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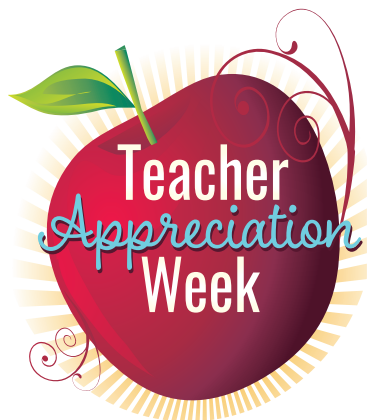
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1 Section, 8 pages

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U.S. Teacher Appreciation Week runs from May 6 to May 10, 2024, and Teacher Appreciation Day is May 7, 2024.

Since 1984, Teacher Appreciation Week always takes place the first full week of May. Teacher Appreciation Day, on the other hand, takes place on the first Tuesday in May in the United States.

Eleanor Roosevelt was actually the first to convince Congress that we needed a dedicated time to thank teachers for their hard work in the 1950s. The first lady had an excellent understanding of what it really means to be a teacher.

"The teachers are, of course, among the most important people in our nation," she wrote in 1953. "Day in and day out they are at work preparing the future citizens of the U.S. ... I have always felt that we did not give an honorable enough place in our communities to the teachers. Next to parents they are the most important people in our communities."

"I have always felt that we did not give an honorable enough place in our communities to the teachers," said Eleanor Roosevelt.

Roosevelt continued, "It is quite impossible to give teachers monetary compensation alone that will repay for their devotion to the job and the love that must go to each and every child. But I think we could compensate a little more adequately the teachers in our communities if we were conscious of their importance."

The 81st Congress declared a National Teacher Day for 1953 at Roosevelt's urging. The holiday didn't catch on right away, though. In 1980, Congress declared March 7 National Teacher Day, but it was only for that year. It wasn't until 1985 that the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week in the first full week of May, with Teacher Appreciation Day held on Tuesday of that week.

What do teachers really want for Teacher Appreciation Week?

We've said it before and we'll say it again: What teachers really want is to be valued, paid fairly, and supported in their jobs. They want a safe teaching environment and reasonable class sizes, with quality resources to serve every student's needs. Teachers want equipment that works; texts that are up-to-date, relevant, and diverse; and plentiful classroom supplies that they don't have to pay for out of their own pockets.

Most of all, teachers want respect. They want to be recognized for the professional, hardworking, dedicated, responsible, and educated workers they are. Teachers want the trust and freedom to make decisions about what they teach and how they teach it, because they are trained experts in their fields. They want administrators who support their decisions and provide the professional development they need to stay on top of their game.



After a year at the Lindale Animal Control facility, Elsa and Bree are enjoying their new forever family. Courtesy photo

Happiness, times two

After a year living at Lindale Animal Control, Elsa and Bree now enjoying forever home

When adopted sisters can stay together, it's a heartwarming thing. Such is the case with Elsa and Bree, a couple of canine siblings who spent the first year of their lives with the caring folks at Lindale Animal Control.

On March 31, a loving family adopted both and now the two sisters are enjoying the good things in life.

Lindale Animal Control folks said the two are making progress in adapting to their new home environment and the transition has been made easier by the patience and dedication of their new family.

Elsa and Bree now can go on walks, play with youngsters and dole out wet nose kisses.

All of which has made Lindale Animal Control's Kristi Freislinger very happy.

"(The job) takes a lot of time and patience," she said recently. "And when you see dogs getting adopted into a forever home it makes it all worth it."

Freislinger, who has been on the job for 10 years, noted that the spring season is when the Lindale facility sees an increase in dogs being brought into the shelter.

The Lindale shelter is a no-kill facility, and while it can't accept owner surrenders, there are still too many dogs arriving.

"We will investigate where (the dog) came from and once we have it we will post the information on social media to make sure the dog doesn't belong to someone," she said.

Once posted, after a five-day stay, workers then get busy making sure the dogs are healthy and up to date on their vaccinations, including heartworm and rabies.

"Our vets in this area are fantastic," she said. "They are a real blessing. We've even called them at all hours in all kinds of emergency situations."

Freislinger said their dogs are always in need of forever homes and anyone interested can do so by logging on to the city of Lindale's web page or the Lindale Animal Control Facebook page.

She said anyone can schedule a meet and greet with their pups by calling 903-882-6861.

'Elvis' is in the building

Whole lotta singin' going on as retired detective entertains seniors

By Brynna Williamson

Remember "Blue Suede Shoes?" Remember "Jailhouse Rock?" Remember "Can't Help Falling in Love?"

Well, so do the residents of Lindale's nursing homes. And they'd like to hear them again.

Luckily, Lindale resident Detective Sgt. Alan T. Patton – a retired homicide detective – loves doing Elvis impressions.

Patton, who spent 5 years in the Marine Corp and 27 years as a homicide detective in Grand Prairie, started doing Elvis impressions in October of 2023. Although he describes himself as "A no stone unturned, truth gatherer," he is also well known among his friends and co-workers for his sense of exuberant fun.

In fact, it came as no surprise to learn that his nickname when he was in Vietnam with the military was "Goofy."

Although he normally does impersonations for his mother's nurs-

Continued on Page 8

Streets to be closed for courthouse County parking garage construction

The portion of East Ferguson Street – from Center Avenue to Spring Avenue – will be closed for approximately three weeks for the next phase of construction of the Smith County Parking Garage, said County Public Information Officer Casey Murphy.

Detour signs, as well as an electronic message board, will help guide drivers to alternate routes.

"We appreciate all of the patience and understanding shown by our employees and visitors," Smith County Judge Neal Franklin said. "We understand these parking temporary changes are difficult, but we are excited about how great the parking garage will be when it is completed."

The construction of the 540-plus parking space garage will be a game changer for county employees and for people doing business downtown. It is expected to be completed in September.

Ferguson Street is being closed to drivers and pedestrians because 18 wheelers will be unloading prefabricated pieces of the parking garage from the street.

Visitors to the Annex Building, the Elections Office, Constable Precinct 1 Office and Animal Shelter can park in the large former juror parking lot off of Ferguson Street.

There will only be one entrance/exit to the lot, across from the Animal Shelter off Center Avenue.

Pedestrians coming to the Annex from the parking lot, including employees and visitors, will have to take a detour route to the Annex. There are white arrows painted on the ground showing pedestrians the way to go.

The route will take them from Ferguson to Fannin Street, with a cut through the former grand jury parking lot, behind the Spring Avenue Plaza.

Since the visitor parking spaces in front of the Annex on Ferguson Street will not be available during the closure, an additional five parking meters along Spring Avenue (in front of the Spring Avenue Plaza and former Martin Walker Law Firm) are covered with Visitor Parking bags.

These will be for visitors to the Annex Building. There are two van-accessible parking spots available on the north side of the Courthouse.

Smith County auctions surplus vehicles and office equipment

An auction of Smith County surplus vehicles, furniture and other items is open to bidders, county officials announced.

County commissioners declared these items up for auction during their regular meeting held Tuesday, April 23.

Also during the meeting, adopted a resolution proclaiming the week of April 14-20 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the county.

"I was so excited years ago when they finally recognized our telecommunicators as first responders because the majority of the time they are the first responders," said Smith County Judge Neal Franklin.

Franklin read the resolution into the record, which noted that in 2023, telecommunicators handled more than 212,000 calls and so far in 2024, they have handled more than 58,698 calls.

"We thank you for all you do," Franklin said after the resolution was approved by the commissioners.

