

# Lindale News & Times

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Trees were once again uprooted in the East Texas area after Tropical Storm Beryl arrived with a vengeance on Monday. Photo by Terry Cannon

## Commissioners appoint NET RMA board member

During their regular meeting this past week, Smith County Commissioners appointed Dr. Howard Patterson to the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority's Board of Directors to finish out a term which is scheduled to be completed in September.

Patterson was nominated by County Judge Neal Franklin and was unanimously approved by the court.

Larry Kellam had previously served on this position but resigned to move closer to family.

Other applicants for the board position included Dr. D.M. Edwards and Keith Youngblood.

Commissioners also received an update regarding the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Power Pool (P3) savings to date and a projection on the budget for the fiscal year from Program Manager David Quin.

The county has been a member of the group since 2019.

Quin said the more than 3,300 P3 members have saved more than \$200 million since 2001.

He said Smith County has saved more than \$983,000 in electrical fees since 2019 against the market fees, according to P3's in house calculations.

Another way to measure savings, Quin said, is to use the Public Utility Commission's Provider of Last Resort report, which shows the county saved more than \$555,000 in 2023.

Looking ahead to 2025, Quin said by using a fixed, three-year average price, Smith County will pay \$5.64 per kilowatt hour for a total of \$1,281,184.

Quin said that the county, by working with the P3 group, has saved approximately one-third to one-half per kilowatt hour as opposed to buying electricity through another source.

"We appreciate our relationship with County Power Pool," said Franklin. "It's been great."

In other action, commissioners:

- Approved the revision of the Smith County Vehicle Take Home policy from 15 miles outside the county limits to 25 miles outside the limits. County Commissioner John Moore suggested there was a need to revision of the policy after the recent bouts of severe weather.
- Approved the 2025 MVCPA Catalytic Converter Program Grant Application for the East Texas Auto Theft Task Force, to help combat the recent rash of thefts of catalytic converters.

## Car dealer charged with first degree murder

Smith County resident Seferino Bautista-Renteria, 35, has been arrested and jailed on first degree murder charges stemming from a fatal shooting that took place Thursday night, July 4 on Highway 271 North near Tyler, said Smith County Sheriff's Office spokesman Larry Christian.

The victim was identified as Rawly Sanchez, 19.

Bautista-Renteria, owner of Bautista Auto Sales at 3726 Highway 271 North, was arrested and taken to the Smith County Jail. His bond was set at \$1 million by 241st State District Judge Debby Gunter.

Christian said that at approximately 10:45 p.m. county deputies responded to a shooting at 3726 Highway 271 North after receiving a call that a gunshot victim was taken to a hospital emergency room where he was pronounced dead.

Investigators learned that three friends were driving in a truck on the

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## Tropical storm slams East Texas

The remnants of Tropical Storm Beryl left a mark on the East Texas area Monday afternoon and Monday night with uprooted trees, downed power lines and flooding across the region.

Winds in excess of 50 mph roared across Lindale and the East Texas area, which spawned tornado warnings from northeast Smith County to northeast Texas. Heavy rains drenched the area and caused power outages in Tyler and surrounding areas.

Power company officials estimated at one time Monday afternoon, more than 50,000 customers were without power.

By Tuesday, skies had cleared with temperatures ranging in the 60s and 70s in the morning into the upper 80s as Beryl finally exited the area. Forecasters predicted the rest of this week will be mostly sunny with average temperatures in the 80s during the day.

Beryl came ashore as a Category 1 hurricane in southeast Texas and buffeted Houston with high winds and rain which knocked out power to some 3 million homes.

The heavy flooding necessitated dozens of high-water rescues throughout the day.

As it moved inland, Beryl became a tropical storm and carved a northwesterly path and left serious destruction in its wake.

Powerful winds, some reaching in excess of 75 mph, flat-

tened trees and stranded motorists from the Gulf Coast to East Texas.

Beryl tore a deadly path through parts of Mexico and the Caribbean this past weekend before hitting the Texas coast on Monday.

The earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic, Beryl caused at least 11 deaths as it passed through the Caribbean on its way to Texas. In Jamaica, officials said Monday that island residents will have to contend with food shortages after Beryl destroyed over \$6.4 million in crops and supporting infrastructure.

The winds and rains of the fast-moving storm were still powerful enough to knock down hundreds of trees that had already been teetering in water-saturated earth, and strand dozens of cars on flooded roadways.

As it moved inland, the storm still threatened to spawn tornados.

The weather service in Shreveport issued tornado warnings across northwest Louisiana. The agency confirmed on social media that multiple tornados had been spotted in that corner of the state. Information on whether those weather events have caused any significant damage was not immediately available.

## There are ways to beat summer's heat

While everyone is hoping that last summer's blast furnace conditions in Lindale and East Texas don't make another appearance, the next several weeks are going to be hot, which means precautions have to be taken.

If you happen to venture out into the heat of the afternoon, whether it be for your job, chores or simply to get out of the house, these 100-degree days seem to melt your shoes to the sidewalk and grill your brain.

One way to keep your cool is to take in the splash pad at the city of Lindale's Darden Harvest Park, which is a great way to dissipate the heat.

Each day, youngsters and their parents take advantage of one of the most popular spots in the area.

But there are other nearby areas that allow you to beat the heat, such as Faulkner Park just north of Lindale and Tyler State Park, a few miles to the east.

Faulkner Park has wonderful, shaded walking trails and some nifty fishing piers.

Tyler State Park offers, for a small fee, the same thing but on a larger scale.

With this in mind, the helpful folks with the Texas State Parks system have shared some tips to help Texans enjoy time outdoors safely.

Here are some recommended tips for park visitors:

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## TxDOT embarking on 10-year transportation plan

To help keep a thriving Texas economy moving, the Texas Department of Transportation is developing a record-breaking, 10-year transportation plan and the public is invited to weigh in on potential projects in communities across the state, said spokesman Jeff Williford.

The draft 2025 Unified Transportation Program proposes \$104.2 billion in transportation spending, making it the second year in a row that the UTP plan exceeds \$100 billion.

The UTP provides a road map to help develop projects around Texas to improve safety, address congestion and connectivity, and preserve roadways for Texas drivers. The UTP also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. TxDOT works with its transportation partners to identify projects to be included in the UTP and updates it every year.

"The UTP serves as TxDOT's strategic 10-year blueprint for advancing projects statewide," said Executive Director Marc Williams. "Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue connecting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship."

TxDOT invites the public to learn about the draft 2025 UTP in a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, July 2, at 2 p.m. (CDT), and offer comments during a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, July 31, at 2 p.m. (CDT). The public may join the meetings virtually by phone or online at TxDOT.gov.

The draft 2025 UTP public comment period got under way last week

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## Greetings at Library's Storytime

Lillie Russell Memorial Library's Children's Librarian Penny Turner and some youngsters welcome visitors to the weekly Storytime at the library last Friday. The theme for the week was construction and how dirt is moved by professionals. One such professional was on hand to answer questions and show the youngsters and their parents a dirt moving vehicle outside the library.

Photo by Terry Cannon



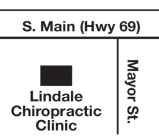
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# OPINION/COMMENTARY

**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**



## Proposed fed rule would protect workers from extreme heat

A year after a new state law ended mandatory water breaks in Texas, a proposed federal rule would protect millions of workers from the risks caused by extreme heat, The Texas Tribune reported.

