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City Council gathers for first '24 meeting

Facebook

Lindale City Council members met for the first time in 2024 on Tuesday, Jan. 23 following the rescheduling of two previous meetings.

The most recently rescheduled meeting was due to the winter storm which arrived on Jan. 14-15 in East Texas.

On Jan. 23, council members:

• Approved the city's audit performed by Gollob Peddy Morgan from Tyler, as given by the firm's representative Kevin Cashion;

• OK'd repairs to the Old Mill Pond Museum's deck and to the tractor building;

• Approved the final plat of the Eagle Meadows subdivision on County Road 463 which will create 11 lots out of 3.6 acres'

• Approved the final subdivision addition at 2712 South Main Street. One lot will be 3.09 acres and the second lot will be .901 acres;

• Approved the replat of lot 10-B at Magnolia Estates, located at 17292 CR 4185;

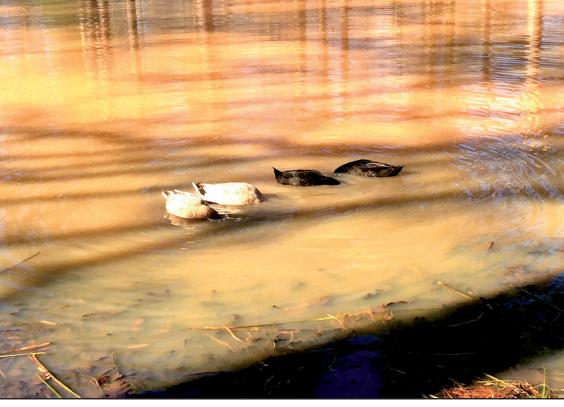
• Appointed Darron Mumey and Mike Combs to the Board of Adjustments;

• Approved a capital expenditure for three police department vehicles with funds coming from the city's budget. The department get two 2023 Ford Explorers and a 2024 Ford F-150;

• Tabled an item concerning sidewalks and asphalt on the north side of the Memorial Drive Parking lot;

• Accepted a resolution for the city's downtown sidewalk renovation and improvement. In accepting the resolution, the warranty on the work will take effect;

Approved sponsoring a music



Headless ducks?

Now that the temperatures have warmed a bit, these ducks were finally able to search for food in their little East Texas pond. It appears all four had the same idea about where to hunt for breakfast.

Photo by Terry Cannon

SCAD review board applications sought

Applications are being accepted from Smith County citizens interested in serving on the county's Appraisal Review Board for the Smith County Appraisal District, said District Judge Reeve Jackson, administrative judge for the state district courts in Smith County.

An application should be submitted to Judge Jackson through the SCAD Taxpayer Liaison Officer no later than Feb. 29, 2024, to be considered.

The ARB is responsible, by statute, for reviewing the appraisal records and attending hearings where members will make determinations regarding taxpayer protests, motions to correct the appraisal roll and taxing entity challenges. The ARB is made up of Smith County citizens and has the power to make the necessary changes to solve property tax problems. lar board members and up to fifteen auxiliary board members. All members are appointed in the same manner, for the same staggered two-year term, and are subject to the same eligibility requirements.

Auxiliary board members may hear taxpayer protests before the ARB and serve on hearing panels. Auxiliary board members are considered regular board members for all purposes related to the conduct of the hearings. However, they may not vote on any ARB final determination, may not be counted toward a quorum, and may not serve as chairman or secretary of the ARB. Most protest hearings occur during the months of June and July. Hearings are conducted by panels of three members with periodic meetings of a quorum of the board. Typically, members will be needed to serve on a panel for three or four half-days per week during June and July. At other times of the year, board meetings are scheduled as needed, approximately once a month.

Annual training is required for both new and returning ARB members. Workshops are sponsored by the State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division and are held each year in the spring.

Candidates for the ARB must be current residents of Smith County, having resided in the county for at least two years; must be up to date on property tax payments for property in Texas or show that the property tax is being paid under an

Tyler man arrested, charged with sexual assault of child

50¢

Smith County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eugenio Gonzalez-Hernandez of Tyler for allegedly sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at a residence on County Road 326 in Tyler, said spokesman Larry Christian.

At approximately 10:15 p.m. on Jan. 23, deputies responded to the scene and were told Gonzalez-Hernandez had allegedly perpetrated the assault.

During the initial course of this investigation, deputies were able to establish probable cause to indicate that Eugenio did sexually assault the child victim.

County investigators also responded to the scene which ultimately resulted in further interviewing of the suspect.

After obtaining additional information, Smith County Investigators prepared an arrest and search affidavit.

These were presented to the 114th State Judicial District Judge Austin Reeve Jackson who then issued an arrest warrant for Gonzalez-Hernandez for the criminal offense of Sexual Assault of a Child with a bond set at \$750,000.

Judge Jackson also issued a search warrant allowing Investigators and the Crime Scene Unit to gather additional physical evidence at the crime scene. Gozalez-Hernandez was ultimately booked into the Smith County Jail for the listed offense.

Smith County Investigators facilitated a forensic interview with the seven-year-old victim by professionals with the Children's Advocacy Center in Tyler. This ultimately assures that the child will receive the appropriate physical and mental assistance to help her get through this traumatic event.

event to coincide with the total solar eclipse on Saturday, April 6 on The Cannery stage. Funds for the event – not to exceed \$15,000 -will be paid for from the city's hotel/motel funds. The performer(s) are subject to city approval.

The ARB comprises seven regu-



Lindale's Ami Caldwell honored by Shelby Savings Bank of Texas

Officials with Shelby Savings Bank of Texas have selected Ami Caldwell as "Branch Employee of the Year" from the Lindale branch. This is an award that is specific to a "Branch Employee" and is based on votes from fellow employees' company wide, officials said.

Nominees must reflect a high level of dedication and professionalism that SSBTX team members all embrace.

Caldwell was nominated by her teammates for being a positive influence, supporter, and educator within her team.

She has been a part of the SSBTX team since 2021 prior to the opening of the Lindale branch.

Bank officials said she continues to inspire everyone with her creativity, hard work ethic and positive attitude each day.

installment agreement.

Candidates are not eligible to serve on the ARB if they served for all or part of three previous terms as a board member or auxiliary board member.

Persons who fall into any of the **Continued on Page 8**

For more information on the Smith County Sheriff's Office visit www.smithcountysheriff.com, FB or Twitter at @SmithCSO.

Texas could swap land in Boca Chica State Park with SpaceX

Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners are considering a land swap with SpaceX that would give Elon Musk's space exploration company about 43 acres from Boca Chica State Park.

In exchange for the land in Texas' southernmost strip along the Gulf Coast, SpaceX would transfer 477 acres nearby that could be used for hiking, camping and birding. Boca Chica is a cherished place where people fish, see wildlife and hang out on the beach. The park measures about 1,060 acres in all.

