

Lindale News & Times

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50¢



County Judge lifts burn ban

The burn ban for Smith County has been lifted.

County Judge Neal Franklin rescinded the ban on Tuesday (Sept. 26) after the County received some much-needed rain during the past few days.

Franklin made the decision based on the recommendation of Smith County Fire Marshal Chad Hogue.

"Smith County received an adequate amount of rainfall Sunday night and during the early morning hours of Monday to reasonably lift the burn ban, which was enacted on Aug. 1, 2023, for the safety of the public," Hogue said. "I would like to thank the residents of Smith County for their understanding and cooperation while the burn ban was necessary."

Since the rainfall, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) for Smith County decreased by 92 points, to an average of 627. The KBDI ranges from 0 to 800 and is used to determine forest fire potential. In the past, Smith County has issued a burn ban when the drought index falls around 700.

"We appreciate all of the hard work by the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office, and the men and women of the emergency services districts and volunteer fire departments throughout the burn ban," Smith County Judge Neal Franklin. "We also appreciate the patience and understanding of all the County citizens for taking these safety precautions."

While the burn ban was in place, the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office received reports of 712 total fire-related incidents, including 199 grass/brush fires, 131 reports of illegal burning and 39 structure fires.

There were 59 illegal burning citations issued from August 1 through September 25.

Hogue encouraged anyone planning to conduct outdoor burning to do it in a safe manner.

Eagles rout Henderson, 55-7

By Terry Cannon
Editor

A 55-7 drubbing of District 9-4A opponent Henderson might seem like a good way to wash away the residue of a three-game losing streak, but in Texas high school football there's little time to rest on your laurels.

Right Lindale Head Coach Chris Cochran?

"The win was important because it was a district game," he said of last Friday's win. "But you don't want to get too comfortable. We're not good enough yet to do that."

Especially when a team such as the Athens Hornets, now 4-1 on the year and having dispatched Jacksonville, 48-28 last Friday, will arrive in Lindale this week.

In the win over Henderson, the Eagles spotted the Lions an early 7-0 lead but from that point on Lindale dominated on both sides of the ball.

"I thought our offensive line pushed them around from the start," Cochran said. "The defense didn't start well but after that fumble recovery (by Jake Curbow) we found our confidence."

The Eagles' offense, with quarterback Clint Thurman rushing for 211 yards and running back Wyatt Parker adding 147 more, accumulated 567 yards on the night. Parker posted four touchdowns and Thurman rushed for two and threw for two more.

Defensively, Cochran was especially pleased with the play of his linemen who registered five sacks on the night. Junior Kaleb Walker had four of his own while Miles Miller and Curbow shared the other.

"Their skill guys were a concern for us," said Cochran. "But we had a good, really good night (on defense)."

Now that the "real" season has arrived, Cochran and his coaching staff are encouraged by the progress shown by their players.



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

"Our offensive line is doing a good job and our defense has been improving," he said.

Which, he said, has to continue if his Eagles are to take their second league win of the season Friday.

"This is the best Athens team we've seen in a while," he said "They are hot. They've won four straight."

Prior to last week's win over Jacksonville, the Hornets beat Kaufman, 43-20 in Kaufman, beat Rusk 45-38 in Athens and defeated Life Waxahachie 49-28 on the road.

The Hornets lost to Brownsboro on opening night, 29-28.

Last week against Jacksonville, the Hornets raced out to a 27-7 lead at intermission before sacking the game away with two more touchdowns in the third period.

Leading the Athens offense is sophomore quarterback David Manning, running back Jamauri Richardson and wide receiver Jorien Ray.

"We know we have to take care of the football and eliminate our mistakes (against Athens)," Cochran said. "That's what we are stressing with our players this week. Athens is good enough to make you pay for those mistakes."



Quarterback Clint Thurman races in for a touchdown in the first period in Friday's Lindale win over Henderson.
Photos by Terry Cannon



Running back Wyatt Parker scores the first Lindale touchdown last Friday in the Eagles' 55-7 win over the Henderson Lions.

Council OKs budget, tax rate

A budget for fiscal year 2023-24, to be funded by a property tax rate of .36 per \$100 valuation, was approved by Lindale City Council members Tuesday night at city hall during their regularly scheduled meeting.

Prior to the voting, a public hearing was held. No one chose to speak during the hearing.

