

Vol. 125, No. 3 Thursday, JAN. 18, 2024 SSC Area Eas SSC Area East SSC Mixed Choir SC Mixed Cho SSC Mixed Choir

LHS students named All-State Musicians

Five students with the Lindale High School Chorale program have earned a spot in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Choir, Lindale ISD publicity officials announced.

Adrian Martinez, Sara Wood, Elijah McGuire, Zia Pitts and Aalivia Stroud established a new Lindale Choir program record, with the most members selected for All-State.

They also represent the most All-State singers from any school in the region 7 education service area.

"Mrs. Sherman and I could not be more proud of these singers and all of our hard working choir students," said Director of Choirs Kerry Baham.

"The Lindale Choir program has established itself as the top choir program in East Texas," said Superintendent Stan Surratt. "Our students continue to amaze me with their talents and how well they represent Lindale schools and our community."

The highest-ranking musicians qualify to perform in the TMEA All-State music group. Only the top 2.6 percent of musicians who initially audition become All-State musicians. 1,875 students are selected through a process that began with more than 70,000 students from around the state, vying for this honor to perform in one of 18 ensembles.

These All-State students will now participate in four

Commissioners change meeting due to weather

Due to the possibility of inclement weather forecasted for earlier this week, the Smith County Commissioners Court changed its regularly scheduled meeting date to Friday, Jan, 19, said County Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Commissioners usually meet on Tuesday. Friday's meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom on the first floor of the Annex Building, 200 E. Ferguson St. in downtown Tyler.

County Judge Neal Franklin made the decision to change the date of the meeting because of the chance of arctic temperatures and possible wintry precipitation on Monday and Tuesday.

"Out of an abundance of caution and because of the forecast of belowfreezing temperatures, with a chance of snow and ice, we are changing the date of our weekly Commissioners Court meeting," Franklin said. "We want to make sure all interested parties and members of the public who want to attend can do so safely."

More scams reported

Officials with the Smith County Sheriff's Office are issuing another warning concerning scams involving phone callers identifying themselves as members of the sheriff's department demanding money.

Spokesman Sgt. Larry Christian said in the most recent scam, callers are identifying themselves as Smith County Sheriff's employees, specifically "Lt. Robert Strickland" and "Sgt. Larry Christian."

The callers have fraudulently obtained these identities, Christian said. One of the scam victims was told that he owed two \$4,000 fines for Failure to Appear. Law Enforcement was notified prior to the payment and the transaction was not completed.

Again, the caller is asking the victim to retrieve the money and then stay on the line. Once the money is retrieved, they get explicit instructions on where to deposit it.

"If you receive a call like this, hang up and notify your local law enforcement office to advise them of the scam," Christian said. "Please do not allow yourself to fall victim to these scammers and save your hard earned money."

In December, Christian issued a warning concerning the same type of scam, where victims are receiving calls from someone identifying themself as Smith County Sheriff's Deputy Smith.

The suspect tells the victim that they have an outstanding warrant and to immediately pay a fine.

The victims have been instructed to go to local vape shots throughout the area and deposit money into bitcoin machines.

"We have also received similar reports of an individual identifying himself by the name of Captain Craig Halbrooks, who is the Patrol Commander for the SCSO," Christian said. So far, approximately \$50,000 has been fraudulently obtained by this suspect(s) from Smith County citizens. This suspect is requesting \$10,000 to \$20,000 at a time.

These students were chosen for this prestigious honor through a competitive process held across the state at District, Region, and Area levels. Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part. From this ranking, a select group of musicians advance from their Region to compete against musicians from other areas in eight TMEA Area competitions.

days of rehearsals directed by nationally recognized conductors during the TMEA Clinic/Convention. Their performances for thousands of attendees bring this extraordinary event to a close. Their performance with the Texas All-State Small School Mixed Choir is in San Antonio on Saturday, February 10, at the Henry B. González Convention Center. For the All-State concert information, go to www.tmea.org/convention.

"At NO time will the Smith County Sheriff's Office, or any law enforcement agency, call you on the telephone asking for money," Christian said. "Law Enforcement agencies do not handle payments for fines or warrants." Christian added if you feel that you may actually have a warrant out for your arrest, no law enforcement agency will call you requesting money. If you receive a call like this, simply hang up, call the agency in question, and tell the dispatcher what is happening. They will have a law enforcement officer call you to verify the scam.

Eagles land top spots on All District team

Lindale High School's Eagles were well represented on the first, second and honorable mention teams as the District 9-4A coaches met this past week and selected the All-District teams.

Eagle offensive tackle Casey Poe, who has signed with Southeastern Conference champion Alabama, was selected as the Offensive Lineman of the Year while LHS sophomore Kaleb Walker, a defensive tackle, was voted Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

First team offensive selections from Lindale included senior quarterback Clint Thurman; senior wide receiver Marcus Field; sophomore offensive lineman Cameron Griffin and senior offensive lineman Christian Pettway.

On defense, Lindale had junior linebacker Nathan Bradford, junior safety Aiden Warnell, lineman Jake Curbow and sophomore cornerback Jackson Parker.

Junior kicker Seth Baggett was named as the first team place kicker.

Second team selections for Lindale on offense included senior running back Wyatt Parker; junior wide receiver Chad Ward and offensive lineman Jack Kirk.

Defensively on the second team from Lindale were senior lineman Carson Plunkett,



Casey Poe



Christian Pettway

junior Gunner Johnson, linebacker Miles Miller and junior safety Ryan Betts.

Those earning Honorable Mention plaudits were tight end Cade Hodde, offensive



Kaleb Walker



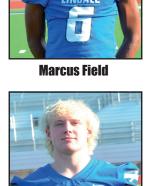
Nathan Bradford



Aiden Warnell

lineman Trey Rozell, offensive lineman Drew Ragland, defensive lineman Matthew Kenney and cornerback Kaden Baze.

Kilgore senior quarterback was named



Jake Curbow



Cameron Griffin



Jackson Parker

the district's Most Valuable Player, senior safety Zaylon Walker was the Defensive

Most Valuable Player and Chapel Hill junior **Continued on Page 8**



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Clint Thurman



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

"...you gotta laugh to keep from crying."

From 2021

A lot of jokes have been made about 2020 and its aftermath. We have faced a pandemic which didn't just target our bodies, but also our jobs, businesses and pocketbooks. To top it off, we have had contentious elections, frightening violence from all directions, and a lot of worry about the unknown. That is a truckload of reality to grapple with daily.

But the fact that there are so many jokes about 2020 gives me hope for 2021, as optimistic as that may be. You know why? You gotta laugh to keep from crying. My worn out, rancher, cowboy daddy taught me that. Every year in agriculture is like playing the odds. Overflows, droughts, tornadoes, livestock pandemics, locusts of biblical proportions...you know, just another day on the ranch.

I learned to laugh at the knee of a master. So let's look back at some of our favorite 2020 slam dunk jokes that hit painfully close to home and pray (hard) for a better 2021.