Parks and Wildlife staff recommended the exchange because they view it as a way for the agency to increase public access and protect grasslands and wetlands. In a statement Wednesday, the agency said the trade "could provide mutual benefits."

"These conversations continue more than a decade of cooperative work with SpaceX to carry out our respective missions as neighbors," the TPWD statement said.

A vote on the proposal is expected March 28. During a meeting Wednesday, Commission Chair Jeffery Hildebrand indicated his support.

"The land exchange is a extremely valuable opportunity to the department, the state of Texas, to provide more recreational opportunities to the public," Hildebrand said. "I am committed to moving this process forward and completing the transaction."

While the sheer difference in land size makes the trade seem like a good deal for the state, environmental groups and community members urged caution. The Cameron County Judge opposed the swap. The Tribal Chair of the Esto'k Gna Tribal Nation of Texas said such a trade would compound a history of his community being erased or ignored.

"It doesn't make any sense at all for them to do what they're doing in transferring that land," said Juan Mancias, the tribal chair. "None at all."

Cyrus Reed, conservation director for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, said people need time to be informed and consider whether they are willing to lose a portion of what has been an important, family-friendly resource. The Commission was originally scheduled to vote on the deal Thursday.

"Overall there may be some benefits to it," Reed said. "The question is, is it benefiting the community that has traditionally gone to the Boca Chica area?"

Wildlife advocates and residents over the past decade have expressed concerns about SpaceX's decision to build its launch area near protected state and federal land in South Texas. They worried about potential harm to endangered and threatened species such as ocelots, Piping Plover birds and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles.





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



Standoff at border continues between state, feds

A standoff at an Eagle Pass park continues as the Department of Homeland Security has sent a second letter to Gov. Greg Abbott demanding access to the Rio Grande park that is now under state control.

Abbott contends the state has the right to defend itself from what he called "record-smashing levels of illegal immigration," The Dallas Morning News reported. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the Border Patrol can resume cutting or removing razor wire that the state installed to deter migrants.

Citing that ruling, DHS sent a second letter demanding the state give Border Patrol agents "full access to the Shelby Park area currently obstructed by Texas."

A DPS spokesman said the state is installing more razor wire along the riverbank. U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, has urged President Joe Biden to federalize the Texas National Guard if the state defies the Supreme Court ruling.

Judge rejects Paxton's motion to block deposition

A Travis County judge again blocked a motion by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to stop a deposition in a wrongful termination lawsuit brought by former top aides in his office, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The deposition is scheduled for Feb. 1. The four aides went to the FBI to complain about the embattled attorney general's actions in helping developer Nate Paul. The aides were subsequently fired and filed suit in 2020.

Earlier in January, Paxton tried to end the matter by saying he would no longer contest the facts of the case and accept whatever judgment the court handed down, though he continued to deny any wrongdoing. He condemned the judge's latest ruling, saying Travis County Judge Jan Soifer was "recklessly disregarding legal precedent, abusing the litigation system, and displaying shocking bias."

Before Paxton filed his latest motion attempting to avoid testifying, both the state 3rd Court of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court rejected his earlier appeals.

Meanwhile, four months after the Senate voted to acquit Paxton in his impeachment trial, which stemmed from an investigation into a proposed settlement of the whistleblower lawsuit, a senator that voted to acquit is accusing Paxton of possibly misleading the Senate during that trial. He urged the Senate to consider reopening the Paxton's impeachment.

State Sen. Drew Springer, R-Muenster, said Paxton's decision not to contest the facts of the whistleblower lawsuit point to his culpability. Paxton "cannot admit guilt while claiming innocence," Springer wrote in a post on X. Springer had previous announced plans to retire from the Senate.

State delays vote on proposed

... Those were the days

From 2018

The last time the Cowboys were in the SuperBowl it was 1993. 1993.

Since then Cowboy fans have tuned in to the Big Game to watch the million dollar commercials, the halftime extravaganza, and/or to flip a coin, pick a team and cheer for the heck of it.

So my sweetheart and I cheered on the New England Patriots because, well despite the many admirable Eagle players, we just can't bring ourselves to support a team whose fans are rabid... at least the ones we have had close encounters with. As one post-SuperBowl news article read..."Eagles' fans lived down to their reputation as they trashed downtown Philly" after their big win Sunday night.

I just don't get that. Vandalism as celebration? Where in the heck does that come from? Other than the fact that their mommas probably didn't whup them enough like ours did down here in Cowboy country.

Football is in our DNA. Jim and I are American, Southern and Texan. That means that despite our appreciation of all sports including hockey and curling, football reigns in our kingdom.

Once in a bus on our way to another kingdom ruled by Mickey Mouse we met a lovely family from Atlanta, Georgia. The lawyer dad was 6'5 or so, his wife lovely and their two darling children television commercial worthy. The Atlanta Dad saw Jim's Texas Press Association cap and it was on.

He and his family might live in Falcon land but they were true blue Cowboy fans. Frankly, from his physique he might have been a Cowboy. Sort of reminded me of a more polished and better looking Dak Prescott.

As the Georgia Cowboy fan and Jim, who had covered the Cowboys as a sportswriter, shared Cowboy anecdotes and one ups on Cowboy encounters, another family had boarded our



bus to the Magic Kingdom. The dad sported an Eagles cap and an attitude.

The Eagle fan immediately tore into the Cowboy fans wit loud spitting fury. No kidding.

And suddenly as we all headed to the 'Happiest Place on Earth', at least that is what it says on all the signs, I was praying that the Cowboy and Eagle fans weren't going to be sharing a cell in Orlando instead of sharing rides at the Magic Kingdom.

Jim and his new friend from Atlanta just had to bring up the infamous snowballs that were once thrown at Santa by Eagles' fans in 1968. At about this point the Atlanta Momma was hugging her two kids close and I was angling to create a buffer between the Cowboy hubbies and the Eagle spoilsport who couldn't take a little good-natured ribbing.

After all, when you attack Santa Claus you have a LOT to live down.

The Eagle Dad was red in the face, his wife pinkish and the Eaglettes were already baring their little beaks. But Eagle Dad was nowhere near the height and fighting weight of the Cowboy Dads.

The Cowboy fan families managed to exit the bus without anything being thrown but a few stats that left the Eagle Dad's feathers mightily ruffled as the Cowboy Dads strutted from the bus with the swagger of fans used to winning.

I would hate to encounter that Eagle fan this week.

Those were the glory days my friends, those were the days.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Tensions are running high in the Red Sea. Houthi rebels the Red Sea. Although safer, the path is much slower and

Troubled Waters ...

land swap with SpaceX

Heat from conservation groups prompted Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners to delay a proposed land swap with SpaceX. The proposal would have given the space exploration company 43 acres of Boca Chica State Park land in exchange for 477 acres near the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, The News reported. Groups, including the Sierra Club and Save RGV, urged commissioners to delay the vote to allow the public more time to examine the proposal, which will be revisited in late March.

