# Public hearing set for county 2024 tax rate

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate for the coming fiscal year has been set for Tuesday, Aug. 22 this past week by Smith County Commissioners.

Times for the public hearing are 9:30 a.m. Aug. 22 and 5:30 p.m. in commissioners courtroom.

The proposed rate will be .347264 per \$200 valuation, which reflects the voter approved 1.7 cents increase.

Prior to setting the public hearing, commissioners voted to proceed on the proposed tax rate. The vote was 4-1 in favor with Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips voting against the rate.

"We are actually increasing taxes 5.8 percent (and) in the past we've tried to roll it back so I just feel we need to give taxpayers some relief like we have in the past," Phillips said.

# Phillips arrested; charged with false subpeonas

Lance Phillips, son of Smith County Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips and County Clerk Karen Phillips, remains in the Smith County Jail this week after being arrested for issuing subpoenas without authorization, county officials said.

According to the warrant, a detective with the Smith County Sheriff's Office was asked to investigate three processes that were served to Smith County Judge Neal Franklin, Sheriff Larry Smith and Commissioner's Court Security Lieutenant Matthew Lazarine.

"The legal process simulated a summons, namely a court subpoena," the warrant said. According to the warrant, the subpoena stated a case number which came back to a criminal case against Lance Phillips, 40 of Tyler, for disruption of a meeting. In a subpoena sent to Lazarine, the warrant said he was commanded to appear to testify before the judge in this case. The warrant said Smith County Constable Precinct 2 Bobby Garmon received a call from Phillips on July 23 "asking him to serve these said subpoenas."



#### New downtown sidewalks

Work is under way on new sidewalks in downtown Lindale after the city council voted in July to award the construction bid to C.E. Marler from Kilgore. The cost is \$403,876 and will be funded from money available from the Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant Project. Work will be eastward from Highway 69 on Highway 16.

**Photo by Terry Cannon** 

# Health officials offer back to school tips

Lindale ISD students began another school year this week and for them and others across the state, there will be some major adjustments families may need to work through.

Those adjustments do not have to cause a huge disruption in a child's life or health, if parents learn how they can help their student get situated ahead of time.

A big change for children as they make the switch from summer mode to school is their sleep. The demands of back-to-school schedules can make getting adequate sleep seem daunting. However, it is possible and essential for a calmer, more productive school year.

"A good night's sleep helps the body repair itself, promotes growth, builds a strong immune system and even enhances memory and problem-solving abilities," said Dr. David Larsen, family medicine physician with CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic

Larsen suggests starting a child's new bedtime routine days, if not weeks ahead of the start of school. He says it is impor-

tant to have a consistent schedule, going to bed and waking up and the same time each day, to regulate the body's internal clock. Adequate exercise can also play a key role in child development.

"Ideally, children would do a combination of exercises to include aerobatic activities like swimming, cycling and dancing, along with muscle-strengthening exercises like push-ups, climbing, and gymnastics," Larsen said. "Along with bone-strengthening activities like jumping, skipping, and sports with quick movements, like basketball and soccer, can really help optimize growth, boost mood, energy and overall well-being."

Along with sleep and exercise, Dr. Courtney Smith, a pediatrician with CHRISTUS Children's, says there are some key elements to keep in mind: a healthy diet, good hygiene, stress management, staying hydrated and remaining up to date on vaccinations.

"All of these play a vital role in keeping our little ones healthy, so it's important to ensure we're loading them up on nutrient rich food that will provide them with the necessary vitamins to help fight germs," Smith said. "But we need to also continue teaching our children to properly wash their hands frequently and to stay home when they're feeling ill."

Another back-to-school tip involved kids wearing their backpacks correctly, to avoid any damage to their spines.

"Toting around heavy backpacks can lead to neck pain, bad posture, muscle strains, and even nerve compression," Larsen said. "Try to carry what is only necessary and make sure to choose a backpack with padded straps and multiple compartments to distribute the weight more evenly."

Larsen also added that an oftenoverlooked aspect to returning to school is time management, both from parents and students. "Time management is one of the keys to student academic success," he said. "Learn how to manage and make time for studying, activities, and relaxation."

To learn more back-to-school tips, visit www.christushealth.org

# Firefighters respond to several incidents

Smith County residents are reminded the county burn ban remains in effect, said Fire Marshal Paul Findley.

The burn ban became official during the Aug. 1 meeting of the Smith County Commissioners and will be in effect for 90 days unless conditions improve. It will be determined at that time to continue or discontinue the burn ban, Findley said.

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

As weather conditions in the area continue to pose a threat for wildfires, it will require significant rainfall before the order is lifted.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index moved into the 700 range several days this past week for the county, Findley said.

The average KBDI is 704 with some areas of the county as high as 758. The KBDI is a metric used to measure the effects of seasonal drought on fire potential. The actual numeric value ranges from 0 (no moisture depletion) to 800 (absolutely dry conditions).

With no significant change in weather patterns expected in the next few days, the KBDI will likely continue to increase.

Wind conditions, along with extremely dry grass vegetation can easily result in fires that are difficult to control. Citizens are encouraged to exercise caution when parking near grass. Heat from vehicle exhaust can quickly ignite dry grass.

Roadside fires are not uncommon, and our area has experienced incidents where these fires have quickly spread to nearby land, structures, and vehicles. When pulling trailers, it is extremely important to ensure that tow chains or other metal objects do not contact the roadway. Sparks resulting from this condition can result in roadside fires that can rapidly grow.

Area fire departments continue to respond to these types of incidents daily. Call volume has fluctuated, but we have seen a significant number of grass fires and calls for illegal burning since the burn ban was implemented.

This past week, several grass fires were being fought by area fire departments as well as a structure fire on Thursday.

There was also one illegal burning reported to the fire marshal's office. Just after noon on Aug. 10, multiple fire departments were battling a fast-moving grass fire impacting at least one structure and threatening other buildings and vehicles.

While some incidents have been accidental, fire departments continue to respond to calls involving violations to the burn ban. Regardless of cause, any fire occurring during the current weather conditions can quickly escalate.

# Lindale state sales tax exceeding last year

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for August, 2.8 percent more than in August 2022. Lindale posted a 3.75-percent increase over 2022.

These allocations are based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly and on sales made in April, May and June.

