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Thursday, August 10, 2023

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



New teachers welcomed into LISD

The Lindale ISD has 50 new teachers ready for the 2023-24 school year and Cooperative Teachers Credit Union, ChristPoint Methodist Church and First Baptist Church provided meals, treats and goodie bags on Monday, Aug. 8.

LISD preparing for another school year

By Terry Cannon
Editor

Now in his 17th year at the helm of the Lindale ISD, Superintendent Stan Surratt still gets excited when the calendar indicates another school year is near.

During his tenure, the LISD has maintained its status as one of the top districts in the state.

Is there one specific thing he can point to as to why the district has maintained its lofty status?

"It's the combination of wonderful students, supportive parents, skilled and dedicated staff members and the support of our community," Surratt said. "It's a perfect combination to have a great school district."

A district that is consistently ranked in the upper tier across the state, the LISD has rigid standards that have paid dividends in the form of well-rounded students.

"We like to call it The Lindale Way," Surratt said. "It's the culture we've established, from the behavior of our students and the professionalism of our staff."

NEW YEAR BEGINS AUG. 16

Teachers will report to their respective campuses on Monday, Aug. 8 for a week's worth of in service and on Wednesday, Aug. 16 students will begin their first day of school.

Velma Penny students will enjoy a new air condi-

Continued on Page 8

County burn ban order issued

By Casey Murphy
Smith County Public Information Officer

The Smith County Commissioners Court voted on Tuesday, Aug. 1, to issue a burn ban for the County.

As of last week, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Smith County was averaging 632, with the highs in the 700s. The KBDI ranges from 0 to 800 and is used to determine forest fire potential. In the past, Smith County has issued a burn ban when the drought index falls around 700.

"It's no surprise it's hot outside and dangerously so," Smith County Fire Marshal Paul Findley said during his Commissioners Court



update. "Looking at the forecast, it most likely will get worse before it gets better."

With triple digit temperatures forecasted for the next 10 days, along with the expected daily

increase to the KBDI, Findley recommended that the Commissioners Court issue the "Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning."

"The weather we are now experiencing is the perfect recipe for wildland fires," Smith County Judge Neal Franklin said. "This ban is an appropriate measure and we will keep a close watch as we move forward."

The burn ban order is in effect for 90 days unless conditions improve and the Commissioners Court approve terminating the order early. Significant rainfall in the area will be needed for that to occur.

Fireworks, fire pits or any form

Continued on Page 8

Lindale PD, Precinct 5 Constables help arrest fleeing suspect near I-20

A Fort Worth man and his car passenger are in the Smith County Jail facing charges after a traffic stop on Friday, Aug. 4 near FM 849 and Interstate 20, said Larry Christian of the Smith County Sheriff's Office.

Devoria Hardy – 21 of Fort Worth and passenger Cordre Tolliver – 21 of Shreveport, La., have been charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance, Evading Arrest/Detention in a Vehicle and outstanding warrants.



Law enforcement officers from the Lindale Police Department, the Smith County Precinct 5 Constable's Office's K-9 Deputy joined with Texas Department of Public Safety officers in making the arrest.

Christian said at approximately 1:45 p.m. on Aug. 4, a Smith County K-9 Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 20 near FM 849.

As the Deputy approached the vehicle on foot, the driver quickly sped away eastbound on Interstate 20.

The Deputy returned to his patrol vehicle and initiated a pursuit. From a distance, the Deputy observed the suspect attempt to pass a car in the left lane by partially entering the center median.

The suspect lost control of his vehicle and struck the concrete barrier. The suspect vehicle then careened across both eastbound lanes before bottoming out in the ditch between IH-20 and the Loop 49 access road.

The driver fled on foot and a front seat passenger remained in the vehicle. The K-9 Deputy was quickly able to detain the passenger who was cooperative.

Other law enforcement personnel quickly arrived in the area and set up a perimeter. With the help of witnesses, including an off-duty officer from the Metroplex, Deputies were able to determine a direction of travel.

The suspect was located shortly thereafter in a wooded area on the northwest side of Loop 49 and Interstate 20. He had attempted to conceal himself under pine straw.

Deputies located two handguns with one of the guns loaded with a 50 round drum type magazine, several thousand dollars in loose cash and THC products.



Congressman Moran introduces the Strong Communities Act of 2023

Congressman Nathaniel Moran (TX-01) recently introduced the Strong Communities Act of 2023 alongside Congresswoman Deborah Ross.

"Communities are best served by those who know it well. My legislation, the Strong Communities Act of 2023 will allow funding from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program to be used for the purpose of recruiting locals and sponsoring law enforcement training programs that will encourage recruits to stay and serve in the communities they know and love," Moran said. "Attracting and retaining law enforcement officers is a challenge for many communities, and this legislation takes us a step closer to ensuring that local law enforcement has the manpower needed to keep our communities safe and secure."

Congresswoman Ross added, "As we continue to face shortages of law enforcement officials nationwide, we must offer incentives for our police departments to help them recruit tal-

ent from their own communities. When our law enforcement reflects the people they serve, officers are more effective in their work, and citizens have greater confidence and faith in the officials sworn to protect them. I'm proud to work with Congressman Moran in introducing this bipartisan bill and remain committed to providing our nation's brave police departments with the tools they need to succeed and keep us safe."

According to Moran's office, states and localities across the country are facing a recruitment problem when it comes to law enforcement. The Strong Communities Act will incentivize recruits to stay in the communities they live in. Through recruitment from within the community, these recruits will know the people they protect and serve.

The grants offered through this program will be used to attract recruits to attend critical law enforcement training programs on the condition that enrollees work for their local law enforcement agency following completion of the training. This program

will allow local communities to have trained, qualified law enforcement officers that are familiar with the specific needs of its community.

To be eligible for these grants, recruits must:

Agree to work for a law enforcement agency – defined as an agency of state or local government authorized to prevent, detect, investigate, or prosecute violations of criminal law – in their community at least four of the eight years following their completion of a law enforcement training program.

The law enforcement agency where officers and recruits ultimately work must be located within seven miles of the residence of the recruit – or 20 miles for counties with fewer than 150,000 residents.

If an officer does not complete the four-year work requirement in the eight years following completion of their training program, the officer must repay the grant amount to the law enforcement agency.



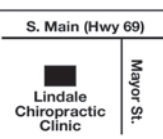
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OPINION/COMMENTARY

"What will your verse be?"....

Insatiably curious kids should be the goal of every parent and teacher. Those are the kids who grow up to solve problems in unique ways. Whether the kid is entering kindergarten, or their senior year, the rites of passage in public school are unique to American children and their development.

I've watched teachers enthusiastically welcome little ones to their first day of school. They ushered the babies into a new kind of learning environment. One I pray is a glitch and not to become typical. A great deal of learning is relational. It is more about the buy-in to the teacher than the methods used to convey information.

I taught two sections of psychology classes for seniors and the first day was one of the most important in our year. I walked into class and reminded them that 'today was their last first day of school'. That was a gut punch for many kids. I then asked them to stand and to follow me without talking.

When I got them into the first hall I would turn and say something like: "Here we are in the Senior Hall on your last first day of school. This year will be what you make it. We are going to walk the halls of the high school and listen, really listen to the sounds and take in this moment that will never happen again."

