

# Lindale News & Times

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50¢

## Lindale council approves TJC lease deal

Lindale City Council members approved leasing land to the North Campus of Tyler Junior College for new classrooms during their regular meeting this past Tuesday (Dec. 5) at city hall.

TJC will lease the space at 212 Miranda Lambert Drive for the classrooms.

In a related item, the city awarded a bid to create 107 parking spaces on Memorial Drive, which will accommodate events in the downtown area.

In other action, the council:

- Approved the release of \$68,068 to 4M Construction from money received from TxDOT for an unfunded mandate to move utilities along FM 16;

- Approved an emergency sewer line repair on County Road 4200;

- Approved a contingent fee contract with Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott for the collection of delinquent fines owed to the city;

- Nominated Councilman Bob Tardiff for the Smith County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

## City secures right of ways on Centennial, to ease traffic congestion

If there is a downside to a city's growth, it has to be that more space means more traffic.

And to this end, the city of Lindale has secured the right of ways for Centennial Ave. to the east which will eventually hook up with Jim Hogg Road.

City Manager Carolyn Caldwell, while understanding there is more to come on this particular project, points out the initial advantages of securing these strips of land.

"We're just wanting to move traffic," she said. "There aren't any projects planned now but we need to ease that traffic flow down there."

To anyone who has tried to negotiate that area in the busy times of the day, i.e., early morning and mid-to late afternoon, this should be welcome news.

Liberty Crossing, which branches off the I-20 service road to the north, will eventually connect with Centennial as it then connects with Jim Hogg Road.

This is a joint project with Smith County, and it will eventually be a two-lane road connecting the two. Caldwell said the project will go out for bids in January, 2024.

"It's great that the county has agreed (to the joint project)," Caldwell said. "We are really excited about it. The landowners were also ready to participate."

The city's master plan, which is available on its web site, has detailed maps of the area, which it is hope eventually will become retail development.

But before any business or company can make plans, access to this area is essential, which has been on the mind of city officials for several years.

"Connecting Centennial to Jim Hogg Road has always been part of our master plan with the entire area eventually being opened up for development," she said.



It's the time of year when Autumn's brilliant colors are on display.

Photo by Terry Cannon

## Brilliant colors bring beauty to East Texas

Mother Nature's handiwork proves that Autumn is a splendid time to be alive, especially in East Texas. Brilliant reds, oranges, golds and yellows surround us and brighten the landscape along roadways, fields and homes.

We might take this incredible display for granted, but the transformation from the green leaves of summer to the eye-pleasing shades of Autumn is actually quite remarkable.

These color changes are a result of chemical processes that take place in trees – deciduous mainly – as the seasons change from summer to winter.

During the warmer months of spring and summer, leaves are factories, making the foods necessary for the tree's growth. This food-making process takes place in the leaf in numerous cells containing chlorophyll, which gives the leaf its green color.

This extraordinary chemical absorbs from sunlight the energy that is used in transforming carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates, such as sugars and starch.

Along with the green pigment are yellow to orange pigments, carotenes and xanthophyll pigments. Most of the year these colors are masked by large amounts of green coloring.

But because of changes in the length of daylight and changes in temperatures in the fall, the leaves halt this food-making process. Chlorophyll breaks down, the green color disappears and is replaced by the brilliant hues already in the leaves.

At the same time other chemical changes may occur, which form additional colors through the development of red anthocyanin pigments. Some mixtures give rise to the reddish and purplish fall colors of trees such as dogwoods and sumacs, while others give the sugar maple its brilliant orange.

The autumn foliage of some trees show only yellow colors. Others, like many oaks, display mostly browns. All these colors are due to the mixing of varying amounts of the chlorophyll residue and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.

But where do the East Texas pine trees fit into this equation?

Mother Nature has equipped them with strong leaves, rolled up into needle shapes. Evergreens can conserve water during summer and winter, which is needed for the photosynthesis process.

Hence, evergreens such as pine trees, hold on to more water and keep their leaves.



## LISD back to pre-COVID time, Surratt says

By Terry Cannon  
Editor

As the first half of another year in the Lindale ISD comes to a close, Superintendent Stan Surratt has once again looked on with pride in the strides his district has taken and feels the future is bright.

While the academic success of the LISD remains steady, Surratt noted that this year is different in one important area.

"This feels like we're back to the pre-COVID time," he said. "Those were tough times but this year it's more normal."

The COVID outbreak hampered districts across the state and nation and the LISD wasn't immune. There were times of remote teaching, close monitoring of the health of students and staff and the daily struggle of keeping things as normal as possible.

From the classroom to the band hall, to the drama department and the athletic venues, Lindale students continue to maintain the district's usual high standard, he said.

"Our kids continue to have great success in every area of every school," Surratt said.

This high standard couldn't be maintained, he added, without the support of teachers and staff on each campus, and just as importantly, at home.

"We've been blessed for several years to have such great students, staff and of course great parents," he said.

And while academics remain the biggest focus, youngsters can take part in a myriad of extracurricular activities to round out their overall experience in the Lindale ISD.

"It's so important for kids to find their niche in other things," he said. "Academics, of course, are our main focus but students like to come to school for other things as well. This just adds to the great memories for them and their families."

This solid foundation of learning and cultural expansion is due to the long time support of the community, Surratt believes.

"The Lindale community has joined together to develop a great culture in our schools," he said. "The kids know they are here to work hard but in a way that's enjoyable."

The superintendent believes, however, that a dark cloud is making its way across the state from Austin, where the governor continues to push for taxpayer-subsidized voucher plan for families.

"It's an embarrassment to the legislators and our governor," Surratt said of Gov. Dan Patrick's insistence for lawmakers to pass a "school choice plan," aka, vouchers. "Schools need funds for teachers and staff and to hold the vouchers over our heads (at the expense of teacher, staff raises) is an embarrassment."

On Tuesday (Dec. 5), the Texas House concluded its third special session called by Abbott without taking conclusive action on the private school subsidy.

Democrats and rural Republican

Continued on Page 8



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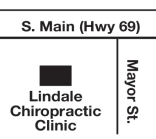


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# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## “...if only in my dreams”

I don't want things to change...but they do, and they have. Maybe that is why the Christmas carol “I'll Be Home For Christmas” brings a little bit of an ache to my heart along with tender smiles. Growing up, Christmas was magical and shiny, with Christmas Eve celebrated at my widowed grandmother's neat little home around a silver tinsel tree, with the bonus of a mesmerizing color wheel.

Of course, old St. Nick came on Christmas morning to our country home. My younger brother and I were not allowed to run like ban-shees into the living room until my Mom or Dad had brought our older brother Donnie, who had severe cerebral palsy, into the living room in front of the tree. Then it was Katy bar the door and a mad dash for the goodies left by Santa. After breakfast we went to my Mom's parents for more Christmas, and food that I dream about to this day. Why I didn't make it home to snag the tinsel tree or my other grandmother's plastic icicles when their households were broken up I still deeply regret.

My sweetheart and I participated in First Christian Church's Living Nativity as Mary and Joseph when we were young. The sacred Christmas Eve service with the “Hallelujah” chorus ringing in Christmas on the stroke of midnight was profoundly spiritual and joyous. As magical as those cherished Christmas memories were, the best was yet to be.

