sat down to eat when the phone rang.

"I bet it's a phone creature," I said.

"Well, if it is, tell me you're not interested, so that we can eat," said Janet.

"Yellow!" I said into the phone receiver. I didn't hear anything. I smiled. "Yellow!" I said again. Then I heard that "click" that tells you it's a phone creature.

"Mr. Mitchum, please," the phone creature said.

"This is Mr. Mitchum," I said in a whiney voice.

"Ah, Mr. Mitchum. How are you doing?" the creature said.

"Well," I started. "Not so good. You see, I've got this here bad tooth, and it's givin' me the fits."

"Uh, I see," said the creature. "Mr. Mitchum, the reason I'm calling is..."

"Yep," I interrupted. "It's this tooth right here. Oh, how stupid of me. You can't see my tooth, can you?"

"Uh, no, but let me..."

"Well, I'll explain which tooth it is," I said. "You know the two big teeth in front? If you start with the right one, uh, that's my right. If you were facin' me, it'd be the one on your left. Anywho, if you start with that one and move from tooth to tooth toward the back it'd be the fifth one. If they wuz toes, and you wuz doin' 'this little piggy', it'd be the little piggy that went 'wee, wee, wee, all the way home'."

"Uh, Mr. Mitchum," the



creature said.

"Of course," I continued. "I think they meant he cried 'wee, wee, wee', if you know what I mean. For a while there, I thought they meant he went 'wee, wee, wee'."

"Mr. Mitchum."

"Back when I was in school, my teacher made us draw a picture story of the three little pigs, and I drew the little pig wee, wee weein', I got sent to the office. That's when I found out that they meant he cried 'wee, wee, wee'."

"Mr. Mitchum!" the creature yelled.

"Oh, I'm sorry," I said. "I got off my story, didn't I? Well, like I said this tooth here is givin' me the fits, so I heads off and goes to the dentist."

"Mr. Mitchum," the creature whined.

"I tell the dentist that I want him to jerk the tooth out," I said. "But do you know what he said?" I waited for an answer.

"No," the creature sighed. "Why don't you tell me?"

"OK," I said. "I will. He tells me that he would rather do somethin' called a root canal. Well, the only thing I could imagine when he said that, was when the plumber feller came out to the house

that time, and put that snake down our commode, and rooted out a pair of drawers that I accidentally flushed down there. Well, I didn't want nobody doin' that to my tooth."

"Mr. Mitchum," the creature whined. He almost sounded like he was in tears.

"I asked that dentist feller how much a root canal cost and he said nine hunderd dollars. 'Nine hunderd dollars!' I said. He said, 'Yeah, nine hunderd dollars.' Well, I said that I didn't have no nine hunderd dollars, and for him to just jerk it out. Then he tells me that if he jerked it out, it'd leave a hole in my smile. I told him I didn't care, and he said that my teeth might start driftin'. I told him that I didn't care as long as they didn't drift out of my head."

"Mr. Mitchum," the creature said sternly, like he could get my attention.

"That dentist feller got plumb mad. He said that he was in the business to save teeth. Well, I told him he could save mine after he jerked it out if he wanted. I figured he wanted it to put under his pillow for the tooth fairy. You'd think nine hunderd dollars would be enough money, wouldn't you?"

"Mr. Mitchum!" the creature screamed.

"Yes?" I said.

"Mr. Mitchum," said the creature, trying to calm his voice. "I've been trying to tell you the reason I called."

"Don't you want to hear what happened to my tooth?"

"NO!" he shouted, then stopped and caught his breath. "I mean, no Mr. Mitchum. If you'd please let me explain why I called..."

"Why should I listen to you, when you won't listen to me?" I asked. It got quiet on the other end of the phone except for heavy breathing. "You still there?" I asked.

"I'm here," he growled.

"Well anyhow," I said, "I told that dentist feller that..."

"AAAAIIIIHHHHHHH-HGGGGGGGG!" the creature screamed, and then hung up. "Wow!" I said to Janet as I put down the phone. "He liked to have busted my eardrum." She just looked at me. It wasn't a good look either. Then she stood up, grabbed my plate and headed for the door.

"Hey!" I said. "Where are you goin' with my supper?"

"I'm feeding it to the dog," she stated.

"But that's my roast beef," I said.

"Well little piggy," she said. "You get none. So go wee, wee, wee."

"I did that before supper," I said.

You know that plate missed me by less than an inch.

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“IGNITE” rally scheduled Aug. 6 at Cannery in downtown Lindale



A free community youth rally – IGNITE -- sponsored by the Journey Center in Lindale as well as Lindale-area churches, is scheduled for 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 6 on the Cannery Stage in downtown Lindale, organizers announced. The non-denominational event

will feature live music and guest speakers including Mack Ross and Hannah Evans.

The IGNITE rally seeks to unite junior high school and high school students and be the “spark” that ignites a fire in their hearts for Jesus, officials said.

Pre-rally events are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. and officials said local police will be on hand for safety.

For any information on sponsorship or more details about the event call The Journey Center at 430-235-7004.

Lindale’s Journey Center hosts “RezilientKidz” program Aug. 21

The Journey Center in Lindale is hosting “RezilientKidz-Raising Highly Capable Kids” program beginning at 6 p.m., Monday, Aug. 21 at the center, 215 W. Margaret Street, officials announced.

