

The Sachse News

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Shining on the community, events and people of Sachse

sachsenews.com

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Crime stats presented; PD plans to revive program

By John Kanelis
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City Manager Gina Nash called it “that time of the year” in introducing Police Chief Bryan Sylvester’s annual review to city council on the department’s just-completed year fighting

crime. Sylvester delivered a lengthy report Monday, Feb. 20 to the council, detailing what he called an 8% increase in total crimes committed in 2022 over the previous year. Sylvester, though, said the numbers do not reflect a surge in crime, noting that in

several categories of violent crime, the city saw decreases in such criminal activity. Sylvester also announced that the police department plans to revive its Citizens Police Academy, with the first class scheduled tentatively to begin in early August. Aggravated assaults declined

from eight in 2021 to just one in the past year, Sylvester said. Simple assaults, though, did increase from 135 in 2021 to 177 in 2022. Residential burglaries also went up slightly from six to 10 year over year, he said, along with building and vehicle burglaries. Sylvester attributed the

large number of housing construction sites for the increase in residential burglaries.

The city recorded one homicide in 2022, but Sylvester called that a vehicular homicide, unlike the murder that was committed the previous year.

Part II crimes, those of a less-

er nature, also showed increases, Sylvester said, noting a 40% increase in public intoxication, a 44% increase in drunken driving and a 20% increase in assorted drug violations. Sylvester credited the police department’s

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NEWS YOU NEED

Request a book bundle

The Sachse Public Library is offering to put together custom book bundles for patrons or children of patrons. Each book bundle contains 3-5 books from a genre or topic of choice. The library requires a minimum of 24 hours to create a book bundle. For more information visit www.cityofsachse.com/bookbundle.

Garden tips at the library

Residents interested in perfecting their gardens can attend a class hosted by Diane Kufert of Collin County Master Gardeners at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at the Sachse Public Library. The free class will cover the design and construction of beds, plant selection, proper maintenance and more.

Retro Dodgeball Night

Residents ages 18 and older are invited to “take a break from adulting” for a night of activities at the Michael J. Felix Community Center from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, March 24. Attendees can enjoy playing dodgeball, air hockey, foosball and “classic” video games. Community center members can attend free of charge while non-members can attend for \$2. To register, visit cityofsachse.com

Traffic signals activated

After logistical delays on necessary signal boxes for traffic lights, Sachse has triggered the activation process of them.

Traffic signals began flashing Thursday, Feb. 16, at the intersections of Ingram Road and Dewitt Road, Ranch Road and Dewitt Road and Woodbridge Parkway and Cody Lane, according to a news release from the city. Signals began functioning normally Tuesday, Feb. 21. See [page 5A](#).

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Lake Lavon Levels
Normal 492
492.52 ft.
as of 2/27/23
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Chamber honors local leaders at annual banquet

By Connor Pittman
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On a night of trying to figure out whodunnit, it was no mystery to those in attendance at the Sachse Chamber of Commerce Murder Mystery Awards Dinner who some of the highest achievers in the community were.

From local businesses, nonprofit organizations, first responders and teachers, various groups in Sachse were recognized Thursday, Feb. 23, during the annual awards Banquet at Chase Oaks Church Woodbridge Campus.

During an evening of intrigue with clues and starkly contrasting reactions by the two emcees, Marty Kogel and Jeanie Marten, several individuals had their spotlight moment for their work over the past year.

The awards banquet also featured a catered meal from Manny’s Tex-Mex in addition to alcoholic beverages provided by The Brass Tap and Landon Winery.

Several prize baskets were handed out during a raffle made possible by contributions from various businesses and community members from Sachse and beyond.

The highest individual honor went to Teddy Kinzer who was named Person of the Year by the chamber. Todd

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Oladipo Awowale/The Sachse News

Teddy Kinzer, center, received the Person of the Year award from Sachse Chamber of Commerce emcees, Marty Kogel and Jeanie Marten, at the Thursday, Feb. 23 awards dinner featuring a Murder Mystery theme. See [more photos on page 6A](#).



Courtesy photo

Judge Jennifer Edgeworth of the 219th District Court will preside over a new program for defenders with mental health problems.

Adult Mental Health Court created in Collin County

By Bob Wieland
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Offenders in Collin County with mental illness can now be placed into a court-supervised outpatient treatment program instead of the traditional criminal justice process, according to Judge Jennifer Edgeworth of the 219th District Court in McKinney.

Edgeworth and County Court at Law Judge Lance Baxter are presiding over the new mental

health court program. The program began accepting eligible felony and misdemeanor cases on Feb. 23.