"If 2020 was a person I'd sue him for pain and suffering."

"At the beginning of 2020 I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds...only 15 more to go!"

"Whose idea was it to sing 'Happy Birthday' while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake."

"My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, 'Throw this and wherever it lands, that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends.' Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge."

Quakes prompt officials to limit disposal wells

The Texas Railroad Commission has suspended nearly two dozen permits that allow oil and gas companies to inject saltwater into the ground, which regulators say has contributed to increased earthquakes of greater magnitude in West Texas.

The Austin American Statesman reported the 23 disposal wells hold hundreds of thousands of barrels of produced water, which is a toxic brine. A 2022 report said the state generated 3.9 billion barrels of produced water from extracting oil and gas.

The RRC instructed major companies to no longer dispose of saltwater in Reeves and Culberson counties, which had seven earthquakes last year, including a 5.2 magnitude temblor that was the fourth highest in state history.

Meanwhile, the RRC has developed a framework for pilot programs to recycle produced water "safely and economically."

"Operators will apply for authorization to conduct pilot studies, and RRC will issue a permit or letter of authorization if the application meets requirements. The operators would compile data of how treated produced water can be reused in certain activities that are safe and protective of human health and the environment," the news release said.

The goal is to reduce the amount of produced water injected back into the ground, reducing earthquake incidents.

"This framework opens up the potential to use treated



And for the pun lovers among us:

"Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow romaines to be seen."

Rationalization is a national pastime, here is one of my personal favorites:

"My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!"

And, here are a couple of personal faves that hit a little too close to home:

"If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other." And

"After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason."

Wait, one more from my house:

"This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog, we laughed a lot."

So dear friends and neighbors let's remember to laugh. After all, laughing is, and will always be, the best form of therapy.

When we share laughter we share ourselves and hope for tomorrow.



Court to keep him from being deposed in a long-running whistleblower lawsuit filed by four former employees at the agency.

The aides claim they were wrongfully fired after complaining to the FBI about Paxton's conduct concerning a prominent campaign donor.

The Statesman reported Paxton filed the motion with the high court after an appeals court rejected his attempt to avoid being deposed. That ruling allows the whistleblowers to continue their suit, which comes after a \$3.3 million settlement agreement last year imploded when the Legislature refused to pay for it.

An investigation into the whistleblowers' claims led to an investigation that resulted in the House impeaching Paxton, who was acquitted in the Senate. Paxton contends he complied with the nonmonetary terms of the settlement agreement, which included retracting a disparaging news release, and that the Legislature's refusal to fund the settlement does not warrant continued settlement talks or a trial.

"The Legislature considered and rejected OAG's request for funding, and even added a rider to the appropriations bill forbidding OAG from settling this case with taxpayer funds," the attorneys for the whistleblowers wrote in their response.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Looking at 2024 ...

Looking back at 2023 (or 2022, 2021, or 1687 for that matter) confirms that there are always unanticipated events in the economy, no matter how many millions of equations or thousands of hours of research a forecast involves. Nonetheless, there are trends that can be anticipated that will be key drivers of economic growth in 2024. Let's take a brief look.



As we enter a new year, the economy is better positioned than 12 months ago in many ways. Back then, prices were still on a fairly steep upward trajectory even though the Federal Reserve had been raising its target interest rate at an historic pace. Now, inflation has moderated, and there hasn't been an interest rate hike since the summer. In fact, the Fed has indicated that decreases will come this year, and some key rates are

already falling. As always, the timing of these actions will be driven by ongoing data related to the twin mandates of maximum employment with low inflation. The sooner we can transition to rate cutting and easing, the faster the pace of expansion will be. My expectation is that, barring a major shock, we will see cuts relatively soon. That will also help the real estate lending situation, which will likely generate some headlines in the coming months.

Geopolitical tensions will be another driver of economic growth patterns. Uncertainty is a challenge for the economy, and major escalation of the situations in the Middle East or Russia/Ukraine would slow investment, spending, and positive trends. There are other issues that could worsen. Venezuela has indicated it will seek to take disputed territory in neighboring Guyana, where substantial oil reserves are under development offshore, and disruptions have occurred in Red Sea shipping channels. These and other trouble spots could cause disturbances ranging from higher energy prices to disrupted trade flows. Most of the trade passing through the Red Sea affects Europe and Asia more than the US, but long-term interruptions could impact domestic supply chains. Another source of uncertainty is the upcoming election. Neither the best nor the worst scenarios which are being touted will likely come to fruition irrespective of the ultimate outcome, but there will clearly be significant implications for policy. Future growth is dependent to some extent on how things play out, but I don't anticipate the ultimate variation to be dramatic (despite the headlines and rhetoric, it is rare that major movements can be validly linked to election results). The resilience demonstrated by the economy through 2023 has positioned us well for sustainable growth. Relaxing monetary policy while keeping inflation under control will bolster prospects. As always, there will be some surprises, but the underlying patterns are generally positive. Stay safe!

produced water in ways that have never been seen before in Texas, which is a win-win for conserving water resources, and protecting the environment and Texans," Wei Wang, executive director, said.

Last year was hottest ever for Texas

It likely comes as no surprise to all of us who endured last summer, but 2023 was the hottest ever recorded in Texas, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and reported by the Texas Tribune.

The average temperature in the state measured 68.1 degrees last year, beating the previous 2012 record by 0.3 degrees. Every year since 2000 in Texas has been warmer than the 20th century average, said John Nielsen-Gammon, state climatologist. Last year was 3.5 degrees hotter than the 20th-century average in the state.

"That consistent warmth is because of climate change," Nielsen-Gammon said.

Texas wasn't alone in feeling the heat. Since federal record keeping began in 1895, last year was the fifth warmest in the contiguous United States, not counting Hawaii and Alaska.

"You can think of (2023) as kind of a preview of the future and it's not pretty," Andrew Dessler, professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University, said.

AG asks court to shield him from deposition

Attorney General Ken Paxton is asking the Texas Supreme

Rabies vaccine bait airdrop marks 30 years

Planes are taking to the air in South Texas to kick off the 30th annual oral rabies vaccine airdrop, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"Our goal is to vaccinate coyotes and gray foxes along the border to maintain herd immunity against rabies and keep new or previously eliminated rabies variants from becoming established in Texas," said Kathy Parker, project director. "We will be distributing vaccine baits over 18 border counties this year."

The project is expected to last two weeks. Vaccine baits are dropped along half mile intervals. More than 820,000 oral vaccine baits will be dropped. Since the airdrop program began, the number of animal rabies cases caused by the variants found in South Texas dropped from 122 cases in 1994 to zero cases by 2000.

There have been no human cases of rabies attributable to the rabies cases found in that region since the program began.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park, Email: gborders@texaspress.com

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Honoring those who help shape award-winning district

Each January, communities across Texas celebrate School Board Appreciation Month and recognize the dedicated individuals who play a crucial role in shaping the future of our education system.

