Filing deadline nears for **March primary**

Candidates for school board, city and county offices have until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 to file for the Republican and Democratic primaries, scheduled for Tuesday, March 4.

In person early voting for the primaries will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and will conclude on March 1.

In Lindale, early voting will take place at the Kinzie Community Center, 912 Mount Sylvan Street. Election Day voting will be at the Kinzie Center and at the Lindale Masonic Lodge, 200 West Margaret Street.

Hideaway Election Day voting will take place at the Members Service Center, 101 Hide-A-Way

Early voting hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 20-23; 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Feb. 24; 12 noon to 6 p.m., Feb. 25 and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Feb. 26-March 1.



It's the sign of the times for sure as candidates' signs are popping up all across Lindale and East Texas. **Photo by Terry Cannon**

Election Day voting hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday, March 5.

For the Lindale ISD, Board President Mike Combs has filed for re-election as well as Trustee Brooks Beeler

For the city of Lindale, current Place 5 Councilman Gavin Rascoe has filed for the mayor's position and incumbent Place 2 Councilwoman Yvette Aguirri Martin also filed for re-election.

In the Republican county pri-

maries, candidates include Sara Maynard and Amy McCullough for the County Court At Law position; incumbent Larry Smith and Chris Green for County Sheriff; incumbent Terry Phillips, J. Scott Herod and Rusty Smith for Precinct 3 County Commissioner. Gary Barber is unopposed for the County Tax-Accessor Collector.

David Stein and Kevin McCall are on the ballot for the Republican County Chairman's position.

In the Democratic county primaries, Dave Hansen and Edith Mayfield Wilson are on the ballot for Precinct 3 County Commissioner and Hector Garza is unopposed for the Democratic County Chairman's post.

Forms of identification required to vote in Texas include:

- Texas Driver's License issued by the Department of Public Safety;
 - Texas Election Identification

issued by the DPS;

- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the DPS;
- Texas Handgun License issued by DPS;
- United States Military Identification Card containing your photograph;
- United States Citizenship Certificate containing your photograph;
- United States Passport, book or card;

UIL realigns districts:

Lindale football, basketball and volleyball teams stay put

By Terry Cannon

The University Interscholastic League's biennial district realignment is now official and for Lindale High School, there were few changes in football, basketball and volleyball.

This past Thursday, the UIL announced its realignment and Lindale's football team will compete once again in Region III, Division 1 9-4A along with familiar opponents Henderson, Kilgore, Palestine and Chapel Hill. New teams to 9-4A this year are Longview Pine Tree and Mabank. Pine Tree moved down a classification after spending the past two seasons on Division II, District 8-5A. Mabank, which was in Lindale's district two seasons ago, is moving from 8-4A.

In 2024-25, there will be 107 Class 4A Division I schools with an enrollment cutoff of 957 to 1,314. Jacksonville, which has been in Lindale's district the past two seasons, moved up to Class 5A, Division II, while Athens moved to Division II in District 8-4A.

Lindale Head Coach and Boys Athletic Director Chris Cochran wasn't surprised with the additions and subtractions on the Eagles' schedule next year. It was felt by several observers that Pine Tree would indeed be in Lindale's district, instead of a non-district foe.

"This District of Doom, as it's called, only got tougher with Pine Tree," he said. "They are a good, well coached program and it will be a challenge. It's going to be up to us to accept that challenge."

Last year, the Pirates grabbed a 42-22 in a week two matchup. "That game was one of those that we'd like to have back," said Cochran.

"Not taking anything away from Pine Tree, but we just didn't play well." In basketball and volleyball, Lindale will be in District 15-4A, along with Athens, Brownsboro, Canton, Kemp, Mabank and Van.

The Eagles' basketball and volleyball teams will be in Region II and remain Division I. Spring sports teams' realignment will be announced at a future date.

The district schedule for Lindale has the Eagles on the road at Chapel Hill on Sept. 27, open on Oct. 4, hosting Palestine on Oct. 11, at Kilgore on Oct. 18, hosting Mabank on Oct. 25, at Pine Tree on Nov. 1 and at home against Henderson in the final league game.

Cochran is still working on the non-district slate which includes Hallsville, Mount Pleasant, Van and Gilmer.

"It's important that we get the right non-district games for our program and our team," he said. "We're still trying to figure out the home and away stuff (on the non-district schedule.).'

Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt has similar thoughts on the football side of the realignment and noted that LHS basketball and volleyball teams will be challenged as well.

"Pine Tree is a tough competitor and volleyball and basketball got a little bit tougher," he said.

In football, 9-4A has produced not only good teams, but ones that go deep in the playoffs each year. Kilgore and Chapel Hill - and Lindale in 2020 – have earned a berth in the state championship game.

"This district has been so dominate in our region that it has earned the District of Doom name," he said. "If you make it to the playoffs out of our district you can say you've accomplished something.'



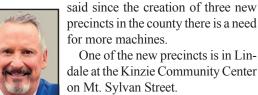
Local 4-H Champions

Lindale 4-H club members recently won first place in the Engineering Challenge in the Smith County Academic Rodeo for its Mars Rover built out of Lego blocks. This was the first time Lindale 4-H members participated in the Academic Rodeo. The Engineering Challenge tests the engineering and problem solving skills of the students. The Mars Rover had a scoop device for collecting rocks and must work through several challenges, including a Blind Driving Challenge. Lindale 4-H winners are, from left, Suzie Byrne, Landon Koten, Teagan Thue and Katie Darby.

County purchases new voting machines

Smith County Commissioners approved an interlocal agreement between the county and Bosque County for the purchase of 20 Express Votes voting machines during their regular meeting held on Jan. 30.

County Elections Administrator Michelle Allcon



FRANKLIN

said since the creation of three new precincts in the county there is a need for more machines.

dale at the Kinzie Community Center on Mt. Sylvan Street.

She said the machines will not be ready for the primary elections in March but after being certified they should be in the county's hands in

early summer. The cost of the machines is an estimated \$35,000. which is less than half of other bids she received.

The money will come from elections' office's administrative account and not from the county's general fund, she said. Allcon said when purchasing new voting machines state officials have to be informed of the purchase and then be tested and certified before the

purchase becomes official. Also during the Jan. 30 meeting, commissioners recognized several employees for their service time with the county, including Precinct 3 Commissioner Terry Phillips, who represents the Lindale area.

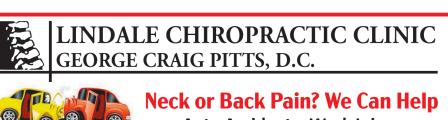
Phillips was recognized for his 15 years of service by County Judge Neal Franklin.

"He's the longest tenured member of the court," Franklin said. "Congratulations to you on your milestone for your 15 years my friend."

Phillips took office as Commissioner for Precinct 3, in January 2009.

He was born in Gregg County and remained there just one year before his parents moved to New Mexico. In 1974, the family moved to Tyler and in January 1975, he enrolled as a senior in John Tyler High School. Commissioner Phillips earned an associate degree in petroleum technology from Tyler Junior College and studied supervision and government at the University of Texas at Tyler.

In 1978, he worked as a Well Test Analyst at Otis Engineering in Lewisville. In 1980, he moved back to Tyler, where he worked for Getty Oil Company. Soon after, Texaco bought out Getty Oil, and Phillips remained with Texaco USA through the mid-1980s. He began acquiring real estate in the 1980s and continues managing properties today.



