



LADY PANTHERS OPEN SEASON WITH VICTORY

Spring Hill's win over Pleasant Grove gives Lady Panthers a 9-4 advantage over Lady Hawks since 2020.

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Today's weather

T-storm.
High of 93.

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CBS 19



Dean bill targets property taxes

Longview state representative's measure would impose value-added tax, eliminate some school property taxes

JORDAN GREEN

jordan.green@news-journal.com

The Longview-area's state representative has filed a bill to replace school maintenance and operation property taxes with a consumption-based tax – and potentially set the pathway for property tax elimination.

House Bill 116, filed by Rep. Jay Dean, R-Longview, would replace school maintenance and operations taxes with a value-added tax, better known as a VAT. Dean also filed a bill to study what the state does and doesn't tax and a bill to give homestead homeowners

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State Rep. Jay Dean, R-Longview, shakes hands with Paul Hale in July 2024 at a town hall-style meeting hosted by the Republican Party of Gregg County at the Community Connections building. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal Photo)

'WE CAN BRING IT BACK'

Family raising funds to save 136-year-old Longview home from demolition



David Young walks through an old home at 219 Clark St. in Longview's Preachers Hill neighborhood. The 136-year-old structure is set for demolition unless it can be repaired. (Les Hassell/News-Journal Photo)

JORDAN GREEN

jordan.green@news-journal.com

These days, the white wooden home at 219 Clark St. in Longview's historical Preachers Hill neighborhood is obscured from view by tall trees and shrubs. But for most of its 136-year history, it was something to see – something its owners were proud of.

City officials have declared the home dangerous because of its structural deficiencies and health code violations. It needs major repairs, but it's worth saving because of its historical value, said 85-year-old Wilhelmina Fortner, one of the home's heirs.

If she and her relatives can devise a plan before Sept. 15 to make all the necessary repairs, the home can be spared. If not, it'll be demolished.

Fortner's great-grandmother, Ella Loyd, purchased the property and began building the home in 1889. She was a single mother of 12 children and the daughter of a freed slave; beyond that, owning property at that time was challenging for any woman – not to mention a Black woman, Fortner said.



This 136-year-old home at 219 Clark St. in Longview's Preachers Hill neighborhood is set for demolition unless it can be repaired. (Les Hassell/Longview News-Journal Photo)

"She bought the property there because she wanted a home for her 12 children, and she wanted them to have a better life," Fortner said. Loyd saved up the money to

build the house one board at a time. When she saved up enough change to buy another board, she'd purchase it and have a local carpenter install it. She used a pencil to write

the purchase price on the various boards in the house. It took a couple of years to complete.

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Abbott promises 2nd special session on horizon

KAREN BROOKS HARPER

The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN — The Texas Legislature will adjourn its special session on Friday and Gov. Greg Abbott will immediately call a new one if the House cannot gather enough lawmakers

to vote on a congressional redistricting session before then, Republican leaders said Tuesday.

"Let this be a warning. The second session is coming," Texas House Speaker Dustin Burrows said, addressing at least 50 absent House Democrats

who have held the House at a standstill since Aug. 4. "It is time to get home and take your seats."

Abbott said in a statement the second session would again have redistricting among its priorities, "with the potential to add more items critical to Texans."

"There will be no reprieve for the derelict Democrats who fled the state and abandoned their duty to the people who elected them," Abbott said. "I will continue to call special session after special session until we get this Texas first agenda passed."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said Tuesday the Senate will pass a slate of bills this week that will include new congressional maps, public school standardized testing, abortion restrictions and flood relief. If they

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