In addition to the tax rate council members voted to approve an ordinance levying the tax rate with a portion of that rate —.1839 — to go towards the maintenance and operations fund. Another portion of the rate —.1760 — was approved by the council to be dedicated to the interest and sinking rate.

All votes were roll call votes, as required by statute. Mayor Pro Tem Yvette Aguirri Martin was absent from the meeting.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a resolution of support for the Lillie Russell Memorial Library. The city budget allocates \$40,000 for the library.
- Approved the final plat for Prairie Creek Estates, 1100 South Main Street.
- Passed a resolution of approval of the Texas Department of Transportation Municipal Maintenance Agreement;
- Approved the engineering contract with Brannon Corp. for the Helen Street lift station;
- Approved budget amendments for budget year 2023-24.



Smith County Judge Neal Franklin swears in new county fire marshal Chad Hogue during last week's commissioner's court meeting.

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 **OPINION/COMMENTARY**

“... not all who wander are lost”

Technology is frustrating, occasionally confusing and often amazing. This column is being written while we are rolling down I-20 to Florida for the National Newspaper Convention. How can it be that I can connect my laptop to my car or cell phone to access the internet?

Well, actually I understand that part which is fascinating. Cell phones operate with radio frequencies, a form of electromagnetic energy on the electromagnetic spectrum between FM radio waves and the waves used in microwave ovens. Oops, here I go on another mind wandering rabbit trail. (FYI: I have a minor in science and a penchant for wonder and wander.)

Crosby, Stills & Nash are crooning “Just a Song Before I Go” which seems poetic under the circumstances. Although technically we are already going. And I couldn’t be happier to be on the road despite the construction, the fact that my better half has a horrendous cold (and yes, he tested COVID negative before we left) and I am dragging from deadlines and trips to far West Texas and parts in between for family ‘stuff’. Stuff that was fun, seeing my Mom and my brother for their birthdays in the Lubbock land of beautiful sunsets, dust-filled wind and speedway interstates. Stuff that was full of family biz including CPAs, banks, appraisal districts and the frustration of trying to register our cattle brand and not being able to because it wasn’t specifically mentioned in Dad’s will. Who would have thought? I will get that figured out before the Jan. 1 deadline or I am not my Daddy’s daughter.

Along with grant work, fundraisers, events and press deadlines on top have me ready for the stopover in Pensacola where my boss has a room for us with a balcony that overlooks the Gulf. That’s our office for the next two days while we work on the Gladwater Mirror, White Oak Independent and the Lindale News & Times.

Before you get your red pens out to circle our mistakes in the



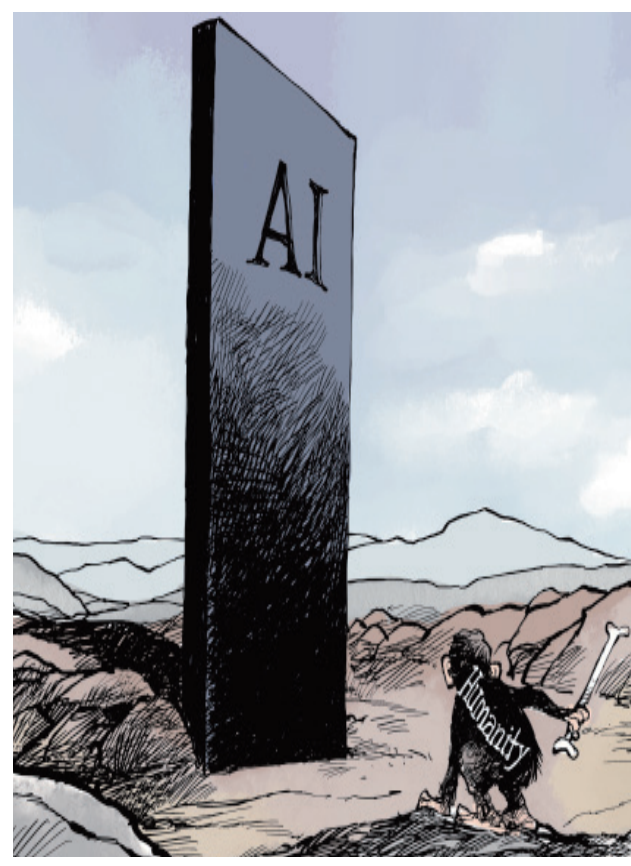
paper, I would beg you to remember that we work very hard to bring you the news of your hometown. As a former teacher I get it though. I smugly grin when I find an error in a national publication. Although to be fair, they have a lot more staff, deeper pockets and copy editors. When you do get your red pens out I must tell you that I have already circled the error and cringed. I confess that I am indeed a flawed perfectionist.