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Gary Borders Capital Highlights



TEA annual report just released

The Texas Education Agency's annual report was released last week. It indicates per-student funding in the 2021-2022 school year averaged \$14,928 per student, up 42% since 2011. However, state funding has only risen slightly in the past decade, while local funding has increased substantially.

Texas public schools educate 5.518 million students while employing 371,778 teachers on 9,054 campuses, according to the report.

Compared to other states, Texas ranked 33rd in reading among fourth graders, and 41st among eighth grade readers, which were improvements over previous years. Texas public school students ranked 14th in math for fourth graders, down two slots, and 25th among eighth graders, up seven slots.

Border standoff continues in Eagle Pass

Despite a 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that U.S. Border Patrol agents can cut razor wire placed along the Texas-Mexico border to deter migrants from crossing the Rio Grande, Texas National Guard members and state troopers continue to lay down wire as a convoy of protestors from across the country heads to Eagle Pass. The Texas Tribune reported Gov. Greg Abbott has been joined by 25 Republican governors who support his claim the state has the right to supersede the federal government's constitutionally mandated rights to control the nation's border because of the migrant "invasion."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick also defended ignoring the high court ruling.

"We believe, constitutionally, we are right. We have a right to defend our citizens. We have a right to defend this country," he said on Fox News.

Immigration rights groups say claims that immigrants are part of an invasion could lead to increased border vigilantism and violence.

Paxton's whistleblower lawsuit continues

The legal saga of a whistleblower lawsuit filed against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will continue despite his efforts to have it thrown out, even though the Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency ruling to delay his testimony temporarily, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Travis County state District Court Judge Catherine Mauzy ruled that the case, brought by four former top aides to Paxton who allege wrongdoing on the part of the attorney general, can move forward despite Paxton saying he will not contest the suit and will comply with any settlement agreement issued by the court.

TJ Turner, an attorney for the whistleblowers, said Paxton is attempting to avoid taking the stand.

"This is just the latest parlor trick in OAG's quiver that they've deployed to avoid what the Attorney General fears most, and that's testifying under oath," Turner said, referring to the Office of the Attorney General.

Mauzy noted Paxton has been willing to concede the whistleblowers' case but simultaneously maintain his innocence. "Those seem to me to be contradictory positions," she said.

Criminals impersonate state in asset seizure attempts

Some taxpayers are receiving fraudulent letters warning the state will seize their assets and property for unpaid taxes unless payment is received with seven days, the state comptroller's office said. The letters did not come from the Comptroller's office, which said in a news release that criminals have been running these types of scams for years. The letters demand immediate payment and often provide a false link for such payment.

"Be incredibly wary whenever you receive unexpected messages like these, as they can be a trap. The criminals' threats are designed to get you to react by calling the criminals' phone number or clicking on a fake link to solve the problem. The consequences can be catastrophic," the news release said.

Victims can not only lose money but can become victims of identity theft or have malware installed on their computers simply by clicking on a scam link.

If you receive an unexpected message of this type, do not respond in any fashion. Instead, call the Comptroller's Collection Team at 800-252-8880.

The hard places ...

From 2020

It is the hard places that either make us who we are or show others who we are. Recently I have had a few people reach out to me be-cause of a particular column I wrote about the 'hard places' that spoke to them. That touches my heart, but it also reminds me that words matter. That got me to thinking about what words have been spoken to me that continue to shape the words I use, the words I write, and the life I try to live.

Perhaps the most powerful words spoken to me came from my mother. My older brother, by four years, was severely handicapped. He could say only a bare handful of words, maybe five or so. And even those disappeared eventually. He could not walk or talk, but he had the gift of sight and hearing. It was evident that Donnie was extremely intelligent. He followed everything with his deep, brown eyes. He laughed. He cried.

His misshapen body made some feel uncomfortable. Others tended to put our family on a pedestal because of the perceived burden of having such a handicapped child. I don't remember how old I was, but I was young, forever questioning and wanting to know the 'why' of as much as possible. So, I asked my Mom one of the 'hard' ques- tions…"Why did God make Donnie the way he was?".

"To teach us how to love" was my Mom's response. And at my young age I took that answer to heart. I'm not sure why

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell

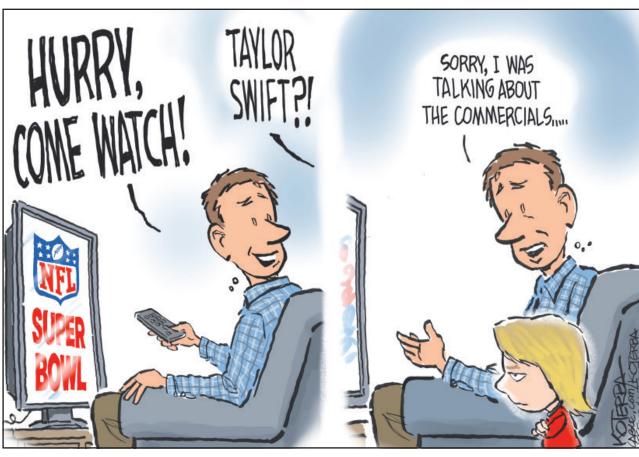


I have never really questioned that answer. Maybe because it turned out to be true. Donnie's life shaped mine as surely as my parents' response to his situation did. I watched them do the truly hard things with love and perseverance and faithfulness.

Eventually Donnie had to be institutionalized because of his fragil- ity. And then I saw on a regular basis the families who were like ours. Some of them were broken by their journey. Some were elevated by it, and some were enslaved.

All I know is that I learned to love more deeply, to accept more freely, and to recognize the hidden gifts from the hard places of life for what they are, blessings. I know what I want carved into stone when I leave this earth, "...the greatest of these is love" I Corinthians 13:13b. I know that to be true because my Momma told me so. More importantly, she and Daddy showed me.

I hope you know these words to be true as well because I think they may just be the most important words ever written.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

An Unrefreshing Pause ...

A moratorium was recently issued on permits for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. Although the reasons were purportedly related to climate change, the reality is that slowing the development of this market is actually deleterious for the environment, not to mention the global economy, human sustainability, and geopolitical stability.



The United States is the leading exporter of LNG, and the market has been expanding significantly in Europe and Asia. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the dangerous dependency of Europe on Russian natural gas became abundantly obvious. One of the projects affected by the permit pause is already committed to supply natural gas to Germany.

This order doesn't affect projects already operational, under construction, or permit-

ted. Its near-term effects are, thus, minimal (assuming it only persists through the election). By slowing the development of the market, however, the moratorium prolongs Russia's power (and access to funds) at a time when tensions are high. It also increases the investment risk and uncertainty associated with future development of an essential resource.

Climate change must be addressed, but pausing LNG permits has the opposite effect. A key reason that the United States has reduced carbon emissions in a growing economy is the transition

from coal to natural gas. In fact, a study from the National Energy Technology Laboratory found that, even when production, lique-faction, transportation, and regassification are included, the end result of using LNG is lower emissions than for regional coal in Europe or Asia. Moreover, US gas burns cleaner than Russian gas.

