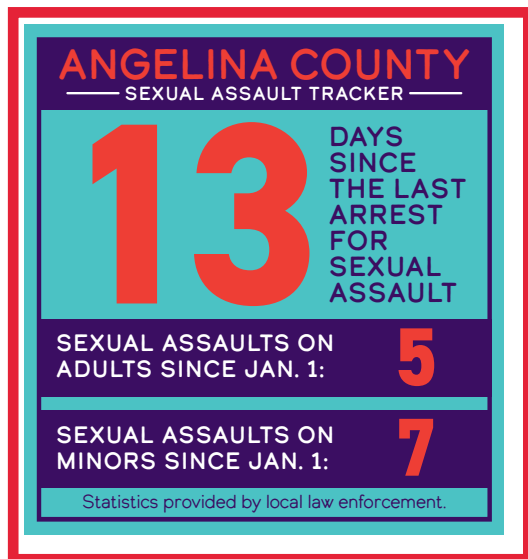


IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

Somber roll call

Citizens read aloud the 1,768 names of Angelina County children subject to physical or sexual abuse, or who were witness to major felony crimes, in 2021.

ONLINE ONLY



SPORTS

Next level

Two Lufkin pitchers sign national letters of intent to play baseball at the collegiate level.



PAGE 1B



COMING SUNDAY

Parade

'I'm a better man when I'm working': Nicolas Cage on babies, career twists and life in Las Vegas.

THE LUFKIN DAILY NEWS

LUFKINDAILYNEWS.COM

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022

\$2.00

LUFKIN SCHOOLS

2 receive \$10K education award

By KAYLEY FRAZE
The Lufkin Daily News

Enriching students lives has made two Lufkin ISD teachers a little bit richer.

The Beaumont Foundation of America recently announced Coston Elementary teacher Amy Rhoades and Lufkin High School teacher Emily Courtney as recipients of the 2022 Gilbert I. "Buddy" Low Excellence in Education Award. Each will receive

\$10,000 in accordance with the honor.

The awards provide public acclaim and financial rewards to teachers throughout Angelina, Sabine and San Augustine counties. The teachers are first nominated by their campus committees, and the winners are then selected by the Beaumont Foundation.

"Education is the key to a better future, and great teachers are the key to education," board chairman Wayne A. Reaud said. "Our winners are outstanding representatives of excellence

in education."

Courtney, who teaches English, is currently finishing her ninth year as an educator. She became a teacher because it provides her with the opportunity to help students develop a life-long love of learning.

"Teaching and learning cannot be found in exclusivity," she said. "For that reason, I hope to continue to encourage others to learn and grow while I, too, continue my own pursuit of knowledge."

Being nominated by her campus is an honor Courtney said she does not take lightly.

"With the nomination, there was an immediate sense of gratitude that my campus feels I am an appropriate representative for them, coupled with a sense of obligation to continue upholding our campus' high standards," she said. "When I was notified that I was chosen to receive the award, my



COURTNEY



RHOADES

SEE AWARD, PAGE 3A

COMMUNITY

Bringing darkness to light

Family Crisis Center holds sexual assault awareness event

By JESS HUFF
The Lufkin Daily News

Community members sparked a conversation about sexual assault Thursday afternoon during an event at the Angelina County Farmers Market.

"Sexual violence happens in every community and it affects people of all genders, ages and races," said Whitney Burran, executive director of the Family Crisis Center of Deep East Texas, which put together the event. "Sexual assault does not discriminate."

The goal of the campaign this year speaks to the need to encourage conversation and to make the community one willing to take the accusations seriously, she said. In doing this, Burran hopes residents will learn how to speak about the situations, as well.

"There is still some taboo, if you will, when talking about sexual assault," she said.

Detective Serena Holland with the Angelina County Sheriff's Office spoke about what she has seen while serving the county's residents who do report sexual assault.

"To bring this stuff to light, we need to get used to talking—talk to your children, talk to your families, be aware," she said.

"A lot of times, whenever law enforcement gets these calls, it's years later. I believe that's due to the victim feeling shameful because they don't have a safe place to talk about this."

She believes the taboo around sexual assault is the biggest reason so many people are not reporting it right away and the reason so many children avoid saying anything.

