

Lindale News & Times

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Annual Christmas Parade dazzles kids of all ages

Downtown Lindale was dazzling and kids of all ages were delighted as the annual Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade stepped off at E.J. Moss Intermediate School this past Saturday night.

Shiny floats, costumed characters and the award-winning Pride of Lindale High School marching band entertained hundreds of spectators, lined four and five deep along U.S. 69 before concluding at Lindale's First Baptist Church.

The night wasn't over after the parade finished however, as the festivities continued at Picker's Pavilion which featured holiday-themed decorations and the important guy himself Santa Claus.

City officials, which had their own float in the parade, lit the city's Christmas tree following the parade.

Earlier in the day, Santa's Bake Shop was open once again at Lillie Russell Memorial Library where delicious cooks and other baked goods were available for purchase with proceeds going to the Library.

LRML officials said this was one of the best Bake Shops ever, with most of the baked goods being sold before 5 p.m. The shop opened at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The Library also had a silent auction held in conjunction with the bake sale.



One of Santa's reindeer made an appearance at the annual Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade this past Saturday in downtown Lindale.

Photos by Terry Cannon



Holiday-themed attire was on display as the annual Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade entertained hundreds of people in downtown Lindale.



The Pride of Lindale High School Marching Band was front and center at the annual Lindale Rotary Club's Christmas Parade this past Saturday.



These youngsters were able to find a good viewing place for the Lindale Rotary Club's annual Christmas Parade this past Saturday.

Celebrate the season at Lillie Russell Library

December is the month for gifts and the folks at Lillie Russell Memorial Library have a dandy selection of great things for patrons during the next few weeks.

Crafting classes are on the schedule beginning Dec. 6 with a holiday quilting class at 1 p.m. and on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m., a Ukrainian Christmas doll making class will take place.

The next day, Dec. 14, crafters can create felt Santa at 10:30 a.m.

The abovementioned classes require registration so call 903-882-1900 to reserve your place.

On Dec. 15, the Disguise a Gingerbread Man Contest will be unveiled. Submissions will be due on Dec. 20 and on Dec. 21, you can vote for your favorite.

Show another part of your creative side with the Christmas Play-Doh session at 10:30 on Dec. 20. Mold Christmas trees, snowmen, gingerbread men and more.

The East Texas Library Foundation Book Club is reading "Surrender New York" by Caleb Carr and club members will meet at 2 p.m. Dec. 16 to discuss the book.

Storytime days will be filled with the holiday spirit and as usual, there are two sessions on Fridays, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Debz Fun Faces will be at the Dec. 8 story time for a Christmas themed event, and attendees are encouraged to wear their green outfits.

On Dec. 15, the theme is Texas



Many delectable cookies were for sale at Santa's Bake Shop this past Saturday at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library.

Photo by Terry Cannon

Christmas and on Dec. 22 at 10:30, there will be a Christmas music themed story time.

Other regular events for the library include Game Days at 10:30 each Tuesday; Diabetes Support Group meets at 3:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month and on the third Tuesday will be Cof-

fee and Crafts. Active Living After Cancer is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 7 and 14 at 2 p.m.

And as always, the Therapet will make a visit on the second Saturday of each month to help you improve your reading skills.

For more information, contact the LRML at 903-882-1900.

Mobile Santa visits several areas around Lindale

By Brynna Williamson

If you know any kids who would like to see Santa this Christmas, but don't know where to find him, search no more: Santa will come to you this Christmas.

Mobile Santa, a Lindale-based group which also serves Van and Mineola, is getting even bigger and better this year.

In addition to having their Santa in the Lindale Christmas parade (which took place on Saturday, Dec. 2), the Mobile Santa group is bringing Kris Kringle to over 30 places in Lindale.

Among the stops are several apartment complexes, a preschool, gated neighborhoods and even the Cracker Barrel restaurant.

You may come to any stop along the way regardless of your place of residence.

Mobile Santa will be busy through Thursday, Dec. 7.

Although Mobile Santa's Facebook page says that they "CANNOT estimate what time we will be at each following stop," they do say that they will be at their first stop of the day at 6:15 p.m.

Since the Mobile Santa group will be posting live updates along their routes, they recommend refreshing their Facebook feed often on the day of Santa's visit to your neighborhood.

To see Mobile Santa's stops this year and get live updates, check out the Mobile Santa Facebook page!

PUC of Texas approves new price protections for consumers during power emergencies

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) has voted to immediately implement a new Emergency Pricing Program (EPP) for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) power region. The EPP was required by Senate Bill 3 of the 87th Texas Legislature and will limit consumer exposure to high wholesale electricity prices during power emergencies.

"Implementing the Emergency Pricing Program provides another layer of financial protection for Texas consumers and will ensure their electricity bills remain affordable even when conditions are tight in the ERCOT system," PUC Executive Director Thomas Gleeson said. "This is a key part of our ongoing work to ensure electric reliability for Texans at a reasonable cost."

Continued on Page 8

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Pearl Harbored remembered...

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, a day that should “live in infamy” in perpetuity. Yet with the passing of the Greatest Generation acknowledgement of the event that spurred America from an isolationist regional power into a global superpower seems to be fading into the pages of history books.

As a former history teacher I could spend days explaining how Japan’s history led her to the point of self-defeat by awakening “the sleeping dragon” of the industrial might and will of Americans. There isn’t enough ink in our barrel for us to tackle that tiger in a column.

But I will expend enough ink to honor this day in our history. My Dad fought in the Pacific as a gunner in the Navy during World War II. He shaped my view of the world with his stories, with his example, and with his love. I am grateful for his service and for all that he taught me and all that he was.

To all of you who served in World War II, you have my utmost respect and gratitude for the world that I grew up in and the world we raised our son in. Because of you we have lived lives of freedom and abundance.

I salute veterans like Mr. Bill Terry of White Oak who was a gunner’s mate on the destroyer the U.S.S. Reid which was docked at Pearl Harbor on the sunny Sunday morning that turned into an inferno. I continue to admire the story he faithfully told to generations of children so that we would not forget.

We can never forget our stories of sacrifice, of bravery, of patriotism. We are an imperfect people with an imperfect history who strive to live up to our Founding Fathers’ gift of self-government and ideals of equality.

That gift has been protected with the blood of our military

Texas Supreme Court hears abortion ban challenge

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a case that could decide whether medical exceptions to the state’s abortion ban are written clearly enough to protect pregnant women who face serious health risks, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The 22 plaintiffs include women who contracted sepsis while waiting to terminate a nonviable pregnancy, and women who traveled hundreds of miles for abortions of a nonviable twin in order to protect the healthy fetus. An attorney for the plaintiffs argued the vague language in the law has left doctors unable or unwilling to perform abortions.