Environmental groups sued the Federal Aviation Administration last year over its approval of the expansion of billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX's rocket-launch operations. The suit was filed after the company's Starship exploded during a launch and hurled debris thousands of feet into the air. They have also expressed concern for possible loss of wildlife and habitat since the launch site is within miles of the state park and wildlife refuge.

Record number of Texans enroll in ACA

More Texans than ever have signed up for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act for 2024, according to federal health data released last week and reported by the Texas Tribune. The number of Texans in ACA programs, which offer inexpensive or free health care coverage, rose 37% to nearly 3.5 million – or 1 in 9 residents.

based in Yemen have been targeting cargo ships, firing missiles at vessels bearing flags of a variety of nations. Their goal appears to be to widen the conflict in the Middle East while simultaneously putting pressure on Europe.

About 40% of cargo between Asia and Europe (12% of



total world trade) travels through the Suez Canal and Red Sea, and these disruptions have the potential to set off problems ranging from inflationary pressure to shortages and supply chain disruptions. The major effects will likely be concentrated in Europe. A notable component of Red Sea freight is crude oil and fuels such as diesel, and prices are responding. Most of Europe has struggled with persistently high in-

flation even more elevated than in the United States. Added to the mix, economic growth there is generally slower than here (more on that topic on another day).

The route is also important to trade from South Asia to the United States, and some domestic importers are already being adversely affected. In today's complex and interconnected global economy, there will likely be some fallout virtually everywhere.

Some companies and carriers are taking the long way around Africa rather than risk losing a vessel and cargo in more expensive. With the longer shipping route taking about 10 additional days to traverse, ships are tied up for longer to deliver the same volume of cargo. As a result, the availability of vessels for other routes is also affected (as are shipping rates).

Lessons learned during the pandemic's disruptions are helping companies deal with shipping delays (though there is only so much slack in a world that tightly manages inventories). The detours are raising freight (and, hence, production) costs. If the conflict persists or escalates, retailers will have to worry about running out of stock, and factories could run low on needed inputs.

The US and British militaries have intervened, shooting down drones and missiles. The Houthi rebels are backed by Iran, and an agenda to widen the conflict is clear. Some drones were even fired at a US warship. If the attacks spread, the economic fallout will intensify (not to mention the risk to human lives).

Although Red Sea shipping routes are far more critical to Europe than the United States, if the chaos persists, all areas will be affected. The supply chain is more robust than prior to the pandemic, and shipping rates are nowhere near their COVID-19-driven highs. Nonetheless, a protracted pattern of interruptions will eventually lead to higher prices and shortages in Europe, with additional losses around the globe over time. Stay safe!



Eight decades later, WWII hero's family gets closure

On a blustery Tuesday morning on June 6, 1944, Allied forces breached Adolf Hitler's Atlantic Wall, inched their way inland and began an eastward march that would eventually bring down the most despicable regime the world has ever seen.

There were an estimated 160,000 soldiers that braved horrific enemy fire to secure beach heads along France's Normandy coast. France's landscape, especially in the "bocage" or hedgerow areas, was particularly difficult to traverse.

These hedgerows had been around for hundreds of years, with thick vegetation serving as barriers to keep livestock penned. They proved to be deadly fortifications for enemy soldiers and slowed the Allied advance.

But the Germans were hampered by Hitler's refusal to allow the commanders to make tactical withdrawals, leading to the biggest portion of their forces being trapped and destroyed by the eventual Allied breakout.

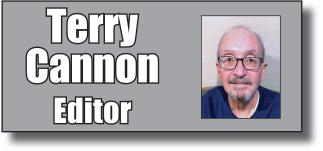
By the end of August, the Nazi army was high-tailing it back to Germany.

Hundreds of thousands of additional Allied soldiers arrived in the ensuing weeks after D-Day, including Army Staff Sgt. Leroy C. Cloud, 24, of Thrall, Texas.

On July 26,1944 Cloud, a crew member of an M5A1 Stuart light tank in Company A, 744th Tank Battalion, was killed when his tank was struck by a Nazi bazooka. Although two crew members were able to escape, Cloud and another soldier were never seen nor heard from again.

But this past August, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Staff Sgt. Cloud was accounted for Aug 29, 2023.

Following that tank battle in August, 1944 surviving crewmembers were unable to recover Cloud's remains. He was declared missing in action, but the Germans never reported him as a prisoner of war. On Aug 16, 1944, with no evidence Cloud survived the fighting, the War Department





The crew of the M5A1 Stuart light tank in Company A, 744th Tank Battalion.

issued a report of death.

When the war finally came to an end, the American Graves Registration Command began investigating and recovering missing American personnel in the European Theater.

On July 30, 1944, AGRC personnel recovered two sets of remains from an M5A1 destroyed in the vicinity of Saint-Lô. Ultimately, they could not identify the remains, designated X-141 and X-142 St. Laurent, and they were interred in the Normandy American Cemetery, France.

While studying unresolved American losses in the Saint-Germain-d'Elle area, a DPAA historian determined that the M5A1 Stuart tank recovered from the area belonged to Company A, where Cloud was assigned.

This correlation led DPAA and American Battle Monuments Commission personnel to exhume the remains of X-141 and X-142 in April 2018 and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification.

To identify Cloud's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used Y chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Cloud's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Cloud is to be buried in Taylor, Texas, at a later date.

The American Battle Monuments Commission and to the U.S. Army Regional Mortuary-Europe/Africa have worked tirelessly on this mission, which brings closure to many families whose fathers, sons and brothers gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa. mil, on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or https:// www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accountingagency

Cloud's personnel profile can be viewed at https://dpaamil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt000001eAuLZ EA0.

Creature can't get a word in edge-wise

It's been awhile, but guess what? That's right -- I received another phone call from a phone creature the other day.

As you know, phone creatures are what I call those phone solicitors that call wantin' to sell you somethin' that you don't need, or want. Anywho, I like havin' fun with them. Here's how it went

"Yellow," I said into the receiver. I didn't get a response. "Yellow!" I said louder, and then I heard that slight click sound that tells you it's a phone creature.

"Mr. Mitchum? Hi, my name is Audrey Sanders." "Sanders? Did you say

Sanders?" "Yes sir," the creature

answered "You any kin to Harland

Sanders?" "Uh, no, I don't believe so. The reason I'm calling..."



with him durin' the war. And I ain't talkin' about no puny little war, neither. I'm talkin' about the big one, WWII. That stands for World War Two, if you didn't know.

