

# Lindale News & Times

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Lindale City Secretary Michelle Wiese read the oath of office to Mayor Gavin Rasco and Place 2 council member Jerretta Nance Pate this past Tuesday at the city council's regularly scheduled meeting.

Photo by Terry Cannon



It's Official:  
Congratulations,  
Graduate!

Members of the Lindale High School senior class of 2024 toss their graduation caps in the air following Saturday's ceremony. Photos by Terry Cannon

## New Lindale mayor, council member take oath of office

By Terry Cannon

Lindale has a new mayor and a new council member after both were sworn in on Tuesday, May 21 prior to the regular meeting of the council at city hall.

Gavin Rasco, who ran unopposed in the May 4 election and Jerretta Nance Pate, who defeated Place 2 incumbent and former Mayor Pro Tem Yvette Martin, took the oath of office from City Secretary Michelle Wiese.

Martin and former Mayor Jeff Daugherty were honored after the swearing in ceremony.

Martin has served on the council for the past four years and Daugherty has been on the council and as mayor for the past 17 years.

"The past 17 years has been an awesome journey," Daugherty said after being presented with a plaque by Rasco. "It's been an honor to serve the city."

Also, Place 1 council member Bob Tardiff was appointed Mayor Pro Tem, after Place 2 council member Jerretta Nance Pate made the motion. It passed unanimously.

The council also addressed the issue of replacing Rasco's Place 5 seat, and Tardiff endorsed Gregory Kilgore to finish out Rasco's term. The nomination passed unanimously.

Other action by the council during Tuesday's meeting included:

- Approval of the Ignite Back to School Youth Rally at Picker's Pavilion on Aug. 7;
- Approval of the Journey Center's Cornhole tournament at Darden Harvest Park on Aug. 31;
- Voted to approve replacing the siren at Pool Park as an emergency expenditure;
- Approved the final re-plat of 0.23 acres and 0.13 acres at 200 West Van Street;
- Approved the final plat of 16.2 acres and 1.4 acres at 16122 CR 472;
- Approved the final plat at 15330 CR 4117;
- Approved the revised and final plat of The Reserve at Timber Creek Unit 1, creating 42 lots, located at CR 474.

## LHS seniors finish LISD journey at graduation

By Terry Cannon

More than 330 Lindale High School seniors took the final steps of their public school journey this past Saturday morning at Eagle Stadium as they walked across the stage, received their diplomas and started on a new path in life.

The ceremony, originally scheduled for Friday night, was rescheduled due to inclement weather forecasted for the Lindale area.

Valedictorian Angelina Jansen and Salutatorian Charlotte McConathy led the 2024 LHS graduating class, which was awarded their diplomas from LISD Superintendent Stan Surratt, LHS Principal Jeremy Chilek, Principal Kyle Wright, Assistant Principal Ryan Tomlinson and Assistant Principal Melissa Dukes.

Jansen, who earned a 107.635 grade point average, spoke of the people in her and the other graduates' lives who made the endeavor a rewarding one.

"I would like to thank all the outstanding people who helped us on this journey," she said. "Thanks my parents who supported and encouraged me along the way."

"Also, as I reflect on my time in the Lindale ISD, I have learned the value of setting goal and how this will help all of us in the future," she said. "I've learned its not the obstacles in our way but the perseverance along the way that is important."

McConathy, who earned a



LHS 2024 Class Valedictorian Angelina Jansen spoke prior to the awarding of diplomas during Saturday's graduation ceremonies.



Lindale High School Principal Jeremy Chilek presented diplomas to the senior class of 2024 during graduation ceremonies on Saturday.

107.320 GPA, noted that while graduation means many friends will be choosing different paths, the time in the LISD also provided reassurance for everyone.

"It's sad to say goodbye to our friends and the comfort of high school but now we know that as we face the inevitable challenges we are prepared to face those challenges," she said.

"You can be whatever you want to be," she added. "It's exciting to see all these people who are ready to make a difference in the world."

Lindale ISD Superintendent Stan Surratt praised the Class of 2024 and spoke of the stellar academic and extracurricular achievements these students accomplished.

"This is a great day for the LISD," Surratt said. "This is truly a phenomenal graduating class

and is one that is truly gifted in academics."

A class that has set a high standard, he said.

"This class has left a tremendous legacy," said Surratt. "It has a great work ethic and a habit of doing things the right way."

The path forward, he said, should be embraced knowing the graduates will not make the journey alone.