The online auction, which can be found at www.govdeals.com, began Wednesday, April 24, and ends May 8.

"These are items are things that have outlived their life and the county has no use for them," said County Purchasing Director Jaye Latch.

She said in-person viewing of the items will be available from 3-5 p.m. on Monday, April 29, and Friday, May 3, at 302 E. Line St.

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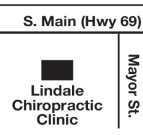
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OPINION/COMMENTARY

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



High-end electrical users could strain grid

The growth of industrial-scale users of power could strain the Texas power grid, ERCOT's chief announced last week. The Dallas Morning News reported Pablo Vegas, the agency's CEO, said bitcoin miners and artificial intelligence data centers going in across the state, as well as industrial growth in the Permian Basin, could create the need for a massive buildup of power transmission lines in the future.

ERCOT is forecasting a 37% jump in power demand from industrial-sized users, even more than earlier predicted. It increased its forecast of electricity needed by new large-scale users from 111 gigawatts to 152 gigawatts. By comparison, the record for grid demand was set last August when 85.5 gigawatts were used. ERCOT regulates 90% of the power grid.

State battles acute ag worker shortage

In the 1950s, 10% of the state's adult population worked in agriculture, a number that has dropped to 1% today, according to the Texas Standard.

Diane Charlton, an associate professor at Montana State University who studies where farm workers come from, said the number of individuals from Mexico working in agriculture provides the most farm workers, has dropped an average of one percent per year from 1980 to 2010. That amounts to 250,000 fewer farm workers per year.

Mexico provides the most farm workers. Among the reasons for decreasing numbers of Mexican farm workers are growing industrialization and increasing access to education in Mexico, and an aging group of immigrants who have traditionally worked on American farms.

Steve Hubbard of the American Immigration Council said more farmers are applying to hire temporary workers through an H-2A visa. Under its provisions, foreign workers are hired to do work on a specific farm for a given time before returning home.

Experts say hotter temperatures under climate change are also driving away potential farm workers.

"Workers are just going to suffer significantly if there are not some immediate protections put in place to address the work in these hotter temperatures," Amy Liebman, with the Migrant Clinicians Network, said. "We're experiencing these higher heat days, higher number of heat days."



Lydia Payne from Lindale High School recently received a \$1,500 scholarship from the American Association of University Women. Andie Rathbone of the AAUW presented the award.

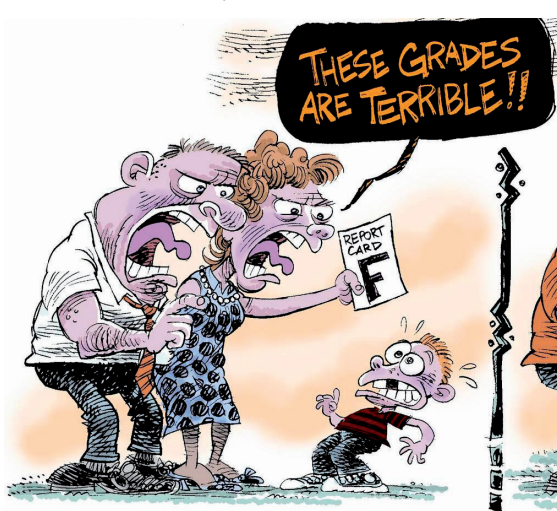
Lindale High School's Payne receives AAUW scholarship

Lindale High School's Lydia Payne has received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Tyler branch of the American Association of University Women, said scholarship committee chair Diane Kavanaugh.

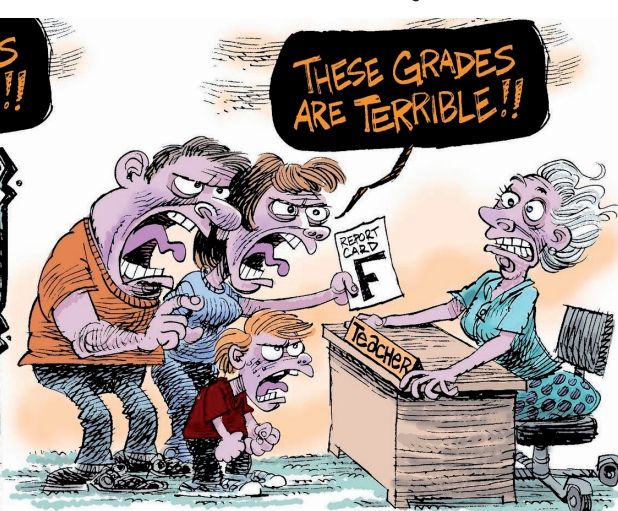
Payne was one of seven presented with the \$1,500 scholarship during a ceremony in Tyler on April 20.

Other recipients include Tiffany Guurusquieta, Tyler Legacy High School; A'niya Hartsfield, Tyler High School; Addie Sartor, Tyler Legacy; Rachel Petty, Bullard; Andrea Valdez, UT Tyler; Jennifer Penaloza, Tyler High School and Jennifer Green, Whitehouse High School.

THEN



NOW



Teachers are heroes ...

One of my earliest memories is playing school. I was three to four years old and my chubby little hands held chalk as I sat at my 'desk' while my Mom did physical therapy with my handicapped brother. As she worked with him she would call out letters for me to make on my chalkboard.

Growing up on a ranch with no playmates except my rowdy boy cousins nearby meant that I spent a great deal of my spare time reading whatever I could get my hands on.

Friday was 'town' day when I was out of school and one of my favorite stops was the local library where I checked out the maximum number of books each week. I loved the crisp feel of those colorful library book covers.

Then there were the summer Weekly Reader magazines. I can still recall what they smelled like.

My grandmother who taught in a one room school house would rock and tell me stories. She also bought me special books at the 'dime' store.

Between my teacher grandmother and my school secretary Mom, coupled with a passionate love for the written word it was inevitable that I would become a teacher.

I wish I could say that I had a phenomenal public school education. I can't.

But I can say that my first grade teacher Mrs. McQuary was a phenom. My 2nd and 3rd grade teacher Jeffie Hagle (how could I forget that name?) must have been good but I remember her affectionate nature and her hair most vividly. I think I could bounce quarters off that 'do'. That was it until I had the lovely and dedicated young teacher Anita Murray for junior high English. She cared. About junior high kids. Can you imagine that?

In high school there were three dedicated teachers who fought the good fight against the apathy, ignorance and laziness of their students. Nervous Mavis Bennett taught me to type fast and accurately. As a result I was able to work my way through college in clerical rather than food service jobs. I got every job I applied for thanks to Mrs. Bennett's attention to speed and accuracy.

Ettie Belle Robinson, a tragic and romantic spinster (she lost her fiance in WWII and wore her engagement ring on her right hand) dug in and taught the country girls to sew,

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



cook, decorate, dress appropriately for interviews and made sure we had every Red Cross certification that teenagers could qualify. She was special and we took her for granted.

But it was Gertrude Russell who lit my intellectual fire.

She was a 65-year old widow who came to my high school when her other school had forced retirement for all teachers at 65. Her son, a Vietnam War combat pilot was a POW in the Hanoi Hilton.

She took her fears, her loneliness and her need for purpose and taught a bunch of hard-headed, previously intellectually unchallenged country kids to the best of her ability. I had the privilege of her influence for three years of high school. Then she was forced to resign because of disgruntled parents. Needless to say they weren't mine.

She and the school librarian argued about book orders. The librarian saying: "None of these kids will read these books." Mrs. Russell said: "Suzie Brown will!"

And I did. Because smart-aleck that I was, I respected Mrs. Russell. As a result, a world was opened and when I got to college, despite graduating with only 15 students, I found myself prepared.