Renewable energy, while critical, cannot provide sufficient reliable power 24/7 at present, and studies by the Department of Energy (and many others) clearly indicate that meeting future demand for energy is going to necessitate an all-of-the-above strategy for the foreseeable future. We certainly must ensure that oil and natural gas exploration, development, and deployment occur in a responsible manner. However, when the practical alternative is to burn coal or dirtier natural gas from Russia, American LNG is far preferable for the environment (and geopolitical stability).

In 2015, 190 countries in the United Nations adopted an initiative to dramatically reduce emissions and eliminate extreme poverty in the world by 2030. We are nowhere close to these objectives. Unless we want to consign billions of people to freezing cold and inhumane suffering, we must develop domestic natural gas resources and maintain access to markets around the world.

Slowing these projects just as momentum is surging is a shortsighted policy which will be counterproductive to addressing the climate crises, achieving greater global stability, and improving the human condition. Addressing these existential issues requires a vision that is measured in generations, not election cycles. This is NOT a pause that refreshes. Stay safe!



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Another "Super" weekend has arrived

Well sports fans, here we are again. It's nearly time for Super Bowl Sunday, a mixture of non-stop blather from "experts" combined with a few entertaining commercials, a dash of musical talent at halftime rolled around a three-plus-hour game that sometimes can actually live up to the hype.

This is the NFL recipe for what the league believes is the tastiest time of the sports year.

But truthfully, if you're not a fan of the two combatants – this year either Kansas City or San Francisco – the game itself is mostly just a pleasant diversion.

Anyway, from its beginning on Jan. 15, 1967, this game has morphed into such a cultural event there never seems to be an end to the hype. That game, which pitted the mighty Green Bay Packers against Kansas City (just a few years removed from being the AFL's Dallas Texans) was more of a curiosity than a life-or-death proposition.

A product of the NFL-AFL merger in the summer of 1966, the game was first billed as the "AFL-NFL World Championship Game" and took place at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Ticket prices were rather pedestrian, by today's standards at \$12.

In 2024, you'll need stacks and stacks of cash for one ticket as estimates range as high as \$12,000.

How this contest morphed from "AFL-NFL World Championship Game" to the



behemoth of today is a fascinating tale involving a son of a Texas billionaire, some crusty, old NFL diehards and a young executive who had a singular vision to make pro football – once lagging behind baseball and basketball as a national thought – into the most watched sport in America.

The seed that would become the National Football League was planted, of all places, in 1920 in a Hupmobile auto dealership in Canton, Ohio. Representatives of four teams wanted to raise the standard of professional football, by eliminating the bidding on players and refining team schedules.

Teams came and went, but two – the Chicago Staleys (later Bears) and the Chicago (later Arizona) Cardinals – remain to this day.

George Halas, ol' Papa Bear himself, was one of the founders at that Canton car dealership and helped steer the league through many challenges, including the popularity of college football and other leagues trying to gain a foothold.

By 1959, a billionaire's son named Lamar Hunt (father: H.L. Hunt), sought to acquire an NFL franchise the NFL had shunned.

but was turned down. Instead of slinking off with his tail between his legs, Lamar Hunt contacted several businessmen with the idea of starting their own

league, which came to frui-

tion in 1960 – The American

Football League. (Funny aside: After the first couple of years, the AFL was bleeding money, especially Lamar Hunt. A reporter asked his dad, H.L., about the \$1 million per year he was losing. H.L. said: "At that rate, he'll be broke in 100 years.")

At first, smug NFL owners brushed off the upstart league until NBC agreed to a TV deal with the new league in 1965 (\$36 million, 5 years), meaning lots of broadcast revenue found its way into AFL owners' coffers.

Armed with a new TV deal, AFL owners became more brazen. Not only did they try and raid NFL rosters (there was no free agency in the NFL at that time), but they mined the college draft offering bigger bonuses to college stars (re: Joe Namath) as well as concentrating on the historically black colleges and smaller schools

The result was a quality league that measured up talent wise – with the stodgy NFL.

Enter a former PR guy named Pete Rozelle, who was hired as NFL Commissioner in 1960. At 33, he was the youngest commissioner in league history but had a vision born of experience in the world of marketing.

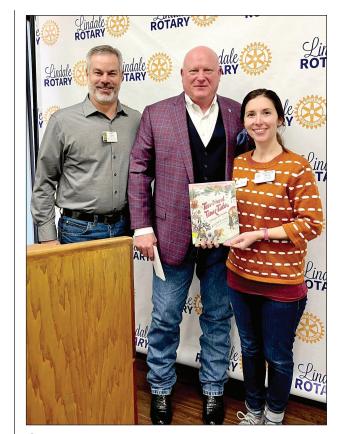
After six years of dueling for players and TV revenue, Rozelle sought out Lamar Hunt, de facto commissioner of the AFL. By the summer of 1966, an agreement to merge was signed.

For practicality's sake, the merger wouldn't become effective until the 1970 season but the Super Bowl (named by Hunt after watching his kids play with a Super Ball) began with the Packers - fresh off an NFL title game win over the Dallas Cowboys in the Cotton Bowl – dominating Hunt's Chiefs, 35-10. The next year the Packers, after slipping past the Cowboys in the "Ice Bowl," dominated the Oakland Raiders, 33-14.

But in 1969, Namath and his New York Jets officially brought the AFL into parity with the NFL by upsetting the mighty Baltimore Colts, 16-7. The following year, Kansas City defeated Minnesota, 23-7.

From that point on, the National Football League by then divided into AFC and NFC teams - took off like a rocket.

It's been a fascinating ride



Gen. Brown speaks to Rotary

Maj. Gen. James "Red" Brown was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Lindale Rotary Club. Gen. Brown spoke on current events involving Texas and drew on his extensive military background during his talk. He was presented by club member Matt Watts. Also shown is Lillie Russell Memorial Librarian Shannon Reid. The Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at 12 noon at Christ Point Methodist Church. (Courtesy photo)



EDITOR'S NOTE: This column comes from the archives of the Lindale News and Times, which is available online for \$2.99 per month. Call 903-882-8880 to set up your online subscription.

ONE YEAR AGO, Feb. 9, 2023

Although it wasn't the "Snowmegeddon" of 2021, the winter blast that hit Lindale this week was nonetheless frustrating as freezing rain, sleet and cold temperatures chilled East Texans to the bone.

Power outages, caused by tree branches coated with ice that snapped power lines, were prevalent across the region. Oncor reported more than 100,000 people were without power and more than 31,000 after Wednesday.

Some streets were blocked off due to fallen trees which made them impassable.

Smith County Judge Neal Franklin issued a Disaster Declaration for the county due to the storm damage.

Icy conditions have caused numerous trees and limbs to fall, causing damage to homes, buildings and other county infrastructure, as well as power outages throughout

FIVE YEARS AGO, Feb.7, 2019

Lindale Junior High School Choir members earned medals and ribbons at the Region 21 solo/ensemble competition held at Whitehouse High School. First division medal winners were Samuel Butterfield, Emily Holloway, Sarah Kramer, Katherine Marion, Taegen Michel, Saul Ramirez, Elijah Sanchez, Sydney Toon, Mercedes Trasancos and Mia Turner. Second division ribbon winners were Cameron Reeves and Lake Sylva.

10 YEARS AGO, Feb. 6, 2014

Officials with Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. announced that Shelbie Glover, Executive Director of the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce, would be inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 2014 class.

