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Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023

Vol. 124, No. 37

1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



Lindale City budget vote September 19

Lindale City council members decided to postpone voting on the city budget until the next scheduled council meeting (6 p.m., Sept. 14) upon the recommendation of City Manager Carolyn Caldwell.

A mandated public hearing took place before the budget date was set. No one elected to speak during the public hearing.

The budget will include a three percent cost of living adjustment for city employees.

During their Aug. 15 meeting, council members discussed the proposed budget after setting a public hearing on the new tax rate for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19 at city hall.

The new tax rate, which Caldwell said was the lowest in the city's history, is .36 cents per \$100 property valuation.

In other action, the council:

- Approved amending the city's ordinance as it applies to juvenile curfew regulations to comply with recent changes to state law, which says cities cannot enforce curfews.

- Approved amending the city's ordinance specifying hours of use for city parks, which are to be closed at dusk.

- OK'd the budget for the Lindale Economic Development Corporation for FY 2023-24. LEDC President Susan Gill presented budget figures and expected income for the fiscal year to the council.

- Amended the city's animal control ordinance. City Attorney Glen Patrick discussed mandates from the state and how they needed to be applied to the city and what the city is allowed to do by law. Patrick said animal control officers will still be able take action regarding dangerous dogs and other dangerous animals.

Eagles fall to Vandals, 42-37, next up Gilmer

By Terry Cannon
Editor

As painful of a loss as it was – a 42-37 decision at the hands of longtime rival Van last Friday – the Lindale High School Eagles had little time this week to reflect on what might have been.

Because a road trip to perennial East Texas powerhouse Gilmer looms. And, like Chris Cochran has been telling his troops this week, don't let the Buckeyes' pedestrian 1-2 record be an indication of weakness.

"Gilmer, as always, is pretty dang good," Cochran said. "They have very good athletes and they are big, very big up front on both sides of the ball."

Opening week for the Buckeyes had them hosting Chapel Hill, which was a 71-53 win. The next week, another District 9-4A power, Kilgore, took a 24-23 victory in Kilgore.

"They are always so well coached we know we will have our hands full, no matter what their record says," said Cochran, who purposely schedules some of the best teams in East Texas to prepare for the rigors of 9-4A play.

Gilmer certainly qualifies as one of those teams.

"I've told our guys that we play these teams on our schedule to win, not to just show up," he said.

Complicating matters for the Eagles will be speedy running back Will Henderson, who is also the reigning state champion in the 100 meter dash. Quarterback Caden Tennison, a junior, is a dual threat who passed for more than 1,200 yards and 15 touchdowns last year.

No doubt Cochran would have liked to have some momentum from last week's Van contest going into Friday's match, but despite playing well for most of the first half, the Eagles let the game slip away after intermission.

"(The Van loss) was a hard pill to swallow," Cochran said. "They were just tougher than we were. There were plays to be made and they made them. We didn't."

He cited late first half play in which the Vandals went for it on fourth



Lindale vs. Gilmer
7:30 p.m.
Friday
in
Gilmer

and 12 at the Lindale 45. Quarterback Jaxon Moffat tossed a pass into an Eagle double team at the Lindale five for the first down.

A stop there, and Lindale would have had the ball near midfield and a good chance to take the lead at intermission.

Instead, the Vandals managed a 28-23 lead going into the third period. His players, knowing they let a win slip away from them, were quiet in the locker room afterwards.

"They knew we didn't do enough to win," he said. "It was frustrating, but we'll be better this week. We just have to want to be better."

NUMBERS AFTER THREE GAMES

The Eagles are averaging 35 points a game so far and have allowed 43 points per game.

Quarterback Clint Thurman is leading the team in scoring with eight touchdowns rushing while Wyatt Parker has five. Thurman has completed 30 of 66 passes for 468 yards and three touchdowns.

The leading receiver is Chad Ward with 10 catches for 160 yards and one score, while Marcus Field has eight catches for 151 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, Hudson LeGrow has 34 tackles followed by Jake Curbow, Jackson Parker and Miles Miller with 20 apiece.

Kicker Seth Baggett has 19 points on two field goals and 13 points after touchdown.



Lindale's Matthew Kenney tries to disrupt the pitch from Van's Jaxon Moffett to his running back during the second period of last Friday's game with the Vandals in Lindale.

Photo by Terry Cannon

Commissioners OK budget, hear fire marshal report on burn ban

Smith County Commissioners approved the budget and pay scales for fiscal year 2023-24 for the county during their Sept. 5 meeting with Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips voting against three of the four budget-related agenda items.

The court voted on: the FY 2023-24 budget, the maintenance and operations rate, the debt service rate and the property tax rate increase from raising more revenue from property taxes than from the previous year.

Phillips voted in favor of the debt service rate item.

"With the inflation rates in during the past year everyone is struggling," he said prior to the vote. "And with the increased appraisals everyone got in my opinion this court did not make an attempt to lower the rollback rate."

Smith County Judge Neal Franklin then called for votes on the four items, with all but the one passing by 4-1 votes.

A public hearing was held before the vote and four county residents came forward and spoke on the matter.