I can still remember our son's first Christmas and his big hazel eyes when he focused on our Christmas tree. I will never forget him patting my cheek with excitement. By year two he was a little whirlwind, still patting my cheeks and telling me he loved me. By age three Josh had asked Santa for a backhoe, and boy did Santa deliver. When his dad tried

## Legal challenges to amendments appear quashed

A half-dozen lawsuits challenging the 13 approved Texas constitutional amendments appear to be dead in the water, The Dallas Morning News reported. The secretary of state's office last week declared the propositions approved and now a part of the Texas Constitution, while Gov. Greg Abbott canvassed the election and certified the results. One proposition that would have raised the retirement age of judges was rejected by voters.

In addition, the Texas attorney general's office said the lawsuits had improper “citation and return of service.” The plaintiffs are unable to correction those citations because the election results have been certified.

The six nearly identical lawsuits claimed the state used uncertified polling machines that exposed the election to voter fraud, and the plaintiffs called for the courts to throw out the Nov. 7 results and hold a new election using paper ballots only, The News reported.

The suits threatened to delay voter-approved property tax cuts and a raise in retired teachers' pensions.

## Abbott enters primary battle fray, mumm on fifth special session

The Texas Legislature's fourth special session ended last week with the House and Senate still at loggerheads over Abbott's push to allow the use of taxpayer money to pay for private school costs, commonly known as school vouchers. Last month, 21 House Republicans joined with Democrats to remove the voucher provision from a broad education bill that did not pass both chambers.

Abbott is sticking to his promise to endorse primary challengers to House Republicans who voted against the voucher plan, the Texas Tribune reported. With the holiday season underway, it appears unlikely there will be another special session this year, but Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said he believed the best day to come back for another session “would be Feb. 5, 30 days before the election.”

The impasse means legislation to increase public school funding, provide teacher bonuses and hike funding for school safety measures also died on the vine.

## State halts efforts to take Fairfield Lake property

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has ceased its efforts to seize a 5,000-acre tract of private land that once included a state park and adjoins Fairfield Lake, The News reported. A private developer purchased the property from a utility company for about \$103 million last June and plans to close Fairfield Lake State Park were announced. The land for the park had been leased from Vistra Corp., the utility company for 50 years.

Todd Interests, the developer, plans to build luxury homes with a golf course, restaurants and shops, as well as access to a private air strip. Less than two weeks after the developer bought the property, the state voted to condemn the land using eminent domain.

A judge-appointed commission of three Freestone County residents put the fair market value of the property at \$418.3

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



to show him how to maneuver it our son's response was, “No! Josh do it his way.” And he has throughout his life, done it in ways that matter. But, I do so miss that sweet little boy, Birthday cakes for Jesus, innocent wonder, and, that soft, loving pat on my cheek.

On a recent trip to our family ranch I walked through the silent house of my childhood, sat on the couch and looked out the big picture windows by the fireplace. In that moment I closed my eyes and heard my Daddy call me his “Darlin' Daughter” and my son - his “little buddy”. I saw the big bulb Christmas lights of my childhood reflecting in my older brother's deep brown eyes. I heard my ever busy Mom in the kitchen, and my little brother's excitement over his Hot Wheels. I felt the hand of my sweetheart as we stood beside a manger with shepherds and wisemen. I saw the lights of trees across the years and across the miles. I felt the love I have always known...

...and then, I hummed the Christmas song of my heart...

“I'll be home for Christmas

You can plan on me...

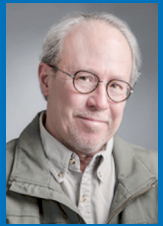
...Christmas Eve will find me

Where the love light gleams

I'll be home for Christmas

If only in my dreams”

## Gary Borders Capital Highlights



million – more than four times what the developer paid for it. Fairfield Lake is considered the largest privately owned lake in the state and possibly the nation, The News reported.

## State seeks public input on broadband internet plan

The Texas Broadband Development Office is soliciting input from the public on the proposed Texas Digital Opportunity Plan, which seeks to improve and expand broadband access across the state. Almost 7 million Texans lack access to high-speed internet, or nearly 25% of residents.

“Access to reliable, high-speed internet as a means of advancing education, training, employment opportunities, healthcare, and delivery of essential services is critical to the future of our state,” said Glenn Hegar, comptroller.

Through Jan. 5 of next year, Texans can give their opinions on the plan by visiting [broadbandfortexas.com/tdop](http://broadbandfortexas.com/tdop).

The newly created broadband office is partnering with chambers of commerce, the Texas Workforce Commission, industry associations and elected officials to highlight the importance of access to high-speed internet in today's digital world.

## Workers' comp costs drop in state

A report issued by the Texas Department of Insurance indicates that the cost of treating injured employees in the state's workers' compensation system dropped considerably from 2012 through 2022. Total health care costs dropped 30%, from \$1.15 billion in 2012 to \$812 million last year, while the total number of claims dropped 20% during the same period, from 319,000 to 256,000.

Hospital costs also dropped 20% in that decade, while the costs for professional services – such as physicians – was down 26%, from \$657 million to \$483 million.

The report used administrative data reported by insurance carriers for the 10-year period. The costs were not adjusted for inflation, which would have made the decrease in costs even greater.

## PUC approves new price protections during power emergencies

The Public Utility Commission has implemented a new Emergency Pricing Program that limits consumer exposure to high wholesale electricity prices during power emergencies, as occurred during Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

“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,” Thomas Gleeson, PUC executive director, said.

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## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Resilient ...

The US economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience over the past several years. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, historic inflation, supply chain snarls that have taken years to untangle, and conflicts around the globe, we've seen ongoing expansion. In fact, jobs have been added at a significant pace, and employment is now about 4.5 million higher than it was before the pandemic.



Although many analysts were calling for a major recession during 2023, it has not materialized. Our analysis consistently indicated that the worst downturn fears were overblown, but the degree of resilience in the economy has nonetheless been impressive. Looking ahead over the next 30 years, I think we'll continue to see an upward trend.

One factor influencing long-term growth is underlying demographic patterns. Population gains are likely to be much slower in the decades to come, with immigration accounting for most of the expansion. All of the baby boom generation will have reached retirement age by the end of this decade, and their children (the millennials) will begin to reach that milestone in the late 2040s. The expanding older population has substantial implications for healthcare and social services, with Medicare and Social Security also affected.

Another concern is that the US national debt has now reached well over \$33 trillion (and rising). Although the United States has carried debt since its inception (literally since 1789), the amount has escalated rapidly over the past few years. A large component of expenditures is not discretionary (such as Medicare, Social Security, and interest). It would be impossible to alter spending and revenue patterns sufficiently to “balance the budget” in the short term without creating massive dislocations which would endanger public safety and health on the spending side and sustainability on the taxation side. Even so, it is imperative that we address the fiscal situation and practice a measure of discipline going forward.

A third key element to long-term performance is innovation. From developing new technologies to commercializing research discoveries, the US has long led the pace. In fact, an ability to do “the next big thing” is the single biggest contributor to the relatively consistent expansion enjoyed since World War II. Going forward, it will be crucial to maintain an environment which supports and nurtures emerging technologies and industries.

