



Find Out What Your Home Is Worth

Call Today for an Expert Valuation
and Make Your Next Move

888-438-0750

Mon-Sun: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM



Discover more at addressUSA.com

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 | LUBBOCKONLINE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Sofie Jones will serve as Texas Tech's 65th Masked Rider. PHOTO PROVIDED BY TEXAS TECH

Sales tax holiday covers emergency supplies

Lynn Walker
Wichita Falls Times Record News
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

Texans will soon have the opportunity to stock up on emergency supplies without paying state taxes on them.

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said in a media release residents can purchase certain items tax free during the state's Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Holiday, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on April 25 and ends at midnight on April 27.

"From hailstorms to hurricanes, Texans know the importance of being prepared when bad weather hits," Hancock said in the release. "This sales tax holiday provides a great opportunity to stock up on supplies and save a little money while you're at it."

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates shoppers will save about \$2.4 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items Texans can purchase.

These include:

- Household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75
- Hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300
- Portable generators priced less than \$3,000

"For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price," the media release said. "If the emergency preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery

See **TAX**, Page 2A

Texas Tech unveils new Masked Rider, Raider Red

Special to the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since 1954, the Masked Rider has embodied the grit and determination of the Red Raider spirit.

Now, following the Transfer of Reins ceremony Friday at the McKenzie-Market Alumni Center, a new rider will don the signature mask and cape synonymous with one of the university's most beloved and recognizable traditions.

The Texas Tech University community formally welcomed Sofie Jones as the 65th Masked Rider and said farewell to 64th rider, Rose Rosas.

A Houston native, Jones began rid-

ing at the age of 3, following in her mother's footsteps. She has spent over a decade competing in barrel racing and multiple equestrian events. Her passion for horses is part of what brought her to Texas Tech, where she is pursuing a degree in animal science.

Jones is active at Texas Tech, where she is an Honors College student and a member of the Texas Tech Rodeo Team. Despite her demanding schedule, she said her horses provide a sense of stability as opposed to stress.

"It doesn't feel like work," said Jones. "Taking care of them has never really felt like work to me. I actually feel like it helps me with my strive for school."

A third-generation Red Raider, Jones comes from a family of more than 20 Texas Tech alumni, spanning back to the 1930s. Undoubtedly, tradition plays a central role in her life. From football games to her father's association with the Saddle Tramps, the Texas Tech spirit was instilled in Jones from an early age.

"The biggest thing that resonates with me is there's going to be a lot of little girls looking up to me," said Jones, "a lot of little girls who will want to do this one day."

Over the years, the selection process

See **MASCOTS**, Page 2A

Judge reduces bond for seaman accused in deadly Lubbock crash

Gabriel Monte
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Lubbock judge on Friday halved the bond for a 28-year-old U.S. Navy petty officer whose attorney argued was only partially responsible for a three-vehicle crash in south Lubbock that killed a beloved Slaton teacher.

District Judge William Eichman issued his ruling reducing the \$100,000 bond set for Bode Arnold, who has been held at the Lubbock County Detention Center since his March 29 arrest.

Eichman also ordered Arnold to go through random drug and alcohol testing and that he must have an ignition interlock device on any vehicle he drives.

He faces a second-degree felony count of intoxication manslaughter, which carries a punishment of two to 20 years in prison.

Arnold appeared Thursday morning for a hearing on his motion to reduce his bond to \$20,000, during which his attorney, Travis Ware, argued that his client was a serviceman in good standing with the U.S. Navy, had no criminal history and was not a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

Investigating a deadly crash in south Lubbock County

Arnold's arrest stems from a Texas Department of Public Safety investigation into a 10 p.m. March 28 three-vehicle crash near the intersection of FM 1585 and Avenue P that killed 72-year-old Leo Schneider and injured six other people.

According to a DPS news release, troopers responded to the scene of the crash involving three vehicles.

An initial investigation indicated that Arnold was driving a 2021 Ford

Mustang eastbound on FM 1585 and rear ended a 2016 Dodge Ram pickup that was turning right onto Avenue P.

The impact sent the pickup into the westbound lanes of FM 1585, where it crashed head-on into the Nissan Armada driven by Schneider.

Schneider was taken by ambulance to University Medical Center where he died.

The driver and five passengers in the pickup truck suffered moderate injuries and were also taken by ambulance to UMC for treatment.

Arnold, who was uninjured, reportedly admitted to drinking alcohol before driving that night, according to a probable cause affidavit.

A standard field sobriety test reportedly yielded clues that indicated Arnold was intoxicated, the affidavit states.

Arnold also reportedly consented to

See **BOND**, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to lubbockonline.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



104th Year | No. 148
To subscribe 806-762-8844
©2026 **\$2.00**