County	City	Rate \$	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change ‡	Payment YTD <sup>‡</sup>	Prior Year Payment +	% Change
Smith	Arp	1.500%	\$24,705.59	\$31,654.67	-21.95%	\$178,027.03	\$178,975.63	-0.53%
Smith	Bullard	1.500%	\$96,742.88	\$77,942.68	24.12%	\$625,772.04	\$566,021.15	10.55%
Smith	Lindale	1.500%	\$428,955.69	\$413,449.14	3.75%	\$3,188,412.43	\$2,957,355.37	7.81%
Smith	New Chapel Hill	1.000%	\$2,706.22	\$2,210.23	22.44%	\$20,357.11	\$15,248.44	33.50%
Smith	Noonday	1.000%	\$21,272.27	\$25,999.47	-18.18%	\$171,110.19	\$171,127.21	0.00%
Smith	Troup	1.500%	\$57,543.93	\$54,463.70	5.65%	\$405,127.48	\$467,755.98	-13.38%
Smith	Tyler	1.500%	\$5,313,688.62	\$4,515,970.13	17.66%	\$41,252,053.41	\$38,413,329.28	7.38%
Smith	Whitehouse	1.500%	\$149,471.42	\$131,646.30	13.54%	\$1,089,964.43	\$937,581.18	16.25%
Smith	Winona	1.250%	\$16,889.60	\$17,275.40	-2.23%	\$141,543.84	\$138,985.96	1.84%

# Abbott signs largest property tax cut - \$100,000

Abbott last week ceremonially signed legislation that — if voters approve it in November as expected — will provide what he is calling the largest property tax cut in Texas history. The \$18 billion reduction raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and provides other tax-reduction measures. Voters will decide its fate as one of 14 proposed constitutional amendments in November. The measure is widely expected to pass, as do

most measures to reduce taxes when placed on the ballot. "When I became Lt. Governor in 2015, the homestead exemption was \$15,000,

and today, the exemption is now \$100,000. The largest property tax cut in history has been ceremonially signed into law today, with the \$100,000 homestead exemption as the centerpiece. This \$18 billion tax relief package will result in savings of \$1,250 to \$1,450 for the average Texas homeowner. This is permanent tax relief that Texans will receive every year in the future," said Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.





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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.

# ... a good tired!

I am too tired to write this week's column. Jack is too tired to write a column. And Clark Kent has put the finishing touches on the 48-page Fall Sports/Extracurricular tab that covers FOUR school districts and is now trying to finish this week's paper for you, our much appreciated readers.

We live in the fast lane. Lately there have been as many as four meetings a week for good old Clark Kent, plus workdays. Plus a few, very few, 'fun' days when we can sneak them in.

When we should think about slowing down we are speeding up. Out of necessity. That's what happens when you want your community newspaper to truly serve your readers..

I do believe that I would rather burn out, preferably blaze out, than fizzle out. That old platitude that "hard work never killed anybody" probably isn't true in all cases.

We aren't the only ones 'burning the candle at both ends'. Our Gladewater firefighters, along with a host of volunteer fire departments and the Texas Forest Service have their hands full with fires started by pitched cigarettes, chains trailing vehicles on roadways and ignored burn bans. Those boys and girls are worn out trying to keep fires in check until a soaking rain limits the fuel for fire in our neck of the woods. And the volunteers nearly all have full-time jobs in addition to their time 'on the line' protecting our property and lives. Bless their hearts!

Please keep our firefighters in your prayers and be vigilant and careful where fire is concerned. And PLEASE get the heck out of their way when their lights and sirens are on. Also, cases of water and gatorade would be much appreciated by our GFD and surrounding volunteer fire departments. While you are at it don't forget to give them

# Record sea temps could spur more hurricanes

Forecasters for the National Weather Service are anticipating a more active hurricane season this year because of record-warm ocean surface temperatures, the Texas Tribune reported.

Hurricane season runs through the end of November. The Climate Prediction Center now predicts six to 11 hurricanes this season in the Atlantic Ocean, with as many as five of those being major hurricanes. The new projection is considerably higher than the one released in May just before hurricane season commenced.

Bradley Brokamp, an NWS meteorologist in Galveston, said the higher prediction is the result of the higher sea surface temperatures.

"The name of the game this season seems to be the heat because it's been quite exceptional," Brokamp told the Tribune. Another NWS meteorologist, Jeff Lutze, based in Corpus Christi, said the higher probability of Atlantic hurricanes increases the likelihood of a storm striking Southeast Texas.

"The big question mark is whether or not we'll get the upper air pattern to allow the storms to get this far into the Gulf of Mexico," Lutz said. Some of the most damaging hurricanes to hit Texas in recent years came in August or September.

## Federal grand jury investigating Paxton

The Austin American-Statesman reported last week that federal prosecutors have seated a grand jury in San Antonio and called witnesses close to suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to testify. Paxton's attorney has already confirmed that there is an active federal investigation of his client.

While the Justice Department has declined to comment, the secret proceedings come a few weeks before Paxton is set to stand trial for impeachment in the Texas Senate on bribery allegations involving Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, who was indicted on unrelated federal charges in May for mortgage fraud.

Paxton has been under indictment for securities fraud since 2015, with a trial set in Houston for February 2024. He was suspended without pay after the Texas House overwhelmingly passed 20 articles of impeachment in late May.

### Wildfire danger continues to increase

Continued hot, dry weather has increased the number of wildfires, prompting the Texas A&M Forest Service to raise the State Wildfire Preparedness to Level 4, the secondhighest level, in order to ensure resources are available to fight first breaking out across the state.

"Areas with high potential for wildfires include the Cross Timbers, Rolling Plains, Eastern/Western Hill Country where oak/juniper fuel is present and for the Western Pineywoods, as well as Central and Southeast Texas where pine fuel is

# The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



a pat on the back and sincere thanks for the hard job they do in this sweltering heat.

I had planned to skip my birthday this year but my sweetie put a celebratory wish in the paper which resulted in the best cupcake I have ever eaten.

My buddy Lois Reed who is always thoughtful and generous remembered me in a special way. And our office manager Tiffany Harroff gave me the cutest cactus garden. I used to have a green thumb but lately it has turned brown. Hopefully I can keep the cactus garden happy by not overwatering. My brown plants have been underwatered so there is a pretty good chance I will be successful. That Tiffany is clearly forward thinking.

My annual Black Dog Gallery cake came from my gifted baker in-laws. If you have never had a Black Dog cake you are missing out. They ship them all over the United States. More importantly they hand delivered mine to the office last week. Yummy!

And Jimmy beats all. He designed an umbrella made for me that is made up of Gladewater Mirror stories. He also threw in a Graf's Jewelry store very cool southwestern bracelet. All I can say is that it is good to be loved.

Now if we can just catch some sleep the world will realign and we will be on to the next project and crusade. As soon as this paper 'goes to bed' so will we. A 'good tired' is not a bad thing. Not bad at all.

# **Gary Borders Capital Highlights**



present," the service said.

As of Sunday, there were seven active fires, the largest being the Hawkeye Fire in Wichita County, consisting of 2,150 acres, which was 50% contained, and the Burnet 109 Fire, also in Wichita County, consisting of 2,126 acres, which was 75% contained.

Gov. Greg Abbott last Friday declared a wildfire disaster declaration in nearly 200 Texas counties, while burn bans are now in place in 181 counties.