Our latest long-term projections indicate that total US employment is likely to increase by nearly 79.1 million from 2022 to 2050, while real gross domestic product expands at a 2.70% annual pace. Inflation is expected to moderate, though variations are inevitable. Business cycles, headwinds, and all manner of unexpected events will no doubt characterize the coming decades, but resilience will prevail and the overall outlook for the US economy is decidedly positive.

Stay safe!

## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

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

— Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

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# The Christmas season can indeed be miraculous

To wit:

-- Very early, as in 2 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, 1991 your faithful correspondent was roused out of slumber by a poke to the ribs.

"We've got to get to the hospital," she said through clenched teeth. "It's happening."

Can't be, I thought. We've still got four weeks to go.

"Get up," she ordered. "Go tell Matt we're going to the hospital and he needs to keep the door locked."

So after getting our things, my wobbly wife and I got in the car and raced to the hospital.

It was one of those truly dreary winter mornings. Rainy, cold and blustery, the weather couldn't have been worse, but obviously that was the last concern on our minds.

Our little "Peanut", aka Zachary Andrew, had decided he wanted to join the world, even if his entry was about a month early.

"Peanut" was the nickname he acquired before birth because when we told Matt he was going to be a brother earlier that year, his sibling was about the size of a peanut.

Rewinding a bit, for the first few months and in late summer, everything was good, health-wise for my wife. By the fall, however, her doctor ordered her to take off work and off her feet for the duration. Nothing serious, the doctor said, but no need to take any chances.

At approximately 8 a.m. on Dec. 21, we heard the wails of Matt's little brother. He was tiny, just under five pounds. He didn't want to eat (which changed when he got older, believe me) and the hospital staff told us if he got under five pounds



he'd have to stay in the hospital until he gained a few ounces.

But his weight held steady at five pounds and on Christmas Eve, we brought him home to some very excited visiting grandparents.

Now that's a Christmas miracle.

Miracle number two:

-- When you don't have two nickels to rub together, each day is as tough as the one before. And when you are broke, trying to buy a Christmas present for the woman you want to marry is next to impossible. Such was my fate in Commerce in December, 1977. It occurred to me that the engagement ring we had on layaway at a far off jewelry store would be the perfect gift but (a) I had no money to pay it off and even if I did, (b) I had no way to get the store to get it and (c) Christmas was just a week away. Dire times, indeed. Friends and family came to my rescue. The plan had two phases: my dad would loan me the money for the ring and my friend and I would go to Dallas branch of that store and get them to mail it to me in Commerce. Voila! Success!



Little "Peanut" all grown up, with newest members of the Cannon clan, Maddie, left, and baby Emma. (Photo by Terry Cannon)

Or so I thought. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday came but no ring. Panic naturally ensued. On Saturday, I practically burst into the back door of the local post office and was led to the cart with the outgoing packages. In a scene fitting of cartoon, boxes and envelopes were flying in all directions until I found the box with the ring. I gave it to her the next day -- Christmas -- and she's worn it for the past four-plus decades.

## Time to get in the Christmas Spirit again

I'm sure some of you have already started your Christmas shopping. You're putting up decorations and such, and getting ready for visitors, and planning to have a big time.

Some say that they wish Christmas was like it was back when they were kids. When I feel that way, I just close my eyes, and go back.

I remember months before Christmas, wonderin' if it ever would arrive.

I remember prayin' that if I had to die, to make it after Christmas, so I could see what Santa was bringin' me.

I remember school durin' the Christmas season. We'd make Christmas ornaments out of Styrofoam balls with beads held in place with straight pens, then we'd sprinkle glitter all over it.

Man, we thought they were beautiful. We'd make chains with the links made of red and green construction paper that reached all the way around the room. We'd sing Christmas songs and each of us would stand in front of the class and tell what Santa Claus was goin' to bring us.

We were all extra good durin' that time, too. That's because the threat of Santa not comin' to see us if we were bad was held over heads.

We also would be busy getting ready for the school Christmas program. Back then, it was still OK to include God in school activities. He hadn't been expelled yet, so our Christmas programs always included a Nativity play. I was always a shepherd, 'cause I had a housecoat that my mom had gotten me when I was in the hospital.

"How many of you boys have housecoats?" the teacher would ask. Those of us who did would raise our hands. "OK, y'all are all shepherds," she'd say.

I didn't mind bein' a shepherd, but I always had a hankerin' to be Joseph. I never got to be Joseph. The teachers said I wiggled too much to be Joseph. I never got to be Joseph. I never got to be a Wise Man either. That was OK though, they had to wear shiny dress like things and I always thought it made them look like sissies.

You should have seen us shepherds. Some of the housecoats we wore were plaid, and some were checked, and we all had bath towels wrapped around our heads. And of course we all had our blacktopped tennis shoes stickin' out from under our housecoats.

We looked pathetic. Luckily, we didn't have to sing. All the girls would be off to the side on the stage



doin' all the singin'. Everyone, that is, except the one who played Mary.

The play never went off like it was supposed to, but nobody out in the audience knew.

We knew, and the teacher knew, but that was it. Afterwards, you had to endure all the hugs and cheek pinchin' and head rubbin' from the parents. That goes along with bein' a star, you know.

At home we'd be getting ready for Christmas, too. We couldn't figure out why Mom always had the snots around Christmas, until she found out she was allergic to cedar.

I remember when we got our first artificial Christmas tree. Mom, my sister Teri, and I put the thing together. Dad was not allowed to help, 'cause mom had caught him the year before nailin' the tree to the floor 'cause it kept tippin' over.

Anywho when we got it put up we stood back and looked at it. It was beautiful. It was shiny aluminum, and I thought we had become rich. Mom bought all new balls for the tree and they were all blue. Well, all of them except the Styrofoam one I had made in school. Mom put it up front, 'cause she thought it was so beautiful.

Then Mom would start cookin'. She cooked good stuff, too. She made divinity, fudge, chocolate turtles, and a bunch of other stuff. Man, could she cook.

A few days before Christmas, we'd pile into our '59 Chevy station wagon and head into town. Dad would never say where we were goin' but we always knew. We were goin' to Monkey Wards, which is where Santa Claus was.

Man, I couldn't wait. Santa Claus scares some kids, but he never scared me. I loved Santa Claus. The only part I didn't like was havin' to wait in that long line to see him.

My sister, Teri, always let me go first, that way she could cue me as to what to ask for. I wasn't as smart as she was, and I'd get so excited I'd forget what to ask for, and she'd tell Santa for me.

On the way home, Dad would drive down through what we called the rich part of town, and we'd look at the Christmas lights. I'm colorblind, so I probably

didn't get the full benefit of the lights, but they were still pretty to me. I especially liked the houses that had all blue lights.

Blue is one of the colors I can see pretty well. Dad would always take us by this one house that had a mechanical Santa Claus that was tryin' to climb a tree, and there was a mechanical dog beneath Santa jumpin' up and tryin' to bite him.