"Along your way in the future, God will place friends in your path," he said. "Be grateful for these friends and your families."

He then closed with a familiar refrain he's offered at graduation over the years.

"You will go on to do other things, but just remember – you will always be a Lindale Eagle," he said.

## Lindale High School wins another UIL State Academic Championship

For the fourth time in the past eight years, Lindale High School students have won the Class 4A UIL State Academic Championship, officials announced.

Lindale earned the UIL Academic State Championship in 2017, 2018, 2021, and now for 2024.

"I cannot begin to express how proud I am of our students and staff in LHS capturing the 4A UIL Academic State Championship," said LHS Principal, Jeremy Chilek.

"We have phenomenal students and relentless coaches who have worked tirelessly over the course of this entire school year toward this goal. This is something our entire campus can celebrate, as so many have

had a hand in this tremendous accomplishment!"

Preparation for UIL Academics begins during the summer, where teachers attend workshops and students attend summer institutes.

Students compete at invitational tournaments throughout the fall and winter before most competition begins in the spring.

"Lindale ISD is known for its great academic achievement and this State Championship in UIL Academics certainly strengthens this reputation," said Lindale ISD Superintendent, Stan Surratt.

"I am so equally proud that our students won the District Championships at every level in UIL Academics; 6th grade, 7th grade,

8th grade and high school levels. What a year for Lindale ISD!"

The UIL Academics State Meet consists of many events including Math, Science, One-Act Play,

Spelling, Current Events, Computer Applications, Accounting, several Journalism events and several speaking events. Success in UIL academic competition is a

testament to Lindale ISD's support of these programs along with our academic coaches', teachers' and students' commitment to academic excellence.

## ET jobless numbers show slight improvement

East Texas' employment outlook improved slightly from March to April according to recent figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission.

In the Tyler/East Texas area, TWC figures for April show out of a combined labor force of 116,000 there were 112,400 employed, compared to 116,000 and 111,500 from March.

There were 3,800 unemployed in April (3.3 percent) compared to 4,400 for March (3.8 percent).

Across the state, the Texas labor market once again set record-high levels for jobs, employed Texans, and the civilian labor force.

April marks the 37th consecutive month of positive annual job growth. Texas' seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased to 14,159,000 after 42,600 jobs were added over the month in April, reflecting growth in 46 of the last 48 months. Texas added 306,000 jobs from April 2023 to April 2024. Texas' annual nonfarm growth rate currently sits at 2.2 percent, outpacing the U.S. growth rate by 0.4 percentage points. In April, Texas' seasonally adjusted civilian labor force grew by 37,000 people to reach a new high of 15,226,800.

Continued on Page 8



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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



## Our Choice ...

I wonder if someone put a flag on my Daddy's grave in Corsicana on Memorial Day. I wonder how many parents, wives and children observed Memorial Day in a way I will never be able to comprehend. A day that is filled with more heartache than anything else.

My Dad came back from serving in World War II to build a life, raise a family and enlarge a ranch.

He came back. Dad lived his life shaped by the experiences of war which he never shared except to cry when he remembered a lost friend or to tell a funny story.

Many who serve in combat bear a burden of silence. That silence can sometimes strangle their lives.

Jim and I have a dear friend who was what was called a 'tunnel rat' during the Vietnam War. The North Vietnamese army built mazes of tunnels through which they moved soldiers, supplies and subversives. As our friend explained, "sometimes we had to clean them out."

Can you imagine going into a small dark hole prepared for hand-to-hand combat not knowing what you are going to encounter? In the dark. Alone.

One long night of a press reception we visited. He enjoyed a bottle of wine as we talked. I, always curious, always interested, asked questions about his war years. Maybe I shouldn't have done that. It was the first time in 30 years he had really shared his memories. Some were so dark they took my breath and my curiosity away.

His wife wasn't there. But a year later when we got together for dinner she leaned into me and said that my questions and his willingness to answer opened the floodgates allowing for some healing.

I hope so. I dearly hope so.

I think it is pretty heroic to serve period. Anywhere. At anytime.

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



I once had a good looking senior at White Oak who was a bit of a 'lost boy'. He joined the Marines and became more than a man. His mom was convinced he was stationed on a ship in the Mediterranean and was safe. When he eventually came to see me in his dress uniform and I saw the three layers of combat ribbons and medals I knew that he hadn't been on any ship, at least not for very long. His eyes told the tale as well as the multitude of medals.