This year, the theme to honor these public servants is "Locally Elected, Community Connected" which Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt says is fitting for the LISD Board of Trustees.

"We certainly need to recognize and thank our great board members," he said. "Lindale ISD is so fortunate to have a strong school board – one that is committed to serving students, families and LISD staff members."

Surratt believes the teamwork exhibited by the trustees and the LISD Administration and staff is the driving force that keeps the district in the forefront of public school education in the region.

"Because of the great guidance and leadership from our school board, Lindale ISD is known as one of the finest school systems in East Texas," he said. "The board has done a wonderful job planning facilities and programs for all of the students and staff of Lindale ISD. The Lindale ISD Board of Trustees are a true blessing to all they serve."

Across the state, school board members are entrusted by their fellow citizens to make critical decisions that impact the lives of students and the overall quality of education in their districts.

These local leaders are committed to ensuring that every child receives a high-quality education, and that the educational system serves as a beacon of hope for a brighter future.

"Locally Elected, Community Connected," emphasizes the essential connection between school board members and the communities they serve. It underscores the vital role these elected officials play in representing the interests, values, and aspirations of their constituents. Through their dedication and hard work, school board members bridge the gap between our schools and our neighborhoods, fostering a strong sense of unity and purpose.

LISD Trustees are:

Mike Combs, Board President

Elected to the Lindale ISD Board in 2006, Mike Combs recently retired from a long career with Target Corp. and is owner/manager of Combs Complete Lawn Care LLC in Lindale. He has served on the advisory board for the Boys and Girls Club of Lindale, the Penny Lane HOA Officers and is currently director of the Penny Lane HOA. He and his wife of 39 years, Rachel, are active members of First Baptist Church in Lindale where he serves as chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee.



Robert McGee, Board Vice President

A 1993 graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler, McGee and his family have lived in the Lindale community since 1995. He is a software developer and owns Hideaway Storage, is a member of the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Self Storage Association and serves a variety of roles with First Baptist Church in Lindale. McGee is active in the Lindale Baseball and Softball Association as a coach and volunteer and has served as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader in Lindale.

Brooks Beeler, Board Member

Beeler is a 1989 graduate of Lindale High School and attended LISD schools from kindergarten through high school. He has an Associate Arts Degree from Tyler Junior College and has been married to wife Melissa for 28 years. The Beeler's have four children who have graduated or are still enrolled in the LISD. Beeler is an account executive for a computer hardware and software reseller as well as being a partner in family businesses. The Beelers are members of First Baptist Church of Lindale.

Gary Camp, Board Member

Longtime Lindale businessman Gary Camp is a 1975 graduate of Lindale High School and has been married to high

school sweetheart – and 1976 Miss LHS and Valedictorian – Susan. They have three children, Jennifer, Jessica and Casey, all LHS graduates. The Camps also have four grandchildren, Ava, Drew, Presley and Harleigh. He is managing partner of Camp Financial Services, LLC and has been a CPA and investment advisor in Lindale since 1981. He was first elected to the LISD Board of Trustees in 1996 and has been a member of First Baptist Church in Lindale since 1979, where he is a Sunday School teacher.

Donny Williams, Board Member

Williams has served on the Lindale ISD Board of Trustees since 2015 and has been working for the district since 1993 as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and Lindale High School principal. He and wife Bobbie, a retired LISD teacher, have three daughters and four grandchildren. Williams is a graduate of Southern Methodist University.

Ragan Burgess, Board Member

Burgess and his wife Christin have lived in the Lindale community since 2009 and have four children: Brystal, Ranger, Cavern and Baron. He is owner of Medders Brake and Alignment in Lindale and is a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses as well as the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce. Burgess has served with the Lindale Baseball and Softball Association and the Lindale Youth Basketball League.

Dr. Karen Gott, Board Member

Lindale dentist Dr. Karen Gott has served on the Lindale ISD Board of Trustees since 2019. She and her husband have lived in Lindale for the past 29 years and their two sons attended LISD schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. She cites the district's reputation for quality in educational excellence for the decision to move to the LISD. She took over for Kelly Cox on the Lindale ISD Board.



The Lindale ISD Board of Trustees are Gary Camp, Brooks Beeler, Robert McGee, Mike Combs, Dr. Karen Gott, Ragan Brooks and Donny Williams. (Courtesy photo)

There's no business like snow business

This was one of the first stories I ever put in the paper, and over the years I've rerun it several times because of requests, and this week I was asked to rerun it yet again. It's also one of my favorites. And yes, it did happen.

My kids were home a couple of weeks ago when I thought they should have been in school.

"It's a bad weather day," said my daughter. "The weather's not had."

"The weather's not bad,"



there so long that a few even had trees growin' up through them. One was our winter clubhouse. We'd all cram into the cab and then build a fire in the glove compartment. We would roll down the window every once in a while to let the smoke out to keep our coughin' fits to a minimum. "I'm bored," said Greg. "I'm cold," said Little Rusty. stop in the middle of the highway. Fortunately, there were no cars comin'. We scrambled out of our sled and got it pulled off the road. "Man," I said. "That was

close." "Yeah," said Greg. "But

deepest part of the creek. "Men," said Greg. "This is it. Do or die."

"Die?" said Wee Whoa. This was the first time he had spoken all day. Little Rusty's dog, Bones, joined us. He wanted to ride, too, and to us a dog was as good as a kid, so we put him aboard. Coy and I were lying on one side of the hood, with our hands grippin' the front, and Greg and Little Rusty were on the other side. Wee Whoa was sittin in the middle, behind him was Bones. Not only was the hill steep, but it was several hundred yards to the bottom. With our toes, we pushed off. At first, it was slow, but gradually we picked up speed. I had a hand on Wee Whoa's coat, ready to toss him off the back, when Coy hollered. "Oh no! Look!" We all looked and there, in our path, was a stump. It was only about six inches in diameter, but it was about a foot tall. We all thought that our sled was fixin' to come to an abrupt stop. "Abandon ship!" yelled Greg. We peeled off that hunk of metal and bounced on the ground. All of us that is, except Wee Whoa and Bones. We looked in horror as they approached the stump. Wee Whoa was desperately tryin' to untie himself.



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, Jan. 19, 2023

Junior Kayli Vickery, a middle blocker for the Lindale High School Lady Eagles, was selected to the honorable mention Class 4A All-State Volleyball team for the 2022 season by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

She had 132 kills over 120 sets played during the season, which saw the Lady Eagles finish fourth in District 16-4A. Lindale was 7-5 in district, 19-20 overall and fell in the bi-district playoff round to Pleasant Grove (Texarkana), 3-2, on Nov. 1.

I said.

"No, Daddy. We are given so many days a year to make up the days we miss if the weather is so bad that we can't go to school. If we don't use them for bad weather, then they give them to us anyway."

