

**DPS Launches iWatchTexas Mobile App**

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) today announced the launch of the new iWatchTexas mobile application (app), which the public can use to report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate ongoing or future criminal or terrorist activity. The iWatch Texas program was created as a partnership between communities and law enforcement, and utilizes citizen-sourced tips related to criminal activity. DPS developed the new iWatchTexas mobile app at the direction of Governor Greg Abbott to make it easier for the public to report suspicious activity in Texas, including criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats.

“The new iWatchTexas mobile app is one of several solutions that Texas is implementing immediately to identify and report those who may pose a threat to our schools and to our communities,” said Governor Abbott. “Our law enforcement officers often rely on vigilant Texans to help keep communities safe, and this new tool will give everyone the ability to quickly and easily communicate with authorities and help prevent future tragedies.”

The app is now available for iPhone users on the Apple App Store (iWatchTexas) and for Android users on Google Play (iWatchTexas).

“Amid the growing threats to public safety by malicious actors, we want to remind the public that they can be law enforcement’s greatest resource to combat those intent on harming others, including innocent schoolchildren and administrators,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “By launching this new mobile app at the direction of Gov. Abbott, we are providing an additional and easy way for the public to report any illegal or suspicious behavior, which may ultimately help save lives.”

The public can report suspicious behaviors through the iWatch Texas program via the new mobile app, online at [www.iwatchtx.org](http://www.iwatchtx.org) or by calling 1-844-643-2251. A report usually takes fewer than five minutes to complete, and once submitted, each report is reviewed by law enforcement analysts. All reports are confidential (providing contact information, which is optional, will allow for follow-up questions).

Preparations for crime, terrorist attacks and threats to school safety may often be seen but not reported. When in doubt, speak up. Here are some examples of behaviors and activities to report:

Comments made regarding killing or harming someone.

Strangers asking questions about building security features and procedures.

Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package is left behind.

Cars or trucks are left in no-parking zones at important buildings.

Chemical smells or fumes that are unusual for the location.

People requesting sensitive information, such as blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules, without a need to know.

Purchasing supplies that could be used to make bombs or weapons, or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.

Taking photographs or videos of security features, such as cameras or checkpoints.

Note: The iWatch Texas program is not designed to report emergencies. If a situation requires an emergency response, call 911. As a reminder, false reporting to a law enforcement agency is a violation of state law.

**Meat prices competitive for consumers this Fourth of July**

by Justin Walker

Consumers could have more than one thing to celebrate this Independence Day as retailers feature good prices for beef, pork and chicken, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service experts.

Dr. David Anderson, AgriLife Extension economist, said there should be an assortment of steak prices over the Fourth of July holiday. But record production of pork and chicken, combined with lower beef prices, will attract shoppers.

“We’re heading into the holiday with large meat production across beef, pork and chicken,” he said in an interview with AgriLife Today. “Grocery stores frequently feature meat items in their sale papers and in-store and grocery store club card specials.”

Anderson expects steak and other beef items to be competitively priced.

Ribeye and tenderloin prices are below last year’s numbers, Anderson said, while strip loins are higher. Choice briskets have also seen a dip in prices, he said.

Anderson expects deals on pork too, as pork loins dropped roughly 15 cents per pound since 2017.

Bill Thompson, AgriLife Extension economist, said consumers will benefit from competition among the proteins, but it may add pressure to cow-calf producers. He said low beef prices were likely the cause of record per capita beef consumption, up to 59.1 pounds from 53.1 pounds in 2016.

“It’s tough on the beef industry because people don’t want to pay a premium,” he said. “As much protein as there is available, it’s tough to see a big rally for beef.”

Annual pork and beef per capita consumption could surpass chicken consumption—111.1 pounds to 100 pounds, respectively—for the first time in years.

“This tells us that the economy is doing well enough that consumers are willing to spend a little bit more of their purchasing dollar on beef and




**Library Program!** Bernadette Nason presented an interesting program to local children at the Coke County Library on Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

red-meat cuts compared to poultry,” Tracy Tomascik, Texas Farm Bureau associate


director of Commodity and Regulatory Affairs, said. “They are letting their taste buds,

rather than their pocketbooks, dictate their meals a little more than usual.”

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