And inspired.

I taught public school for 33 years because of Mom, Mam'ma and Mrs. Russell. The teachers in my life who touched my future. In turn I have taught somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 students in my career as a public school and community college teacher. I just pray I have touched their lives just a bit as mine was touched.

To all the teachers in the trenches: you are my heroes! Do not let the testing, the pressure, the exhaustion, the discipline problems take your eyes off of the truth that you write the future for generations.

The FUTURE!

What a gift you hold in your hands. What a gift you are!

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

A Perilous Purge

Since the expiration of COVID-19-related provisions requiring states to keep residents enrolled in Medicaid, an estimated 2.1 million Texans have lost their coverage. Texas has by far the highest number of uninsured in the country and has removed significantly more individuals from coverage than any other state.



The primary reason to maintain and expand health insurance access is to help some of the state's most vulnerable residents to obtain needed care, thus improving their lives. While many hospitals and clinics provide treatment to the uninsured, there is a substantial cost to be borne by those facilities, the local taxpayers who subsidize uncompensated care, and those with private insurance who face higher premiums

to offset these expenses.

Beyond the health consequences to the affected people and families, health insurance coverage involves significant economic and fiscal benefits. With 2.1 million fewer Texans covered by health insurance, health-related spending decreases, reducing business activity in communities across the state and throughout the economy. Uncompensated care also rises, along with insurance premiums. In addition, it becomes more difficult for people to obtain the care that they need, causing negative effects on morbidity and mortality outcomes and, in turn, decreasing productivity. Lower productivity associated with adverse health outcomes reduces economic activity.

We estimated the economic costs of decreasing the number of Texans covered by health insurance by 2.1 million and found that, if the situation persists, the state loses \$58.9 billion in annual gross product and almost 509,200 jobs (including multiplier effects). Economic harms are spread across the state. (For more detail and regional results, see www.perrymangroup.com.)

Texas is among the most difficult states to qualify for Medicaid and is one of only a handful which have not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Our analysis has indicated that State funds required to access federal resources available for health insurance expansion would be more than returned to the State in dynamic tax revenue. There would also be benefits to local government entities including both higher revenues and lower costs for uncompensated care. Moreover and more importantly, the wellbeing of Texans could be enhanced, thus promoting sustainability.

Millions of Texas children and adults do not have health insurance, and the number is rising rapidly. Most cannot afford private insurance and find it difficult to obtain basic or preventive health care. Texas could alleviate a substantial portion of this problem and support the state's health care system by expanding health insurance coverage using available federal funds. It could also provide a lifeline to the fragile rural health care network. Notable economic and fiscal gains would be an outcome of this process, and millions of Texans would have better access to the health care they need. Stay safe!

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.

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Squirrels: Yeah, they can drive you nuts

While they don't rank as high as rats, pocket moles or fire ants on the pestilence scale, squirrels are nonetheless a nuisance to our everyday lives.

By "our" I'm referring to me and my pups.

One of the more pleasant things about living in East Texas is the trees. Pine trees, oak trees and pecans surround our homestead, meaning, of course those little bushy-tailed rodents scamper from tree top to tree top before settling in atop my back fence.

For reasons only known to those little devils, they really do enjoy tormenting our dogs when in the backyard, knowing full well that a shake of its tail will prompt loud, continuous barking from Abbey, a lifelong squirrel hater.

They perch on the fence, look into the yard and as soon as they spot her they start to run. Naturally, she feels compelled to bark, which then prompts the squirrel to run some more.

They really got under my skin when they started stealing birdseed from our feeders. There were times when looked out at our patio and I swear there must have been a half-dozen of those lousy felons swiping the birds' food.

(I finally figured out that by using safflower seed it kept them away. Squirrels hate it.)

Speaking of pecan trees, until some sort of disease claimed it we had a nice one in our front yard which supplied us with those tasty morsels each year.

That is until the greedy horde of squirrels took up residence. Now I don't mind sharing – there were plenty to go around – but I do mind their wastefulness.

From their perch at the very top of the tree, they would take a few bites out of the green ones and toss them aside, usually onto my driveway.

This resulted in a hideous brown stain caused when our cars ran over the green, half-eaten pecans.

Yeah, you could say there's some bitterness on my part concerning these little pests.

Recently, however, I learned of a benefit associated with this bane of urban living, and naturally, it comes from those smart folks down in Aggieland.



It seems that the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department is using various field techniques and statistical analyses to provide quantitative insight into the world of their lively campus residents.

The Eastern fox squirrel, one of eight species in Texas, seems to prefer the wide-open, park-like environs of college campuses. A&M's layout certainly fits the bill, with its never-ending squirrel food supply and lack of predators.

"The presence of urban wildlife on campus enables our students to conduct research and practice key technical skills in their own backyard," said Ty Werdel, Ph.D. and assistant professor.

This spring, graduate and undergraduate students under Werdel's tutelage, are aiming to trap 12 squirrels from across the campus, then collect data and strap on micro-GPS collars to the little buggers.

Werdel said understanding the impact of urbanization on all wildlife species is extremely relevant as cities continue their outward expansion and overlap with wildlife habitat.

"The project's primary objective is to prepare our students with the technical knowledge and skills needed to conserve and manage any number of wildlife species in an evolving environment," Werdel said. "While this research is specific to our campus, students will be able to apply what they learn through this project to future wildlife management endeavors."

Werdel said the GPS collars, like very small pet collars, have no detrimental effect on the daily activities of the wild-

life wearing them and will provide researchers with insight into their movement and behavior.

To mitigate stress on the animal and ensure human safety, only trained personnel will be allowed to handle the squirrels; however, wildlife students will assist in the process.

Further, the trapping will take place only in the early morning or late evening hours to avoid the hottest portions of the day.

This isn't the first time Texas A&M students have investigated the behavior of campus squirrels. Twenty-five years ago, Roel Lopez, Ph.D., head of the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management and director of the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, launched a similar project.

This project spanned six years and led to numerous findings, including that male squirrels on the Texas A&M campus are more likely to die from highway-related deaths than females. (Too dumb to avoid a rapidly approaching car perhaps?)

Of course all of this study of those pesky urban critters is fine and dandy, but can they keep the ones in my yard from tormenting my dogs?



An Aggieland squirrel geared up for research. (Courtesy photo)

Heavenly rewards, Part One

Back when I was a kid, summer was the best time of the year.

Well, except for Christmas. Back then, you got a full summer. You got out of school in May and didn't have to go back until after Labor Day in September.

Now, we lived out in the country, so we had plenty of stuff to do to keep us occupied.

We never stayed in the house, because our moms would run us out, not that there was anything to do in there anyway. We didn't watch TV durin' the days because all we had were three channels, and only one came in very well, and all that was on it were soap operas.

So we played outside. Most of the time we had plenty to do, like roamin' around pretendin' we were characters in whatever the last movie was we had seen.

Mostly we were cowboys and Indians, or maybe Tarzan, with an occasional pirate thrown in for good measure. But there was this one day when we couldn't decide on what we wanted to be or do.

"There ain't nothin' to do," I said.

"We can go pick up toad jerky," said Little Rusty. Toad jerky is what we called toad frogs that we'd find on the road that had been flattened by a car tire. They'd dry up pretty fast in the summer and we'd peel them off the road. We never did much with them but collect them. They'd stack pretty well and you could get five or six in a stack and carry them around like a sandwich, but there wasn't much else you could do with them.