"Go on," I said. Man, that's a good deal. I remember those days when we couldn't go to school because of ice and snow. That was the next best thing to Christmas. Any other day Mom would have to pull us out of bed, but if there was a chance that we might not have to go to school, we'd be up before daylight with our ear to the radio hopin' for those words that a kid lives for, "No school today."

Now, I know a lot of moms hated these announcements, but not mine. I think she enjoyed it as much as my sister and me. She didn't go out and play like we did, but she was in charge of makin' life easier for us. She'd put so many clothes on us that it was hard to move. Then she'd stick plastic bread wrappers on our feet and hands and they would be held in place with rubber bands. We looked a sight.

Once, when we had a hard freeze, my cousin Coy and I joined up with Greg Hunt, Little Rusty, and his little brother Wee Whoa. His real name was Randy Joe, but when he said it, it sounded like Wee Whoa, so that's what we called him. Anywho, beside Greg's house there was some land that belonged to a roofin' company, and they kept their ol' junker trucks there. It was a great place to play. These trucks were ol' thirty or forty-somethin' models with no engines and had been "I think I've got black lung," coughed Coy.

"You know," I said, "we need us a sled."

"Ooooo, yeah," said Greg. "That would be slick."

"Where are we gonna to get a sled?" Coy asked.

"I know," said Greg. "Let's use the hood of this truck."

"Do what?" I said.

"Yeah," he said. "We'll take the hood of this truck, turn it upside down, and we can all sit on it."

"I think he may have somethin' there," said Coy.

Luckily for us, the hood was just lying on the truck, it was not connected. This hood was one of those kinds that you lifted one side or the other. It was hinged so that there was one piece down the middle. When we lifted it off, it looked like a giant vampire bat. You talk about heavy. Wow! The front curved down, but when we turned it upside down, this part was then curved up like the front of a toboggan.

We pulled and pushed that ol' hood across the ice and snow, and finally got it to Greg's house. Greg lived on a hill and he had a steep driveway that lead down to the highway. We put our new sled on the frozen ground beside the driveway and climbed in. We kept rockin' the sled until it finally started down. There was a ditch at the bottom of the hill, so we thought that would be where we would stop. We were wrong. We hit that ditch and shot out the other side and came to a wudn't it fun?" We all had to agree to that. We drug (I know, it's suppose to be dragged, but drug is such a better word) the hood sled back up the hill and to the back of Greg's house. The pasture behind his house had a gradual slope down to the creek.

"How are we gonna stop it before it hits the creek?" Little Rusty asked.

"Hmmm," I hmmmed. "Good question."

About then, Coy came up with the solution. "We need an anchor to throw out."

"Like what?" asked Greg. "Wee Whoa," said Coy.

"Wee Whoa?" I questioned.

"Yeah," said Coy. "We tie a rope to Wee Whoa and when we get close to the creek, we throw him out. He'll drag us to a stop." Greg and I looked at each other.

"Sounds good to me," I said.

"Me too," said, Greg and Little Rusty. The only one who wasn't in favor of this idea was Wee Whoa, but since it was a democracy, he was out voted.

We tied one end of the rope to the Wee Whoa and the other to his brother, Little Rusty, and tried it out on a run down the hill. It proved to be a bad idea because when we threw Wee Whoa out and he hit the ground, and the slack came out of the rope, Little Rusty was jerked clean out of the sled. Fortunately, the sled was slowed enough to keep the rest of us out of the creek. From then on, we tied the rope directly to the sled.

We pulled the sled back to the top of the hill and picked out the steepest part. It ended at the widest and "I can't watch," said Little Rusty, but we all did.

As the sled hit the stump, an amazin' thing happened. The middle part, where Wee Whoa and Bones were sittin', rose up and smoothly slid over the stump.

"Yea!" we yelled. Wee Whoa turned, smiled, and waved at us, and then they hit the creek. The hood skidded about halfway across and stopped, then sunk. Luckily it wasn't but knee deep. Wee Whoa was half frozen when we got him out. When we got him home, his mother asked that question that all Moms ask, "What happened here?" We told the truth.

"He fell in the creek, but we saved him."

Wee Whoa nodded in agreement. You don't rat on your buddies, you know. Vickery also had 51 solo blocks and 56 assisted blocks for the season as well as 20 digs.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Jan. 17, 2019

Lindale High School FFA students attended the Mineola District FFA Convention in Bullard and LHS sophomore Tyler Thompson was elected to serve as Sentinel for the Mineola District. Isabella Yoder was elected as an Area VI FFA Officer representative for the Mineola District while Jayden Gregory won first place in the Talent Team competition with her original song while playing the piano.

10 YEARS AGO, Jan. 16, 2014

Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation discussed details and received citizen input concerning the Draft Environment Impact Statement on the proposed extension of Loop 49 during a public hearing held in the Lindale High School cafeteria.

The extension is intended to provide relief to the existing U.S. 69 through the city of Lindale and extend a proposed facility (Loop 49 west) from IH 20 southwest of Lindale to U.S. 69 north of Lindale, according to information from TxDOT.

Maps showing the proposed route were available for inspection before the meeting got under way.

Randy Hopmann, the Tyler District Engineer for TxDOT chaired the meeting and allowed other TxDOT officials to explain the process of choosing the specific location for the Lindale Relief Route.

Three options were considered by TxDOT, Hopmann said. The route chosen, Alternative G, will span 7.4 miles from a south to north direction, cover 423 acres of right of way and cost \$82.3 million. It is scheduled to connect with Highway 69 (north of Lindale) one-half mile north of the intersection of Highway 69 and County Road 4118.





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71ST **Wedding Anniversary** Lawrence and Nadine Bradway of Lindale celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on Dec. 7, 2023. The happy couple moved to Lindale in 1996. (Courtesy photo)

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rural voices essential to democratic process

Across the country, lawmakers are gathering in their respective state capitols and Washington, D.C. to begin another year of debating and passing legislation.

The democratic process is something America prides itself on and one that requires input from citizens to thrive. While the process for public input varies by state, there is one commonality that exists—lawmakers need to hear directly from their constituents on issues that are important to them.

So, how can you make sure your voice is heard?

Whether you're interested in federal, state, or local policy, you can share your views by interacting directly with elected officials by writing, calling, or visiting them. Testifying in person is also an effective way to ensure your voice is heard, but we understand attending a hearing may not be feasible. Other options include writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or sharing information on social media.

However you choose to engage with your representatives, providing an authentic constituent voice is important while making sure to keep your message simple, civil, and focused. The representative or audience you are addressing needs to know who you are, why the issue matters to you, and what action you want taken. In the case of legislation, this means urging the representative to vote yes or no on a specific proposal.

Commenting on an issue should also be timely. Try to speak to representatives or place your story in the media at a key moment, such as before a hearing or floor debate.

Whatever your reason for becoming a rural advocate, the Center for Rural Affairs is here to help. Please visit cfra.org/ advocate for more information and resources on advocacy.

State and national policies have a direct impact on how we live our daily lives. If you are passionate about an issue, we encourage you to step up and let your voice be heard.