An attorney for the state argued the law is clear and that doctors are responsible for denying abortions allowed during medical emergencies.

“Some of these women appear to have fallen within the exception but their doctors still said no. That’s not the fault of the law, that’s a decision of the doctor,” Beth Klusmann, assistant solicitor general, said.

An opinion in the case is likely to take several months.

Border car chases led to 74 deaths

At least 74 people have been killed and 189 injured during high-speed car chases near the U.S.-Mexico border since Gov. Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star, a multi-billion dollar border security initiative, according to a report published by Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit agency.

The group analyzed data obtained from the Texas Department of Public Safety from March 2021, when Operation Lone Star began, through July 2023. It indicates more than two-thirds of vehicle pursuits conducted in the state during that period occurred in the 60 counties involved in Operation Lone Star.

“Operation Lone Star puts undue pressure on law enforcement to chase cars, sometimes with very little basis, resulting in deaths of drivers, passengers, and even bystanders,” said Norma Herrera, a Texas-based consultant to Human Rights Watch. “Our review of the cases over 29 months identified at least 7 bystanders killed in these car crashes, including a 7-year-old girl out to get ice cream with her grandmother.”

Col. Steve McCraw, DPS director, in an interview with The New York Times, said the department relies on its own troopers to decide when it is appropriate to give chase, and that a trooper who did not use appropriate caution would be held accountable.

Food banks under extreme pressure

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that 15.5% of Texas households are “food insecure,” meaning they lack consistent access to health and affordable food—the second-highest rate in the nation. Food banks across the state are warning those challenges could get worse, the Texas Tribune reported.

About 3.3 million Texans receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with the number of older Texans getting SNAP benefits rising. From January 2020 through October 2023, the number of Texans aged 65 and older

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



men and women. Remember that the next time the “Star Spangled Banner” is played. Honor that sacrifice and save your political protest gestures for a more appropriate time. Show your gratitude by showing your respect. That respect has been earned in ways we can not begin to imagine or repay.

So, on this the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor let us pay our respects and say thank you to our Greatest Generation.

And pray that we can learn to be just a little bit more like them.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



rose 28%, while the increase was 19% for those aged 60-64.

Operators of food banks, which are nonprofit organizations, blame rising housing costs during the pandemic for the increase in demand for its services.

“The rising cost of housing is the problem,” said Teresa Jackson, founder and CEO of Sharing Life, a Mesquite charity that offers food, clothing, medicine, and educational programs. Sharing Life distributes food to more than 100 food pantries around southeast Dallas.

Adding to the distress is that thousands of Texans are waiting for months to receive new food stamp benefits, according to the Statesman. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is supposed to process applications within 30 days but is only hitting that target about 75% of the time. That leaves about 138,000 unprocessed applicants who must wait longer for benefits.

Food stamp recipients are required to work unless they are elderly, disabled or caring for children. Nearly 80% of Texas food stamp recipients are in families with children.

Real Christmas trees boost state economy

More than four million real Christmas trees are sold in Texas each year, providing nearly \$400 million in direct contributions to the state’s economy, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Texas Christmas tree industry employs nearly 4,000 people with a payroll of more than \$97 million.

“The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state,” Aaron Stottlemeyer, with the service, said.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with the first recorded tree planting in Texas occurring in Jasper in 1935. Texas ranks second in the South in Christmas tree production.

First-ever sighting in Texas of rare bird

Bird watchers recently flocked to a state park in hopes of seeing a little bird only rarely seen in the United States and for the first time in Texas. The gray-collared becard is a tropical bird that lives in Central America. Texas State Parks posted a “Rare Bird Alert” that alerted bird watchers of the sighting at Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville, The News reported.

The bird has only been seen in the United States twice before, both times in Arizona.

Meanwhile, scorpions are in strong supply

Texans are reporting an invasion of scorpions in their homes, according to numerous online reports. Wizzie Brown with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service told the Houston Chronicle that these distant cousins to spiders often move indoors with changing weather conditions, such as rainfall or dropping temperatures.

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THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Literacy and the Workforce

Literacy is defined as “the ability to understand, evaluate, and engage with written texts to participate in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential” by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC—part of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)). Through my economist

lens, another aspect of literacy is that it greatly enhances job opportunities for individuals and provides some near-term relief to the workforce shortage.

Below Level 1 literacy describes adults who can read brief texts on familiar topics and locate a single piece of specific information. Only basic vocabulary knowledge is required, and the adult is not required to understand the structure of sentences or paragraphs.

Level 3 involves reading and navigating dense, lengthy, or complex texts. Literacy Level 3 (roughly eighth grade according to the National Literacy Trust) and above are generally consistent with the ability to perform some type of technical or professional labor, yet many adults lack this capacity. Literacy is a crucial step in achieving a bachelor’s or higher degree, but there are many occupations requiring Level 3 literacy that are oriented to on-the-job or relatively shorter training programs. Adults reaching this threshold can become skilled workers in short order.

Texas lags the national literacy rate by a significant margin, with many areas being particularly low. An estimated 22% of the state’s population is below Level 1, compared to 22% across the nation. Only 40% of Texas adults have literacy of Level 3 or higher, with the US rate being 46%.

The PIAAC assesses adults in the official language or languages of each participating country. One aspect of the reason for low literacy rates in Texas is the large proportion of emerging English learners. According to the NCES, Texas has a significantly higher proportion of public-school students classified as “English Learners” than any other state. The Texas level of 20.1% is almost twice the national rate (10.3%). Improving literacy rates in Texas is thus a two-pronged issue involving both enhancing reading levels and overcoming language barriers, which often inhibit employment opportunities.

The Texas economy is enjoying substantial growth, and a natural outcome of that and current demographic patterns is a need for workers. Our projections indicate that about 38% of the demand for workers (from economic growth and replacements) over the next 10 years will be in jobs requiring Level 3 literacy. The fastest-growing occupations requiring Level 3 literacy include General and Operations Managers, Registered Nurses, Truck Drivers, and Software Developers.

Improving literacy rates should be a crucial aspect of workforce preparedness, enhancing the state’s prospects for future prosperity. From an individual perspective, higher literacy improves both quality of life and earning potential.

Stay safe!

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—Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

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It's not difficult to speak the truth, even for politicians

Way back in the last century, around 1975, my brother was a graduate assistant in the history department at East Texas State University. As such, he taught a couple of American history classes per week.

He was naturally cantankerous so I didn't envy those in his classroom. One day he brought home a complaint that resonated then and still does today.