The dog had a patch of Santa's suit in his teeth, and Santa's suit was missin' a patch, from the rear end. It was great.

Now, the night before Santa arrived was really excitin'. You see, the local TV station would be trackin' Santa on the weather radar all the way from the North Pole.

They'd break in on regular programin' like "The Fowler Playboys" show to let you know when he was getting close. Radar back then wasn't as sophisticated as it is now. It was a round screen with a hand that swept around and each time it passed it would light up a cloud, or in this case it would light up Santa's Sleigh. Even though it was sort of crude, you could make out Santa's sleigh and reindeer.

"Well, it looks like Santa's sleigh is moving into the vicinity," Kip Kippenbrock, the weatherman, would say. "All of you good little boys and girls, better head off to bed."

Man, he didn't have to tell us twice. Teri and I would take off. We knew that if you weren't asleep, Santa might pass you by. I'd have my eyes slammed shut, but I'd be listenin' for Santa to land on our roof. The next thing I'd know, it would be mornin'.

I'd jump off the bed (you always jump, 'cause that way the things that live under you bed can't grab your legs and pull you under) and run and peek around the corner.

Man, presents were all over the place. Then I'd run back and get Teri. We didn't have to get Mom and Dad, 'cause they heard us screamin' from excitement and they'd join us.

Back then, Santa didn't wrap presents like he does now. Everything was laid out in the open like it was meant to be. That way, you could take it in all at once,

and sometimes it was just too overwhelmin'.

Now, I wouldn't get everything I asked for, but I sure got a lot of it. I'd always get some kind of toy gun. I loved toy guns, and still do. Once, I even got a whole case of caps for my guns. That's right, a whole case, and I didn't even ask for it. I guess after all the guns that Santa had brought me; he knew that I could use a lot of ammo.

I felt sorry for my sister. She never got any good stuff. She got dolls, and a little oven, that actually made cakes, and junk like that. Oh yeah, and those stupid batons that she rattled my brains with all the time. Of course she thought it was good stuff, but I knew better. She did get a little cotton candy machine once that I thought was pretty cool, but that's only because I like cotton candy.

What was really sad, though, was that Santa only brought my parents one gift each. Their gifts were always wrapped. Dad would dig Mom's out from under the tree and give it to her, and she'd do the same for him. I don't remember what Santa brought them, but it must have been good, 'cause they always hugged and kissed each other after they opened them.

I always saved my stockin' for last. I knew what was in it 'cause it always had the same things, and they were my favorite things. There were a couple of tangerines, a bag of little Hershey candy bars (the dark chocolate ones were my favorite), a bag of Tootsie Rolls, and a book of Life Savers. Man, that was a Christmas.

Do you know what I asked for this year? That's right. The only thing I asked for is a couple of tangerines, a bag of little Hershey candy bars, a bag of Tootsie rolls, and a book of Life Savers. Oh yeah, and some 22 bullets.

Let me tell you one more thing, the most important thing. Even though we were little kids, we still knew what Christmas was really about. Our parents made sure of that.

We knew we were celebratin' the birth of Jesus. For us, He was, and still is, the most important part of, not only the Christmas Season, but also the rest of the year. Remember, without Christ, there would be no Christmas. And that, my friends, is what the Christmas Spirit is all about.

Janet and I would like to wish y'all a Merry Christmas and may God Bless each and every one of you.



### Rotary rings the bell!

Lindale Rotary Club members, from left, Pam Burton, Jason Beard and Alice Ann McLelland worked as Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army recently and welcomed many donations for the Red Kettle Drive. (Courtesy photo)



**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.

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#### ONE YEAR AGO, Dec. 8, 2022

Kalaya Pierce, a four-year starter and standout for the Lindale High School Lady Eagles, was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division III Second Team All-American team while playing for the Dallas College Cedar Valley volleyball team.

Pierce finished second in the nation in total assists with 1,033 as Cedar Valley advanced to the NJCAA DIII Southwest District championship match for the first time since 2003.

She was a First Team All-Dallas Athletic Conference selection and was named the league's Setter of the Year.

Pierce finished her two-year Suns career with 1,814 assists, 583 digs, 73 blocks and 73 aces. She had a career-high 56 assists in a five-set win over Seminole State College Sept. 24.

She recorded 40 or more assists in six matches this season and reached 30 or more in 15.

#### FIVE YEARS AGO, Dec. 6, 2018

Donna Crawford, chief clerk for Smith County Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace James Cowart was honored by Smith County Commissioners for her 35 years of service to the county.

"Word can never express how blessed I am to have Donna Crow as my chief clerk," Cowart said. "She is a marvelous lady. I don't think Smith County can do without her."

Crawford began her association with Cowart on Nov. 28, 1983 and worked solely for him. In 2008 she was named the Smith County Employee of the Year and Court Clerk of the Year by the Texas Justice Court Judges Association in 2012.

#### 10 YEARS AGO, Dec. 5, 2013

The Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of its annual Community Photo Contest.

Fred Bilbo was the first place winner in the Community Events category with his shot of the fireworks show at Hideaway Lake. In the LACC Events category, James Cowart took home first place for his photos of the Lindale Rodeo.

Scott Starkey was the first place winner in the Landscape/Nature category with his entry showing a backroads scene at sunset.

Heidi Dudley's photo of a baseball team pileup won first place in the Sports and Leisure category and Larry Wilson first place in the Street Scene category of the downtown Lindale water tower and flag.

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# OBITUARIES

## WARREN MASON INGRAM



Warren Mason Ingram, age 65, passed away Saturday Dec. 2, 2023 in Tyler. He was born in Cleburne, Texas on Dec. 23, 1957.

Warren was a longtime resident of Lindale and a member of Central Baptist Church in Lindale.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William Alton Sr. and Anna Jean (Griffith) Ingram; brother, William Alton Ingram Jr.

He is survived by brother, David and wife, Neaty Ingram of Lindale; sister, Pam Willowby of Washington, DC; son, Cory Brian Ingram of New York City, New York; beloved friend, Patsy Hall of Lindale; along with many nieces and nephews.

## DOLORES GOODMAN

Funeral services for Dolores Goodman, 98, of Lindale, were held Nov. 30 at Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home in Lindale. She passed away Sunday, Nov. 26 in Tyler. She

was born on Nov. 9, 1925 in Lindale.

A private family burial was held at Lindale City Cemetery. Officiating the service was Bro. John Roach.

She has been a lifelong resident of Lindale. Dolores has done many things as she was a cosmetology student and later in life became a teacher at the Barrow Beauty School in Tyler. She has worked at Exxon, the news office, built and sold homes, and the Lindale library for 20 plus years.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Cullen and Corine (Cross) Holbrook; husband, Bill Goodman; daughter, Pam Goodman.

She is survived by sisters, Linda and husband, Jim Crawford, Deborah Benefield; brother, Bruce and wife, Martha Holbrook; along with several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Nicholas Benefield, Brandon Sheets, Casey Kinard, Tatum Kinard, Keith Goodman, and Olan Loveless.



# Gift ideas for your favorite gardener

Whether Santa needs some ideas for you or there's a gardener you're stumped shopping for, a [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) expert has some holiday gift ideas.