"Anywho, there wuz this feller in our outfit whose name wuz either Harland Sanders or Harland Landers, I can't remember, but if I remember right, he sort of looked like Colonel Sanders. Well, he didn't wear no white suit or nothin,' like that. Heck, if he'd worn that, he'd stuck out like a sore thumb out there on the battle field, if you know what I mean. "Of course, you could wear white if you wuz fightin' in the snow, but we didn't fight in too much snow where we wuz. And this here Harland I knowed, he didn't never mention nothin' about no chicken that I recall. I know we didn't have no chicken to eat out there in them fox holes and all. All we had wuz them K-rations, and let me tell you, everything else in this here world may taste like chicken, but them blamed K-rations don't.

chicken's OK, I guess, but it ain't near as good as the chicken my momma cooked. Boy, you talk about some good chicken. You get to gnawing' on that chicken so fast; sometimes you'll gnaw off a finger before you know it. Yeah, I love chicken. I've eatin' so much chicken that when I go to bed at night, I pull the mattress off and roost on the slats. Man, I could eat chicken for every meal. Well, except breakfast. For breakfast, I eat Pop Tarts.

"You ever have a Pop Tart? I bet I've eatin' a box car load of Pop Tarts. I don't even cook 'em, I just eat 'em raw. I like them brown sugar and cinnamon Pop Tarts. My wife bought me some off brand one time, but they weren't no good. Had a funny taste to 'em. I ate 'em alright, so they wouldn't go to waste, but like I said, they weren't no good. It wuz like gettin' a hold of a bad can of sardines. You ever get a hold of a bad can of sardines? Whew, let me tell you that's an experience. "Last time I did that, I didn't git out of the bathroom for a week, if you know what I mean. Not only that, I couldn't stand my own breath. Plus the blame cats wouldn't leave

me alone. Speakin' of cats, I had a cat once that musta weighed over 20 pounds. Really. That's the fattest cat you've ever seen. Ain't no tellin' how many buckets of lard you could get out of him if'n you'd rendered him down.

"His belly wuz so big, his feet wouldn't touch the ground. We ended up tyin' him to a skateboard, so he could get around. The only problem with that, wuz he wuz always getting' his wheels stuck in the litter box. Of course, we don't have him anymore. He finally died. We buried him with his skate board. We did that 'cause we couldn't find it under all that blubber. We had to use the front end loader on the tractor to dig his grave. We just rolled him off in it. You know that the

Lindale churches help share spirit of holidays



EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year during the Christmas season, Lindale area churches offer a wide variety of activities and events to enhance the spirit of the season. This past year was no exception, as freelance writer Bryanna Williamson discovered recently and as she points out, these events take place each year.

By Brynna Williamson

Now that the chaos of the Christmas season is behind us, it is a good time to take a look at some of the interesting, unique and beneficial programs that Lindale churches took on for the season.

As the season of Jesus' birth, bringing hope, joy and peace, Christmas should remind the community that they are loved. Several churches reached out to the community to make sure this happened.

Here's a look at a few of them:

--Always a favorite with the crowds, Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church held a "Live Drive Thru Nativity" for three days

"Do you know who Harland Sanders is?" I asked.

"No sir," she said. This is when I decided to see just how far I could go, without lettin' her talk, before she hung up on me. I took a deep breath.

"Well," I started. "Harland Sanders wuz better known as Colonel Sanders. You know Colonel Sanders? Kentucky Fried Chicken? KFC? Finger Lickin' Good? Bucket of Chicken? That Colonel Sanders.

"I've been tryin' to find somebody who wuz kin to him for a long time. You see, I think I might've of served

"Boy howdy, I'd sure liked to have had some chicken over there. Do you like chicken? Sister, I love chicken. The Colonel's next year, we had the best crop of Polk salad growed up on his grave. Do you like Polk salad?"

Then I heard her hang up. I smiled as I hung up. I turned and there, as always, was my beloved wife Janet, starin' at me.

"What?" I asked.

"I take it that was a phone creature?"

"You got it," I replied.

"What did he want?" she sighed.

"It was a she," I said.

"Well," she said through gritted teeth, "What did she want?" I looked up in thought.

"You know," I said. "She never said. Go figure."





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, Feb. 2, 2023

Syndi Watts of Lindale was one of 382 students named to the Ouachita Baptist University's Fall 2022 President's List, publicity officials announced.

To be named to the President's List, a student must compile a grade point average of 4.0 and be classified as a full-time student, with a minimum of 12 academic hours and no incomplete or failing grade for the semester.

Ouachita Baptist University, a private liberal arts university, is in its 137th year as a Christ-centered learning community and is ranked nationally by U.S. News & World Report.

FIVE YEARS AGO, Feb. 5, 2019

Lindale's Christian Straus and Hideaway's Summer Hacker earned Dean's List honors from Sam Houston State University for the fall semester. Also, John Pew of Lindale earned Dean's List honors at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Mich.

Robert Kult of Lindale earned Dean's List honors at Kilgore College.

> 10 YEARS AGO, Feb. 6, 2014

Following the biennial realignment for the past two years.

from the University Interscholastic League, Lindale High School moved into the eight-team, Class 5A district featuring Corsicana, Whitehouse, Jacksonville, Nacogdoches, John Tyler, Lufkin and Ennis.

Lindale's new district would be 16-5A.

Lufkin dropped from 6A to 5A in the realignment.

All but one of the teams - Jacksonville – were football playoff teams from a year ago. The realignment was to take effect during the 2014 football season. Also new was the addition of a Class 6A level, which meant the bumping up of all levels beginning with six-man, which is now 1A.

Lindale had been a Class 4A school

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before Christmas. This "Journey to Bethlehem" event was free, and, according to the church, over 65 adult volunteers participated.

This type of event is traditionally a visual take on the Christmas story, where participants can walk (or, in this case, drive) through the events of the Christmas story.

-- Rose Heights, in addition to many other local churches, participated in the ever-popular Angel Tree and Operation Christmas Child programs. Angel Tree is a Salvation-Army based program in which "children, seniors, and adults with special needs" who are unable to purchase Christmas gifts or other necessities are provided with them through local donors.

-- Angel Tree furnishes the tags hung on seen in many East Texas stores during Christmas. Operation Christmas Child is a similar donor-funded, Christian organization in which individuals choose the gender and age range of an underprivileged child they want to provide for. The individuals or groups then purchase items to put in a shoebox for the child. These are heartwarming experiences that exemplify the love of Christ, both for the donors and for the recipients.

-- Finally, Christpoint Methodist Church held a "Blue Christmas" candlelight service. This kind of service is supposed to be held on the winter solstice in order to have what the church called "a service of reflection for the longest night." While a Blue Christmas service does have traditional elements of a candlelight service such as holy quiet, lit candles, and time for reflection and prayer, a Blue Christmas service especially focuses on "the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss." According to a Wikipedia article on the subject, "The worship often includes opportunities for expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ." The church made sure to emphasize that all were welcome to the event.