The world today seems to do a much better job of respecting our military personnel than when I was growing up. One of my dear friends who is a Vietnam vet told me of being spit upon and called a 'baby killer' when he came back home. He arrived in Vietnam in the middle of a fire fight. He was a kid. He was scared. He survived. He came home to jeers and disrespect. He spent the rest of his working life serving the children of a local school district. I am proud to call him my friend.

We live in a very dangerous world. We now have a professional military where individuals choose to serve. Some choose to die. For their buddies, for their beliefs, for people they have little in common with. Some don't get to choose at all.

We have a choice. We have the opportunity to choose how we serve the families of the fallen and those who have served. We must remember to do more than respect those who serve. We must ensure that our military personnel have the health care, resources and employment they need once their job of protecting American interests is ended.

We have an obligation to make sure this happens.

It should be our privilege.

## Additional disaster assistance approved

Seven Texas counties have been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for grants for emergency work and replacement of disaster-damaged public infrastructure, after severe weather and flooding struck much of Deep East Texas, Gov. Gregg Abbott's office reported. Counties eligible for FEMA's Public Assistance program include Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Walker.

An additional 21 Texas counties remain on review for possible inclusion under the aid program. In addition, a number of counties have been approved for individual assistance funding, for expenses such as temporary housing, emergency home repairs and help with medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster. Those include Calhoun, Eastland, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker and Waller counties.

Abbott also announced that the federal food program known as SNAP has approved allowing its recipients to apply for replacement benefits for food that was lost or destroyed in the recent storms. Any Texan in need can apply for benefits at YourTexasBenefits.com.

## Families of Uvalde shooting victims sue DPS officers

Relatives of children killed and injured in the deadly school shooting in Uvalde in May 2023 are suing Texas Department of Public Safety officers who were among hundreds of law enforcement that waited well over an hour to confront the gunman at Robb Elementary. The Texas Tribune reported the legal action was taken against 92 DPS officers just days before the two-year anniversary of the shooting.

"Nearly 100 officers from the Texas Department of Public Safety have yet to face a shred of accountability for covering in fear while my daughter and nephew bled to death in their classroom," Veronica Luevanos, whose daughter Jaiyah and nephew Jayce were killed, said in a statement to The Tribune.

In addition, the city of Uvalde has agreed to pay those families \$2 million to avoid a lawsuit.

## Ranchers push for balloon release ban

A Central Texas ranching family is pushing for a statewide ban on balloon releases after a string of balloons landed in a deer pen, spooking three young deer to thrash against the fence, The Dallas Morning News reported. The owners of 4 Generations Ranch in Crawford posted photographs of deer with cuts on their faces and bodies, and a now-deflated string of pink, blue, orange, and black balloons.

"Balloons don't go to heaven," David Meyer told The News on Wednesday. "What goes up must come down."

At least five states have banned or restricted balloon releases, but efforts to do so in Texas have fallen short.

## \$17 million grant for rural hospitals

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission will award \$17 million in grants for rural hospitals over the next two years.

"I thank Governor Abbott and state lawmakers for this important funding," said Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Cecile Erwin Young. "Rural hospitals are a critical part of the healthcare system in Texas, and HHSC is proud to facilitate initiatives like this to support Texans and our rural communities."

The grant will provide qualifying hospitals \$100,000 to \$375,000 in grants over a two-year period. The money can be used to supplement operational expenses, repay debt, make facility repairs and buy or rent equipment.

## Legalizing cannabis hits all-time high

Nearly three-fourths of Texas adults recently surveyed support either full legalization or decriminalization of cannabis, according to the San Antonio Express-News. The Texas Lyceum Association survey indicates the state's shift mirrors a similar national trend toward weed.

"Texas' evolving attitude speaks to a nationwide shift in favor of decriminalizing and legalizing cannabis," Ty Schepis, a Texas State University professor of clinical psychology with a specialization in substance use, said.

An analysis by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed that from 1979 through 2022, self-reported daily cannabis use surpassed daily alcohol consumption in the United States.



THE PEN IS MIGHTY GRATEFUL TO THE SWORD

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

## Who pays ...

In fiscal year 2023, the US government collected about \$4.7 trillion in total revenue, with roughly half (\$2.35 trillion) derived from the much-maligned personal income tax. We don't have a detailed breakout yet, but the [Tax Foundation](#) recently released an analysis of individual income return statistics from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for 2021. Given the attention that taxes always manage to muster in election season and our current fiscal excesses, it's worth a brief review.