“The adult mental health court is the direct result of collaboration with and support from our DA Greg Willis, Sheriff Jim Skinner, CSCD (Community Supervision and Corrections Department) Director Yoon Kim, Collin County commissioners and the criminal defense bar, Edgeworth said.

“We believe this alternative to incarceration provides a better way to address certain mentally ill defendants,” she added.

Each participant was expected to spend nine to 12 months in the program and those who completed it successfully could get their cases dismissed and expunged from court records, the judge said.

The alternative program is

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Special service from Special Webs

By Bob Wieland
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Bobby Tillman of Sachse uses technology to tell stories and preserve media for future generations.

Tillman studied electrical engineering in college and enjoyed fixing things and making them work. So he was intrigued by the possibilities offered by computers and the internet when he took web-related classes at Navarro College in Corsicana in the mid 1990s.

“I thought it was pretty neat and I thought there would be some sort of a need,” he said. So in 1996 Tillman registered the domain SpecialWebs.com, not

thinking at the time he would still be running it as a business at the age of 71.

“Way back when I started you had to have a telex machine if you had a business,” he said. “Then you got a fax. A computer or web presence was considered a luxury.”

Now, a business is not worthy of attention if it is not on the internet, he said. “Social media has kicked in -- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the like -- and you have to have a presence in order to succeed,” Tillman said.

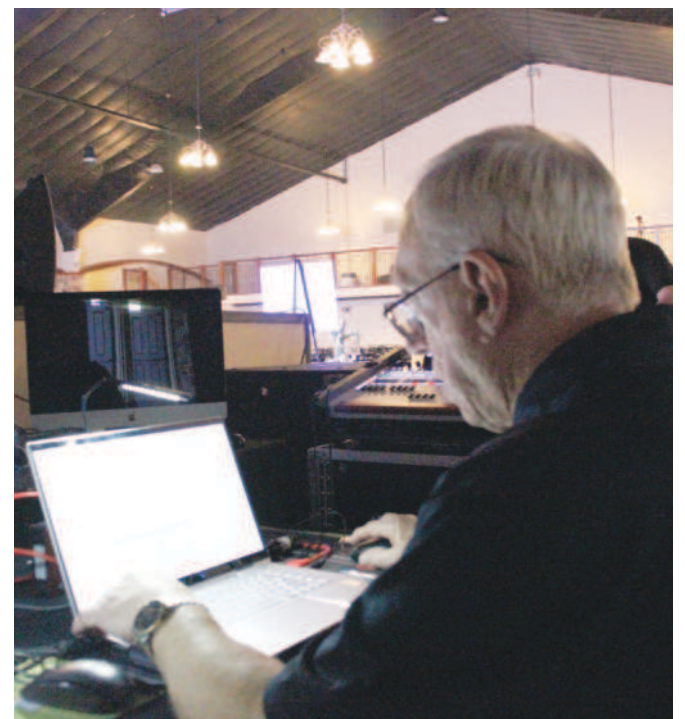
Special Webs provides standard online services such as domain registration, hosting, website development and website management. Tillman also

provides email services, social media management, shopping cart programs, online payment services, and “just about any other online service available,” he said.

In addition to web services, Tillman does video production such as recording a wedding, ballgame, church service, civic event, dedication or any event where a permanent record is desired.

He also produces broadcast-quality professional videos by creating a storyline, shooting and editing. “The cost for that is \$1,500 per finished minute, but it can take several days to get that minute done,” Tillman said.

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Courtesy photo

Bobby Tillman of Special Webs at the controls during the 2022 Collin County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner.

First responders, teachers, citizens honored

continued from 1A

Baughman, pastor of Chase Oaks Church Woodbridge Campus, received the Spirit of Sachse Award.

The Sachse Business of the Year went to the Sachse Rod Shop, which is owned by current Sachse councilmember Frank Millsap. The Area Business of the Year Award recipient was Methodist Richardson.

Manny's Tex-Mex received the Horizon Award, which is given to a new business that joins the Sachse community within one calendar year. The Legend of Sachse went to Barry Young.

Public Servant of the Year was Audrey Wallace, who is known by many in the community for her work with 5 Loaves Food Pantry. She also holds an annual Christmas for the Children event and hosts a medical clinic on select weekends each month.

Sachse High School Principal Shae Creel and Deputy Fire Chief Lee Richardson were named the Community Impact Award recipients. Sarah Kinzer and Karen Bannis were named this year's Chamber Champions.