And then we did. We passed classes laughing, classes being reprimanded, classes deep into what their teachers were saying, classes with kids debating. And the kids heard, really heard the sounds of high school. When we got to the Freshman Hall we would stop and I would remind them what their first, first day of high school was like. The numbers of outfits tried on by the girls, the anxiety of dressing rooms, band halls and upperclassmen. We would stop at a few favorite teachers' rooms and they would come out

and give a few words of wisdom. Often, by this time, a few tears were in evidence.

Next we would wend our way to the gym where a PE class would already be shooting baskets. There I told my seniors to listen to the sounds of the gym. I told them to take it in...the games, the pep rallies, the special moments because once they graduate that gym would never sound the same way again, nor would the football stadium. By now, the entire class was still. We passed trophy cases and memorials on the way back to our classroom. We looked at pictures of past classes and the realization that these current seniors too, would soon be alums would sink, deeply, in.

Often, on the way back to our room the entire class would be holding hands, some tearful, some quiet, some guys with arms over each other's shoulders. They had bonded on that last first day of school in a way that would set a foundation to build their last new year on.

And then they got their assignment...to write their goals for their senior year. The goals would be read by no one but them. Once written they were sealed in an envelope with the student's name and I kept them locked up until graduation when they were placed in the seniors' graduation envelopes, still sealed ready for them to measure their year, their achievements, themselves by what they had written.

I like to think that their goals were more deliberate because of that first last day of class. I believe they often were because the kids told me so. Some of the kids would share their ability to reach a particular goal. Often those goals were deeply personal.

I envy our teachers in the trenches...even during this pandemic. The gift of teaching often brings much greater rewards to the teacher than the taught. This week I am remembering those last first days of those I taught, as well

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



as those of my own child.

Life is too short, too precarious and too unpredictable to not choose to live with deliberation, passion and a curiosity that surpasses any lesson taught. We should all continue to aspire to those goals throughout our lives. If we do, life will be richer, deeper and more meaningful.

I often reminded my students, with a little help from the old movie "Dead Poet's Society" some form of the following: "Carpe Diem! (Seize the Day.) We each have a 'powerful verse to contribute to the play'. The trick is to figure out what your verse will be."

It's not too late my friends. It's never too late to contribute a verse. What will YOURS be?

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

What Recession??

While we're not out of the woods, opinions about the likelihood of recession are shifting away from the doom and gloom which has been prevalent over the past year. I have always felt that the talk was overblown and that the US economy would prove to be resilient even in the face of the action the Federal Reserve has taken to slow inflation.

In dozens of speeches and articles, I have repeatedly put the odds of a downturn at 35% or less from the outset. Most analysts thought a downturn was virtually certain, with one prominent and respected group putting the odds at 100% (I couldn't resist pointing out that there wasn't a 100% chance of anything in our complex economic universe). Recently, month after month of job gains even as target interest rates reached 22-year highs have led a growing number to become a bit more optimistic.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) has a dual mandate – to keep inflation low and employment high. Things were going pretty well until the pandemic. Between massive stimulus packages which increased demand and supply chain problems which made products hard to get, inflation became a major concern. In response, the Fed rapidly increased target interest rates and shrank its balance sheet to slow the economy and reduce inflationary pressures.

It's a difficult challenge to try to manage the US economy. It's a lot more like steering and braking a cruise ship than a sports car, and there are inevitably lags between actions and results. The urgency was justified; if people begin to assume that inflation will persist, it can become self-fulfilling and self-perpetuating as price increases become baked into contracts and wage negotiations.

Recently, a poll released by the National Association of Business Economists showed that 75% of its forecast panel no longer expect a recession in the coming year. In addition, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has backed off from its recession projection. Many prognosticators from various financial institutions have also backed away from their expectations of decline. Even the staff of the Fed itself now anticipates a notable slowdown, but no recession.

The reason to be encouraged is that inflation is slowing markedly without major disruptions to the labor market. Unemployment remains low, though job openings are falling somewhat and fewer people are quitting their jobs (a sign that they are less sure that they will be able to go out and immediately get another, better position). It's good news that some of the overheating in the labor market is calming.

It's still relatively early in the battle against inflation, and there are clearly some risks to be dealt with (a topic for another day). Nonetheless, things are looking up. Stay safe.

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.

Child care centers closing across Texas

An unprecedented number of child care centers are expected to close across the state as pandemic relief funding ends, the Texas Standard reported.

A survey conducted by the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children of about 1,600 child care programs indicated 44% were likely to close their doors without additional funding. Federal pandemic relief funds ended for most centers in June.

The Texas Legislature declined to pass a \$2.3 billion House proposal for child care providers, with the intent that the money be used to raise the average wage of staff from \$12 per hour to at least \$15 per hour.

Since 2020, Texas child care providers have received more than \$4 billion in COVID-19 funding, according to the *Texas Tribune*. The money helped cover child care costs for more than 800,000 Texas children.

"This is going to be something that affects every community here in the state of Texas and will have a lasting effect on our economy as the supply of workers in all industries is shortened because of the lack of child care," Cody Summerville, executive director of TAEYC, said.

No additional impeachment articles for Paxton
The deadline has passed

with no additional impeachment charges against suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who already faces 20 articles of impeachment in a trial set in the Senate for Sept. 5, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House members in late May voted 121-23 to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate, accusing Paxton of bribery and misuse of office. Paxton was indicted in 2015 for securities fraud, with that trial now set for 2024.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who will preside over the impeachment trial, said it will likely last two to three weeks.

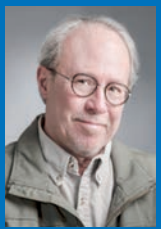
New law cracks down on street racing

Gov. Greg Abbott last week signed two laws cracking down on illegal street racing. House Bills 1442 and 2899 enhance penalties for those involved in such activities and provide law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to address those crimes.

"Street takeover" events have been occurring in Austin, Fort Worth and other cities, where intersections are blocked by vehicles doing donuts in intersections while others film the event.

Abbott ceremonially signed the bill in Fort Worth, where a street takeover led to a pair of fatalities.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



"Street racing and street takeovers are not a victimless crime," said Mayor Mattie Parker. "Right here in Fort Worth, we lost a wonderful young couple who had three children. These types of incidents are all too common across the country."

Abbott announced the formation of a task force in February to combat street takeovers. The Texas Department of Public Safety, working with local law enforcement, has made more than 50 arrests and nearly 400 traffic citations related to illegal street racing across the state.

A&M reaches \$1 million settlement with professor

Texas A&M University reached a \$1 million settlement with a journalism professor whose botched hiring led to the resignation of the university's president, The Dallas Morning News reported.

University officials released the results of an internal investigation last week that admitted "mistakes were made during the hiring process."

Kathleen McElroy, a former editor for the New York Times and a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, accepted a tenure-track position to

restart A&M's journalism program. A public signing ceremony was followed with backlash, including from six A&M regents, because of her work to diversify newsrooms. The original offer eventually was reduced to a one-year contract with no protection from being summarily fired. McElroy decided to stay at UT-Austin while making public how the offer had changed.

"I hope the resolution of my matter will reinforce A&M's allegiance to excellence in higher education and its commitment to academic freedom and journalism," McElroy said. She is a Texas A&M graduate.