Obviously frustrated by his day in class he plopped down on the couch and began to hold court on the sad state of intelligence of American youth.

"It's amazing to me how these kids don't know the basics of American history, but if you ask them about last night's Laverne and Shirley episode they are fully informed," he said.

True that, big brother.

You don't have to be a history nerd, such as me, to appreciate the importance of our country's past because you can't know where you are going if you don't know where you've been.

Which, in a somewhat roundabout way, brings us to the recently deposed speaker of the U.S. House and main boot-licker of the guy who was impeached twice and has been indicted more times than Al Capone. (No need to mention the latter's name, we ALL know who he is).

About a month ago, Kevin McCarthy, made some remarks that were (1) just plain wrong and (2) another example of someone who should have paid attention in history class.

McCarthy, now obviously unburdened by the demands of his speakership of the U.S. House, had time to join the Oxford (England) Union debating society where the topic was whether U.S. intervention in world affairs was a good thing.



The panel featured several students from Oxford who said U.S. intervention was wrong. In addition to McCarthy, Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., and GOP pollster Frank Luntz, took the opposing view.

McCarthy was the final speaker to try and counter the Oxford folks' views. A month later, at the end of November, he posted comments on social media. He should have not hit the send button.

To quote: "In every single war that America has fought, we have never asked for land afterwards, except for enough to bury the Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for that freedom we went in for."

Um, nope. Not correct.

The most egregious example, in your correspondent's view, was the land taken from Native Americans in the 1700s and 1800s. The worst, by any stretch of the imagination, was the forced removal of the so-called Five Civilized Tribes from the American South between 1830 and 1850 in what became known as the Trail of Tears.

Not officially a war, it nonetheless forced these tribes off their land, causing thousands to suffer from disease,

exposure and starvation as they headed east on the orders of the U.S. government, specifically the flinty President Andrew Jackson who pushed through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The act effectively stole the land from Native Americans.

To be fair to Jackson, he wasn't the originator of the idea, he was simply the president who finished a policy that had been around for several decades.

This relocation did result in military engagements with the Native tribes, including the Seminole wars, the Sand Creek Massacre, the Battle of the Little Big Horn and eventually the Wounded Knee Massacre.

A more tangible example comes following the U.S.-Mexico War of 1848 where the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo specified the U.S. would receive 55 percent of Mexico's territory, including what eventually became California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, a good portion of Colorado and Arizona as well as parts of Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma.

And, not to be forgotten, Mexico finally recognized Texas' statehood as a result of that treaty.

In 1898, the Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish-American War, the U.S. gained the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines and Spain relinquished rights to Cuba.

These are just a few of the examples showing McCarthy's lack of knowledge of his country's history during his Oxford debate.

This type of ignorance is present on both sides of the political aisle and it really doesn't seem too much to ask that our elected leaders have a basic grasp of the history of the country they are supposed to serve.



December Yard of the Month

The Lindale Garden Club recently selected the yard belonging to Patrick and Ann Robinson of 13453 Karan Lane in Lindale as the December Yard of the Month. (Courtesy photo)

Time on the phone just ticks away

The other night my wife Janet and I were eatin' supper, well I guess you can call it supper. Janet's put me on some kind of diet. I made the mistake of tellin' her that I need to lose about 10 pounds of ugly fat.

Her reply to that statement was, "Why don't you cut off your head?" She thinks she's funny. Anywho, I was tryin' to choke down whatever that stuff was she was feedin' me, when the phone rang. I jumped up to get it, hopin' it was one of my longwinded buddies.

"Yellow," I said into the receiver. Then I heard a click. "Oh boy," I thought. "Phone Creatures?"

"Mr. Mitchum?" the voice on the other end said.

"You got 'em," I replied.

"Ah, Mr. Mitchum. Bob Simon here with MCI."

"Who'd you say you's with?" I asked.

"MCI," he repeated.

"Can you spell that?" I said.

"Uh, well... M-C-I," he said.

"Oh, just like it sounds, huh?"

"Uh, yes sir," he said. "The reason I'm calling..."

"MCI?" I interrupted. "Is that one of them government agencies, like the FBI?"

"No sir," he laughed.

"You know, I applied for a job with the CIA once," I said.

"Is that right?" he replied.

"The reason I'm calling..."

"Yep. Couldn't pass the test, though. When they told me I was goin' to have to take a test, I figured they meant arithmetic problems and stuff like that."

"Really," he said. "Mr. Mitchum..."

"But it weren't. Instead, they asked all sorts of stupid stuff like 'Are your grandparents still alive?' I said no to that one. Then he asked me if I missed 'em. I told him I never shot at 'em."

"Uh...interesting," he said. "We would like to offer..."

"Then they asked me if I had any hobbies or interests,



and I told them that I was doin' research on ticks."

"Mr. Mitchum," he said, and then stopped. "Ticks? Did you say ticks?"

"Yeah. You see I got interested in this one particular tick that I found on my dog. He was a big'un. You know, one of them big, gray ones. Well, this one was located right between ol' Buford's shoulder blades. Buford's my dog, you know."

"Uh, Mr. Mitchum..."

"Well, before I pulled him off to step on 'im and squoosh 'im, I got to wonderin', how big that tick would get if I left 'im alone? Well, I figured he might fall off if he got any bigger, so I got me some scotch tape and taped 'im to the dog, so he wudn't fall off."

"Uh..."

"Man, it wudn't long 'fore that tick was the size of a cherry duhmader."

"Duhmader?" the Creature questioned.

"Yeah, duhmader. You know, like in bacon and duhmader sandwiches."

"Oh!" said the creature. "Tomato."

"That's what I said, duhmader. Pay attention Boy and quit interruptin' me."

"But Mr. Mitchum," he pleaded.

"Anywho," I continued. "I finally untaped the tick and put him in a fruit jar so's I could watch 'im." I wanted to see how long he could live bein' as full as he was."

"I've really..." tried the Creature.

"Well, after a couple of weeks I noticed that he wudn't lookin' none too good. His skin was kind of hanging on 'im, and his color just didn't look right. You know what I mean?"

"Uh... not really."

"Well, I figured I already

had too much time invested in this tick just to watch 'im die, so I called the vet. I told 'im what the tick looked like and all his symptoms and such. And you know what, he didn't help me at all."

"Go figure," said the Creature.

"He did give me the name of another doctor though. But, that one turned out to be a psychiatrist. I didn't figure he could help, but I told him the problem anyway. He wanted me to come down and discuss it in his office. He said he figured that after a few sessions, we might be able to get to the root of the problem. Well, I told 'im I didn't have time, 'cause I had a dyin' tick on my hands."

"Please..." the Creature said.

