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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Clark's vision drives mission

By Suzanne Bardwell

Superintendent Sedric Clark is making a difference. A big difference as the instructional leader of Gladewater Independent School District.

"My greatest desire is to positively impact the lives of the students and adults I serve," Clark said. "I was attracted to the GISD superintendent's position because I believed that it would give me a wonderful opportunity to do that—and it has."

Clark says that he inherited a great situation.

"I see my job as doing what's necessary to make the situation I inherited better for both our students and employees. I am most proud of how we, the Gladewater community, parents, students, faculty, staff and administration, are working together to make that happen."

Clark a native of DeSoto Parish, Louisiana graduated from Pelican High School.

"I was one of 14 graduates," he said. "I felt that my school and my teachers gave me the foundation that I needed to be successful. I credit them for helping me earn a full academic scholarship to LSU."

Clark earned his Bachelor of Science in Secondary English and Mathematics at LSU. He earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Northwestern State University and will graduate with his Doctor of Education degree from Louisiana Tech University in November.

Clark met his wife, Katonya, when they were both attending Pelican High School. The couple have been married for 22 years. He says that she has been very supportive throughout his career.

"I was her principal for six years and am now her superintendent," Clark said. "She is a great educator who continues to grow and get better for the kids she serves. She inspires me."

Clark's influences have profoundly shaped the educator and man he has become.

"I've been blessed to have many people who have positively impacted my life," Clark said. "The two people who have had the greatest impact on my life are my Grandmother and Pastor. My Grandmother taught me the values of family, hard work and perseverance. My Pastor has been a constant and consistent example of Christian compassion, humility and integrity. He and my family are reasons why I remain committed and connected to my family church."

Clark has worshipped and served at the same church where he accepted Christ

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Fast Facts about Sedric Clark

What are your three favorite things about Gladewater?

"I love the people of Gladewater. I love the pride that you can feel throughout the community. And, I believe, that we are currently positioned to achieve great things."

Professional Honors:
2016 DeSoto Parish Principal of the Year
2017 Louisiana Principal of the Year
2017 National Principal of the Year candidate
2017 Northwestern State University Young Educator of the Year

Do you see yourself as a role model?

"I'm not certain about the term 'role model'. However, I hope to live in a way that inspires others and make them think that 'if he can live out his dreams, I can too'."

What advice would you give young people today for their future?

"I want our kids to dream big and have the character to work hard to make those dreams reality. I want to make sure that our school systems gives each of them the foundation needed to be whoever they want to be."

What do you consider your most important values?

"Commitment, Compassion, Integrity, Perseverance. All the people who have been inspirations to me have displayed these values."

What does being an American mean to you?

"As Americans, we are blessed with freedoms and opportunities that are unique to only citizens of our country. With those freedoms and opportunities comes the responsibility of protecting and preserving them. We should always show gratitude for those who have fought for, and in many cases, laid down their lives to ensure that we can live in such a great country."



Robert Hodges was named Mr. GHS and Graci Hart was named Miss GHS at Saturday night's Spotlight on GHS. The two seniors were selected for the coveted honor based on a percentage of student votes, faculty and staff votes, weighted GPA, years in the National Honor Society and level of participation during their four years of high school. The honor was established at GHS in 1950. See more photos inside. Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

UIL realignment released

<p>2020-22 Football Dist. Alignment Conference 3A Division 1 District 6 Atlanta Gladewater Gladewater Sabine Jefferson New Boston Tatum White Oak</p>	<p>Price Carlisle 2020-21 Basketball District Alignment Conference 2A District 21 Beckville Big Sandy Gladewater Union Grove Hawkins Overton Price Carlisle</p>
<p>2020-21 Basketball & Volleyball District Alignment Conference 3A District 15 Daingerfield Diana New Diana Gladewater Gladewater Sabine Hughes Springs Ore City White Oak</p>	<p>2020-22 Football Dist. Alignment 2A - REGION 3 District 9 Beckville Big Sandy Frankston Gladewater Union Grove Hawkins Linden-Kildare</p>
<p>2020-22 Football Dist. Alignment 2A - REGION 3 District 9 Beckville Big Sandy Frankston Gladewater Union Grove Hawkins Linden-Kildare</p>	<p>2020-21 Basketball & Volleyball District Alignment Conference 4A District 15 Gilmer Paris Paris North Lamar Pittsburg Texarkana Liberty-Eylau Texarkana Pleasant Grove</p>

