

Lindale News & Times

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

City officials making plans for rare solar eclipse April 8

In what promises to be the most eventful three minutes in the city's history, Lindale tourism officials are gearing up for the total solar eclipse scheduled to arrive on April 8.

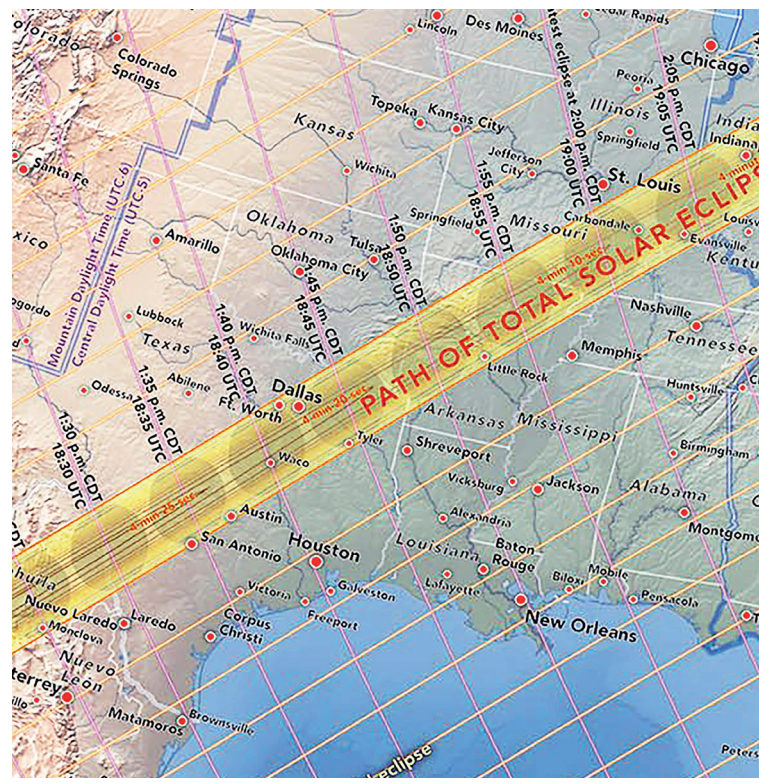
The Total Eclipse of the Park will be a three-day event held at Darden Harvest Park to commemorate the rare eclipse which will be in its totality just after 1 p.m. on Monday, April 8.

In addition to events planned at Darden Harvest Park, Picker's Pavilion and The Cannery will be hosting activities, said City Tourism Director Seong McLaren.

The event kicks off on Saturday, April 6 with opening ceremony festivities, followed by various events and activities throughout the weekend, which include:

- Concert
- Movie in the Park
- Live Art and Science Exhibits
- Vendors and Food Trucks
- Activities for Kids
- Space-Themed Recreations for All Ages
- Selfie Vignettes inside Picker's Pavilion
- Costume Contest
- Disc Golf Tournament

Eclipse viewing glasses will be provided, McLaren said, as well as various protected viewing options. There will also be Lindale-specific memorabilia and merchandise for sale throughout the weekend.



LHS students' volunteerism takes them to new heights

Once again, Lindale High School students and Chick-fil-A joined together for their annual, school-wide volunteer day by completing several projects throughout the community.

On March 29, LHS Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy students undertook several local projects to give back to the community.

Several LHS clubs, organizations, and groups participated in the event.

"It all began when Chick-fil-A-Lindale operator, Mr. Joshua Johnson reached out, offering to sponsor Lindale High School students through the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy," said LHS Assistant Principal, Melisa Dukes. "The academy takes the students along a seven month journey to help develop student leaders. Our students have been applying their skills throughout the year."

Some jobs included collecting trash, painting and landscaping at the Journey Center and Lillie Russell Memorial Library, delivering food and donation items to the Dr. David Powell Food Pantry and the We Care Thrift Store, and delivering handmade gifts and flowers from LHS art students to local nursing homes.

Students and volunteers began their day of volunteerism at 8:30 a.m. on March 29 and were back at the Journey Center in time for lunch provided by Chick-fil-A.

"This opportunity has been life changing for many of our students and could not be done without the support of Mr. Johnson and the LHS sponsor, Jennifer King," said Dukes. "We are excited for our LHS students to give back to our Lindale community and to show our appreciation."