"Well, I rubbed a little salve on the tick, and watched him for a few days. He seemed to perk up a little, but he continued to lose weight. I knew what I had to do, but I just didn't have the heart. After all, we'd become purdy good buddies by then."

"I really have to..." sighed the Creature.

"I just couldn't do it," I sniffed, "so I turned him loose. The last time I saw him he was headin' out across the back yard. He looked like a little black dot with legs, draggin' a big gray bag." Then I heard the dial tone.

"Huh!" I said as I turned to Janet. "Can you believe that? That sucker hung up on me." Then I looked and Janet hadn't touched her food. She had a sort of sick look on her face.

"You don't look too good, Hon," I said. "You want me to call a doctor?"

"Yeah," she said. "Call that one that wanted you to come down and talk. And tell him, I'll sign the papers."



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, Dec. 1, 2022

Lindale High School's football season came to an unhappy conclusion with a 63-37 loss to Kilgore in the Class 4A Division I semifinals played at Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium in Tyler.

Head Coach Chris Cochran said he and his staff were more than pleased with this year's team.

"We are so very proud of our kids," Cochran said. "This team represented what we are about as a program. It went deeper in the playoffs than any other one (the 2020 state finalist).

"More than anything else, I am just so proud of their resilience, which is a testament to the coaching staff," said Cochran.

The Eagles fell behind 21-3 by the middle of the second period, but as has been the case in virtually every game Lindale has played in the past several years, the players didn't check the scoreboard.

After the Bulldogs owned the first and part of the second periods, Lindale

controlled the game from that point to halftime.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Dec. 1, 2018

Becky Foote was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Lindale Rotary Club. Foote is the executive director of the Christian Women's Job Corps of Lindale and she discussed how the organization equips women with job skills and life skills in a Christ-centered environment.

10 YEARS AGO, Dec. 5, 2013

Lindale City Council members voted to retain the services of a search firm to hire a new city manager to replace the retiring Owen Scott during the council's regular meeting at city hall.

Scott, who has worked for the city of Lindale for the past three decades, is retiring at the end of January.

Council man Bob Tardiff recommended the council hire Strategic Government Resources to find a replacement for Scott, which Tardiff estimated could take "up to five or six months."

Tardiff said he received three independent references for SGR's services and estimated the cost would be "somewhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000."

"We need to get going on this right away," Tardiff said.

Best to let autumn leaves lie

By Greg Grant
Smith County Extension Agent

With falling foliage in full force, the age-old tradition of raking leaves beneath our trees comes to the forefront.

However, there's been a major push of late by entomologist and author Dr. Doug Tallamy and others to avoid the practice and let them lie, especially under shade trees.

Tallamy has written several influential books, including "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants" and "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard."

I once heard him speak in Lufkin and hopefully one day we can bring him to Tyler to share his views on ecological landscaping.

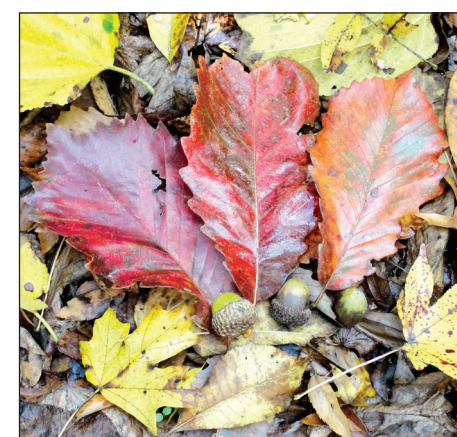
Here are some reasons to consider not raking and discarding your leaves this fall.

Biodiversity Boost: Leaves on the ground create a microhabitat that supports a diverse array of organisms. In this leaf litter, insects find refuge, amphibians seek shelter, and beneficial microbes thrive. It's a bustling ecosystem that contributes to the overall biodiversity of the garden.

Soil Enrichment: As leaves break down, they become a natural source of organic matter, enriching the soil beneath your trees. This organic mulch improves soil structure, retains moisture, and enhances nutrient levels, providing a healthy foundation for your trees and surrounding plants. Think of them as free mulch and compost.

Natural Fertilizer: As they have for millions of years, decomposing leaves release essential minerals into the soil, acting as a slow-release fertilizer that nourishes your trees and promotes overall soil health and friability.

Water Conservation: A leafy layer on the ground acts as a protective shield, reducing water evaporation from the soil.



This not only conserves moisture but also helps maintain a more stable soil temperature. As a result, your trees are better equipped to withstand both drought and excessive rainfall, both of which occur regularly here.

Pollinator Paradise: Many pollinators, including various species of bees and butterflies, overwinter in the leaf litter. The layer of leaves provides a protective cover, shielding them from harsh weather conditions. By leaving leaves in place, you're offering a refuge for these pollinators during the colder months.

Erosion Prevention: The fallen leaves act as a natural barrier, preventing soil erosion caused by wind and water. This protective layer stabilizes the soil structure, ensuring that your trees' root systems remain securely anchored in place.

Time and Energy Savings: Let's face it – raking leaves can be a time-consuming and energy-draining task. By embracing the natural process of leaf decay, you not only save yourself the effort but also contribute to a more sustainable and low-maintenance garden.

The seemingly simple act of leaving leaves beneath your trees can have far-reaching ecological benefits. By appreciating the role of leaves and allowing them to remain beneath trees, you create a more sustainable and pollinator-friendly environment.

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OBITUARIES

LINDA MABREY



Linda Mabrey, age 73, passed away Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 in Tyler.

She was born on June 5, 1950 in Dallas. Linda has lived in Dallas and several years in the East Texas area.

Linda got her RN license in 1979 and worked as a nurse until 2005. She worked at the Parkland Hospital, Zale Lipshy, and UTSW.

Later in life she volunteered at Scottish Rite Hospital and was very involved in helping raise money for the American Red Cross. She loved making jewelry, painting, writing poetry, playing Scrabble, and her dog Ruby.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Walter Lee Mabrey in 2010; parents, Billy Joe and Barbara Jean (Deloache) Cheshier; brother, Phillip Cheshier; sister, Patricia Cheshier.

She is survived by sons; Walter Mabrey and girlfriend, Laura DiGerolano of Lindale, Jason and wife, Paula Mabrey of Kansas City, MO; daughter, Lori and husband, Clay Puckett of Lindale; sister, Cathy Pietri; brother,

Gary Cheshier; grandchildren, Ethan Puckett, Trevor Mabrey, Racheal Hearon, Katelynn Mabrey, and David Mabrey.



ROBERT E. LEE (PAPA) CLINE

Robert E. Lee (Papa) Cline, age 85 of Lindale passed away on Nov. 24, 2023, in Tyler.