#### **ERCOT** grid holds in record temperatures

The state's electric grid, which supplies electricity to 90% of the state and is run by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, has thus far withstood record demand brought on by the summer heat. An analysis by the Dallas Morning News points to two factors for the grid's ability to meet that demand: planning and renewable energy.

"The secret to ERCOT's success has been astonishingly high levels of performance to date by the wind and solar. and by the thermal fleet," Alison Silverstein, an electric system reliability consultant and researcher, told the News. The latter refers to the state's gas, coal and nuclear power plants.

#### **Chronic Wasting Disease new TPWD rules**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued new rules limiting movement and testing restrictions for white-tailed deer in deer breeding facilities after receiving confirmation of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in nine deer breeding facilities in seven counties this year. As the Texas Standard reported, CWD threatens both the deer and the state's hunting economy. White-tailed deer hunting generates more than \$4 billion of economic activity in the state each year. The new rules aim to manage the spread of the disease.

MCWD is a fatal neurological disease found in deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. It progresses slowly and may not produce visible signs for several years

"Since 2021, we have seen an increase in CWD detections from breeder deer at an unprecedented rate," said John Silovsky, Wildlife Division Director for TPWD. "It's our hope that these emergency rules will strengthen our surveillance and reduce the number of CWD positive detections across the state."

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.



# THE ECONOMIST

Bv Dr. M. Ray Perryman

# Keeping Things Moving As you probably know, UPS and the Teamsters union

have reached an agreement to narrowly avert a nationwide strike. This high-stakes standoff likely wasn't nightly dinner table conversation for most of you, but the issue was far more impactful than merely one company and its 340,000 or so workers directly involved in the negotiations. A strike would have caused delivery delays, challenged the supply



chain, pushed up inflation, and affected individuals and businesses across the world. It would have been particularly problematic for rural residents and those requiring critical medical supplies.

Globally, UPS serves 1.6 million shippers with deliveries to 11.1 million customers in over 220 countries and territories. In 2022, the company delivered an average of 24.3 million packages

daily. Competitors such as FedEx and the US Postal Service would certainly have stepped up and filled some (but not much) of the gap, but inevitably both prices and delivery times would have risen notably.

About half of UPS deliveries are business to business (B2B) rather than business to consumer(B2C). Although consumers would have been inconvenienced (in some instances, significantly), slowing B2B shipments would bring even larger effects due to the ripples through the supply chain as production processes were negatively affected.

It is easy to lose sight of just how interconnected our complex economy is and how even modest disruptions in the flow of goods and services can wreak havoc. The items that are present in virtually any room that you enter will have inputs from more than 100 countries. The recent disruptions that were observed during the aftermath of the pandemic are reminder enough of the chaos and inefficiency that ensues when things don't arrive on time. A work stoppage of any length of time would have cost billions. In fact, our analysis shows that a 30-day strike would have resulted in about \$50 billion in losses across a broad swath of the economy.

At a broader level, the balance of power in labor negotiations during this summer of strikes is shifting somewhat towards workers due to tight market conditions. Union membership accounts for about 6% of private industry jobs (7.2 million persons), a proportion which has been falling slightly over time. Among government workers, about 33% are in unions (7.1 million), with the percentages also dropping. It is difficult to compare outcomes for union workers to nonunion workers; the types of occupations vary widely. Generally, union workers have higher pay and benefits, but they also work in specific job categories. It's difficult to isolate what portion of the pay differential is due to unions versus other factors.

In any case, it's great news that the strike didn't happen. We don't need any more headwinds. 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.



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The newspaper ties a region together, helps make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square whose boundaries transcend Facebook's filter bubble.

- Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"





**NEWSPAPER POWER.** 

# Johnny Football: cautionary story of life in the fast lane

Nothing expresses "we're doomed" like the downcast look of an 11-year-old boy, especially one that really loves to win baseball games.

Such was the case about 20 years ago in Little League after our coaches exchanged lineups and we learned who would be pitching against us: Johnny Manziel.

Yep, that Johnny Manziel, who morphed into Johnny Football in 2012. As a freshman he won the Heisman Trophy after electrifying college football while guiding Texas A&M to an 11-2 record, which included one of the biggest upsets in the past 25 years when the Aggies defeated mighty Alabama, 29-24 in Tuscaloosa.

His story, one that is rich in drama, what-ifs and wasted opportunities, is currently being retold in a Netflix series entitled "Johnny Football."

I watched it the other night and not only is it enjoyable, but it is one of the most effective cautionary tales you'll ever see.

Before his family moved to Kerrville, Manziel was one of the top athletic youngsters for his age in Tyler.

He had the arm strength, even as an 11-year-old, to mow down players five years older than him.

Manziel was the quintessential multi-sport athlete, but once he entered Kerrville Tivy High School, he focused on football and baseball. By the end of his freshman season he was on the varsity as a receiver and by the fourth week of his sophomore season he was the starting quarterback.

His numbers at Tivy were



eye-popping. In three years as starting quarterback he completed 63.5 percent of his passes for 76 touchdowns, rushed 531 times for 4,045 yards and 77 touchdowns and caught 30 passes for 582 yards and five more touchdowns.

The National High School Coaches Association named the Senior Athlete of the Year in football.

Just as it would figure, he had his pick of colleges, even though the one he truly wanted, the University of Texas, didn't offer him a scholarship. But A&M did and an incredible story was waiting to be told.

It's at this point that Manziel's story meanders away from football and into the uglier side of his life.

Manziel ran afoul of the law in late June, 2012, charged with three misdemeanors, bringing his name into public view for the first time for something outside athletics.

Yet when he was on the field, he was a joy to watch. Defensive coordinators couldn't contain him because they'd never seen anything like him. Aggie Head Coach Kevin Sumlin and offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury essentially opened the box and out he ran, around grasping and gasping defenders and put-

ting pinpoint passes into the hands of his receivers.

Points rang up like a pinball machine: 48, 70, 58, 59, 63, 47, 59, 41 and 29 against 'Bama, in the upset heard 'round the world.

His journey into the stratosphere continued when he won the Heisman, but between the 2012 and 2013 season, his brushes against authority arose again. The NCAA began investigating whether he was paid (then against the rules) for signing memorabilia, he left the Manning Passing Academy early because he allegedly overslept, became upset after getting a parking ticket in College Station and getting kicked out of a UT frat party.

He was clearly taking the path totally unrelated to football and his parents were quoted as being worried about how their son was handling his fame.

In 2014, he opted for the NFL draft and left A&M. Draft experts said he would be a first-round pick, the only mystery was how high would he be drafted. Yet his off the field behavior cost him dearly in the eyes of NFL teams, 21 of which refused to draft him.

Finally, at No. 22, Cleveland picked him. But his career was rapidly circling the drain, despite the opportunity to play in the NFL.

"I didn't go into Texas A&M thinking I was going to play two years and end up in the NFL draft," Manziel says in the Netflix show. "When it came down to it, I was a frat boy and my frat was the football team. I loved being the guy to be able to do all these things on and off the field."