COUNTY BURN BAN

Commissioners also heard from fire marshal Paul Findley concerning the county burn ban which has been in place since early August and the number of fires and reports of illegal burning.

There have been 160 grass and brush fires, and nearly 80 reports of illegal burning reported in the county. "It's been a busy month across the board," said Findley.

There have been 432 fire-related calls since Aug. 1, and 40 citations have been given for illegal burning, he said.

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

"The emergency responders in the county are doing an outstanding job during an extremely busy time," Findley said, adding that the investigators in the Fire Marshal's Office are doing a great job. "You've got a great team out at the EOC."

He said their partnerships with the Smith County Sheriff's Office and Constables' Offices have also been great, with the other agencies helping them out tremendously on calls, both day and night.

"The rains we received recently were welcome but unfortunately, they were not enough to lift the burn ban," Findley said.

Currently, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index for Smith County was at an average of 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).

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 72 percent of Smith County is in severe drought; 27 percent is in moderate drought and less than 1 percent (in the southeast portion of the county/Troup area) is in extreme drought.

"It's still dangerously dry out there as far as fire conditions," Findley said. "I can't stress enough how great the first responders are doing out there."

"I appreciate all you have done, and your team," Smith County Judge Neal Franklin said.

Commissioner John Moore thanked all of the billboard owners across the county for displaying burn ban messaging from Smith County for free, to help spread the word.

The burn ban order will remain in effect for 90 days, unless conditions improve, and the Commissioners Court approves terminating the order early.

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Scars ...

A year and a half after the attack on the Twin Towers I was in New York City speaking at Columbia University at a national scholastic journalism convention. It seemed odd to teach year-book theme to hundreds of teenagers in a world that was different, in a city that was different, to a people who were different because we had been attacked on American soil by terrorists.

New Yorkers carried on but were subdued. Even a year and a half later rubble filled where the Twin Towers and other buildings once stood. The rubble was fenced in and the crowds were fenced out. There were heavily armed guards who protected the rubble because it wasn't just rubble.

It was quiet around the site. It was ugly and devastating and invoked heartbreak and anger. Now I understand that it is a beautiful memorial and historical site...much like the sunken battleship the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor. Separated by 60 years the stories have much in common. Ordinary people rose to an extraordinary circumstance in one unexpected moment.

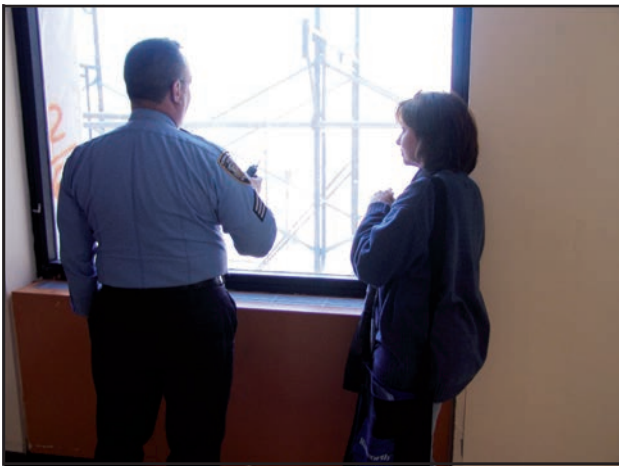
I had the privilege of meeting and visiting with several firefighters who had survived the fall of the Twin Towers. There were also a lot of rookies I met who had replaced the 343 lost in the darkness of that day.

You didn't have to ask who the veterans were. Even if they were the same age as the rookies their eyes were different. You could see 9/11 in them. I met an NYPD officer, Sgt. Richard Miranda, who helped evacuate over 3,000 frightened elementary children from the area. He took me to an off limits floor in a high rise next to the site and for about 45 minutes told me his story as we looked down into the ashes.

I listened. Really listened and saw the best of what we could be. But I also saw the scars. Scars borne by people who survived and scars on that city and her people.

Scars are interesting things. Some people are embarrassed or ashamed of their scars. Some hide them. Some ignore them and

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell

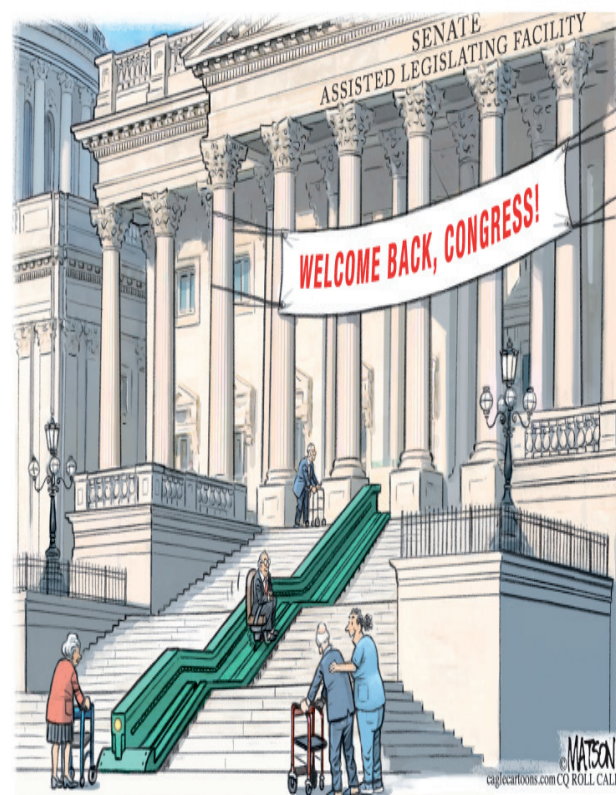


New York Police Sgt. Richard Miranda recounts his experiences on 9/11 to Suzanne Bardwell as they look down into the rubble of the Twin Towers from a nearby building.