The program will continue through Nov. 13 with each session concluding at 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by trained facilitators, “Rezilient-Kidz” provides parents with an interactive, practical and hands on tools to engage and build relationships with other parents during the 13-week program, officials said.

Parents will learn about Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets through relevant stories and exercises—essential building blocks that can maximize their child’s potential and empower the whole family.

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equip kids with the power to make healthy life choices—including a proven increase in their GPA.

Parents listen to presentations, hold discussions, and engage in activities to help them apply what they learn in their homes. Raising Highly Capable Kids™ is being implemented in 32 communities across nine states, including the Journey Center in Lindale.

Free online registration can be accessed at www.lindalejourney.com.

Call 430-235-7004 for more information.



Lending a cleaning hand

The Hood family recently volunteered their time and effort to clean the sidewalks and steps of the Lillie Russell Memorial Library. (Courtesy photo)



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Lindale Police Department call log for July 21-27:

FRIDAY, JULY 21: Suspicious Vehicle, 16900 block Village Lake Drive, settled at scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 13400 block Interstate 20 East, report; Residential Alarm, 15800 block CR 4191, false alarm; Criminal Trespass, 300 block South Main Street, warning issued; Fraud, 1200 block Forest Trails Drive, settled at scene; Motorist Assist, 553 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 12100 block Copper Court, settled at scene.

SATURDAY, JULY 22: Suspicious Person, 200 block Half Street, settled at scene; Business Alarm, 2500 block South Main Street, false alarm; Criminal Trespass, 900 block South Main Street; warning issued; Motorist Assist, 556 Interstate 20 East, settled at scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block Francis Drive, settled at scene; Business Alarm, 2500 block South Main Street, false alarm; Motor Vehicle Crash, 1200 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Simple Assault, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., settled at scene; Verbal Disturbance, 1500 block Pearl Street, settled at scene; Assault Family Violence, 15300 block FM 16 West, arrest; Public Intoxication, 3500 block South Main Street, arrest.

SUNDAY, JULY 23: Threat, 15300 block FM 16 West, report; Burglary, 300 block Hilltop Street, report; Welfare Concern, 17000 block Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 300 block Helen Drive, settled at scene; Motorist Assist, 700 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Motorist Assist, No. 1, 560 Interstate 20



East, settled at scene; Motorist Assist No. 2 560 Interstate 20 East, settled at scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 400 block West Hubbard Street, report; Assist Smith Co SO, 1500 block Wood Springs Road, settled at scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 1300 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Welfare Concern, 15300 block FM 16 West, settled at scene; Assist DPS, 556 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, report; Threat, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., report; Motorist Assist, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., settled at scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 1500 block Tanglewood Drive East, settled at scene.

MONDAY, JULY 24: Recovered Stolen Vehicle, 3500 block South Main Street, report; Theft, 553 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, settled at scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 13300 block Interstate 20 East, report; Motorist Assist, 19000 block U.S.

Highway 69 North, settled at scene; Fraud, 16000 block Village Lake Drive, settled at scene; Business Alarm, 15500 block CR 463, false alarm.

TUESDAY, JULY 25: Parking Violation, 200 block Blackberry Blvd., citation; Theft, 13800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, settled at scene; Motorist Assist, 13400 block Interstate 20 East, settled at scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 900 block Stewart Street, settled at scene; Parking Violation, 500 block North Main Street, citation.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26: Possession of Marijuana, 100 block East Hubbard Street, arrest; Business Alarm, 300 block Eagle Spirit Drive, false alarm; Business Alarm, 15500 block CR 463, false alarm; Business Alarm, 3300 block South Main Street, false alarm; Fraud, 700 block Abbey Road, report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, report; Motorist Assist, 556 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Motorist Assist, 554 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Welfare Concern, 100 block Ballard Drive, settled at scene; Business Alarm, 100 block Miranda Lambert Way, false alarm; Fraud, 1400 block Allison Lane, report; Terroristic Threat, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., warning issued; Harassment, 500 block South Main Street, settled at scene.

THURSDAY, JULY 27: City Ordinance Violation, 3200 block South Main Street, warning issued; Fraud, 17400 block Stacy Street, report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 200 block Cannery Row, report; Suspicious Person, 17700 block CR 4112, settled at scene; Disturbance, 300 block South Henry Street, settled at scene.

Metroplex man sentenced on criminal activity charges

A Mesquite man has been sentenced to 25 years in federal prison for violent criminal activity in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, publicity spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Tony Sullivan, 28, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by robbery; aiding and abetting; conspiracy to kidnap; using, carrying, and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. Sullivan was sentenced to 300 months in federal prison on July 26, 2023, by U.S. District Judge Amos Mazzant.

"Sullivan has been justly punished for subjecting innocent victims to his spree of violence between April 2019 and August 2019," said U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs. "Today's sentence sends a powerful message to those who use violence and fear to carry out their crimes."