Texas leads nation in 'family annihilation'

Cases of "family annihilation," where one family member kills at least two close family members, occur every five days in the United States, according to a study originally made by the IndyStar and analyzed by the Statesman. That analysis indicated since 2020 such homicides have occurred in Texas 33 times — more than any other state. Firearms are used most frequently in family annihilations in the state, the study showed.

Tax rate public hearing date to be set by council

A date for a public hearing on the city of Lindale tax rate will be set at the city council's Aug. 15 meeting after council members OK'd the voter-approved tax rate of

.36 per \$200 valuation this past week at city hall.

Lindale City Manager Carolyn Caldwell presented council members with the tax rate during the Aug. 1

meeting. Caldwell said this is the lowest tax rate in the city's history.

Council members also approved a 5.7 percent increase for solid waste collection from Republic Services and approved an amendment the city's water and sewer rate to reflect the Republic increase.

In other action, the council:

- Approved the 2023-24, Smith County 9-1-1 budget;
- Approved a the city's tax abatement policy and principles;
- Raised the price of cemetery lots in Lindale City Cemetery;
- Approved the Lindale News and Times as the official city newspaper for Lindale;
- Approved an \$8,813 payment to Oncor to move a utility pole for the downtown sidewalk project.

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—Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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Slinging suds and serving country crooners

Back in 1977 my good friend/boss Jim Bardwell yanked me out from behind the bar I was working at to cover sports for him at the local paper in the college burg that was Commerce.

Today's essay isn't about a neophyte journalist, it is rather about the bar I was employed at, the Showdown.

My introduction to the place came when my older brother talked me into a road trip to Commerce from Dallas so he could scout out a place to live while pursuing his Master's Degree in the fall of 1974.

(Talking me into a road trip to anywhere is like asking the family dog. I am always so eager I practically wag my tail.)

Anyway, after we got to town he and I entered this dimly lit cavern through swinging doors reminiscent of those in Old West movies. The bar was long, smudged and had several of empty beer glasses on it.

The place reeked of cigarette smoke, (and that vile weed college students preferred), stale beer and was a bit musty.

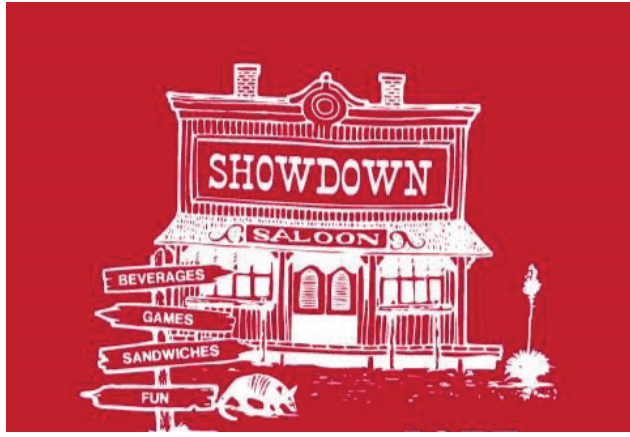
But, man oh man, was that place beautiful.

My brother and I moved to town in the summer of 1974 and since I had worked two jobs before leaving Dallas didn't need to work right away. So I was on an easy schedule: stay up until 2 or 3 a.m., sleep until 2 p.m., pull on my shorts, dirty T-shirt and even dirtier tennis shoes and walk to the Showdown just in time for nickel beer.

Ah, nickel beer. From 3 to 3:15 p.m., you could get as many beers as possible for a nickel apiece.

Whoa Boy!

Naturally, this attracted



quite an eclectic group. Long hairs mixed with old timers, college professors with their students and local merchants looking to soothe their parched throats.

Well, the money ran out a couple of months later and I had to enter the job force in Commerce. Eventually, I heard of a day shift opening at the Showdown and voila!, I was hired. Guess management thought since I was there all the time anyway why not pay me minimum wage to sling beer and wipe down the bar?

After a few months, I was moved to the night shift after I finally enrolled in college. The night time clientele was, shall we say, a bit different than during the day.

My education into human nature throttled into overdrive. We had fights, passed out drunks, guys/gals practicing relationship politics, visits from the local police and many ID checks.

Some of the highlights include:

-- Snacking on fried arma-

dillo. No, really, it happened. This rather shabby looking guy sits down on a stool at the bar and drops a plastic bag in front of him containing little pieces of meat. He orders a beer and starts eating the food he brought with him. It had a rather odd aroma so I naturally asked him about it.

"It's fried armadillo," he said. "Want some?"

Being a bit more adventurous than I am now, said "Sure! Why not?"

What is it they say? Tastes kind of like chicken? Yep, that's what it tasted like.

Hmm, maybe it was. But the story is better when it's armadillo.

-- Playing host and bartender to Jerry Jeff Walker. Back in 1976, an outdoor country music event called the Boot Meadow Festival took place near Commerce. One of the highlighted performers was yep, ol' Jerry Jeff -- lover of bars, whiskey, beer and (ahem) other ingested things. So on the afternoon of the festival, business was kind of slow.

I'm watching TV when about a half-dozen strangers walk -- check that, stagger -- in and begin ordering beer. Lots of beer. Being a lover of outlaw country music, I recognized Mr. Bojangles right away. Propped up on a stool in the corner, he pulls out his guitar and starts entertaining the 10 or 12 of us in the bar. Did I mention they were drinking lots -- and lots -- of beer? This went on for a few hours and they left for the concert.

Heard later that ol' Jerry Jeff's performance ended suddenly when he fell off the stage.

Go figure.

-- Having a Hollywood actor almost arrested by the local police. One of the funniest -- when sober -- and likeable people I've ever known is the late Jerry Biggs, who began his entertainment career as one of those gunslingers at the Wild West Show at Six Flags. He inched his way up the acting ladder and eventually appeared in films such as Tender Mercies, Silverado, Lonesome Dove and Bernie. Biggs knew my brother and became one of our family's favorite people. He would ingratiate himself into family gatherings and regale everyone with his truly hilarious Hollywood stories.

Anyway, one night at closing time, Biggs -- who really did like his suds -- was acting ornery and wouldn't leave. I had to close the bar and friend or no friend, I was too young to go to jail. I walked across the street to the police station and said I needed help in getting a drunk out of my bar.

Screaming at me when he was being hauled away, he said he'd never forgive me.

He did, eventually. We made up at a family dinner a few years later.

Times of Lindale



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

ONE YEAR AGO, Aug. 11, 2022

Lindale City Council members approved a 4.4 percent increase for solid waste collection from Republic Services for city customers during their regular meeting Tuesday night (Aug. 2) in city hall.

The increase was in line with the Consumer Price Index. Council members also amended the city's water and sewer rate to reflect the increase.

The new rates will be on the Nov. 1 bills, City Manager Carolyn Caldwell said.

Council members also approved an ordinance declaring the downtown water tower as a historical landmark and OK'd putting out for bids restoration work on the water tower which was built in 1934.

Caldwell said hotel/motel funds could be used to refurbish it as long as the water tower was deemed a historical landmark.

Bids for the water tower will cover painting and lighting. The tower will remain disconnected from the city's main water supply.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Aug. 9, 2018

Lindale High School third baseman James Richey and teammate Brad Burckel, a shortstop, were named to the Collin Street Bakery/Texas Sports Writers Association Class 5A All-State team.

Richey, who signed a letter of intent to play for the Texas State Bobcats in San Marcos, was named to the first team while Burckel was named to the Honorable Mention squad. Burckel signed to play college baseball with the University of Houston.

10 YEARS AGO, Aug. 8, 2013

Smith County District Attorney Matt Bingham presented two K9 officers to County Sheriff Larry Smith's office, spokesman John Moore said.

The presentation was made during a press conference at the Smith County Emergency Operations Center on Spur 248.

The dogs were purchased earlier in the year. After training, they were put to work with the department.

The dogs, which cost \$11,500 each and are trained to track people, sniff out drugs and for use during patrol, were paid for by confiscated drug funds at no cost to taxpayers.

Deputies Jeff Hobson and Tim Cutright are the dogs' handlers and both deputies trained for three weeks at Worldwide Canines in San Antonio with their respective K9's, "Lany" and "Indie".

Each deputy continues to train with his dog for a minimum of eight hours a week.

Try to be nice and see what happens

Have you ever heard that statement "No good deed goes unpunished?" Sometimes I wonder if that's not true. Not that I did a good deed, or anything. It's just that sometimes you try to be nice to someone, and it just doesn't work out like you think it ought to.

Here, let me just tell you what happened. By the way, I try to be a nice person, honest. You can ask anybody.....Well, don't ask my wife but ask anybody else.

Once upon a time my old truck, Copperhead, (I name all of my vehicles, don't you?) turned over 300,000 miles.

I was so excited I called a whole bunch of people that I thought would be impressed. They weren't. Oh well, I was.

I decided to celebrate, so I stopped at a fill'em up joint to fuel up and get myself a chocolate Moon Pie.

I pulled up to the pump, jumped out and started wrestlin' the hose and nozzle around to fill her up. That's when a little bitty car whipped around to the pump in front of me.

All of a sudden, a lady jumped out and started fillin' her own car up. I walked up to the front of my truck and looked at her car. It was a pretty little thing.

"Hello there," I said. She looked at me, stuck her nose up in the air, and then looked back at her car. "That sure is a pretty car you've got there," I said, tryin' to be friendly.

That's when all you know what broke loose.

She let go of the gas nozzle and walked up to me. "It's a hybrid and it gets 40 miles to the gallon," she



said, but she wasn't smilin'.

"Wow," I said. "You can't beat that."

"And what is that thing there?" she asked, as she pointed at my truck.

"That?" I said. "Well, that's my truck." Then I smiled. "She just turned over 300,000 miles."

"No," she said. "What that is, is a gas guzzler. You ought to be ashamed of yourself. You are depleting our limited supply of unrenewable resources."

"Do what?"

"There is only a limited supply of fossil fuel and you're wasting it."

"I ain't wastin' it," I said. "You are, too."

"No I'm not, and any way, it ain't a gas guzzler."

"Yes it is,"

"No ma'am, it's a diesel guzzler."

"Same difference."

"No ma'am, it isn't. You see, to get that gas you're usin' over there, they have to refine crude oil and diesel's one of the things that's left over. You see, I'm using the dregs, so you can have your gasoline."

"Oh, so you think you're smart, huh?" she snapped. "Well, what are you going to do when the earth runs out of fuel? What then? Huh?"

"I guess I'll ride a horse," I said. "What are you gonna ride, a broom?"

"What did you say?" she growled.

"I didn't stutter lady."

"People like you

ought to be punished," she snarled. Obviously, she hadn't seen the weddin' ring on my finger.

"You are just a bully," she said.

I looked up in thought. "My I ask you a question?" I asked.

"What?" she spit.

"Well, do you remember the first thing I said to you?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Well, ma'am, if I remember correctly, I told you hello and you didn't reply. Then I told you how pretty your little car was and that's when you started jumpin' all over me. I tried to be nice, but you wouldn't let me. So the way I see it, you're the bully."

"Well!" she exclaimed. "What's the matter? You can dish it out, but can't take it?"

"That truck looks like a big old' ugly behemoth, and as far as I'm concerned, you can take it and run it off of a cliff!"

"Well," I replied. "That little ol' car of yours looks like a suppository, and I guess you know what you do with those, don't you?"

"I can't believe you!"

"Believe it sister," I replied, and she stormed off.

I finished fillin' up and went inside to get my Moon Pie. When I came out, I looked at the front of my truck. You know, I could have sworn it looked like it was smilin' at me.



Rotary Club speakers

Bryan and Paige White were the guest speakers for the weekly meeting of the Lindale Rotary Club this past week and discussed their dream to build an inclusive playground for those with special needs. (Courtesy photo)



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Ballot order drawn for state constitutional amendments

Texas Deputy Secretary of State Joe Esparza has drawn the ballot order for the 14 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution, publicity officials said.

Texans will vote on these amendments as a part of the Nov. 7 election.

The ballot order is:

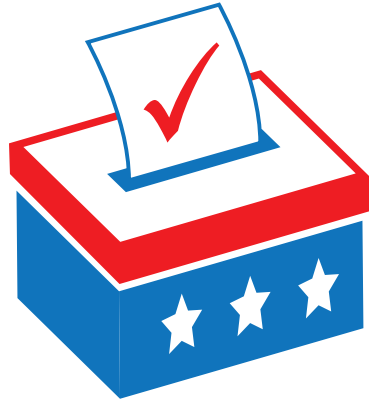
Proposition 1 – HJR 126 “The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.”

Proposition 2 – SJR 64 “The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.”

Proposition 3 – HJR 132 “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference

between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.”

Proposition 4 – HJR 2 from the second special session “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.”



Proposition 5 – HJR 3 “The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.”

Proposition 6 – SJR 75 “The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.”

Proposition 7 – SJR 93 “The

constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”

Proposition 8 – HJR 125 “The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.”

Proposition 9 – HJR 2, regular session “The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”

Proposition 10 – SJR 87 “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.”

Proposition 11 – SJR 32 “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.”

Proposition 12 – HJR 134 “The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.”

Proposition 13 – HJR 107 “The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.”

Proposition 14 – SJR 74 “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”

More information about the amendments and voting in Texas can be found at VoteTexas.gov.

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903-597-6131
Pastor Stephen Nipp

Bethel Baptist Church
FM 16 West, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8275

Bible Baptist Church
16173 CR 431, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-1454

Carmel Baptist Church
10969 CR 481, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3852
James Cheatham

Central Baptist Church
13745 FM 16 East, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3179
Byron Howard

Damascus Baptist Church
17052 CR 4105 Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3392
Bennie Portwood

Dover Baptist Church
21166 FM Road 1995, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-5106

Duck Creek Baptist Church
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-9558

East Foothills Missionary Baptist Church
810 E South St, Lindale, TX 75771
903-574-2672
Gary Dinger

Fairview Baptist Church
Van Highway, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-9500

First Baptist Church
Hwy 69 (in Swan) Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-6432

First Baptist Church of Lindale
110E Hubbard St. Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3396
Tom Buck

Foundation Baptist Church
715 S Main St. Lindale 75771
903-881-9490

Garden Valley Baptist Church
17816 CR 442, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-7671

Greater Hopewell Baptist Church
10480 CR 492 • Tyler, TX 75706
903-882-4726

Hopewell Baptist Church
11804 CR 494, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-5381



Hopewell Valley Baptist, Church No 1
CR 429 • Van, TX
903-882-5136

Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church
13073 Hwy 110 N • Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3890
Bruce Rudd

New Harmony Baptist Church
10251 FM 724, Tyler, TX 75704
903-593-5811

Red Springs Baptist Church
Red Springs, TX
903-858-2365

St Mary Baptist Church
12050 CR 452., Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8066

Thompson Hill Baptist Church
14657 CR, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-0849

Walnut Springs Baptist Church
211 Walnut Springs., Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-7858

Wood Trails Baptist Church
11804 CR 494,
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-5381

CATHOLIC

Holy Family Catholic Church
16314 FM 849,
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-4079
Rev. David Bailey, Pastor

St. Joseph the Worker Tridentine Latin Mass
5075 FM 14, Tyler, 75712
903-593-5055
Rev. Joseph Valentine, FSSP

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church of Christ – Lindale
211 W. Hubbard, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-6455

Church of Christ – South Main
2425 S Main St,
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8933

Church of Christ – Swan County
Road 471, Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8009

EPISCOPAL

St Luke's Episcopal Church
16292 FM 849
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8118
Rev. John Carr

LUTHERAN

First Century Christian Fellowship
10119 Gina Rd., Lindale, TX 75771
Dr. Lawrence Zillmer

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ChristPoint Methodist Church
402 W Hubbard St • Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8506
Michael Peschke

Harris Chapel Southern Methodist Church
17069 CR 452 Lindale TX
903.253.3175
John Roach, Pastor

Mt Sylvan United Methodist Church
Mt. Sylvan • 903-882-5479
Swan-Wood Springs Methodist Church
Hwy 69, Tyler, TX 75706
903-882-6382

NON DENOMINATIONAL

Clearview Church
13933 Hwy 110 N
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8949

Community Christian Fellowship
15704 Hwy 110 N Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-8501
David Hickey

Cross Brand Cowboy Church
11915 FM 2015, Tyler, Texas 75708
903-535-9155

Crossroads Community Church
20465 US Highway 69 North
Lindale TX 75771-4206
903-881-9844
Tim Letsch

Bethesda Church
2401 S Main St
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-7597
Steven & Camilla Charles

Friendship CME Church
20428 CR 482
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-7269

Garden Valley Bible Church
17117 FM 1253
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-9665

Grace Community Church
15567 Wood Springs Rd
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3323

Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church
1115 Lake Cross Rd
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-6966

Life of Glory Church
14623 CR 463
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-7997
Ed & Becky Colville

Life Source Community Church
1601 S. Main, Lindale
Pastor John Offutt

Lone Star Cowboy Church
23425 FM 1995
Lindale TX 75771
615-480-0289
Jayc Harold

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18492 Hwy 69 North,
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-0555 • Phil Brown

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Shady Lane Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-3885 • Ben Steen

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903-881-5260

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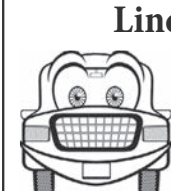
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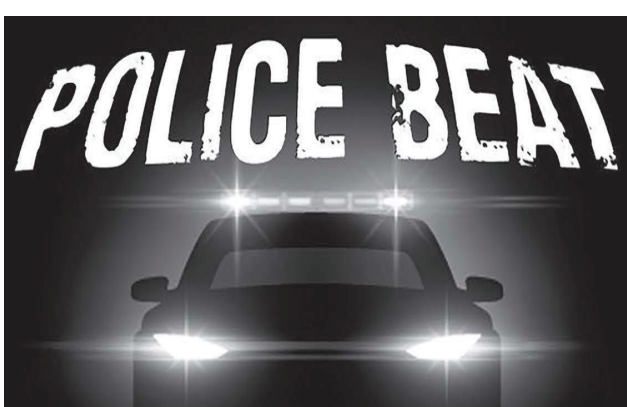
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Lindale Police Department call log for July 28-Aug. 4

FRIDAY, JULY 28: Abandoned vehicle, 556 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Suspicious circumstance, 15500 block Brittain Court, settled at scene; Suspicious circumstance, 1000 block Brad Circle, settled at scene; Motor vehicle crash, 553 Interstate 20 East, report; Criminal trespass, 100 block E. Centennial, warning issued; Attempt to serve, 13400 block Interstate 20 East, settled at scene; Assist another agency, 3500 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Motorist assist, 500 block Mount Sylvan Street, settled at scene.

SATURDAY, JULY 29: Harassment, 300 block East Hubbard, settled at scene; City ordinance violation, 1500 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Welfare concern, 13900 block County Road 4198, settled at scene; settled at scene; Disturbance, 17000 block Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Traffic hazard, 556 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Assist another agency, 18000 block U.S. Highway 69 North, settled at scene; Theft, 100 block East Centennial, report; Motor vehicle crash, 13800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, report; Disturbance, 554 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene.

SUNDAY, JULY 30: Loud noise complaint, 15100 block County Road 467, settled at scene; Suspicious person, 2500 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Assist Smith County S.O., 8700 block County Road 4116, settled at scene; Suspicious person, 100 block East Centennial, settled at scene; Public service, 100 block East Centennial, settled at scene; Motor vehicle crash, 2800 block South Main Street, report; Motor vehicle crash, 100 block South Main Street, report; Disturbance, 300 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Business alarm, 15500 block County Road 463, settled at scene; Open container, 3200 block South Main Street, citation issued; Motorist assist, 3200 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Traffic hazard, 554 Interstate Highway 20



East, settled at scene; Business alarm, 15500 block County Road 463, settled at scene; Welfare concern, 500 block East South Street, settled at scene; Motor vehicle crash, 3400 block South Main Street, citation issued.

MONDAY, JULY 31: Motor vehicle crash, 553 Interstate 20 West, report; Welfare concern, 500 block Circle Drive, settled at scene; Public service, 100 block Perryman Road, settled at scene; Lost property, 500 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Parking violation, 100 block East Centennial, warning issued; Motor vehicle crash, 3200 block South Main Street, settled at scene; City ordinance violation, 17800 block County Road 4112, settled at scene; Disturbance, 300 block Rita Drive, settled at scene; Motor vehicle crash, 300 block East Hubbard Street, report; Motor vehicle crash, 2100 block South Main Street, report; Suspicious circumstance, 556 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Suspicious vehicle, 15500 block County Road 463, settled at scene.

TUESDAY, AUG. 1: Motor vehicle crash, 552 Interstate 20 West, report; Suspicious vehicle, 600 block Brad Circle, settled at scene; Motorist assist, 900 block Brad Circle, settled at scene; Welfare concern, 13600 block Wells Avenue, report; Motor vehicle crash, 554 Interstate 20 West, report; City ordinance violation, 2300 block Pittman Lane, settled

at scene; Unlawful carrying weapon, 900 block South Main Street, arrest; Assist EMS, 500 block Sunset Drive, settled at scene; Fraud, 15100 block FM 16, settled at scene; Suspicious vehicle, 21200 block U.S. Highway 69 North, settled at scene; Motorist assist, 3500 block South Main Street, settled at scene.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2: Assist DPS, 557 Interstate 20 West, settled at scene; Welfare concern, 900 block Carol Drive, settled at scene; Traffic hazard, 16300 block County Road 431, settled at scene; Assist other agency, 18500 block U.S. Highway 69 north, settled at scene; Loud noise complaint, 17300 block Stacy Street, settled at scene; Parking violation, 13800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, settled at scene; Welfare concern, 300 block Noah Drive, settled at scene; Motorist assist, 2900 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Theft, 1100 Park Drive, settled at scene; Assist other agency, 200 block Charles Drive, settled at scene; Assist Smith County S.O., 19000 block County Road 4116, settled at scene; Traffic hazard, 552 Interstate 20 west, settled at scene.