forget they are even there. And some scars are worn proudly. Those scars produce strength and tell a story that needs to be remembered.

On this observance of 9/11, we need to remember to pray for all those who serve us, who put their lives on the line because of the job they were called to do. Many of their stories we will never know, but that doesn't make them any less true.

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.



"THERE WERE A FEW UPGRADES AT THE CAPITOL OVER THE RECESS, SENATOR!"

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Metro outlook ...

Although there are clearly challenges facing the global economy, the outlook for Texas remains largely favorable. Looking within the state, projected growth across all the entire spectrum of diverse metropolitan areas is also positive, though the pace of expansion varies notably. Let's take a quick look at some of our latest projections for the next five years.

In terms of the sheer numbers of net new jobs, about 79% of the state's total increase of over 1.3 million positions are expected to be created in Texas' seven major metropolitan areas, with almost half of them in the largest two alone: Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA—rising 318,400) and Dallas-Plano-Irving Metropolitan Division (MD—up about 311,300). Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown (+130,000), Fort Worth-Arlington-Grapevine (+112,000), and San Antonio-New Braunfels (+108,000) are also expected to add substantial new workers.

When we focus on the rate of growth, however, the picture is a bit different. We are projecting that Midland will see the largest percentage increase in employment over the next five years, with a gain of about 10.4%. Expansion through 2027 in the greater Dallas, greater Austin, Tyler, and Brownsville-Harlingen areas is also likely to top 10%. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Fort Worth-Arlington-Grapevine, Odessa, Sherman-Denison, and greater Houston are likely to outpace the overall state rate of expansion (9.5%), with several other metro areas forecast to have total employment gains over the five-year horizon of more than 9%. The lowest total job increase we are projecting for any Texas population center is just below 8%.

Turning to output (real gross product) gains over the next five years, the areas projected to see fastest pace are generally in or adjacent to oil and gas production areas. Midland tops the list, with an expected total five-year increase of nearly 29%. We are forecasting that each of the Texas metropolitan areas will expand output by at least 15% between 2022 and 2027.

As drivers and centers of Texas economic activity, the growth of the largest MSAs generate benefits that ripple through smaller communities and rural areas across the state. At the same time, in many smaller metros, economies are healthy and there have been notable locations and expansions, setting the stage for continued positive general patterns for the foreseeable future.

Business cycles are inevitable, and there are certainly notable headwinds at this time. Even so, Texas' population centers are well positioned for notable employment and output increases over the next five years. I threw a lot of numbers at you, but hopefully they leave you with the notion that the highly diverse Texas economy — which spans mountains, valleys, deserts, forests, tropics, beaches, and all manner of business activity — is posed for ongoing growth in the coming years. Stay safe!

Paxton trial completes first week

The first week of suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's impeachment trial in the Senate ended with his former lead law enforcement officer testifying an Austin developer alleged to have bribed Paxton constructed a "conspiracy theory" that federal officials altered a search warrant for his property, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

David Maxwell, the former AG official, said real estate developer Nate Paul pushed Paxton to investigate federal law enforcement agencies probing his business. Paul has since been indicted for inflating his assets on loan applications. Paxton aides looked into Paul's allegations at Paxton's request but concluded they were meritless.

"My feeling was Nate Paul was a criminal and we should not be associating with Nate Paul," Maxwell testified.

Maxwell was ultimately fired by Paxton for insubordination after he resisted investigating Paul's allegations.

Paxton blames the impeachment on his political opponents. He appeared on the first day of the trial but has not been in the Senate chamber since then.

Appeals court: Buoys can stay for now

A federal appeals court last week stayed a federal district judge's ruling that the floating barrier installed by the state in the Rio Grande to stem illegal entry by migrants violated federal law and treaties.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily halted U.S. District Judge David Ezra's order that the 1,000-foot barrier near Eagle Pass be removed by Sept. 15, pending an as-yet unscheduled hearing.

The U.S. Department of Justice filed the lawsuit, saying the buoys violated an 1899 federal law that forbids unauthorized construction in navigable waterways, The Dallas Morning News reported. Gov. Greg Abbott argued the river is too shallow to be navigable and that an "invasion" of migrants and drug smugglers made it necessary for the state to defend itself.

"Texas has clear constitutional authority to defend its territory against the invasion that Governor Abbott has declared," the state told the lower court last week. Ezra rejected that argument, saying by that reasoning the state could declare an invasion and wage war at will.

