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Business leaders encourage East Texans to shop at small businesses this holiday season.
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Longview News-Journal

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

WEEKEND
November 1-2, 2025

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Longtime pastor, county commissioner dies at 63

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Danny Craig Sr. spent decades as a pastor, father and public servant teaching young men how to be leaders when his service came to an end. Now, it's their turn to step up.

Craig, a longtime Gregg County commissioner, pastor and funeral home director, died Wednesday. He was 63.

Craig served as Gregg County Pct. 4 commissioner from 1999 to 2006 and was reelected in 2022. He was also a former county sheriff's deputy. He owned Craig Funeral Home in Longview and was the pastor of Woodland Hill Church of Christ. Information about his funeral service was pending Thursday night.

Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt said Craig was "a fine, fine gentleman and did a great job for Gregg County."

"He represented the people well, and he was very deliberate in the decisions that were made on that court," Stoudt said. "He was a mainstay on that court in terms of his advice. I went to him many times and asked for his advice on certain matters, and he was always here. There's just not enough words to describe my

Commissioner Danny Craig is pictured during the Gregg County Commissioners Court meeting Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the Gregg County Courthouse. (Michael Cavazos/News-Journal File Photo)

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'THIS IS A CRISIS'

City, food pantries to host Nov. 7 food drive in light of SNAP loss



Mayor Kristen Ishihara speaks during a press conference at Longview City Hall Friday, October 31, 2025, about an initiative to help people losing SNAP benefits. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal Photo)

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The city of Longview and several local food pantries are partnering to help residents in need as SNAP benefits expire Saturday because of the federal government shutdown.

They're also calling on

residents to give money and food to help their neighbors in need.

"Longview has love, compassion and food," Mayor Kristen Ishihara said. "If you have an abundance, this is the time for you to start giving. I'm calling upon you to get involved."

City and food pantry

officials will host a food drive from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Maude Cobb Convention Center. Food collected there will be distributed equally among participating food pantries.

Residents are asked to donate non-perishable food items and canned goods. The most in-need food items are shelf-stable

proteins such as canned tuna, canned chicken and peanut butter. Residents also are asked to donate hygiene items and baby supplies.

City officials are asking residents to donate financially to local food pantries as well. Organizations such as the East Texas Food Bank can buy goods

at discounted prices, so financial donations go a long way, said Tim Butler, the food bank's chief development officer. People wishing to donate financially can do so online by visiting <https://givebutter.com/LongviewFood>.

Food pantry leaders and

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Damage detailed in Kilgore, Lindale twisters

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Damage surveys released Wednesday reveal more details about two tornadoes that struck East Texas Tuesday afternoon.

Just northeast of Lindale, an EF1 tornado with wind speeds of up to 100 mph began around 2:12 p.m. and was on the ground for nearly 5 miles until 2:27 p.m., according to the National Weather Service in Shreveport. The tornado's path had a maximum width of 137 yards.

The damage survey states the tornado developed from a "weak, shallow supercell." It began along County Road 4114 northeast of Macs Creek Lake, where it caused several large tree limbs to break. The tornado then moved east, crossing Farm-to-Market 1804/Hoard Road, where it caused a significant loss of shingles to one single-family home. It then moved east/southeast through the woods, breaking more trees along the way before crossing County Road 452. A double-wide in the area had some major roof damage.

After this, the tornado intensified, which surveyors said happened, in part, because of the concentration of

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