The rule would require employers to create plans to prevent heat injuries and illnesses and ensure workers get access to drinking water, rest breaks and control of indoor heat. It would apply to all employers whose businesses are under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Last year, Texas legislators passed House Bill 2127, which barred cities and counties from passing ordinances that go farther than state law in a number of areas, including labor regulations. That measure eliminated ordinances in Austin and Dallas that mandated water breaks for construction workers, The Tribune reported.

“Greg Abbott tried to take rest breaks away from everyday Texans, but now we’re one step closer to securing heat protections for all Americans on the job,” U.S. Rep. Greg Casar, D-Austin, said last week. “Employers can adopt OSHA’s proposed rule and protect their workers today.”

The proposed rule still has to go through the regulatory approval process. It likely will face opposition from industry groups.

## AG’s office must collect fines from its boss

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton owes the state of Texas more than \$11,000 in fines for filing late campaign finance reports, and the office he heads is now charged with collecting the money, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The Texas Ethics Commission referred Paxton’s unpaid fines to the attorney general’s office in April, according to public records. Paxton is not the only elected official who owes the state for campaign violation fines. Hundreds of candidates and elected officials together owe the state more than \$700,000. His office has declined to sue to collect the unpaid fines, according to the Chronicle. The executive director of Common Cause, a watchdog group, called the situation a clear conflict of interest.

“If I didn’t pay a parking ticket and incurred a fine as a penalty, most Texans would find it absurd if I also got to review my fine and have a role in deciding whether any action should be taken to collect that fine,” Anthony Gutierrez said.

The office has only filed one lawsuit against a public official who owes ethics fines since September 2023.

## Border wall decades away from completion

The state-funded border wall announced by Gov. Greg Abbott three years ago is proceeding at about a half mile a week, The Tribune reported. At that rate, completion of the wall along the state’s 1,254-mile border will take about 30 years and cost around \$20 billion to complete. Thus far, 34 miles of wall have been completed at a price tag of about \$25 million per mile.

State lawmakers thus far have approved more than \$3 billion for the wall, out of the \$11 billion allocated for the border crackdown known as Operation Lone Star. The remainder of the money has gone to sending state troopers and National Guard soldiers to the border, as well as transporting migrants to Democrat-controlled cities outside of Texas. Some Republicans are expressing concern about the rising costs of the wall.

“I am, too, concerned that we’re spending a whole lot of money to give the appearance of doing something rather than taking the problem on to actually solve it, and until we do that, I don’t expect to see much happen,” state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood.

## TxDOT asks for feedback on 10-year plan

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking input on a proposed 10-year plan that proposes spending a record \$104.2 billion for transportation to improve safety, address congestion and improve roadways.

The plan also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, according to TxDOT. The Unified Transportation Program is updated annually and serves as the agency’s 10-year blueprint for statewide projects.

“Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue connecting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship,” said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

## Not a garden party...

When you break your fairly new computer it sure ain’t a garden party. More like “Dumb and Dumber”...I could play both parts in that ridiculous movie I have never seen. One thing I know for sure is that stupidity, at least my brand of it, is expensive. As in flat-pocket expensive.

Ever the multi-tasker I was working on my computer and answering an office phone call when I knocked over a glass of tea that short circuited my one year and four month old MacAir laptop computer ending its young and productive life.

That \$2,000 glass of tea is one mistake I will NOT be repeating. AND, this go round the \$260 Apple Care insurance for my new laptop looks like an excellent bargain.

Now here is the rub...we can’t set the new computer up because I can’t remember my Apple ID which is locked and inaccessible for several days before I can reset it. Have I told you lately how much I HATE technology?...at least when it comes to expense in money, time and my darlin’ hubby’s limited patience in the delay to activate the new computer.

I am paying to have my old hard drive salvaged. Please put that on your prayer list because naturally I hadn’t backed up all that important info in, oh, say, a year. Plus the stuff I needed for this week’s papers resides somewhere within the corroded circuits.

Indeed, dumb and dumber.

And fellow mid-lifers don’t you just hate going to Best Buy, the Apple store or to buy a smartphone and those smart aleck, millennial geeks who work there are smirking at your attempts to purchase the right computer or phone for poor, old decrepit you?

Maybe AARP needs to come up with a dedicated computer model for Baby Boomers as they did with the geriatric cell phone which we smirkingly bought for our parents in their 80s and 90s. Dang, now that I recall my own smirk, I owe that Geek Squad kid at Best Buy an apology.

The AARP computer would have a screen the size of an old drive-in movie theater and process at the speed of light.

**The Best of Suzanne Bardwell**



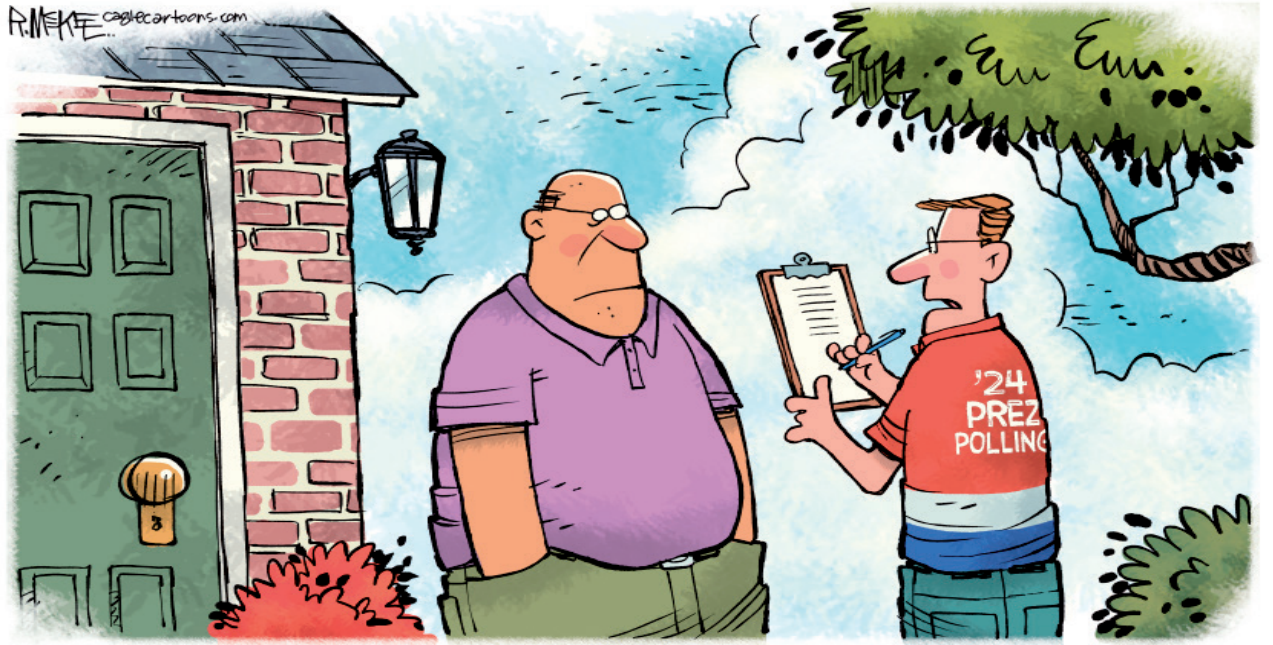
And while they are at it ‘they’ need to create a Help Desk that speaks impatient Baby Boomer. Yeah, yeah, Mac says it does, but if I can’t figure out the solution in two minutes or less I am done. I need someone to TALK me through it NOT a long list of ‘Help Desk’ instructions that Dumb and Dumber here can’t decipher...which actually translates to: I don’t have the patience to wade through to completion. Just give me a great big red SOLUTION button for me to push NOW. (MY typical ‘solution button’ is named Jim Bardwell and when working on computers he does sometimes turn red.)