THURSDAY, AUG. 3: Warrant service, 200 block Cooper Street, arrest; Motorist assist, 554 Interstate 20 East, settled at scene; Suspicious person, 3200 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Business alarm, 15500 block County Road 463, false alarm; Public service, 400 block Summertime Circle, settled at scene; 911 Hang Up Call, 13900 block FM 2719, settled at scene; Theft, 13900 block FM 2710, settled at scene; Business alarm, 1400 block South Main Street, false alarm; Traffic complaint, 800 block North Main Street, settled at scene; Suspicious person, 100 block East Centennial, settled at scene.

FRIDAY, AUG. 4: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block South Main Street, settled at scene; Welfare concern, 500 block Pierce Street, settled at scene; Possession drug paraphernalia, 200 block Cannery Row, citation issued; Assist Smith County S.O., 13500 block U.S. Highway 69 North, settled at scene.

County honors longtime employees

Smith County Facility Services Director Ed Nichols was honored during Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Aug. 1 for 15 years of service, said County Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

"What I like most about Ed is the fact that he's a straight shooter ... I appreciate you brother," Smith County Judge Neal Franklin said.

When Nichols first came to Tyler, he was working construction and job hopping.

"I never dreamed I would spend this amount of time here and I never imagined that I would be director of a department; I've been doing that for seven years now," he said. "Smith County is a great place to work. We're doing great things around the county; great things for the community. The people are wonderful."

Nichols was born in Longview and graduated from Gilmer High School. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps. and worked as an electrician, served as a rifle and pistol coach and training non-commissioned officer.

In 2003, Nichols was honorably discharged at the rank of Corporal after completing four years of service. After returning home, he worked as a welder for Dana Corporation. He then resumed work as an electrician at Russell Electric while attending Kilgore College working towards a degree in criminal justice. He moved to Waukegan, Illinois, where he attended the College of Lake County, worked as a correctional officer for the Lake County Sheriff's Department and worked part-time as a loss prevention officer for J.C. Penney.

In 2006, he returned to Texas and returned to work as an electrician for Kellogg, Brown



Smith County Judge Neal Franklin, right, presented Facilities Service Director Ed Nichols with an appreciation certificate this past week at the County Commissioners meeting. (Courtesy photo)

and Root at Texas Eastman in Longview, and then M-Optic. He began his career at Smith County in 2008, as a maintenance technician and electrician. He was promoted to director of Smith County Facility Services in 2017.

Nichols is married to Stephanie and is a proud father of two girls and three boys.

Other employees celebrating work anniversaries who were not in Commissioners Court include:

15 Years: Sean Parrish and Denise Roberts, Adult Probation Department; and Gussie Wallace, Juvenile Services Department.

10 Years: Temekia Scott, Tax Office.

5 Years: Matthew Johnson, Sheriff's Office; Laura Thompson, Adult Probation; and Jessica Wortham, District Attorney's Office.

Beaumont man pleads guilty to federal wire fraud charges

A Beaumont man has pleaded guilty to federal violations in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, publicity spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Michael James White, 34, pleaded guilty to wire fraud charges before U.S. Magistrate Judge Zack Hawthorn on Aug. 1., Walston said.

According to information presented in court, White was the owner and operator of Gold Pro, LLC, a business in Vidor, Texas that bought and sold precious metals like gold and silver.

The company marketed their products as "financial security for future financial uncertainty." Gold Pro operated by promising potential buyers from across the United States a certain number of precious metals, then obtaining payment from customers through the wire transfer of funds from the buyer's bank account to Gold Pro's bank account.

White communicated by email, telephone, or computer chat with potential buyers about the amount of precious metals

the buyer would buy and agreed on a price for the precious metals and their delivery.

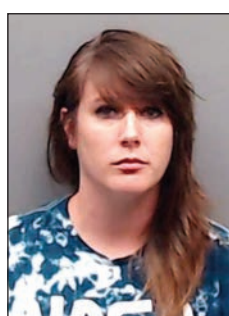
Starting in 2021, in multiple instances after receiving payment, White did not deliver the precious metals to the buyer, delivered a product of lesser value, or delivered fake precious metals.

During an almost three-year period beginning in 2020, White defrauded numerous victims throughout the United States, resulting in a loss of more than \$1 million.

White faces up to 20 years in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Beaumont Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Reynaldo P. Morin.

Lindale woman arrested on child endanger charges



Samantha Wilson, 30, of Lindale was arrested and booked into the Smith County Jail this past week on a charge of abandon or endanger child criminal negligence with a bond amount of

\$100,000, officials said. She was arrested Thursday after authorities say she failed to report the repeated sexual abuse of at least one child.

According to an arrest affidavit, on June

4, the alleged victim, a teenaged girl, told an investigator with the Smith County Sheriff's Office that she had been raped three times over the previous weekend.

Upon being examined by hospital staff in Tyler, the victim told authorities that she had been sexually assaulted since she was 7 years old.

A heavily redacted arrest affidavit states Wilson was aware of the sexual abuse and even took measures to prevent it.

According to the affidavit, Wilson told investigators that she did not tell police about the abuse because she was afraid the children would be taken away from her and she was scared of the male.

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Healthy lifestyle can lower risk of dementia

By Claudann Jones
Smith County Extension Agent
Family and Community Health



Dementia is a brain disease that can damage or change a person's memory or thought processes. It can also affect someone's personality, communication abilities, and other mental functions needed for daily living.

The most common and well-known form of dementia is called Alzheimer's disease. Anyone can develop Alzheimer's disease, but some groups are at higher risk than others. This includes:

Older adults, especially those older than 65 years.

Certain minority groups, including Hispanic adults, African American adults, and American Indian/Alaska Native adults.

Women.

You can lower your risk of Alzheimer's disease by:

-- Managing high blood pressure. Talk to your doctor about managing it through medication and lifestyle behaviors.

-- If you smoke, a combination of counseling and medication can help you quit for good. Free support resources are available.

-- Just 30 minutes a day of physical activity can have significant health benefits.

-- Preventing diabetes and heart disease. If you have either of these conditions, there are effective ways to treat them with lifestyle changes and medications.

Even small healthy lifestyle changes can

make a big difference to lower your risk of Alzheimer's disease, while also lowering your risk of other chronic illnesses — like diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure.

Health experts recommend that adults get 150 minutes of physical activity each week (at least 20 minutes/day). Physical activity can help you lower your risk of Alzheimer's disease.

It can also help you:

-- Maintain a healthy body weight and strengthens your body.

-- Lower your risk of chronic diseases.

Staying physically active can be fun! You can incorporate it into your everyday life by finding hobbies that include physical activity, such as hiking, swimming, running, cycling, martial arts, weight training, or yoga.