Services were held Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at the Red Springs Baptist Church in the Red Springs Community and a burial will follow with masonic graveside rites in the Red Springs Cemetery under the direction of Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home with David Cline and Collin Jones officiating.

Robert was born Jan. 12, 1938, in Red Springs Community in Smith County to the late Claude and Gertrude (Perryman) Cline. He was a lifelong resident of the Red Springs Community near Lindale.

Robert proudly served in the U.S. Army. After his service in the Army, he returned to Lindale and spent his

career as a foreman at Trane in Tyler and retired after 40 years on June 1, 2000.

He was a member of the Red Springs Baptist Church. Robert was a Mason and a member of the Lindale Masonic Lodge No. 848. Robert coached Lindale Summer Softball League and helped with the softball travel teams which his granddaughters played on. After that he was their biggest supporter in their softball careers. He loved working in his garden every year and sharing with any and everyone.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Freda Cline on Oct. 29, 2013; daughter, Kim Godwin in 2014; brother, Kenneth Cline in 2020.

Robert is survived by two daughters, Timi Cosby of Lindale and Deby Dsouza of Tyler; son, David Cline of Parris Island, S.C.; two sisters, Claudie Thompson of Lindale and Syble Glasscock and husband, Jimmy of Lindale; sister-in-law, Carol Cline of Lindale; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were J.R. Godwin, J.T. Peterson, Don Raley, Buck Thompson, Glen Miller, and Darrell Cline. Honorary pallbearer was James Perryman.

Lindale Shelby Savings holds Christmas Open House

The Lindale Branch of Shelby Savings Bank will host a Christmas Open House beginning at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, officials

said. Food, drinks and fellowship will be on the menu. The bank is located at 2500 South Main Street.

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Pastor Jacob Chaffin

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793 CR 313W Tyler TX 75706
903-597-6131
Pastor Stephen Nipp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

East Foothills Missionary Baptist Church
810 E South St, Lindale, TX 75771
903-497-4674
Pastor Craig Kearby

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

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

EPISCOPAL

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

LUTHERAN

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

METHODIST

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

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

**Mt Sylvan United Methodist
Church**
Mt. Sylvan • 903-882-5479

**Swan-Wood Springs
Methodist Church**
Hwy 69, Tyler, TX 75706
903-882-6382

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

River’s Edge Church
18492 Hwy 69 North,
Lindale, TX 75771
903-882-0555 • Phil Brown

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

PRESBYTERIAN

Bethesda Community Church
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903-882-3861 • Dr. Everitt Nix

PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC

Rose Heights Church
12465 FM 16, Lindale, Texas 75771
903-881-5260

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Lindale, TX 75771
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Lindale Police Department call logs for Nov. 24-30

FRIDAY, NOV. 24: Motor Vehicle Crash, 800 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Warrant Service, 13100 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Arrest; Welfare Concern, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Civil Matter, 1100 block East Park Drive, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, NOV. 25: Disturbance, 1100 block East Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3700 block Harvey Road, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 800 block Brownwood Circle, Settled at Scene; Escort, 600 block West Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 200 block Cannery Row, Report; Escort, 200 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Damaged Property, 300 block South Industrial Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 553 I-20, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Person, 3300 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Civil Matter, 200 block East Centennial, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co So, 13600 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, NOV. 26: Loud Noise Complaint, 15200 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 17700 block CR 4112, Settled at Scene; Deadly Conduct, 2200 block South Main Street, Unfounded; Traffic Complaint, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; City Ordinance Violation, 500 block Blackberry Blvd., Warning Issued.

MONDAY, NOV. 27: Assist Another Agency, 556 I-20



West, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 1100 block Woodlands Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist DPS, 13700 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Stolen License Plate, 3500 block South Main Street, Unfounded; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 900 block Mount Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block Heritage Court, Settled at Scene.

TUESDAY, NOV. 28: Welfare Concern, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 500 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 14500 block FM 849, Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 13300 block I-20 East, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 800 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Residential Alarm, 7300

block Stacy Street, False Alarm; Public Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Hit and Run Crash, 100 block East Centennial, Report; Traffic Complaint, 800 block North Main Street, Unfounded.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 29: Business Alarm, 100 block Miranda Lambert Way, False Alarm; Business Alarm, 900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Control, 200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; City Ordinance Violation, 15900 block Brittain Court, Settled at Scene; Criminal Mischief, 100 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 300 block Kingdom Blvd., Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 552 I-20 East, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 1000 block Stewart Street, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, Nov. 30: Business Alarm, 3400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block East Centennial, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 13700 block Harvey Road, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 1000 block Stewart Street, Report; Harassment, 300 block Hamilton Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 554 I-20 West, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Circumstance, 2800 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 556 I-20 West, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 100 block East Centennial, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial, Warning Issued; Business Alarm, 900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

County employees recognized for service

Gayle Hayward was honored during Commissioners Court Tuesday, Nov. 28 for 30 years of service to the Smith County Juvenile Services Department.

"Gayle has done excellent work for us," Smith County Juvenile Services Director Ross Worley said. "She has probably forgotten more about juvenile justice than I have ever known."

Hayward grew up in Jasper and earned criminal justice degrees from Tyler Junior College and Sam Houston State University before starting her career at the Juvenile Services Department.

She worked as a detention officer, detention supervisor, probation officer, probation supervisor; and for the last 16 years, she has served as deputy director in charge of probation services.

Worley said she has been right in the middle of the department's philosophy of changing kids' lives.

Hayward said when she moved to Tyler right after college, not only did she start her family, but she also started her work family.

"I'm thankful for Smith County and thankful for 30 years," she said, adding that she has a little time left before thinking about retiring.

15 YEARS

Deputy Britnee Young was recognized for 15 years of service to the Smith County Sheriff's Office. She serves as bailiff for Judge Reeve Jackson's 114th District Court.

Jackson called her the conscience of their court. "If I get it wrong, she tells me; and if I get it right, she tells me," he said. "She comforts people in our courtroom," from crime victims and families to defendants. "I've never seen so much kindness."

She lends a kind ear, provides comfort and shows respect to everyone because it is the right thing to do, he said, adding that he tries to follow her example.

Jackson said Deputy Young started her career at the Sheriff's Office working in the Smith County Jail before working at the Courthouse. Her most important role, however, is being a mother to three children.

10 YEARS

Deputy Fire Marshal Barron Wedgeworth was recognized for 10 years of service to Smith County.

He started working for the Sheriff's Office in the jail and then on patrol, before joining the Smith County Fire Marshal's Office about two years ago.