His off the field exploits soon wore thin for the Browns and he was cut loose. e bounced around from the Canadian Football League to a couple of minor league teams.

There are times during the video where he expresses remorse and hints at things that could have been different if he had pursued his athletic passion like he did those things off the field.

"Once you take one step onto a slippery slope you know it goes pretty quick," he said, referring to his fall from can't miss super star to also ran.

Reflecting on what might have been, Manziel seems to understand that the choices he's made in his life haven't always been productive.

"When you get to that point where you are supposed to know better and you feel enough is never enough, you begin to realize it was detrimental to what you wanted to do with your life," he said.

Johnny Football seems to have a grasp on how his once glittering future turned into a story of regret and acknowledgment of choosing the wrong road.

"I am very much on the pursuit of happiness in a way more simplistic form than I was years ago," he said.

**New Library Sign** 

A new sign has been installed on the west side of the Lillie Russell Memorial Library in downtown Lindale which will be visible for those traveling on Highway 16. (Photo by Darla Strickland)



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. 18, 2022**

Smith County Commissioners voted unanimously to propose lowering the tax rate by half a cent during their regular weekly meeting.

The proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 was set at 33 cents per \$100 valuation.

The proposed tax rate is lower than FY22, even after absorbing the Road and Bridge Bond Phase 2 that was passed by voters in November. The first tranche of the bonds was sold during the meeting.

#### FIVE YEARS AGO, Aug. 16, 2018

The Lindale Independent School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call a bond election for \$32.4 million which would fund new classrooms at the high school, an expansion for the high school cafeteria, a multi-use activity center and improvements to Eagle Stadium. The district planned to use \$4 million from its maintenance and operations fund to bring the total to

The bond proposal was scheduled to be included on he Nov 6 election hallot

#### 10 YEARS AGO, Aug. 15, 2013

Sales tax payments to the city of Lindale continued to maintain a steady pace through July, according to recently released figures from the Texas State Comptroller's office.

Payments for the period were \$209,337.10 as compared to \$187,603.59 from July, 2012 or an 11.58 percent increase.

Seven of the nine Smith County cities realized increases, with Winona and Troup as the only two showing up in the minus category.

For 2013, payments for Lindale totaled 1,473,467.13 as compared to \$1,373,999.94 for 2012, or an increase of 7.23 percent.

Lindale's 11 percent increase was a sizeable jump from last month's report, which was 7.74 percent higher from June, 2012 to June 2013, or \$183,023.94 compared to \$169.867.22

In comparing the full year - from June 2012 to June 2013 - another increase is seen as collections were 1,186,396 in 2012 to 1,264,130 this year.

July 2013 reporting period compared to last year, or \$3,468,664.88 in 2013 and \$3,272,314.48 in 2012. New Chapel Hill was the leader among county cities

Tyler's payments were six percent higher during the

with a 27.69 percent increase.

Overall, Smith County realized a 5.94 percent gain from 2012 to 2013, or \$3,833,448.57 in 2013 compared to \$3,618,281.38 in 2012.

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# **Buzzard's luck with** the doctor's office

Well, it's been awhile since I've had some fun with a phone creature. You see, Janet, that's my wife, signed up for some kind of phone creature blocker thing that's supposed to keep those varmints from callin'.

Phone creatures, for y'all who haven't been readin' this junk I write, are what I call those pesky telemarketers. I like to have fun with them, but Janet thinks it's childish. She says I need to grow up. Heck, I'm too old to grow up.

Anywho, like I said, it's been a while since I've gotten to talk to a phone creature, and I guess I'm gettin' a little rusty (no pun intended). Let me tell you what happened the other day.

"Yellow," I said into the phone. I didn't hear anyone on the other end. "Yellow!" I said a little louder, and then I heard a faint click that tells you it's a phone creature.

Before they could speak, I yelled, "Who is this? And speak up!"

"Mr. Rusty Mitchum?" a female creature asked.

"Rusty Mitchum?" I answered back. "That's a coincidence. That's my name, too."

"No sir," said the creature. "Yes it is, too," I said back. "It's been my name all my life."

"Mr. Mitchum!" she said

"You can call me Rusty, Rusty," I said. "By the way



where are you from?"

The creature sighed, "You don't understand."

"From Pakistan?" I said. "Wow, that's pretty far away, ain't it? Idn't that up there north of Mesquite?

"No, let me explain," pleaded the creature.

"It ain't? Well, I'd swore

I guess you'd know." "The reason I'm callin...." "Yep," I interrupted. "I

it was, but if you live there.

think that's where I got that tattoo that time." "Would you please let me tell you..."the creature was

sayin', but I interrupted her "You want me to tell you

about the tattoo?" I asked. "Mr. Mitchum, please," she pleaded.

"OK, OK," I said. "You don't have to beg. I'll tell you." I heard a big sigh on the other end.

"It's a buzzard," I said. There was silence on the other end of the line, and then she asked," A buz-

"Yep, a buzzard. It ain't no ordinary buzzard though," I said. "This'un here is a pickin' his nose."

More silence. "You're kidding," she finally said.

"No ma'am," I said. "It's right here on my right cheek, and I don't mean my face cheek, if you catch my

"Let me get this straight," said the creature. "You have a tattoo of a buzzard, picking its nose, on your.....'

"Watch out now," I warned. "Don't be usin' no language you'd be ashamed of. You don't know who

might be listenin' in." Just then, I turned, and there was Janet standin' there, her arms crossed, her eyes narrowed, and her lips pinched up. I smiled at her. She did not smile back.

Then the creature spoke. "Oh man," she said. "I can't wait to see that tattoo."

Now, this statement threw me for a loop. "Huh?" I said. "You ain't gonna see it."

"Oh yes I am," said the creature. "You see, I'm calling to remind you that you have an appointment tomorrow to come in for your flu shot."

"Hold it," I said. "You're not a phone creature?"

"A what?"

office?"

"I mean," I stammered. "You're from the doctor's

"That's right."

"And you're callin' to say I'm supposed to get a flu shot tomorrow?

"Yes," she said. "And I'm the one that will be giving you the shot. Guess where you'll be getting it?"

"The arm?"

"Nope," she said. "Right in the buzzard. "See you tomorrow," and she hung up.

I slowly replaced the phone receiver and turned back to look at Janet. Obviously she had figured out what had happened. She slid down the wall onto the floor, and she was laughin' like a hyena."

"It ain't funny," I said.

"Oh, but it is," she said, as she wiped the tears from her eyes. "You got busted," she sang. "What are you going

to do?" "Well, you can bet I ain't gonna get that shot," I stated. "I'll just call 'em and tell 'em I'm sick."

"You can't call in sick to a doctor, you dummy,"

"Hmmm," I thought.