"The defendant targeted a close-knit community of successful business owners, inciting fear throughout the metroplex. His victims were stalked and terrorized, some for hours and some to the brink of death, and all have a long road of recovery ahead," said Dallas FBI Special Agent in Charge Chad Yarbrough. "Law enforcement utilized proactive investigative techniques that thwarted future attacks and led to the dismantlement of a criminal enterprise that had no intention of stopping. We cannot allow violent crimes to erode the value of community in our hometowns; law enforcement will continue to work together to bring violent offenders to justice and protect our residents."

According to information presented in court, the FBI began an investigation into a series of home invasion type robbery incidents between April 2019 and December 2019 that targeted owners and operators of donut stores in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area.

The robberies occurred late in the evening or very early in the morning before the shopkeepers departed for work. The assailants would force their way into the home and assault the home's occupants. Victims were often beat with baseball bats and bound with duct tape while being held at gunpoint. At least nine robberies have been attributed to this crime spree. Due to the times of the robberies coinciding with the times the victims would have been leaving their residences to open their businesses, agents concluded the suspects had to have conducted physical surveillance to determine where the victims lived and when the victims would have been leaving their residences. On the evening of July 8, 2019, officers in Euless, Texas, received a call from a witness reporting an individual stumbling down his street with his hands bound by tape. The victim had a bleeding head wound and was transported to a hospital. The victim advised he returned home from his donut shop in Dallas to find two suspects in his residence. He was bound and beat with a baseball bat and ordered to open a safe. The assailants left with the victim's car keys, cellular phone, approximately \$9,500 from the safe, and approximately \$900 from his wallet. Law enforcement agents utilized footage from surveillance videos, cell phone site data, and data extracted from cellular phones to determine Sullivan participated in the attack.

Pharmaceutical president sentenced for selling counterfeit cough syrup

A Florida-based pharmaceutical president has been sentenced to federal prison for drug trafficking violations in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Adam P. Runsdorf, 58, of Boca Raton, Florida, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, trafficking in counterfeit drugs, and money laundering conspiracy and was sentenced to

72 months in federal prison today by U.S. District Judge Marcia A. Crone. Runsdorf was also ordered to forfeit \$5 million and a McLaren sports car.

According to the indictment, from April 2014 until August 2021, Runsdorf, the owner and president of Woodfield Pharmaceutical LLC based in Boca Raton, Fla., conspired with drug traffickers in Houston, to distribute misbranded and counterfeit cough syrup.

Runsdorf's company pleaded guilty to the same charges and was ordered to forfeit \$1 million and fined \$50,000.

According to information presented in court, Byron A. Marshall, 43, of Houston, utilized Woodfield Pharmaceutical's manufacturing facility and employees in Houston to produce more than 500,000 pints of counterfeit cough syrup.

Marshall's drug trafficking organization sold the counterfeit drugs across Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, California, Florida, Arkansas, and Ohio.

Prices generally ranged from \$100 to more than \$1,000 per one-pint bottle. Depending on the market and brand of cough syrup, prices went as high as \$3,800 to \$4,000 per pint.

During the conspiracy, Marshall communicated directly with Runsdorf regarding production of the counterfeit cough syrup. At Runsdorf's request, Marshall paid Woodfield Pharmaceutical in cash only, and Woodfield employees mailed the cash directly to Runsdorf in Boca Raton.

All 11 defendants charged in the indictment, including Runsdorf and Marshall, pleaded guilty. Six have been sentenced in addition to Runsdorf. Tunji Campbell pleaded guilty to conspiracy, trafficking in counterfeit drugs, and money laundering conspiracy and was sentenced to 135 months imprisonment. Chauntell D. Brown pleaded guilty to conspiracy and trafficking in counterfeit drugs and was sentenced to 72 months imprisonment. Cheryl A. Anderson, Ashley A. Rhea, and Maria Anzures-Camarena, each pleaded guilty to conspiracy and were sentenced to 60 months imprisonment. Five others, including Marshall, are awaiting sentencing.

"In his role as owner and president of Woodfield Pharmaceutical LLC, Adam Runsdorf knew his company was producing thousands of gallons of counterfeit cough syrup—labeled to be nearly identical to a discontinued product—to be distributed to drug traffickers in Texas and other states," said U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs. "Runsdorf knew that drug traffickers were selling the counterfeit cough syrup to street-level users and he profited greatly from the sale of the counterfeit cough syrup. Runsdorf's greed earned him a significant prison sentence. Food and drug products, particularly pharmaceuticals such as cough syrups, undergo rigorous testing and inspection by federal authorities to ensure their safety. When companies evade inspection and certification requirements, innocent consumers are put at risk. EDTX is committed to ensuring public safety and upholding public trust through the vigorous prosecution of those that skirt these safety requirements."

"This sentence sends a strong message to anyone misusing their trusted role and privilege granted by DEA to handle controlled substance," said DEA Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Division Daniel C. Comeaux. "This case shows how collaborative efforts between state, local and federal partners on multiple fronts are capable of holding large pharmaceutical distribution companies like Woodfield Distribution accountable by immediately suspending its dangerous operations and bringing its CEO behind bars."



Yard of the Month

The Lindale Garden Club has chosen the yard belonging to Ben and Toni Wright, 916 Abbey Road in Lindale, as its Yard of the Month for August. (Courtesy photo)

Forest service urges caution when burning outdoors

As persistent triple-digit temperatures and dry conditions increase wildfire danger for much of the state, Texas A&M Forest Service is urging Texans to be cautious with outdoor activities that create sparks.