My poor nurse practitioner daughter-in-heart is pulling extra shifts at the hospital and taking care of King the Wonder Dog while her husband, our son, is on the Dixie Fire in California. Keep her in your prayers. King is 85 lbs. of flying velcro hair and is a rescue with separation anxiety. With King safely stowed, and nearly all family obligations and most deadlines but the regular weekly ones met, I am gleefully counting the hours until my soul is filled with the serenity of the ocean.

This is a gift of two days before the NNA convention from my hubby boss just for me. He is not a water guy, hates the sand, hates the heat, and saw “Jaws” far too many times to enjoy the ocean. Yes, we will be working, but I will be doing it with the waves pounding the beach as background music that soothes my soul.

And my weary soul needs soothing. What a gift to be spending my lifetime with someone who ‘gets’ me. That is pretty soothing as well. See you soon friends and neighbors. In the meantime, be kind to one another for life is far too short to be anything but kind. And remember,
“...not all who wander are lost”.

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




THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Staying put ...

More than any other state, people born in Texas stay in Texas. The US Bureau of the Census recently released data indicating the state of residence by place of birth. When you look at the percentage of people born in Texas, still living in the United States and, in fact, still living in Texas, you get more than 82% as of 2021. That’s considerably higher than anywhere else.



Other states where people tend to stay include North Carolina (75%), Georgia (74%), California (73%), and Utah (73%). At the other end of the spectrum are Wyoming, where only 45% of people born there remained as of 2021, North Dakota, Alaska, Rhode Island, and South Dakota. Various researchers have been looking at this data including staff at the Federal Reserve Bank

of Dallas; among other things, it’s an interesting indicator of economic health.

One obvious reason people who are born here stay here is that the Lone Star State has one of the most dynamic economies anywhere. Without job opportunities, people may be forced to leave. It’s that simple.

For years, Texas has been among the top performing states for economic growth. One historical reason is abundant resources ranging from oil and gas reserves to a large supply of arable and developable land. There have also been key initiatives to nurture and grow industries ranging from technology to biosciences and other emerging sectors. State and local economic development efforts have also borne fruit. I could go on, as has infrastructure development.

Texas was one of the first states to get back to pre-pandemic levels of employment and has been adding jobs at a brisk clip ever since. It’s also historically been a place where home prices were far more approachable than, say, California or New York. While some of the gap has disappeared with rising costs for housing in Texas, there are still notable benefits. Add to that the lack of an income tax, and the advantages increase.

In an era of worker shortages and long-term demographic patterns pointing to the adequacy of the labor force being a persistent problem, it’s a competitive advantage that there isn’t a “brain drain” out of the state. At the same time, if people are going to stay here, it’s crucial to ensure we’re investing enough to maintain the upward trajectory in opportunities and quality of life.

An essential need is education, from K-12 through higher education and career training. Health care is another, and the state’s large percentage of residents without health insurance is of particular concern. We’ll also need other resources, from highways to broadband. It’s a very good thing that people want to stay in Texas. Let’s keep it that way!

Stay safe!

Another special session slated for October

Gov. Greg Abbott has called a third special session, this time about school choice, for next month. He is promising retribution for lawmakers who oppose his move to enact school vouchers in Texas, the Texas Tribune reported.

“There’s an easy way to get it done, and there’s a hard way,” Abbott said on a tele-town hall about the issue. “We will take it either way — in a special session or after an election.” Abbott essentially threatened to find primary opponents for legislators who oppose his initiative, which failed to gain traction during the regular session as a coalition of Democrats and Republicans representing rural districts opposed it.

His proposal would give parents taxpayer dollars to send their children to private schools. Opponents say this would harm public school systems, particularly in rural areas where choices for private schools are limited.

Paxton hints at run against Cornyn in 2026

Just days after being acquitted on impeachment charges by the Texas Senate, reinstated Attorney General Ken Paxton hit the airwaves of several conservative media outlets and hinted of a possible run against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in 2026.

The Houston Chronicle reported on a Paxton interview with Tucker Carlson on X, formerly known as Twitter. Paxton said that “somebody needs to step up and run against this guy that will do the job.”