"Although shopping for a gardener, whether or not you are one yourself, may seem daunting, it really doesn't have to be," said Larry Stein, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension horticulture specialist, Uvalde, and associate head of the department for the [Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Horticultural Sciences](#). "There are a lot of gifts you can give that gardeners would really appreciate."

Stein said gifts such as gardening tools, which might include pruners, gloves, sprayers, etc.—are good ideas, and added that gardeners always like new garden gadgets.

"A gift certificate for tools or garden supplies, so they can select the exact widget they want, is a no-brainer," he said.

Garden gift ideas

A gift certificate for plants is always a good idea, Stein said, but it is extra thoughtful to give a plant that carries personal or sentimental meaning, including:

-- Grandma's yellow rose. A great idea for any granny, nana, nanny or glamma.

-- Miho satsuma. Developed by Texas A&M, this is the hardiest satsuma and a great idea for providing a special someone with sweet citrus treats for years to come.

-- Maroon bluebonnets. The perfect gift for any Aggie with a green thumb or a passion for not-so-blue bonnets.

-- Texas gold columbines. This cool-season perennial is designed for Texas gardens, flowers in the spring and attracts hummingbirds.

Check out the [Texas Superstar website](#) for additional ideas and information on which plants thrive in the state.

Winter is the perfect season for gardeners to curl up with a good book, Stein said. Whether

planning future gardens or exploring a new topic of interest, books are a welcome resource. His book selections include:

-- "Perennial Garden Color" by Bill Welch, AgriLife Extension landscape horticulturist in College Station.

-- "Texas Home Landscaping" by Roger Holmes and Greg Grant, AgriLife Extension horticulturist for Smith County.

-- "Native Texas Plants" by Sally Wasowski.

-- "Neil Sperry's Lone Star Gardening" by Neil Sperry, a Texas gardening and horticulture expert known across the state.

-- "The Lifelong Gardener, Garden with Ease and Joy at Any Age" by Toni Gattone.

-- "The Vegetable Book" by Sam Cotner, former horticulture department head.

-- "Growing Grapes in Texas" by Jim Kamas, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension horticulturist and associate professor.

-- "Peach Handbook" by Kamas and Stein.

# Celebrations of Faith

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 903-882-1454

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 903-882-3852  
 James Cheatham

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

**Damascus Baptist Church**  
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 903-882-3392  
 Bennie Portwood

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 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

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 903-882-9500

**First Baptist Church**  
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 903-882-6432

**First Baptist Church of Lindale**  
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 903-882-3396  
 Tom Buck

**Foundation Baptist Church**  
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 903-881-9490

**Garden Valley Baptist Church**  
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 903-882-7671

**Greater Hopewell Baptist Church**  
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 903-882-4726

**Hopewell Baptist Church**  
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 903-882-5381



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

**Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church**  
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 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

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 903-882-6455

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 903-882-8933

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Road 471, Lindale, TX 75771  
 903-882-8009

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 16292 FM 849  
 Lindale, TX 75771  
 903-882-8118  
 Rev. John Carr

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 903-882-8949

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

**Cross Brand Cowboy 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 Cowboy Church

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

### River's Edge Church

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 Lindale, TX 75771  
 903-882-0555 • Phil Brown

### Trinity Fellowship Church

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## Lindale Police Department call logs for Dec. 1-7

**FRIDAY, DEC. 1:** Suspicious Circumstance, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Residential Alarm, 200 block Freeman Street, False Alarm; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 700 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 2500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 552 IH-20 East, Unable to Locate; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial, Warning Issued; Disturbance, 15300 block FM 16 16 West, Settled at Scene.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2:** Traffic Hazard, 500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Family Violence, 15300 block FM 16 West, Report; Criminal Trespass, 13400 block IH-20 East, Warning Issued; Disturbance, 15300 block FM 16 West, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 100 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Administrative Detail, 500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Theft, 100 block East Centennial, Citation Issued.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3:** Public Service, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 600 block East Hubbard, Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 15300 block FM 16 West, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 13400 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Administrative Detail, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Vagrant, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 500 block North



Henry Street, Settled at Scene, Found Property, 200 block West Hubbard Street, Report.

**MONDAY, DEC. 4:** Assist Smith Co SO, 557 IH-20 West, Unable to Locate; Criminal Trespass, 400 block South Industrial Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Public Service, 1300 block Brad Circle, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 1400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial, Arrest; Motor Vehicle Crash, 552 IH-20 West, Report; Stolen License Plate, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Hit and Run Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Circumstance, 500 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 5:** Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 3200 block South Main Street, Arrest; Criminal Mischief, 100 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Criminal Mischief, 200 block Miranda Lambert Way, Report; Disturbance, 15300 block Spring Oaks Drive, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; City Ordinance Violation, 3500 block South Main Street, Warning

Issued.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6:** Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 16200 block Ridgeview Lane, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 1400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block South Henry Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 500 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Public Service, 500 block North Henry Street, Settled at Scene; Mental Health Welfare Check, 500 block Imagine Drive, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 400 block Mallory Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 800 block Lindale Industrial Parkway, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 13300 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 7:** Theft From Motor Vehicle, 600 block North Main Street, Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block East Centennial, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Traffic Control, U.S. Highway 69 North at IH-20, Settled at Scene; Residential Alarm, 200 block Highland Drive, False Alarm; Public Service, 1200 block Brad Circle, Settled at Scene; City Ordinance Violation, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Theft, 100 block East Centennial, Arrest; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Person, 500 block North Main Street, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 200 block North Henry Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 14700 block Highway 110 North, Settled at Scene.

# Tyler man gets 11 years in prison for violating Stolen Valor Act

A Tyler man has been sentenced to more than 11 years in federal prison for multiple violations in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Derek Robert Hamm, 39, pleaded guilty to wire fraud, money laundering, violating the Stolen Valor Act, using a fraudulent military discharge certificate, and being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Hamm was sentenced to 135 months in federal prison on Dec. 7, 2023, by U.S. District Judge J. Campbell Barker. Hamm's sentence was the largest ever imposed in relation to a fraud scheme involving the Stolen Valor Act.

The Stolen Valor Act of 2013 makes it illegal to fraudulently wear medals, embellish rank, or make false claims of military service to obtain money, employment, property, or some other tangible benefit. As part of his sentence Hamm agreed to pay restitution of at least \$2.3 million and forfeiture of the proceeds of his criminal conduct, including jewelry, automobiles, and cash proceeds in the amount of \$1,675,000.

According to court documents, Hamm invented a persona of being a wealthy and successful war hero. Hamm held himself out to be a former member of the Army Special

Forces who had served multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries. He claimed to have been awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Distinguished Service Cross for his service. Hamm also represented that he was related to Harold Hamm, the billionaire oilman in Oklahoma, which he claimed gave him access to financial resources and oil industry expertise. Through this larger-than-life persona, Hamm created an extensive network of friends who introduced him to potential investors. Those investors believed Hamm's claims and invested in what they expected to be worthwhile ventures spearheaded by a trustworthy and capable entrepreneur.