High temperatures and increased wind speeds will support the potential for large wildfires that may be resistant to firefighters' suppression efforts.

Areas at risk include North, Central and South Texas, the southern region of East Texas, areas in the Rolling Plains near Wichita Falls and Abilene and areas in the Hill Country near San Angelo, Fredericksburg and San Antonio.

The risk for wildfire activity will remain elevated through the first week of August, as very hot and dry conditions are likely to continue.

"With the recent uptick in wildfire activity, Texas A&M Forest Service has mobilized additional personnel and equipment to assist with response," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "State and local firefighters are prepared to respond quickly but we need Texans to be careful and prevent wildfire ignitions while conditions remain hot and dry."

In Texas, nine out of 10 wildfires are human-caused and preventable. The most common causes of wildfires during the summer months are debris burning and equipment use, which includes parking in dry grass and dragging trailer chains.

"Every year, Texans eagerly await the summer months when they can enjoy their favorite outdoor activities like camping, boating or grilling," said Karen Stafford, Texas A&M Forest Service Prevention

Program Coordinator. "Unfortunately, these activities can also spark an unintended wildfire. It is important that everyone consider their surroundings and remember that simple preventative measures can keep a wildfire from igniting."

Throughout the summer months:

Always check with local officials for burn bans and other outdoor burning restrictions. Pay attention to local guidelines regarding open fires, campfires and outdoor activities that may pose a fire hazard. For burn ban information, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/TexasBurnBans/>.

Park in designated spaces and avoid driving over and/or parking on dry grass. The heat from a vehicle can easily ignite the grass.

When using a cooking fire or campfire, never leave it unattended. Always make sure it is completely out by drowning it with water, stirring it and feeling to ensure it is out cold before leaving.

When pulling a trailer, ensure the chains are properly connected and do not drag on the road as this can create sparks.

If you witness suspicious behavior or signs of arson, immediately call the local authorities.

Stay wildfire aware. If a wildfire is spotted, immediately contact local authorities. A quick response can help save lives and property.

For more information about summer wildfire prevention, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/summerwildfires/>.

For information on the current wildfire situation in Texas, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/CurrentSituation/>.



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Maximize memory function with a nutrient-rich diet

By Claudann Jones
Smith County Extension Agent
Family and Community Health



Research suggests that the ability to maximize memory function may be related to what you eat.

Following an eating plan that provides a healthier selection of dietary fats and a variety of plant foods rich in phytonutrients could positively affect your health. Phytonutrients are substances found in certain plants that are believed to be beneficial for human health and help prevent certain diseases.

There's still much to learn about

what makes up a brain-healthy diet. Studies are finding that what's good for your heart also may be good for your brain. So the best bet for rich memories is to forgo unhealthy fat and remember to diversify your plant-based food portfolio.

Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes, fish, healthier fats, and herbs or seeds boost the brain's memory functioning. Here's more about these powerhouse foods:

-- Berries are high in antioxidants that can protect the brain from oxidative damage and prevent premature aging and memory-impairing dementia.

-- Blueberries are a rich source of anthocyanin and other flavonoids

that may improve brain function.

-- Grapes are full of resveratrol, a memory-boosting compound. Concord grapes are rich in polyphenols, which have the potential to promote brain function.

-- Watermelon has a high concentration of lycopene, another powerful antioxidant. Watermelon also is a good source of pure water, which benefits brain health.

-- Avocados are a fruit rich in monounsaturated fat, which improves memory function by helping improve blood cholesterol levels when eaten in moderation in place of saturated fats.

-- Beets are rich in nitrates, a natural compound that can dilate blood vessels, allowing more oxygenated blood to reach the brain.

-- Dark, leafy greens are known for their antioxidants, such as vitamin C, and have been shown to reduce age-related memory loss. Greens also are rich in folate, which can improve memory by decreasing inflammation and improving blood circulation to the brain.

-- Cracked wheat, whole-grain couscous, chickpeas, oats, sweet potatoes and black beans are examples of complex carbohydrates. Since brain cells run on glucose derived from carbohydrates and don't store excess glucose, they need a steady supply of it.

-- Fatty fishes, such as salmon, trout, mackerel, herring, sardines, pilchards and kippers, are rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

-- Olive oil provides monosat-

urated fat, which can help reduce LDL cholesterol levels when used in place of saturated or trans-fat.

Making lifestyle modifications to control your cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure levels, as well as not smoking, taking daily walks and keeping your weight in a healthy range can help preserve memory function. 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.



Seeing green (beans) in your garden

By Greg Grant
Smith County Horticulturist

Yes, I know it sounds insane to be planting vegetables now, but we produce crops based on the calendar, not on how we feel when doing it.

Remember, time and tide wait for no man, so I'm planting pole beans today. Irrigation will be required, of course.

Green beans require warm soils to germinate and can't tolerate frosts, freezes, or hot temperatures so should be planted no later than August for a fall crop.