“To me, he’s been in Washington too long. He’s been there, what, for 14 years or so? And I can’t think of a single thing he’s accomplished for our state or even for the country,” Paxton said.

In a separate interview, Paxton said he will be “on the campaign trail” to back GOP primary opponents of three House members who were key to his impeachment: House Speaker Dade Phelan and Reps. Andrew Murr of Junction and Jeff Leach of Plano.

“I’m highly motivated,” the Austin American-Statesman quoted Paxton as saying.

Paxton still faces state security fraud charges filed in 2015. He is due to go to trial next March and is also under federal investigation.

Deadline nears for registering to vote Nov. 7

Texans will decide the fate of 14 proposed constitutional amendments on Nov. 7. The deadline to register to vote in that election is Oct. 10 for those who are not already registered. The proposed amendments include measures to increase the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000, with homeowners 65 and older getting an additional \$40,000 exemption. Other proposals would cap increased in appraised value and expand exemptions for small businesses from the



franchise tax.

Abbott and other backers of the bills passed in a summer special session called these measures the largest property tax cut in Texas history.

Early voting begins on Oct. 23 and ends Nov. 3, according to the Texas Secretary of State’s office.

Texas called ‘hotbed of hate’ in recent report

A report issued last week by the Anti-Defamation League labels Texas a hotbed for extremism and antisemitism, with a heavy presence of white supremacist and anti-LGBTQ+ groups, according to the Texas Tribune. The report examines three years of “alarming levels of extremist ideology and activity” in the state. Antisemitic incidents in the state rose by 89% and six “terrorist plots” were discovered, along with 28 “extremist events” such as training and rallies, according to the report.

The ADL suggested some nonpartisan policies to stem growing extremism, such as creating a commission to study domestic violent extremism and providing clear statistics on hate crimes.

“Elected officials in Texas have an opportunity to confront this issue to significantly curtail the negative impact that extremism has on the people they represent,” Oren Segal, vice president of the ADL’s Center on Extremism, said in a statement.


Financial losses from opioid crisis staggering

In a monthlong series of stories about the fentanyl crisis, The Dallas Morning News determined through an analysis by The Perryman Group that the economic toll of the opioid crisis in Texas includes \$50.1 billion in economic output each year and more than a half-million jobs.


“As large as these numbers are, they likely understate the true impact,” economist Ray Perryman said. “It’s widely acknowledged that drug addiction is underreported.”

His group pulled data from the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and prevention and other health agencies for its analysis.

A new law requires all emergency medical responders to report drug overdoses to health authorities in an effort to map overdoses and hopefully identify overdose hotspots. All Texas law enforcement officers are being given NAR-CAN, which quickly reverses opioid overdoses, according to Abbott’s office.




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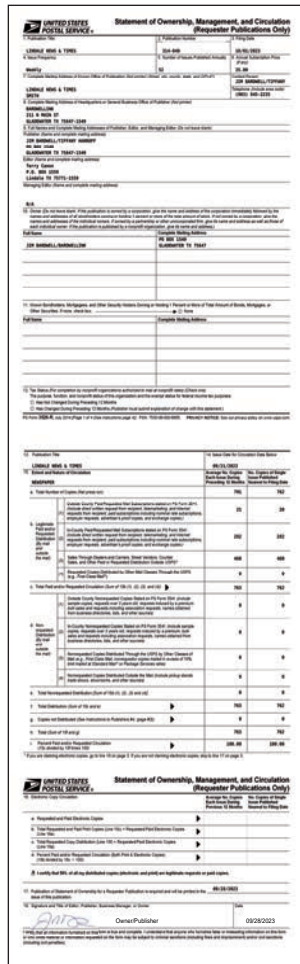
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—Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”



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Public Information Act faithfully serves Texans

The Texas Public Information Act is celebrating its 50th birthday this year and all citizens should be grateful for its existence.

Kelly Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, an Austin-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting the public's right to know and speak out about government, recently penned the following opinion piece concerning this essential part of state government.

With trust in government waning, a Texas law can help keep a closer watch on public officials. Even citizens who continue to have faith in government can use this law to stay better informed.

How is taxpayer money spent? What's happening behind the scenes as government decisions are made?

The Texas Public Information Act produces answers to these crucial questions. The act has been here for us for 50 years and is essential in protecting our right to know.

Like a well-built old house, the landmark law is constantly in need of upkeep, yet it withstands the test of time. It can expose the truth.