Glover, who earned her bachelor's degree in 2002 and her master's in 2004, was the first All-American in NSU women's golf history, earning the distinction from the National Golf Coaches Association in both 2001 and 2002.

She was also an NGCA All-American Scholar in 2001. She helped lead NSU to two Lone Star Conference Championships (2001-02) and competed on two teams that finished sixth (2002) and seventh (2001), respectively, at the NCAA Championship finals.

She finished 11th at the national championship in 2001 and tied for 17th in 2002. She also is one of only four women's golfers in school history to have won the LSC Individual Championship (2001). She served as a graduate assistant with the golf program at Northeastern State and earned an MBA degree in

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What's the Spanish word for murder?

I have been asked several times, here lately, when I was goin' to let Janet write another article. Well, in the first place, I don't let Janet do anything. Janet does whatever Janet wants. And in the second place, Janet does not enjoy writin' as much as I do.

And third, every time she writes, I have to listen to everyone tell me how much more they like her stories and how they think she's a better writer than I am and all that junk. I have a fragile ego, you know.

Anywho, since she wrote this week's junk I'm getting the week off.

Enjoy.

By Janet Mitchum

I told Rusty that I wanted to write something on our Mexican vacation. The reason I wanted to do this is because when he writes, I come off sounding like a real bat. I may sound like that, but you have to understand, I am driven to it. After all, I'm married to Rusty.

Going on vacation with Rusty is like taking along a small, unruly child. At least he is not in diapers. Although, I am expecting he will need them pretty soon. For one thing, Rusty cannot sit still. He fidgets, especially if he has to sit for any length of time.

Church is about as long as he can sit still, and even then, you would think he has worms. On the two and a half hour plane ride to Cabo, he was bouncing around in his seat like a two year old.

He must have gone to the bathroom six or seven times and every time he would walk out of the bathroom, he would run and look out the first window he would come to.

Rusty Mitchum Life & Times



out the window for?" I asked him, after I had observed him doing this sev-

"When I flushed the commode, I wanted to see if I could see it fall," he replied.

"They don't dump it into the air," I said.

"That's what they want you to believe," he said.

"They who?" "You know. The com-

eral times.

mode people."

"The commode people?" And this conversation went on and on. He will wear you out. Speaking of conversations, I read last week where he wrote that he put an "O" at the end of each word, thinking that it was how you spoke Spanish. He was not lying to you.

He really does that. He does not really have a grasp on any language, including English. And when the people in Cabo said anything to him in Spanish, well, here's some of the stuff that happened.

"Holá," said a young man, as he passed us on the street.

"Did you hear that?"

asked Rusty.

"Yes," I replied.

"Well, I don't know who this Ola is, but I must be a spittin' image of him."

"They are not calling you Ola, you moron," I informed him. "They are saying Holá, only the H is silent. It means hello."

"They are?" "Yes, they are."

"Well, why in the heck don't they say hello then, if

"What are you looking that's what they mean. It's like they're talkin' in a foreign language or somethin'."

I rolled my eyes. (Yes, I do roll my eyes. If you were married to Rusty you would roll your eyes, too. I've rolled them so much, it's a wonder they are still

"It is a foreign language," I said. "Remember where we are?

in my head.)

"Yeah, but the Mexicans up where we live say hello."

"Yes, but when in Rome," "We're in Rome? I

thought this was Mexico," he said. I gave him one of what he

calls "those" looks.

Rusty can find humor in just about anything, although what he considers humorous, and what the rest of the world finds humorous, is usually two different things.

Take for example when we took a guided tour of the city.

We were picked up at our hotel one morning by a tour van. The driver opened the door to help me in.

"Howdy," said Rusty. "Holá," said the driver. "I'm Juan."

"Really" said Rusty, and he smiled. "Well howdy Juan, I'm Two, and this here is my wife Three."

The driver and I both gave him one of "those" looks.

"What?" Rusty said. "Don't y'all get it? Juan, Two, Three? Get it? Aw, come on. That's funny." "No, it isn't," I said.

"She's right," Juan said. "Not funny."

We climbed into the van. Rusty leaned over to whisper to me. "I guess he forgot we whooped their rear ends at the Alamo."

"We lost at the Alamo," I informed him.

"We did? Oh, yeah, that's right. But we got 'em at San Jacinto."

I rolled my eyes. It was a long, long tour.

Then there was the time we were waiting for a restaurant to open up, so we could go in for dinner. The restaurant was located at our hotel resort, and really a nice place.

It was really too fancy of a place to take Rusty, but I could not find anyone else to go with, so I was stuck. We were sitting outside on a bench looking out at the waves crashing onto the beach when one of the hotel staff walked by.

"Howdy," said Rusty.

"Buenas tardes," the man said as he passed.

"Did you hear that?" Rusty said. "He said Wayne passed gas," only Rusty did not say "passed gas". He said the other word.

"He said buenas tardes, you idiot," I said. (Yes, I call him an idiot. I can't help it, he is one.) "It means good afternoon, or good evening."

"Oh," said Rusty. "That's good. I thought he was warnin' us, so we wouldn't get stuck sittin' next to Wayne's table or somethin'."

Now don't get me wrong, Rusty and I had a wonderful time in Mexico. I would highly recommend Cabo San Lucas to anyone.

However, if I go back, I will probably be going as a fugitive from justice. Can they extradite you from Mexico for murder?

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Moran town hall set Feb. 20

A town hall meeting with U.S. Rep. Nathaniel Moran, hosted by the American Legion Jordan-Duncan Post 15, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library in downtown Lindale, organizers announced.

The meeting is free and open to the public. A reception is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. A question and answer session will follow the meet-

The library is located at 200 East Hubbard Street



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Tips on how to deal with daily stress

By Smith County **Extension Service**

Stress is an unavoidable part of life, which is why learning effective coping mechanisms and stress-reduction techniques is so vital.

While stress comes in countless forms and can be both positive (e.g., exercise) and negative (e.g., feeling overburdened at work), and both acute (e.g., visitors staying in your home) and chronic (e.g., financial worries), it's your responses to stress that determine whether you feel "stressed out" for long stretches of time or are able to move through those feel-



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ings effectively while minimizing the negative impact on your quality of life and health.

One of the best and most accessible tools to decrease stress is to connect with your breath. During the stress response, breath becomes light and shallow.

When this happens, it is important to bring awareness to the breath to help refocus the mind. Conscious deep breathing ignites the relaxation response, which has the potential to trigger physiological changes in our bodies, such as reduced blood pressure and psychological stress.

It is always good to take some time just for 'you' to help

This month's Lunch & Learn can help you do just that. Yen De Nova from Relax Lab in Tyler will be with us talking "Keep Calm & Relax".

It is scheduled for 12 noon on Wednesday, Feb. 21 in the Extension Meeting Room in the Cotton Belt Building.

Call 903-590-2980 to register before Feb. 19.