Well, except sail them like a Frisbee. They weren't what you would call aerodynamically inclined like a Frisbee, but it was sort of neat watchin' a flat spinnin' toad frog glide through the air with his little flat legs stickin' out.

"Naw, I'm toad jerkied out," I said. "Plus, mom said if she found another one in my britches pocket she was gonna brain me."

Mothers were always threatenin' to brain you back then. I don't really know what brainin' somebody consisted of, but the tone of voice in which they told you they were gonna do it was enough of a deterrent to keep you from whatever it was you were doin' to quit doin' it.

"I wish we could catch a bank robber or somethin' and git a reward," said my cousin Coy.

"Ooooo yeah," I agreed. "That'd be neat. Then we could buy a Coke."

Rusty Mitchum Life & Times



"And some BB's," said Coy. "I know how to get a reward," said Little Rusty.

"How?" Coy and I both said at the same time.

"Well, you got to do somethin' nice for somebody and don't tell them about it."

"What? Who told you that?" "A kid in my class in school said that his preacher told him that."

"That sounds like a bunch of bull to me," said Coy. "What church does he go to?"

"I don't know, but he said they ain't got no piano," he replied.

"That don't sound like no real church to me. A real church has a piano," said Coy.

"They don't have a piano? How do they sing? You can't sing church songs without a piano."

"He said they sing with somethin' called an ockupello." "Idn't that one of them big fiddles?" I asked.

"Could be, I guess," said Coy, "but it sure ain't no piano."

"That kid told me that everybody in his church was the only ones that was gonna git to go to heaven," said Little Rusty.

"That's bull." I said. "Our church is goin' to heaven. I might just tell our preacher what they said, and I'll bet our church'll go over there and beat the snot out of their church."

"I don't think churches beat the snot out of each other," said Coy.

"Well, my church is pretty tough."

"Anyway," said Coy. "You really think doin' somethin' nice for somebody will get us a reward?"

"I do," said Little Rusty.

"Cause it's Biblical."

"Biblical?"

"That means it's in the Bible, so it's got to be true."

"I think we ought to check this out first before we go doin' something nice for somebody," I said. "I mean gettin' a reward for bein' nice to somebody don't make no sense. How much is the reward, anyway?"

"He didn't say," said Little Rusty.

"I think we ought to check it out, anyway," I said. "Let's go look in the Bible."

"Let's look in ours," said Coy. "It's a great big Bible, so it's probably got more stuff in it."

"Sound good to me," and we took off to Coy's house.

"Man, that is a big Bible," I said. "How much does that thing weigh?"

"I don't know, but if you put it in your lap, it'll put your legs to sleep."

"Look up and see if that reward thing is true," said Little Rusty.

"OK," said Coy and he cracked open the big Bible. He turned several pages. "This ain't gonna be too easy," he said. "Look at all these words." "Yeah, this is too much like school work," I said. "I know! I'll call our preacher. His Bible ain't as big as this one, but he seems to know a lot about what's in his."

Coy got me the phone book and we looked up the preacher's number. I dialed the number.

"Hello," a voice said.

"Hello? Brother Herbert?" I asked.

"Yes?"

"Hey Brother Herbert, this is Rusty Mitchum. Remember me?"

"Oh yes, the Willie Wasp boy. I remember you. I don't believe I'll ever forget you."

What he was talkin' about was once, in church, David Weakly, David Evans, and yours truly, had coaxed a red wasp into an offerin' envelope, and wrote Willie Wasp on the line where your name is supposed to go. We put it in the offerin' plate, thinkin' that when whoever opened it would be surprised. Little did we know that the wasp was a little upset about bein' cooped up in an envelope.

When the usher men took it into the little room where they count the money, one of them opened the envelope and the wasp came flyin' out of it like its tail was on fire and started attackin' everybody in the room. This was goin' on while one of the ladies was singin' a special, and the hollerin' and bouncin' off the walls the men were doin' was disturbin' her song.

Anywho, to make a long story short, they figured out who did it, and we had to apologize and such. It wasn't pretty.

"Uh, I thought you said I was forgiven for that," I said.

"Forgiven, but not forgotten," the preacher said.

"Uh, OK. Uh, Brother Herbert, I got a question about somethin' to see if it's Biblical or not."

"Biblical?"

"Yes Sir. That means it's in the Bible."

"Oh, I see. Well, what Biblical question do you have?"

"Well, this kid said that if you do somethin' nice for somebody and don't tell them, then you will get a reward. Is that true?"

Brother Herbert chuckled.

"Well, I guess it's true."

"How much is the reward?"

"Well, the reward will be in heaven."

"What?"

"You will be rewarded when you get to heaven."

"That don't seem fair," I said. "After all we'll do it down here."

"What'd he say?" asked Coy.

"He said that we got to wait 'til we git to heaven to git the reward."

"Heck, I was gonna buy some BB's," said Coy.

"Ask him about if that church is the only one that gets to go to heaven," said Little Rusty.

"Oh yeah," I said into the phone. "That kid said that his church was the only one goin' to heaven. Our church is goin' too, ain't it?"

"I think most of our church will be going," he chuckled.

"I think we ought to go over there to that other church and beat the snot out of them for sayin' that," I said.

"Rusty if we did that, then we probably wouldn't go to heaven, now would we?"

"I don't know."

"Take my word for it."

"OK, you're the preacher."

"So," said Brother Herbert. "Are you going to do something nice for someone?"

"Probably not today," I said. "We needed some money to buy some BB's and a Coke, so we'll probably go up to the highway and look for some Coke bottles instead."

"Well, I think you really ought to do something nice for somebody. After all, it is Biblical."

"OK," I said. "We'll think about it. Thanks. Tell Jesus I said Hi."

"I'll sure do that." I hung up the phone.

"Does he talk to Jesus?" asked Coy.

"Well, he's always tellin' us what Jesus said, so I figure he must."

"That's neat," said Coy. "So, what did he tell you?"

"He said we really need to do something nice for somebody, but I don't know what we could do."

"I know," said Little Rusty.

"Let's go pull them weeds out of Mr. Parker's flower bed."

Tune in next week for the conclusion: The Reward.

Times of Lindale



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, May 4, 2023

With a 4-2 win over the Van Vandals, the Lindale High School Eagles captured the 16-4A baseball championship with a 9-1 mark.

Lindale improved its record to 19-6-1 for the season. Against Van, the Eagles and Vandals were tied 1-1 after one, and fell behind 2-1 going into the bottom of the fifth. But the Eagles put the game away with three runs to secure the district title.

Leading the way at the plate, Hudson Legrow slapped out two hits, while Ty McCoy, Jacob Curbow, Ryan Betts, Carson Plunkett, Jake Powell and Kaden Fleming each added a hit apiece.

Legrow was the winning pitcher as well, allowing just five hits, striking out six and walking just two in his seven innings of work.

FIVE YEARS AGO, May 2, 2019

Lindale native and Lindale High School graduate Billy Garrett retired from his job as Postmaster of the Glendale, Ariz., post office after 14 years on the job at that facility.

After graduating from LHS in 1978, he joined the U.S. Army as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. In 1982, he returned to Lindale and began working at the Tyler Post Office. Other Postal Service stops included Red Bluff, Reading and Sacramento, Calif. He was named Postmaster in Bullhead, Ariz., and in 2001, was named Postmaster in Flagstaff, Ariz.

10 YEARS AGO, May 1, 2014

Former Lindale Mayor Jim Mallory was honored by the Lindale Area Chamber of Commerce as its "Citizen of the Year" during the LACC's 30th annual banquet and silent auction at Hideaway Lake Country Club.

