

Lindale News & Times

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1900"



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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 subpoenas

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 aerobic 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 often-overlooked 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	Prior Year Payment YTD	% 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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OPINION/COMMENTARY

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

... 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," Lutze 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 second-highest 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

By 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 a 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.

North & East Texas Press Association



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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"

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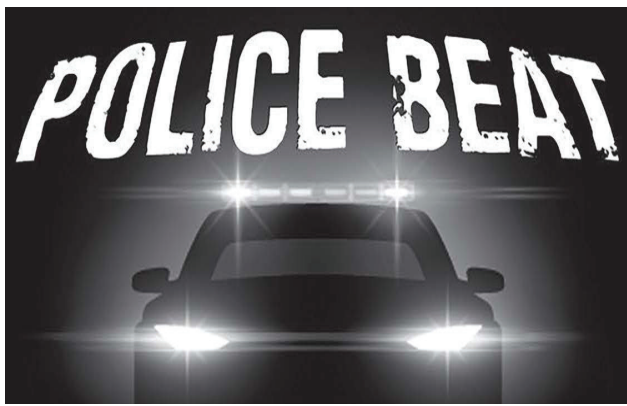
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Lindale Police Department call log for Aug. 4-10

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 Court, False Alarm.

Jurors must use another lot when summoned for duty

People summoned to appear 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."

The walking distance from

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 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 Avenue.

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 changed.

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 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

U.S. Attorney John B. Ross.

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 States.

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.

Change of venue denied for former county district court coordinator

Judge Deborah Evans denied a change 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

case, did not see enough reason to make 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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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 **Dr. Lori Teller**, 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

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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

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 MALPASS 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 www.lindaletx.gov 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. 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

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