At the half-century mark, let's seize the moment to strengthen the Public Information Act to ensure it works for future generations.

The nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas will explore this idea at its state conference Sept. 28 in Austin. Discussions will feature transparency advocates, state lawmakers, journalists and everyday Texans from East Texas to Uvalde who have fought for more openness,



sometimes in matters of life and death.

The Public Information Act was at issue in a court victory in June to force the release of Texas Department of Public Safety records related to a 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. The law was also the subject of legislation enacted Sept. 1 to close a loophole some police departments used to hide information when someone dies in law enforcement custody.

Other new legislation to keep the law up to date defines "business day" in the act to prevent government offices from wrongly shutting their doors to information requestors, as many did for months during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally known as the Open Records Act when it was enacted in 1973, the Public Information Act is steeped in our state's history. It came about in a tumultuous time after the Sharpstown scandal in state government. Attorney Bill Aleshire, then a legislative aide for a sponsor of the Open Records Act, recalls helping to write the bill using model legislation from the nonprofit group Common Cause and the best open records ideas from other states.

The Texas law became one of the strongest in the nation. It presumes state and local government records are open – giving citizens a great deal of power in asking for documents, emails, videos and other items – unless a specific exception prevents releasing the information. In most cases, government agencies must ask permission from the Texas Attorney General's Office to withhold records. The office is supposed to be an unbiased arbiter, with staffers acting as umpires, of sorts, in thousands of rulings every year.

The importance of the agency's Open Government Division was highlighted in the recent Texas Senate impeachment trial of Attorney General Ken Paxton, who was accused of abusing his power over the public information law. He was acquitted of that charge and all other impeachment counts.

Along with impartial decisions from the attorney general's office, the Public Information Act needs updated, effective enforcement measures to hold individual government agencies accountable if they are not following the law.

Ideas on how to boost enforcement are plentiful, ranging from imposing financial penalties on misbehaving governments to increasing public officials' training requirements to ensuring information requestors can recover attorneys' fees if they must sue to obtain public records.

With the right tools, we can safeguard the intent of the law, which states in its preamble that the people insist on remaining informed.

"The people," it says, "in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know."

Well shoot, this sounds like a real horse tale

You know, I haven't owned a horse in several years now and although I love them, I'm not lookin' to get another one anytime soon. I just don't have the time anymore to spend with them.

It wasn't always like that though. Back when I was a kid, I had plenty of time to spend with them. You see back then, we didn't have computers and video games and junk like that. And you couldn't sit around all day watchin' TV because moms and dads back then did not have the patience to put up with a lazy kid.

Oh, you could be lazy alright; you just couldn't be lazy in front of your parents. They'd tell you to go outside, and that meant they didn't want to observe you doin' nothin', and if they couldn't see you doin' nothin' then they didn't have to jump all over you for not doin' nothin'.

You know, there's nothin' more borin' than to be doin' nothin' by yourself. It's always better to do nothin' with somebody, than to do nothin' alone.

The friend I usually did nothin' with was Greg Hunt. See, both of us had horses, and even if you were doin' nothin', doin' it on a horse seemed like you was doin' somethin'. And doin' somethin' is loads more fun than doin' nothin'.

We had some pretty good horses, too. Greg had an Arabian named Prissy that was the fastest thing you've ever seen.

I had a quarter horse named Stoney, that was huge, and stout as a... well... a horse. We had our horses outfitted, too. We had canteens hangin' from the saddle horns, lariat ropes tied on, and we both had twenty-two rifles in saddle scabbards. I know what you're thinkin', "what's a



couple of kids doin' with twenty-two's."

Well, back then, it wasn't that unusual to see kids with rifles. We were raised by gun totin' people and we toted guns. I know there are some people out there that'll think that's awful but get over it. That's the way it was back then and I am not a bad person now because of it.

Now, these rifles we had were Ithaca single shot lever action rifles. You could only load one bullet at a time and then you had to pull the hammer back before you could pull the trigger.

We never kept them loaded when they were in the scabbard, but we had bullets in our pockets if we needed them. And we needed them a lot. You see, we lived on the edge of, I don't know how many acres of woods, and we hunted a lot.

Those rifles are probably responsible for more squirrel and rabbit dinners, than most people have had in their lifetime.

Now, this tale I'm fixin' to tell you is what happened the first day we got our rifles. Oh yeah, our dads bought us the rifles at Monkey Wards for \$29.95, which was a lot of money back then. Well, at least for us it was.