Jillian Linster, Interim Policy Director, Center for Rural Affairs



ASSEMBLY OF GOD The Church of Garden Valley -Lindale Campus 307 Eagle Spirit Dr - 903-882-9150 Pastor Jacob Chaffin

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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



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 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

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

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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

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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

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10251 FM 724, Tyler, TX 75704 903-593-5811

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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

Tridentine Latin Mass 5075 FM 14, Tyler, 75712 903-593- 5055 Rev. Joseph Valentine, FSSP

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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903-882-8933

903-882-8118 Rev. John Carr

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

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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

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Lindale Police Department call logs for Jan. 5-11

FRIDAY, JAN. 5: Public Service, 400 block East South Street, Unable to Locate; Motorist Assist, 555 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 552 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial, Report; Public Service, 13700 block Harvey Road, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 500 block Pierce Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 13300 block IH-20 East, Report; Public Service, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6: Escort, 600 block West Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 400 block West Hubbard Street, False Alarm; Theft, 100 block East Centennial, Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block West Centennial, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, JAN. 7: Inquest, 15200 block CR 467, Report; Parking Violation, 200 block Cannery Row, Unfounded; Missing Juvenile, 100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; 911 Hang Up Call, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Civil Matter, 14500 block Tucker Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Illegally Parked Vehicle, 1100 block Woodlands Park Drive, Unable to Locate; Public Service,0 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 13600 block CR 472, Unable to Locate.

MONDAY, JAN 8: Threats, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block East Centen-



nial, Settled at Scene; Hit and Run Crash, 100 block West South Street, Report; Residential Alarm, 7700 block CR 4112, False Alarm; Traffic Hazard, 2100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Harassment, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene: Verbal Disturbance, 2700 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Miranda Lambert Way, Settled at Scene; Pursuit, 100 block West South Street, Report; Traffic Hazard, 553 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 200 block Jeffries Street, Settled at Scene; Scam, 600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 2500 block South Main Street, Report; Motorist Assist, 1100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 13800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9: Public Service, 13400 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 2300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Possession of Controlled Substance, 17800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Arrest; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 400 block Hamrick Street, Unable to Locate; Assist EMS. 1100 block Woodlands Park Drive. Settled at Scene: Suspicious Circumstance, 1500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10: Assist Smith Co SO, 18700

block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Stolen Vehicle, 553 IH-20 West, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 700 block South Main Street, Report; Public Service, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Parking Violation, 100 block East North Street, Settled at Scene; Found Property, 500 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 1900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service 1100 block Woodlands Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 500 block South Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 13300 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Criminal Mischief, 600 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Business Alarm, 300 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 3400 block South Main Street, Citation Issued.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11: Motor Vehicle Crash, 900 block Mount Sylvan Street, Report; Parking Violation, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 2200 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 1500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Loud Noise Complaint, 400 block Baker Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Escort, 200 block West South Street. Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 556 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Public Service. 1600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Family Violence, 200 block West Centennial, Arrest; Assist Smith Co SO, 19200 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 552 IH-20 West, Unable to Locate; Traffic Complaint, 15700 block FM 849, Unable to Locate; Loud Noise Complaint, 1100 block East Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 100 block East Centennial, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Vehicle, 13300 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 13300 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Accident, 15200 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 17700 block Highway 69 North, False Alarm.

Jefferson County men sentenced to federal prison for carjacking

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

Mikale Rashad Bolton, 21, of Beaumont, pleaded guilty to carjacking and was sentenced to 180 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Marcia A. Crone on Jan. 8, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on June 25, 2022, local law enforcement responded to the scene of a carjacking near French Road in Beaumont. The investigation revealed that Bolton approached a vehicle and asked the driver for a cigarette lighter. After the driver handed the lighter to Bolton, Bolton pulled out a firearm and pointed it at the driver's head.

Two Jefferson County men have Bolton ordered the driver to exit the vehicle. The driver was told not to contact police or Bolton would return and kill him. Bolton fled the scene in the stolen vehicle. This case was investigated by the FBI and the Beaumont Police Department.

Jordan Malik Bronnon, 30, of Port Arthur pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 40 months in federal prison by Judge Crone on Jan. 8, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on May 23, 2022, local law enforcement conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in which Bronnon was a passenger. The driver consented to a search of the vehicle, during which a backpack was located that contained various pieces of paperwork with Bronnon's name and a rifle magazine containing ammunition. A rifle was also located on the rear passenger floorboard. This case was investigated by the ATF and the Port Arthur Police Department. Bronnon was a convicted felon and prohibited by federal law from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition.

These cases were prosecuted as part of the joint federal, state, and local Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program, the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts. PSN is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most

pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime.

These cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell James.

Houston man sentenced for bank robbery

A Houston man has been sentenced to federal prison for bank robbery in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Michael Raymond Karras, 65, pleaded guilty to bank robbery and was sentenced to 188 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Marcia Crone on Jan. 9, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on June 6, 2023, Karras robbed the Chase Bank on Eastex Freeway in Beaumont. Within minutes of the robbery, Karras was located at a convenience store wearing a trench coat and driving the vehicle described in the robbery. After detaining Karras and obtaining consent to search his vehicle, officers discovered \$2,870.00 in cash and the handwritten note Karras had used in the robbery.

This case was investigated by the Beaumont Police Department and the FBI and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph R. Batte.

5

Hints on choosing right seasonal flowers, plants



By Cynthia Adams **Smith County Master Gardener**

Have you ever imagined being on a game show? It's easy to answer the questions from the comfort of your recliner or couch, no sweaty palms, no mind racing, or feeling the pressure not to look dumb.

That's how folks may feel when it comes to getting just the right flowers or plants for that special someone.

Relax, take a deep breath and look at it by the season and the associated colors.

Let's start with the fall season as we transition from the blazing summer to cooler weather and outdoor activities. Color schemes reflect that change. We see yellows, orange, browns, reds and muted greens. Mums, gerbera daisies, sunflowers, carnations, red poppies and cactus are good options.



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Unlike the holiday movies which show a crisp blanket of snow to indicate winter, in Texas we splash colors in honor of the season.

Out comes the bright red poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, cactus, sprigs of evergreens, amaryllis, delphinium, or hydrangea to celebrate the season.

Springtime holidays bring out the bold and beautiful, whether you are honoring a parent or remembering those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for this country. So much can be expressed with daffodils, crocus, hyacinth, tulips, daisies with their many color options.

Summer brings thoughts of patriotic gatherings with lots of red, white and blue. You've got geraniums, carnations, roses, daisies, lilies, baby's breath, forget-me-knots, delphiniums and hydrangea to give the full splash of color.

Roses come to mind for Valentine's Day, but let's be real, roses come in many colors and are great anytime. Other Valentine options are carnations, tulips, orchid, or cyclamen, a plant that produces pink, white, red or lavender flowers.

Even though you may never be on a game show, you can always rise to the challenge to create the right arrangement or gift that will surely bring a smile.