"Can you draw a buzzard?" I asked. "Well," Janet said. "If I

could, I wouldn't draw it there." "I wonder how long it

takes to get a tattoo?" "You are not getting a tat-

too," she said. "Well, then start loadin'

up on the aspirin and orange juice, 'cause it looks like I'll be gettin' the flu this year."





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# Entries available for Big **Time Texas Hunts**

This season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Big Time Texas Hunts program is awarding 10 lucky winners with premium guided hunt packages, offering some of the very best hunting opportunities in Texas, publicity officials said.

During the past 26 years, Big Time Texas Hunt participants have helped raise more than \$19.5 million to fund wildlife research, habitat conservation and public hunting access.

The 2022-23 hunting season was the biggest revenue producing year for the program, raising over \$1.4 million, and the third year in a row with sales exceeding \$1 million.

Conservation efforts funded by BTTH include desert bighorn sheep restoration work in West Texas, thousands of acres of brush control work across the state for the benefit of species like mule deer, pronghorn and quail and multiple grassland restoration projects. Public hunting efforts include the funding of numerous public hunting leases and the purchase of hunting equipment such as ADA-accessible blinds for several Wildlife Management Areas.



"Revenue generated from the sale of BTTH entries cover the cost of next year's hunts plus provides funding for wildlife habitat work and improves the quality of public hunts across the state," said Kevin Mote, TPWD's Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director. "In our 27th year, we are extremely excited to continue offering hunters a chance at once-in-a-lifetime hunting opportunities and raising important wildlife conservation funding at the same time."

Some of the most popular hunts in this year's drawing include an Exotic Safari, where the winner and a guest will have a chance to hunt gemsbok and scimitar-horned oryx at Mason

Mountain Wildlife Management Area — plus receive a YETI Limited Edition Red Tundra 65 hard cooler, donated by Yeti Coolers, LLC.

Another hunt, the Texas Grand Slam, offers the winner four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn and desert mule deer. The Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt offers a three-to five-day hunt for mature mule deer in the Texas Panhandle.

Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for \$9 each, or at license retailers or by calling 800-895-4248 for \$10 each. The deadline to purchase entries is October 15 and winners will be announced within two weeks.

# LETTERS TO THE **EDITOR**

#### He must be held accountable for trying to derail democracy

Dear Editor,

A group of everyday Americans, fulfilling their civic duty by serving on a grand jury, reviewed mountains of evidence and determined there was enough proof of wrongdoing to bring four criminal charges against Donald Trump, including conspiracy to defraud our country and impede on our right to vote. There can be no more serious crime than a conspiracy to overturn the foundation of our democracy itself.

It's shameful how many MAGA Republicans are now rushing to defend Trump instead of standing up for our democracy and our freedom to vote. Many of them are trying to rewrite history, so it's important to understand what Trump is accused of and why it matters. According to the indictment, Trump deliberately lied about voter fraud and pressured local

officials to illegally overturn election results and manufacture fake slates of electors. When Vice President Mike Pence refused to toss out the legitimate results and count fake electoral votes, Trump incited an attack on our Capitol in a last ditch attempt to stop the certification of the election and cling to power. These are serious charges. Our elected leaders of all parties must allow the trial to unfold without political interference and let a jury of everyday Americans do their job. No one is above the law, and Trump should be treated like everyone else and held accountable for his crimes against our country. I have voted Republican from the time I could vote but was so horrified by Donald Trump that I voted independent in 2016 and in 2020, voted Democrat for the first time.

Trump must be held accountable for his actions.

> Sincerely, Linda Stegall Hawkins



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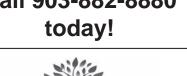
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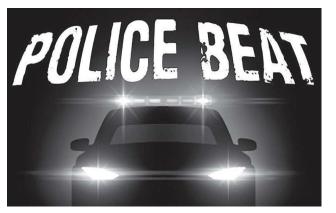
Hwy 69 & Cooper In front of Brookshire's

#### **Lindale Police Department call log for** Aug. 4-10

FRIDAY, Aug. 4: Motor Vehicle Crash, 200 block North Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 200 block Hillside Circle, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 551 Interstate Highway 20 East, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 556 I-20 West, Settled at Scene; Residential Alarm, 800 block Edgewood Circle, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 500 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Assist Smith County SO, 553 I-20 West, Settled at Scene; Cruelty to Animals, 200 Block Half Street, Report; Public Service, 1300 block Brad Circle, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 400 block Asher Lane, Settled at Scene; Peace Officer's Warrant, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Traffic Complaint, 700 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance 200 block Half Street, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, Aug. 5: Assist EMS, 15200 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 13900 block FM 2710 Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Hit and Run Crash, 500 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Parking Violation, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Assist Smith County SO, 554 I-20 West, Report; Suspicious Person, 1200 block Forest Trails Drive, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, Aug. 6: Suspicious Person, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 556 I-20 West, Settled at Scene: Residential Alarm, 1300 block Brad Circle, False Alarm: Public Service, 600 block Jack Drive. Settled at Scene, Motorist Assist, 300 block South Main



Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 700 block South Main Street, Report; Recovered Property, 3500 South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 1400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Public Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 200 block Cooper Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, No.1 554 I-20 West, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash No. 2 554 I-20 West, Report.

MONDAY, Aug. 7: Suspicious Person, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Possession of Controlled Substance, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Arrest; Criminal Trespass, 3500 block South Main Street, Warning Issued; Suspicious Circumstance, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 100 block Hudson Street, Settled at Scene.

TUESDAY, AUG. 8: Public Service 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 500 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith County SO, 600 block South Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Illegal Dumping, 15200 block CR 467, Report; Traffic Hazard, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 600 block North Main Street, Report; Attempt to Serve, 500 block Circle Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 200 block Hillside Circle, Settled at Scene.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9: Accident, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 700 block Stewart Street, Report; Damaged Property, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist Other Agency, 13800 block Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 500 block North Main Street, Report; Accident, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Deadly Conduct, 3400 block South Main Street, Report; Accident, 13300 block I-20 West, Report; Welfare Concern, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 200 block West Valley Street, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10: Warrant Service, 13300 block CR 472, Arrest; Business Alarm, 3400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Assist EMS, 15100 block FM 16, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 552 East I-20, Report; Public Service, 300 block Mount Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 1000 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident, 200 block South Main Street, Report; Residential Alarm, 15900 block Brittain

# Jurors must use another lot when summoned for duty

for Smith County Jury Duty are being asked to change where they park during construction of the County's parking garage, said County Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Jurors have previously parked in the large lot on East Ferguson Street but now those reporting for duty are being asked to park in the Fair Plaza Parking Garage, located at 208. S. College Avenue.

"The city of Tyler is graciously helping us solve a big parking issue by opening up the fourth floor of the Fair Plaza Garage for Smith County jurors," Smith County Judge Neal Franklin said. "We appreciate them working with us on this important project."

People summoned to appear the parking garage to the Smith County Courthouse, located at 100 N. Broadway Avenue, is 733 feet, while the parking lot on Ferguson Street is 852 feet from the Courthouse.