Anywho, we got our rifles and then went to Brookshire and Johnston's feed store and bought a couple of leather rifle scabbards, just like the cowboys on TV and the movies had.

When we got home, we tied the scabbards onto our saddles and off we went in search of adventure. Although, we had never seen a mountain lion, and there

were none around for thousands of miles, that didn't mean we weren't keepin' an eye out for any.

We'd watch enough cowboy shows to know, that those things could turn up anywhere and jump on you, so we decide to go see if we could find one or two, and do away with them before they started runnin' rampant through the territory.

Of course, we didn't really know what rampant meant, much less what a territory was, but that didn't stop us.

Now, we hadn't traveled more than a mile or so from home, when we decided we better get a little target practice in. We picked out a great big oak tree that had a knot on the side and decided that would be our target.

"I'll go first," I said, as I drug my rifle out of the scabbard.

"Have at it," said Greg.

I reached into my shirt pocket and pulled out a bullet. Now, I know they are called cartridges but we always, and still do, refer to them as bullets, so all you smart aleck know-it-alls out there keep your helpful hints to yourself. Anywho, I pulled out a bullet and loaded my rifle, and took aim at the knot.

"Aren't you gonna get off your horse?" asked Greg.

"Naw," I replied. "This is how John Wayne would do it."

Lookin' back, shootin' over the head of my horse was probably not the smartest thing I have ever done, but I had never been known to do too many smart things anyway.

Anywho, I took careful aim. I reached up with my thumb and cocked the hammer back. I slowly squeezed the trigger just like my daddy had taught me.

Now, up until this time, I had shot a lot of .22 bullets, and I thought I knew what to expect. I would hear the crack as I shot and would experience no perceptible recoil.

Well, this was not the case. Oh, I heard the crack, alright. I heard four cracks. The first crack was from the rifle. The second crack was from the rifle hittin' my horse between the ears as he reared up. The third crack was from the rifle as it hit me between the eyes after bouncin' off my horse's head.

No, I was not thrown off of the back of the horse, because his rearing up was interrupted by the rifle hittin' his head. It knocked him cuckoo and he went down to his knees and I was launched over his head. As I was fallin', I was thinkin' about my new rifle and I turned over in mid-air to land on my back, so I could keep my gun from hittin' the ground.

When I landed, on my back, my hands, still holdin' my rifle, were as far from my body as I could hold them. The sudden stop that occurred when I hit the ground did stop my body, but the rifle kept movin' pullin' my hands along with it. Crack number four, right between the eyes, again.

I lay there for a while wonderin' if I was still alive, and what that was that was startin' to protrude from between my eyes. Finally, I looked up a Greg. He was sittin' on Prissy, with one leg crossed over the saddle horn lookin' down at me.

"You know," he said. "John Wayne or no John Wayne, I think I'll get off the horse when I shoot."



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. 29, 2022

Lindale City Council members approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and a new tax rate to fund the budget during their regular meeting at city hall.

Lindale's new ad valorem tax rate will be .42295 per \$100 property valuation. The maintenance and operations rate will be .202627 and the sinking tax rate was set at .220323.

The new budget year begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30, 2023.

Prior to the council's vote a public hearing was called, but no one spoke on the issue.

Concerning the budget and the tax rate, voice votes were taken on each issue. Each passed unanimously among present members including Gavin Rasco, Sallie Black, Ginger Sims and Rick Thelen.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Sept. 27, 2018

Skyler Shively, a 2007 graduate of Lindale High School, was named the new 4H Youth Development Extension Agent for Smith County by county commissioners during their regular weekly meeting. Shively earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science and Technology from Texas A&M University-Commerce and previously worked for the Sabine ISD as Agriculture Sciences director.

10 YEARS AGO, Sept. 25, 2013

Lindale Independent School District teachers Heidi Aubuchon and Kristine Brown were honored as regional nominees for the 2014 Texas Teacher of the Year.