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



is accepting 3-5 clients for personal transportation and/or accompaniment to doctors appointments, grocery shopping or whatever needs to be done.

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Rotary Club speaker

We kicked off our new year with the first 2024 Rotary meeting today! This group is like family, and we were all so happy to see each other. The Lindale Rotary Club opened the new year with its first meeting of 2024 with Joe Manganiello of Society of St. Vincent de Paul as its guest speaker. This is a local service organization helping those within the Lindale ISD area. These are volunteers who help neighbors in our community's experiencing poverty and hardship. The Rotary Club meets each Tuesday at noon at Christ Point Methodist Church in Lindale. In addition to Manganiello, also in the photo are Shannon Reid and Rotary President Jason Beard. (Courtesy photo)

Join us for a weekend of celebrating! 2024 Lottie Christian Family Reunion

July 18- July 20, 2024 Holiday Inn - Tyler Broadway

For more information or to RSVP check out the website www.lottiechristian2024.com

> If you have any questions give Randall Christian a call at 210-823-4145 or leave a message on the website.

Annual East Texas Fruit, Nut and Vegetable Conference is scheduled

By Greg Grant Smith County Horticulturist

Winter is when we typically plant fruit and nut trees and begin making plans for our spring vegetable gardens and thankfully, there is a great opportunity coming up to learn from the experts with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Stephen F. Austin State University.

The annual East Texas Fruit, Nut and Vegetable Conference is scheduled for Friday Feb. 9 at the Tyler Rose Garden Center (420 Rose Park Dr. Tyler, Texas 75702). It will offer both professional and amateur gardeners tips on blackberries, blueberries, bunch grapes, muscadines, and IPM (Integrated Pest Management) on peppers and tomatoes.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m., followed by the first lecture at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required (for a lunch head count) and ends

February 7 at 5:00 pm. The cost of the program is \$25 (plus 5% convenience fee for online credit card payment). The program will be held in person only. Attendees can register and pay on-line or register and pay in person at the Smith County Extension Office. One hour of Department of Agriculture IPM CEU (for those with a Private Appli-

cator license) will be awarded for this event. However, CEs (5 hours) for certified Texas Master Gardeners can be claimed.

Topics and speakers include: Growing Blueberries in East Texas: Dr. David Creech, Professor Emeritus, Stephen F. Austin State University. Dr. Creech is the director of SFA Gardens in Na-



Only certain cultivars of pears are long-lived and fruitful in East Texas which can be made into these tasty hand pies. (Courtesy photo)

cogdoches and the leading expert on blueberries in Texas.

Growing Muscadines and Bunch Grapes in East Texas: Michael Cook, Viticulture Regional Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Michael earned his Master of Science in Viticulture and Enology at California State University-Fresno.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on Peppers and Tomatoes: Dr. Rafia Khan, Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Dr. Khan is the new entomologist at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Experiment Station in Overton and has experience conducting research on com-

mercial tomatoes in

Knowing and Growing Pears in East Texas: Dr. Andrew King, King's Nursery, Tenaha, Texas. Dr. King is a 4th generation East Texas nurseryman and the assistant director of SFA Gardens in Nacogdoches.

Growing Blackberries in East

Texas: Dr. Tim Hartmann, Assistant Professor, Fruit Crops, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Dr. Hartmann is a lifelong horticulturist and well versed in all things "fruit."

This event was organized to meet the growing demand for information about fruit, nut, and vegetable production for home gardeners and commercial growers in East Texas. It is an opportunity to learn techniques from horticulture specialists on how to be successful, how to avoid common pitfalls, and how to learn more as you grow.

For more information about this educational event, contact the Smith County Extension office at 903-590-2980. The flyer, schedule, and registration link are posted on the "Texas A&M AgriLife-Smith County" Facebook page and on the Texas A&M AgriLife-Smith County web page at <u>smith.</u> agrilife.org/fnvc/.

Cheers to 100 Years of Texas State Parks

As Texas State Parks' yearlong birthday celebration winds down, we are looking back at the highlights from 2023. Nearly 8,000 people hiked, biked and paddled a combined 17,190 miles Jan. 1 at one of 83 participating parks. Cedar Hill State

"It has been a truly amazing year for Texas State Parks," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "It has been a career highlight to see new visitors discover parks because of our celebrations and witness a year of milestones. Milestones made possible by our hardworking teams within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, partnerships with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and certainly H-E-B. I am forever grateful to Texans that helped us honor the legacy of 100 years of Texas State Parks but also expand the foundation of state parks for future generations of Texans."

Here are some of the top achievements from the Texas State Parks Centennial Celebration:

• Texas State Parks received the 2023 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in October. The award recognizes the best state park system in the country. The National Gold Medal Award Program is governed and administered by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and announced at the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference.

 Texas Travel Alliance named Texas State Parks the 2023 Heritage Award winners Oct. 17 at the annual Texas Travel Summit. Past recipients of this award include the Dallas Cowboys, Southwest Airlines and Landry's, Inc. The Heritage Award recognizes and honors outstanding businesses and organizations that have enriched the heritage of and made a lasting, positive imprint on the Texas travel industry. The selection is based on the organization demonstrating a history of exceptional achievement, exemplary business practices, innovative corporate culture and a commitment of excellence to their customers and their community. • Voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 14 during the November election, which created the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund. The \$1 Billion fund is made from a portion of state budget surplus and creates a dedicated funding stream for acquiring and developing new state parks. • H-E-B partnership and new product line that will continue to benefit state parks and conservation for years to come.

Nearly 8,000 people hiked, biked and paddled a combined 17,190 miles Jan. 1 at one of 83 participating parks. Cedar Hill State Park, about 25 minutes south of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, welcomed the most participants, with 773 visitors taking part in multiple programs throughout the day.

• The traveling art exhibit, "The Art of Texas State Parks," kicked off in Austin at the Bullock Museum. The exhibit featured painting of more than 30 parks by some of Texas' most celebrated artists. The exhibit then travelled to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, and was so successful, additional locations have booked the exhibit across the state through the end of 2024.

• The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) awarded a record number of grants in honor of the centennial celebration, allocating more than \$2.8 million to 55 new grant-funded partnerships to help communities promote the value of recreation and conservation across Texas.

• Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine published its biggest issue in May, sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. With 100 pages honoring 100 years of parks, the issue featured a Texas-size helping of information about the state park system the places and the people, the history and the future, the magic and the memories.