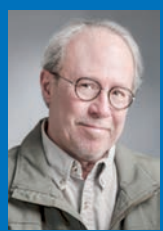
Mexican authorities have lodged formal diplomatic complaints, and critics of the buoys in the United States called them inhumane.

ERCOT calls for power conservation

For the first time this summer, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas last week declared an emergency, introducing the possibility of rolling blackouts to stabilize the state's power grid.

A sudden drop in power reserves last Wednesday night caused the system to lose more power than expected, prompting the first emergency alert since Winter Storm Uri

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



in February 2021, according to kut.org.

The emergency lasted about two hours, though the next day, for the 11th time, ERCOT asked Texans to conserve power as continued extreme heat pushed electric usage close to its capacity.

Texans have experienced the second-hottest summer on record, the Texas Tribune reported, with an average temperature of 85.3 degrees between June and the end of August. That average is just behind the record set in 2011, when blistering heat and dry conditions pushed the average temperature to 86.8 degrees, and wildfires swept the state.

The good news is that the heat wave is expected to finally break this week, with rain expected and temperatures dropping down well below the triple digits that much of the state has weathered since June.

Crypto miner gets \$31 million to cut energy use

The cryptocurrency mining company Riot, located in what was once an Alcoa power plant in Rockdale, was paid \$31 million in August to cut its energy use, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Cryptocurrency mining requires vast amounts of electricity to power computers, and the facility in Rockdale is North America's largest bitcoin mine.

"August was a landmark month for Riot in showcasing the benefits of our unique power strategy," Jason Les, CEO of Riot, said in a news release last week.

Les said the company raked in \$31.7 million in energy credits from ERCOT by cutting its power use by more than 95 percent during periods of peak demand. The state offers payouts to bitcoin mining companies during periods of peak demand but also expects them to use more power when supply exceeds demand.

Texas prisons on complete lockdown

An increase in drug-related violence at state prisons prompted the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to issue a statewide lockdown of all 100 prison facilities, the Texas Tribune reported. No visitors will be allowed until a system-wide search for illegal drugs and other contraband is completed.

"The safety of inmates, staff, and the public is our highest priority," said Cris Love, TDCJ's inspector general. "Illegal drugs within our facilities will not be tolerated. Individuals found smuggling contraband will be arrested and subject to prosecution."

North & East Texas Press Association



The Lindale News & Times

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
(closed Wednesday)

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

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

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— Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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A sad farewell to a special friend

What makes having a four-legged companion so wonderful is also what makes it so difficult, because the day you bring one of those gifts of nature into your home you know the day will come when you have to say goodbye.

Such was the case for us not long ago when we had to lead our beloved Jake, a 17-year dachshund to the Rainbow Bridge and let him join our other precious pets who have made their own journey over the years.

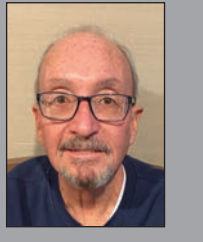
Jake was a kind soul who never, ever had ill feelings toward anyone or anything. All he wanted out of life was the comfort of our home, the companionship we lovingly provided and an occasional treat.

Oh, he liked walks and stuffed toys that he would chew up with abandon. But more than anything else, he adored our family and we reciprocated those feelings each and every minute.

He came into our life one weekend 17 years ago when we were looking for another doxie to keep Scout company. We wandered over to Dogtown in Canton and spied him in a little crate. Once he fixed his sweet brown eyes in our direction we knew he was coming home with us.



Terry Cannon Editor



Scout wasn't thrilled with her new roommate at first, to say the least. But Jake was determined to win her over, and when he eventually did they were inseparable.

So much so that when she passed, he was inconsolable. We learned grief is certainly real in animals and the only way to help him cope was to find him another companion.

Enter Abbey. We knew that when Jake was a puppy having a friend close by would help ease the fear at bedtime. He provided just the right support for her, just as he had received from Scout. He and Abbey became best of friends.

Over the years, we learned how to adapt to their different personalities. As laid back as Jake was, Abbey tended to be a bit more needy.

But that just made our life with the two of them extra special.

As he got along in years, Jake encountered many of the same problems a lot of us old men have to deal with. His

gait became a bit slower than in his younger years and he wasn't as active.

But he was still the sweetest, kindest little dog you could ever hope to meet.

Over the past couple of years, his hearing faded and he needed help getting to and from the backyard, but once we settled in for a night of TV he found a warm spot on my lap until it was time to go to bed.

Much like my old man self, Jake was fond of warm quilts and blankets in the winter. After my bout with cancer and the subsequent recovery at home he seemed to understand he needed to be on my lap, under the blanket while we watched TV or napped.

In fact, my wife thought it was funny how he would position himself between my knees as we sat in the recliner and sleep the afternoon away.

She even thought of getting me a T-shirt inscribed with "Jake's Therapy Human."

During the past few months we knew his time on earth was limited because he just didn't have the spunk he usually did. He wasn't interested in eating and slept more and more.

Then one recent morning, he had taken a turn for the worse and we knew the best thing for him was to let him go.

The veterinary staff was compassionate and kind and made the inevitable as easy as possible.