When cases take that long to be reported, it makes it more difficult to prosecute because the evidence is gone. Cases are

SEE EVENT, PAGE 3A



JOEL ANDREWS/The Lufkin Daily News

Whitney Burran, executive director of the Family Crisis Center of Deep East Texas, holds a sparkler Thursday during a sexual assault awareness event.



Community members hold sparklers Thursday afternoon during an awareness event put together by the Family Crisis Center of Deep East Texas. JOEL ANDREWS/The Lufkin Daily News

COMMUNITY

Easter events on tap

By JESS HUFF and BRITTANY BARCLAY
The Lufkin Daily News

With spring in full swing and Easter on the way, organizations across the county have made plans to celebrate the holiday during the next two weekends.

■ First Baptist Church in Diboll is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at 3 p.m. Sunday in Old Orchard Park. The event promises free food, snow cones, face-painting, giveaways, bounce houses and Easter pictures for guests.

The egg hunt is for children younger than 12, and they should bring their own baskets.

SEE EASTER, PAGE 3A

ENTERTAINMENT

Kids to strike a Tree Pose at museum

By KAYLEY FRAZE
The Lufkin Daily News

The Texas Forestry Museum will be rolling out the yoga mat to welcome children Saturday for Tree Pose: Yoga for Young Kids.

The free event will take place from 10-11 a.m. outside the museum if the weather permits, education coordinator Kaitlin Wiese said.

"Right now, the weather looks like



WIESEMAN

SEE YOGA, PAGE 3A

TODAY'S WEATHER HIGH 71 LOW 40 | FRONT DESK 632-6631 | Volume 116, No. 63, 12 Pages | Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for meritorious public service © THE LUFKIN DAILY NEWS





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Angelina County rainfall

MONTH	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
JANUARY	5.32	4.05	1.20	7.36	2.47	5.65	2.42	4.73	5.86	1.99	4.66
FEBRUARY	3.40	2.76	1.62	1.46	3.71	2.13	7.88	2.04	2.78	2.36	3.88
MARCH	8.67	2.54	2.55	6.17	5.70	2.19	6.55	1.26	4.51	1.73	3.11
APRIL	2.05	2.19	2.87	5.34	7.96	5.94	2.83	5.30	4.71	8.96	
MAY	3.59	3.89	8.32	15.75	10.23	6.86	1.09	4.55	3.02	11.89	
JUNE	1.28	5.57	3.62	10.15	2.65	5.17	0.67	4.65	1.91	4.81	
JULY	3.89	3.73	9.12	0.93	0.83	3.28	6.09	1.58	5.11	6.40	
AUGUST	2.87	1.17	1.92	.44	8.78	14.13	0.88	3.78	2.90	.76	
SEPTEMBER	6.05	4.35	3.08	1.15	1.10	2.89	10.25	4.89	3.28	.88	
OCTOBER	0.03	6.27	3.67	4.10	0.15	1.68	13.25	5.92	1.95	2.04	
NOVEMBER	0.75	3.76	4.07	8.19	2.75	0.95	5.58	1.32	1.59	2.84	
DECEMBER	4.30	1.56	2.05	4.53	4.75	4.27	11.16	1.62	5.80	2.37	
TOTAL	42.20	41.84	44.09	65.37	51.08	55.14	68.65	41.64	43.42	47.03	11.65

Alliance launches new website

The Angelina County Conservative Alliance has launched a new community website in an effort to engage the citizens of Angelina County in the political process.

Visit the website at angelinacca.com to explore the links, videos, news and views articles to learn about elections and local, state and national government.

AROUND THE WORLD

The Associated Press

Retreat reveals destruction as Ukraine asks for help

CHERNIHIV, Ukraine — Russian troops retreating from this northern Ukrainian city left behind crushed buildings, streets littered with destroyed cars and residents in dire need of food and other aid — images that added fuel to Kyiv's calls Thursday for more Western help to halt Moscow's next offensive.

Dozens of people lined up to receive bread, diapers and medicine from vans parked outside a shattered school now serving as an aid-distribution point in Chernihiv, which Russian forces besieged for weeks as part of their attempt to sweep south towards the capital before retreating.

The city's streets are lined with shelled homes and apartment buildings with missing roofs or walls. A chalk message on the blackboard in one classroom still reads: "Wednesday the 23rd of February — class work."

Russia invaded the next day, launching a war that has forced more than 4 million Ukrainians to flee the country, displaced millions more within it and sent shock waves through Europe and beyond.

Biden bets strong job market will shield economy from slump

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy faces plenty of threats: War in Ukraine, high grocery bills, spiking gasoline prices, splintered supply chains, the lingering pandemic and rising interest rates that slow growth.

The Biden White House is betting the U.S. economy is strong enough to withstand these threats, but there are growing fears of a coming economic slump among voters and some Wall Street analysts.

The next few months will test whether President Joe Biden built a durable recovery full of jobs with last year's \$1.9 trillion relief package, or an economy overfed by government aid that could tip

into a downturn. On the line for Democrats ahead of the midterm elections is whether voters see firsthand in their lives that inflation can be tamed and the economy can manage to run hot without overheating.

Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council, told reporters this week that the 3.6% unemployment rate and last year's robust growth puts the U.S. in a safe place compared to the rest of the world.

"The core question is whether the strength of the US economy is now an asset or a liability," Deese said. "What we have done over the course of the last 15 months is driven a uniquely strong economic recovery in the United States, which positions us uniquely well to deal with the challenges ahead."

UN aid chief: 'I'm not optimistic' about Ukraine ceasefire

KYIV, Ukraine — The United Nations' humanitarian chief said Thursday he's not optimistic about securing a ceasefire to halt the fighting in Ukraine following high-level talks in Moscow and Kyiv that underscored how far apart the two sides are.

Undersecretary-General Martin Griffiths gave the bleak assessment in an interview with The Associated Press in the Ukrainian capital after wrapping up talks with Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal and other top officials. That followed discussions with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow earlier in the week.

"I think it's not going to be easy because the two sides, as I know now ... have very little trust in each other," he said.

"I'm not optimistic," he added later.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres dispatched Griffiths to the Russian and Ukrainian capitals to explore the possibility of establishing a cease-fire that would allow desperately needed aid into Ukraine and potentially lay the groundwork for talks aimed at ending the war.

For more world news, visit LufkinDailyNews.com.



JOEL ANDREWS/The Lufkin Daily News

Whitney Burran, executive director of the Family Crisis Center of Deep East Texas, speaks during a sexual assault awareness event Thursday at the Angelina County Farmers Market.

Event

Continued from Page 1A

then reliant on the victim and family members speaking, she said.

"It takes all of us to create change," said Kim Riddle, a medical advocate and the SANE director for the center and Harold's House. "We all play a role in making a difference in the lives of others."

Sometimes "sexual assault" just seems like a word, and many forget the word is used when talking about people, about children, and the things that happened to them, she said. Riddle asked

guests to think about the one-month old baby, the five-year-old child, the 15-year-olds, the young adults, the women and men who face the repercussions of these situations day in and day out.

"It happens to everybody, and these are people. These are children," she said. "It's hard to believe sometimes that some of the things I'm hearing about are happening. And that they're happening to just the most innocent victims and that it's in my community and in my city."

She said it was important the community was there and that survivors know there are resources available for them.

"Please come forward. Do not suffer alone," she said. "We are here for you. We care about you. We want to help you."

During the event, Lufkin Mayor Mark Hicks read aloud a proclamation from the city designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Jess Huff's email address is jess.huff@lufkindailynews.com.

Yoga

Continued from Page 1A

it's going to cooperate, so we might actually have it outside, which is really exciting because that was originally what the idea was — to have it outside so they could be out in nature while also getting to do this fun activity," she said.

A yoga instructor from Livewell Athletic Club will be

on hand to perform yoga with the kids, and they will be given a snack as well as the opportunity to enjoy the museum's interactive exhibits.

"If they're not able to go to a yoga studio, this is a fun way to be introduced to that," Wieseman said.

The event was introduced in 2019 with the thought in mind

that even the younger children could participate, Wieseman said.

"We really thought having yoga at the museum would be something fun for younger children to be able to participate in, because we do have a lot of events that focus on children in general, but not as many that, if we do a cer-

tain craft or something, some toddlers — it might be harder for them to do," she said. "We had to stop it due to COVID, so we're really excited and looking forward to having it this year."

The museum strives to cater to children of all ages while also ensuring they have the opportunity to explore the

facility, Wieseman said.

"It's definitely important because even learning or starting to do things outside and starting to explore the world happens when you're really young," she said. "It's a great way to incorporate families with children of all ages."

If families have never been

to the museum, this is a great way for them to be introduced to it, Wieseman said.

"And if you've been before, it's one of those things that offers a different way to look at the museum, not only as a place to play but also to learn different things," she said.

Kayley Frazee's email address is kayley.fraze@lufkindailynews.com.

Easter

Continued from Page 1A

The city of Zavalla will host the 18th annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. April 16 at the Zavalla ISD Athletic Complex. The free event is for children in fifth grade and younger, according to Waunesa Herrington, event coordinator.

There were around 200 children in attendance for the 2021 event made possible by the donations from local businesses and churches, she said.

There are multiple events

happening across Lufkin during the next two weeks.

Southside Baptist Church is hosting a Youth Egg a Yard Fundraiser. Those interested can order candy filled eggs that will be delivered to yards in time for Easter morning. Orders will be taken until Wednesday.

Participants can pay \$20 for 40 eggs, \$30 for 60 eggs or \$40 for 80 eggs. To order, call the youth group or contact the church office at (936) 632-3292.

Timber Creek Church

will hold services at 7 p.m. April 15 and 16 and 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. April 17. Each service includes a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt for kids. First-time guests can pre-register at timbercreekchurch.com/easter.

Lufkin Mall is hosting an Easter Bunny photo shoot from 3-6 p.m. today, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 3-6 p.m. April 15 and noon to 4 p.m. April 16. Cost is \$2.

Neches House Assisted

Living will have free pictures with the Easter Bunny from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday. Encompass Home Health will be passing out goodies.

Lufkin Jr Panther Cheer will hold its second annual Easter Eggstravaganza from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 16 at Jones Park. This free event offers food, music, games, a bounce house and more.

The Angelina County Farmers Market is offering pictures with the Easter Bunny from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today

and Saturday for \$2 per child.

At least four events are taking place in Huntington.

There will be a Jesus Is Alive event at Centennial Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The event will host different churches and nonprofits holding giveaways and playing games. There also will be some food, said Charity Ryan, event coordinator.

Her hope is it will serve as a place for children to walk through and learn about Jesus and for families to have a

good time.

Huntington First Baptist Church also will have Good Friday service at 5:30 p.m.

Highway Baptist Church in Huntington will have an Easter egg hunt after the morning Easter Sunday service.

Ozias Missionary Baptist Church also will have an Easter Egg hunt following the morning service on Easter Sunday.

Jess Huff's email address is jess.huff@lufkindailynews.com.

Award

Continued from Page 1A

first reaction was disbelief followed by excitement. After reading the email a second and third time, I called my husband, in shocked tears, to tell him the news, and I don't think I've stopped smiling since then."

Rhoades has been teaching for 33 years; she's spent the last 16 at Coston Elementary teaching fifth-grade reading/language arts. She has been

influenced by public educators her entire life.

Her grandfather was a one-room school teacher in the 1930s, and she grew up listening to his stories. Additionally, her mom was a public school nurse.

"I was greatly influenced by the teachers and administrators that she called friends; I saw how they dedicated themselves to serving their students and families," she said.

"My own teachers also greatly influenced me and my decision to be a teacher. My fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Spradley, was so caring, and she made each one of us feel special. I wanted to be just like her. I know that I have fallen short in so many ways, but I like to think that maybe she would be a little bit pleased with the job I'm doing."

When Rhoades received the email that she had won the

award, she lost her breath, she said. She said she could not believe she had been chosen.

"I feel that what I do is no more than any of the other hard-working dedicated teachers and colleagues that I have had the privilege to know and call friends," she said. "I am so humbled that my coworkers that made up the nominating committee felt that I should be considered. We all work so hard to serve our students and

their families, and I so appreciate their confidence in me."

Rhoades continually strives to deepen the teacher/student relationship that keeps all other learning conversations alive in the classroom, she said.

"It has been my hope throughout my career that I am able to serve my students, their families and through them, my community," she said. "It is my hope that stu-

dents take these relationships and conversations, keep them in their heart and carry them forward for future learning. Therefore, it is my responsibility as a teacher to ensure that those learning opportunities are engaging, purposeful and meaningful."

Rhoades and Courtney will be honored at an awards banquet May 24.

Kayley Frazee's email address is kayley.fraze@lufkindailynews.com.

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