The US income tax system is progressive, meaning that those with higher incomes pay more in both absolute and percentage terms. The bottom 50% of taxpayers (those making less than about \$46,600) paid an average of 3.3% of their incomes, while the top 1% paid 25.9%.

The top 1% of taxpayers had adjusted gross income of \$682,600 or more and paid an average of \$653,700 in income tax. The top 5% earned at least \$252,800 and paid an average of about \$187,500 in taxes, with the top 10% earning at least \$169,800 and paying almost \$108,300. The top 10% of income levels pay 75.8% of income taxes, with the top 50% paying 97.7%.

A common refrain during political season is that the top 1% of taxpayers don't pay a fair share. About 1.5 million returns comprised this echelon; they paid 45.8% of total income

taxes (more than \$1 trillion). The very highest earners (the top 0.1% which have at least \$3.8 million in income) paid \$542 billion, or 24.7% of the total collected.

The share paid by those with high adjusted gross incomes is large and rising. Moreover, refundable tax credits (which are distinct from refunds due to withholding exceeding the amount owed) result in millions of people actually receiving money from the IRS. Thus, while (1) some wealthy individuals are certainly able to exploit quirks in the system to reduce their liability and (2) payroll taxes and other revenue sources increase the overall share borne by those in lower brackets (particularly workers), the income tax generally achieves its objective of being a progressive source of federal revenue.

A key reason for accurately evaluating income taxes is to avoid mistakes as we seek to put the country on a path toward long-term financial sustainability amidst spiraling debt and deficits. Much of the often-heated rhetoric is simply not true, and, thus, not productive. From an economic perspective, taxes should be structured to maximize efficiency and cause the least disincentive to productive activity. They should also be equitable. We are approaching a time when the US must get its fiscal house in order with respect to both revenue and spending, and we would all be well-served to do so from a position of knowledge. Stay safe!

North & East Texas  
Press Association



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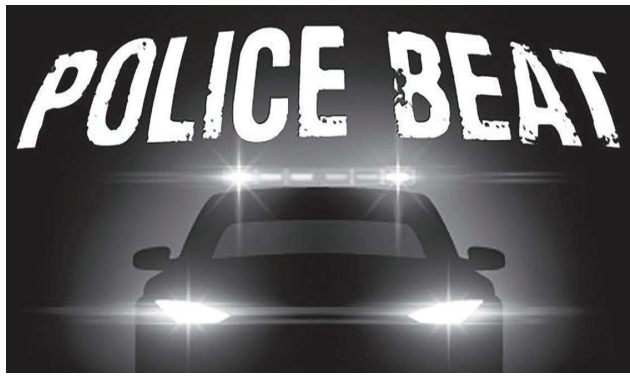


## Lindale Police Department call logs for May 17-23

**FRIDAY, MAY 17:** Business Alarm, 2700 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Public Service, 16000 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 700 block Abbey Road, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 14700 block Highway 110 North, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist; 18000 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service, 13300 block CR 472, Arrest; Business Alarm, 100 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Burglary of Motor Vehicle, 900 block Mt. Sylvan Street, Report.

**SATURDAY, MAY 18:** Welfare Concern, 300 block Mt. Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Public Intoxication, 900 block Mt Sylvan Street, Arrest; Disturbance, 3300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 19900 block FM 1804, Settled at Scene; Theft, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Unfounded; Public Service, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene.

**SUNDAY, MAY 19:** Suspicious Person, 700 block East North Street, Settled at Scene; Aggravated Assault, 3200 block South Main Street, Report; Loud Noise Complaint, 15200 block CR 467, Settled at Scene; Hit and Run Crash, 13300 block CR 472, Report; Residential Alarm, 1300 block Brad Circle, Settled at Scene; Loud Noise Complaint, 1600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Complaint, 900 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene;



Assist Smith Co SO, 13800 block U.S. Highway 69 North, Report; Verbal Disturbance, 200 block Bonnie Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 200 block West Centennial Blvd., Unable to Locate; Suspicious Person, 1500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene.

**MONDAY, MAY 20:** Suspicious Vehicle, 1400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 17700 block CR 4112, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 2400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Inquest/Unattended Death, 1000 block Karen Drive, Report; Possession of Controlled Substance, 3500 block South Main Street, Arrest; Suspicious Vehicle, 100 block East Van Street, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 800 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene.