Green beans pollinate and set pods best when the temperatures are in the 70's. Since our first frost normally arrives around mid-November, it's important to have fully established plants full of blooms when cooler temperatures arrive. After the seedlings establish themselves and have their first true leaves, thin the plants to 3-4 inches apart.

Green beans require at least 8 hours of direct sun each day. Beans aren't picky about soil types but should be planted in areas that drain well. It is ideal to till in several inches of com-

post or organic matter into the soil if possible and incorporate 2 pounds of a complete garden fertilizer (13-13-13, 10-20-10, etc.) per 100 square foot of bed or every 35 feet of row.

The ideal soil pH for growing green beans is 6.0-7.5, so liming is probably in order here.

Green beans are direct-seeded into the garden. Create a raised row about 6 inches high and 8-12 inches wide.

Multiple rows should be around 36 inches apart. Open a shallow trench 1-2 inches deep with the corner of a hoe or a stick. Drop the seed several inches apart to ensure a good stand. Cover lightly with loose soil using a hoe or garden rake.

Make sure the seed isn't too deep or it won't germinate.

Check the progress of your green bean plants when they are 6-8 inches tall. If they are vigorous and healthy you don't need to do a thing. If they are pale green and not vigorous you will need to apply a high nitrogen fertilizer to stimulate their growth. Use 1 cup of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) for every 35 feet of row. Sprinkle half

of the fertilizer down each side of the row. Lightly work it into the soil and then water.

This extra fertilizer application to boost the plants along is known as "side-dressing." Green beans are relatively pest free, however watch for aphids, stinkbugs, spider mites, and rust, and treat with an appropriately labeled pesticide following all label directions.

Greens beans are generally ready to harvest about 56 days from seeding. Green beans should be harvested when the pods are young and tender, 3-5 inches long, and before the seeds inside begin to bulge. It's better to pick them too small than too large. Harvest them at least every other day so the pods don't become tough and stringy.

Recommended varieties for Texas include Blue Lake (round), Contender (round), Derby (round), Tendergreen (round), Topcrop (round), Blue Lake-Pole (round), Jade-Pole (round), Kentucky Wonder-Pole (round), Greencrop (flat), Roma II (flat), and Purple Podded Pole (flat). Green beans are native to Central America.

Gardening in the heat of August

By Andi Rathbone
Smith County
Master Gardener

Of all the months in the year, my least favorite is August. It's hot, it's dry and most people I know are just counting the days until the summer is over. However, your garden does not care that you don't like the heat. There are still things you need to do.

As we said last month, plan your garden chores in the early morning when the temperatures are the coolest. Wear loose fitting clothing, a large-brimmed hat, use sunscreen and drink plenty of water. Know the four signs of heat exhaustion. If you get dizzy, nauseated or most importantly, stop sweating get out of the heat imme-

diately and back into an air conditioned space.

Here's your to-do list for the month:

--Giving plants ample water is the primary concern this month. Lawns and shrubs need an inch per week. Monitor rain with a gauge and supplement by irrigation with soaker hoses. Water infrequently, but deeply, between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 a.m. to avoid evaporation. Do not water at night as that promotes fungal diseases.

--In the latter half of the month prune roses by 25-30 percent to promote abundant blooms in October.

--Deadhead annuals and perennials to promote re-blooming.

--Make selections and

place your order for spring-flowering bulbs. Save the date, Oct. 14, for the Smith County Master Gardener "From Bulbs to Blooms." Information on our website or Facebook.

--Continue to fertilize annuals and container plants with a water-soluble fertilizer

--Wait until September to fertilize established lawns.

--Check azaleas for lace bugs

--Check for and control chinch bugs in the lawn.

--Check mulch thickness around shrubs and flowering plants. Add more if mulch is less than 3-4 inches deep.

--Sow seeds of cool season annuals in flats for planting in the fall.

--Continue to plant your fall vegetable garden. Plant beans, lima beans, Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, cucumbers, parsley and summer squash

--Watch for spider mites. Treat lightly infested plants with a strong blast of water from the hose. For more serious infestations, use insecticidal soap.

--Make notes in your garden journal of plants that are not doing well in the summer heat. Consider replacing them in the fall.

--Watch out for potential mosquito breeding grounds. Eliminate standing water in upturned pots, poorly drained gutters and plant container reservoirs.

--Clean out birdbaths and ensure they are kept filled with water. Use mosquito dunks in the standing water.

--Make sure nectar in hummingbird feeders is changed every 2-3 days so it will not ferment in the heat.

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

Protect your furry friends from heat strokes

Dr. Gabriela Rivas, a veterinary resident in emergency and critical care at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, says dogs can easily experience heat strokes during warmer months because they do not have the same capacity to produce sweat like humans do.

Sweating is a natural and efficient way to decrease body temperature and cool the skin by using excess body heat to convert sweat into vapor; because dogs are covered in fur and do not have sweat glands on most of their body, sweat on the skin cannot evaporate into vapor to cool them.

As a result, if dogs are unable to cool down through other means, heat exhaustion can turn into a heatstroke, a condition that requires veterinary intervention and ongoing monitoring.