In reality, Derek Hamm was nothing of the sort. Hamm was not a decorated war hero. He was no oil industry tycoon. He was not related to Harold Hamm. He did not spend investors' funds on the latest oil industry technology or new oil wells. Within hours of receiving investors' funds, Hamm spent their money on himself and his family, including expensive jewelry, vehicles, and vacations to expensive resorts on private charter planes. All the while, Hamm represented to investors that he had invested their money in successful oil industry projects. He continued

to pump investors to keep sending him money even as their investments failed to produce any returns.

"As the son of a veteran, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of military service and recognizing the valor of our servicemen and women," said U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs. "The Stolen Valor Act protects and honors veterans and the sacrifices they've made to our country. When people make false claims of military heroism, they diminish the true acts of bravery and heroism that Americans celebrate and tribute. Stolen valor is an insult to all those who stood in harm's way and earned their decorations. By using stolen valor to steal from people, Hamm preyed on the victims' love of this country and their reverence for American heroes who earned such real military awards through their sacrifices to this country."

"The defendant invented a successful and noble persona to disguise his failed business and dishonest intentions in order to steal millions of dollars from unsuspecting investors. In addition to pretending to be an American hero, he was found to be in possession of dozens of firearms which was prohibited due to his criminal background. Mr. Hamm could not stop breaking the law," said Dallas FBI Special Agent in Charge

Chad Yarbrough. "I am proud that we can work with our partners at the U.S. Attorney's Office to uphold the Stolen Valor Act and ensure that courageous attribution stays with our nation's bravest defenders."

Hamm also pleaded guilty to being a prohibited person in possession of firearms and ammunition. Hamm was convicted in Smith County in 2020 for theft of property, a state felony. As a felon, Hamm is prohibited by federal law from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition. According to court documents, Hamm was in possession of dozens of firearms, including several rifles with high-capacity magazines, and ammunition for those firearms. Because of his arsenal of weapons and his trained-warrior persona, Hamm scared any investors from pressing him on his failed investments.

Through its investigation, the government learned that this was not the first time that Hamm had used stolen valor for his own personal benefit. In 2020, Hamm presented falsified military records to a Smith County District Court, which he successfully leveraged into a more lenient sentence. Hamm had used those same false documents to obtain Bronze Star license plates from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

After Hamm was indicted in Janu-

ary 2022, more than \$350,000 worth of assets, including cash, vehicles, and jewelry, were seized pursuant to the Justice Department's asset forfeiture procedures. Those assets were sold prior to sentencing and were forfeited to the government. Because Hamm did not have enough other assets to pay anything towards the \$2.3 million restitution judgment, the U.S. Attorney requested for the Justice Department's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS) to approve application of the forfeited assets to the restitution debt so that the forfeited funds could be paid to the victims. MLARS expedited the U.S. Attorney's request and approved it in a matter of days.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Tyler Field Office, with assistance from the Tyler Police Department, the Smith County Sheriff's Office, the Phoenix Arizona Police Department, Smith County Adult Probation, the Texas Railroad Commission-Enforcement Division, Department of Veteran's Affairs-Office of Inspector General, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts-Criminal Investigation Division, and the United States Army Special Operations Command. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert Austin Wells and Ryan Locker.

# Beautiful dogwoods should be planted now

By Greg Grant  
Smith County Horticulturist

Now is a good time to both care for and plant one of our most beloved native trees. Flowering dogwood is one of the most popular and showy small flowering trees in Eastern North America. It, however, reaches its western limits in East Texas.

Cornus florida is happiest in acidic, sandy loam soils with good drainage and regular moisture. It prefers high shade or basically the same areas in a landscape that grow azaleas, camellias, gardenias, and hydrangeas well.

Too much water and dogwoods die. Too little water and dogwoods die. Too much clay and dogwoods die. Plant them too deep and dogwoods die. Direct western sun or reflected heat and dogwoods

suffer from sun scorch. Too little sun and dogwoods don't bloom. Nick them with a lawn mower or string trimmer and dogwoods get life-threatening borers. Plant a grafted red or a pink one and it's more likely to die than a native white one. They also get anthracnose and powdery mildew.

So, why on earth do we attempt to grow the spoiled brats? Because they are beautiful, graceful, and spectacular, that's why. Plus, the birds love them too. I can't imagine though how many dogwoods have been sacrificed for every nice one we see though. Part of the problem is geography. Because we are on the southwestern edge of their natural distribution, our weather is too hot, too sunny, and too dry during the sum-

mer time and too erratic and mild during the wintertime. We also tend to cut down the trees around them exposing them to blistering hot sun that they aren't used to.

Genetics are also a huge problem for us. Unfortunately, the provenance (ancestral genetics) of almost all the dogwoods we purchase at the nursery are from seed collected in the Eastern United States where the plants evolved with milder summers, colder winters, and more regular rainfall. That means the genetics of the plants we are growing don't know anything about Texas and most likely aren't fond of it. Our best choices in order of ease of growing would be volunteer native seedlings, seedlings from a local source, white seedlings from

any source, grafted white cultivars, grafted pink cultivars, grafted red cultivars, and lastly grafted variegated cultivars. Certainly, containerized trees are preferred with fall planting best, winter planting second best, spring planting third, and summer planting worst.

Dogwoods must absolutely be planted in well drained sandy loam soils (not clays) and generally need one inch of irrigation about every two weeks during June, July, and August, minus rainfall. They should always be mulched with a thick layer of organic matter (pine straw or coarse organic material), should never be exposed to hot direct sun on their trunks (wrap them like maples when they are young), should never be planted too deep, and

should never have their trunks bumped, scraped, or damaged.

If you want to grow your own dogwoods from locally collected seed (from nice native specimens or well-established garden selections) the red-ripe berries need to be macerated (red

pulp removed) and cleaned, seed stratified (stored in the refrigerator in moist sand, vermiculite, or perlite) for 3-4 months before planting. Otherwise, plant a nice healthy containerized plant, do not disturb the root ball, and pamper it like a prized princess.



## Encouraging speech

Richard Howell of Lindale was the guest speaker for the Stroke Association of East Texas and he discussed how he is coping with his affliction and how others can fight through it both physically and mentally. He also displayed some of his artwork he has worked on while undergoing rehab. (Courtesy photo)



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# Teach children to appreciate insects

By Barbara Nelson

Smith County Master Gardener

I've always liked spiders and snakes. I'm not sure why I was never afraid of or revolted by them.

I saw them as cool and fascinating creatures. I wouldn't necessarily like to accidentally step on a poisonous snake or find a brown recluse or a bunch of black widows in my garage (although I think those are rather beautiful spiders), but the rest are welcome around my home – and especially in my gardens.

Even the bees are welcome, although I get a nasty allergic reaction when they sting me.

I carried that fascination with "good insects" over to my children. Not that they wanted spiders crawling on them when they were young and I didn't encourage that. (My daughter, Michele, very petite



as a child, so I figured a bite from a black widow might put her in some serious straights.)

But we did have a pet. I never read, "Charlotte's Web," but I had decorative supports on my small front porch that spiders loved to spin webs through. One summer, a fat orb-weaver took up residence in one of the supports. We left her

alone to do her thing and my kids loved seeing what she trapped as prey: gnats, flies, and a plethora of other pesky insects, including a mosquito or two that got snared into her pretty web. Even if I never read, "Charlotte," that became its name. She was a welcome member of our family that entire summer.