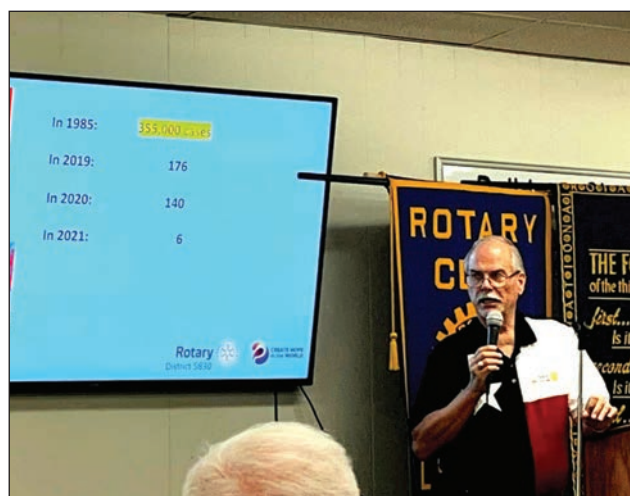
Aubuchon and Brown were recognized during a special ceremony at the Region 7 Education Service Center in Kilgore.

Both teachers received Lindale ISD's teacher of the year honors. Aubuchon is the district's elementary teacher of the year and Brown is LISD's secondary teacher of the year. The district winners are nominated annually for the regional award.

Aubuchon is a second grade teacher at Velma Penny Elementary School. She has taught in the Lindale ISD for 16 years. She has served the district as a first grade and second grade teacher, previously working at Lindale Primary School.

Aubuchon is LISD's 2nd Grade Team Leader and has worked with at-risk students. She is also a member of the Campus Improvement Committee and serves as a mentor teacher.

She has been recognized as the Brookshire's Teacher of the Month and is a member of the Lindale ISD Education Foundation's Honor Roll.



Rotary Club speaker

Lee Montgomery from Rotary International was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Lindale Rotary Club on Tuesday, Sept. 19 and discussed the Rotary Foundation's mission to help members worldwide advance goodwill, understanding and peace by improving health, providing quality education, helping improve the environment and eradicating poverty. He was introduced by longtime Rotarian Edsel Loving. (Courtesy photo)

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Lindale Police Department call log for Sept. 15-21:

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15: Motor Vehicle Crash, 13800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 200 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Assist Another Agency, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 100 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 400 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Found Property, 900 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 3500 block South Main Street.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16: Loud Noise Complaint, 15200 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 300 block Washington Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 2500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 200 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 200 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 900 block North Main Street, Unfounded; Welfare Concern, 2200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist DPS, 13100 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17: Traffic Complaint, 900 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 13700 block Harvey Road, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Warning Issued; Suspicious Circumstance, 400 block Hill Street, Unfounded.

MONDAY, SEPT. 18: Traffic Hazard, 3500 block



South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 100 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Harassment, 400 block Marchman Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Intoxication, 3300 block South Main Street, Arrest; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 19: Threats, 3500 block South Main Street, Unfounded; Assist Another Agency, 12300 block FM 16 West, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 500 block Asher Lane, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 2100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, West Toll 49 at IH 20 West, 0Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 553 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 800 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 900 block North Main Street, Unable to Locate; Assist Another Agency, 15100 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 2500 block South

Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 15200 block Country Acres Drive, Settled at Scene; Driving While Intoxicated, 800 block East South Street, Report.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20: Assist Another Agency, 556 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Freedom Drive, Settled at Scene; Parking Violation, 400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21: Suspicious Vehicle, 13900 block FM 849, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 300 block Half Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 200 block Mission Crest Circle, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Parking Violation, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident, 500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident, 100 block South Main Street, Report; Verbal Disturbance, 2500 block South Main Street, Warning Issued; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Residential Alarm, 1500 block Wood Springs Road, False Alarm; Accident, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Fraud, block South Main Street, Blotter Report; Public Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Reckless Driving, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Circumstance, 500 block Circle Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 13900 block FM 2710, Report; Suspicious Person, 300 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith County, 15400 block CR 498, Report; Reckless Driving, 552 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 1100 block East Park Drive, Settled at Scene.

Texarkana man sentenced for selling fentanyl

A Texarkana man who sold thousands of fake oxycontin pills that contained fentanyl was sentenced to federal prison this past week for drug trafficking violations in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Terrance Lamar Peacock, also known as T, 32, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl resulting in death. Peacock was sentenced to 370 months in federal prison today by U.S. District Judge Robert W. Schroeder III.

According to information presented in court, between November 2018 and March 2022, Peacock conspired with at least three others, including his brother Michael Peacock, to distribute fentanyl, methamphetamine, marijuana, and a synthetic opioid known as U-47700.