• The Recreational Trail Grants program llocated a record \$5.14 Million to 16 projects across the state, funded from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by gasoline purchases for off-highway vehicles. The Texas Legislature has added an additional \$1,000,000 per year to the program (pending passage of the state budget), which includes an additional \$1,000,000 for this year from Sporting Goods Sales Tax funds. Additionally, several projects funded in previous years were completed under budget and five projects were cancelled, creating another \$700,000 available for re-allocation this year. • Texas State Parks and Minor League Baseball teams around the state teamed up for the first time this year to bring the ultimate day/night doubleheader opportunity. Visitors were able to spend a day at a state park and a night at the ballpark in partnership with five minor league teams - Corpus Christi Hooks, El Paso Chihuahuas, Frisco RoughRiders, Round Rock Express and Sugarland Space Cowboys. The teams offered a variety of incentives to those who showed their park receipts at the gates. • In May, visitors toasted "100 s'more years" of outdoor fun at Texas State Parks' official birthday party. Eighty state parks hosted events for all ages and skill levels focused on s'mores-themed fun, from making solar-baked s'mores to a s'moresthemed star party.

Protect pets and horses against extreme cold

BATON ROUGE—The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine asks pet owners to protect their pets against the extreme cold. Help keep your pet safe during the colder

months by doing the following:

Florida.

• Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops.

• Outdoor pets use more energy to keep warm so they will need more food when it's cold. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen.

• If your dog stays outside, provide a doghouse with a raised floor that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in body heat. Cover the floor with a blanket (but only if the dog will not eat it) or maybe straw or wood shavings if available and make sure the door is turned to face away from the wind.

• If you're feeding homeless cats, be sure to provide an insulated shelter for them.

• Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife that may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

• Antifreeze has a sweet taste that can attract animals, but it is toxic to them. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze and other household chemicals out of reach.

Pets exposed to temperatures in the low

lot of heat and their haircoat can "puff-up" (this is known as piloerection) to further insulate them. Horses are actually better at staying warm in winter than staying cool in summer.

Precautions that can be taken to protect horses from harsh winter weather:

• Ensure that the horses have water, hay and shelter 24/7 (if they prefer to remain outside, provide them with an option to have some sort of protection from wind and rain);

• Allow them to move around (this generates heat); and

• If they are very old, very young, sick, too skinny, etc. and unable to thermoregulate, then they may need to be stalled and/ or blanketed, along with all of the other precautions listed above.

The most important precaution is to provide an unfrozen, clean water source on a constant basis; otherwise, the horse could colic.

If your pet or animal requires medical care after-hours, you can contact the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital on Skip Bertman Drive; the hospital is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and remains open even during severe weather or university closures. The number for the Small Animal Clinic (pets and exotic animals) is 225-578-9600, and the number for the Large Animal Clinic (horses and farm

• Two million dollars in donations raised for park specific projects that targeted visitor services

• Two commemorative books were written in honor of the Texas State Park Centennial- "The Art of Texas State Parks" by Andrew Sansom and Linda J. Reaves, and "Texas State Parks- The First One Hundred Years 1923-2023" by George Bristol.

• A record number of people kicked off 2023 by participating in First Day Hikes.

We appreciate our Lindale School Board Members for all their hard work!



teens or single digits for prolonged periods can get frostbite on their feet or the tips of their ears (the skin will turn darker in color). Another symptom to be watchful for is lethargy or weakness. If you feel that your pet has been adversely affected by the cold and requires medical care, please contact your veterinarian.

Horses are great at staying warm since they have many metabolic processes that generate heat or allow them to conserve heat. Their digestive processes generate a animals) is 225-578-9500.

About LSU Vet Med: Bettering lives through education, public service, and discovery

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is one of only 33 veterinary schools in the U.S. and the only one in Louisiana. LSU Vet Med is dedicated to improving and protecting the lives of animals and people through superior education, transformational research, and compassionate care. We teach. We heal. We discover. We protect.



Know the law about leaving pets in freezing temperatures

Ahead of Texas' first freeze of the year, THLN is reminding Texans it is illegal to leave dogs unattended outside in freezing temperatures and educating the public on what to do if they come across a dog outside in the freezing weather.

"We are strongly advising all pet owners to keep pets inside during the upcoming winter weather that's slated to hit the whole state," said Shelby Bobosky, Executive Director of THLN. "The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act passed in 2021 requires dogs left outside to be safe from the elements. During Winter Storm Uri of 2021, our hotline was inundated with calls from concerned citizens about dogs left outside in the freezing weather hundreds of which died."

"The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act strikes the 24-hour waiting period so that law enforcement can address critical situations immediately to prevent tragedy," said Jamey Cantrell, President of the Texas Animal Control Association. "If you see a dog left outside in belowfreezing weather without adequate shelter, please call your local animal control. To report animal cruelty, please call 911."

"Extreme weather, such as the freezing temperatures that are about to hit Texas, does not allow outdoor animals to become acclimated," said Melissa Draper, a Texas shelter veterinarian. "Studies have shown that it takes 10 to 20 days for animals to acclimate to cold weather and up to 60 days for full acclimatization. The safest option for pets is to bring them inside."

"Owners of chickens, horses, and other equines or livestock should ensure the animals' enclosures are properly secured and insulated. Outside shelter is best lined with straw instead of blankets, as blankets are likely to freeze and make their shelter colder. The best way to protect all animals in these weather conditions is to prepare as early as possible," concluded Bobosky.

The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act, which went into effect January 2022, establishes basic standards of outdoor shelter and care for the safety of animals and their surrounding communities by

· Defining adequate shelter to protect dogs from extreme temperatures, inclement weather, and standing water. Previously, there was no definition for shelter, thus tethered dogs routinely perished from exposure.

· Requiring access to drinkable water. Before the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act, state law did not include this vital requirement.

· Requiring safe restraints. The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act strikes the use of chains. Other means of restraint, such as cable tie-outs, may be used so long as they are correctly attached to a collar or harness designed to restrain a dog.

To learn more or to schedule an interview, contact Cara Gustafson at 561-797-8267 or cara@publicblueprint.com.

Elton John wins first ever Emmy **Award Monday night**

The 75th annual Primetime Emmy Awards are a wrap. The awards were finally presented on Monday (Jan. 15), four months after they were originally scheduled. Hosted by former blackish star Anthony Anderson, the awards were held at the Peacock Theater at L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

The Bear and Succession led with six awards each. Beef won five awards. Last Week Tonight with John Oliver won two.

Elton John became an EGOT as Elton John Live: Farewell from Dodger Stadium won outstanding variety special (live).

The Daily Show with Trevor Noah won outstanding talk series for the first time. Noah is set to host the Grammy Awards on Feb. 4 for the fourth year in a row, where he is nominated for best comedy album.

Charlie Puth and The War and Treaty performed Puth's 2015 Wiz Khalifa collab "See You Again" over the In Memoriam segment. They capped it with a bit of "I'll Be There for You," the Friends theme song, to honor Matthew Perry, who closed the roster of TV greats we lost in the past year.

Jesse Collins Entertainment produced the show, which was broadcast live from 8-11 p.m. ET (5-8 p.m. PT) on Fox. The eligibility period for this year's Primetime Emmys was June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.