"We're glad to have him at the Fire Marshal's Office," Fire Marshal Chad Hogue said. "He's a great asset... he inspires me more than he knows."

5 YEARS

Julieta Aguilar was recognized for her five-year anniversary with the Smith County AgriLife A&M Extension Office. She serves as support staff for Smith County 4-H Agent Skyler Shivley, who said she has a wealth of knowledge in youth development. "We couldn't ask for a better person in this position," he said.



Gayle Hayward was honored by the Smith County Commissioner's Court recently for her 30 years of service with the Smith County Juvenile Services Department. Director Ross Worley presented her with a plaque and a service pin. (Courtesy photo)

Other employees celebrating work anniversaries with the county this month include:

15 Years: Oscar Bennett, Road and Bridge Department

10 Years: Marvin Martin, Sheriff's Office
5 Years: Danny Warren, Sheriff's Office

Five defendants convicted in health care kickbacks scheme

Five defendants, including laboratory executives and hospital executives, were found guilty of conspiring to violate the Anti-Kickback Statute, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Susan L. Hertzberg, 65, of New York, N.Y.; Matthew John Theiler, 57, of Mars, Pa.; David Weldon Kraus, 65, of Loudon, Tenn.; Thomas Gray Hardaway, 51 of San Antonio and Jeffrey Paul Madison, 48, Georgetown, Texas, were found guilty by a jury on Nov. 30, 2023, following a seven-week-long trial before U.S. District Judge Jeremy D. Kernodle.

"Patients should be able to trust that their physicians are ordering tests and making laboratory referrals based on what is best for the patient, and not because the physicians are looking to pad their pockets with profits from kickbacks," said Diggs. "For several years, these defendants utilized an elaborate marketing scheme to facilitate payments to physicians in return for the physicians' laboratory referrals. Improper financial relationships such as these undermine the integrity of federally-funded healthcare programs by influencing physician decision-making. This case emphasizes our District's commitment to justice by pursuing both the hospital and lab executives who sought to influence the physicians and the physicians who accepted the illegal kickbacks."

"The reach of HHS-OIG is far and wide. Our agents and law enforcement partners will not be deterred by the scope of a health care fraud investigation or the location of its' defendants," said Jason E. Meadows, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), Dallas Region. "Kickback arrangements, regardless of their intended complexity, will always be an investigative priority for our agency."

"The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General's Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) is committed to protecting the integrity of TRICARE, the health care system for military members and their dependents," said Gregory P. Shilling, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of DCIS's Southwest Field Office. "Today's guilty verdicts send a clear message that DCIS, along with our law enforcement partners and the U.S. Attorney's Office, will diligently pursue fraudsters who seek self-enrichment by undermining the integrity of this critical program."

On Jan. 12, 2022, Hertzberg, Theiler, Kraus, Hardaway, and Madison, as well as Jeffrey Paul Parnell, 55, of Tyler; Laura Spain Howard, 49, of Allen; Todd Dean Cook, 58, Wimauma, Florida; William Todd Hickman, 60, of Lumberton; Christopher Roland Gonzales, 47, of McKinney; Ruben Daniel Marioni, 39, of Spring; Jordan Joseph Perkins, 39, of Conroe; Elizabeth Ruth Seymour, 40, of Corinth; Linh Ba Nguyen, 59, of Dallas; Thuy Ngoc Nguyen, 55, of Dallas; Joseph Gil Bolin, of Dallas; Heriberto Salinas, 63, of Cleburne; and Hong Davis, 55, of Lewisville, were indicted for conspiring to commit illegal remunerations in violation of the Anti-Kickback Statute. The statute prohibits offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving remuneration to induce referrals of items or services covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and other

federal health care programs. The defendants were charged for their roles in a conspiracy through which physicians were incentivized to make referrals to rural hospitals and an affiliated lab in exchange for kickbacks which were disguised as investment returns; and in which marketers were incentivized to arrange for or recommend the ordering of services from rural hospitals and an affiliated lab.

Two rural Texas hospitals, Little River Healthcare (LRH) based in Rockdale, and Stamford Memorial Hospital based in Stamford, partnered with Boston Heart Diagnostics (BHD), a clinical laboratory based in Framingham, Massachusetts, that specialized in advanced cardiovascular lipid testing. For a fee, BHD processed the blood tests while the hospitals billed the tests to insurers as hospital outpatient services, with the hospitals charging insurers a much higher rate than BHD could receive as a clinical laboratory. The hospitals utilized a network of marketers who in turn operated management services organizations (MSOs) that offered investment opportunities to physicians throughout the State of Texas. In reality, the MSOs were simply a means to facilitate payments to physicians in return for the physicians' laboratory referrals. Pursuant to the kickback scheme, the hospitals paid a portion of their laboratory revenues to marketers, who in turn kicked back a portion of those funds to the referring physicians who ordered BHD tests from the hospitals or from BHD directly. BHD executives and sales force personnel leveraged the MSO kickbacks to gain and increase referrals and, in turn, to increase their revenues, bonuses, and commissions.

Parnell, Howard, Cook, Hickman, Gonzales, Marioni, Perkins, Seymour, Thuy Nguyen, Salinas, and Davis pleaded guilty prior to trial.

In January 2022, Robert O'Neal, 65, of San Antonio, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit illegal remunerations, in violation of Anti-Kickback Statute, and with conspiracy to commit money laundering. His role in the kickback conspiracy was to arrange for physician referrals and recommend the ordering of services to the rural hospitals and BHD. O'Neal also had kickback proceeds laundered on his behalf and, at times various times, obtained proceeds from the kickback conspiracy.

In July 2023, Peter J. Bennett, 49, of Houston, was convicted of money laundering conspiracy, money transmitting conspiracy, and perjury. According to information presented in court, Bennett created sham trusts and shell corporations through which he laundered at least \$2,724,080.41 in healthcare kickback proceeds. Bennett used his law firm's Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA), operating account, and a personal bank account to launder and transmit the kickback proceeds.

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

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Lindale student among TJC's DrumBeat media winners

Tyler Junior College's student media, The DrumBeat, was among the top in the nation earning three Pinnacle awards at this year's College Media Association Convention in Atlanta, Ga., TJC publicity officials announced.

The DrumBeat Student Media placed second in Division III Periodic Newspaper of the Year, Two-Year Radio Station of the Year, and Two-Year TV Station of the Year.

Jude Ratcliff of Lindale was one of the students honored.

Founded in 1954 as the National Council of College Publications Advisers, CMA now has more than 600 members from coast to coast, according to the CMA website. The organization supports both new and veteran advisers of collegiate media programs with conventions, workshops, publications and national networking.