"Dogs rely heavily on panting and drooling to get rid of excess heat, and heat strokes occur when these cooling methods become less effective, especially in hot and humid environments or if a pet is left in an area with poor ventilation, such as inside a vehicle," Rivas said. "There are also several factors such as obesity; breed conformation, or a dog's overall structure and appearance; and underlying diseases, such as seizures, advanced age, cardiovascular disease, and airway disease - that put them at risk of heat strokes at any time of the year."

While cats can also experience heat-related issues due to ineffective sweating, they are at less risk because they are not outside as often and typically exert less energy compared to dogs, keeping them cooler. Yet cats that are impacted by heat exhaustion and heat strokes exhibit similar signs as dogs and can be treated the same.

Dogs that experience heat exhaustion — a body temperature roughly between 103 and 106 degrees Fahrenheit — may pant heavily, avoid playing or exercising, and lie in the shade outside or on a cool surface inside such as tile or hardwood.

Yet signs of a heat stroke — a body temperature greater than 106 degrees Fahrenheit — are more extensive, including collapse or weakness; drooling; excessive panting; respiratory distress, meaning fluid fills the lungs instead of oxygen; disorientation; seizures; or a sudden onset of vomiting or diarrhea. These symptoms can worsen, according to Rivas, if they are not treated by a veterinarian.

"Heat stroke is a medical emergency because as the body temperature rises, dif-

ferent organ systems may become severely injured by the excess in heat," Rivas said. "Organ injury can lead to life-threatening complications such as shock, abnormal heart rhythms, clotting disorders, severe dehydration, systemic infection, or seizures. In some instances, a pet can experience multiple organ dysfunction or death."

Dogs experiencing a heatstroke will require immediate intensive care and most likely require active cooling, fluid therapy, anti-nausea medications, and electrolyte supplementation to treat symptoms and possible organ injury. Because of this, Rivas emphasizes how important it is that dog owners recognize when their pet is mildly overheated or on the verge of a heatstroke in order to take appropriate action sooner rather than later.

"When a dog overheats, owners can start cooling methods by moving their pet to a cool and shaded area, wetting them with lukewarm water and using a fan," Rivas said. "But if at any point an owner is concerned about heat stroke in their pet, they should seek veterinary care immediately. In the meantime, owners can use their car's air conditioning while they transport their pet to a veterinary clinic."

Owners should also be careful when cooling their dog, as some methods can worsen their symptoms.

"Ice water and water submersion should be avoided, as these methods can lead to extreme drops in body temperature, potentially trapping heat in areas that can damage organs further and make it harder for a dog to dissipate the heat," Rivas said. "Pets with heatstroke can also lose consciousness, which makes submerging them in water dangerous."

Since extreme heat can be damaging to both a cat's or dog's health, Rivas emphasizes that prevention is key by providing plenty of access to drinking water and shade when outdoors; avoiding walks and strenuous exercise during hot and humid weather; and never leaving a pet unattended in a vehicle.

With several months of hot weather still ahead and temperatures even reaching into the triple digits in some areas, pet owners should ensure their furry friend is safe from potential heat-related illness so that they can be happy and cool for the summer.

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Pet Talk is a service of the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.



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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ronnie Boyett Goode, Deceased, were issued to Darlene Beatrice Goode, July 24th, 2023, in Cause No. 47582P, by the County Court at Law #3 of Smith Co, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to Darlene Beatrice Goode, 18321 CR 447, Van, Texas 75790, within the time and manner prescribed by law.

CLERK OF THE COURT
PENNY CLARKSTON
SMITH COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK
100 N. BROADWAY, RM. 204
TYLER, TEXAS 75702
903-590-1660

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
Anthony J. King
115 East 6th Street
P.O. Box 537
Rusk, Texas 75785
(903)-683-5427

**CAUSE NO. 23-1119-C
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by Ten O'clock (10:00) A.M. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance of this citation, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the Clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than thirty (30) days after you file your answer with the Clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF ARTHUR G. REX and LIDDIE WORREAN REX, DEFENDANT

GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear by filing a written answer to the **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION** at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance of this citation, same being the 18th day of August, 2023, in the 241st Judicial District Court of Smith County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County located at 100 N. Broadway, Tyler, Texas, 75702. Said **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION** was filed in said Court on May 11, 2023, in this case, numbered. 23-1119-C, and styled: **MATTHEW ADAM TURNER VS THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF ARTHUR G. REX AND LIDDIE WORREAN REX**

The Plaintiff is MATTHEW ADAM TURNER. The Defendants are THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND ASSIGNS OF ARTHUR G. REX AND LIDDIE WORREAN REX. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Anthony J. King whose address is 115 East 6th Street/P.O. Box 537, Rusk, Texas 75785.

This action seeks Declaratory Relief under Chapter 37 of the Civil Practices and remedies Code and is an a Trespass to Try Title action under Chapter 22 of the Texas Property Code and Rules 783 et seq., of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and concerns title to the real estate described hereinafter referred to as "the Property," said property being property described in Volume 978, page 614, more particularly described as follows:

A tract of land in the Aaron Vickery Survey, A-1007, Smith County, Texas, and being a portion of that certain 61 acre tract conveyed by T.B. Lukenbill to Gibraltar Development Company by Deed dated October 9, 1958, and recorded in Volume 923, Page 128-132, Deed Records of said County. Said tract of land being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of said 61 Acre Tract; Thence North 0° 15' 54" West with the East line of said 61 Acre Tract 1175.21'; Thence South 89° 44' 06" West 186.00' to the beginning corner of the tract herein described; Thence South 89° 44' 06" West 126.00' to a point for corner; Thence North 0° 15' 54" West 70.00' to a point for corner; Thence North 89° 44' 06" East 126.00' to a point for corner; Thence South 0° 15' 54" East 70.00' to the PLACE OF BEGINNING Title to this property is clouded and negatively affected by the record rights of the Defendants.