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



Yenissel De Nova, CMT, CST, RYT

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> 903-597-6131 Pastor Stephen Nipp

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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

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903-882-6432

First Baptist Church of Lindale

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Tom Buck Foundation Baptist Church

715 S Main St. Lindale 75771 903-881-9490

Garden Valley Baptist Church

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903-882-7671 Greater Hopewell Baptist Church

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Garden Valley Bible Church 17117 FM 1253

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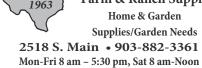
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Lindale Police Department call logs for Jan. 26-Feb. 1

FRIDAY, JAN. 26: Suspicious Circumstance, 300 block Rita Drive, Settled at Scene; Escort, 200 block West South Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 2100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 400 block Hill Street, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27: Suspicious Person, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Person, 600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 3200 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Criminal Trespass, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 1300 block Robyn Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 12800 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Theft, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Arrest; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 2700 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 13300 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block E. Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28: Attempt to Serve, 13400 block IH-20 East, Unable to Locate; Disturbance, 900 block Lynn Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 100 block E. Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 14000 block FM 849, Unfounded; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Criminal Trespass, 100 block E. Centennial Blvd., Warning Issued; Family Violence, 1200



block Brad Circle, Arrest; Motorist Assist, 13300 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 554 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Threats, 300 block Mt. Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Theft, 1000 block Stewart Street, Report; Theft, 100 block E. Centennial Blvd., Report.

MONDAY, JAN 29: Evade Arrest, 300 block South Main Street, Arrest; Hit and Run Crash, 300 block Mallory Street, Report; Suspicious Person, 500 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 500 block Sunset Drive, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 100 block East Van Street, Report; Public Service, 500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 100 block Hamrick Street, Unable to Locate.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30: Assist Another Agency, 552 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 300 block Eagle Spirit Drive, False Alarm; Assist Smith Co SO, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Burglary Motor

Vehicle, 13300 block IH-20 East, Report; Civil Matter, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31: Traffic Complaint, 556 IH-20 West, Unable to Locate; Harassment, 15300 block Brittain Court, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 900 block East Hubbard Street, Report; Business Alarm, 3200 block South Main Street, False Alarm, Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 600 block Abbey Road, Warning Issued; Welfare Concern, 400 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Theft, 17800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Arrest; Traffic Hazard, 500 block Mt. Sylvan Street, Report; Harassment, 400 block Hill Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 556 IH-20 West, Unable to Locate; Assist EMS, 17700 block CR 4112, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1: Warrant Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Arrest; Suspicious Circumstance, 15500 block CR 463, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 556 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Criminal Mischief, 13500 block CR 472, Report; Public Service, 13800 block CR 431, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 15200 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 600 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 100 block E. Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Burglary Motor Vehicle, 500 block Circle Drive, Settled at Scene; Harassment, 400 block Hill Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 100 block E. Centennial Blvd., False Alarm.

Doctors among four indicted in college billing scheme

Four individuals, including two physicians, have been indicted in the Eastern District of Texas charged with federal violations involving a university athletic billing scheme, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Mouzon Bass, III, also known as Muzzy Bass, 58, of Highland Park; Lance West Wilson, 54, of Allen; and Robert Brent Scott, 59, of La Quinta, Calif.; were indicted by a federal grand jury in January 2024 and charged with conspiring to commit wire fraud, conspiring to commit healthcare fraud, and conspiring to commit money laundering.

In a separate indictment returned in October 2023, Kyle Kelly Carter, 61, of Keller, was charged with conspiring to commit wire fraud. The defendants have all made initial appearances in federal court this month.

According to the indictments, from approximately 2014 through 2023, the defendants are alleged to have been involved in a university-centered athletic department billing scheme.

Bass and Wilson used their company, Vivature, to submit false claims to private insurance carriers representing that physicians, like Scott and Carter, were providing medical services for injured student-athletes at universities across the country.

In reality, these physicians did not see or treat these student-athletes, and in many instances, were physically hundreds of miles away from where the student-athletes were receiving treatment. The services were actually performed by athletic trainers employed by the universities' athletic departments who, most times, were specifically excluded from insurance companies' reimbursement policies.

At the direction of Bass and Wilson, Vivature submitted thousands of false claims to the insurance companies, named Scott, Carter, and other physicians as the servicing providers, and used their NPI numbers on the claims' paperwork.

In exchange for allowing the fraudulent use of their NPI and credentials, Vivature made regular payments to Scott, Carter, and other physicians.

A separate conspiracy involved only defendants Bass, Wilson, and Scott, who executed a scheme to fraudulently obtain Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") government funds earmarked for COVID-19 testing provided to uninsured Americans. The defendants partnered with international resorts hosting American travelers abroad, offering to manage the billing and claims process for COVID-19 testing provided to these American travelers.

Then, the defendants submitted thousands of reimbursement claims to HRSA for such travelers, even though such travelers were privately insured and ineligible under the HRSA program.

In total, the defendants are alleged to have collectively obtained over \$70 million from the two schemes.

With these funds, they paid themselves millions of dollars; purchased real property including a multi-million dollar home, lakehouse, and international residence; and bought a multi-million dollar yacht.

This case is being investigated by the FBI and prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorneys



Yard of the Month The yard of Shane and Mandi Gray, 13350 Karah Lane in Lindale, has been selected as the Yard of

Why do we see "red" on Valentine's Day?

By Lynn McGinnis **Smith County Master Gardener**

None of the holiday flowers are as closely connected with Valentine's Day as the red rose.

Even if you don't pay attention to this mid-February event, it's difficult to overlook the sales displays overflowing with dozens for Valentine's Day roses in supermarkets, drugstores, and even gas stations.

None of the Valentine's Day presents are as well-known as the rose.

The tradition of presenting roses on Valentine's Day has various origin legends, all of which are founded in Greek mythology, as is the history of Cupid and Valentine's Day.

Some traditions suggest that the first red rose was created when the Greek goddess Aphrodite was scraped by the thorn of a white rose, causing that rose to turn red.

Others say the first red rose blossomed on the spot where Adonis, Aphrodite's lover, died and the goddess wept.

It is common knowledge that the red rose embodies the feelings of romance and love, and that meaning hasn't changed for centuries.

In Roman times, the wealthiest citizens as well as gods and goddesses bathed in water filled with rose petals, which provide an amazing aroma and skin-softening benefits.

Another reason for the red rose's romantic significance is the early Christians' belief that the flower signified the Virgin Mary's virtue. Because of these beliefs and longstanding mythology, the red rose became an enduring symbol of passion and romance.

Many of the most well-known names in literature, including William Shakespeare, cited the romantic nature of red roses in their writings.



In Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare wrote, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Today, red roses are one of the world's most popular Valentine's Day gifts, as they allow senders to express their desire, admiration, and appreciation.

Another reason people relish giving their loved ones bouquets of red roses on Valentine's Day is the enigma surrounding them. They are considered exquisite and special: not necessarily an everyday flower to include in a vase on the table.

Growing them in the garden is one thing, but being given a massive bundle of crimson or apple red petals is a sign of esteem.

Nothing sparks love and romance like red roses do, and it is hands down a true classic when it comes to declaring your love and longing for another. Gifting a rose is the simplest yet most universal gesture of telling someone how much you love them without actually saying a thing.

Plus, who doesn't love being surprised with beautiful red roses on Valentine's Day? Happy Valentine's Day from the Smith County Master Gardeners!

Smith County Master Gardeners are volunteer educators certified and coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Lady Eagles sweep Van in basketball

The Lindale Junior High School Lady Eagles took four basketball games from the Van Lady Vandals this past Thursday with the 7th grade B and A teams and the 8th grade A and B teams earning wins.