The DrumBeat Student Media is an independent media organization run by TJC students and includes a printed newspaper, website, app, live broadcast, podcast and social media management. It is one of the oldest student organizations at TJC and is open to all majors.

The DrumBeat student newspaper is a bi-weekly production created by student journalists. Their award-winning coverage

featured topics including campus construction, community involvement and student organizations, among others.

"We are honored to be recognized on the national level. Our students work hard every day to sharpen their skills and learn how to adapt to the ever-changing field of journalism," said Kasi Dickerson, TJC mass communication professor and DrumBeat faculty adviser. "This recognition is proof of the talented student journalists we have in The DrumBeat."

In the digital age of journalism, students showcase their skills by creating multimedia stories on thedrumbeat.com, where they combine various formats of storytelling including video packages, audio stories, photo slideshows and more. With the website and the accompanying app, students can keep the TJC campus informed with updated news and information.

The DrumBeat staff also excels in creating a live broadcast every other week. Award-winning coverage included campus events, breaking news and interviews with coaches, faculty and student leaders.

"The DrumBeat student media team is creating award-winning content that also serves to inform and educate their fellow students," said Adrienne Hampton, TJC mass commu-



TJC's DrumBeat student media winning members are, from left, Garrison Nichols of Bullard, Jude Ratcliff of Lindale, Brooklyn Gundling of Friendswood, and Leigh Meyers of Bullard. (Courtesy photo)

nication professor and The DrumBeat faculty adviser. "Earning national awards across

three different media categories shows how talented and diversified the students are."

Lindale Apache Belles to perform at second Christmas Extravaganza

Three Tyler Junior College Apache Belles from Lindale will take part in the Belles' 2nd annual Christmas Extravaganza, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 16 in Wise Auditorium on the TJC campus.

Show times are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 for ages 6 and older. Children under 5 are admitted free.

Tickets can be purchased online at ApacheBelles.com.

Apache Belles from Lindale include dance captain Bailee DeWolfe; sophomore dance line member Emilee DeWolfe and freshman dance line member Rylee Schultz.

Officers include head dance captain Analaura Elizarraras of Houston, and dance captains Savanna Williams of Mansfield, Emma McDaniel of Katy, Caraline Otte of Tyler, and Bailee DeWolfe of Lindale.

Sophomores and members of the 76th line: Savannah Bise, Celina; Emma Brown, Arlington; Liberty Briscoe, Lewisville; Emilee DeWolfe, Lindale; Zoe Draper, Deer Park; Alyssa Ehler, Little Elm; Sarah Fritz, Longview; Iyana John-

son, Marshall; Danna Hernandez, Dallas; Nadia Kutkut, Frisco; Faith Martinez, Marshall; Angie Mendoza, Longview; Melissa Reyes, Carrollton; Jayleann Roth, Pearland; Mackenzie Rumpel, Longview; Hannah Tucker, Tyler; Abby Vick, Grapevine; and Emily Zambrano, Houston.

Freshmen and members of the 77th line: Olivia Anderson, Corinth; Sara Bauer, Rowlett, Ariana Cariazales, Houston; Cielo Cepeda, Katy; Malerie Clifton, Huntington; Avery Ginn, Whitehouse; Madison Gonzalez, Katy; Averi Johnson, Longview; Justice Johnson, Houston; Hannah Lang, Huffman; Zoe Lawson, Dallas; Maysen Lester, Boerne; Kandice Lopez, Houston; Akayla Manning, Tyler; Alaina Martin, Wylie; Madison McDonald, Kerrville; Grace McDermaid, Forney; Audra Nance, Hallsville; Chesney Pipkin, Hallsville; Joselyn Quinones, Mesquite; Rachel Renner, Denton; Mireya Reynolds, Deer Park; Kiley Ryzza, Hutto; Rylee Schultz, Lindale; Hannah Scott, Kerrville; and Mackenzie Spencer, Corinth.

Junior High Lady Eagles down Van

Lindale Junior High School's Lady Eagles basketball team won three of four games from Van on Monday (Nov. 27) with the 7th grade B, 8th grade B and 8th grade A teams earning victories.

The 7th grade B team won, 12-4, with Kyler Galloway, Kierra Ross, Avery Wehr, Bella Tyson and Norah Woodard leading the scoring, while Reece Rand was the leading rebounder. Libbie McHam was the leader in steals and Reece Rand was the assists leader.

The 7th grade B team fell, 27-22, with Kennedy Billington leading the Lady Eagles in scoring, while Anna Muhr was the leading rebounder. Paisley Keith and Kennedy Billington were the leaders in steals and Paisley

Keith led in assists.

Maci Gateley led the 8th grade B team in scoring and rebounding as the Lady Eagles took a 32-8 victory. Lilly Simmons was the leader in steals and Addyson Hance and Charli Morgan were the assists leaders. Breelynn Gordon earned the Hustle Award and Olivia Jansen won the Leadership Award.

For the 8th grade A team, KayLea Williams and Brooklyn Wiggins led the scorers in a 45-2 rout of Van. Evie Provo was the rebounding leader and Baylee Brooks led the team in steals. Brooklyn Wiggins was the assists leader and also won the Hustle Award. KayLea Williams won the Leadership Award.

Mindful eating through holidays important

By Claudann Jones
Smith County Extension Agent
Family and Community Health



The holidays can be a difficult time to manage our blood sugar and avoid overeating, but mindful eating can help you through this joyous season!

According to the Center for Mindful Eating, mindfulness is the capacity to bring full attention and awareness to one's food choice and experience of eating, in the moment, without judgment. I think the key words are "without judgement."

The holidays bring such tasty foods and it is important to give ourselves permission to enjoy our favorite holiday foods without judgement! Mindful eating can help us indulge, without overeating.

Here are a few mindful eating tips to help you through the holidays:

Reflect

Before you start to eat, take a moment and reflect upon how you are feeling. Are you bored? Sad? In a hurry? Thirsty? Hungry? After you take time to reflect, then you can decide if you want to eat and what you would like to eat.

Slow down

The holidays are a busy time, but it is important to slow down and take a seat while you are eating. Enjoy your meal, chew 30 times, put down your utensils, and notice the flavors in your mouth. As your hunger cues begin to fade away, notice as your fullness cues begin to appear.

Pick the smaller plate

Using a smaller plate is a great way to control your portions as you approach your favorite holiday foods.

80 Percent Rule

A good rule of thumb to follow is to stop eating when you are about 80% full. It takes your brain about 20 minutes to recognize that you are full, so if you stop at 100 percent fullness, then you may be 120 percent full after your meal.

I hope that you find mindful eating helpful over the holidays. For more information, contact the Smith County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health at 903-590-2980 or email at Claudann.jones@ag.tamu.edu. Like our Facebook page: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County.