We miss our Jakie and are so thankful for our time together. See, that's the best thing about having four legged friends. Even when they are gone, they stay with you forever.

On the road with ultimate crash dummies

The other day, I saw a kid ridin' down a hill in a homemade car-like thing. Boy howdy, you talk about bringin' back memories.

This kid's car was just like the ones we used to make. It consisted of three 2x4's and four wheels. To operate it, you sat on the back axle, had your feet on the front axle that had a rope tied to both ends. Someone would push you down a big hill.

You would have the rope in your hands and you would steer usin' a combination of foot and rope power. To stop, you had to pull back on a stick that you had nailed to the frame. The other end of the stick would drag the ground, and theoretically, would stop your car.

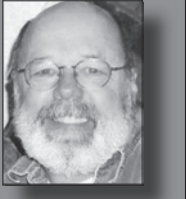
This braking system never worked very well, so you'd end up droppin' your feet onto the road in hopes of a Flintstone type stop. In reality, your feet would hit the road and immediately be propelled backward under the back axle.

At this time, your upper body would slam down face first, on the front axle. But since your knees were now draggin' on the road, you would finally come to a stop, providin', of course, that your flesh held out. This was the only ride that no one ever yelled, "Me next!" afterward

My cousin Coy and I had made several of these death traps, but none proved to be any good. Then one day, while rummagin' around my dad's workshop, we found some stuff to make the ultimate vehicle.

Actually, it was a two-piece vehicle, and we designed it ourselves. The front part was an old push

Rusty Mitchum Life & Times



lawn mower with a busted engine and the back part was a garden cart; the kind that is pulled behind a lawn tractor.

We attached the tongue of the cart to a crossbar on the handle of the mower. To operate it, you kneeled in the cart and put your hands on the handle of the lawn mower. This way you could steer. To stop it, all you had to do was pull up on a rope that was attached to a latch, and the back of the cart dumped backwards and dragged on the road.

"You go first," I said to Coy.

"No way," he replied. "I went first on the last car we built and I'm still missin' my knee caps."

"OK 'fraidy cat," I said. "I'll go first."

Coy pushed me off at the top of the road. The contraption rolled steadily down the oil-topped road, pickin' up speed as it went. Finally, as I approached the bottom of the road, I held my breath, and pulled the rope. The cart dumped backwards, and I came to a textbook stop. I checked myself out. Yep, still in one piece.

"It worked!" I yelled at Coy, who was already racin' down to where I was.

"Me next!" he yelled as he ran.

Well, it wasn't long before we were taking other kids for rides, for a nominal fee, of course. We were havin' a great time.

Back in those days, just

before nightfall, all the neighbors would gather in someone's front yard to sit around and talk, and this night was no exception. They were all in my folk's front yard.

"Hey," I said. "Let's all give the grownups a show." "How?" asked Coy.

"Let's all pile in the Horseless Road Chariot (a name we stole from a show we had seen on TV) and ride down in front of my house. Then we'll pull the rope and drag to a stop. I can just hear them clappin' now."

"I don't know," said Coy. "We ain't never tried more'n two people in it at the same time."

"Quit bein' such a worry wart," I said. "It'll be okay." We all started gettin' into the cart. There was Coy and me, Greg Hunt, Little Rusty, his little brother Wee Whoa, and of course Bones, Wee Whoa's stupid dog.

We decided since Greg was the strongest he would push us off and then jump in. I was steerin' and everyone else was just sitting there gettin' ready to enjoy the ride.

After Greg gave a big push, and jumped in, we were off. It was a pretty good way down to my house, so by the time we got there; we were clippin' along pretty good. Just as we passed in front of my house, I could see all of our folks lookin' and pointin'. It was time to hit the brakes. I yanked

on the rope, but nothin' happened. I yanked again. Same thing, nothin' happened. With all of us in the cart, there was too much pressure on the latch and it wouldn't come open allowin' the cart to dump.

"AAAAAAHHHHH- HHH!" I yelled. "It won't stop!"

"Hit the ditch!" yelled Coy. I steered for the ditch. The mower went into the ditch fine, but instead of comin' up the other side, like we figured, it slammed into the bank and stopped.

The momentum of the cart pushed against the handle of the mower, to which my hands were attached.

The handle shot forward, followed closely by me. As my face dug into the ground, the cart's tongue imbedded into the bank of the ditch and started flippin' forward with, I might add, all of its passengers. The cart miraculously cleared my prostrate body, and flipped all the way over, with everyone still intact.

That is, until it landed. As it hit down, kids went flyin' in every direction. Bones had bailed out earlier, provin' that he wasn't as stupid as he looked.

The parents gathered around and turned over kids to see if they were theirs. When they found one that looked familiar, they'd pick them up by the back of their britches like a suitcase, and head for home.

All but my parents, that is. After they made sure that I was alive, I was informed, in no uncertain terms, that my vehicle buildin' days were over.

And just think; I could have been the next Henry Ford.

Times of Lindale



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

ONE YEAR AGO, Sept. 15, 2022

Lindale's Miranda Lambert, the most nominated female artist in the history of the Country Music Association, added another to that list by being one of the four finalists for Album of the Year for 2022.