Peacock and his co-conspirators distributed thousands of blue pills stamped to mimic 30mg oxycontin pills, known on the streets as "M-30s," but the pills were counterfeits that instead contained fentanyl. Peacock and his co-conspirators also sold thousands of pills marketed as ecstasy but contained methamphetamine and caffeine. Three victims died and one had to be resuscitated after being administered Narcan after ingesting fake M-30 pills containing fentanyl that they had purchased directly from either Terrance Peacock or his brother, Michael Peacock. Multiple firearms were seized from the defendants during the execution of search warrants at their homes and stash houses.

"Fentanyl kills indiscriminately, and this defendant chose to sell counterfeit M-30 pills that ultimately claimed the lives of three victims," said U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs. "The defendant recognized the inevitable consequences of peddling poison and chose greed over the preciousness of life. Today's significant sentence should send a powerful message to those who choose to distribute fentanyl resulting in death—the Eastern District of Texas will aggressively prosecute these cases to assist in combatting the opioid epidemic that has claimed the lives of so many victims."

Michael Peacock and Justin Owens have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Codefendant Deablo Lewis is scheduled for trial in January 2024.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

This case was investigated by the Texarkana Texas Police Department, the Texarkana Arkansas Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan Hornok and Ryan Locker.

Drug trafficking nets prison for Groves man

A Groves man has been sentenced to federal prison for trafficking drugs in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Dustin Joseph Collins, 40, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and was sentenced to 121 months in federal prison today by U.S. District Judge Marcia A. Crone.

According to information presented in court, on November 9, 2021, Collins was stopped by law enforcement officers on Highway 69 southbound to Port Arthur. During the stop, a police canine alerted on the vehicle causing Collins to flee the scene. Collins ran across the freeway through traffic before being apprehended. A search of Collins' vehicle revealed a backpack with over 231 grams of methamphetamine.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the

Port Arthur Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Anderson.

Ex-Athens mayor sentenced on child pornography charges

The former mayor of Athens was sentenced to federal prison earlier this month for child obscenity violations in the Eastern District of Texas, said Walston.

James Monte Montgomery, 65, pleaded guilty to sending obscene materials to a minor on Aug. 25, 2022, and was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Jeremy D. Kernodle.

According to public information, on June 3, 2021, Montgomery was arrested after arriving at an undisclosed location after soliciting sex online with investigators posing as minors.

In June of 2020, Montgomery, then the Athens mayor, began communicating by text messaging with a person he believed to be a 15-year-old female.

Montgomery sent messages to the child describing sexually explicit acts that he

wanted to perform on the child and offering to pay the child if she would meet him and have sex with him.

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

Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Tyler Field Office, with assistance from the Texas Department of Public Safety, Collin County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Homeland Security-Homeland Security Investigations.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Austin Wells.



Showing their spirit during Homecoming week

Each campus in the Lindale ISD celebrated Homecoming 2023 with Spirit Week this week and in Paige Buchanan's 2nd grade class at College Street Elementary it was Crocs and Socks Day on Monday. (Courtesy photo)

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Library staff ready to fall into Fall

The folks at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library are getting ready for Legos, pumpkins and birdwatching as the fall schedule officially begins in October.

On Thursday, Oct. 5 from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., a drop-in Lego building event will take place with the best of the creations going on display at the library.

Also on Oct. 5 at 12-noon, a birdwatching lecture for those 18 and older will be presented by Boyd Sanders from Tyler State Park. Registration is requested by calling 903-882-1900.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, submissions for the Bring Your Own Pumpkin painting event will begin. Patrons are encouraged to bring one to paint or one that has already been painted.

Submissions for this event will be accepted until Oct. 12.

For anyone who has moved or is needing to register to vote in the November election, you can come by the library on Oct. 10 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and register. Also, on Oct. 18, the Carter Blood Mobile will be on hand to accept blood donations from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The annual Lindale Downtown Trick-or-

Treat event is scheduled from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28. Parents are encouraged to bring their youngsters dressed in their Halloween costumes to the Library.

The LRML will be closed on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Countryfest and benefit Car Show but the library will have a booth at the event where visitors can have their photo taken, play games and check out the winners from the pumpkin painting contest.

Regular monthly events at the library include:

- Adult Game Days each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.;
- Diabetes Support Group meets on the first Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.;
- Coffee and Crafts for adults, Tuesdays at 2 p.m.;
- Active Living After Cancer, Thursdays at 2 p.m.;
- Yarn Club meets Thursdays at 4 p.m.;
- Storytime, each Friday at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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