Homegrown or store bought, always wash herbs

By Alice Bailey
Smith County Master Gardener

Yes, you should wash herbs, whether they are from the grocery or from your yard. Washing your herbs helps to prevent bacteria contamination. No matter what type of produce you are going to be eating.

All herbs, fruit, and vegetables should always be cleaned before consuming.

During the growing, harvesting, packaging, and sales processes can all leave bacteria looming on your fresh herbs. It's best to do this when you bring them into the house. This way they will be clean and ready when you need them.

Always start with washing your hands. Visually inspect and discard any wilted, damaged, or rotten leaves or stems.

Run the herbs under gently running cold water for at least 20 seconds

Gently shake tender herbs over the kitchen sink to remove the excess water. The tougher

herbs like rosemary and parsley can be spun in a salad spinner to remove the excess water.

Wrap the herbs in a single layer of a damp paper towels

Place the herbs wrapped in a damp paper towel in a zip top plastic bag and zip it shut

Then place the bag in the refrigerator until you are ready for use. Herbs should stay fresh up to a week

Delicate herbs like tarragon, basil, dill, mint, or chervil could simply be placed in a bowl with cold water. Gently agitate in a circular motion for at least 20 seconds and then transferred to a paper towel. Then follow from step 5.

Following these steps can prevent contamination of your food.

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

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Texans encouraged to practice bear safety

With winter quickly approaching, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department encourages residents in the western, southwestern and northeastern portions of Texas to practice appropriate bear safety measures and report sightings.

Black bears are native to Texas and part of the state's natural heritage and ecosystem. Guided by an excellent sense of smell, their behavior is driven largely by appetite. Fall provides their last opportunity

to feast before denning up for the winter.

The natural instincts to forage become a problem for bears when they find easy meals from humans, such as garbage, pet food or corn from a deer feeder. If a bear continually finds food around humans, it can become habituated, losing its fear of people and creating a potentially dangerous situation.

Individuals enjoying the out-

doors are encouraged to stay alert and stay together, keep dogs leashed, double bag food and trash while hiking or camping, camp safely and know what to do if you see a bear.

Bear-proof garbage containers are a great option that many communities have deployed to reduce bear encounters. TPWD biologists encourage keeping trash bags in a secure location until the morning of trash pickup and feeding pets

inside or limiting pet-food portions to an amount that can be consumed completely at each feeding.

More information can be found on the TPWD and Bear Wise websites, including how to secure deer feeders or apiaries with electric fences and the how to use "unwelcome mats." Unwelcome mats, made from rough wood and nails or brads, can be placed under windows, at doors and fence openings and around outdoor freezers and

refrigerators to discourage bears without causing serious injury.

Bears are a non-game animal that have been granted state protected status as a threatened species, so it is against the law to hunt, harass or kill them.

If you see a bear, stay away and do not attempt to feed it, and notify your local police or sheriff dispatch immediately to request the local TPWD biologist or game warden.



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LEGAL NOTICE

BJ#3760445

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):

23CV04385

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YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): William Edward Pasich, an individual; Jane Ann Tucker, an individual NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CAL-NDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desecher el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Santa Barbara Superior Court 1100 Anacapa Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Todd A. Amspoker 200 E. Carrillo St., Ste. 400 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805)962- 0011 DATE (Fecha): 10/5/2023 Narzralli Baksh, Clerk (Secretario), Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL) NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/23 BJ-3760445#

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Ronald Lynn Riggs, Deceased, were granted to Jeradee Riggs Zippis on November 6, 2023, in Cause No. 47720P, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered required to present them to Independent Administrator, c/o: Michael C. Coker, Attorney at Law, 4540 Kinsey Drive, Tyler, Texas 75703, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Terrence James Crawford, Sr. were issued on November 13, 2023, in Cause No. 47871P, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Smith County, Texas, to Donna Lou Crawford. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o Gregory A. Fraser
209 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 2562
Lindale, TX 75771

Dated: December 1, 2023

/s/ Gregory A. Fraser

Attorney for Executrix of the
Estate of Terrence James Crawford, Sr.

Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jan Loraine Keller, Deceased, were issued to Lysle A. Wagner, 11/27/23, in Cause No. 47483P, by the County Court at Law #3 of Smith Co, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to Lysle A. Wager, 507 Frazier Street, Tyler, Tx 75701, within the time and manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Wayne Carter, Deceased, were issued on November 27, 2023, in Cause No. 47,912P, pending in the County Court of Law No. 3, Smith County, Texas, to: TAMMY SUE BOWERS.

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

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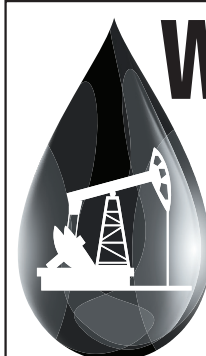


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PUC of Texas approves new price protections for consumers during power emergencies

Continued from Page 1

The Commission approved the program during its Open Meeting on Thursday through amendments to Section 25.509 of the PUCT's Substantive Rules.

Current PUCT rules cap wholesale electricity offers at \$5,000 per MWh. This "offer cap," also known as the high system-wide offer cap (HCAP), is a cap on the price at which generators can offer wholesale electricity to retail electric providers that serve and bill individual customers.

The new EPP will trigger if system-wide energy prices hit the \$5,000 per MWh HCAP threshold for 12 hours within a rolling 24-hour period. When the EPP is activated, a new emergency offer cap

(ECAP) will take effect, reducing the cap on wholesale electricity offers to \$2,000 per MWh and ultimately further protect consumers.

The EPP and \$2,000 per MWh emergency offer cap would remain in effect until 24 hours after the EPP is activated, or, if ERCOT is in emergency operations while the EPP is active, 24 hours after ERCOT exits emergency operations. ERCOT must issue a notice to market participants both when the EPP is activated and when the EPP ends.

While the EPP is active and to account for variability in fuel costs, generators are eligible to be reimbursed by ERCOT for any actual marginal costs they incur above the \$2,000 per MWh

emergency offer cap. To recover actual marginal costs above the HCAP (\$5,000 per MWh), a generator must submit additional attestations and information to ERCOT justifying any exceedances.

Within 10 working days of the end of an EPP event, ERCOT must report to the PUCT a summary of the event and analysis of the EPP's performance. Within 90 calendar days, ERCOT must report the number of generators that filed for cost recovery and the total amount reimbursed. Beginning Jan. 1 2026, the PUCT will conduct a comprehensive review of the EPP and all other system-wide offer cap programs every five years to evaluate their performance.

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