

OPINION

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OUR OPINION

Helping Hand

T.L.L. Temple Foundation investing in East Texas families, communities

It's impossible to separate the history of the Temple family from East Texas. Thomas Lewis Latané Temple formed the Southern Pine Lumber Company — which eventually became Temple-Inland — in 1893. Georgie Temple Munz created the T.L.L. Temple Foundation in 1962 to honor her father. Mrs. Munz's intent was to enhance the quality of life for East Texans — for the people and communities that helped the family build its business, according to the foundation's website.

Mrs. Munz established the foundation with an initial gift of 1,000 shares of Southern Pine Lumber Company stock worth \$56,000. Upon her death in 1982, Mrs. Munz left the balance of her estate to the foundation, which has invested more than \$440 million since its inception. East Texas has been the primary recipient of that support over the last 60 years.

The foundation's mission is to build a thriving rural East Texas while positively impacting human services, health, economic opportunity and education. As such, the impact of this small sampling of the foundation's actions in 2021 cannot be overstated.

In coordination with the State Office of Rural Health at the Texas Department of Agriculture, the foundation established a medical school loan repayment program. "We have entire counties in our 22-county service area that have no primary care physicians nor dentists," said Wynn Rosser, Ph.D., the foundation's president and CEO.

Participants will be required to serve 12 consecutive months at an approved eligible site to qualify for the award. Eligible clinics are either 501(c)(3) (non-profit) tax exempt facilities, a local mental health authority or a governmental or public health facility and located in one of the Temple Foundation's rural counties.

Those sites also must focus on serving the underserved, including Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare and other "low-income under-insured or uninsured populations, according to the foundation.

St. Luke's Health Memorial, Burke, the Angelina County & Cities Health District and East Texas Community Health Services Inc. are all nonprofit facilities in Angelina County that have a focus on "serving the underserved."

The foundation also is investing in rural residency programs in Deep East Texas. The goal is to increase the number of health care professionals in East Texas when providers are in short supply.

The foundation received the inaugural Hunger Hero Award from the East Texas Food Bank for its support of the food bank's hunger-relief work. The foundation gave a "generous grant" to the food bank to launch the Deep East Texas Food Security Initiative, which addresses four focus areas.

1. Partner agency development and capacity building
2. Increased fresh produce distribution

3. Social benefits application assistance
4. Development of the Deep East Texas Resource Center, including purchasing 105 Lofton St. in Lufkin

The Resource Center is intended to augment the work done by Lufkin's current food pantries and will include a Healthy Pantry Program, host nutrition education classes, serve as a fresh produce redistribution center, provide on-site benefits assistance and provide access to other services such as Texas Workforce Commission and WIC.

"Food insecurity is one of the foundation's highest priorities — residents can't thrive if they are hungry," Rosser said. "Our rural East Texas counties have some of the highest rates of food insecurity in the state and nation."

The Rural Opportunity Catalyst for East Texas Initiative supports two nonprofit community development institutions in hopes of expanding local access to financial products, services and technical assistance.

The foundation granted Communities Unlimited and PeopleFund \$1.15 million to expand their presence into rural East Texas. They will bring more than \$3 million in leveraged loan capital and capacity building support, the foundation said.

"Changes due to the ROCE initiative will come in different forms," Rosser said. "PeopleFund and Communities Unlimited will soon have offices in our region. Communities and businesses will be able to access their services, and over time, we expect to see an increase in locally owned businesses and job growth."

Grants totaling \$377,000 to 12 East Texas school districts to accelerate learning recovery in reading and math after COVID-19 dealt blows through extended shutdowns and interrupted instructional routines.

The school districts are Corrigan-Camden, Diboll, Jasper, Joaquin, Leggett, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orangefield, Palestine, Texarkana, West Orange-Stark Cove Consolidated and Woodville.

A \$430,000 grant to Buckner Family Pathways to cover the cost of renovations on the program's campus, as well as the purchase of a new generator.

Buckner Family Pathways is a Lufkin-area program offered by Buckner Children and Family Services that helps single-parent families in need overcome barriers that prevent them from self-sufficiency, including insufficient education, life skills and housing.

A \$50,000 grant to Young Invincibles to support YI's efforts to help young adults increase their health insurance literacy and obtain health insurance coverage.

Today, the T.L.L. Temple Foundation is governed by a board composed of Temple family members and community leaders who share Mrs. Munz's commitment to strengthening East Texas. For that we are thankful. It's a tremendous investment in our families and our communities.