**TUESDAY, MAY 21:** Stolen Vehicle, 552 IH-20 East, Unable to Locate; Assist Smith Co SO, 551 IH-20 East, Report; Parking Violation, 100 block Freedom Drive, Citation Issued; Stolen Property, 300 block South Industrial Street,

Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 200 block West Hubbard Street, Report; Stolen License Plate, 3500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Person, 200 block Cannery Row, Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 13900 block FM2710, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 900 block Mt. Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22:** Criminal Trespass, 1200 block Lindale Summit Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 15900 block CR 411, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Criminal Mischief, 400 block East North Street, Settled at Scene; Fraud, 500 block Noah Lane, Report; Loud Noise Complaint, 100 block Timber Creek Court, Unable to Locate; Business Alarm, 2800 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith Co SO, 12800 block CR 499, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 800 block Martha Becker Drive, Settled at Scene.

**THURSDAY, MAY 23:** Public Service, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 200 block East Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 13300 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Found Property, 400 block West Hubbard Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist Another Agency, 1700 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Welfare Concern, 1200 block Summit Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 100 block Legends Court, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 70 block Miranda Lambert Way, Settled at Scene.

## TP&WD awards \$4.5 million in trail grants across the state

AUSTIN— This past week, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved more than \$4.5 million in grants, funding 16 trail construction and maintenance projects across the state, publicity officials said.

The National Recreational Trails Fund (NRTF) supports recreational trail construction, renovation and acquisition through grants funded from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by fuel purchases for off-highway vehicles. The fund must be used to support a diverse mix of both motorized and non-motorized trail projects.

The Texas Legislature has added an additional \$1 million per year to the program and may include additional funds for this year from the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. Additionally, several projects funded in previous years were completed under budget or were cancelled, creating another \$900,000 available for re-allocation this year. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has re-allocated the funding for trail improvements in state parks.

Projects awarded funding are listed in alphabetical order by county below:

The Albert and Bessie Kronkosky State Natural Area in Bandera County received a \$300,000 grant for the construction of six miles of natural surface recreational trails.

The Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Bell County received a \$280,148 grant for the renovation and development of 3.25 miles of interpretive trails, including signage, and the development of a trail-side pavilion at Camp Tahuaya.

The city of Eagle Lake in Colorado County received a \$294,040 grant for phase one of the Eagle Lake/David Winterman Wildlife Area Recreational Walking Trail construction, which will include a .23-mile trail, 834 linear feet boardwalk, wildlife viewing platform and signage.

In Crockett County, the Texas Motorized Trails Coalition received two grants for projects at the Escondido Draw Recreation Area. One \$260,000 grant will fund the renovation and construction of new and existing trails, signage, trailside bathroom, resource surveys, property surveys, professional services and equipment rental. A \$108,000 grant will purchase trail maintenance equipment, trail vehicles, equipment repair services, equipment parts and hand tools.

The Great Springs Project in Hays County received a \$298,640 grant for the Freedom Segment of the Emerald Crown Trail. The grant will fund the construction

of a new 1.41-mile, 8-foot-wide multi-use decomposed granite trail.

Also in Hays County, Texas State University received a \$135,740 grant for the construction of a .95-mile multi-use natural surface trail. This grant funds the Freeman Ranch segment of the San Marcos Outer Loop Trail.

Hays County received a \$300,000 grant for the Presa Grande Segment of the San Marcos Outer Loop Trail. This new segment will be a 1.8-mile, 5-foot-wide multi-use natural surface trail, including benches, a bridge and a trailhead kiosk.

In Madison County, the city of Madisonville received a \$300,000 grant for the renovation of a 1.1-mile trail and construction of a .8-mile crushed limestone trail for the Lake Madison Trail project.

The city of Jefferson in Marion County received a \$300,000 grant for the Jefferson Recreational Trails Rehabilitation project. The project includes renovation and repair of an existing 1.2-miles of decomposed granite recreational trail(s) and boardwalk.

In Montgomery County, the Sam Houston Trails Coalition, Inc. received a \$96,000 grant for the purchase of a multi-functional track loader and utility trailer to support maintenance of the Multi-Use Trail in the Sam Houston National Forest.

Palo Pinto Mountains State Park in Palo Pinto County received a \$300,000 grant for the construction of six additional miles of multi-use natural surface trail at the state park.

Pecos City in Reeves County received a \$66,546 grant for the construction of .63 miles of decomposed granite trail at the Maxey Park Trails.