For the 7th grade B team, Lindale whipped Van, 25-13 as Reagan Thurman was the leading scorer, Ashlynn Brown was the leading rebounder, Libbie McHam was the assists leader and Norah Woodard and Reagan Thurman were the leaders in steals.

The 7th grade A team grabbed a narrow, 29-27 victory with Kylynn Winkler leading the scoring and rebounding for the Lady Eagles. Milee Miller and Ava Wilson were the leaders in steals and Kennedy Billington and Anna Murh were the lead-

Bryleigh Jackson was the leading scorer for the 8th grade B team, which won 41-23. Olivia Jansen and Bryleigh Jackson were the leaders in rebounds, while Charli Morgan was the leader in steals and Lilly Simmons was the leader in assists. The Hustle Award was won by Samantha Sundholm and Saniyah Clayton. Bryleigh Jackson won the Leadership Award.

For the 8th grade A team, which won going away 56-16, Rachel Kelley was the leading scorer and rebounder. Joclyn Grogan was the steals leader and the assists leader. Kenlee Keith won the Hustle Award and the Leadership Award was won by the

Fruit, nut trees need to be planted now

By Greg Grant **Smith County Horticulturist**

Now is the time to plant fruit (and nut) trees. Before a fruit tree is planted, make sure there is adequate space.

Most fruit trees require an area 25 feet by 25 feet. The site must have a full day's sun. And, a single pear tree, properly cared for, can easily produce two bushels of fruit (about 100 pounds) so don't plant too many fruit trees for your needs or your ability to care for them.

Fruit trees (especially bare root ones) are best planted in mid-winter to allow time for root development prior to spring growth. First, clear the site of weeds or grass, and till or spade an area at least 4 feet by 4 feet. Any hard pan (layer) beneath the soil should be broken up.

Level the site, and till again. Organic matter may be added to the planting area, but it is unnecessary, and never add fertilizer. To allow for drainage, the site may be built up so that the tree will be sitting on a small berm.

Plant the tree in the middle of the tilled area in a hole as big as the root system, usually about 12 inches wide, and at least 18 inches deep. Plant the tree and refill the soil to the same depth that the tree grew in at the nursery, being careful the tree does not settle too deep.

Mulch the area around the trunk with about three inches of compost, pine straw, or mulch to prevent weeds and to keep the ground warmer during the winter. In April or May, as the grass greens up, spray 3 or 4 feet around the base of the tree with glyphosate herbicide if weeds are a problem (being careful not to spray leafy sprouts on the trunk) or add new mulch to keep the weeds out and the ground cooler during the summer.

It is critical that this be done if the tree is to perform well. If you do little else, main-



Orient pears are highly productive in East Texas.

tain this weed-free circle around the tree. Only plant varieties adapted to and rec-

ommended for this area. Many types of fruit and nut trees don't grow well or at all here. Select mid-size trees; they are cheaper and grow better than larger trees. Plus, it is far easier to cut 3- to 4-foot trees back to 18 to 24 inches, than to prune 5- to 6-foot trees.

Such strong pruning is necessary to remove apical dominance, put the top in balance with a reduced root system, and force out strong vigorous shoots which are easy to train. The trees should have healthy white roots with no brown streaks.

Also check for borer presence or damage. With proper care, it is highly possible for your fruit tree to fruit the second year after planting.

For a list of recommended fruit and nut varieties for Smith County, see the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Smith County website at smith.agrilife.org and look under the horticulture links. You can also sign up for our free Agriculture-Horticulture monthly newsletter there. For more information on growing edibles in Texas, plan to attend the East Texas Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable conference Friday February 8th in Tyler. Details are on the same website or on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Smith County Facebook page.



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PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LINDALE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The City of Lindale has recently completed Texas Community Development Block Grant Program activities under its 2021 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program contract #CDM21-0133 with the Texas Department of Agriculture. One public hearing will be held to allow citizens an opportunity to comment on the completed project activities, amount of funds spent, and the amount of funds spent on activities that benefited low/moderate income persons.

The public hearing will be held at City Hall, 105 Ballard Drive, Tuesday, February 13, 2024 @ 5:05 p.m. The hearing is to review the City's program performance including the actual use of the TxCDBG funds. The City encourages individual citizens and citizen's groups to make their views known at this public hearing and welcomes the full participation of its citizens in the close-out and completion of this TxCDBG contract. Written complaints and grievances regarding the TxCDBG contract and project activities will be received until February 23, 2024, and will be responded to in writing within fifteen (15) working days. Citizen comments may be delivered to City Hall at any time. Groups representative of persons of low and moderate income may request technical assis-

tance in developing comments by contacting the person listed below. A copy of the City's Project Completion Report will be available for inspection at City Hall the day following the hearing. Handicapped individuals who may have difficulty in attending this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Para residentes necesitados

For further information, contact Jill Childs, Finance Director, 903-882-3422

de interpretes, favor de comunicarse con la municipalidad antes de las

The City of Lindale does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familiar status or disability. The City is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer & encourages participation by historically underutilized Section 3

Lindale youth catches calf during Fort Worth rodeo

Tristan Williamson of Lindale, a member of Hawkins FFA, caught a calf during the 2024 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo's Calf Scramble recently, earning a \$500 purchase certificate for a show heifer and the chance for up to \$16,000 in scholarship awards, publicity officials announced.

Williamson's parents are Ashley and Casey Williamson. His award was sponsored by Katy and Mark Magruder.

One of the Stock Show's most iconic and popular events, the Calf Scramble gives 20 students an opportunity to catch 10 calves during one of 22 performances of the legendary Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo held Jan. 12 through Feb. 3. Those not catching calves receive a pair of Justin Boots courtesy of the iconic western footwear maker. Justin Boots and Texas Mutual Insurance Company are overall underwriters for the legendary Calf Scramble Program.

Since the Fort Worth Calf Scramble began in 1987, nearly 8,000 4-H and FFA members who have caught a calf have been awarded a combined \$4.1 million in Heifer Purchase Certificates. The student will use the purchase certificate toward the cost of a heifer that his will raise and exhibit at next year's Stock Show. Exhibitors that submit monthly reports and a final essay may be eligible for scholarship awards that can range between \$500 and \$16,000. Thanks to the efforts of the Calf Scramble Sponsors and Committee members, 1,600 of those winners received a combined total of \$3.6 million in

County honors long tenured employees

By Casey Murphy **Smith County Public Information Officer**

Smith County Road Administrator Doug Nicholson has worked in just about every position the Smith County Road and Bridge Department has during his 30 years of service to the county.

"He is my right-hand man," Smith County Engineer Frank Davis said of Nicholson during his recognition in Commissioners Court on Tuesday, January 30. "He has a wealth of knowledge of the County for 30 years."

Davis said Nicholson knows the history of county roads like no one else in the department.

Born and raised in Tyler, Nicholson worked in the construction industry, from building roads to building and remodeling houses. In 1993, he took a part-time job as a laborer for Smith County because construction work was slow at the time.

By the end of that year, he was asked to oversee trusties for the Road and Bridge Department. Nicholson moved to the bridge crew in 1996, and he took over the laydown paving operations in 1998.

In 2001, he moved to administrative duties when engineer Tom Flowers asked him to be his assistant. He also served as the assistant to the county's next engineer, Bill Bala, from 2005-08.