I also had gardens and explained

to my children how helpful pollinating insects were for my flowers and our environment. We had fat bumble bees, honey bees, mud daubers, and spiders galore, including really long-legged Daddy Long Legs that I enjoyed watching stiltling over my mounds of flowers, hoping they were munching on any aphids (and even some possible fungi) along the way.

Although I thought mud daubers were nasty, stinging wasps, I've since learned that they are only harmful to humans if threatened. They are beneficial for natural spider control (after all, too many spiders around can get a little creepy, and not all spiders are as nice as Charlotte), using their venom to catch their prey and feed their carcasses to their larvae (inside the mud, tube-houses they build under the eaves of my windows).

They are also pollinators. I've since learned to leave them alone or direct them back outside when I see that one has made it inside my house. Empathizing, I know the pretty, black mama mud dauber must be in a panic to get back outside to her babies.

So, many years after teaching my children to appreciate creatures large and small, I've passed that legacy onto them as adults. Michele is a fellow gardener and loves it as much as I do. I'm not sure that she names the spiders and pollinators in her garden, but I do know she appreciates having them around.

---

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

## Christmas Open House



The employees of Shelby Savings Bank in Lindale held a Christmas Open House on Friday, Dec. 8 at the Lindale location, 2500 South Main Street. Food and fellowship were enjoyed by a good number of people who stopped by. (Courtesy photos)

## Junior High girls win twice over Mabank

The Lindale Junior High School Lady Eagles basketball teams split four games with the Mabank Lady Panthers this past Monday (Dec. 11) with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade winning two and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade falling twice.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade B team won, 28-13; the 7<sup>th</sup> grade A team won, 23-21, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade B team lost a close one, 14-13 and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade A team lost, 42-10.

Norah Woodard led the 7<sup>th</sup> grade B team in scoring, while Libbie McHam was the leading rebounder. Ashlynn Brown was the leader in steals and Norah Woodard led in assists.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> grade A team, Eden Denson and Kennedy Billington were the leading scorers, while Kylynn Winkler, Khloe Collins and Eden Denson were the rebounding leaders. Kylynn Winkler, Ava Wilson and Kennedy Billington led in steals and Addison Mahana was the assists leader.

AJ McPherson and Maci Gateley were the leading scorers for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade B team, while Olivia Jansen and Lilly Simmons were the leaders in rebounds. BreeLynn Gordon, Charli Morgan and Lilly Simmons led the team in steals while Addyson Hance was the assists leader. Lilly Simmons won the Hustle Award and Addyson Hance won the Leadership Award.

For the 8<sup>th</sup> grade A team, KayLea Williams was the leading scorer, Rachel Kelley, Zaidyn Chamberlain and Evie Prove were the rebounding leaders, Baylee Brooks led the team in steals and Rachel Kelley led in assists and won the Hustle Award.

## Lindale graduate earns optometry scholarship

Joshua Holland, a graduate of Lindale High School and a first-year student at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn., was recently honored with the Presidential Endowed Scholarship award, publicity officials announced.

The award recognizes an optometry student who had a competitive undergraduate grade point average and Optom-

etry Admission Test score, as well as demonstrated leadership and service.

It comes with an annual scholarship of \$20,000 over the course of the four-year doctorate program.

Holland is the son of John and Amy Holland. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and Lindale High School.

## Texans encouraged to practice bear safety

With winter quickly approaching, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department encourages residents in the western, southwestern and north-eastern 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 outdoors 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](#).

## Chronic Wasting Disease detected in free-range Coleman County deer

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials received confirmation of a case of chronic wasting disease in Coleman County, marking the first detection in the county.

A two-year-old whitetail buck harvested by a hunter on a low-fenced property tested positive through sampling conducted voluntarily to assist with the state's CWD surveillance.

The sample was collected by a TPWD Wildlife Biologist as part of the statewide surveillance effort. Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory initially analyzed the samples, and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa confirmed the CWD detection.

CWD has an incubation period that can span years, so the first indication of the disease in a herd is often found through surveillance testing rather than

observed clinical signs. Early detection and proactive monitoring improve the state's response time to the detection of CWD and can greatly reduce the risk of further disease spread.

TPWD encourages hunters to voluntary test hunter-harvested deer in the area between Coleman and Cross Plains. For more information about voluntary sampling contact your local TPWD biologist (need a link to our webpage). The Department will establish CWD containment and surveillance zones in the area but they may not be implemented until 2024.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family. This slow, progressive disease may not produce visible signs in susceptible species for several years after infection. As the disease process

continues, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance. Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture and/or drooping ears, and excessive thirst, salivation or urination.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border. CWD has since been detected in Texas captive and free-ranging cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk.

For more information on previous detections in Texas and CWD best management practices for hunters and landowners, visit TPWD's CWD page.



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# BBB warns don't let "porch pirates" rob your holiday

The rise of online marketplaces and expedited delivery services has created an environment which allows shoppers to conveniently search for the perfect gift for friends and family.

Unfortunately, purchasing and having the item shipped does not guarantee it's delivery.

The Better Business Bureau Serving Central East Texas reminds consumers that there are steps which can be taken to prevent porch pirates from getting away with the goods.

According to a Security.org study, approximately 79 percent of consumers experienced package theft in 2022.

Package thieves, also known as "porch pirates," often take advantage of an opportunity and may frequent a neighborhood or community multiple times before moving on to another. They will often target houses that provide a quick in-and-out route, especially if the porch or area where packages are delivered is within 25 feet of the street and is easily visible.

"In the state of Texas it is a felony to steal packages off front porches," said Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas. "But that won't stop porch pirates who are on a mission to plunder holiday loot off the doorsteps of unsuspecting households."

Here are some tips to prevent package thieves from affecting your holiday plans (and the rest of the year):

-- Don't leave packages unattended. When possible, do not leave delivered packages unattended for long periods. If you are expecting a package, try to schedule delivery at a time when you will be home, or ask your neighbors if they mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be away from home.

-- Ship to the store. Consider shipping your items directly to the retailer's physical location closest to your home. As retailers require proof of purchase or identification before releasing packages they have received, this is a sure way to avoid porch pirates.

-- Use a security camera. Installing a home security system with cameras or a camera-enabled doorbell is a great way to deter

package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider including a sign that specifically states that the residence is under surveillance. Even if a package is stolen from your porch, the video evidence will help law enforcement track down the thieves (but be wary of the risk of internet-connected devices and research before you purchase).

-- Require a signature. Many delivery companies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service differ. Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they

may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.

-- Consider a package receiving service. Some major retailers, such as Amazon, offer secure package-receiving locations away from your home that you can access with a key or code. Some independent businesses also specialize in this service, allowing you to designate a different delivery location for your packages and the ability to pick them up on your way home.

If you fear your package being stolen, file a report with your local police department and the delivery company. Depending on your delivery service, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

For more online shopping resources and tips, visit BBB.org/OnlineShopping. Report scams to BBB Scam Tracker.