She was nominated for her album "Palomino." This is the 61st nomination for Lambert who was also nominated for her 16th straight Female Vocalist of the Year award.

She trails George Strait and Alan Jackson for most nominations in CMA history.

Lainey Wilson (*Sayin' What I'm Thinkin'*), Luke Combs (*Growin' Up*) and Old Dominion (*Time, Tequila & Therapy*) are the other album-of-the-year nominees.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Sept. 13, 2018

The 17th ranked Lindale High School Lady Eagles defeated North Lamar in four sets, 25-19, 25-22, 24-26 and 25-19 with Shelbi Steen providing 12 kills and four blocks in the win. London Reue had nine kills and five blocks, while Skylar Wyllie had six blocks. Kalaya Pierce and Harleigh Thurman had 16 and 14 assists, respectively for the Lady Eagles. Libero Jennifer Moyer had 19 digs.

10 YEARS AGO, Sept. 12, 2013

Lindale ISD Assistant Superintendent Belinda Neal, Ed.D., was named president-elect for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association.

Neal will serve on the TEPSA executive committee and preparing to take the reins as president in June.

"It is humbling to work so closely with some of the top administrators across the state," Dr. Neal said. "I have learned so much from them and enjoy being a part of a committed group of people that are true servant leaders in our schools and for our state."



Rotary speaker

U.S. Congressman Nathaniel Moran was the speaker at the weekly meeting of the Lindale Rotary Club and discussed his time in the House after serving as Smith County Judge from 2016 to 2022. He was presented to the club by Rotarian Don Hines. (Courtesy photo)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Cling to our crosses"

Dear Editor,

Climb down, move on...

"It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness." -- Chuck Palahniuk.

The late Suzanne Bardwell's comments in last week's Lindale News & Times are so true.

Life is tough and we are surrounded by hurting people and sometimes self-absorbed people. But we owe it to our families, friends, coworkers not to "cling to our crosses" long after we should have laid them down. We must allow ourselves to receive healing that the Lord has given us.

Don't let physical or emotional pain define who you have become. Don't let pain take today away from you. Life is too short not to enhance joy, and peace, and grace, but to move on.

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Lindale Police Department call log for Sept. 1-7

FRIDAY, SEPT 1: Suspicious Person, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 100 block North Main Street, Report; Found Property, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Found Property, 600 block Jack Drive, Report; Traffic Hazard, 556 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 2300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Theft, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report; Public Service, 400 block Asher Lane, Report; Theft, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 800 block East South Street, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Vehicle, 500 block Baker Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 100 block West South Street, False Alarm; Verbal Disturbance, 13300 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2: Assist Smith Co S.O., 15000 block CR 411, Report; Loud Noise Complaint, 15200 CR 467, Unfounded; Stolen Vehicle, 552 IH-20 East, Unable to Locate; Cruelty to Animals, 3200 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Possession Drug Paraphernalia, 100 block South Henry Street, Citation Issued; Suspicious Circumstance, 13300 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 700 block Stewart Street, Settled at Scene; Burglary Motor Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Report.



SUNDAY, SEPT. 3: 911 Hang Up Call, 300 block Cooper Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 700 block Stewart Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Warning Issued; Public Service, 500 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 17000 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Theft (2) 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report; Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block Cooper Street, Clear; Suspicious Person, 300 block Bonnie Street, Clear.

MONDAY, SEPT. 4: Motor Vehicle Crash, 3400 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene, Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Assist EMS, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co S.O., 560 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene.

TUESDAY, SEPT 5: Public Service 16000 Blk Crossing Cir Settled at Scene Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block

West Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 700 block Donnaberry Court, Settled at Scene.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6: Stolen Vehicle, 900 block North Main Street, Arrest; Assist Smith Co S.O., CR 431 at CR 41, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3400 block South Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 1700 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Found Property, 800 block Lindale Industrial Parkway, Report; Criminal Trespass, 3500 block South Main Street, Warning Issued.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7: Assist Smith Co S.O., 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Accident, 13800 block CR 411, Report; Accident, 200 block West Hubbard Street, Report; Accident, 3500 block, South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Circumstance, 2200 block South Main Street, Blotter Report; Public Service, 13300 block IH-20 East, No Action; Public Service, 15200 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Threats, 13400 block CR 472, Blotter Report; Warrant Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Arrest; Public Service, 800 block Wood Springs Road, Settled at Scene; Theft, 100 block E Centennial Blvd, Report; Lockout, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 500 block North Main Street, Unable to Locate; Assist Smith Co S.O., 16100 block CR 4191, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 17600 block Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 900 block Mt. Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 2800 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

No. 16 Lady Eagles claim two home wins

The Lindale High School Lady Eagles, currently No. 16 in the Texas Association of Girls Coaches state volleyball rankings, posted two victories this past week to improve to 22-7 on the season. Lindale downed Tyler High School on Tuesday, Sept. 5 and on Friday, Sept. 8 beat Van. **TYLER HIGH WIN** The Lady Lions prevailed in the varsity, junior varsity and freshman matches. For the varsity, Maddox Lay came out swinging with 13 kills. Addison Ridge put down 8 kills. Macy Luster collected 20 assists, and Tatum Woodard earned 14 assists. Reagan Cates recorded 4 blocks, and Kayli