In Travis County, Ecology Action of Texas received a \$148,552 grant for the Country Club Creek East Riparian Trail Enhancement project. The grant will fund the construction of .33 miles of puncheon pathway, new steps from Atwood Trailhead and signage as well as the renovation of two miles of trail in Circle Acres and Guerrero Park.

The Coastal Prairie Conservancy in Waller County received a \$184,000 grant for the construction of a new .53-mile boardwalk as part of the Blazing Star Trail.

The city of Laredo in Webb County received a \$300,000 grant for phase one of the Santa Fe Park Hike and Bike Trails. The grant will fund the construction of .62 miles of multiuse accessible asphalt trail with concrete bridge, header and retaining walls.

## Kilgore man gets 188 months in prison for drug trafficking

A Kilgore man has been sentenced to federal prison for trafficking drugs through the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Rodney Dewayne Fagans, 39, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and was sentenced to 188 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Jeremy D. Kernodle on May 22, 2024.

According to information presented in court, Fagans and his co-conspirators admitted to selling large quantities of methamphetamine on numerous occasions in Gregg County. Fagans was identified as the supplier for three separate illegal drug transactions totaling 598.72 grams of methamphetamine. Fifteen others involved in the drug distribution scheme have pleaded guilty and been sentenced to federal prison.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDEF) operation. OCDEF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDEF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDEF>.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Gregg County Sheriff's Office, and Longview Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lucas Machicek. **Convicted felon sentenced for firearm possession**

A Groves convicted felon has been sentenced to federal prison for possessing a fire-

arm, Walston said.

Moses Benjamin Castillo, 38, pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and was sentenced to 63 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Michael J. Truncale on May 23, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on Sep. 28, 2022, Port Arthur Police received information that Castillo was in possession of methamphetamine and a gun in the Central Mall parking lot in Port Arthur. Police encountered Castillo as he was leaving the parking lot and initiated a traffic stop after observing him commit a traffic violation. Castillo consented to a search of the vehicle where officers located a firearm, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Further investigation revealed Castillo to be a convicted felon and prohibited by federal law from owning or possessing firearms or ammunition.

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 the Port Arthur Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rachel Grove.



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### Topping it off

Smith County officials and others involved in the construction project held a Topping Out Ceremony for the County's Parking Garage on Monday, May 20. The ceremony signifies the last of the 504 precast pieces being placed on top of the garage. Smith County officials, representatives from Hoar Construction, SCI Construction and Fitzpatrick Architects, as well as employees, signed the 4,000-pound piece of concrete before it was hoisted by a 212-foot crane and secured on the top of the garage. The project is about halfway completed and is expected to open in October. (Courtesy photo)

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# Congratulations 2024 LHS Graduates



It was an exciting time to be a graduate from Lindale High School as this senior demonstrates prior to getting her diploma. (Photo by Terry Cannon)



This family member holds a special photo of her favorite graduate during the 2024 Lindale High School graduation ceremonies Saturday at Eagle Stadium. (Photo by Terry Cannon)



A LHS graduate finds friends and family and waves prior to receiving her diploma this past Saturday during graduation ceremonies. (Photo by Terry Cannon)



After receiving his diploma this LHS graduate is assisted in moving his tassel on the other side of his cap. (Photo by Terry Cannon)



## Signs with Hardin-Simmons University

Lindale High School quarterback Clint Thurman signed a letter of intent to play football for the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboys this past week in the LHS cafeteria. Thurman, who was a two-year starter and two-year first team all-district performer for the Eagles was joined in the ceremony by friends and family. (Courtesy photo)

## Federal red snapper season opens June 1

The private recreational angler red snapper season in federal waters opens June 1, Texas Parks and Wildlife officials announced.

Red snapper fishing is open year-round in Texas state waters. Bag and size limits for federal and state waters will remain unchanged.

Regulations for red snapper in federal waters consist of:

-- Two fish per person per day with a 16-inch minimum size limit.

-- Red snapper caught in federal waters counts as part of the state bag limit of four fish.

-- No more than two red snapper can be in possession while in federal waters.

Regulations for red snapper in state waters:

-- Four fish per person per day with a 15-inch minimum size limit.

-- No more than four red snapper can be in possession in state waters while fishing.

"As always, our goal is to give Texas anglers as many days as possible fishing in federal water for red snapper while still maintaining our traditional yearlong fishery in Texas state waters," said Robin Riechers, Coastal Fisheries Division Director. "State management in recent years has allowed us to have longer seasons as well as greater fishing opportunities."