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Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or the Company) publishes this notice that on September 29, 2023, it filed its Statement of Intent and Application for Authority to Amend Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) in Docket No. 55438. The filing was made in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 36.209 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 25.239. The TCRF will recover SWEP-CO's reasonable and necessary costs for transmission infrastructure improvements as well as changes in wholesale transmission charges under a tariff approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the extent that the costs or charges have not otherwise been recovered. In this application, SWEPCO seeks to recover its transmission capital investments from July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. SWEPCO also seeks to recover through the TCRF approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through current rates. This notice is being published in accordance with PURA § 36.103 and 16 TAC § 22.51(a)(l).

STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES

SWEPCO requests that the Commission approve an increase of \$3,461,491 above the revenue requirement approved by the Commission in SWEPCO's last TCRF proceeding, Docket No. 54040 for its Texas retail customers. This amounts to a 0.86% percent increase in SWEPCO's overall annualized Texas retail revenue requirement. SWEPCO proposes that its requested rate change become effective on November 3, 2023, which is 35 days after the filing of the Statement of Intent and Application. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission.

All customers in SWEPCO's Texas retail rate classes will be affected by this change. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons with questions or who want more information on SWEPCO's Statement of Intent and Application may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent and Application and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 55438. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its Statement of Intent and Application with the Commission.

Eagles land top spots on All District team

Continued from Page 1

running back Rickey Stewart was named Offensive MVP.

2023 9-4A ALL-DISTRICT FIRST TEAM OFFENSE QUARTERBACK: Clint Thurman, senior, Lindale;

Demetrius Brisbon, junior Chapel Hill. RUNNING BACKS: Jam-

auri Manning, senior, Athens; Ti'darion Crawford, senior Palestine; Jestin Starling, sophomore, Palestine.

WIDE RECEIVERS: Marcus Field, senior, Lindale; P.J. Wiley, senior, Kilgore; Jorien Ray, senior, Athens; Cameron Kelley, senior, Chapel Hill; Jayvin Mayfield, senior, Chapel Hill; K'Mari Gipson, senior, Palestine; Jermaine Taylr, senior, Jacksonville.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN: Christian Pettway, senior, Lindale; Cameron Griffin, sophomore, Lindale; Braydon Nelson, senior, Kilgore; Emmanual Young, senior, Kilgore; Daniel Banuelos, senior, Athens; Jaden Trigg, junior, Athens; Dyllan Drummond, senior, Chapel Hill; Pablo Martinez, senior, Chapel Hill; Johnathan Bateman, junior, Henderson; Brock Johnson, senior, Henderson.

TIGHT ENDS: Joshua Parrish, senior, Kilgore; Perry Cole, senior, Palestine; Jordan Ervin,

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sophomore, Henderson.

FULLBACK: Elijah Walker, senior, Palestine; Aubrey Sayler, senior, Kilgore. KICKERS: Seth Baggett, junior, Lindale; Aiden Campos, senior, Chapel Hill.

KICK RETURNERS: Jayden Sanders, junior, Kilgore; Jayvin Mayfield, senior, Chapel Hill.

UTILITY: Chad Ward, junior, Lindale; Darius Dean, senior, Chapel Hill; Dashawn Jackson, senior, Henderson; Isaiah Watters, sophomore, Kilgore; Reese Hargers, senior, Palestine; Jaxson Stiles, senior, Athens; Didi Mares, junior, Jacksonville.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE DEFENSIVE LINEMEN:

Jake Curbow, senior, Lindale; Wylie Mitchell, junior, Kilgore; Cameron Christian, sophomore, Kilgore; Jackson Tuckers-Phillips, junior, Kilgore; Perry Cole, senior, Palestine.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS: Malachi Pierce, senior, Kilgore; Gage Friedrich, senior, Athens; Jase Warren, junior, Athens; Trevor Brooks, junior, Chapel Hill; Jabo Cook, junior, Chapel Hill.

INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Nathan Bradford, junior, Lindale; Matthew Hardy, senior, Kilgore; Mason Shelton, junior, Athens; Daveon Ross, senior, Chapel Hill.

SAFETIES: Aiden Warnell, junior, Lindale; Javon Towns, junior, Kilgore; Jayden Turner, senior, Athens; Dillion Johnson, senior, Chapel Hill; Jordan Walker, senior, Palestine; Lemarion Coleman, sophomore, Henderson.

CORNERBACKS: Jackson Parker, sophomore, Lindale; La'Zavion Lee, senior, Athens; Jayvin Mayfield, senior, Chapel Hill; Aden Butler, senior,

Henderson. **PUNTERS**: Trevor Brooks, junior, Chapel Hill; D'Allesandro Soto, senior, Athens.

PUNT RETURNER: Jayvin Mayfield, senior, Chapel Hill.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE QUARTERBACK: Coyt

Cooper, sophomore, Palestine. RUNNING BACKS: Wyatt Parker, senior, Lindale; Jabo Cook, junior, Chapel Hill.

WIDE RECEIVERS: Chad Ward, junior, Lindale; Emanuel Moore, sophomore, Athens; Ja'Braden King, senior, Henderson; Damarcion Blaylock, sophomore, Chapel Hill.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN: Jack Kirk, junior, Lindale; Luis Mancera, junior, Jacksonville; Rashaud Brown, senior, Kilgore; Parker Allums, senior, Kilgore; David Zavala, senior, Athens; Keldrick Davis, junior, Chapel Hill; Jay Knight, senior, Chapel Hill; Adrian Alexander, senior, Henderson; Joe Flynn, junior, Palestine; Jose Moreno, senior, Chapel Hill; Braquan Moye, senior, Kilgore.

FULLBACK: Ryan Walker, senior, Jacksonville.

KICKERS: Nico Castaneda, senior, Athens; Allesandro Diaz, senior, Henderson; Jesus Nunez, senior, Jacksonville. KICK RETURNERS: Jonah

Riordan, junior, Chapel Hill.

Seth Baggett

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE DEFENSIVE LINEMEN:

Gunner Johnson, junior, Lindale; Carson Plunkett, senior, Lindale; Franky Corona, senior, Athens; Isaiah Collins, sophomore, Chapel Hill; Jordan Ervin, sophomore, Henderson; Jordan Dorsey, junior, Jacksonville; Dallas Gipson, sophomore, Chapel Hill.

OUTSIDE LINEBACK-ERS: Jabory Taylor, freshman, Athens; Cesar Salas, junior, Palestine; Anthony Newman, junior, Henderson; Trent Powell, senior, Jacksonville.

INSIDE LINEBACKERS: Miles Miller, senior, Lindale; Kaleb Tate, senior, Henderson; Mikel Dennis, senior, Kilgore; Kendrick Calhoun, senior, Palestine.

SAFETIES: Ryan Betts, senior, Lindale; Elijah Whitaker, junior, Jacksonville; Brett Horn, senior, Athens; Josh Casteneda, sophomore, Chapel Hill.

CORNERBACKS: J'Mauri Jackson, junior, Palestine; Julious Brewer, sophomore, Athens; S'Voryan Martin, sophomore, Palestine.

PUNTER: Seth Baggett, junior, Lindale.



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