Vickery and Aspen Ives each added 3. Set scores were 25-14, 25-16, and 25-16. The junior varsity won in two sets 25-15 and 25-16. Maddy Fowble recorded 5 kills, 2 blocks, and Kenlie Collins and Lauren Stanton each added 5 kills. Middle Blocker, Brooke Gissell contributed 3 kills, 2 blocks. Setter, Clara Helvey assisted 17 times, and Libero, Holli Dunn had 3 kills and 9 digs for the Lady Eagles. The freshman A team was also victorious on the night. Addyson Daughtry led the team with 6 kills. Grace Koustoubardis and Kaidance Smith each served for 7 consecutive points. Freshman B Team won 25-10, and 25-18, Caydence Thompson had 12 aces, 2

kills, and 3 assists. Brooke Lewis recorded 7 Aces, 3 kills, 2 assists, and Lyla Hernandez picked up 5 aces. **VAN VICTORY** On Friday in Lindale, all three of the Lady Eagles' teams defeated Van's Lady Vandals. The varsity won 25-17, 20-25, 25-22, and 25-21. Middle Blocker, Reagan Cates led the attack for the Lady Eagles with 13 kills. Maddox Lay and Kayli Vickery each put down 6. Vickery also added 7 blocks on the night, while Aspen Ives blocked twice. Addison Ridge and Maddox Lay each had 8 digs, and Setter Macy Luster recorded 6 digs, 15 assists. Tatum Woodard tallied 13 assists.

The Lady Eagles are 1-0 in district and 22-7 overall. Junior Varsity won 25-15 and 26-24. Brooke Gissell and Maddy Fowble each recorded 5 kills. Lauren Stanton had 4 kills, and Kenlie Collins added 3. Clara Helvey assisted 11 times and had 4 digs defensively. Emory Schmidt tallied 8 assists. Libero Holli Dunn recorded 9 digs. Freshman A Team also came out victorious with set scores of 25-20 and 25-19. Tessa Dennis put down 5 kills, Jordyn Weesner earned 4 kills, and Addyson Daughtry recorded 3 kills, 1 block. Libero Kennedy Terry played a strong defensive game for the Lady Eagles squad.

Junior High Lady Eagles win tournament

All four of the Lindale Junior High School Lady Eagles volleyball teams won first place in the Lindale Tournament this past weekend at the junior high school. The 7th grade B team defeated Sulphur Springs, 25-20 and 27-25; Canton, 25-15, 20-25 and 25-16 and Van, 22-25, 25-19 and 25-13. Leading servers for the 7th grade B team were Reece Rand, Kaylynn Spence and Avery Wehr. Leading passers were Avery Wehr and Kaylynn Spence, while the leading setter was Addison Mahana. Leading hitters were Reece Rand, Addison Mahana and Kennedy Billington. For the 7th grade A team, scores were 25-21, 25-21 over Sulphur Springs; 25-16 and 25-22 over Canton and 25-15, 22-25 and 25-19 over Van. Khloe Collins, Paisley Keith and Eden Denson were the leading servers, while Paisley Keith, Libbie McHam and Milee Miller were the leading passers. Paisley Keith and Milee Miller were leading setters and Eden Denson, Paisley Keith and Khloe Collins

were leading hitters. The 8th grade B team defeated Sulphur Springs 25-15; Canton, 25-6 and 25-10 and Van, 25-11 and 25-15. Saniah Clayton was the leading server while Preslie Roberts was the leading passer. Saniah Clayton was the leading setter and leading hitters were KayLea Williams and Rachel Kelley. Brynlee Wilson and Rachel Kelley both won the Leadership Award while Jazmin Castaneda won the Hustle Award. The Lady Eagles' 8th grade A team fell to Sulphur Springs, 18-25 and 15-25 then defeated Canton, 25-12 and 25-17 before downing Van, 23-25, 25-17 and 25-13. Zaidyn Chamberland and Kenlee Keith were leading servers while Baylee Brooks was the leading passer. Kenlee Keith and Jesse Chandler were leading setters and leading hitters were AJ McPherson, Baylee Brooks, Zaidyn Chamberlain and Saige Myers. Jesse Chandler was the leading blocker. Evie Provo won the Hustle Award and AJ McPherson won the Leadership Award.