The laptop I am typing on is my worn out teacher model with a short which requires me to hold the screen and my mouth just right to type. Serves me right. Repentance occurred with my MacAir’s death certificate, penance is occurring as I type this on my ancient, by computer standards, MacPro. When I am not repenting from cursing my laptop, I am praying to find solutions. I don’t know if that means this situation is good for my spiritual growth or not.

The moral of this tale is: ALWAYS keep a lid on drinks, keep them well away from your computer, ALWAYS buy the computer protection plan AND appreciate the fact that your boss/hubby says patiently “these things happen” when you kill a \$1,700 computer and then overlook his meltdown when you can’t remember your Apple ID to access your new computer for the newspaper deadline.

Apple...hmmmm...wasn’t that the first problem in the Garden of Eden?

That sounds about right.



"BUT, IF SOMEONE DID PUT A GUN TO YOUR HEAD, WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?"

## Heat Wave!!

You have probably noticed that it has been rather hot lately! A June heat wave affected millions of people from Texas and New Mexico to Florida to the northeastern United States. An area of high pressure over the Midwest pushed warm air to the surface and trapped it there, forming a heat dome. The result was a long period of record temperatures and little precipitation. Records were tied or broken across the country, from Boston and New York to Fort Lauderdale. In addition to the negative quality of life and health effects, excessive heat involves substantial overall economic costs. We recently estimated the net losses associated with the recent heat conditions, as well as the potential long-term effects of sustained hotter temperatures.

As with any extreme weather event, excessive heat affects the economy in dynamic and complex ways. Substantial losses occur as a result of lower agricultural yields and an overall decline in productivity across multiple industries. Even morbidity and mortality increase in the face of record heat. However, these losses are partially offset by gains in other sectors, such as increases in utility consumption for cooling. The demand for some types of manufactured goods also rises.

To estimate the effects, baseline forecasts from our US Multi-Regional Econometric Model were merged with an extensive analysis of economic responses to average temperature changes over several decades in all 50 states. This process allowed for detailed modeling of a comprehensive set of several hundred industries.

During the past 12 months, the temperature in the world has been about 2.39 degrees above the twentieth-century global standard


**Dr. Ray Perryman**  
**THE ECONOMIST**



(with records being established for each month). If that pattern continues through the remainder of the year, the US economy will lose an estimated \$110.2 billion in real gross domestic product (GDP, measured in 2017 dollars) and 663,000 jobs compared to projections under normal weather conditions. These losses represent a 0.48% reduction in output and 0.40% lower employment compared to baseline expectations. (For additional detail, including results by industry, see our [brief](#) at [www.perrymangroup.com](http://www.perrymangroup.com).)

Over time, the negative economic effects of hotter sustained temperatures would compound and escalate notably, reaching up to \$1.1 trillion in annual real GDP and more than five million jobs by 2050 if annual temperatures are just one degree on average above historical norms. Such a scenario would lead to US real gross product about 2.65% below the baseline scenario, with employment about 2.10% lower.

Heat waves and other events cause economic disruptions and inhibit growth. Although the effects vary greatly across industries, any observed gains in some sectors are far outweighed by losses in others. Over time, negative effects compound, leading to even more damage to the economy. Stay safe (and cool)!



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# Shelby knew how to live life in the fast lane

A couple of weeks ago an email arrived in my inbox from the fine folks over in Pittsburg letting me know of their plans to build a statue to honor Camp County native Carroll Shelby, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influential automotive designers.

The statue will feature Shelby's likeness sitting on a bench, ready to welcome visitors.

But to label Shelby as "just" an auto innovator would be doing him a serious disservice. He was a pilot, a champion race car driver -- and get this -- a successful chili entrepreneur.

Part of his life is detailed in the Academy Award-winning "Ford vs. Ferrari" and the development along with driver Ken Miles of the Ford GT40 which captured the 24-hour of Le Mans from 1966-69, still the only American built car to win that prestigious race.

The movie, despite Matt Damon looking silly in Shelby's signature floppy cowboy hat, is a dandy.

Born in 1923 in the tiny Camp County town of Leesburg, Shelby loved going fast from a young age. His fascination with rapid travel continued after the family moved to Dallas and he became well known to traffic cops. After graduating from high school in 1940, Shelby enlisted in the Air Force and began training as a pilot. By 1942, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served as a flight instructor. He also flew such aircraft as the Douglas A-26 invader and the Boeing B-29 Superfortress.

His most enduring contribution to this gearhead wannabe's life was his Shelby Cobra, a car that to this day puts a giddy up in my heartbeat.

The beauty of this car is stunning. With its sloping lines and perfect symmetry from front to back the Cobra looks fast just sitting still.

In short, if I had all the money in the world -- and it would take a lot of it to land an original -- that's the vehicle I would



own.

For most people automobiles are almost taken for granted, serving our daily needs by helping us get from one place to another.

Certainly, they are that. Yet while serving as a utilitarian mode of transportation, the automobile's history suggests that from the beginning car makers were able to connect to that soft spot in our psyche that made us sit up and take notice.

Back in the day, I would accompany my dad on occasion when he was on the hunt for a new Ford every three years. His idea of a family car was as conservative as he was -- nothing fancy, just dependable transportation. Four wheels, a standard three-on-the-tree gear shift and no air conditioning. There were a couple of times when the dealer would throw in an AM radio, but that was the extent of luxury for our family.

Anyway, once he came home from a dealership -- without me this time -- and presented me with a model of the just introduced Ford Mustang. At that moment, my car passion hit overdrive, so to speak.

Introduced in 1964, the Mustang has since become an icon. Built on the nondescript Ford Falcon platform, the Mustang was -- and my opinion still is -- one of the most beautiful cars ever produced.

But my dad knew the sporty roadster wasn't feasible for our family of seven so the model was as close as I was going to get to one.

Following that first generation of Mustangs, Ford designers wandered off the reservation a bit during the mid-to-late 1970s with the Mustang II Ghia (yuck) and the 1978 King Cobra II (yuck, again).

Now in its seventh generation, the Mustang has come full circle in design, power and appeal, especially the 2024 Dark Horse -- essentially testosterone on wheels -- with its 5.0L, V-8 Coyote engine that features 500 horsepower and 418 lb.-feet of torque. Yikes!

Which leads us back to Shelby's first association with the Ford Motor Company. Ford Division General Manager Lee Iacocca, who helped introduce the Mustang to the world, grew concerned that his creation didn't fit into the company's marketing program which stressed street performance to attract younger buyers.

Iacocca contacted Shelby, who had a well-earned reputation as a high-performance expert, and laid out his vision.

The result was the fabulous 1965 Shelby Mustang GT350, which proceeded to win racing events all across the country. The GT350 beat the likes of the Corvette Stingray, Jaguar XKE and several Ferrari models.

In 1967, Shelby and his team went big, packing a big block V-8 into the Shelby GT500. It was 428 cubic inches of unadulterated power.