A capacity crowd heard former LACC President Carroll Anderson list the many achievements in the civic and business arena for Mallory, who along with his wife Jeanette, have been Lindale residents since "retiring" in 1992.

"I am honored to present this award to someone I've admired and respected for a long time," Anderson said.

Mallory, who retired as mayor in 2012, first served on the city council in 2006. He served as mayor from 2007 to 2012 and was re-elected on two occasions.

Mallory, who was born in Tyler, lived and worked around the world for Exxon.

One such assignment was in New Jersey.

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Virus infected roses must be destroyed

By Greg Grant
Smith County Horticulturist
 Rose rosette is a serious rose disease that is present in Smith County and unfortunately, every infected rose must be destroyed immediately so it does not spread to other roses throughout our home and public gardens.

Tyler does not have the option of not growing roses. It is especially important that you learn all you can about this disease and learn to identify it when you see it.

The symptoms of this vi-

rus disease are quite distinct. The most noticeable sign is a deformed, dense clustered, "witches' broom" growth habit, often with an abnormal red-orange coloration.

The color alone is not totally diagnostic as many roses produce new burgundy growth. The plant basically goes crazy, as if it had been sprayed with a broadleaf herbicide.

The stems might also be flattened, enlarged, or elongated, with excessive leaf growth or thorniness. The

symptoms of rose rosette might only occur on a single branch or a few shoots at first. The rose may die or may linger stunted for years, spreading to other roses in the area.

Rose rosette virus spreads to other roses in one of two ways. In gardens it is spread by a tiny eriophyid mite that feeds on an infected live plant then spreads it to an uninfected plant that it later feeds on. These mites are so small that they can be spread in the wind.

To be on the safe side, make sure roses are spaced so that they do not touch each other. The mite itself does not cause the disease. It only spreads it.

The other way of spreading this disease is through plant propagation. Any rose propagated by cuttings or buds from an infected plant will have the disease as well, as the virus is flowing through its tissue.

There is no cure for rose rosette. Pruning out the noticeably infected branches will not cure the plant and treating the bush or soil with



Roses with rose rosette must be destroyed to prevent the disease from spreading to other roses. (Courtesy Photo)

assorted concoctions will not cure this disease. By the time you see the symptoms, the disease is being replicated inside the plant with no way for you to rid it.

All rose cultivars to date are unfortunately susceptible.

The only option is to completely remove and dispose of the entire infected plant, roots and all (in a sealed gar-

bage bag), preferably at the first sign of infection.

A burn pile is a good option in rural areas. If you allow an infected plant to live, you are unfortunately risking the life of all your other roses along with all Tyler and East Texas roses.

The disease is in infected living plants only, not the soil, so you can grow roses again in the same area after

you removed any infected ones nearby.

If you are unsure and suspect you have an infected rose, a sample can be sent to the Texas A&M Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station. More information and submission forms can be found at plantclinic.tamu.edu. There is a fee for testing rose rosette samples.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

SABINE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

At Historic Sabine Methodist Church
 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 5, 2024

We now provide a port-a-potty facility and are handicap accessible.

A short business meeting will follow the service.

Pot-Luck lunch will be served "on the ground." (under a shady tent) immediately following.

Bring lunch and enjoy the fellowship (drinks furnished)!

All family members and other interested persons are invited to attend.

Location: corner of CR 4122 and CR 452

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Celebrations of Faith

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 307 Eagle Spirit Dr - 903-882-9150
 Pastor Jacob Chaffin

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 903-597-6131
 Pastor Stephen Nipp

Bethel Baptist Church
 FM 16 West, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8275

Bible Baptist Church
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 903-882-1454

Carmel Baptist Church
 10969 CR 481, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3852
 James Cheatham

Central Baptist Church
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 903-882-3179
 Byron Howard

Damascus Baptist Church
 17052 CR 4105 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3392
 Bennie Portwood

Dover Baptist Church
 21166 FM Road 1995, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-5106

Duck Creek Baptist Church
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 903-882-9558

East Foothills Missionary Baptist Church
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 903-497-4674
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Fairview Baptist Church
 Van Highway, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-9500

First Baptist Church
 Hwy 69 (in Swan) Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6432

First Baptist Church of Lindale
 110E Hubbard St. Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3396
 Tom Buck

Foundation Baptist Church
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 903-881-9490

Garden Valley Baptist Church
 17816 CR 442, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7671

Greater Hopewell Baptist Church
 10480 CR 492 • Tyler, TX 75706
 903-882-4726

Hopewell Baptist Church
 11804 CR 494, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-5381



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

Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church
 13073 Hwy 110 N • Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3890
 Bruce Rudd

New Harmony Baptist Church
 10251 FM 724, Tyler, TX 75704
 903-593-5811

Red Springs Baptist Church
 Red Springs, TX
 903-858-2365

St Mary Baptist Church
 12050 CR 452,, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8066

Thompson Hill Baptist Church
 14657 CR, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-0849

Walnut Springs Baptist Church
 211 Walnut Springs,, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7858

Wood Trails Baptist Church
 11804 CR 494,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-5381

CATHOLIC
Holy Family Catholic Church
 16314 FM 849,
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-4079
 Rev. David Bailey, Pastor

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 211 W. Hubbard, Lindale, TX 75771
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Church of Christ – South Main
 2425 S Main St, Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-8933

Church of Christ – Swan County
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 903-882-8009

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St Luke's Episcopal Church
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 17069 CR 452 Lindale TX
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 903-882-6382

NON DENOMINATIONAL
Clearview Church
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Community Christian Fellowship
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 903-882-8501
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Cross Brand Cowboy Church
 11915 FM 2015, Tyler, Texas 75708
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Crossroads Community Church
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 903-881-9844
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Bethesda Church
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Friendship CME Church
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 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-7269

Garden Valley Bible Church
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 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-9665

Grace Community Church
 15567 Wood Springs Rd
 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3323

Hide-A-Way Lake Community Church
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 Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-6966

Life Source Community Church
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 Pastor John Offutt

Lone Star Cowboy Church
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 Lindale TX 75771
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 Jayc Harold

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 Lindale, TX 75771
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Trinity Fellowship Church
 Shady Lane Lindale, TX 75771
 903-882-3885 • Ben Steen

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 903-882-3861 • Dr. Everitt Nix

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Lindale Police Department call logs for April 19-26

FRIDAY, APRIL 19: Motorist Assist, 15000 block CR 431, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 2400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Arrest; Motor Vehicle Crash, 200 block West Hubbard Street, Report; Residential Alarm, 800 block Bentwood Circle, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 800 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Circumstance, 15100 block Country Acres Drive, Settled at Scene; Found Property, 200 block Cannery Row, Report; Verbal Disturbance, 900 block Mount Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Pedestrian Contact, 600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: Pedestrian Contact, 100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Pedestrian Contact, 300 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 1500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Pedestrian Contact, 2100 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Pedestrian Contact, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Pedestrian Contact, 700 block Brad Circle, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 556 IH-20 West, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 554 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 552 IH-20 West, Report; Motorist Assist, 15800 block CR 461, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 400 block Mallory Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Theft, 13300 block CR 472, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block Summer Tree Circle, Unfounded; Disturbance, 500 block



Ferguson Street, Settled at Scene.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: Pedestrian Contact, 100 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 1000 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 800 block Lindale Industrial Parkway, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 17700 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Settled at Scene; Pedestrian Contact, 100 block North Henry Street, Settled at Scene; Mental Health Welfare Check, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 200 block Charles Drive, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 400 block West Hubbard Street, Report; Public Service, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 553 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene.