All three of these churches are planning on doing these events again, so keep an eye out for them in winter of 2024!

East Texas freelance writer Brynna Williamson will soon be a graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler and will continue to contribute to the Lindale News and Times.





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How to order from restaurant when dieting

By Smith County Extension Service

Losing weight and keeping it off requires making choices you can stick with for the long run. So, if your plan has you turning down every dinner invite or swearing off takeout, it's probably not realistic.

It's true that restaurant meals tend to be higher in fat and calories than what you make at home (not to mention the runaway portion sizes). But that doesn't mean restaurant food is totally off the table when you're watching your waistline.

Here are some tips to help you maintain weight loss goals and enjoy dining out:

-- Review the Menu in Advance

You don't have to decide exactly what you'll order, but reviewing the menu helps give you an idea of what you'll encounter.

-- Take the Edge Off Hunger Before you head out the door — or while waiting for your takeout order to arrive — drink a glass of water or eat a small <u>healthy snack</u>.

-- Ask Questions

Remember: You're the customer, it's perfectly fine to ask questions about how your food is prepared and to request that less butter or oil be used in the preparation of your dish. You also can ask that sauces and dressings be served on the side. That way, you can control how much you use.

-- Avoid the Two F's

That's fried foods and freebies. As tempting as they can be, fried foods are typically loaded with excess fat and calories. Deep-fat frying can double or even triple the calories in some foods. Your best bet is to pick entrées described as grilled, baked, steamed, broiled, or boiled. As for freebies, filling up on bread or chips before your meal arrives is a bad idea. Before you know it, you've had an entire meal's worth of calories from the free items.

-- Order an Appetizer as Your Main Course

Choosing something from the appetizer section as your main course is an easy way to keep portions in check.

-- Pre-Pack a To-Go Box

Plan to eat only half your entrée and take the rest home for another day.

-- Savor the Experience

Food is one of life's pleasures, so focus on enjoying your dining experience. It's not a race to finish the meal. Savor the flavors and the company of family or friends.

Adopting any of the tips above can help keep calories in check, but if you're going out for a special occasion and want to splurge, enjoy it. Every meal, every day can't be a splurge that becomes a habit. But there's no need to stress about one meal choice.

For more information about Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Programs, contact Smith County Extension Office at 903-590-2980 or email <u>smith-tx@</u> <u>tamu.edu</u>. Like our Facebook page: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County.



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Lindale Police Department call logs for Jan. 19-25

FRIDAY, JAN. 19: City Ordinance Violation,100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Threats, 300 block Asher Lane, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 2500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 556 IH-20 West, Arrest; City Ordinance Violation,100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 300 block Hilltop Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 300 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 100 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 555 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 557 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20: Traffic Hazard, 552 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 13400 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 13300 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Escort 200 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 1100 block East Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 1100 block East Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Recovered Stolen Vehicle, 560 IH-20 East, Report; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 1400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Motor Vehicle Crash, 556 IH-20 West, Unable to Locate; Civil Matter, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 555 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, JAN. 21: Business Alarm, 800 block Industrial Parkway, False Alarm; Harassment, 200 block Bonnie Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 13800 block Highway 69, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Warning Issued; Business Alarm, 300 block Eagle Spirit Drive, False Alarm; Threats, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 500 block Cooper Street, Settled at Scene.



MONDAY, JAN 22: Assist Smith Co SO, 300 block Washington Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 14600 block CR 433, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Accident, 600 block South Main Street, Report Taken; Traffic Hazard, 17800 block Highway 69 North, Unable to Locate; Business Alarm, 400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 300 block South Main Street, Citation Issued; Public Service, 13400 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Harassment, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Accident, 600 block East Hubbard, Unable to Locate; Criminal Trespass, 300 block South Main Street, Warning Issued; Mental Health Welfare Check, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 15400 block Anna Lane, Settled at Scene; Peace Officer Warrant, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 14100 block FM 849, Settled at Scene.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23: Assist EMS, 13300 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident 556 IH-20 East, Report Taken; Accident, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Assist Other Agency, 551 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Fraud, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident, 3300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 14000 block FM 849, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 800 block Mallory Street, Settled at Scene; Damaged Property, 17000 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 1300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 16800 block CR 4199, Settled at Scene.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24: Assist EMS, 13300 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene;

Suspicious Vehicle, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident 556 IH-20 East, Report Taken; Accident, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Assist Other Agency, 551 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Fraud, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Accident, 3300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 105 Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service 14000 block FM 849, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 800 block Mallory Street, Settled at Scene; Damaged Property, 17000 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 1300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 16800 block CR 4199, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25: Business Alarm, 3400 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Driving While Intoxicated, 13400 block IH-20 West, Arrest Made; Identity Theft, 400 block East North Street, Report; Assist EMS, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 556 IH-20 West, Unable to Locate; Public Service, 1100 block Woodlands Park Drive, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Hit and Run, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 13400 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene.

Terrell man sentenced to 20 years on federal fraud charges

Michael Disman, 41, of Terrell, <u>pleaded guilty</u> to wire fraud charges and was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Amos Mazzant recently, said spokesperson Davilyn Walston.

He was sentenced on Jan. 25 and ordered to pay restitution of approximately \$2.7 million to his victims.

According to information presented in court, between January 2018 and March 2022, Disman operated an investment fraud scheme using various companies he controlled, including "Dexter Development" and "Disman Energy." Disman solicited funds from victim investors for purported lucrative land development projects, when in reality, those projects were non-existent and the investor funds were spent elsewhere. To execute his scheme, Disman made various material misrepresentations about investor payouts and the use of investor money, executing sham contracts and sharing real estate paperwork to add legitimacy.

Disman actually used the investor funds for various non-business purposes, including ATM cash withdrawals and drug purchases. In total, Disman defrauded at least 17 victim investors and caused at least \$2.7 million in losses.

This case was investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorneys in the Plano office.

Beeuwent wen niede suit

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local donations help Samaritan's Purse

Dear Editor,

Generosity throughout Lindale contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project <u>Operation Christmas Child</u>. Across the U.S., the project collected 10 million shoebox gifts in 2023. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2023, the ministry is now sending over 11.3 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster.

Through shoeboxes — packed with

fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items — Lindale- area volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received.

Through the continued generosity of donors since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across Texas, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at <u>samaritanspurse.org/occ</u> or by calling 817-595-2230.

Although local dropoff locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 18 - 25, 2024, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at <u>samaritanspurse</u>. <u>org/buildonline</u>.

These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Sincerely, Luke Switzer SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Patience the key to pruning freeze-damaged plants

By Laura Muntean

to fed firearms violations

A Beaumont man has pleaded guilty to federal firearms violations in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Daniel James Leatherwood, 21, pleaded guilty to Hobbs Act robbery and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence before U.S. Magistrate Judge Zack Hawthorn on Jan. 25, 2024.

According to court documents, in April and May of 2023, Leatherwood and another individual robbed several businesses in and around Beaumont at gunpoint. The robberies included two Game X Change stores, a Shell gas station, an Express Mart convenience store, and a Cindie's lingerie store.

Coleman was indicted by a federal grand jury on Nov. 1, 2023. He faces up to 20 years in federal prison on the armed robbery charge and an additional seven years for brandishing a firearm during the commission of that crime. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case was 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.

This case was investigated by the FBI, Beaumont Police Department, Nederland Police Department, Liberty Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tommy L. Coleman with the cooperation of the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

A hard freeze can make plants an ugly eyesore in a landscape or garden. But practice patience when it comes to freeze-damaged plants, according to a <u>Texas A&M AgriLife</u> expert.

Michael Arnold, Ph.D., director of <u>The Gardens at Texas A&M University</u> and professor of landscape horticulture in the <u>Department of</u> <u>Horticultural Sciences</u> at the <u>Texas</u> <u>A&M College of Agriculture and Life</u> <u>Sciences</u>, Bryan-College Station, said warmer daytime temperatures may give gardeners the itch to get outside and prune back damaged leaves and clean up dead plant material following a hard freeze, but they should resist the urge.

Plants can be damaged by temperatures once they reach 32 degrees, but a hard freeze – 28 degrees or below for four hours or more – can sting coldhardy plants and kill those that are less cold tolerant. Whether a hard freeze hits in November or in February, homeowners and gardeners should consider their local average final frost date before any cleanup.

"There is a tendency to want to spruce things up, but if we do that too quickly, we can predispose the plants to even more freeze damage," he said. "My advice is to be patient and learn to live with ugly."

Patience best after freeze damage Cold-sensitive plants like palm and banana trees or woody herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses may look dead or dying after a hard freeze, but Arnold said it is best to give them



time.

<u>Pruning too early</u> can cause more damage in two ways. First, it removes dead plant material that can help insulate living tissue from later freezing temperatures, and it may also stimulate new growth before the threat of frost has passed.

Warmer days can activate buds below any premature pruning cut, Arnold said. Stimulating new growth that is then exposed to freezing temperatures will inflict more damage to the plant.

Plants that look dead may recover, he said. Dead tissue will be apparent when the plant breaks dormancy in the spring, and waiting will ensure plants with live tissue recover. At that point, pruning is not detrimental to the plant's long-term recovery.

Arnold said gardeners should wait until the threat of frost has passed for the location, which could be the first few weeks in January in the Rio Grande Valley into March in North Texas. He suggests pruning around typical local "pruning" dates but said gardeners could act a little early if the 10-day forecast shows temperatures will stay above freezing.

Gardeners should also give high value plants and trees extra time to show signs of life through the spring before they remove them, he said. Some plants may look dead and might require some help and rehabilitation, but if there is live tissue, there is a chance of recovery.

"That dead material may look ugly, but it is Mother Nature's insulation, and cutting plants back too soon can harm more than help," he said. "You also don't want to pull up plants just because they look dead. If there is live tissue in the crown or below the ground, they are likely to recover. Some gardeners may not like to hear it, but right now is the time for patience."

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Junior High girls win three of four from Brownsboro

Lindale's Junior High School A team won, 41-28. Lady Eagles basketball teams took three of four games from the Brownsboro Lady Bears this past Thursday.

The 7th grade B team won, 28-5; the 7th grade A team fell, 28-23; the 8th grade B team claimed a 25-3 victory and the 8th grade Denson were leading scorers

For the 7th grade B team, Reece Rand was the leading scorer and Kierra Ross was the leading rebounder. Norah Woodard led the team in steals and Reece Rand was the assists leader.

Addison Mahana and Eden

for the 7th grade A team, while Milee Miller and Paisley Keith were leading rebounders. Milee Miller was the leader in steals and Kennedy Billington led in assists.

For the 8th grade B team, Charli Morgan was the leading scorer, leading rebounder

and leader in steals while Lilly Simmons led in assists. Dylan Grace and AJ McPherson won the Hustle Award and the entire team shared the Leadership Award.

KayLea Williams and Zaidyn Chamberlain were the leading scorers for the 8th grade A team as well as being the team leaders in rebounds. Kenlee Keith and Kailey Franks were the leaders in the steals category and Brooklyn Wiggins and Zaidyn Chamberlain led in assists. The Hustle Award was shared by the entire team and Zaidyn Chamberlain won the Leadership Award.

Lindale student earns **President's List honors** at Mississippi State

Star Libran, of Lindale, is among 4,503 students named to the Mississippi State University fall 2023 President's List, publicity officials announced.

Students on the President's List achieved a 3.80 or better GPA, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of coursework with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.

Mississippi State University is a national STEM-focused, doctoral degreegranting, land-grant university offering a wide range of educational experiences for learning and growth to a diverse student body of approximately 23,000 students in Starkville, Miss.

Christian Patterson earns Dean's List honors at Southern **Arkansas University**

Christan Anne Patterson of Lindale earned a 3.5 GPA or higher in the fall 2023 semester and was named to the Dean's List for Southern Arkansas University. Patterson is a senior Criminal Justice major with a minor in Sociology. A total of 593 students were honored on

this semester's Dean's List.

Southern Arkansas University, in Mag-

nolia, Ark., provides students the complete college experience in a caring environment of service, innovation, and community. With more than 100 degrees in four distinct colleges and the School of Graduate Studies, SAU initiates new degree programs to fit the needs of career and professional trends of today.

Lindale, Hideaway students earn **University of Arkansas honors**

Local students were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's and Chancellor's Lists in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

Braedon Morton of Lindale and Kennedy Weesner of Hideaway were named to the Fall 2023 Chancellor's and Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, the following local students achieved at least a 3.75 grade-point average for the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours. To qualify for the Chancellor's List, students must also achieve at least a 4.00 grade-point average for the semester while completing at least 12 credit hours.

How to deal with freeze damage – again

By Greg Grant

Smith County Horticulturist Unfortunately, the last few years have brought us three rounds of major winter freeze damage and two rounds of summer heat and drought stress. Trying to determine the "cause of death" has become challenging. Our latest winter cold temperatures into the low teens and below followed a relatively mild fall and early winter.

Plants do not like quick changes in temperature without time to harden off. Our low temperature in January also fell below our USDA Hardiness Zone 8b averages of 15-20 degrees.

Severe cold can cause all types of problems for plants. Freezing temperatures can damage plants by rupturing plant cells as ice crystals form and rapid changes in temperatures occur. This time we didn't have a thick snow cover to insulate the plants though.