Economics of Monday's 2024 Solar Eclipse

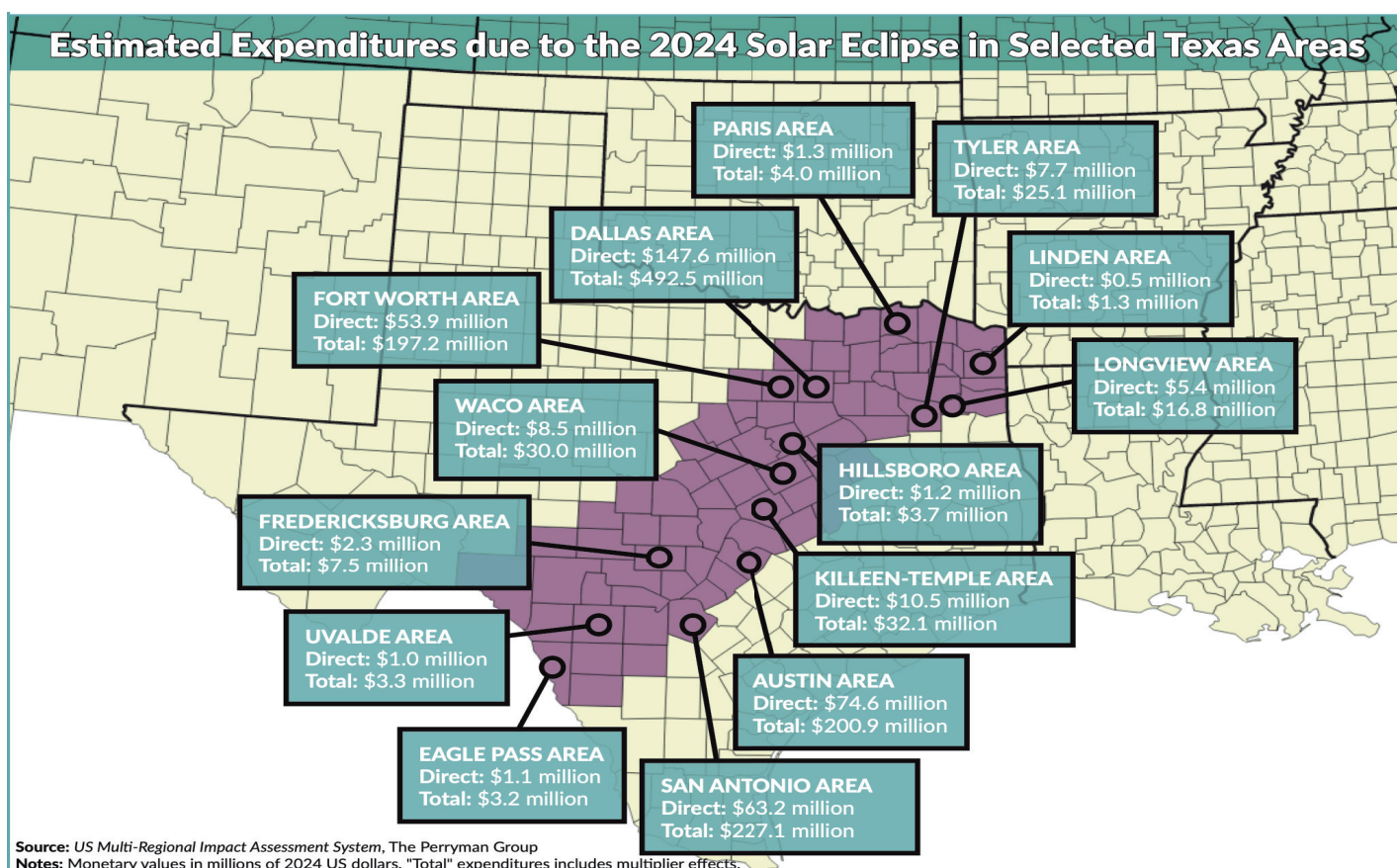
By Ray Perryman

On Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The path of totality enters Texas around Eagle Pass and crosses the state to the northeast, exiting near the northeast corner. About 12 million Texans reside in the path of totality, which includes the major metropolitan areas along the I-35 corridor.

Because of the unique nature of the upcoming eclipse, more than one million people are expected to visit Texas to witness the phenomenon. From small towns to large population centers, the numbers of visitors are projected to be unusually large. These travelers will spend money locally for accommodations, meals, gasoline, and retail items. The result will be a substantial economic stimulus.

The Perryman Group estimated the potential economic benefits associated with the eclipse and found that Texas is likely to see an increase in direct expenditures by visitors of about \$427.7 million. When the downstream/multiplier effects through the economy are considered, expected economic impacts rise to almost \$1.4 billion.

(Read more about the anticipated eclipse economics inside on Page 2)



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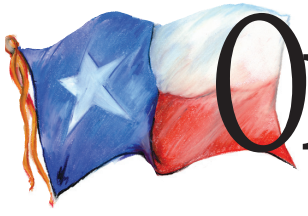
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OPINION/COMMENTARY

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.

Gary Borders
Capital Highlights



Lessons & Perspectives ...

Not too long ago, someone remarked that what I was doing was a 'calling'. I quickly told them that I was a 'divinely called' high school teacher, but a working newspaper Girl Friday? Maybe not so much.

The more I think about that I am not so sure. Yes, indeed I believe that I was called to teach. But in many ways I still am.

Lately I have been thinking about the lessons that the generations of students I taught hopefully still remember. I also sincerely hope, that through my writing, some of those lessons resonate with our much appreciated readers.

The most important lesson I taught every single year to every single class, and hopefully every single student, was that "if you have the ability to see, to hear, to think, to talk and to walk (or roll), you don't have the right to be bored." I often told my students that if I could wave a magic wand over them and give them one gift, just one, it would be a sense of wonder.

If we are able to maintain our sense of wonder, life remains fresh, new and joyous. So, if I could wave that magic wand over you, dear readers, I would give you the same gift. And, oh what a special gift that would be.

I also tried to teach my students to THINK. Not what to think, but HOW to think. I tried to teach them to 'stand out from the herd' and be independent thinkers. History clearly shows that when we allow others to think for us how easily manipulated we become.

Generally, I avoid sharing Facebook postings, but the one I am going to share with you today is thought-provoking. It is filled with lessons of truth we need to keep in mind to survive this crisis with our perspective, and maybe even a bit of our souls in tact.

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

(Unknown Author)

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial and family crisis.

For some, their work life has been stressful, sad and draining both physically and emotionally. It has shown them the difficulties and horrors of this pandemic. While others feel "it's what you signed up for".

For some that live alone they are facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest and time with their mother, father, sons and daughters.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

During COVID some experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this was a big deal. Some have faith in God and expect miracles. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We just went through a time when our perceptions and needs were completely different. Each of us emerged, in our own way, from the storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We were all on different ships during these storms experiencing different journeys.

Just remember to be kind, always.