It is free to park in the Fair Plaza Garage on all four floors, except for the reserved spaces. Jurors are asked to park on the third and fourth floors.

The city of Tyler has also agreed to allow Smith County to bag some of the meters, when needed in the future, for visitor parking and additional handicap parking around the Courthouse and the Annex Building.

Construction of the County's new voter-approved, bond-funded parking garage will begin in late The walking distance from October, but County employee parking will most likely be displaced earlier when demolition of the current parking lot, as well as fiber/cable relocation begins.

When that happens, hundreds of Smith County employees working in the Annex and surrounding buildings will be displaced for parking and will take over the juror parking lot on Ferguson Street.

"We want to start getting the word out now about the juror parking move so people will be used to the idea well before the lot is no longer available to them," Franklin said.

Signage will be added to the Smith County parking lot, as well as at the Fair Plaza Garage entrance, located off of College

Franklin is working with the IT Department and District Clerk's Office to change the parking address on the jury summons going out in the future.

The jury summons includes an option to sign up for email and text alerts regarding the jury service. The District Clerk's Office plans to send alerts to the affected jurors that the parking location has

Build time for the parking garage is expected to be 10 months. Demolition of the County-acquired properties on the east side of the downtown square will take place during construction of the parking garage. Construction of the Courthouse will begin after the parking garage is completed.

"The decision to build on the

east side of the square was based on limiting interruption to downtown businesses," Franklin said. "We are committed to work alongside City officials and our construction team to keep the lines of communication open with the public and all of our downtown businesses and residents."

Courthouse business will continue as usual in the current Courthouse until construction is complete on the new Courthouse and all offices can be moved.

For more information about the project, visit: www.smith-county. com/online-services/online-county-services/court-house-planning. For more information about jury duty, visit: www.smith-county. com/government/elected-officials/ district-clerk/jury-duty-430

# Brooklyn man pleads guilty to federal firearms violation

A Brooklyn, N.Y. man pleaded guilty to U.S. Attorney John B. Ross. a federal firearms violation this past week in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Ahmed Abdalla Allam, 26, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm in a school zone before U.S. District Judge Marcia A. Crone.

According to information presented in court, on Jan. 29, 2023, Allam was found in possession of a multi-caliber rifle within 1,000 feet of St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica School in Beaumont.

Allam also possessed a 30-round magazine and 150 rounds of ammunition. It is a federal violation to possess firearms within 1,000 feet of a school zone.

"We are grateful to our Beaumont citizens who were vigilant and looked out for their community by reporting this defendant's suspicious activity," said Diggs. "We are also grateful to the Beaumont Police Department and its officers who ensured that this defendant was unable to act on whatever it was he had planned."

Allam was indicted by a federal grand jury on Feb. 1, 2023. He faces up to five years in federal prison. 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 part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone.

On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

This case is being investigated by the Beaumont Police Department, Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, FBI, Port Arthur Fire Department, and Montgomery County Fire Marshall. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant

#### **Sulphur Springs man** pleads guilty to child porn charges, gets 20 years

Hugo Enrique Menchaca, 42 of Sulphur Springs pleaded guilty to transportation of child pornography and misuse of a Social Security number and was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison this past week by U.S. District Judge Sean D. Jordan, Walston said.

According to information presented in court, Menchaca came to the attention of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Office in August 2020, when a social media company reported that a user had been uploading child pornography onto their platform.

HCSO initiated an investigation, which ultimately lead to Menchaca. Hundreds of files of child pornography were found on three digital devices Menchaca owned, as well as two different online platforms.

Menchaca admitted in court that he traded child pornography with others and that he did so in order to receive additional, and new child pornography. He also admitted that the child pornography depicted prepubescent minors, as well as sadistic or masochistic conduct, or other depictions of violence.

During HCSO's investigation, it was determined that Menchaca did not have legal status in the United States and that he was using the Social Security number that had been assigned to another individual. Menchaca used the SSN in order to obtain employment, credit, and some services, knowing that the SSN had not been assigned to him and that he was not entitled to use it.

In addition to his prison sentence, Menchaca was also ordered to pay restitution resulting from his misuse of the Social Security number. Following the completion of his sentence, Menchaca will face immigration hearings related to his status in the United

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice.

This case was investigated by Hopkins County Sheriff's Office, the FBI and the Social Security Administration - Office of the Inspector General and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Miller.

VISIT US AT www.lindalenewsandtimes.com

# Change of venue denied for former county district court coordinator

Judge Deborah Evans denied a change case, did not see enough reason to make of venue request this past week for a former Smith County district court coordinator accused of intentionally concealing or removing governmental records from the court's online system.

Toni Patterson White, a former court coordinator for the 7th District Court, is alleged to have removed approximately 4,532 governmental records from the 7th District Court's online system with the intent to harm or defraud District Judge Kerry Russell, according to an April 2022 indictment.

White is accused of removing the documents without legal authorization.

On Friday, the court considered a motion to change venue due to potential difficulty in finding unbiased jurors. However, Judge Evans, who was re-assigned to the the change.

"I think there will be no problem picking a jury," she said. "I know it's been covered media-wise, but you get cases that you think are big cases, even in small counties, and people don't know, so I really don't think there's going to be any problem picking a jury. I'm more concerned about the defendant and your arguments that it's in the courthouse, we're all in close quarters here. That's going to be a problem."

The defense team also wanted to subpoena Judge Russell for the upcoming trial, but the attorney general's office filed a motion to essentially quash that request. The outcome of this point is still unresolved and will be revisited at a later time.

Pre-trial has been set for Oct. 6, with a jury trial planned for Oct. 23.



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# Lady Eagles begin year with two wins

The Lindale High School Lady Eagles volleyball team, one of the favorites in District 16-4A again this season, got the 2023 year started on a winning note this past week by taking two games in Kaufman against the Lady Lions then defeating Greenville in four sets.

For the varsity, Aspen Ives put down 9 kills and Maddox Lay recorded 8 kills to lead the attack. Addison Ridge held down the defense with 8 digs.

Tatum Woodard put up 16 assists in the win. Set scores were 25-15, 25-14, and 25-23.

Against Greenville, Maddox Lay had 15 kills, Reagan Cates 8 kills, and Kayli Vickery and Ella Hutchens each put down 7. Tatum Woodard assisted 19 times, and Macy Luster recorded 17 assists for the Lady Eagles. Addison Ridge had 11 digs.

Ella Hutchens and Kayli Vickery also recorded 3 blocks on the night. Scores were 23-25, 25-23, 25-17, and 25-22. The Lady

The Lindale High School Lady Eagles volupball team, one of the favorites in District

Eagles will compete in the Tyler Legacy
Tournament this weekend.

The junior varsity Lady Eagles came up a bit short against Greenville, with the Lady Lions winning in three sets, 25-20, 19-25 and 24-26.