The signs of cold damage

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This aloe vera fell victim to recent freeze damage. (Courtesy photo)

soaked.

can be confusing since some damage may not be evident until months later. Leaves and tender shoots subjected to freezing temperatures appear water-soaked and wilted. These tissues will usually turn black within a few days.

Tropical plants such as Esperanza and pride of Barbados may have dead foliage and dead stems. We may have lost most of our camellia flowers and buds but hopefully not our famed azaleas. I think we also probably avoided stem damage on most of our evergreen shrubs, unlike the devastating 2021 freeze.

This type of damage occurs as a splitting of the stem or bark, typically near the base of the plant due to sudden changes in temperature. Once they become obvious, split stems and branches should be pruned to unaffected growth.

Sometimes cold injury is not readily apparent until the plant starts to flower or

However, the freeze injury to the twigs, branches, or trunks often doesn't appear on shrubs and trees right away. Wait a few days and then use a knife or thumbnail to scrape the outer bark on young branches.

Freeze-damaged areas will be brown beneath the bark; healthy tissues will be green or white.

Delay pruning until time reveals the areas that are living and dead and until the threat of additional frosts or freezes has passed (around April 1). Leaving dead limbs and foliage at the tops of plants will help protect the lower leaves and branches from nighttime radiation loss. Pruning after a freeze does not improve the outcome. Also, plants that are pruned tend to be invigorated more quickly, which may set them up for further damage in our unpredictable cycling of warm and cold temperatures.

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actively grow again. At this point, cut out the dead and leave the living.

After a freeze or frost, the leaves of damaged herbaceous (annuals and perennials) plants may immediately appear wilted and water

prune or remove your damaged plants. Some plants may appear dead but may not be. Corrective pruning should not be started until the full extent of the damage can be determined.

Texas State Parks see record attendance at **First Day Hikes**

Texas State Parks kicked off 2024 in grand style by breaking not only its historical participation numbers but also by having the most events, participants and miles hiked of any state, publicity officials said.

"What a pleasant surprise to hear that Texans came in droves to kick off the new year at a Texas State Park," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks. "We topped the record-setting centennial kickoff numbers of 2023, proving that Texas has made First Day Hikes a family tradition. Thanks to all who joined us, and we look forward to breaking records for a third straight year in 2025!"

On Jan. 1, 81 Texas State Parks hosted a total of 177 events where 8,729 participants hiked, biked, swam and paddled a record 17,284 miles. This breaks the statewide record set last year when nearly 8,000 folks reached a cumulative 17,190 miles.

Mother Neff State Park near Waco had the most participants on New Year's Day with 597, followed closely behind by Dinosaur Valley State Park with 578.

Other parks that drew high visitation include Brazos Bend State Park with 544, Huntsville State Park with 444 and Cedar Hill State Park with 417 participants.

Photos of First Day Hikes at Texas State Parks can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Flickr page.

Outdoor fun doesn't have to stop now that the new year has begun. There are a range of trails at Texas State Parks for everyone. Some short, easy trails are perfect for familyfriendly scenic strolls, while more strenuous ones can challenge experienced hikers. Trail maps for all Texas State Parks can be found on TPWD's website, the recently redesigned official Texas State Park app and individual park webpages.

Find more information about local Texas State Parks at http://texasstateparks.org

Parks and Wildlife Commission awards \$20.6 million in grants

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$20.6 million in local park grants, a near record, to help create and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

The city of Jacksonville received a \$150,000 small community grant for the development and renovation of Lincoln Park. Project elements include a seven-foot-wide concrete trail, a playground, site amenities and exercise equipment with shade.

The competitive grants are allocated to local government entities on a 50/50 reimbursement match basis. Once funded, the sites must remain parkland in perpetuity, properly

maintained and open to the public. Forty community parks statewide will gain nature trails, native gardens, playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks, sports fields, and other park amenities. The commission, which administers the local park grants program for Texas, awarded grants to projects in various categories based on community population and scope.

Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants are reserved for local units of government with populations of more than 500,000. Three communities received this grant.

Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants fund park projects in municipalities under 500,000. The commission approved awards to projects in 21 communities.

Small Community Recreation Grants serve towns of less than 20,000 and were awarded to 16 communities.

For more information about the local park grants program, visit the TPWD local park grants page.

Other East Texas grants

The Mount Houston Road Municipal Utility District in Harris County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for the Westview Landing Pond Facilities and Cordoba Drive Pocket Park projects. Project elements include site amenities, fitness stations, native landscaping, irrigation, soccer fields, solar lighting, trails, a pond feature, shade, signage and a trailhead.

The North Houston District in Harris County received a \$455,013 non-urban outdoor grant for the Wussow Park Renovation project. Project elements include trails, park signage, a shaded fitness area, lighting, native landscaping, trees and irrigation, a playground, site amenities, site work and a soccer field.

The city of Missouri City in Fort Bend County received a \$750,000 non-urban outdoor grant for the Sta-Mo Sports Park project. Project elements include sport courts and fields, multi-purpose trails, a pump track, native landscaping, tree plantings and irrigation, a playground, picnic facilities, interpretive and park signage, site work and demolition.

The city of Nederland in Jefferson County received a \$150,000 small community grant for the improvement of Doornbos Park Pond project.

The city of Pasadena's Parks and Recreation Department in Harris County received a \$750,000 nonurban outdoor grant for the Preston Park project. Project elements include site work and demolition, a trail, a boardwalk, utilities, site amenities, native landscaping and irrigation.



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patricia Joyce Roberts, Deceased, were granted to Linda Martin on January 22, 2024, in Cause No. 48013P, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Executor, c/o: Michael C. Coker, Attorney at Law, 4540 Kinsey Drive, Tyler, Texas 75703, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with Texas property code, Chapter 59, Castlerock Storage-Lindale, 19375 US Hwy 69, Lindale, TX 75771, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. Units will be sold as-is to the highest bidder online at www.storageauctions.com February 9, 2024 thru February 21, 2024 @10:00am. Cash Only. Cleanup deposit and sales tax required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Units include the personal household belongings of the following tenants: Yuwaunder Williams **Kimberly Ripley**

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit by LaCascios's LLC dba LaCascio's, to be located at 75 Miranda Lambert Way #8 Lindale, Smith, Texas. Owner of said corporation is William Andreason Managing Member.



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Thomas Patrick Raynor, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2024, in Cause No. 47,896P, pending in the County Court at Law #3 of Smith County, Texas, to: KIMBERLY ANN RAYNOR.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Valera Green, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2024, in Cause No. 48,000P, pending in the County Court at Law #3 of Smith County, Texas, to: DERRICK GREEN.

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



FOR SALE

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare products for cats, dogs, & horses. Fleming Farm & Ranch Supply.