Making small everyday choices, like taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

Extension will host the monthly Lunch and Learn on Aug. 16 from noon to 1 p.m. The topic will be the "Buzz about Bees" with guest speaker and Bee Keeper Brandon Foard presenting. Seating is limited so please call the office to RSVP with \$5 charge at the door. Lunch will be provided.

For more information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Family and Community Health programs, contact Claudann Jones, 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.



Fisheries center to be closed Aug. 28 for major renovations

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens will be closed to the public starting Aug. 28 for major renovations and updates, publicity officials announced.

The nearly 300,000 gallons of aquariums will be updated, new larger aquariums will be added, the dive theater and other existing indoor exhibits will be updated, and new exhibits will be developed.

Enhancements to recreational fishing ponds like Lake Zebco are also included in the renovation project.

The closure will also enable staff to develop new educational programming and volunteer opportunities. The tentative date for completion and reopening to the public is Spring 2025.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has raised more than \$4.5 million in private donations to fund the massive project. Looking ahead to the next 25 years, these enhancements will ensure the next generation can learn about, appreciate and enjoy the amazing freshwater fisheries resources that Texas offers.

"TFFC is a special place that represents the amazing fisheries resources of Texas and the fisheries professionals that serve and manage them," said Tom Lang, TFFC director. "We are grateful for this opportunity, afforded us by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and so many amazing donors, to take TFFC to new heights for millions more visitors to enjoy."

TFFC has been delighting visitors for more than 25 years. The facility has welcomed more than 1.1 million visitors to marvel at the schools of fish in the indoor and outdoor aquariums, study the exhibits and learn how Texas' diverse inland waterways support and connect all living creatures. The well-stocked fishing ponds provide an opportunity for visitors of all ages to wet a line, and thousands of new anglers have caught their first fish here.

TFFC was the first major public-private partnership between TPWF and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The 106-acre site came to life in 1996 through the generosity of many organizations and individuals who supported the landmark project.

Located in Athens, TFFC includes a working fish hatchery, 300,000 gallons of aquaria focusing on Texas fish and wildlife resources, recreational fishing ponds and fisheries science exhibits. It is home to the **Toyota ShareLunker** Program, which invites anglers to donate largemouth bass weighing 13 pounds or more for research and breeding purposes. TFFC also houses the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, which honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to freshwater fishing in Texas.

TFFC is also home to the statewide Angler Recognition Program, which recognizes record fresh and saltwater catches. Additionally, TFFC facilitates the annual Fish Art Contest in Texas, which is part of a conservation education program designed to spark the imaginations of students while providing valuable lessons about fish and the importance of conserving Texas' aquatic resources.

Until Aug. 28, TFFC operates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Hatchery production, the Toyota ShareLunker Program, Angler Recognition Program, Fish Art Contest, and Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection and induction will all continue normal operations during the renovation. Educational courses and other small events will also still occur in TFFC's Hart-Morris Conservation Center.

For additional information about TFFC, visit the [TFFC website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

Identifying poison ivy, poison oak

By Jim S. Powell
Smith County Master Gardener

At an early age my mother taught me the old saying, "Leaves of three, let them be."

After I came in contact with the poison ivy and ultimately experienced excruciating pain from rash and itchy blisters, I knew what she was talking about.

The same saying also applies to poison oak. They both cause inflammation of the skin when you come into direct contact with any part of the vines irritant oil. Here are ways to help you identify these dreaded plants:

Poison Ivy: It comes in a vine or shrub form. Each branch on this plant has a cluster of three shiny leaves. In early spring the leaflets are reddish and become reddish-orange in the fall. It produces white berries.

Poison Oak: As with poison ivy, poison oak has three green leaves in a cluster. Its leaves look similar to oak tree leaves but have rough

edges. Like poison ivy, the leaves are reddish in the spring and turn reddish-orange in the fall. It also grows as a vine or shrub and produces white flowers.

Weed eaters and lawnmowers can help spread the plant's irritating oils. Burning the plant can also spread the plant's oils and cause irritation to the skin.

Upon contact, immediately and thoroughly washing the affected area with cold water will sometimes remove the irritant from the skin. Do not use warm or hot water.

To help eliminate the itching from poison oak or poison ivy rash, soak a washcloth or clean rag in white vinegar and gently wipe the affected area.

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

Earth-Kind landscaping helps preserve precious water

By Greg Grant
Smith County Horticulturist

An adequate supply of high-quality water has become a critical issue for the future prosperity of Texas. Booming populations have increased the demand on our state's already limited supply of water. In addition, seasonal fluctuations in rainfall

and periodic droughts have created a feast-to-famine cycle in Texas.

In urban areas of Texas about 25 percent of the water supply is used for landscape and garden watering. Much of it is used to maintain water-demanding landscapes, or it is simply applied inefficiently.

To reduce excessive water use, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is educating Texans on the principles of Earth-Kind landscaping to help preserve and protect our most valuable natural resource.

Earth-Kind landscaping incorporates seven basic principles which lead to saving water:

- Planning and Design
- Soil Analysis
- Practical Turf Areas
- Appropriate Plant Selection
- Efficient Irrigation
- Use of Mulches and
- Appropriate Maintenance

By incorporating these principles, you can help preserve our most precious natural resource—water. Earth-

Kind landscapes need not be cactus and rock gardens.

These can be green, cool landscapes full of beautiful plants maintained with water efficient practices. The same Texas-style landscape which we are accustomed to can be achieved and still conserve water.

Watering: Of the tremendous amounts of water applied to lawns and gardens, much of it is never absorbed or used by the plants. Some water is lost to runoff by being applied too rapidly, and some water evaporates from exposed, unmulched soil; but the greatest waste is applying water too frequently. In addition to overwatering plants, excess irrigation can leach nutrients deep into the soil away from

roots, increasing the chances of polluting groundwater. Similarly, runoff caused by excess irrigation can carry polluting fertilizers and pesticides to streams and lakes. The waste or pollution of water through inefficient irrigation practices can be eliminated through proper watering techniques.

Lawns: Most lawns receive twice as much water as they require for a healthy appearance. The key to watering lawns is to apply the water infrequently, yet thoroughly. This creates a deep, well-rooted lawn that efficiently uses water stored in the soil. To know when to water the lawn, simply observe the grass. Wilting and discoloration are signs of water stress. At the first sign of wilting, you have 24 to 48 hours to water before serious injury occurs. Apply one inch of water to the lawn as rapidly as possible without runoff. Watering only

when needed and watering thoroughly produces a deep-rooted lawn which is more water efficient and drought enduring.

Water Conservation Commitment: For each Texan, water must always be a vital concern. Water is a limited and fragile resource. The water used to irrigate landscapes is considered a luxury use. Nonessential use of water implies a special responsibility to efficiently use the resource and to protect its quality. Water conservation in the landscape does not mean rocks and fake grass. It means common sense landscaping to protect water quality and quantity. It also means following the principles of water conservation to insure continued sustainability for the residents and businesses of Texas.

For more information, visit the Aggie Horticulture website's Earth-Kind Landscaping page.