Libero Holli Dunn led the defense with 6 digs. Clara Helvey recorded 10 assists for the Lady Eagles. Brooke Gissell was strong with 5 kills, 3 blocks. Maddy Fowble had 3 kills, 3 aces, Keirsan Sanders had 3 kills, 1 ace, and Lauren Stanton and Kenlie Collins also had 3 kills apiece.

The JV Lady Eagles fell to Kaufman in two sets 20-25, 14-25. Kenlie Collins recorded 3 kills, and Emory Schmidt served tough for the Lady Eagles. Brooke Gissell recorded 3 blocks.

Freshman A Team defeated Greenville 25-23 and 25-12 in a collective team effort. Freshman B Team fought hard but came up a little short to a tough Kaufman squad 7-25 and 14-25. The

# Heat can affect certain medications

By Claudann Jones Smith County Extension Agent Family and Community Health



Temperature can impact any medication a person is taking, but some are more prone to problems than others.

Insulin is going to be one of those medications.

Patients with diabetes should try to not store their insulin in a place where the temperature will get too high.

Store your medication in a cool, dry blace.

If you keep them in a bathroom where you shower, leave the medicine in the original container. Keeping it in those bottles where they can remain sealed is really going to help prevent any negative effects of heat.

Medications that may cause heat intolernce:

-- Blood pressure medication

-- Antihistamines

- Antinistamine

-- Decongestants-- Psychiatric medications

If you have questions about your medication, it's important to ask. If you have questions about your medications and how you should store them, or how they could affect you in the heat, that's a great time to talk with your pharmacist, and they can provide that information that you need to really understand what the possibilities are.

With our temperatures reaching record highs, it is important for us to understand how certain medications are affected.

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.

# "Saving Something for Rainy Day" program scheduled for Aug. 25

#### By Greg Grant Smith County Horticulturist

In case you haven't noticed, it has been exceptionally hot and dry. During most summers in Texas, water is the limiting factor in growing and keeping gardens, landscapes, and lawns alive.

This time of the year generally divides us into two distinct groups: those that use too much water and those that don't use enough. The kind of heat and drought that we have experienced recently also shows us which plants are heat and drought tolerant and which ones are not. It's a learning opportunity for all.

If you'd like to learn even more about dealing with summer heat and drought in the landscape, why water is so critical for the future of Texas, and how to set up your own rainwater harvesting barrel, consider attending an upcoming educational event in Tyler.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Earth-Kind Environmental Education Committee of Smith County will be presenting "Saving Something for a Rainy Day," a water conservation program from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 25 in the Tyler Rose Center.

Speakers and topics include: Greg Grant (Smith County Horticulturist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service): Water Con-

servation and Management in the

Home Landscape.

Dean Minchillo (Program Specialist in Water Conservation,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service, Dallas, Texas): Current

Availability and Use of Water in

Richard Parish (Leon County Agent-Ag/Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service): Rainwater Harvesting Barrel Construction. Rain barrel hardware kits will be available for purchase at the program in a limited quantity. These kits do not include the barrel or stand. Pre-registration for the rain barrel hardware kits is suggested. Contact the Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office for details regarding the kits at 903-590-2980.

Registration for the water conservation program will be open inside the Tyler Rose Center doors from 8:30 to 9 am. The cost of the program is \$20 per participant, cash or check only. Rain barrel hardware kits are \$25 each, paid separately. To pre-register for rain barrel hardware kit or for more information, please contact the Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at 903-590-2980.

This program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Earth-Kind Education Committee and the City of Tyler



Water cisterns such as the one shown can help maintain plants and landscapes during hot weather. (Courtesy photo)

Water Utilities Department.

The Earth-Kind Education Committee is a group of dedicated volunteers who work passionately to provide the citizens of Smith County with sustainable Exten-

sion programs that support the Texas A&M AgriLife mission by delivering research-based, locally relevant, and beneficial programing to promote the protection of Texas' natural resources.

# Time to purchase your hunting, fishing licenses

It's August, which means kids are back in school and the fall hunting and fishing seasons are quickly approaching.

Before packing your favorite tackle and camo for trips, be sure to purchase an annual fishing and hunting license for 2023-24.

Current-year Texas hunting and fishing licenses (except the Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package) expire at the end of August. Licenses for the 2023-24 season went on sale this

Texans purchase more than 2.7 million hunting and fishing licenses annually, directly funding a multitude of conservation efforts and recreational opportunities. Some of the many projects made possible by license sales include fish stocking, wildlife management, habitat restoration, public hunting leases, river fishing access and Texas Game Wardens.

Outdoorsmen and women can purchase a variety of licenses <u>online</u> through the official TPWD <u>website</u>, by phone at 1-800-895-4248 during regular business hours or in-person.

New this year, hunters and anglers can purchase additional types of digital licenses including Youth Hunting (Item 169), Lifetime Hunting tags (Item 991), Lifetime Fishing tags (Item 992) and the Exempt Angler tag (Item 257).

The Super Combo license (Items 111, 117 and 990) continues to be available for purchase as a digital license this year as well.

The digital license option

is available through <u>online</u> <u>purchase only</u> when licenses go on sale Aug. 15. Digital license holders will not receive a printed license or tags but must keep their digital license available while in the field. Digital tagging is required of digital license holders through the <u>My Texas Hunt Harvest</u> mobile app. The license can be viewed through the <u>My Texas Hunt Harvest</u> and TPWD <u>Outdoor Annual</u> mobile apps.

TPWD encourages repeat license buyers to use the expedited checkout process, which speeds up re-purchasing licenses bought in recent years.

Customers can access their past and current licenses in several ways: (1) an electronic photo of their licenses, (2) an emailed receipt of their purchases; (3) their account in the online license sales system;

(4) via License Lookup in the <u>Outdoor Annual app</u> or <u>My Texas Hunt Harvest</u> app.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the 2023-24 season are available online at outdoorannual.com, on the Outdoor Annual mobile app. The mobile app is free, and once downloaded, it works without internet connectivity, making it easy for hunters and anglers to view regulations in even the most remote locations. Other features include license lookup, location-based functionality such as "Hunting Seasons and Regulations by Location," "Where to Fish," and more. A limited supply of printed booklets will be available at select TPWD offices. Hunters and anglers are encouraged to call their local offices to check avail-

The My Texas Hunt Har-

vest app enables electronic submission of mandatory harvest reports, including alligator gar harvest reporting, and supports digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum for certain license holders. The app also allows hunters to complete their on-site registration for many TPWD public hunting lands. Hunters can hunt on more than one million acres of public land with the purchase of an Annual Public **Hunting Permit.** 

When buying their license, resident hunters and anglers may wish to purchase an entry in the Lifetime License Drawing. Three lucky winners will each win a Lifetime Super Combo License and never need to buy a Texas hunting or fishing license again. Entries are \$5 each and can be purchased online, by phone or at any license

retailer. The first entry deadline is Sept. 30.