Solar eclipse means big money to Texas

One economist is calling it "the most profitable 22 minutes in Texas history," according to the Texas Standard. The total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8 is expected to draw up to a million visitors to the Lone Star State, especially in its narrow path of totality.

Texas cities located in that path include Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Temple, Killeen, Llano, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Uvalde, Del Rio and Texarkana. (That is not a complete list. Check online to see if your community is in the totality path.)

All of the state will experience at least a partial solar eclipse, the Houston Chronicle reported. For example, the sun will be about 94% eclipsed over Houston at its peak. The moon will start to block the sun around noon, with totality beginning near Del Rio on a path northeast across Texas.

Viewers are urged to wear eclipse glasses labeled with ISO 12312-2 standard or use a handheld solar filter to avoid eye damage. Given demand, those might be a challenge to find at this late date.

Meanwhile, let's hope for a sunny day on April 8!

Prosecutors settle securities fraud case against Paxton

Nearly nine years after felony securities fraud charges were brought against state Attorney General Ken Paxton, prosecutors last week agreed to drop the charges if Paxton pays about \$271,000 in restitution, performs 100 hours of community service, and takes 15 hours of legal ethics courses, the Texas Tribune reported. The deal was struck just three weeks before Paxton was set to face trial.

Paxton did not have to enter a plea under the terms of the agreement. He is still under federal investigation for his relationship with since-indicted developer Nate Paul.

The settlement caps a topsy-turvy span of several months for Paxton, who was impeached in the House and acquitted in the Senate. Paxton successfully took on a number of those who voted to impeach him by backing their opponents in the GOP primary, and led Republican voters to oust three incumbent Court of Criminal Appeal justices who drew his ire with a previous ruling.

"The pundits, lobbyists and consultants have written his political obituary many times and yet they greatly underestimated General Paxton's tenacity and grit," Nick Maddux, a Paxton adviser and political consultant, said in an email.

Appeals court again questions legality of immigration law

A panel of justices from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dealt another blow to a new law that seeks to give Texas a role in arresting and deporting migrants, The Dallas Morning News reported. The state had sought to enforce the law, Senate Bill 4, while the full court weighed its constitutionality.

Writing for the 2-1 majority, Chief Judge Priscilla Richman said the Texas law appeared to be "an end-run around" federal immigration law and provisions making immigration enforcement the responsibility of the federal government, not the state.

The ruling was the second time in a week that the 5th Circuit stopped the state from enforcing the new law.

"Allowing Texas to detain noncitizens without any input from the Federal Government about whether an arrest is warranted ... would allow the State to achieve its own immigration policy," Richman wrote in a ruling joined by Judge Irma Carrillo Ramirez.

The state can ask all 17 judges on the 5th Circuit to review the panel's ruling or appeal it to the U.S. Supreme Court, The News reported.

Cows contract bird flu

Cows in the Texas Panhandle have tested positive for the bird flu, the Tribune reported. That follows historic wildfires that killed at least 7,000 livestock.

Strains of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, commonly known as the bird flu, were confirmed last week by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. USDA officials said there is no safety concern to the commercial milk supply, and that consumer health also is not at risk.

This is believed to be the first time that bird flu has been found in livestock, researchers say.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Eclipse Economics ...

Get ready for a big show (where you literally see nothing) with a huge audience! On Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The path of totality (where the sun is fully hidden) enters Texas around Eagle Pass and crosses to the northeast, exiting near the northeast corner. About 12 million Texans reside in the path of totality, which includes the major metropolitan areas along the I-35 corridor.

Although there was a total eclipse in August 2017, this one is much more impressive. In particular, the moon will be closer as it passes between the sun and earth, thus causing totality to be longer in duration and occur across a wider path. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk for several minutes. In addition, the next total solar eclipse that will be visible in the United States will not occur until August 2044.

Because of the unique nature of the upcoming eclipse, more than one million people are expected to visit Texas to witness the phenomenon. From small towns to large population centers, the numbers of visitors are projected to be unusually large. These travelers will spend money locally for accommodations, meals, gasoline, and retail items. The result will be a substantial economic stimulus.

We estimated the potential economic benefits associated with the eclipse and found that Texas is likely to see an increase in direct expenditures by visitors of about \$427.7 million. When the downstream/multiplier effects through the economy are considered, expected impacts rise to almost \$1.4 billion in spending, with a gain of \$749.5 million in gross product and \$453.6 million in personal income to Texas residents. Of these amounts, the total expenditures (including downstream/ multiplier effects) in the restaurant industry group are expected to be \$179.8 million, with \$280.6 million in retail and \$221.8 million in short-term rentals and hotels.

Benefits will be concentrated in the largest metropolitan areas within the path of totality due to availability of hotel rooms and other needed infrastructure. However, smaller areas are also likely to see notable benefits. (Effects on each county and population center along the route are included in the full brief available at www.perrymangroup.com.)



While the eclipse is a one-day event, many cities are hoping that the influx of visitors from across the nation and beyond will bring lasting benefits. Areas which rarely receive much in the way of national media coverage are likely to be featured, enhancing the prospects for future tourism and other developmental benefits. It will bring crowds and traffic, but it will also lead to substantial economic benefits. Prepare for the darkness! It won't last long. Stay safe!

Estimated Economic Impact of the 2024 Solar Eclipse on Business Activity in Texas


Region	Direct Expenditures	Total Expenditures*	Gross Product*	Personal Income*
State of Texas	\$427,680,000	\$1,397,677,662	\$749,521,038	\$453,636,796
Path of Totality	\$408,693,083	\$1,335,627,554	\$716,245,940	\$433,497,523
Remaining Counties	\$18,986,917	\$62,050,108	\$33,275,098	\$20,139,273

Source: US Multi-Regional Impact Assessment System, The Perryman Group

Notes: Monetary values in 2024 US dollars. Total Expenditures, Gross Product, and Personal Income include downstream multiplier effects. For more information, see methodology on page 4.