8TH GRADERS DUMP CHAPEL HILL The Lindale Junior High School Lady Eagles 7th and 8th grade A teams defeated Chapel Hill this past week in Lindale. For the 7th grade, Khloe Collins and Mackenzie Sims were the leading servers while Paisley Keith and Kate Williams were leading passers. Paisley Keith was also the

leading setter while Milee Miller and Paisley Keith were leading hitters. For the 8th graders, Zaidyn Chamberland was the leading server and Kenlee Keith was the leading passer and leading setter. Baylee Brooks and Zaidyn Chamberland were the leading hitters. The Hustle Award was won by Baylee Brooks and Zaidyn Chamberlain won the Leadership Award.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice applies to taxing units other than special taxing units or to a municipality with a population of less than 30,000 regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit. A tax rate of \$ 0.36 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Lindale PROPOSED TAX RATE \$ 0.3600 per \$100 NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$ 0.37486 per \$100 VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE \$ 0.353048 per \$100 DE MINIMIS RATE \$ 0.408381 per \$100 The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Lindale from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year. The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Lindale may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for City of Lindale exceeds the voter-approval tax rate for City of Lindale . The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for City of Lindale, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for City of Lindale.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 19, 2023 @ 6:00PM at 105 Ballard Drive, Lindale Texas (City Hall). The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate and does not exceed the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If City of Lindale adopts the proposed tax rate, City of Lindale is not required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate and the qualified voters of the City of Lindale may not petition the City of Lindale to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) /100 FOR the proposal: Bob Tardiff, Yvette Martin, Bryan Summerville, Sallie Black, Gavin Rasco AGAINST the proposal: PRESENT and not voting: Mayor, Jeff D. Daugherty (non voting Member) ABSENT:

Notice of Public Hearing OnTax Increase Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property. The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Lindale last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Lindale this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	2022 adopted tax rate 0.422950	2023 proposed tax rate 0.3600	15% decrease
Average homestead taxable value	2022 average taxable value of residence homestead 218,713	2023 average taxable value of residence homestead 271,758	24% increase
Tax on average homestead	2022 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead 925.05	2023 amount of taxes on average taxable value of residence homestead 978.32	5% increase
Total tax levy on all properties	2022 levy 3,356,225	(2023 proposed rate x current total value)/100 3,440,253	2.5% increase

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Lindale at 903-590-2935 or gbarber@smith-county.com , or visit www.smith-county.com for more information.

Business Spotlight:

Three Oaks RV Community

There are few things that soothe the soul than the beckon of the open road while in a recreational vehicle, exploring the wonders of our beautiful country. Jon and Haylee Voyles understand this natural urge to see the sights from an RV, which is why they've opened Three Oaks RV Community, located at 13000 County Road 4109 in Lindale. Jon Voyles has deep roots in the Lindale community. His family arrived here in the 1930s and he graduated from Lindale High School. Later, he earned a nursing degree from TJC and began working at UT Health East Texas.

perspective into what the people want in an RV community. Like all who love to go RVing, they love the freedom and opportunities that come with the pastime. They are dedicated to providing the Lindale area with a beautiful and peaceful country setting where people can enjoy their RV lifestyle. Jon and Haylee are planning to expand Three Oaks

RV Community in both size and amenities. Currently, there are 10 gravel sites with full hook-ups available for \$450 per month. Water, trash pickup, sewer connections and Wi-Fi are included in the monthly fee. Each site has its own private internet connection. For more information, check out the website, ThreeOaksLindale.com or on their Facebook page.

Haylee is from Dumas, in the Panhandle. After earning a nursing degree at Midwestern State University in 2014, she moved to Lindale and would eventually use her nursing skills at Christus Mother Frances. While working as nurses their paths crossed which led to being married in 2017. They own and have managed rental properties in Lindale but are also dedicated RVers, which they feel gives them a unique

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Proposition Number 1 (HJR 126)

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 64)

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

Proposition Number 3 (HJR 132)

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 2- Second Special Session)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption**

from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."

Proposition Number 5 (HJR 3)

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed \$100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

Proposition Number 6 (SJR 75)

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

Proposition Number 7 (SJR 93)

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment

would require PUC to allocate money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

Proposition Number 8 (HJR 125)

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

Proposition Number 9 (HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 87)

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

Proposition Number 11 (SJR 32)

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the

legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

Proposition Number 12 (HJR 134)

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

Proposition Number 13 (HJR 107)

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

Proposition Number 14 (SJR 74)

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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Water-related fatalities rise over Labor Day weekend



terways to ensure boating laws were observed, to confirm vessels had appropriate safety gear and, above all, to ensure that recreational boaters and anglers remained safe," said Cody Jones, assistant commander for marine enforcement for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Wardens patrolling September 2-4 reported five boating accidents, two boating-related fatalities and two open-water drownings. They also arrested five individuals for boating while intoxicated, one of whom had a child passenger aboard. In 2022, wardens responded to three boating accidents, no boating-related fatalities and one open-water drowning.

Texas Game Wardens patrolling water bodies across the state noticed an increase in water-related fatalities and boating accidents compared to last year's Labor Day holiday weekend, according to officials with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The weekend typically marks the end of the unofficial boating season and coincides with the opening of dove season, making it a busy time for Texas Game Wardens.

"Game Wardens patrolled the state's wa-

The boating-related fatalities occurred at Amistad Reservoir and Lake Ray Hubbard, while the drownings happened at Lake Whitney State Park and Lake Lavon.

"We are saddened by the loss of life on our waterways, and we keep the families in our thoughts and prayers," said Jones. "These tragic events should be a reminder of the importance of being equipped with and using the proper safety equipment and taking a boater education course."

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