That coast-to-coast success led to Shelby's further association with Ford in developing the GT40 and the dominance of Le Mans mentioned earlier.

A statue to honor Shelby, a bona fide original if there ever was one, is long overdue.

Yet it seems a bit ironic that a statue of a man whose life was built on going fast will have him sitting still.

## Was this really some Hamlet in the meat aisle?

I was approached by a guy while I was lookin' through the meat section at the grocery store.

"Excuse me," he said. "Are you Rusty Mit-chum?"

I looked over at him.

"Depends," I said. "Are you a jealous husband?"

He then got a surprised look on his face.

"No," he stated indignantly.

I smiled. "Well then, I'm your man."

I stuck out my hand and he looked at it for a minute and then shook it with a dead fish like grip.

"Uh...o-o-OK," he stammered. "Look, I just wanted to tell you that I just can't read your column."

Then he got a smug look on his face.

"OK."

I said and turned back to the meat section.

"Wait! Don't you want to know why I can't read it?"

I turned back around and smiled.

"Look, if you're havin'



trouble with your readin', you might want to talk to a teacher or something. Oh! Or maybe that Sylvan learnin' joint."

"No!" he exclaimed. "I have no trouble reading. I'm an avid reader."

"Hey, I'm not judgin' you. I went to school with a bunch of slow kids."

"Slow?! I'm not slow! I have an excellent grasp of the written word. But, your column," he expanded, "well, it just takes you too long to get to the point. You know," he said with that smug look again, "William Shakespeare stated that brevity is the soul of wit."

I smiled and nodded. "Hamlet, right?"

He looked up like he was thinkin'.

"Uh...I'm not sure," he

said.

"Take my word for it," I said. "It is."

Then I chuckled.

"Ol' Willy Shakespeare . . . . . The Bard! Ha! Kinda ironic, huh?"

"Uh.....What do you mean?" he asked.

"You know, ol' Willy talkin' about brevity in a play that has over 4,000 lines in it, which took around 4 hours to perform back then. Ironic."

"Huh....well...uh...."

"And do you know why those people stayed for those four hours to watch that play?" I asked. He gave me a half-eyelid perturbed look.

"I guess you're going to tell me, so they could find out how it ended, right?" he said sort of snarky like.

"Heck no," I said. "The

reason they stayed for the whole thing was because back then they didn't have TV sets to go back home to."

He looked at me like I was from Mars or somethin'.

"What?"

"Do you have a TV?" I asked.

"Of course I do."

"Well then, there you go."

Another funny look came to his face.

"Wait," he said. "That doesn't make any sense."

I looked at him really serious like.

"Hey man, I don't make up the rules."

The guy just stood there and looked at me. Again I smiled at him and he just turned around and walked away.

"Adieu adieu, Hamlet. Remember me."

I said after him and then turned, clapped my hands once, and started rubbin' them together.

"OK now. Come now, Horatio! Let's see if they've got any marked down ribeyes."

## Drawn hunt program under way for next year

Hunters will have new opportunities and scenery this fall through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's drawn hunt permits program, officials said.

The program, which issues permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas, is now accepting applications for a shot at nearly 9,400 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.

"The opportunities offered through our online Public Hunt Draw System give hunters a tremendous variety to hunt and see Texas at an affordable cost" said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. "Throughout the state, we have seen lack of access to land being a major barrier of entry for folks interested in hunting. The public hunt program gives everyone an opportunity to hunt without the costly investment."

Among the offerings available through the Texas Public Drawn Hunts system: hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator and

dove, plus guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep. There were 292,000 applications last year.

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current Annual Public Hunt Permit (APH) to apply. APH permits go on sale annually on Aug. 15. Last year, the sale of 58,417 APH permits generated approximately \$2.7 million in revenue for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities.

The Drawn Hunts Catalog interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area. All applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically. To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID number from the applicant's hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees range from free to \$3 or \$10, depending on the hunt category. Adult hunters who are selected

may need to pay a special permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as the youth-only hunts, require no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of each month between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. Aug. 1 is the deadline for all alligator hunt categories and private lands dove hunts. Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina.

A full list of category deadlines can be found on the Drawn Hunts Deadlines webpage. Hunters can apply until 11:59 p.m. CST on the application deadline. Applicants can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to start the application process, visit TPWD Drawn Hunts. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



**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, July 13, 2023

Smith County Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Paul Findley as the Smith County Fire Marshal during their regular weekly meeting.

Findley is retiring from his post as city of Tyler Fire Marshal and Public Information Officer, which he served for 14 years.

He began his new duties on Monday, July 10.

"I am excited about this new opportunity, and I look forward to seeking out avenues to connect with our community and to work alongside our public safety partners as we strive to make our county as safe and healthy as possible," Findley said.

Smith County Judge Neal Franklin said they received 15 applications for the job and the top three candidates were reviewed during the Commissioners Court's executive session on July 5.

### FIVE YEARS AGO, July 11, 2019

The Lindale City Council approved additions to the playground equipment at Darden Harvest Park during its regular meeting at city hall.

The upgraded equipment carried a price tag of \$67,000.

"We are simply enlarging the playground from the one we've already approved," said Mayor Jeff Daugherty.

### 10 YEARS AGO, July 10, 2014

The Middle School Matters Institute, an initiative of the George W. Bush Institute, named Lindale Junior High School a Showcase School for the middle school program at the 2014 Middle School Matters Institute Summer Conference.

"We are extremely excited and honored to be recognized by Middle School Matters and the George W. Bush Institute as a Showcase School," LJHS Principal Jeremy Chilek said. "We feel like our staff and students at Lindale Junior High are the best in Texas. I am thankful to Mrs. Vicki Thrasher, our leadership team, and our entire staff for their hard work and dedication to this particular program. Our partnership with the Bush Institute has been very beneficial to us, and we look forward to building on that foundation in the future."

The junior high campus was selected for the middle school program in August of 2013. The campus was one of three schools in the nation to receive Tier III, intensive support from the Middle School Matters Institute. Because of their dedication to Middle School Matters, their commitment to implementing research-based practices, and their outstanding student achievement, LJHS was deemed a Showcase School by the Bush Institute. The campus will continue to be a part of the Middle School Matters program, but as a Showcase School, LJHS will now open their doors for scheduled school visits and show others what research-based practices look like in action.



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# OBITUARY

## Nell Praytor Cox

Nellie Elizabeth was born on Dec. 2, 1936 in Lindale to Weldon and Mildred Praytor. She passed away on June 18, 2024 at her home in St. George, Utah.

She graduated from Lindale High School in 1955 and began a career in sales that continued until her retirement. She worked for several com-

panies, living in Texas, Arizona and California over the years.

She is survived by her son Rocky Cox and wife Jill and daughter Rhonda Hendricks. Grand-children Mitchell Cox and wife Shelby, Steven Cox, Christopher Ramos and Brandi Hendricks and great-grandchildren Bennett, Macie, Andrew and Rylee and sisters Sue Wortham and Shirley Abbott.

She was loved by many nephews, nieces, extended family and friends.

Nell was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Larry Cox and Jim Hyde; brothers Mitch Praytor and Bud Praytor and sisters Eloise and Louise Praytor, Pat Streetman and Laura Alvey.

There will be a graveside service at Hopewell Cemetery at a later date.