The Lindale News & Times



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Lindale Police Department call logs for March 22-29

FRIDAY, MARCH 22: Welfare Concern, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Indecent Exposure, 600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 400 block South Industrial Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 1100 block Woodlands Park Drive, Unfounded; Public Service, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 25000 block West Toll 49, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23: Traffic Hazard, 100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Found Property, 400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Escort, 16300 block FM 849, Settled at Scene; Mental Health Welfare Check, 700 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Marijuana Possession, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Arrest; Welfare Concern, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 900 block South Boyd Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 555 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24: Assist Smith Co SO, 16900 block Sentinel Lane, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO 556 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 700 block White Bear Trail, Settled at Scene; Residential Alarm, 500 block Sunset Drive, Settled at Scene; Attempt to Serve, 300 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Assist Smith Co SO, 556 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Theft, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 900 block Mount Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene.

MONDAY, MARCH 25: Theft From Motor Vehicle, 300 block Cooper Street, Report; Motorist Assist, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 554 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 600 block Mount Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 3500



block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 2200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 554 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 3500 block South Main Street, Arrest; Motorist Assist 553 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 1500 block South Main Street, Report; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Residential Alarm, 800 block Pineland Lane, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26: Public Service, 1400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 555 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Public Service, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Theft From Motor Vehicle, 300 block Cooper Street, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 300 block South Main Street, Report; Assist Another Agency, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Theft From Motor Vehicle, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27: Assist Smith Co SO,

15600 block Wendell Drive, Settled at Scene; Illegally Parked Vehicle, 100 block West Centennial Blvd., Report; Abandoned Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 14000 block CR 411, Report; Welfare Concern, 1200 block Summit Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 100 block South College Street, Settled at Scene; Theft, 500 block South Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 200 block East Hubbard, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 19400 block Highway 69, Settled at Scene; City Ordinance Violation, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Public Service, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 60 block Miranda Lambert Way, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28: Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 14000 block CR 411, Report; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 556 IH 20 East, Arrest; Verbal Disturbance, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Theft, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 200 block Mount Sylvan Street, Report; Disturbance, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Verbal Disturbance, 15600 block Brittain Court, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 400 block Baker Street, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Person, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Reckless Driving, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29: Verbal Disturbance, 600 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 800 block Lindale Industrial Parkway, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 13700 block Harvey Road, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 556 IH 20 East, Settled at Scene.

Wild turkeys strut into spring

By Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Jacob Dykes, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist, Corpus Christi, said thanks to the state's diverse ecoregions, Texas supports three of the five total subspecies of wild turkey found in North America — the Rio Grande turkey, eastern turkey and Merriam's turkey.

Rio Grande turkeys prefer the arid and brushy environments found throughout the Rolling Plains, Edwards Plateau, southern Post Oak Savanna and the South Texas plains, while eastern turkeys prefer areas with higher rainfall, such as the Piney Woods and bottomland hardwoods of East Texas. Merriam's turkeys, the least common, prefer the ponderosa pines found in the Trans-Pecos mountains.

"We're fortunate that Texas offers such a wide range of ecosystems that support diverse wildlife species like these turkey," said Dykes, also an assistant professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management. "While we've come a long way in restoring turkey populations across the state, there is still more work to be done to ensure they continue to thrive."

Historic population decline spurs early management actions

While the state currently boasts a thriving population of more than 500,000 wild turkeys, Dykes said this wasn't always the case.

"The history of regulations in Texas really paint a picture of just how early Texans recognized the turkey population was declining," said Jason Hardin, wild turkey program leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "One of the first steps taken to address this was a three-and-a-half-month closure on turkey harvest in 1881."

You can determine the sex of a turkey by viewing their scat. Males, known as toms, have j-shaped droppings, while the droppings of females, known as hens, are spiral.

Spring and fall hunting seasons for Rio Grande and eastern turkey vary by zone.

Turkeys have excellent eyesight, making them a challenging game animal for hunters.

Both Hardin and Dykes note that unregulated market harvest coupled with habitat alteration were the primary forces driving the historic decline throughout the species' historic range.

In 1942, the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, the precursor to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, estimated that fewer than 100 turkeys remained in East Texas.



Over the following decades, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists and partners worked in earnest to utilize stocking strategies — the capture and translocation of all three subspecies from turkey populations within and outside of Texas — as part of concerted restoration efforts. While restoration efforts have succeeded in some regions, scientists are still trying to determine why turkey populations in eastern Texas are seeing slower population recovery and limited range expansion.

Restoration efforts Restoration of Texas' Rio Grande turkey population is the model for success that conservationists hope to replicate across the state. From 1920 to 2000, 33,000 Rio Grande wild turkeys were released using a variety of means across Texas, Hardin said.

Currently, Texas Parks and Wildlife considers 95% of suitable Rio Grande turkey range to be occupied by wild populations. Based on the Rio Grande's expansive range and population success following restoration, Hardin said it's safe to call the subspecies the "King of Texas."

In fact, as the Rio Grande turkey range intersects with isolated populations of Merriam's turkeys in the Davis Mountains, biologists are seeing hybridization between the two subspecies — the result of interbreeding.

To shed light on why the stocking strategies that worked for the Rio Grande turkey didn't translate to success with eastern populations, biologists returned to the drawing board, calling on the expertise of researchers with Texas A&M University.

As a graduate student at Texas A&M in the mid-1990s, Roel Lopez, Ph.D., head of the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management and director of the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, used ecological modeling to simulate the dynamics of a wild turkey population under a variety of restoration strategies.

Through this process, he devised a new stocking strategy as an alternative to previous stocking approaches.

This new method, known as super stocking, called for the release of approximately 80 male and female turkeys at each restoration site as opposed to the 15-20 released through

previous methods.

Hardin said research projects conducted by Texas A&M and other universities had great success implementing the super stocking method in areas of suitable East Texas habitat, and the department adopted it as the restocking standard across the region in 2014.

To support these efforts, Stephen Webb, Ph.D., Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute research assistant professor in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, and other researchers are using technological advances like genetic monitoring to understand and enhance the super stocking method.

Since 2014, Texas Parks and Wildlife has used the super stocking method to release over 1,100 wild turkeys from 10 different states into 10 East Texas counties, Webb said. Researchers hope to determine how these birds have influenced the genetic diversity of eastern turkeys across the relocation area.

The genetic information collected will also shed light on which populations have fared best following translocation, he said.

"Perhaps we will see that only the birds sourced from Texas, Louisiana or Missouri have thrived, while those brought in from further away aren't surviving to successfully pass on their genetics," Webb said. "This can help biologists make more informed decisions regarding where they source birds from in the future."

Identifying potential habitat to expand turkey range

Rio Grande turkeys are the focus of a second project by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Webb located in Texas' semi-arid Rolling Plains ecoregion.

The piece of flesh that drapes over a turkey's beak is known as a snood, while the loose, bumpy skin hanging under its neck is a caruncle — more commonly known as a wattle.

While all toms have beards, hens may occasionally display a beard as well.

Turkey beards are modified feathers, not hair.

Webb said turkey distribution in this region is highly dependent on available food and roosting habitat, typically found along riparian corridors.

Loss of or alteration to these habitats are of increasing concern due to the potential negative impact on Rio Grande turkey populations.

Utilizing geospatial data to classify the land use and land cover of turkey roost locations obtained in the early 2000s, researchers can use models to predict areas of potential roosting habitat and how they have changed over the past 20 years.

SCAD: businesses should render property by April 15

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, you must file a rendition with the Smith County Appraisal District, publicity officials said.

A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. Property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property, such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming.

"The appraisal district may use the information submitted in the rendition to set property values," said Chief Appraiser Carol McNeil. You can also file a report of decreased value to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of your property. "For example, if your property was damaged by a storm, flood, or fire last year, you should file a report of decreased value. The appraisal district will look at your property before assigning a value," said McNeil.

In January, Smith County Appraisal District mailed out approximately 8,800 personal property renditions. The last day to file a rendition or report of decreased value is April 15. You may file your rendition electronically for 2024 by visiting www.smithcad.org and selecting Electronic Communications/BPP Online Rendition.

A 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed if a rendition is filed late, incomplete, or not at all. Property owners who need more time to file their renditions may file a written request with the chief appraiser on or before April 15 to receive an automatic extension to May 15. The chief appraiser may also grant an additional 15 days after the postponed deadline, if necessary.

For more information about rendering property, deadline extensions, penalties and rendition forms, taxpayers may contact the Smith County Appraisal District, 245 SSE Loop 323, Tyler, 903-510-8600.



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Lindale junior high girls sweep to district wins

Both the 7th grade and 8th grade girls track teams secured district titles this past week in Van with a new school record being set by Brooklyn Wiggins in the 8th grade long jump.

Wiggins recorded a jump of 16 feet, 2 inches to set the new standard for Lindale Junior High School, eclipsing the previous record set by Ryleigh Rand of 16 feet.

Leading scorers for the 7th graders included: Reece Rand, 33 points, Ava Wilson, 28 points; Leila Harkins, 26 points and Libbie McHam, 22 points.

For the 8th graders, leading scorers included: Rachel Kelley, 34 points, Brooklyn Wiggins, 30 points, Breelynn Gordon, 29 points, Madison Hopson, 24 points.

The 7th graders won their side of the meet with 219 points while the 8th graders also finished first, also with 219 points.

JUNIOR HIGH DISTRICT TRACK MEET
7th Grade Results
(Lindale performers only)
TRIPLE JUMP – Reece

Rand, 2nd, 29 feet, 6 inches; Ava Wilson, 3rd, 28 feet, 11 inches; Anna Muhr, 6th, 27 feet, 2 inches.

LONG JUMP – Leila Harkins, 2nd, 14 feet, 1 ½ inches; Reece Rand, 3rd, 13 feet, 10 inches; Milee Miller, 6th, 13 feet, 1 inch.

HIGH JUMP – Reece Rand, 2nd, 4 feet, 6 inches; Kylynn Winkler, 5th, 4 feet, 4 inches.

POLE VAULT – Anna Muhr, 1st, 8 feet; Khloe Collins, 3rd, 5 feet.

DISCUS – Paisley Keith, 3rd, 66 feet, 4 inches; Ava Wilson, 5th, 59 feet, 2 inches; Paisley Pierce, 6th, 55 feet, 4 inches.

SHOT PUT – Paisley Keith, 3rd, 30 feet, 8 inches; Milee Miller, 4th, 30 feet, 5 ¼ inches; Ava Wilson, 5th, 29 feet, 8 ½ inches.

2400 RUN – Tyler Galoway, 5th, 11:30.16; Avery Glasscock, 6th, 11:34.78.

400 RELAY – Milee Miller, Leila Harkins, Reece Rand, Kierra Ross, 1st, 54.9.

800 RUN – Ava Wilson, 2nd, 2:46.86.



Lindale Junior High School 8th grader Brooklyn Wiggins set a new school record in the long jump at the recent district meet in Van. (Courtesy photo)

100 HURDLES – Libbie McHam, 1st, 18.67; Reagan Thurmon, 3rd, 18.85; Anna Muhr, 5th, 18.97.

100 DASH – Reece Rand, 3rd, 13.96.

800 RELAY – Milee Miller, Leila Harkins, Anna Muhr, Kierra Ross, 1st, 1:59.89.

400 RUN – Bethany Hopson, 3rd, 1:11.98; Jaylee Benson, 5th, 1:12.95.

300 HURDLES – Reagan Thurmon, 1st, 56.74; Libbie McHam, 2nd, 57.37; Eden Denson, 3rd, 57.73.

200 DASH – Leila Harkins, 2nd, 28.99; Addison Mahana, 6th, 31.07.

1600 RUN – Ava Wilson, 1st, 6:20.14.

1600 RELAY – Milee Miller, Bethany Hopson, Jaylee Benson, Libbie McHam, 2nd, 4:56.24.

8th Grade Results
(Lindale performers only)
TRIPLE JUMP – Breelynn Gordon, 3rd, 29 feet, 10 inches.

LONG JUMP – Brooklyn Wiggins, 1st, 16 feet, 2 inches (new school record); Rachel Kelley, 2nd, 14 feet, 9 inches; Breelynn Gordon, 3rd, place, 14 feet, 7 ½ inches

HIGH JUMP – Brooklyn Wiggins, 4th, 4 feet, 4 inches; Rachel Kelley, 5th, 4 feet, 4 inches.

POLE VAULT – Dylan Grace, 2nd, 6 feet, 6 inches.

DISCUS – Harper Kinney, 1st, 72 feet, 3 inches; KayLea Williams, 3rd, 62 feet, 8 inches.

SHOT PUT – Harper Kinney, 5th, 30 feet, 1 ½ inches; Zaidyn Chamberlain, 6th, 29 feet, 10 inches.

2400 RUN – Kinzleigh McIntyre, 5th, 10:40.00.

400 RELAY – Bella

Bunton, Breelynn Gordon, Baylee Brooks, Brooklyn Wiggins, 2nd, 54.46.

800 RUN – Madison Hopson, 1st, 2:42.00; Haylee Osorio, 3rd, 2:50.00.

100 HURDLES – Rachel Kelley, 1st, 16.42; Dylan Grace, 3rd, 18.60; Joclyn Grogan, 6th, 19.81.

100 DASH – Breelynn Gordon, 1st, 13.37; Brooklyn Wiggins, 3rd, 13.72; Makynli Zemer, 4th, 13.74.

800 RELAY – Makynli Zemer, Breelynn Gordon, Baylee Brooks and Bella Bunton, 3rd, 1:59.24.

400 RUN – Madison Hopson, 1st, 1:06.82; Alayna Ogden, 2nd, 1:10.18; Addyson Hance, 5th, 1:11.14.

300 HURDLES – Rachel Kelley, 1st, 51.61; Joclyn Grogan, 6th, 59.08.

200 DASH – Bella Bunton, 1st, 29.26; Brooklyn Wiggins, 3rd, 29.73; Makynli Zemer, 4th, 29.91.

1600 RUN – Kinzleigh McIntyre, 3rd, 6:29.00.

1600 RELAY – Rachel Kelley, Addyson Hance, Madison Hopson, Alayna Ogden, 2nd, 4:41.



Great day for Achievers

The Lindale branch of Achieving Dreams enjoyed a great get together this past weekend with more than 1,500 guests at the Hooves and Halos event in Winnsboro. Everyone enjoyed the perfect weather and interacted with the animals. Guests were treated to snow cones, cotton candy and a delicious lunch. As the photo shows, everyone had a great time. (Courtesy photo)



Familiar Storytime visitor

A special guest paid a visit to the youngsters at this past week's Storytime at the Lillie Russell Memorial Library. The Easter Bunny helped out with an Easter egg hunt for all the attendees. (Courtesy photo)



LHS choral program scores again

The Lindale High School Choral program earned sweepstakes honors at the recent Region 21 UIL Concert/Sight Reading Evaluations, officials announced. The treble choir and mixed choir earned straight ones in the competition. Concerts including these youngsters and some from E.J. Moss Intermediate and Lindale Junior High School, are scheduled in May. The E.J. Moss/Junior High School concert is Tuesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. and the High School concert is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. Both concerts are scheduled for the LISD Performing Arts Center. (Courtesy photo)



Lindale Rotary Club speaker

Dr. David Rolston, center, was the guest speaker this past week at the Lindale Rotary Club and spoke on the influences artificial intelligence has in our daily lives. Rolston wrote a best seller on the subject in 1988. He was introduced by Pam Burton. (Courtesy photo)

Some springtime plants can be hazardous to pets

By Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Spring brings a burst of color and new life to our surroundings, but the very things that make spring so vibrant can pose serious threats to our beloved pets.

Dr. Murl Bailey, a senior professor at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, provides valuable insights into common poisonous plants pet owners should be mindful of, whether indoors or outdoors, during the spring season.

Easter Lilies

Popular in springtime floral arrangements, Easter lilies — and lilies in general — contain toxins that cause severe kidney damage in cats, making them extremely toxic for our feline friends. Even small ingestions, such as chewing on a petal or drinking water from a vase containing lilies, can lead to acute kidney injury in cats.

While the exact toxin that causes this issue is unknown, owners can still recognize signs of lily poisoning, which include loss of appetite, hiding behavior, and lethargy.

"If owners notice a change in their cats, especially if they have lilies around the house, they should immediately take their cat to their veterinarian," Bailey said. "The veterinarian will start the cat on extensive intravenous fluid therapy to protect the kidneys, but the therapy should be given within 48 hours to be

most effective."

Dogs also can be affected by lily poisoning, but Bailey says they are less likely to ingest lilies than cats.

Cycads

Cycad plants — more commonly referred to as palms or ferns — are a type of seed plant commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions, both indoors and outdoors, and their roots contain a liver toxin.

"The first sign that an owner may see is blood in their pet's stool or vomit," Bailey said. "The pet may soon develop severe bleeding, because normal clotting factors are made in the liver and when the liver quits making the clotting factors, the blood won't clot."

Cats and dogs, alike, can experience cycad poisoning, but dogs are often more attracted to the plant due to their natural inclination to explore their environment through sniffing and chewing.

Nevertheless, to prevent pets from accidentally ingesting cycads, owners should learn to identify the plants and supervise their pets closely if cycads are near.

Mushrooms

Spring also is a time when various mushrooms sprout in yards, parks and other outdoor areas. While many mushrooms are harmless, some species can be toxic to cats and dogs.

"There are many mushrooms that

cause different clinical signs, ranging first from vomiting and diarrhea and then to organ failure and even death," Bailey said. "There is no good specific treatment for mushroom intoxication, so the veterinarian will treat the patient for the clinical signs present."

It is important for pet owners to be vigilant and remove any mushrooms growing in areas accessible to their pets, especially when dogs are present, as they are more likely to ingest large amounts of mushrooms while exploring outdoors.

Blue-Green Algae

During warmer months, blue-green algae blooms and accumulates in non-moving bodies of water such as ponds, lakes, and rivers, producing toxins that are lethal to cats and dogs.

"The water may be clear, but because the toxins can still be present, it is best if pet owners don't let their pets swim in the water, especially in areas where the water is not moving, as this where blue-green algae can start growing," Bailey explained. "The first clinical signs, such as convulsions and collapse, develop as soon as the animals leave the water and pets can rapidly deteriorate before the owner can get them to the veterinarian."

If a pet has been exposed to blue-green algae or shows any signs of poisoning after being near bodies of water, owners should seek veterinary care immediately.

Teaching children where food comes from

By Karen Walker
Smith County Master Gardener

Have you ever asked your child or grandchild where food comes from? Since the majority of our population lives in urban areas answers can range from the grocery store to the refrigerator.

Teaching children where food comes from is important to help them develop an understanding for the natural world and the sources of their nourishment. As the weather warms here are a few fun ideas to help teach children how food gets from the farm to the table.

Gardening: Involve children in gardening activities, whether in a backyard garden, community garden, or even small indoor pots. Let them plant seeds, water the plants and watch their efforts lead to the growth of vegetables, fruits, or herbs. This hands-on experience will show them the journey from seed to harvest.

Farm Visits: Take children on field trips to local farms. Many farms offer educational tours where children can see how crops are grown, learn about different farm animals, and gain insight into the daily work of farmers.

Farmer's Markets: Visit farmer's markets together and let children interact with local farmers and producers. They can see a wide variety of fresh produce and learn about the seasonality of different fruits and vegetables.

Nature Walks: Take nature walks and explore the natural environment. Point out wild fruits, nuts, and edible plants that grow in the area. Discuss how some animals rely on these resources for their food.

Food Processing: Show children simple food processing activities like making apple sauce from fresh apples or turning milk into butter. This will help them understand how some foods undergo processing before reaching the store.

In a world where supermarkets and restaurants provide us with an endless choice of food, it is easy to forget where it all begins. Try a few of these fun activities to explore the path from farm to fork!

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

Eye Safety During a Total Solar Eclipse

Except during the brief total phase of a total solar eclipse, when the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face, it is not safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing.

Viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury.

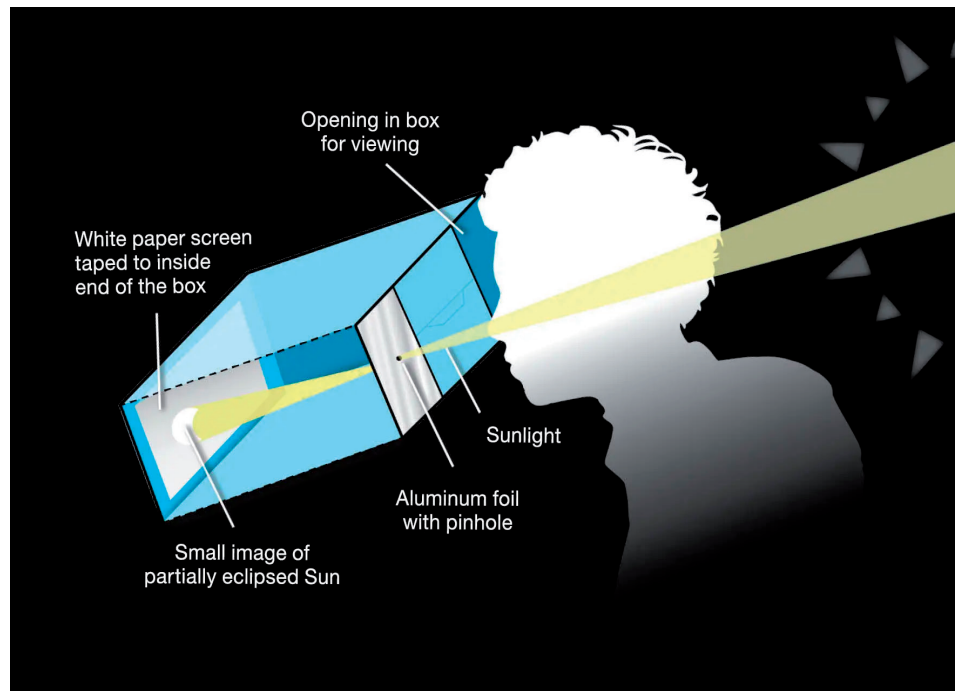
When watching the partial phases of the solar eclipse directly with your eyes, which happens before and after totality, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses; regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the Sun. Safe solar viewers are thousands of times darker and ought to comply with the ISO 12312-2 international standard. NASA does not approve any particular brand of solar viewers.

Always inspect your eclipse glasses or handheld viewer before use; if torn, scratched, or otherwise damaged, discard the device. Always supervise children using solar viewers.

Do NOT look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.

If you don't have eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer, you can use an indirect viewing method, which does not involve looking directly at the Sun. One way is to use a pinhole projector, which has a small opening (for example, a hole punched in an index card) and projects an image of the Sun onto a nearby surface. With the Sun at your back, you can then safely view the projected image. Do NOT look at the Sun through the pinhole!

Do NOT use eclipse glasses or handheld viewers with cameras, binoculars, or telescopes. Those require different types of solar filters. When viewing the partial phases of the eclipse through cameras, binoculars, or telescopes equipped with proper solar filters, you do not need to wear eclipse glasses. (The solar filters do the same job as the eclipse glasses to protect your eyes.)



You can make your own eclipse projector using a cardboard box, a white sheet of paper, tape, scissors, and aluminum foil. With the Sun behind you, sunlight will stream through a pinhole punched into aluminum foil taped over a hole in one side of the box. During the partial phases of a solar eclipse, this will project a crescent Sun onto a white sheet of paper taped to the inside of the box. Look into the box through another hole cut into the box to see the projected image.

County residents allowed free trip to landfill

Smith County residents can take one free trip to the landfill during the annual Smith Countywide Cleanup, which runs for the entire month of April, said Public Information Officer Casey Murphy. The Smith County Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes Unit and Commissioners Court are once again offering the yearly program, which allows residents to take one truck-load of bulky items (3 cubic yards of solid waste) to the Greenwood Farms Landfill for free.

During County Government Month, one voucher per resident are available in-person only at the Courthouse Annex, 200 E. Ferguson in Tyler, or any of the Justice of the Peace/Constable Offices throughout the County, including the Precinct 5 Justice of the Peace/Constable office at 2616 South Main Street in Lindale.

The vouchers are available and can be used through Saturday, May 4. "It's that time of year again ... time for spring cleaning," Environmental Crimes Deputy Tommy Goodman said. "We sure would like as many Smith County citizens to participate in this as possible."

Greenwood Farms Landfill is located at 12920 Farm-to-Market Road 2767, Tyler. It is seven miles east of Loop 323, off of Old Kilgore Highway.

The landfill charges to take mattresses. The Smith County Voucher includes only one free mattress. Additional mattresses will cost \$50 at the landfill.

Items not accepted: hazardous waste, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, gasoline, oils, acid, batteries, asbestos, wet paint, freon, whole tires, televisions, computers, refrigerators and freezers.

The Greenwood Farms Landfill is open from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Its phone number is 800-678-7274.

The vouchers are available to be picked up by Smith County residents at the following locations:

- The Annex Building, (first floor offices) 200 E. Ferguson St. in Tyler
- Precinct 1 Constable: 308 E. Ferguson in Tyler
- Precinct 2 JP/Constable: 15405 Highway 155 South in Noonday
- Precinct 3 JP/Constable: 313 E. Duval Street in Troup
- Precinct 4 JP/Constable: 14152 Highway 155 North in Winona
- Precinct 5 JP/Constable: 2616 S. Main Street in Lindale

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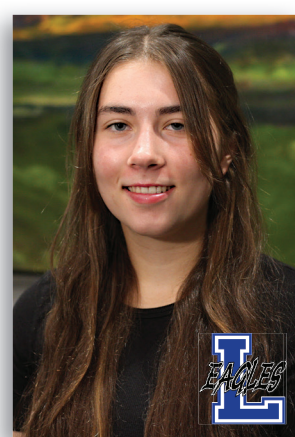
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LANDRI LAING is the daughter of Tobi and Jared Laing. She is an officer for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, captain of the cheer team, and vice president of the student council. Landri is also a member of the National Honor Society, Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, and the basketball, soccer, and golf teams. Outside of school, Landri enjoys being outdoors, playing the guitar and piano, and singing. She believes she is impacting the world by being a light for Christ. Landri plans to attend Texas A&M University and study biology. Her future goals include becoming a general dentist.



DYLAN ADAMS is the daughter of Mindy and Bryan Adams. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the varsity cheer and softball teams. Outside of school, Dylan enjoys fishing, listening to music, dancing, and spending time with her friends and family. She believes she is impacting the world by bringing others to Jesus, encouraging her teammates, leading by example, and remembering that others are watching her. Dylan's future goals are undecided at this time. However, she plans to attend Tyler Junior College and study business.



NICOLE HINES is the daughter of Barbara Hines and Bryon Hines. She is treasurer of both the National Honor Society and Key Club, squad leader in the band, and a member of the tennis team. Outside of school, Nicole enjoys reading and crocheting. She believes she is impacting the world through her community service. Nicole plans to attend Cornell University and study wildlife biology. Her future goals include working as a wildlife veterinarian specializing in large and exotic animals.

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](https://www.facebook.com/texasbankandtrust)

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