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**ORDINANCE NO
06-2023**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LINDALE SANITATION ORDINANCE OF 2022 (21-2022); PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE AND TRASH IN THE CITY OF LINDALE, TEXAS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN DEPOSITS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY; THEREFORE, CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND A REPEALER CLAUSE.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Kay B. Sampson, Deceased, were issued to Glen Scott Sampson, as Independent Executor on July 31, 2023, in Cause No. 47607P, County Court at Law No. 3, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate should present them to the Independent Executor, c/o Adams & Coker, P.C., 4540 Kinsey Dr., Tyler, Texas 75703, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of HENRY MARK TRAMMELL, Deceased, were issued on March 13, 2023, in Cause No. 46778P, pending in the County Court at Law 3 of Smith County, Texas, to SEAN AARON TRAMMELL and LEE HENRY TRAMMELL.

Career and Technical Education
Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Lindale ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agriculture, Architecture and Construction, Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications, Business, Marketing and Finance, Education and Training, Health Science, Hospitality and Tourism, Law and Public Service, Engineering, and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics. Admission to these programs is based on student interest and enrollment.

It is the policy of Lindale ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Lindale ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Lindale ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about the program, your rights, or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator at HolderJT@lisdeagles.net, 903-881-4000, and/or the Section 504 Coordinator at ClouseCA@lisdeagles.net, 903-881-4000, and/or the CTE Director at HodgesTC@lisdeagles.net, 903-881-4050.

The address for the Independent Co-Administrators 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 31, 2023.
THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
Attorneys for Sean Aaron Trammell and Lee Henry Trammell.

Career and Technical Education
Annual Public Notification of Nondiscrimination

Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas de Educación Técnica y Vocacional


Distrito escolar independiente de Lindale ofrece programas de educación técnica y vocacional en Agricultura, Arquitectura y Construcción, Artes, Tecnología de Audio/Video y Comunicaciones, Negocios, Marketing y Finanzas, Educación y Capacitación, Ciencias de la Salud, Hotelería y Turismo, Derecho y Servicio Público, Ingeniería y Transporte, Distribución y Logística. La admisión a estos programas se basa en interés e inscripción de los estudiantes.

Es norma de Distrito escolar independiente de Lindale no discriminar en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Distrito escolar independiente de Lindale no discriminar en sus procedimientos de empleo por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, la ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda; y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Lindale ISD tomará las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos de quejas, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Título IX en (dirección), HolderJT@lisdeagles.net, 903-881-4000, y/o el Coordinador de la Sección 504 en (dirección), ClouseCA@lisdeagles.net, 903-881-4000, o HodgesTC@lisdeagles.net, 903-881-4050.



**ORDINANCE NO.
07-2023**

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

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

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

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



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$.071364 per \$ 100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$.071364 per \$ 100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$.068659 per \$ 100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$.071364 per \$ 100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$.087345 per \$ 100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1 from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year. The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate the Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate. The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new revenue maintenance and operations rate for Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1, the rate that will raise \$ 500,000, and the current debt rate for Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1. The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Smith County Emergency Services District No.1 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 17, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE LINDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. 208 E. HUBBARD, LINDALE, TEXAS. The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate or the de minimis rate. As a result, Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTION ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal: Carolyn Todd, Owen Scott, Charles Froebe, Kenneth Smith, Louie Brown
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

Visit Texas.gov/Property Taxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and schedule public hearing of each entity that taxes your property. The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state. The following compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Smith County Emergency Services District #1 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Smith County Emergency Services District No.1 this year.

The total 2022 adopted tax rate (per \$100 of value) was .078427. The total 2023 proposed tax rate (per \$100 of value) is .071364. Change: a decrease of 9.0%


The average homestead taxable value of a residence in 2022 was \$ 198,247. The average homestead taxable value of a residence in 2023 is \$ 226,666. Change: an increase of 14.3%

The tax on average residence homestead in 2022 was \$ 155.48. The tax on average residence homestead in 2023 is \$161.76. Change: an increase of 4.0%

Total tax levy on all properties in 2022 was \$ 1,759,201. The total tax levy on all properties in 2023 is \$ 1,939,827. Change: an increase of 10.3%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Smith County Emergency Services District #1 at 903-590-2920, email address: Imosley@smith-county.com or visit www.smith-county.com

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Lindale ISD preparing for another school year

Continued from Page 1

tioning system (paid in cash, Surratt pointed out) to help combat this year's brutal summer. The high school's unit was updated two years ago and last year, the E.J. Moss East campus had a new one installed.

Next year, Surratt said the Early Childhood Center will have its A/C unit upgraded and the following year the west campus at E.J. Moss will have a new one installed.

Each campus received new doors for security purposes this year, Surratt said, adding that as has been the case in past several years, armed resource officers will be on each campus.

"After that shooting in Florida a few years ago we held a public meeting and our parents wanted to have an armed presence on each campus," he said. "This is a lot of peace of mind for the students, parents and staff."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

District officials and administrators are not only concerned about the present school year but also five to 10 years into the future.

This is why the LISD Board of Trustees voted to buy more than 100 acres just off Highway 69 (behind Chicken Express) for future schools.

"There's enough room there for three to four more campuses," Surratt said. "Our growth makes it necessary to plan ahead."

And when discussing expenditures, Surratt is quick to applaud the district's taxpayers who have recognized the district's duty to be good stewards of their money.

"We have great support from our community and our taxpayers have always passed bond elections," he



Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt was one of the speakers this past week at the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce's Spotlight on Education luncheon held at Hideaway Lake Country Club. Educators and other officials from East Texas were on hand.

Photo by Terry Cannon

said. "They recognize that our growth dictates these needs."

But when state expenditures are mentioned, specifically when it comes to teachers' salaries and the voucher program idea that has taken root in Austin, Surratt isn't so generous with his praise.

ally when it comes to teachers' salaries and the voucher program idea that has taken root in Austin, Surratt isn't so generous with his praise.

County burn ban order issued

Continued from Page 1

of outdoor burning is prohibited.

There are exceptions to the burn ban. People are still allowed to cook food in a grill or smoker that contains all open flames and have enclosed lids. Professional welding operations are allowed but all welders must notify and register with the Fire Marshal's Office before welding outside and follow specific guidelines.

The order also does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, such as firefighter training; public utility, Texas Department of Transportation operations, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; planting or harvesting agricultural crops; or some prescribed burns.

A violation of the burn ban is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500.

Smith County, as well as area fire departments, will work on placing signs around the County to alert residents about the burn ban.

For more information, call the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office at 903-590-2655 or visit www.smith-county.com and click on the red banner at the top of the homepage.

"(Vouchers) are just a political thing," Surratt said. "It's not a conservative idea at all and for some reason the Republican party has made (vouchers) a political thing."

The price tag for state-supported vouchers – which supporters label as "school choice" – would be approximately \$500 million.

"Taxpayers need to be furious about that," he said. "It has no benefit for the vast majority of the parents and students in the state. This is

about as far away from being a conservative idea as it can be. It's just a matter of being welfare for the wealthy."

On teacher pay, Surratt noted there was a proposal for a one-year-only raise of approximately \$6,000 for teachers in rural districts and \$3,000 for larger districts.

"It's a shame that politics is holding back money to the districts that need it," he said. "There's a budget surplus of \$33 billion and

\$25 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, so they have the money but they aren't getting it to the teachers."

But with all those negatives aside, Surratt remains excited about another new school year.

"Everyone is refreshed and ready for another great year," he said. "We get to meet new students, new families and I just can't wait to get started and do more great things. I've got the best job in Texas."

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