The Officer executing this process shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and the mandates thereof. If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after it sued, it must be returned unserved.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Tyler, Texas, this date: July 7, 2023.

ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE COURT
PENNY CLARKSTON
Smith County District Clerk
100 N. Broadway, Rm. 204
Tyler, Texas 75702
BY: /S/ Gina McClung
Deputy Clerk

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LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS § Attorney of Record:
MICHAEL C. COKER
COUNTY OF SMITH § 4540 KINSEY DR
TYLER TX 75703
903-581-1196

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS IN THE ESTATE OF LONNIE HAROLD SMITH, JR., DECEASED:

On the 21st day of July, 2023, **RAYMOND W. COZBY, III** filed an **APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP** in a proceeding styled **IN THE ESTATE OF LONNIE HAROLD SMITH, JR., DECEASED** and bearing the number 46286P in the County Court at Law #3 of Smith County, Texas.

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

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

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

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and seal of office, the 24th day of July, 2023, at the office in Tyler, Texas.

KAREN PHILLIPS, COUNTY CLERK
Smith County, Texas
By: Shanae Howell, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **MOZELL NORMAN SMITH, Deceased**, were issued on June 5, 2023, in Cause No. 47470P, pending in the County Court at Law 3 of Smith County, Texas, to **REUCHELLE CAMPBELL aka REUNA CAMPBELL**.

The address for the Independent Executor is:

c/o: **LEIGH HUNT GOODSON**
The Goodson Firm, P.C.
115 W. Ferguson Street
Tyler, Texas 75702

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.

Date: July 28, 2023.
THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
Attorney for Reuna Campbell

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LINDALE TO CONSIDER AMENDING PROJECT AND FINANCIAL PLAN TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT ZONE NUMBER THREE, CITY OF LINDALE, TEXAS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Council of the City of Lindale, Texas (the "City"), pursuant to Sections 311 of the Texas Tax Code, as amended (the "Act"), will hold a public hearing at 6:00 pm on the 15 th day of August 2023, at City of Lindale City Hall, 105 Ballard Drive, Lindale Texas 75771, for the purpose of amending Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number Three (the "Zone") to amend the Project and Financial Plan.

Section 311 of the Texas Tax Code authorizes the governing body of the municipality that designated a reinvestment zone by ordinance, to amend the project and financial plan after notice and public hearing. At the hearing all interested persons may speak for or against the amended project and financial plan of the Zone.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DONALD CARL SCHARRINGHAUSEN, Deceased**, were issued on June 5, 2023, in Cause No. 47393P, pending in the County Court at Law 3 of Smith County, Texas, to **DONALD SPENCER SCHARRINGHAUSEN**.

The address for the Independent Executor is:
c/o: **LEIGH HUNT GOODSON**
The Goodson Firm, P.C.
115 W. Ferguson Street
Tyler, Texas 75702

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.

Date: July 28, 2023.
THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
Attorney for Donald Spencer Scharringhausen

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Lindale's Legrow named to Class 4A all-state team



Lindale High School pitcher Hudson Legrow has been named to the Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association's Class 4A All-State baseball team, publicity officials announced.

Legrow, an incoming junior, helped the Eagles to the Region II Area Championship this past May by tossing a one-hitter against Community in a 10-0, five-inning game.

He allowed just two walks in the series clincher.

CLASS 4A FIRST TEAM

Pitchers – Duncan Bowles, Canyon Randall, sr. R.J. Ruais, Celina, sr.; Braeden Brown, Sinton, sr.
Relief pitcher – Jacob Baker, Cuero, sr.
Catcher – Blake Mitchell, Sinton, sr.
First baseman – (tie) Jaquae Stewart, Sinton, sr.; Jake Gilbreath, Glen Rose, sr.

Second baseman – Cannon Harper, Glen Rose, sr.
Shortstop – Mason Kirk, China Spring, sr.
Third baseman – (tie) Jackson Rooker, Celina, sr.; Orlando Samaniego, El Paso Riverside, sr.
Outfielders – Tyler Fishbeck, Bellville, sr.; Sean Rabe, Celina, sr.; Landun Taylor, Geronimo Navarro, jr.
Designated hitter – Colten Grier, Van, jr.
Player of the Year – Mitchell, Sinton
Coach of the Year – Cory Beckham, China Spring

SECOND TEAM

Pitchers – Jayden Honey, China Spring, sr.; Brooks Brewster, Carthage, sr.; (tie) Jarret Halter, Texarkana Pleasant Grove, soph.; Xander Cloudy, Boerne, sr.
Relief pitcher – Landon Smith, Van, soph.
Catcher – Bryson Bohannon, Aubrey, sr.
First baseman – Dean Hannah, China Spring, soph.