# Get active for better health

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- Helps maintain your immune system, which may help to lower risk of infection, lessen

symptoms and speed recovery from various illnesses;

- Helps keep your mind sharp as you get older and lowers your risk of dementia and Alzheimer's;
- Increases your energy and simply makes life better! Start where you are. Use what you have.

Stay motivated and join a friend or group of friends and get moving.

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

# PET OF THE WEEK



Friendly, one-year-old pit bull mix Elvis would love to “leave the building” at Lindale Animal Control for his forever home.

He weighs 48 pounds and is fully vetted. Currently, he’s undergoing treatment for heartworms.

Elvis loves to play outdoors – especially in the water -- and staff members say, “he loves to sing.”

His outgoing nature makes him a perfect companion for anyone looking to add love to their home.

For information on Elvis or any others at the Lindale Animal Shelter call 903-882-6861.

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 903-882-3396  
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**Red Springs Baptist Church**  
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 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

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 903-882-8933

**Church of Christ – Swan County**  
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 903-882-8949

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 903-535-9155

**Crossroads Community Church**  
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 903-881-9844  
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 903-882-7269

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

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 903-882-3323

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 903-882-6966

**Life Source Community Church**  
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## Lindale Police Department call logs for June 28-July 4

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28:** Motor Vehicle Crash, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 2600 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Public Service, 15000 block CR 463, Unable to Locate; Verbal Disturbance, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene;

Assist Another Agency, 800 block North College Street, Report; Public Service, 400 block Hill Street, Unable to Locate; Welfare Concern, 3300 block South Main Street, Citation Issued; Fraud, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Report; Suspicious Vehicle, 900 block Mount Sylvan Street, Settled at Scene; Disorderly Conduct, 100 block Miranda Lambert Way, Unable to Locate.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29:** Suspicious Person, 3200 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Mental Health Welfare Check, 200 block Francis Drive, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; City Ordinance Violation, 500 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Traffic Hazard, 900 block North College Street, Settled at Scene; Assist EMS, 500 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 15100 block Brittain Court, Settled at Scene.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30:** Suspicious Circumstance, 13300 block CR 472, Unable to Locate; Suspicious Circumstance, 300 block Bowers Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 13400 block IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Warrant Service,



200 block West Hubbard Street, Arrest; Welfare Concern, 3300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Criminal Trespass, 100 block East Centennial Blvd., Warning Issued; Welfare Concern, 3200 block South Main Street, Unable to Locate; Welfare Concern, 700 block Half Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith County SO, 556 IH-20 East, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith County SO, 17100 block Creekside Drive, Settled at Scene.

**MONDAY, JULY 1:** Business Alarm, 700 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Illegal Dumping, 100 block Miranda Lambert Way, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 100 block South Main Street, False Alarm; Business Alarm, 100 block Miranda Lambert Way, False Alarm.

**TUESDAY, JULY 2:** Motorist Assist, 17000 block IH-20 West, Settled at Scene; Found Property, 400 block West Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 400 block West Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Assist Another

Agency, 2800 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Civil Matter, 600 block East South Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Assist Smith County SO, 555 IH-20 East, Report; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 1000 block South Main Street, Citation Issued.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 3:** Business Alarm, 15500 block CR 463, False Alarm; Parking Violation, 200 block Meadow Lane, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 200 block Bonnie Street, Settled at Scene; Theft, 500 block South Main Street, Report; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Traffic Hazard, 600 block West Hubbard Street, Settled at Scene; Parking Violation, 3500 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motorist Assist, 2300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Motor Vehicle Crash, 13300 block IH-20 East, Report; Motor Vehicle Crash, 3500 block South Main Street, Report; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene.

**THURSDAY, JULY 4:** Child Custody Dispute, 200 block North Henry Street, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 13900 block FM 2710, Settled at Scene; Business Alarm, 700 block North Main Street, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Person, 3400 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Public Service, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Circumstance, 2300 block South Main Street, Settled at Scene; Verbal Disturbance, 100 block Ballard Drive, Settled at Scene; Suspicious Vehicle, 200 block Canary Row, Settled at Scene; Welfare Concern, 17000 block I-H 20 West, Settled at Scene; Driving While Intoxicated, 2400 block South Main Street, Arrest.

# Convicted carjacker gets 12 years in prison

A New Orleans man has been sentenced to over 12 years in federal prison for a 2022 violent carjacking in the Eastern District of Texas, said Davilyn Walston, spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Damien M. Diggs.

Aubrey Young, 37, pleaded guilty to carjacking and was sentenced to 150 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Marcia A. Crone on July 1, 2024.

According to information presented in court, on October 26, 2022, Young approached two people in Vidor asking if they had any work for him. When they said they did not, Young pulled a firearm from his backpack and demanded the keys from the victims. Young then fled in their vehicle. The car was spotted near Anahuac and a high-speed chase ensued. Young was arrested and a firearm was located in the stolen vehicle.

On April 18, 2024, Diggs announced the newly formed **Carjacking Task Force** in the Eastern District of Texas.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), will work alongside state and local law enforcement partners to more effectively address the threat of carjackings in Southeast Texas.

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, the Vidor Police Department, the Chambers County Sheriff's Office, and the Texas Department of Public Safety. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rachel Grove.

## Beaumont man sentenced in COVID fraud scheme

A Beaumont man has been sentenced for federal violations related to a COVID-relief fraud scheme in the Eastern District of Texas, Walston said.

Acheon King Aleidron, formerly known as Cameron Alexander, 35, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Marcia A. Crone on July 1, 2024. Aleidron was also ordered to pay \$415,900.00 in restitution.

According to court documents, Aleidron used a Beaumont address for a business named The Fishing Factor, LLC to fraudulently obtain \$415,000 under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for COVID-19 pandemic relief. Aleidron filed numerous fraudulent loan applications and received the funds which were intended to cover payroll, fixed debts, utilities, rent/mortgage, accounts payable and other bills incurred by qualifying businesses during and resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Aleidron opened five bank accounts with four different banks in order to receive funds from the scheme. The government was able to seize \$186,413.78 from Aleidron's various bank accounts, which will be forfeited to pay back a portion of the loss.

The CARES Act is a federal law enacted on March 29, 2020, designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One source of relief provided by the CARES Act was the authorization of up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses for job retention and certain other expenses. In April 2020, Congress authorized over \$300 billion in additional funding.

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program ("EIDL") was a COVID-19 pandemic relief program administered by the SBA that provided loans to small businesses for job retention and certain other expenses. EIDL loans were intended to

cover payroll, fixed debts, utilities, rent/mortgage, accounts payable and other bills incurred by qualifying businesses during, and resulting from, the COVID-19 pandemic. EIDL loans are processed outside the State of Texas. According to the SBA website ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)), the stated purpose of an EIDL loan is "[t]o meet financial obligations and operating expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred." EIDL loans are low interest loans and are not forgivable.

To obtain an EIDL loan, a qualifying business had to submit an EIDL loan application, which was signed by an authorized representative of the business. The EIDL loan application required the business (through its authorized representative) to acknowledge the program rules and make certain affirmative certifications to be eligible to obtain the EIDL loan, including that the business was in operation and needed the funds for working capital to alleviate economic injury caused by disaster occurring in the month of January 31, 2020, and continuing thereafter. For a business to be eligible for an EIDL loan, the business must have been in operation before February 1, 2020.