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## LEGAL NOTICE

BJ#3760445

**SUMMONS**

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso):  
23CV04385

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BJ-3760445#

## LEGAL NOTICE

**Notice to Creditors**

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ethel M. York, Deceased, were issued to Joe Leonard York, 12/11/23, in Cause No. 47932P, 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 Joe Leonard York, 203 Eisenhower Drive, Tyler, TX 75704 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Louis Morgan, Sr., Deceased, were issued on or about December 1, 2023, under Cause NO. 46855P, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3, Smith County, Texas, to Raymond Morgan. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the independent administrator, addressed as follows:

Raymond Morgan, Independent Administrator  
c/o Runyan Law Firm, PC  
305 W. Rusk St.  
Marshall, TX 75670

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated December 10, 2023.

Runyan Law Firm, PC

By /s/ Michael T. Runyan  
Attorney for Raymond Morgan,  
Independent Administrator of  
the Estate of Louis Morgan, Sr.  
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## LISD back to pre-COVID time, Surratt says

Continued from Page 1

lawmakers killed any chances of the voucher program in this recent session. It's caused quite a rift between Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Speaker of the House Dan Phelan.

In a news conference on Dec. 5, Patrick labeled Phelan's leadership "dysfunctional" and accused him of "stupidity" and "negligence."

Phelan, through a spokesman, said the House led on "more robust" legislation that would have provided one-time pay raises for teachers and would beef up school safety.

For his part, Abbott hasn't said yet if he's going to call another special session to address the voucher matter, but the Republican governor said he's prepared to try and unseat GOP incumbents in the House who voted to

kill the voucher bill. This would delay any further efforts on the voucher bill until 2025 after the 2024 election, when a new House is inaugurated.

"The fight for school choice for all Texas families will continue until it's won," Abbott spokesperson Renae Eze said. "A majority of Texans across our state and from all walks of life support school choice, and Governor Abbott will not rest until school choice is passed."

Surratt disagrees.

"What they don't understand is there will be a lot of small private schools popping up and they won't be very good," he said. "It's been clear the people of Texas don't want these vouchers and it's just not right for him to try and bully this thing through."

## Forestry grant submission window open

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – The submission window for the Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry

Grant Program is now open and will close February 16, 2024. The Community Forestry

Grant Program is offering more than \$16 million in competitive grant opportunities for community, civic and neighborhood groups to promote the management and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems and provide positive impacts throughout the state of Texas. Public and non-profit entities eligible for these grants include State and local government agencies, public education institutions, NGOs or non-profits, tribal entities and public utility districts.

The seven grant categories are Human Health Equity and Accessibility, Municipal Foresters, Geospatial Analysis 65, Climate Resiliency, Tree City USA, Tree Planting and Schoolyard Forests.

"We are able to offer an unprecedented amount of grants through the Community Forestry Grant Program this year," said Mac Martin, Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry Program Leader. "The goal of this grant program is to provide resources that contribute to the holistic development of future generations and address key issues related to health, resilience and community well-being through sustainable forest management."

## ETCOG funds Smart911 Emergency Mass Notification System

ETCOG is proud to announce that its Executive Committee approved the Smart911 mass notification system renewal as part of its public safety program for the 13th consecutive year. This system allows ETCOG to partner with East Texas' city and county emergency management coordinators to send messages, quickly notifying citizens about emergencies such as:

- Tornadoes and storm events
- Drinking water contamination
- Utility outages
- And much more!

ETCOG renewed its contract with Rave Mobile Safety to provide the Smart911 mass notification system services. Rave Mobile Safety offers unlimited minutes/texting, unlimited system users, and a new weather warning service that instantly and automatically alerts recipients based on weather in the area, including type of weather, location, and severity.

"We are excited to continue our service with Rave Mobile Safety to offer Smart911 alerts," said ETCOG's Public Safety Director, Stephanie Heffner. "The capacity to have unlimited minutes and users opens up the opportunity to partner with more jurisdictions in the region that may have not participated before. Also, we know many of our jurisdictions used to pay for weather warning services out of pocket, so we are happy to offer a cost-saving opportunity with this vendor."

The system has been contracted for Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood counties. The new service agreement for FY 24 totaled \$80,000, which ETCOG will fund through a Homeland Security grant.



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Qualification Information: Account transactions and activities may take one or more days to post and settle to the account and all must do so during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in order to qualify for the account's rewards. The following activities do not count toward earning account rewards: ATM-processed transactions, transfers between accounts, debit card purchases processed by merchants and received by our bank as ATM transactions, non-retail payment transactions and purchases made with debit cards not issued by our bank. Transactions bundled together by merchants and received by our institution as a single transaction count as a single transaction for the purpose of earning account rewards. "Monthly Qualification Cycle" means a period beginning one (1) business day prior to the first day of the current statement cycle through one (1) business day prior to the close of the current statement cycle. "Statement Cycle" means the period of time for which our bank provides a summary of the financial activities and transactions that post and settle to the account holder's account. Reward Information: When your Kasasa Cash account qualifications are met during a Monthly Qualification Cycle, daily balances up to and including \$20,000 in your Kasasa Cash account earn an interest rate of 6.00% resulting in an APY of 6.17%; and daily balances over \$20,000 earn an interest rate of 0.25% on the portion of the daily balance over \$20,000, resulting in a blended range from 6.17% to 1.24% APY depending on the account's daily balance. You will receive reimbursements up to an aggregate total of \$25.00 for nationwide ATM withdrawal fees incurred within your Kasasa Cash account during that Monthly Qualification Cycle. We reimburse ATM withdrawal fees based on estimates when the withdrawal information we receive does not identify the ATM withdrawal fee. If you have not received an appropriate reimbursement, we will adjust the reimbursement amount if we receive the transaction receipt within sixty (60) calendar days of the withdrawal transaction. When your Kasasa Cash qualifications are not met, the interest rate earned on the account's entire daily balance will be 0.02% resulting in a non-compounding annual percentage yield of 0.02% and ATM withdrawal fees are not refunded. Interest will be credited to your Kasasa Cash account on the last day of the current statement cycle. Nationwide ATM withdrawal fee reimbursements will be credited to your account on the last day of the current statement cycle. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APYs accurate as of 10/01/2023. APY calculations are based on an assumed balance of \$20,000 + \$100,000 in your Kasasa Cash account and an assumed statement cycle of thirty-one (31) days. Rates, rewards, and bonuses, if any, are variable and may change after account is opened without notice to you. No minimum balance is required to earn or receive the account's rewards. Rewards less than a penny cannot be distributed. Fees may reduce earnings. Additional Information: Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, log-ons and other requirements apply. \$25.00 minimum deposit is required to open the account. Enrollment in online banking and E-Statements are conditions of this account. Enrollment in electronic services (e.g. online banking, e-statements) and log-ons may be required to meet some of the account's qualifications. Limit of one account(s) per Social Security Number. There are no recurring monthly maintenance charges or fees to open or close this account. This account is not to be used for commercial purposes. If the account is closed, you will forfeit any rewards that have not been credited to your account. Contact one of our bank service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. Member FDIC. SSBTX and Shelby Savings Bank, ssb are the same FDIC-insured institution.

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