When making their purchase, license buyers can also add a donation of \$1, \$5, \$10 or \$20 to help support the Hunters for the Hungry program or the Fund for Veterans Assistance. Donations to the Hunters for the Hungry program provide hunters with a way to donate legally harvested deer to participating processors. The processed meat goes to local food banks to feed Texas families in need. Donations to the Fund for Veterans Assistance program provide grants to veteran service organizations and nonprofit charitable institutions, assisting veterans and their families at the community level throughout Texas.

For frequently asked questions about Texas hunting and fishing licenses, visit the <u>TPWD website</u>.

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# Caladiums perfect for shady spots in your garden

By Marketta Tefteller Smith County Master Gardener

Shade-loving caladiums produce exceptional foliage that can be tucked away in the shadier parts of your yard or garden.

Though they are not known for tolerating direct sun, many newer varieties can take some exposure a few hours during the day. Those varieties that have more green in the leaves seem to tolerate the sun better.

Plants range in height and width from 12 to 24 inches and require bright filtered light. There are numerous varieties available in bulb form and in starter pots. These are found in the gardening sections of stores, nurseries, and on line. Common varieties such as White Christmas and Candidum are favorites.

Planting time is generally sometime after Mother's Day when the weather is seasonably warm. Soil should be loose, rich soil with plenty of organic matter or good potting soil.

Add a slow release fertilizer to the soil before planting the bulb or plant. Bulbs should be covered with one and a half to two inches of soil. Water well after planting. The bulbs usually need about 2 weeks for the tips to start breaking through the soil.

ing through the soil.

Planting several bulbs or plants



in clumps in the desired flower beds creates a more desirable look. Many gardeners like to plant caladiums in pots. Large pots of caladiums can be placed in strategic places in the flower beds or on porches or patios.

As the summer progresses, the plants will grow vigorously and produce attractive clumps of leaf color all season. In late September and early October, the plants will become leggy and begin to fall over. They will not survive in the ground over the winter in this area.

If you want to save the bulbs until

next year, dig them, shake off the soil, and lay them in a covered area to allow them to dry. In about 3 weeks, the leaves should be almost completely dry. At this time, you can clip off the foliage and wrap the bulbs in layers of newspaper. Store them in a dry area where they will not be exposed to freezing temperatures. About the middle of May, unwrap the bulbs.

They are ready for planting for summer enjoyment. Leaf tips will be barely visible on each bulb. Be sure to plant the bulbs with the tip up.

# Pet owners have options on frequency of vaccinations

Routine vaccinations are an essential part of your pet's veterinary care, and veterinarians typically guide owners on how often your pet needs which shots, said officials with the Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine.

In the case of rabies, however, owners may be asked by their veterinarian if they prefer a vaccine that lasts one year or three years.

"The differences between one-year and three-year vaccines depend on the specific vaccines," said <u>Dr. Lori Teller</u>, a clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. "Many of the adjuvanted vaccines – or vaccines with an added chemical to boost immune response and ensure protection – are similar, with the only difference being the label. The biggest factor that owners should consider is what the law is in their jurisdiction."

# Local And State Laws On Rabies Vaccines

The beginning of the rabies vaccination schedule is the same for cats and dogs, which is important for owners to follow since rabies is a viral disease that spreads through bites or saliva. This infectious disease will affect the central nervous system and can cause



symptoms such as excessive drooling, aggression, seizures and death.

There is no effective treatment for rabies, and because rabies can spread from animals to humans, vaccinations are necessary to protect both pets and their owners.

"Rabies is considered a core vaccine, meaning that all dogs and cats should be vaccinated for protection against this fatal disease," Teller said. "A puppy or kitten should receive their first rabies vaccination between 12-16 weeks of age and then will require a

booster vaccination 12 months later. Any subsequent vaccinations will be determined by what local or state laws mandate."

In fact, local and state laws can differ depending on how severe the risk of rabies is in an area, making it crucial for owners to discuss local vaccination requirements with their veterinarian. These laws should at least outline how often a pet should be vaccinated and with which form of the rabies vaccine.

"Laws regarding rabies vaccination vary from state to state and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction," Teller said. "Texas requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies, but some states do not require it while others require only dogs to be vaccinated. Some municipalities require pets to be vaccinated annually, others require biennial rabies vaccinations, and then many require triennial vaccinations. There are even some that require a pet to be vaccinated annually with the three-year vaccine."

If a pet is found to be unvaccinated for rabies or has bitten someone, owners can be fined or their pet may be quarantined away from home until it is confirmed they are not infected. Pets are also typically required to be vaccinated if they are around other animals, such as in a boarding facility or grooming salon.

#### **Rabies Vaccines Depending On Pet**

As long as local and state guidelines on rabies vaccines are met, owners may be given the option to choose between the one-or three-year forms of the vaccine. These options are dependent on the type of pet, according to Teller.

"If the law says that a pet can receive a three-year rabies vaccination every three years, then that would be appropriate for most dogs," Teller explained. "The caveat to this is for cats because many veterinarians use the feline-specific, non-adjuvanted vaccine, and they prefer the one-year version for cats because it is less expensive than the three-year version and is less likely to cause short-term side effects, such as low-grade fever or tenderness at the vaccination site."

Working with your veterinarian to determine which rabies vaccine is right for your furry friend will keep them safe and healthy while also preventing the disease from spreading in your local community.

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

# SELL IT IN THE CONTROL OF SELL IT IN THE CON

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Richmond Crumpton, Jr., Deceased, were issued on July 31, 2023, in Cause No. 47604P, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Smith County, Texas, to: Richmond Cedric Crumpton.

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.

My Texas Estate Plan, PLLC c/o: Casey Cook 7925 S. Broadway Ave., Ste. 800 Tyler, Texas 75703

DATED the 11th day of August, 2023.

/s/ Casey P. Cook
Casey P. Cook
Attorney for Richmond Cedric Crumpton
State Bar No.: 24094599
7925 S. Broadway Ave., Ste. 800
Tyler, TX 75703
Telephone: (903) 561-8644
Facsimile: (903) 561-8649
E-mail: info@mytxestateplan.com



#### ORDINANCE NO <u>06-2023</u>

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.

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marcus Michael Dixon, Deceased, were issued on August 7, 2023, in Cause No. 47,544P, pending in the County Court of Smith County, Texas, to: ROMA MAL-PASS DIXON.

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



# Notice Budget Public Hearing

In accordance with §102.006 (c) of the Texas Local Government Code, the Lindale City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget a copy of the Proposed Budget can be found at <a href="https://www.lindaletx.gov">www.lindaletx.gov</a> any person may attend the hearing.

Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm at City Hall, 105 Ballard Drive, Lindale Texas

This Budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$97,234 or 3%, and of that amount \$166,916 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

## LEGAL NOTICE



# ORDINANCE NO. <u>07-2023</u>

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.

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