EIDL applications were submitted directly to the SBA and processed by the agency with support from a government contractor, Rapid Finance. EIDL loan applications were received by SBA servers located in Virginia, Iowa, or Washington. Once approved, the individual or business received the EIDL loan proceeds via an electronic funds transfer to a financial account under the control of the business.

The amount of the loan, if the application were approved, was determined based on the information provided by the applicant about employment, revenue, and cost of goods, as described above. Any funds issued under an EIDL advance were issued directly by the SBA. EIDL funds could be used for payroll expenses, sick leave, production costs, and business obligations, such as debts, rent, and mortgage payments.

# Limit irrigation to avoid periwinkle blight

By Greg Grant  
Smith County Horticulturist

This is your annual reminder to avoid frequent overhead irrigation to prevent periwinkle blight. Periwinkle blight, also known as aerial phytophthora, is a major problem for annual vinca or periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*).

This disease is caused by the fungus *Phytophthora parasitica* and can linger in the soil for several years. Unfortunately, periwinkle blight often results from a lack of understanding of the disease triangle, which includes a host, a pathogen, and the right environmental conditions.

When overhead irrigation or frequent rainfall occurs, periwinkle blight spreads quickly. Infected plant material often introduces the fungus into landscapes. Once established, aerial phytophthora can repeatedly affect periwinkles in both residential and commercial plantings.

## Symptoms of Periwinkle Blight

The first signs of this disease are water-soaked, gray-green, "greasy" areas on the shoots and leaves. This is quickly followed by the wilting of shoots. As the disease progresses, dark brown lesions appear on the stems, leading to the death of the stem or the entire plant.

In wet conditions, the fungus can move from plant to plant through leaf contact or splashing water. If the foliage stays wet, the disease can spread rapidly, killing plants within one to two weeks after symptoms appear.

## Rules for Growing Healthy Periwinkles

To successfully grow periwinkles and avoid periwinkle blight, follow these important guidelines:

**Plant Timing:** Do not plant periwinkles until after Mother's Day or even Memorial Day. They originate from Africa and prefer hot, dry conditions. They are summer bedding plants, not spring bedding plants.

**Healthy Transplants:** Choose only pristine transplants with no dead shoots or brown lesions on the stems.

**Irrigation Practices:** Avoid overhead irrigation. Keep stems and foliage dry, and never water at night. Aerial phytophthora spreads by water. After the initial watering, periwinkles rarely need supplemental irrigation in East Texas, typically no more than once a week during June, July, and August, only.

**Sunlight and Soil:** Plant periwinkles in full sun and well-drained soils. This promotes more blooms and ensures the plants and soil do not stay too moist.

**Fertilization:** Do not over-fertilize, as new succulent shoots are more susceptible to the disease.

**Sanitation:** Remove dead shoots or dying plants immediately. Discard them in plastic trash bags with your garbage to minimize the disease in the future. Sanitation is crucial in preventing plant diseases.

**Planting History:** Avoid planting periwinkles in beds with



Periwinkles needs bright sun, good drainage, and limited irrigation to avoid periwinkle blight. (Courtesy photo)

a history of aerial phytophthora as the spores for inoculation remain there.

**Disease-Resistant Varieties:** If possible, plant periwinkles from the 'Cora' series, which have some genetic resistance to the disease.

**Fungicide Use:** Chlorothalonil (Daconil) fungicide can protect healthy plants from the disease but will not cure infected plants.

**Raised Beds and Containers:** Plant periwinkles in raised beds and containers for extra aeration and drainage.

Growing periwinkles successfully is all about sanitation and minimizing water contact with the plants. Keep them in hot, sunny locations, and on the dry side. By following these guidelines, you can enjoy beautiful, healthy periwinkles in your garden, free from the threat of periwinkle blight.

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Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists track behaviors in largemouth bass in state lakes. (Courtesy photo)

## Parks and wildlife biologists track movements, behaviors of bass

Biologists from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have completed an innovative study that tracked the movement and behaviors of largemouth bass at Toledo Bend Reservoir and Lake Fork, publicity officials announced.

The goal of the multi-year initiative, which launched in 2020, was to learn more about fish behavior and help anglers be more effective when they target largemouth bass.

In 2018, anglers began reporting a decline in catch rates, and many assumed that these declines were attributed to decreased fish populations. Despite reduced catch rates reported in surveys of anglers during 2018-20, the electrofishing data that biologists gathered on fish populations remained consistent. Biologists wanted to explore if increased fishing activity on the lakes had altered the behavior of the fish, which in turn led to a decrease in angler catch rates.

The study at Toledo Bend and Lake Fork focused on seasonal habitat use, the movement and home range of largemouth bass and how it correlated with angling activity. It also explored the effects of boat motor noise and angling activity on fish behavior.

On both lakes, biologists monitored the movement patterns of individual largemouth bass ranging from 16 to 24 inches in length. Biologists implanted radio transmitters into 43 fish at Toledo Bend and 38 fish at Lake Fork to track them over a two-year period.

When the results came in, biologists were intrigued by the movement and home ranges of largemouth bass.

“Some of the biggest surprises were the small home ranges that these fish actually had and how little of an area they occupied throughout the course of a year,” said Jake Norman, Inland Fisheries Division Tyler District Supervisor. “I think most anglers and even biologists, me included, expected to see more seasonal movement

especially of individual fish. Overall, we just didn’t see that happen on a larger scale. For example, on Lake Fork, the average total home range these fish occupied was 60 acres or less over the course of the entire study, and the average core use area was just over 10 acres.”

Norman pointed out that the bulk of these fish have home areas and don’t migrate throughout the lake. The time of year didn’t seem to have a big effect on movement and neither did the weather or lake levels.

“There wasn’t a large movement of fish back and forth from the bank to offshore structure,” said Norman. “It highlights that some fish just like to stay in shallow areas and some just like to be more offshore. Fish movement appeared to be the same throughout all four seasons and stable the whole year without a lot of seasonal movement.”

The study also revealed some interesting findings about boat noise and the subsequent reaction by fish when hearing a motor. Biologists indicated that 59 percent of all the relocated fish reacted to boat noise in some capacity.

Norman added that fish size was a relevant indicator for how likely they were to react. They found that fish over 20 inches were more likely to react to boat noise. In addition, fish that were in vegetation reacted more often than when vegetation wasn’t present.

In terms of structure and habitat, the study found that, in general, largemouth bass exhibited habitat preferences.

The results of the study provide insight to anglers on how to target fish and to fisheries biologists in their approach to management.

“A big ‘take home’ of this study is how important it is to be as stealthy as possible when fishing for largemouth bass,” added Norman. “When anglers are sight-fishing and see a fish on a bed, they should do everything they can to make a cast to the fish be-

fore it knows they are there. Truthfully, that should be the angler’s mindset throughout all the seasons no matter if they are fishing in a foot of water or 30-plus feet of water. Doing everything you can to be as stealthy as possible will increase your chances of catching the fish you are targeting.”

Overall, when it comes to locations, the traditional target spots proved to be the best when angling for largemouth bass.

“The fish in these studies still selected more of what I call ‘high percentage spots’ like drops, points creeks and other habitat structure,” said Norman. “The places where anglers typically look for to target bass are the areas the fish are still utilizing the most. The study also shows that they are really educated and are very wary when noting an anglers’ presence, which could correlate to the reported lower catch rates.”

The study indicated that fish could also be found in featureless flats — areas that typically had less pressure from anglers. However, in those areas they were more spread out and less concentrated.

The results could also present fisheries managers with two different approaches to habitat installment and enhancement. The first is to concentrate efforts in the high percentage areas, and the second would install more habitat in the flats to help concentrate more fish into a small area around the habitat structures.

One additional impact for biologists could be how surveys are conducted.

“Utilization of shorelines in the fall when we do our electrofishing surveys was very low,” said Norman. “Since these fish weren’t shoreline-oriented in the fall, this is a component of the study for fisheries managers to consider and evaluate when conducting surveys.”

Check out more information on [Lake Fork](#) and [Toledo Bend Reservoir](#) on the TPWD website. The study was funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program with matching support from Texas freshwater fishing license funds. The full study can be viewed by visiting the [American Fisheries Society website](#).

## Texans urged to protect lakes from invasive species

Now that summer has arrived, Texans are once again heading to the lakes to enjoy time on the water.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department urges boaters and paddlers to do their part to protect the Texas lakes we love from aquatic invasive species during the heart of boating season.

“While we want everyone to have a great time, we also want to avoid giving invasive species free rides to new lakes,” said Brian Van Zee, TPWD Inland Fisheries regional director. “The best way to prevent the spread of many harmful aquatic invasive species is to clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment every time you visit any lake.”

Giant salvinia, a highly invasive, free-floating aquatic fern that can double its coverage area in a week, is one of the major threats to our lakes. This invasive plant can produce thick surface mats that make fishing, boating, swimming and other water recreation nearly impossible.

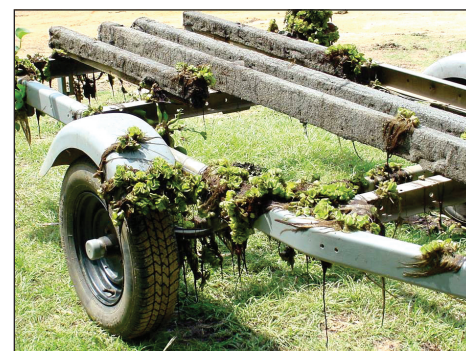
Giant salvinia is currently present on 27 East Texas lakes and numerous rivers, creeks and marshes between Houston and Beaumont. While TPWD efforts have kept giant salvinia from currently limiting angling or boating access in Texas public waters, they could still hitchhike from one lake to another on a boat, trailer or other equipment.

“There’s no doubt that Texans love their lakes, but we also need Texans to take action to help protect them,” said John Findeisen, TPWD aquatic habitat enhancement team lead. “It only takes a tiny fragment of an invasive plant to create a problematic infestation in a new lake. Preventing aquatic invasive species introductions avoids costly, long-term efforts to manage these species once they become established in a lake. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure — it only takes a small amount of our time as responsible boaters to clean, drain and dry our boats and equipment to prevent new introductions of aquatic invasive species.”

Zebra mussels and giant salvinia continue to spread to new areas in Texas. While they remain some of the biggest threats to Texas lakes, other highly invasive species can also be spread or be introduced by boaters, including water hyacinth, crested and yellow floating heart and quagga mussels.

Zebra mussels, a non-native shellfish that attaches to hard surfaces, pose a significant threat to our lakes. These invasive mussels damage boats and infrastructure for water supply and control, alter lake ecosystems and cause harm to native species. They also litter shorelines with hazardous, sharp shells that impact lakefront recreation.

Zebra mussels are now found in 37 Texas lakes across seven river basins, as well as in river reaches downstream of infested lakes. TPWD and partners monitor numerous at-risk



State officials are urging Texas boaters to be cognizant of invasive species on their boats. (Courtesy photo)

lakes around the state for early detection of zebra and closely related quagga mussels, but once they’ve been introduced and become established in a lake, nothing can be done to control or eradicate them.

“Zebra mussels and quagga mussels can be attached to boats or even carried by anchors or attached to plants clinging to boats,” said Monica McGarrity, TPWD senior scientist for aquatic invasive species. “Microscopic zebra mussel larvae can also be transported in residual water in the boat. Taking just a few minutes to clean, drain and dry boats can make a huge difference in our efforts to prevent further spread of this highly damaging species and harm to Texas lakes.”

TPWD urges boaters to follow these three simple but crucial steps to clean, drain and dry boats and gear before traveling from lake to lake. Remove plants, mud and debris; drain all water from the boat and gear; once back home, open compartments and allow everything to dry completely for at least a week, if possible.

If a boat or other equipment has been stored in the water at a lake with invasive mussels, it is likely infested and poses an extremely high risk for transporting these invasive species to a new lake unless it is properly decontaminated. Before moving the boat, call TPWD at (512) 389-4848 for guidance.

In addition to the harm that invasive species can cause to aquatic ecosystems, water infrastructure and the recreational experience at lakes, the transport of these organisms can result in legal trouble for boaters. Transporting prohibited aquatic invasive species in Texas is illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$500 per violation. It’s also the law that boaters must drain all water from their boat and onboard receptacles, including bait buckets, before leaving or approaching a body of fresh water. They must also remove all invasive plants from the boat and trailer before leaving a lake.

For more information on how to properly clean, drain and dry boats and equipment, visit the TPWD YouTube channel for a short instructional video. To learn more about zebra mussels and other invasive species in Texas, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives](http://tpwd.texas.gov/StopInvasives).

## Game Wardens stress safety during busy season

As temperatures continue to rise, many Texans and out-of-state visitors are making plans to cool off on one of the many pristine waterbodies across the state.

Texas Parks and Wildlife officials are reminding those on the water to follow basic boating safety precautions over the holiday weekend.

Texas Game Wardens, the United States Coast Guard and thousands of law enforcement officers across the state and nation will be on heightened alert looking for those violating boating while intoxicated laws. The effort is in conjunction with Operation Dry Water, a nationally coordinated enforcement

campaign focused on deterring boaters from boating under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

“Alcohol use continues to be a leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths and a leading contributor of boating incidents,” said Cody Jones, Texas Game Warden assistant commander for marine enforcement. “If you operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs, you are putting yourself and others at an unnecessary risk.”

Last year, wardens arrested 56 people for BWI over the Fourth of July weekend and filed four other charges for driving while intoxicated (DWI). They issued 1,521 citations and 1,891 warnings for various boating safety law violations.

Different from this same time last year, boaters who are arrested for a BWI while children under the age of 15 are onboard will face a state jail felony for boating while intoxicated with a child passenger, matching the charges for a DWI with a child passenger. This charge is punishable by six months to two years in state jail and a maximum \$10,000 fine.

“We see it year after year — holiday celebrations ending in accidents or fatalities caused by unsafe boating practices, including the overconsumption of alcohol,” said Jones. “While wardens

will be out in force to help keep people safe, we need the public to do their part by being prepared and making wise choices.”

Statewide, injuries and fatalities peak between the months of May and August, especially on weekends. Among the top contributors: operator inattention, careless/reckless operation, inexperience and alcohol use.

In addition to avoiding drugs and alcohol, there are some other simple steps to take to ensure everyone onboard your vessel is safe and returns home at the end of the day.

“Wearing a life jacket, using your boat’s ignition safety switch, being weather aware and participating in a boater education class can all greatly reduce your risk of having an accident on the water,” said Kimberly Sorensen, TPWD boating education manager.