Per the 2022 DESCEND Act, all com-

mercial and recreational anglers must possess a venting tool or a rigged descending device on their boat while fishing for reef fish in federal waters. Research shows that properly releasing reef fish, such as red snapper, helps reduce mortality. Last year, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted rules inspired by the DESCEND Act. These regulations apply to all commercial and recreational anglers fishing in state water and require the use of a venting tool or rigged descending device for reef fish exhibiting signs of barotrauma.

Texas Anglers are a crucial aspect of successful fisheries management in Texas and are encouraged to use the My Texas Hunt Harvest App to log their red snapper catches. Anglers can also use the app to log harvested game species, view harvest history, save photos and share harvests on social media. For more information about the My Texas Hunt Harvest App and how to use it, visit: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/hunt-harvest-app/>

The Coastal Fisheries Division will provide public notice of the private recreational season closing date before the state's allotted catch limit has been reached. TPWD will update all communication platforms, including the Outdoor Annual, website and social media accounts, when it determines that closing date.

## Lindale's Kristy Wright earns Bachelor's degree

Kristy Wright of Lindale has earned an undergraduate degree from Angelo State University after completion of the spring semester, school officials

announced.

Wright earned a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Degree, and was among more than 840 graduates.

## Backyard Gardening Workshop set June 14

By Greg Grant  
Smith County Extension Agent

Last week I dug Irish potatoes, planted purple hull peas, picked my first pole beans to snap, saved a cherry tomato plant from a fat tobacco horn worm, and fetched a big chicken snake out of a hen's nest.

I have been raising chickens, prowling prairies, and growing a garden since childhood, so it comes as second nature to me.

I descend from a lengthy line of Deep East Texas folks that knew how to feed themselves. But as we all know, times are vastly different now as most people feed themselves through grocery stores and restaurants.

The good news is that there is much interest these days in producing fresh produce on one's own land and own terms.

Home grown produce is naturally fresher than the store-bought versions and brings a world of satisfaction to those that find a way to produce it. In addition to nutritious food, gardening and farming provide exercise, sunlight, fresh air, and mental stimulation.

Thankfully, there are many books, publications, websites,

and videos to help get the ball rolling.

If you prefer an in-person "crash course," you are in luck as Prairie View A&M University and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a Backyard Gardening Workshop at the Tyler Rose Center, 420 Rose Park Dr Tyler, Friday June 14.

The program is sponsored by the Smith County Soil and Water Conservation District, Texas Organics, Rose City Honey Company, and Texas Farm Bureau Insurance.

This educational event is tailored towards small landowners and urban residential homeowners who have an interest in starting vegetable, poultry, and honey production in their own backyards. The program will also cover creating your own pocket prairie for native birds, bees, and butterflies.

Topics and speakers include:

-- Urban Gardening – Landon Garrett, Urban Conservationist, NRCS

-- Financial Resources for Backyard Conservation – Clinton Warrick, Farm Service Agency

-- Pocket Prairies- Bringing Native Plants and Pollinators Back to East Texas -- Greg Grant, Smith County Extension

Agent-Horticulture

-- Beekeeping for Pollinator Gardens and Honey Production – Brandon Foard, Rose City Honey Company

Mushroom Production Using Mushroom Stems for Poultry Consumption and Feed Research Summaries- Dr. Jayant Lohakare, Prairie View Poultry Research Scientist

The cost for the program is \$5 per person with payment accepted at the door via cash, check, or credit cards.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with the program ending at 12:15 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office 903-590-2980. The flyer and schedule are posted on the Texas A&M AgriLife-Smith County Facebook and web pages.



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## Country's veterans honored during Memorial Day ceremony

Lindale's armed services members as well as others around the globe – past and present – and were honored on Monday, May 27 at the Lindale Veteran's Memorial in downtown Lindale.

Approximately 150 people attended the ceremony, which featured guest speaker U.S. Army Col. Robert Thelen, a senior fellow at the U.S. National Defense University.

Most of the attendees were able to take advantage of tents to ward off the typical late May Texas heat, something Col. Thelen joked about.

"I was told that I had about 90 minutes to speak today," he said, drawing laughter from the crowd. "But we'll try to make it shorter than that."

He discussed the importance of remembering those who have fallen on the fields of battle over the years.

"These brave people gave us a blank check for our future," he said. "Fortunately, we haven't had to cash that check so far."