Second baseman – W.T. Jones, Liberty-Eylau, sr.
Shortstop – (tie) Ace Reese, Canton, sr.; Cal Jones, Liberty-Eylau, jr.
Third baseman – Blake Linseisen, Bellville, sr.
Outfielders – Joel Pena, Levelland, sr.; Brayden Mulkey, Davenport, jr.; Hayden Coker, Columbia, jr.
Designated hitter – Kash Wood, Sinton, soph.

THIRD TEAM

Pitchers – Colby Turner, Lufkin Hudson, sr.; Kole Allen, Godley, sr.; (tie) Logan Simmons, Silsbee, sr.; David Wilson, Bullard, jr.
Relief pitcher – Jackson Thompson, Glen Rose, jr.
Catcher – (tie) Hudson Grace, Greenwood, sr.; Hagen Tuck, Andrews, sr.
First baseman – Griffen Williams, Canyon Lake, sr.
Second baseman – Devin Nunez, Navasota, jr.
Shortstop – (tie) Connor Cuff, Carthage, sr.; Nate Barry, Stephenville, sr.; Cam Johnson, Boerne, sr.
Third baseman – Easton Stewart, Snyder, jr.
Outfielders – Kyler Bowman, Stephenville, sr.; Byron McClure, Godley, soph.; Noah Bentley, Celina, sr.
Designated hitter – (tie) Blaine Pircher, Geronimo Navarro, sr.; Chris Sinku, Godley, sr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Pitchers – Hunter Anderson, Canyon Lake, sr.; Gavin Brandstetter, Brownwood, jr.; Brian Buchanan, Bishop, sr.; Braylen Collins, Bridge City, sr.; Layne Etheridge, Canton, sr.; Hudson Legrow, Lindale, soph.; Bryce Nall, Geronimo Navarro, sr.; Conner Smeltzer, Longview Spring Hill, sr.; Ely Zepeda, Zapata, sr.
Relief pitcher – Raleigh Clark, Andrews, sr.
Catchers – Justin Abate, Bridge City, sr.; Jase Garrett, China Spring, sr.; Mason Gilbert, Canyon Randall, sr.; Rusty Johnson, Levelland, sr.; Kolt Larsen, Lufkin Hudson, jr.; Cade Martin, Pleasant Grove, jr.; Caden Miller, Madisonville, jr.
First basemen – Dawson Byars, Andrews, sr.; Derek Cardenas, El Paso Riverside, jr.; Nolan Larsen, Lufkin Hudson, jr.; A.J. Phergson, Lubbock Estacado, sr.; Bryce Rasmussen, El Campo, sr.; Cole Zimmer, Geronimo Navarro, sr.
Second basemen – Drew Bird, Salado, sr.; Nolan Casbeer, Graham, sr.; Gehrig Morris, Andrews, sr.; Riley Pechacek, Boerne, sr.; Jax Stovall, Longview Spring Hill, sr.
Shortstops – Kyle Barosh, El Campo, sr.; Jake Carter, Marble Falls, sr.; Kole Dudding, Canyon Randall, sr.; Adrian Estrada, El Paso Riverside, sr.; Ryan Galvan, Alice, sr.; Marco Gonzales, Sinton, jr.; Jacob Symon, Davenport, sr.
Third basemen – Riley Akins, Burkburnett, jr.; Nick Flores, Sinton, jr.; Matt Lopez, Corpus Christi Calallen, jr.; Lucas Ponce, Godley, jr.; Brent Szczuroski, Hidalgo, soph.
Outfielders – Javier Balderas, Ferris, sr.; Brenton Clark, Pleasant Grove, jr.; Brenan Daniel, China Spring, sr.; Neven Johnson, Kennedale, sr.; Noah Paddie, Carthage, sr.; Devan Phillips, Rockport-Fulton, sr.; Hagen Shedd, Canyon Randall, jr.; A.J. Silva, Fort Worth Castleberry, sr.; Chase Wernimont, Sanger, sr.
Designated hitter – Dillon Davenport Carthage, jr.

COVID making return summer lap

Yet another summer COVID-19 wave may have started in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“After roughly six, seven

months of steady declines, things are starting to tick back up again,” Dr. Brendan Jackson, the CDC's COVID-19 incident manager, tells NPR.

The amount of corona-

virus being detected started increasing in early July, Jackson says.

“We've seen the early indicators go up for the past several weeks, and just this week

for the first time in a long time we've seen hospitalizations tick up as well,” Jackson says. “This could be the start of a late summer wave.”

Hospitalizations jumped 10% to 7,109 for the week ending July 15, from 6,444 the previous week, according to the latest CDC data.

The increases vary around the country, with the virus appearing to be spreading the most in the southeast and the least in the Midwest, Jackson says.

But overall, the numbers remain very low — far lower than in the last three summers.

“If you sort of imagine the decline in cases looking like a ski slope — going down, down, down for the last six months — we're just starting to see a little bit of an almost like a little ski jump at the bottom,” Jackson says.

Most of the hospitalizations are among older people. And deaths from COVID-19 are still falling — in fact, deaths have fallen to the lowest they've been since the CDC started tracking them, Jackson says.

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