The Guardian of the Year Award is an annual tradition that recognizes one outstanding first responder in Sachse. The award

alternates each year between the Sachse Police Department and Sachse Fire-Rescue with this year's recipient being Firefighter/Paramedic Colton Haynes.

Area educators were also honored from Garland and Wylie independent school districts. Debbie Cunningham from Armstrong Elementary School received its Teacher of the Year Award. Sewell Elementary School's Julie Stade received the honor at her school. Luna Elementary School instructor Britania Broadneax was named Teacher of the Year for her campus.

At Hudson Middle School, LaJuana Vaughn was named

Teacher of the Year. John Murray was named Teacher of the Year at Sachse High School.

Wylie ISD recipients of the award were Bobbie Jo Roberts at Cox Elementary School and Emily Tucker at Whitt Elementary School.

"Marty Kogel should be nominated for an Oscar, Teddy Kinzer is the best sport when it comes to something like this and Jennifer Hughes and Kayla Whitfield created the decorations and set the theme for the night," Marten said. "It was just such a fun way to celebrate some of the many that make Sachse such an amazing community."



Photos by Oladipo Awowale/The Sachse News

Sachse Rod Shop owner Frank Millsap, shown with Mike Millsap, Michelle Reynolds and Faith Millsap, won Business of the Year.



Public Servant of the Year was Audrey Wallace of 5 Loaves Food Pantry.



Manny's Tex Mex Manager Robert Sharp accepted the Horizon Award on behalf of the owners at the Thursday, Feb. 23 banquet.



Todd Baughman, pastor of Chase Oaks Church Woodbridge Campus, received the Spirit of Sachse Award.



Firefighter/Paramedic Colton Haynes was awarded Guardian of the Year Award for being an outstanding first responder in Sachse. Also shown, from left, City Manager Gina Nash, Mayor Jeff Bickerstaff and Fire Chief Marty Wade.

Saving the past for the future

continued from 1A

Each client has special needs and audiences, he said, including a crematory. "Being on social media would be almost a negative for them so that video was aimed at funeral directors," he added.

Tillman used a drone to create a video for a real estate company. "Two of the most-recognized buildings are the White House and the mansion on the 'Dallas' TV show," he said. So they shot at Southfork Ranch and the video looked just like the opening of "Dallas."

To help the Sachse Historical Society, Tillman recorded people in the area including a 100-year-old resident who recounted early days in the community. "He was very articulate, alert and a wonderful gentleman," he said.

In preserving media for future generations, Tillman copies old pictures, film, audio tape and video into modern formats. The problem, he said, is that formats are continuously changing as

technology evolves.

Tillman said photographs fade or are ravaged by moisture if improperly stored and magnetic tape can print through from layer to layer over time. Until recently people transferred old media onto compact discs, but now, "if you buy a new computer it doesn't have a CD player in it," he said.

He recommends saving media onto flash drives; videos as MP4 files and static pictures as JPGs. Those formats will change in the future, but it will be much easier to transfer a digital file instead of an older analog file, he said.

"If you have video on a VHS tape, you have to play the whole thing in order to transfer it," Tillman said. "A two-hour tape takes two hours. You can't just copy the file in a matter of minutes like you could if it was digital," he said.

"I copied 133 tapes for a family and put them onto hard drives," he said. "The father was going to keep one drive and give the other two to his sons."

He has even copied 8mm movies for a 76-year-old woman. "Her daughter was 11 when the movies were made and she had not seen them since," he said.

Until you get the media transferred, store it carefully so it does not degrade, he advised. Photographs store well and "as long as people have vision, they can still see the prints," he said.

The problem comes with identifying who is depicted in old photos. "Maybe facial recognition software will be able to help," he said. In the meantime, make sure to label the photos to help identify the people and places.

Tillman thinks that kind of artificial intelligence (AI) is the next technology threshold. But he said it could be "kind of scary."

"If I post a photo on Facebook it puts little boxes on the faces and tacks their names onto them," he said. "It has scoped out those people and instantly recognizes them."

He's not a prognosticator of the future, Tillman said, but



File photo

Sachse resident Bobby Tillman offers a variety of services with his business, Special Webs, including web services, video recordings, broadcast-quality professional videos and preservation of old media for future generations.

things keep getting smaller and faster. "I don't know if it's good or bad but it's happening whether we like it or not," he added.

But whatever Special Webs clients want, a video, multimedia show or a new format for old media, Tillman said he tries to provide heartfelt service and

professional quality work with the customer's best interests in mind.

In short, "I enjoy working with people," Tillman said.

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