But the need to remain vigilant remains he said, and we must always honor "those who have given their lives so we can have a country based on freedom, justice and honor," he said.

In his current position, Col. Thelen researches national security interests where U.S. foreign policy, diplomacy, intelligence and defense intersect.

His recent duties include serving on the Department of



**U.S. Army Col. Robert Thelen was the guest speaker during a Memorial Day ceremony in downtown Lindale on Monday. He is the son of Rick and Linda Thelen of Lindale.**

Photo by Terry Cannon

Defense's Joint Staff and the Special Operations Command, working within the special activities to support and enable Special Operations Forces activities across the globe.

Col. Thelen earned a Bachelor of Science in Public

Relations from Illinois State University and a Master's in Public Administration from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. Col. Thelen is the son of Richard and Linda Thelen of Lindale.



Photos by Jim Bardwell

### 2024 Schedule

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5** – XTREME BULLS – Sponsored by Capco Contractors

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6** – Sponsored by Ragan & Massey RM43

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7** – Sponsored by Joyce Crane and CBS19

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8** – Sponsored by Texas Oncology

## ET jobless numbers show slight improvement

Continued from Page 1

This included adding 32,500 employed Texans over the month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate registered at 4.0 percent. "Texas continues to set economic records as employers add jobs across industries," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "TWC is working to improve programs and services to support our state's ongoing success." Private Education and Health Services added 12,000 jobs, registering as the industry with the largest over-the-month increase. Another 9,800 positions were added in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. Professional and Business Services added 7,600 jobs over the month in April. "Each month of record growth creates greater job opportunities for our workforce," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "Thanks to the hard work of over 170 local Workforce Solutions offices across the state, we provide Texans with the services and programs they need to succeed in the job market." All Texas MSA unemployment rates declined

in April. The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.2 percent in April, reflecting a drop of 0.4 percentage points from its March unemployment rate. The Amarillo and College Station-Bryan MSAs followed with a 2.6 percent unemployment rate over the month. "The addition of 42,600 jobs over the month of April is a sign that the Texas economy remains strong," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza. "As more businesses look to expand or launch in Texas, TWC can support employers with programs to upskill their workforce and fill in-demand occupations." Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\*All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com.

## 2024 Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo Celebrates 87th Season June 5-8

GLADEWATER – It's Rodeo Time in Gladewater! The 87th Annual Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo rides into town June 5 - 8 at the Gladewater Rodeo Arena with many of the biggest rodeo stars in the PRCA and WPRA competing for top dollars and a trip to the National Finals.

All the high-flying action starts Wednesday, June 5, with a full night of Xtreme Bulls, followed by three nights of PRCA rodeo excitement Thursday, June 6 - Saturday, June 8.

Gates open nightly at 6 p.m.

Tickets for the 87th Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo can be purchased online at GladewaterRodeo.com. General admission tickets are \$18 for adults / \$10 for kids (12 and under).

Reserved Seating is also available for purchase each night for \$25 per ticket (all ages). Box seats will also be available to the public. Each box is sold per night for the entire box at a rate of \$175 per box (boxes seat six people; individual seats are not available to purchase).

Proceeds from the Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo go to funding scholarships for

area students.

Plus, all active members of the military and first responders are eligible for special half-price tickets for Thursday night, June 8, available only at the Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo Ticket Office with a valid ID.

The Ticket Office on the rodeo grounds is located at 2502 W. Upshur Avenue in Gladewater and is directly in front of the rodeo arena. The ticket office will be open for ticket sales Monday and Tuesday, June 3 and 4, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday, June 5-8, from 8:30 a.m. through the time of the rodeo.

Registration forms for Kids Mutton Bustin' (4-7 years of age; under 50 pounds) are available online and must be submitted online to the Rodeo's website from May 27 at noon - June 3 at midnight. The entry fee for the mutton bustin' event is \$25. Participating children will receive one (1) free adult ticket for signing up. Mutton Bustin' starts at 7:45 p.m. nightly.

The Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo's nightly Calf Scramble is free to kids in two age groups: 8 and under and ages 9 - 12. Two winners per age group will each win a \$50 cash prize. No pre-registration is required.



**GLADEWATER ROUND-UP**  
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**HALF-PRICE TICKETS**  
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**THE 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GLADEWATER ROUND-UP**

**KICKS OFF**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH**  
**WITH XTREME BULLS**

**GATES OPEN**  
**NIGHTLY AT**  
**6PM**

**GLADEWATER ROUND-UP**  
EST. 1938