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 the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Let's talk about crimes against women

In Angelina County, rarely does a week go by without a report of — or an arrest made for — some form of sex crime or family violence assault. And sometimes the same individuals are charged with both.



JESS HUFF

When I first moved to Lufkin from Provo, Utah, I came in with some trepidation. As any smart traveler will, I looked into the area's crime rate, I read The Lufkin Daily News police reports, and I watched the video of the woman who stole the police cruiser.

Needless to say, I wondered what the heck I was getting myself into.

My mom taught me at a young age to: watch people in store windows to make sure I wasn't being followed, not make eye contact with men in public (they may take it as an invitation), walk with my keys between my fingers, and call her on my way home from work — or at least pretend to.

And for the several years I spent flitting between every state west of Colorado and some wonderful months in Europe, it worked. Mostly.

I'll never forget the day when I was on my way home from working at a Flagstaff candy store and a man walking ahead of me on the street turned around and started throwing punches. I was with a friend and we

ran. I'm still not entirely sure of his problem or his goal.

Thankfully, all my scary chance encounters happened with strangers, and I escaped relatively unscathed.

But the last almost four years have definitely changed my perspective on what these crimes truly look like. I'm only slightly nervous to walk outside at night anymore. Encounters with violent strangers happen, for sure, but they're nowhere near as common as the number of crimes people commit against their friends and families.

In 2021, there were 134 days in which The Lufkin Daily News reported one or more instances of assault/family violence and 51 days in which it reported at least one sex crime.

If you speak to any professional in this field, and there are many in Lufkin, they will tell you just how frequently sex crimes are committed by people who we know and, oftentimes, who we love.

Abuse doesn't typically start when the abuser hits the victim; it starts when they make the person so financially dependent on them that they can't leave. It starts when they begin gaslighting you, when they hit the wall beside your head, when they threaten the things or people you love.

Those scary stories about women being raped in the woods while out on the run, while true, are nowhere nearly as common as a child coming home to their rapist after school

every day.

I learned in 2020 just how powerful keeping a topic in the news can be. Daily write-ups on the COVID-19 pandemic kept the issue at the forefront of this community's mind, whether the community liked it or not. Yes, I kept all your hate mail. Sometimes I need it to knock my ego down a notch.

But I saw what regular, in-your-face coverage can do. It made people talk. It made people ask questions. And it made people want to see a change.

I want to see a change in this community. Sex offenders should not be comfortable here. Abusers should be nervous when their faces show up in the newspaper.

So I will be working my tail end off to make sure I highlight as many cases as I come across. The paper will be running a regular tally on the number of sexual and family assaults reported this year. I hope it bugs you as much as the number of those infected with the coronavirus does.

I also hope the community will assist me and let me know when I miss something, because I will — I'm human. But I want to hear from you.

And I hope the community will back the survivors. They come from all ages, races, genders and socioeconomic backgrounds and they need to know there are a lot more of us than there are abusers.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2022. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

On this date:
In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1942, the Rose Bowl was played in Durham, North Carolina, because of security concerns in the wake

of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor; Oregon State defeated Duke, 20-16.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1954, NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color TV program as it presented live coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

In 1975, a jury in Washington found Nixon administration officials John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Mardian guilty of charges related to the Watergate cover-up (Mardian's conviction for conspiracy was later overturned on appeal).

In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1985, the music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In 2006, President George W. Bush strongly defended his domestic spying program, calling it legal as well as vital to thwarting terrorist attacks. The Medicare prescription drug plan went into effect.

In 2014, the nation's first legal recreational pot shops opened in Colorado at 8 a.m. Mountain time.

HEADLINES IN Local HISTORY

JANUARY 1-2

- Five years ago**
- The Christian Information and Services Center receives \$5,095 in donations from Lufkin Daily News subscribers who donated during the newspaper's annual charity drive.
 - Zavalla Elementary students learn about making good choices during the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council's 10-week "Too Good for Drugs" program.

- Ten years ago**
- Smoke-Free Lufkin organizers believe it's time for the city to join other Texas cities

like Nacogdoches, Tyler and Longview in creating strong, comprehensive smoke-free ordinances.

- Twenty years ago**
- Lufkin High School's competition squad places fifth at the division finals in the National Cheerleading Association Senior High School National Championship.
 - Snow touches down in Lufkin on New Year's Day with more expected this week.

From the pages of The Lufkin Daily News, compiled by The History Center, TheHistoryCenterOnline.com.

MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley

