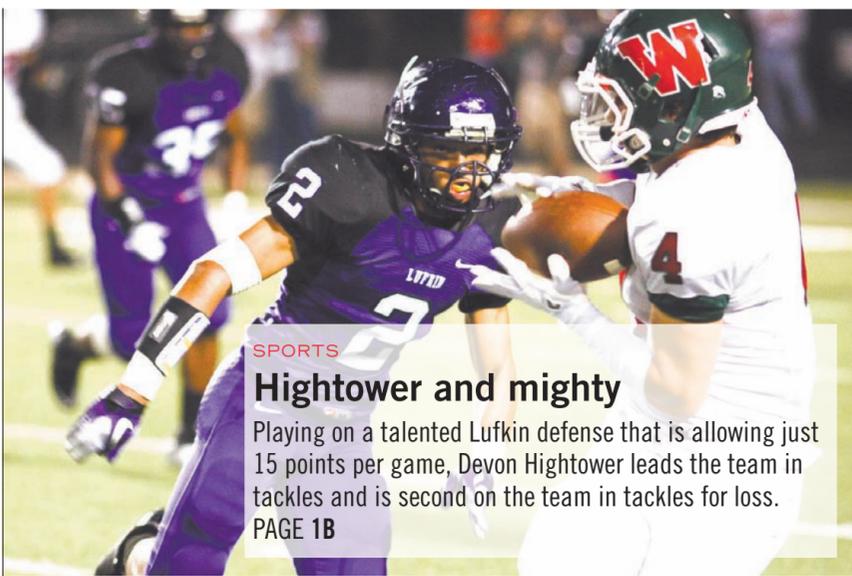


LUFKIN NEWS



SPORTS

Hightower and mighty

Playing on a talented Lufkin defense that is allowing just 15 points per game, Devon Hightower leads the team in tackles and is second on the team in tackles for loss.

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Man wanted on attempted murder charge turns self in

Garcia enters not guilty plea in 2002 shooting

By JESSICA COOLEY
The Lufkin News

A Dallas man wanted on an at-

tempted murder charge in Lufkin turned himself in Wednesday.

Juan Carlos Garcia, 33, showed up at the Angelina County courthouse Wednesday to turn himself in and enter a not guilty plea in the 2002 shooting, according to his attorney, Al Charanza. Garcia was indicted on the attempted murder charge last month — an attempt by prosecutor Katrina Carswell to bypass a statute of limitations in the case, as he was

originally charged with aggravated assault.

With Garcia at large, the aggravated assault charge was dismissed when the statute of limitations expired, Carswell said in a previous interview. Unlike aggravated assault, attempted murder has no statute of limitations in Texas.

According to an arrest affidavit, Garcia is alleged to have approached a car in which his ex-girlfriend was

sitting with three men Aug. 28, 2002, demanding that she get out. After he told her several times, she noticed he had a small handgun and told one of the men about it, the affidavit alleges. The man tried to close the door, but Garcia pulled it open and fired two rounds inside the vehicle, the affidavit alleges. One of those rounds struck the man in the right eye, the affidavit states. Garcia then fled in his car, and officers were un-

able to find him.

Garcia is out of the Angelina County Jail on a \$50,000 bond posted by his attorney. It appears he has been living in Dallas, according to jail records. If found guilty, Garcia faces up to 20 years in prison on the second-degree felony charge. Jury selection in the case is set for February 2012, according to court records.

Jessica Cooley's email address is jcooley@lufkindailynews.com.



GARCIA

Happy harvest



It's harvest time on the front porch at 907 Russell Ave. in Lufkin. Today's forecast calls for pleasant temperatures and plenty of sunshine with a high in the low 80s and a low in the upper 50s, according to accuweather.com.

JOEL ANDREWS/The Lufkin News

Lufkin ISD to use savings for Abe repairs

By MELISSA CRAGER
The Lufkin News

The Lufkin Independent School District board of trustees voted Thursday night to use its savings account for necessary repairs at Abe Martin Stadium.

The unanimous vote will cost the district approximately \$585,000 to replace 40-year-old light poles and repair the deteriorating concrete at the football stadium. By combining the two projects, the district will save \$23,000, according to Superintendent Roy Knight.

Board member Cooper Castleberry said the repairs are not "frivolous athletic expenditures."

"This is a dire necessity," he said. "This is serious."

The poles were installed in 1972, and in April of this year, maintenance workers noticed the center light pole was swaying at the stadium. A consultant told the district before football season began that the poles must all be replaced within the next six months.

Assistant Superintendent of Finances Larry Parsons presented the board with the FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) report, noting LISD fell SEE LUFKIN ISD, PAGE 3A

Laughter, tears and inspiration shared at Power of Pink! lunch

By MELISSA CRAGER
The Lufkin News

More than 800 women and men — many clad in various shades of pink — gathered to celebrate, honor and support Breast Cancer Awareness Month at the 19th annual Power of Pink! Luncheon Thursday.

In a mixture of laughter and tears, the luncheon united the masses in a singular purpose at the Pitser Garrison Civic Center.

An inspirational video portraying cancer survivors, caregivers and friends brought tears to the eyes as it was displayed on three massive screens.

Newly diagnosed breast can-

cer survivors then took to the stage to model colorful and elaborately decorated bras as part of the 3rd Annual Art Bra Contest.

The 3rd place bra was titled "Treasure your Chest" and was created by the Imaging Department at Memorial Medical Center—San Augustine. Tammie Ward of Colmesneil is near completion of her treatment after being diagnosed a year ago.

The 2nd-place bra was titled "Save the Hooters" and was created by Molina Courtney in honor of Patricia Flanigan. The bra was modeled by Tracy Cook of Lufkin, who was diagnosed with breast cancer one year ago and who recently completed treat-

ment.

The 1st-place bra was titled "aBRACadaBRA" and was created by Drs. Kay Carter and Jerry Johnson's nursing staff. Stacey Willmann of Lufkin modeled this bra. Willmann recently completed treatment after being diagnosed with breast cancer one year ago.

For the first time, people could cast their vote online in the Art Bra Contest. More than 3,000 votes were tallied for the People's Choice Award which was titled "Nesting for a Cure." The bra was created by Chastity Bullock in honor of her grandmother

SEE LUNCHEON, PAGE 3A



MELISSA CRAGER/The Lufkin News

Humorist and author Mary Pierce speaks to the crowd gathered at the Pitser Garrison Civic Center for the annual Power of Pink! luncheon.

Wreck occurs after Pal's manager chases after suspected gas thief

Suspect escapes on foot after crash

By MELISSA CRAGER
The Lufkin News

A wreck that ended with a man being taken to the hospital came after a Lufkin store manager chased a suspected gas thief, according to a Lufkin Police officer.

Officer Randy Stallard said the driver of a grey Nissan Maxima blew through a stop sign on

Moore Avenue and broadsided a woman driving a silver Kia Spectra.

"I'm surprised she wasn't hurt worse than she was," Stallard said, adding that the woman was wearing her seat belt.

The accident happened around 1:40 p.m. Thursday at the corner of North Raguet Street and Moore Avenue. However, the chain of events began when the driver of the Maxima filled up his tank with gas at Pal's Video Plus on Frank Avenue and fled before paying, Stallard said.

Pal's manager Terrance Gillespie chased after the vehicle, down Frank Avenue and through the neighborhood near Raguet Street, Stallard said. Gillespie told police he was a few blocks behind the Maxima when the accident happened.

The driver of the getaway car fled on foot. His passenger was transported by ambulance to Memorial Medical Center-Lufkin with minor injuries. He gave police a name for the driver, and Stallard said he was working to SEE WRECK, PAGE 3A



MELISSA CRAGER/The Lufkin News

Wrecker trucks load two vehicles involved in a T-bone collision Thursday afternoon at the intersection of North Raguet Street and Moore Avenue.

Volunteers recognized for work with disabled vets

By MELISSA CRAGER
The Lufkin News

Representatives from the Texas Veterans Commission presented the local chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary with a certificate of outstanding achievement for its work with disabled veterans.

Several times a month, the volunteers with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #113 prepare sandwiches for the men and women at the VA Clinic. They also sew wheelchair bags, t-shirts made into hospital gowns and toiletry bags for the women. They are also at the clinic to offer a smile, a hug or cup of coffee on a regular basis.

Volunteer Theresa Sabin accepted the National Organization on Disability Award on behalf of the unit Thursday.

"I am grateful and humble," Sabin said. "We have great love for all of the veterans here. They have done so much for us. We intermingle with the veterans (at the Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic) and just give them a little loving and attention."

SEE AWARD, PAGE 3A