Nicholson was then asked to take over the Road and Bridge Department as the Road Administrator and led the department until the county hired its next engineer, current Smith County Engineer Frank Davis, in 2014.

"I have seen a lot of people come and go over the years," Nicholson said. "I guess the main reason I have stayed with the county is that I like helping people and trying to make things safer. I enjoy what I do."

As Road Administrator, Nicholson's dayto-day duties include assisting in overseeing the department's operations; reviewing subdivision plans to make sure they are compliant with the county, state and federal regulations before they are approved by the Smith County Commissioners Court; and serving as the county's floodplain administrator, overseeing floodplain issues in the county.

Davis said he hopes to get Nicholson for a few more years before he retires.

20 YEARS

Monica Ballinger was honored for her 20 years of service to the County.

"In my 20 years, I have worked for four District Clerks and the County Auditor," she said. "I'm thankful, grateful, and blessed to be employed by Smith County."

Ballinger was hired by District Clerk Brad Burger and started as a Child Support Clerk before being promoted to Child Support Supervisor. She remained in that position when Becky Dempsey became the District Clerk and Ballinger left the County in 2000.

In 2003, she went back to the office for newly elected District Clerk Lois Rogers and worked as a bookkeeper until Rogers retired in 2018. In January 2019, Penny Clarkston became the District Clerk.

Ballinger went back to school to earn her bachelor's degree and in October 2019, she became an assistant auditor in Smith County Auditor Ann Wilson's Office.

"I was able to steal her away from the District Clerk's Office," Mrs. Wilson said. "She is perfect for the job."

She handles the internal audits for all the



Smith County Road Administrator Doug Nicholson was honored by the Commissioner's Court this past week for his 30 years of service. With him is Smith County Engineer Frank Davis. (Courtesy

Justice of the Peace and Constables Offices, as well as the Road and Bridge Department and the Law Library.

"A favorite saying of my Mama's was 'stay focused!' That's what I strive to do daily...stay focused on why I'm here," Ms. Ballinger said. "I'm here to do my job to the best of my ability, I'm here to treat people the way I want to be treated, I'm here to let my little light shine and of course, I'm here for my paycheck."

"What I've enjoyed most about working for the county are the friendships that have been created. To me, the friends I've made while working here have become like family, hence my hashtag that I use often when commenting or posting anything on Facebook regarding the county...#smithcountyfam."

321st District Judge Robert Wilson was honored for five years of service to Smith

County Judge Neal Franklin thanked Judge Wilson for his service.

Judge Wilson was a family law attorney working for the Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius P.C. Law Firm before he was elected and took office in 2019. The 321st District Court hears most of the family law cases in Smith County.

"This job is bigger than one person," Judge Wilson said. "Teamwork makes the dream work and I have the best team ... It's an honor and a privilege to be able to serve every day that you will allow me to serve."

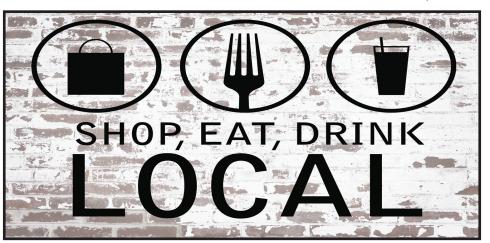
Other Smith County employees who are celebrating work anniversaries during the months of December and January, but who were not in Commissioners Court, include:

20 Years: John Shoemaker, Jason Cofer and Blair Edmonds, Sheriff's Office; and Michael Lance Maldanado, Juvenile Services.

15 Years: Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Judge Andy Dunklin; Chris Rainer, Sheriff's Office; and Andre VanZandt, Road and Bridge Department.

10 Years: Mariana Torres, Juvenile Services; Marvin Ross, Facilities Services; and Thomas Gregory, Reanauta Phillips, Rian Walston and Clayton Taylor, Sheriff's Office.

5 Years: County Court-at-Law 2 Judge Sara Maynard; District Clerk Penny Clarkston, Tammy Platzer, County Clerk; Taylor Shrout and April Peddy, Sheriff's Office; Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace Judge Jon Johnson; Ashley Cowan, Juvenile Services; Cindy Kirby, District Clerk; and Angela Faulkner, Katie Fruth, Christopher Gatewood, Trevor Rose and Juan Tobias, District Attorney's Office.



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LEGAL NOTICE

No. 47,552P Estate of

Markus DeWayne Martin § County Court at Law #3 Deceased **Smith County, Texas**

Order Establishing Co-Dependent Administration On July 17, 2023, the Applications for Dependent Administration filed by Stormie Martin and by Mark Muckleroy were heard by the Court.

The Court, after considering the pleadings and evidence, makes the following FINDINGS regarding the Estate of Markus DeWayne Martin, Deceased (the Estate):

- 1. Service of citation has been made in the man ner and for the length of time required by law;
- 2. Markus DeWayne Martin died intestate on May 12, 2023 in Rusk County, Texas at the age of
- 3. Decedent was domiciled in and had a fixed place of residence in Smith County, Texas, at the time of the death;
- 4. Four years have not elapsed since the death of Decedent and this Court has jurisdiction of Decedent's estate;
- 5. Decedent died without leaving a lawful will;
- 6. Decedent was not married on the date of death; 7. There is a need for administration of the Estate;
- 8. Stormie Martin and Mark Muckleroy are not disqualified by law from accepting letters of dependent administration or from serving as co-administrators and are entitled to such letters;
- 9. There is no need for appointment of appraisers for this estate; and Order Establishing Co-De pendent Administration Page 2 of 2
- 10.All matters and proof required to support the Applications have been fully complied with and met, and it would be in the best interest of the estate and the distributees that the Applications be granted.

The Court ORDERS that:

- 1. The co-dependent administration of the Estate
- 2. Stormie Martin and Mark Muckleroy are hereby appointed as co-dependent administrators of the Estate;
- 3. Bond for each co-administrator is set at \$1,000, and may be met by a personal surety bond with a minimum of two sureties;
- 4. The Clerk of this Court shall issue letters of administration each co-administrator when each of them have posted such bond and taken and filed the oath as required by law; and
- 5. No appraisers are appointed for the Estate.
- 6. As co-dependent administrators, Stormie Mar tin and Mark Muckleroy shall not have posses sion of any liquid assets of the Estate. All such funds shall be held in the trust accounts of their attorneys where such funds will remain pending further orders of the Court.

Signed on July _18___ , 2023.

Hon. Clay White, Judge Presiding

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.

Notice to Creditors

Letters of Indep. Administration for the Estate of Goldie Williams Hudeck, Deceased, were issued to James Warren Hudeck, 2/5/24, in Cause No. 47925P, by the County Court at Law #3 of Smith Co, Tx. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to James Warren Hudeck, 17180 Lakeside Drive, Flint, TX 75762, within the time and manner prescribed by law.



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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Fern D. Younger, Deceased, were granted to Pamela Younger and Janice Younger on January 29. 2024, in Cause No. 48027P, pending in the County Court at Law #3, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Co-Executors, c/o: Michael C. Coker, Attorney at Law, 4540 Kinsey Drive, Tyler, Texas

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

75703, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of ROBIN RAE STOKES, Deceased, were issued on January 29, 2024, in Docket No. 47956P, pending in the County Court at Law 3, Smith County, Texas, to Stephan H. Smiley.

> Claims may be presented to the following address: Stephen H. Smiley Independent Administrator of the Estate of **ROBIN RAE STOKES**

3318 W. Erwin Tyler, Texas 75702

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHNNY (JOHNNIE) B. DERRICK, Deceased, were issued to EMMER MALLARD on September 18, 2023, in Cause No. 47,698-P in the County Court atLaw No. 3 of Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, claims may be presented to EMMER MALLARD c/o LEONARD C. CRAIG, 305 S. Broadway, Suite 503, Tyler, Texas 75702.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gretchen Ford Leath, Deceased, were issued to James David Leath as Independent Executor on January 29, 2024 in Cause No. 47962P, County Court at Law No. 3, Smith County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate should present them to the Independent Executor, c/o John G. Payne, Attorney, 3650 Old Bullard Road, Suite 100, Tyler, Texas 75701, within the time and in the manne prescribed by law.





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LEGAL NOTICE

CAUSE NO. 46239P.

ESTATE OF

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. THREE OF

JOSE CASAS, **DECEASED**

SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOSE CASAS, Deceased, were issued on April 27, 2022, in Cause No. 46239P, pending in the County Court at Law No. Three of Smith County, Texas, to:DALIA SAENZ and MARICELA LARA, Co-Independent Executrixes.

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

> Dalia Saenz and Maricela Lara c/o: Joe K. Thigpen Attorney at Law 102 North College, Suite 808 Tyler, Texas 75702

DATED the 31st day of January, 2024. /s/ Joe K. Thigpen Joe K. Thigpen

Attorney for Dalia Saenz and Maricela Lara State Bar No.: 19837400 102 North College, Suite 808 Tyler, Texas 75702 Telephone: (903) 595-0998 Facsimile: (903) 595-1299

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Emory Home Auction - Emory, TX: 269 Rs County Road 3346, 3BR 2.5BA 2,118+/-SF lake home on 0.74+/-AC w/attached 2-car garage. 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.

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.

Flint Home Auction – Flint, TX: 11340 Sandy Grove Ct. 4BR 2.5BA 2,715+/-SF home w/pool & outdoor living. 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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Tyler man sentenced to four years for firearms violations

of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, said spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Juan Espinoza, Jr., 27, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm after having been previously convicted of a crime of family violence and possession with intent to distribute marijuana and was sentenced to 48 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Jeremy D. Kernodle on Jan. 31, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on Feb. 16, 2022, a federal search warrant was executed at Espinoza's Tyler residence during which officers discovered approximately 4,600 grams of marijuana, 476 grams of Psilocybin, five semi-automatic pistols, a semi-automatic rifle, a shotgun, multiple rounds of ammunition, and \$12,145.00 in cash.

Espinoza was convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence in Smith County in 2016 and prohibited by federal law of possessing firearms or ammunition.

This case was prosecuted as part of the joint federal, state, and local Project Safe Neighborhoods 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

A Tyler man was sentenced to federal prison for a fire- address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforce- reductions in crime. This case was investigated by the U.S. arms and drug trafficking violations in the Eastern District ment efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting

Drug Enforcement Administration and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Noble.

Nominations sought for Regional Service Awards

The East Texas Council of Governments is proud to honor exceptional individuals and organizations who have made a significant difference in the East Texas region. Our annual regional awards program recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of those who have contributed to the betterment of East Texas.

It is seeking nominations from the public for our five annual awards, including:

Regional 1st Responder of the Year

Regional Citizen of the Year

Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year

Regional Statesmanship Award

Regional Committee Service Award

Visit the ETCOG website at www.etcog.org/2023regional-awards-nominations and nominate someone who significantly impacted the region in the calendar year 2023. Nominations will be accepted through the close of business on Friday, February 23.

The awards ceremony will be held on March 21, 2024, at the ETCOG Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Marion County. Let us come together to celebrate the achievements of these remarkable individuals and organi-

Texas Leadership Scholars program offers scholarships

The Texas Leadership Scholars program is seeking applicants for its Fall 2024 cohort. The application deadline for Texas seniors who are graduating this year is Feb. 15.

Students selected for the program will have tuition and fees fully covered for all four years of their experience provided they attend a participating institution and continue to meet program requirements. They will also receive a stipend covering the average cost of room and board at their university.

Information on program eligibility, the application process, participating universities, and more can be found on the Texas Leadership Scholars website.

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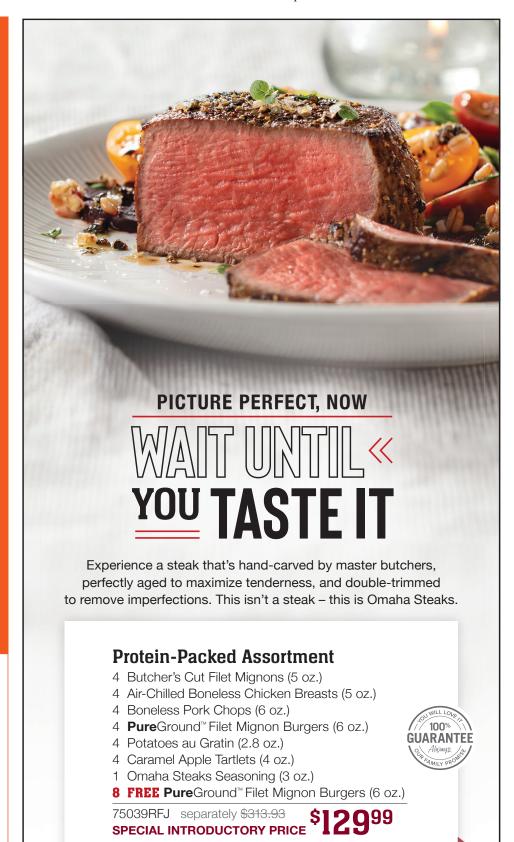
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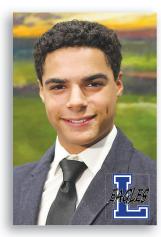
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ELIZABETH PALECEK is the daughter of Mary Jo and Dan Palecek. She is parliamentarian for the student council and a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Chickfil-A Leader Academy, and the varsity softball team. Outside of school, Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her friends and family, watching sports, and participating in school and community events. She believes she is impacting the world by serv-

ing in her community and being a light to those around her. Although Elizabeth's college choice is undecided at this time, she plans to study public relations or business. Her future goals include helping others with their own personal success.



HENRIQUE ARANTES is the son of Josilane and Roberto Arantes. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the track and field team. Outside of school, Henrique enjoys flying planes, church activities, and working out. He believes he is impacting the world by bringing positivity into the lives of others. Henrique plans to attend The University of

Texas at Tyler and study biology. His future goals include becoming an internal medicine doctor and completing his pilot training. Henrique was elected by his peers to serve as chairman of the Student Board of Directors.



CLAIRE CHILEK is the daughter of Jennifer and Jeremy Chilek. She is the copy editor of the yearbook, parliamentarian for the National Honor Society, and a member of the student council. Outside of school, Claire enjoys baking hanging out with family and friends. She believes she is impacting the world by being a good example

to others each day. Claire plans to attend Tyler Junior College and study pre-medicine. Her future goals include becoming a dermatologist assistant.

ATEXAS BANK AND TRUST

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 of the 2023-2024 Student Board. View more profiles @ www.facebook.com/texasbankandtrust