MONDAY, APRIL 22: Criminal Mischief, 100 block West South Street, Report; Damaged Property, 400 block Hill Street, Unfounded; Motorist Assist, 600 block Pierce Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 3500 block

South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Assault/Simple, 3200 block South Main Street, Arrest; Business Alarm, 300 block Eagle Spirit Drive, Settled at Scene; Mental Health Welfare Check, 200 block West Bonnie Street, Unable to Locate; Theft, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Citation Issued.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23: Traffic Hazard, 557 IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 1000 block South Main Street, Report; Assist Another Agency, 554 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Theft, 900 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 1200 block Forest Trails Drive, Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 100 block North Main Street, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 100 block South Commerce Street, Report; Assist Smith Co SO, 19000 block CR 4108, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 200 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 2500 block South Main Street, Report; Business Alarm, 14000 block FM 849, False Alarm.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: Pedestrian Contact, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Theft, 17700 block CR 4112, Warning Issued; Welfare Concern, 400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 553 IH-20 West, Report; Motorist Assist, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Disturbance, 1500 block Sugar Hill, Report; Assist Smith Co SO, 16200 block FM 16 West, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Vehicle, 1500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25: Pedestrian Contact, 100 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 13300 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 16200 block Crossing Circle, Settled at Scene.

Denton county resident gets life for child pornography violations

An Aubrey man has been sentenced to life in federal prison for child pornography violations in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

William Carl Kennedy, 42, pleaded guilty on Nov. 14, 2023 to production of child pornography and penalties relating to violations for registered sex offenders.

On April 25, 2024, U.S. District Judge Richard Schell sentenced Kennedy to life in federal prison for the sexual exploitation of a child, to be followed by an additional 10 years for penalties for registered sex offenders, to run consecutively.

According to information presented in court, Kennedy is a registered sex offender with convictions for aggravated sexual assault of a child in Denton, Texas, lewd or indecent acts to a child in Marietta, Oklahoma, and failure to register as a sex offender in Texas.

In 2023, a child under the age of 12 reported that Kennedy had sexually abused them. Law enforcement officers from the Cooke County Sheriff's Office and the Denton County Sheriff's Office investigated the outcry and discovered evidence of Kennedy filming himself sexually abusing the child at a residence in Denton County. Kennedy distributed at least one recording of the child to another individual.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who

exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations, Denton Police Department, Denton County Sheriff's Office and Cooke County Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa Miller

Felon gets federal prison time for firearms violation

An Orange, Texas convicted felon sentenced to federal prison for a firearms violation in the Eastern District of Texas, said Walston.

Michael Octavius Hampton, 51, pleaded guilty on Oct. 4, 2023, to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 33 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Marcia Crone on April 23, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on June 26, 2023, Hampton visited a pawn shop in Orange where he was known by the employees as he frequently pawned various items such as tools.

Hampton requested to purchase a pistol, provided his state-issued identification and completed the required ATF Form 4473. On the form, Hampton indicated he had never been convicted of a felony, a requirement to purchase a firearm.

Hampton then signed the form acknowledging the information he provided was true and correct. The pawn shop submitted the form through the National Criminal Background Check System, also known as NICS, and received a message indicating the transaction was neither approved nor denied and pending further background checks.

As required by law, the pawn shop

did not transfer the firearm to Hampton due to the delayed status and Hampton left the store. On July 3, 2023, Hampton came back to the pawn shop to pick up the firearm that he had purchased.

The NICS check was still in delayed status, however since the pawn shop had waited the required three days without a denial, the firearm was transferred to Hampton. Hampton again re-certified that his answers on the ATF 4473 Form were correct – including that he had not been previously convicted of a felony – by signing the form a second time. Hampton then took possession of the firearm, which was captured on video by the pawn shop.

Further investigation revealed Hampton was a convicted felon having been previously convicted of murder in Jefferson County in 1995 and prohibited by federal law from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition. Hampton was arrested by federal agents at his home on July 26, 2023, and the firearm was recovered.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Quinn.

Jail time possible for drivers who don't move over, slow down

While millions of Texans commute to work on highways every week, they pass inches away from the worksites for thousands of law enforcement personnel, first responders and road maintenance crews.

Unfortunately, many of them are killed in crashes every year on the job, which is why TxDOT is calling on Texas drivers to keep roadside workers safe by remembering to "Move Over or Slow Down."

The state's Move Over or Slow Down law requires drivers to move over—putting a lane between them and roadside workers—or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when passing law enforcement, tow trucks, utility vehicles, emergency responders and TxDOT vehicles stopped with activated overhead lights on the side of the road.

Changes to the law went into effect on Sept. 1, 2023, and impose heavier penalties for violations, including fines of up to \$1,250 for a first offense. Stricter penalties for drivers who cause serious injuries by failing to follow these rules now include possible jail time and a fine of up to \$4,000.

Every year, law enforcement officers, tow truck drivers and other roadside workers do essential work protecting and maintaining our roads, but some are hit, injured or killed while serving our community. TxDOT's "Be Safe. Drive Smart" public awareness campaign asks all drivers to respect these workers who are vital to keeping our roads clear and safe.

The Move Over or Slow Down law requires drivers to:

Be on alert and pay attention when approaching roadside law enforcement, emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility vehicles and TxDOT vehicles with flashing lights on.

When possible, move out of the lane closest to these vehicles.

Slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit if safely switching lanes is not possible or the road doesn't offer multiple lanes.

Reduce speed to 5 mph on roadways with posted speed limits of 25 mph or less.

The state's Move Over or Slow Down law was first passed in 2003 and applied to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services vehicles. The Texas Legislature has since extended the law's protections to include TxDOT vehicles, tow trucks and utility service vehicles.

Be Safe. Drive Smart. is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

Caddo Mounds State Park ceremony planned

Officials with the Texas Historical Commission have announced a commemoration of the reopening of the visitor center at [Caddo Mounds State Historic Site](http://CaddoMoundsStateHistoricSite.com) on May 18.

The opening event on May 18 will take place from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:30 a.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of outdoor activities including atlatl throwing and a friction fire demonstration. A tour led by archeologist Victor Galan examining the history and culture of the Caddo people will begin at 2 p.m.

The site was nearly destroyed after a tornado hit the area during Caddo Culture Day in April 2019. The reopening highlights the completion of a new \$2.5 million visitor center and the restoration of the site's traditional grass house.

The new visitor center, encompassing 5,150 square feet, houses an exhibit dedicated to the history and culture of ancestral Caddo people who built a ceremonial center there more than 1,200 years ago.

Designed by Richter Architects with input from members of the Caddo Nation, the rebuilt center features architectural elements intended to blend with the surrounding landscape, including a self-weathering steel roof to mimic the original Caddo mounds. Additionally, enhancements for tornado preparedness have been integrated to protect the site.

The traditional grass house was meticulously rebuilt in 2022, led by the Caddo Nation and the THC. The THC, along with the Friends of Caddo Mounds, provided funds to hire five female Caddo apprentices to

rebuild the house, and over 20 members of the Caddo Nation assisted with the reconstruction.

"The Caddo Mounds rise over this sacred space as a testimony to the permanence of the Caddo Nation. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Caddo, the Alto community, Cherokee County, our many donors, the Texas Legislature, and Gov. Greg Abbott to preserve this important part of our history," said John L. Nau, III, THC Chairman. "The site has been restored to serve as a gathering place to learn about and honor Caddo culture for generations to come."

In addition to the visitor center, grass house, and ceremonial mounds, Caddo Mounds State Historic Site is fully accessible and offers three miles of scenic walking trails, including connection to [El Camino Real de los](http://ElCaminoRealdeLosTejasNationalHistoricTrail.com)

[Tejas National Historic Trail](http://TejasNationalHistoricTrail.com). There is also an educational garden on site, and a variety of ongoing programming is offered on topics such as stargazing, birdwatching, and foraging. Visit the [Texas Historical Commission website](http://TexasHistoricalCommission.com) for more information.

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Signs golf scholarship

Lindale High School's Karis Pollard signed a scholarship this past week to continue her golf career at Florida Gateway College in Lake City, Fla. (Courtesy photo)



Kiwanis honors top sophomores

Lindale High School's Macy Luster was recently named Sophomore of the Year by the Hideaway Kiwanis Club and presented with a \$1,000 scholarship, club officials said. Each year the club awards top sophomores at LHS with scholarships. The awards are based on the students' leadership ability, academic record and community and school involvement. Other students honored this year by the HAWL Kiwanis include Mollee DeWolfe, Asher Medders and Kylon Kincade. All will receive \$500 scholarships. (Courtesy photo)

Getting your raised beds ready for spring

By David Googins
Smith County Master Gardener

Raised beds are easy to maintain and solve the problems of bad backs, bad soil, and poor drainage.

Now is the best time to correct any issues that are detrimental to growing your flowers and vegetables.

According to the Texas A&M Agrilife article "Building a Raised Bed Garden", the best media for a raised bed is one third topsoil, one third peat moss, and one third sand or coarse perlite. This media alone is not sufficient to raise vegetables.

Compost needs to be blended in with the media so one quarter to one third of the mix is organic material. This mix provides a well-draining soil that also has the ability to provide nutrients for your plants to grow. Some of us (like me) were unaware of that fact, and our raised beds may not have the correct soil proportions.

Some of us may have even used plant-

ing mix with NO compost at all and then wondered why the plants were small and the vegetables were fewer than desired. With Spring just around the corner, now is the time to swing into action. Although it may seem best to add the necessary compost and till it in, the better answer is not to till the beds.

The existing soil structure of your raised beds is a complex web of bacteria and fungi that serves your plants better if left intact. Tilling can bring weed seeds to the surface where the seeds can germinate. Instead, rake back the mulch, if there is any, and add additional media in the proportions listed above blended with compost to the top of the bed only. After adding the soil/compost mix, mulch the top of the bed with 2-3 inches of pine straw or natural mulch.

When it's time to plant, pull the mulch back, dig the hole, plant your plants, and then replace the mulch on top.

Because organic material breaks down, the greater the percentage of your plant-



ing mix is compost or other organic material, the sooner you will need to add additional material to your raised bed. After the growing season is over and you pull out the spent plants, remember to always keep the soil covered with 2-3 inches of mulch to keep the soil structure stable and any weed seeds from germinating.

No tilling makes your soil and back happier, and happy soil makes for prettier vegetables and flowers.

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

Now is time of year snakes pose threat to your pets

By Texas A&M School
of Veterinary Medicine &
Biomedical Sciences

Spring has sprung, but flowers may not be the only things popping up in your yard; this also is the season when snakes come out of hibernation.

There are almost 3,000 different species of snakes in the world, with less than a third considered venomous, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. However, only four types of venomous snakes are found in the U.S., including rattlesnakes, cop-

perheads, cottonmouths or water moccasins, and coral snakes — and all of them are present in Texas.

Regardless of the type of snake you may encounter, Dr. Christine Rutter, a clinical associate professor of emergency medicine at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, encourages owners to have all snake bites evaluated by a veterinarian if they suspect their pet has been bitten, as bites from non-venomous snakes can lead to medical complications as well.



Understanding Snake Behavior

Snakes, with their remarkable adaptability, live in a wide variety of places, from dense rainforests and arid deserts to urban environments.

"I live in a suburban environment, and I have seen snakes even in my small yard," Rutter said. "I make sure I turn on the house lights and make a bit of noise before letting my pets out, giving snakes a bit of warning and hopefully time to move away and hide. Snakes themselves don't want to interact with people or pets because they are interested in being left alone; they defend themselves only if they feel threatened."

To remain unnoticed, snakes often seek out hiding places, but this natural inclination to hide can sometimes make it difficult for pets to notice them until they are too close, potentially causing the

snake to react defensively.

"Snakes really love patches of tall grass, leaf piles, wood piles, sheds and areas that have lower daily traffic, such as garages and storage buildings," Rutter said. "Snake deterrents and chemicals, unfortunately, don't work, so owners should keep pets away from outbuildings and maintain the pet's environment by removing leaves, debris, and tall grass."

Immediate Actions When Bitten

Despite taking precautions, there is always a chance that pets come across snakes, which is why it is important for owners to be able to recognize signs that their pet has been bitten.

"Dogs are most commonly bitten on the face, neck, and front limbs, while cats are most commonly bitten on their front paws," Rutter explained. "Because some

snakes don't leave a typical 'bite' on a pet, owners may not find one or two bleeding puncture wounds. Instead, they should look for other signs in their pet, including pain, fear, abnormal mentality, seizures, or difficulty walking."

Unlike some other injuries or illnesses where first aid measures can be applied at home, all snake bites require immediate veterinary attention.

"Owners should immediately remove the collar of any animal that has been bitten to prevent it from becoming constricting should the pet have swelling around their head or neck," Rutter said. "Otherwise, there are no medications that can be given at home that are effective at treating snake bites or are appropriate to control the pain, so don't administer anything — just see your veterinarian."

If possible, owners also

should try to gather information about the snake culprit without putting themselves in danger, either by taking a picture of the snake from a safe distance or describing its size, color, and distinctive markings from afar.

"Many snakes are not venomous, but differentiating between venomous and nonvenomous snakes is quite difficult, especially in the moment," Rutter said. "Common things veterinarians will want to know are the snake's color(s); patterns such as stripes or shapes versus a solid color; and the presence of a rattle. Sometimes a snake's tail is a unique color, which can also be a helpful indicator."

Information about the snake can help veterinarians in determining the type of snake and whether administering an appropriate antivenom will be necessary, but owners should prioritize getting their pet to the veterinarian before a snake bite begins causing severe health problems such as difficulty breathing.

By being aware of your pet's surroundings and making small adjustments to their environment, you can help keep them safe from hidden dangers like snakes. Remember, if you have reason to believe your pet was bitten by a snake, it's important to visit your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Pet Talk is a service of the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.

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Rotary speaker

UT Tyler professor and senior lecturer Susan Doty was the guest speaker this past week at the Lindale Rotary Club. Now in her 15th year at the university, Doty is the founding and executive director of the Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy, which provides outreach for teachers from Kindergarten through graduate school and helps them integrate economics and personal finance into their lesson plans. She was introduced to the club by Rotarian Bob Fiorenino. (Courtesy photo)

Chronic Wasting Disease detected in Real County deer breeding facility

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Animal Health Commission received confirmation of two cases of Chronic Wasting Disease in a Real County deer breeding facility, marking the first detections in the county, located northwest of San Antonio.

A 10-year-old and a 6.5-year-old female white-tailed deer tested positive through postmortem testing conducted to meet CWD surveillance requirements for the facility.

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory initially analyzed the samples, and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa confirmed the CWD detections.

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

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

All deer breeders are required to report mortalities within seven days of detection and submit CWD test samples within seven days of collection. TAHC and TPWD continue to stress the importance of following all rules pertaining to appropriate sample

submission for deer breeding facilities.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose and other members of the deer family.

This slow, progressive disease may not produce visible signs in susceptible species for several years after infection. As the disease process continues, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance.

Clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling or tremors with a lack of coordination, loss of appetite, teeth grinding, abnormal head posture and/or drooping ears, and excessive thirst, salivation or urination.

In Texas, the disease was first discovered in 2012 in free-ranging mule deer along a remote area of the Hueco Mountains near the Texas-New Mexico border.

CWD has since been detected in Texas captive and free-ranging cervids, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer and elk.

For more information on previous detections in Texas, surveillance and containment zones, movement restrictions, and CWD best management practices for hunters and landowners, visit TPWD's CWD page or the TAHC's CWD page.



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LEGAL NOTICE

CAUSE NO. 48128P
IN THE ESTATE OF § **IN THE COUNTY COURT**
§
RALPH HOWELL § **AT LAW #3 OF**
§
DECEASED § **SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of RALPH HOWELL, Deceased, were issued on April 22, 2024 under Docket No. 48128P now pending in the County Court at Law #3 of Smith County, Texas, to: LEASA ZEPPA, Independent Administrator.

The mailing address of the Independent Administrator is:

LEASA ZEPPA
Leasa Zeppa c/o Linda Howell
12089 FM 344 W.
Bullard, Texas 75757

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 24th day of April, 2024.

ROBERT HINDMAN
5620 Old Bullard Road, Suite 105
Tyler, TX 75703
Telephone: (903) 581-9960
Fax: (903) 534-0647
State Bar No. 09684500
roberthindmanattorney@gmail.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harry M. Feller, Jr., Deceased, were issued on April 22, 2024, in Cause No. 48,193P, pending in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Smith County, Texas, to: KIMBERLY ANN RAYNOR.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Walter Smith, Jr., Deceased, were issued on the 6th of November, 2023, in Cause No. 47,539-P, pending in the County Court at Law #3 in Smith County, Texas, to: Angela N. Smith.

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.

c/o: Stephen Hubbard Attorney at Law
100 E. Ferguson St. Suite 714
Tyler, Texas 75702

DATED the 23rd day of April, 2024.

Stephen Hubbard/10140515
Attorney for Angela N. Smith
100 E. Ferguson St. Suite 714
Tyler, Texas 75702
(903) 533-0018
(903) 597-7702 (F)
shubbard@hubbard-lawfirm.com

LEGAL NOTICE

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 April 29, 2024 thru May 10, 2024 @10:30am. 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:
Duard Cole

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Permit by Uppsala Events LLC, to be located at 14200 County Road 3104, Gladewater, Smith County, Texas. Officers of said corporation Gregory Casella owner.

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'Elvis' is in the building

Whole lotta singin' going on as retired detective entertains seniors

Continued from Page 1

ing home, Patton says he bought equipment within the last month to start doing it in Lindale.

"My mother is in an assisted living center in Midlothian, and I would go visit her," he said.

"And I'd be walking up and down the hallways, just singing acapella and the Activities Director came to me!"

That, it turns out, was the start of a new career for the former detective.

"She said 'Alan! Have you ever considered doing this for my residents?'," he recalled. "So I said, 'Well, what do they want to hear?' And they said, 'Elvis!'"

Then it was off to do some shopping.

"So I went and bought that Elvis costume (and performed) 14 Elvis songs that day," Patton recalled. "There've been people from nursing homes in Lindale and Tyler... so they've asked me, 'Will you come and entertain?' Because I love (doing it)!"

Although Patton has retired from the police force and the military, he still keeps very busy.

Today, the fun-loving, high-energy retired detective

can be found leading a Bible study at his church – Grace Community Church in Lindale – serving on volunteer construction projects in the Smith County area or enjoying some time golfing.

Although he has seen the worst of the worst of humanity, Patton still manages to bring a sense of fun,

goofiness, and overall joy to his work.

His secret? The same one as his motto when he was a homicide detective: "We Work For God."

Patton can be reached at his email, P080300@aol.com.

Smith County auctions surplus vehicles and office equipment

Continued from Page 1

Auction items include:

- GMC Sierra
- 10 Chevrolet Tahoes
- Ford F250
- 3 Chevrolet Silverados
- Chevrolet Impala
- Chevrolet Trailblazer
- Cadillac Escalade
- Pontiac G6

- Ford Explorer
 - 3 trailers
 - Office furniture and equipment, such as filing cabinets, desks and IT equipment
 - Vehicle Equipment, such as lights, seats and panels
 - Industrial kitchen equipment, such as ovens, washers and dryers
 - X-Ray Machines
- These are items and things that have outlived their life and the county has no use for them," said Latch.

INVESTMENT QUEST 2023-2024 Outstanding High School Seniors Who Make A Difference!



Members of the 2023-2024 Texas Bank and Trust Student Board of Directors tested their innovation skills this year with **Investment Quest**, a real-world simulation in entrepreneurship. The students were divided into five teams and asked to develop an original product, service, or business concept.

Local business leaders – **Tommy Goodson** of East Texas Seals, LLC, **Nick Allegretto** of NKA Development and **Allegretto Homes**, and **Chad Michel** of Medicine Chest Pharmacy – who



Photo (L to R): Abby Shine, Charlotte McConathy, Avery Adams, Macy Beeler, Hayden Harry, Kayla McCoy, and Henrique Arantes

are themselves entrepreneurs, served as the panel of potential "investors" for the students. The **Investment Quest** team that succeeded in securing the largest percentage of their investment request for their project was named as the **"TBT Young Entrepreneurs of the Year!"**

The team named "Chef Henriques Table Scraps" bested their other competitors and took home the top honors at the final Student Board meeting on Thursday, April 18, with an idea for an innovative AI-powered smart mirror called **Reflect Tech**. The company would offer various sizes of mirrors, both wall-mounted and desktop models that, with a push of a button, turn into full functioning virtual assistants. The mirrors would offer everything from fashion insights and the ability to virtually "try on" outfits to local news and weather, and even personal grooming tips and fitness tracking.

The team asked for an investment of \$10,000 for product development and marketing. Their presentation impressed the investors and helped them succeed in receiving 100 percent of their investment request.

Members of the "Chef Henriques Table Scraps" team included **Henrique Arantes, Kayla McCoy, Abby Shine, Avery Adams, Hayden Harry, Macy Beeler, and Charlotte McConathy.**

Through the nine-month **Investment Quest** program, the 32 student directors worked to conceptualize and develop their innovation. Though the program was a simulation of investment requesting, and no funds actually changed hands, the students were questioned as real entrepreneurs on all aspects of their product, from marketing and distribution to manufacturing and competitive advantage of their innovations.

In addition to the **Reflect Tech** smart mirror, the remaining **Investment Quest** project teams presented unique and innovative products and services, such as a personalized recipe app that scans items in the pantry to provide nutritious meal options, a campus safety app that provides peace of mind to students on large college campuses, a subscription box program designed to teach children wise money habits, and a tutoring resource for students.

This year marked the third time Student Board members participated in the **Investment Quest** program, with the first two-year curriculum cycle falling exactly 10 years ago. Texas Bank and Trust rotates the Student Board of Directors curriculum every two years to keep the program fresh and relevant for new students.

Established in 1978, the **Student Board of Directors** program is designed to introduce students to banking and money management as a critical point in their lives, in addition to providing them with essential economic building blocks related to earning, spending, saving, and investing money. Graduating seniors from Lindale High School were selected to serve on this year's board. **View more profiles @ www.facebook.com/texasbankandtrust**



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noun | teach-er | tē-cher

1. one that teaches; *especially* : one whose occupation is to *instruct, inspire* and *encourage* us to strive for greatness, live to our fullest potential and see the best in ourselves!

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