



## WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Juneteenth, Father's Day events and more in ETX

**INSIDE, 6A**



## GETTING IN THE ZONE

1st of 2 football photo days held

**SPORTS, 4B**

# Tyler Morning Telegraph

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## Bitcoin mining facility proposed in Tyler

Developer shares information as residents express concerns

LEEZA MEYER

Tyler residents had the opportunity on Monday night to share feedback and learn more about a proposed Bitcoin mining facility planned near downtown.

Several residents expressed extreme frustration over the project, citing concerns about the location, noise impact, en-

vironmental factors, the risk of harming property values and more.

Tyler City Council District 2 Councilmember and Mayor Pro-Tem Petra Hawkins helped facilitate the meeting with Vulcan Core, a data center operator and infrastructure developer, about the possible 12 megawatt cryptocurrency mining facility planned along West Erwin

Street. A room full of residents gathered at The Meeting Place — which is near the facility site — to hear from and ask questions of Vulcan Core representatives.

“The purpose of the meeting was simple: to provide residents with an opportunity to meet the owners, builders, and

BITCOIN >> PAGE 2A



A crowd of Tyler residents sit Tuesday evening inside The Meeting Place on Erwin Street during an informational meeting about a Bitcoin mining facility set to locate in the area, pending final approval. (Leeza Meyer/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

## County begins budget process

Commissioners also take next step on formation of regional groundwater district

LEEZA MEYER

Smith County approved moving forward to support the creation of a regional groundwater conservation district, with Judge Neal Franklin appointed to serve on the multi-county committee. The commissioners on Tuesday also heard a baseline budget presentation for fiscal year 2027.

### REGIONAL GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The court unanimously approved a professional services agreement between the county and SledgeLaw Group PLLC for legal services related to the creation of a regional groundwater conservation district, following an executive session.

The decision comes after a failed motion to create a 391 Commission, a broad multi-county planning

COUNTY >> PAGE 3A



From left, Steven McMillan, special event coordinator at PATH; Laverne McCloud, fan recipient and Tyler resident; Tiffany McPherson, executive director of Meals on Wheels East Texas; and Rep. Daniel Alders (R-Tyler) pose for a photo during Beat the Heat Fan distribution event in Tyler on Wednesday. (Leeza Meyer/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

## Beat the Heat

Meals on Wheels, PATH partner to help seniors during fifth annual fan drive

LEEZA MEYER

Walking up the stairs to front porches, Meals on Wheels, People Attempting to Help (PATH) and Rep. Daniel Alders (R-Tyler) surprised local senior citizens with box fans Wednesday as part of the fifth annual Beat the Heat Fan Distribution in Tyler.

Beat the Heat invites volunteers and delivery drivers from the partnered organizations to hand deliver donated box fans to senior citizens who are in need. Through a Meals on Wheels client survey, seniors could mark if they needed a fan to keep cool during Texas's hottest months.

Fan recipient Laverne McCloud said her air conditioning unit has been broken for years and the fan will help keep her cool.

“I am so grateful,” McCloud said. “Thank you all for surprising me today. I know my help is coming as long as we keep our trust and thank God.”

Meals on Wheels, a



Laverne McCloud, right, shakes hands with Steven McMillan, special event coordinator at PATH, after receiving a fan Wednesday during an annual distribution drive in Tyler. (Leeza Meyer/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

national community program that delivers meals to homebound individuals, and PATH, a nonprofit that helps families through food, financial and housing assistance, partnered five years ago after realizing a need for fans in the summertime. Beginning on May 1 and ending on July

1, PATH hosts an annual fan drive that collects the donations for the event. This year the organizations passed out about 20 fans to Tyler residents.

“This program is so important to Meals on Wheels and its clients because many of our clients do not have the ability to

turn on their air or even have central AC and heating,” said Tiffany McPherson, executive director of Meals on Wheels East Texas. “It’s important for them to have a fan in their home so they’re not facing heat exhaustion.”

Texas remains the deadliest in the U.S. for heat

exposure, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The DSHS recorded that during 2023, a peak heat year, there were 365 direct heat-caused deaths and a total of 562 indirect heat deaths in the state.

“This fan really makes a difference,” McPherson said. “Five years ago we distributed almost 150 fans through this project and over the years, we have seen a decline in the number of clients that need these fans because we have reached so many of them.”

In 2025, the organizations distributed a total of 1,094 fans, so McPherson said this year all fans provided went to households that did not receive a fan last year. Each household is eligible to receive one fan and can obtain a fan from the event once every two years.

“Our clients are very appreciative,” McPherson said. “They’re looking forward to that conversation from that friendly person

FANS >> PAGE 2A

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“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

Weather High 89 Low 75

Humid with a shower and t-storm. See the Tyler-East Texas 3-day forecast on Page 6A.

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