“Texas state law requires each occupant of a boat or paddle craft have access to a USCG approved life jacket,” said Sorensen. “And children under 13 must wear one while the boat or paddle craft is underway or drifting.”

A complete list of boating laws and the required boating safety equipment can be found in the Texas Water Safety Act. For more information about water safety, visit the water safety webpage on the TPWD website.

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# Simple Tips to minimize rising car insurance rates

Do you get a pit in your stomach every time you open your car insurance renewal notice? You're not alone.

Auto insurance premiums have risen by more than 22 percent from the previous year, according to the Consumer Price Index figures released this spring.

The surge in car insurance rates over the past year is a culmination of various factors, ranging from the cost of vehicle repairs to the increase in vehicle theft incidents.

Escalating vehicle repair costs is one of the main reasons for the increase. Newer vehicles come

equipped with a multitude of advanced technologies and require parts and professionals which are significantly more expensive. Car repair costs are up nearly 12 percent according to the CPI.

Rising medical costs also contribute to the spike in car insurance premiums. Hospital and hospital related services showed an increase of 3.5 percent. As healthcare costs increase, insurers must likewise adjust their rates to meet their financial obligations.

Near record levels of vehicle theft are also a reason for rising insurance costs. Last year, over

1 million vehicle theft incidents were reported. Texas had the second highest number of vehicle thefts with over 115,000 incidents reported.

"There is little we can do control the rising costs of vehicle repairs or medical costs," Mechele Agbayani Mills, President and CEO of BBB Central East Texas said. "But there may be some actions you can take which could help you lower your insurance premiums."

Make sure you have a clean driving record. Insurance companies typically reward safe drivers with lower insurance premiums. A

record which is free of accidents, traffic violations, and insurance claims may put you in a "low-risk" category and may earn you a lower rate.

Ask about discounts. Your insurance company may offer discounts if your vehicle has an anti-theft device such as an alarm or tracking system or if they have other safety features like an immobilizer system or other theft-prevention equipment.

Bundle several policies. If you maintain other types of insurance, you may be able to save money by having one company manage

all of them.

Shop around. Not all companies have the same pricing models, so it is worth it to compare quotes from several insurance providers to find the most competitive rate for your situation.

Remember that insurance rates can vary significantly depending on factors such as your location, the type of vehicle you drive, and other personal circumstances. Review and update your policy on a regular basis, use BBB's Get A Quote tool to shop for quotes, and go to bbb.org to find insurance companies you can trust.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NO. 48357P

Notice is hereby given that on the 1st day of July, 2024, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Arnold Bernard Sherman, Deceased, were issued to Judith Suzanne Sawyer Bernhardt Sherman by the Honorable Court of Smith County, Texas in Cause No. 48357P pending on the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to the address being shown below:

Estate of Arnold Bernard Sherman  
c/o Randall Cook  
Hardy Cook & Hardy, P.C.  
2080 Three Lakes Parkway  
Tyler, Texas 75703

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LAURELA. KUCHERA, Deceased, were issued on June 17, 2024, in Cause No. 48271P, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 3, Smith County, Texas, to: Tom P. Schlachter.

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: Paula G. Hartsfield  
Attorney at Law  
3300 S. Broadway, Suite 101  
Tyler, Texas 75701

DATED the 1st day of July, 2024

Paula G. Hartsfield

### LEGAL NOTICE

CAUSE NO. 48328P  
THE ESTATE OF § IN THE COUNTY COURT  
§  
LYNN RAY KERSH, § AT LAW NO. 3  
§  
DECEASED § SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LYNN RAY KERSH, Deceased, were issued on July 1, 2024, in Cause No. 48328P, now pending in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Smith County, Texas. Letters Testamentary were issued to: SCOTT RAY KERSH.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Smith County, Texas. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate at the following address:

c/o J. SCOTT KILLOUGH, P.C.  
Attorney & Counselor at Law  
5520 Old Bullard Road, Suite 113  
Tyler, Texas 75703

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of JOHN M. KUCHERA, Deceased, were issued on June 17, 2024, in Cause No. 48272P, pending in the County Court-At-Law No: 3, Smith County, Texas, to: Tom P. Schlachter.

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: Paula G. Hartsfield  
Attorney at Law  
3300 S. Broadway,  
Suite 101  
Tyler, Texas 75701

DATED the 1st day of July, 2024

Paula G. Hartsfield

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAYING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARY LOUISE JOHNSON GENTRY, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on the Estate of MARY LOUISE JOHNSON GENTRY, Deceased, Cause No. 48315-P, now pending in the Probate Court of Smith County, Texas, filed on or about May 10, 2024, by ROBERT LEE GENTRY, Independent Executor/Executrix of said estate. Claims against the estate should be mailed in care of John E. Trube, Attorney at Law, Post Office Box 6594, Tyler, Texas, 75711.

All persons having claims against said Estate now being administered are hereby required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED: July 2, 2024

JOHN E. TRUBE, Attorney for the Estate of  
MARY LOUISE JOHNSON GENTRY, Deceased  
Post Office Box 6594  
Tyler, Texas 75711  
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[JohnTrube@att.net](mailto:JohnTrube@att.net)  
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Pictures: [DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com](http://DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com)

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The splash pad at Lindale's Darden Harvest Park is a fine way to cool off during the brutal Texas summer.

Photo by Terry Cannon

# There are ways to beat summer's heat

Continued from Page 1

**Hydrate:** It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour in the heat to replenish your body and prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

**Block the Rays:** Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.

**Dress Smart:** Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with

the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

**Stay Salty:** Food helps keep up energy and replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

**Buddy System:** Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

**Plan Ahead:** Study the map and have it with you, avoid relying on your phone for maps since service may be unavailable in back-country areas. Average hikers

move at 2 miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

**Pup-Safety:** Dogs are as susceptible to heat as their humans are, so it is good practice to ensure that you bring enough water and snacks for four-legged hiking buddies to last the entirety of the trip.

Additionally, visitors should heed notices posted at trailheads about site specific conditions before setting out for the day. Park staff are also a valuable resource for folks wanting to know about trail and forecasted conditions before starting

# TxDOT embarking on 10-year transportation plan

Continued from Page 1 and ends Monday, Aug. 5, at 4 p.m.

To learn more about differ-

## Car dealer charged with murder

Continued from Page 1

Old Gladewater Highway and ran into a dead end. Turning around, the three men drove behind Bautista Auto Sales and after they passed the car lot several shots rang out, Christian said.

They then saw the back-seat passenger had suffered a gunshot wound to the head and transported him to the hospital.

After developing a suspect, investigators made contact with Bautista-Renteria at his residence where he was arrested and taken to the sheriff's office.

Search warrants were obtained from County Court at Law Judge Clay White and investigators executed the warrants on Bautista-Renteria's residence and business. Sanchez' body was taken to the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for autopsy.

This is an ongoing investigation, Christian said.

ent ways to comment, visit the UTP Public Involvement webpage.

Both the public meeting and hearing presentations will be recorded and available for viewing at a later time. An online comment form link is also available for submission in English, Arabic, Cantonese, Hindi, Mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Public comments and feedback are important in developing the plan. Available in English and Spanish, the UTP Fact Sheet provides an overview of the program.

The Texas Transportation Commission approves the UTP annually in accordance with Texas state law at its August commission meeting and publishes the approved UTP on TxDOT.gov.

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