Divide & Conquer Estate Sale for Juanita (Mrs. Dudley) Wardlaw 6804 Hollytree Circle ~ Tyler, TX 75703 Thurs., Feb. 1 ~ 7:00 - 5:30 Fri., Feb. 2 ~ 8:00 - 5:30 Sat., Feb. 3 ~ 8:00 - 2:00 Outside S. Loop 323 and off S. Broadway, turn west onto Grande. At the light, turn left onto Hollytree Dr. Across from the tennis courts, turn right onto Brandywine and left onto Hollytree Circle.

This 3660 square foot home, *listed by The Pamela Walters Group*, is for sale; lovely contents include: exceptional buffet; 3 din. tables/chairs; 2 sofas; Asian style cabinets tapestries; more buffets; antq. chairs; recliner; misc. chairs; antq. secretary; other desks; blue & white selections; antq. settee; mirrors; many lamps; framed art; grandfather clock; other clocks; coffee tables; many books; sterling dinnerware; other flatware; sterling/silverplate items; crystal; many china & pottery selections; other flatware; sterling/silverplate items; crystal; many china & pottery selections; Arthur Court; other metalware items; barware; glassware; king bed; full beds; sev-eral dressers & nightstands; bed bench; kitchen items; Tupperware; sm. applianc-es; dolls; quilt rack; quilts, bedding, pillows, towels, sheets, placemats; clothing, scarves, shoes, purses; cost. jewelry; vintg. hats; men's clothes; golf clubs, acces-sories, caps, books; Singer sew. machine notions, fabric; luggage; luggage racks; off. supplies; bookshelves; file cabinets; speakers; electronics; CD's, cassettes, sheet music, 45/33 records; ladders; metal cabinets; hand/yard tools; poker table topper; holiday items; shells; primitive selections; exercise equip. (treadmill & Teeter); light fixtures; wheelchair, walker, shower chairs; soooo much more! Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com



NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

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).

public 1-4 p.m., Sun., Jan. 28 & Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes.

Gilmer Home Auction – Gilmer, TX: 105 Oasis Street, 4BR 3BA 2,438+/-SF home on 0.41+/-AC. Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Sun., Feb. 11. Bid Online Feb. 19 - 21 at auctionnetwork.com. 800-801-8003, williamsauction.com/TXHomes

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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.



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Rotarians honored

The Lindale Rotary Club recently celebrated the birthdays of two of their most beloved members, Edsel Loving, left, and Jim Mallory. Both are 90 years young and both have served the Rotary Club and the city of Lindale in important capacities. Loving served as the city's postmaster and Mallory was a longtime city councilman and mayor. At a recent meeting, both men shared stories with their fellow Rotarians about their lives and connections to the city. Also on hand to help with the celebration were Loving's wife Murlene and sister-inlaw Willene. **Courtesy photo**



It's time to "love" your library again

It is said that February is a month for lovers aand it's also a good time to "love" your Lillie Russell Memorial Library.

Library staff members are ready to celebrate this month of love with events for the entire family, including two new events.

On Thursday, Feb. 8 at 11:45 a.m. a live virtual tour of Monticello – the home of President Thomas Jefferson – will be presented.

A guide will lead patrons through our third president's home while presenting how the author of the Declaration of Independence helped shape our nation.

Pre-registration is required and parents and children, grades 3 and up, are encouraged to sign up.

At 2 p.m. on Valentine's Day Feb. 14 the Tea and Book Swap will take place. Adults 18 and older are encouraged to come by the Hand Community Room

to meet and mingle while sipping tea and swapping books.

The always popular Friday Storytime sessions (9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) will feature Teeth on Feb. 2; Valentine's Day, wear pink on Feb. 9; Bears on Feb. 16 and Hibernation on Feb. 23. The month also features

regularly scheduled events, including: --Adult Game Day, 10

a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For ages 18 and older. Card games, board games, dominoes and more.

-- Yarn Club, 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Thursdays. Learn to knit or crochet. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

-- Diabetes Support Group: 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6.

-- Therapet, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, Feb. 10. Call 903-882-1900 for available dates and times and to schedule a visit.

-- Friends of the Library Meeting, 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11.

-- Coffee and Crafts, 2 p.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20. This month's craft project is book page roses.

Lillie Russell Memorial Library hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

For more information, call 903-882-1900.

SCAD review board applications sought

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Continued from Page 1 following categories are not eligible to serve:

-- Individuals who are currently employed by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts or are a member of the governing body, an officer, or a full or part-time employee of the county, city, school district, community college district, MUD, or any other entity supported by local property taxes. Former governing body members or officers of a taxing unit served by SCAD, are ineligible for four full years from the date they ceased to serve in that capacity.

-- Anyone who personally, or whose spouse personally, has a contract with a local government or the appraisal district. The same restriction applies if the person, or his or her spouse, owns a ten percent or greater interest in a business which contracts with a local government or the appraisal district.

-- Persons who have appeared before the ARB for compensation as a tax consultant, appraiser, or representative of a property owner less than two years before the date the person is appointed.

-- Any individual who has ever been employed by SCAD or has served as a member of the district's Board of Directors.

--Applicants who are presently under indictment or have previously been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

INVESTMENT QUEST 2023-2024 **共TEXAS BANK AND TRUST** UDENT BOARD **Outstanding High School Seniors Who Make A Difference!**



CHARLOTTE McCONATHY is the daughter of Sally and Jay McConathy. She is a senior lieutenant with the drill team and a member of the National Honor Society, student council, and the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. Outside of school, Charlotte enjoys dancing. She believes she is impacting the world by volunteering in her community and initiating

change for future generations. Charlotte plans to attend Texas A&M University and study biology. Her future goals include becoming a physical therapist and opening her own private practice.



Abby plans to attend Texas A&M University and study nursing. Her future goals include becoming a registered nurse and working in the neonatal intensive care unit.

ABBY SHINE is the daughter of Angela and Craig Shine. She is a lieutenant dance officer and a member of the National Honor Society, student council, and Star Steppers. Outside of school, Abby enjoys baking and organizing. She believes she is impacting the world by spreading kindness, love, and leading by example.



AVERY ADAMS is the daughter of Lana and Billy Adams. She is a member of the student council and cheer team. Outside of school, Avery enjoys dancing and working out. She believes she is impacting the world with her positive outlook and by cheering her peers up when they are feeling down. Avery plans to

attend The University of Texas at Austin and study fashion merchandising. Her future goals include working for a high-end fashion brand.

Texas Bank and Trust celebrates the fourteenth anniversary of the Lindale Student Board of Directors, Texas Bank and Trust celebrates the fourteenth anniversary of the Lindale Student Board of Directors, recognizing outstanding seniors from Lindale High School who have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to community service. We are proud to introduce the following members View more profiles @ www.facebook.com/texasbankandtrust of the 2023-2024 Student Board.

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