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SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES:

Building the future of public education

Jody Day, UGISD Board President
Elected: 2008

Elkhart HS alum, Profession: Day Industrial Solutions, President & Co-Founder

Motivation to serve: I wanted to be part of helping grow Union Grove. Union Grove has always been a special place and I wanted to be part of helping in preparing our kids for success.

Greatest UGISD accomplishments during tenure: We have been able to put together a great faculty and staff to prepare our kids for their success in life. We have also been able to pass two bonds in the efforts to enhance the learning experience for our students here at Union Grove.

Greatest challenges facing UGISD: Over the last few years funding from the state has been a major factor facing public education. Some relief was given from the state this last legislative session and we are thankful for that. I feel the local districts like UGISD and many East Texas schools still need to stay in close relationships with their State Representative to ensure funding is adequate to support their district.

What sets UGISD apart? There are many great districts in our East Texas area with great leaders and teachers. UGISD like many of these schools strive to find an atmosphere to impact students' lives to be successful and prepared for their future.

Anything else readers need to know: It is a great pleasure of mine to serve the students, faculty and staff at Union Grove. I have been blessed to be part of this community and this board as we strive to impact the lives of our students.



Bennie Norris
Elected: 2005

Gladewater HS alum, Kilgore College Oil & Gas degree, Profession: Oilfield contractor

Motivation to serve: To be a voice for the community and our students.

Greatest UGISD accomplishments during tenure: I'm most proud of the change in culture and climate at Union Grove, I feel that our kiddos now believe there is nothing they can't achieve with hard work and positive attitude, and I hope I have had a small part in that.

Greatest challenges facing UGISD: There are many challenges public schools now face, especially in the areas of state funding and ever changing testing procedures.

What sets UGISD apart? There are some really good school districts in our area, but I believe that Union Grove has for several years been a premier district. The educational opportunities at UG, mixed with a great many family environment, wonderful teachers, coaches, administrators and staff make it one of the best places in East Texas for you to raise a family and send your kids to school.

Anything else readers should know: It has been my privilege to serve the people of Union Grove as trustee, what a great place to live.

Justin Smith
Elected: 2019

Pine Tree HS alum, Stephen F. Austin University, Profession: ABC Auto Parts Regional Manager

Motivation to serve: I have been involved with Union Grove ISD for several years. My wife teaches at UGISD and I have three children that attend. I love what our school does and I want to see Union Grove continue to be successful at teaching and developing kids that will continue to excel in life after they graduate from Union Grove.

What sets UGISD apart: Even though Union Grove is a smaller school district we offer several extracurricular activities that stand us apart from other schools in our area. Not only does Union Grove have a great athletic and band program we offer things like FFA, Rocketry, Target Clay Shooting and several career and tech opportunities that keep our kids involved with being a part of a fantastic district and

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

...the hard places

It is the hard places that either make us who we are or show others who we are. Recently I have had a few people reach out to me because of a particular column I wrote about the 'hard places' that spoke to them. That touches my heart, but it also reminds me that words matter. That got me to thinking about what words have been spoken to me that continue to shape the words I use, the words I write, and the life I try to live.

Perhaps the most powerful words spoken to me came from my mother. My older brother, by four years, was severely handicapped. He could say only a bare handful of words, maybe five or so. And even those disappeared eventually. He could not walk or talk, but he had the gift of sight and hearing. It was evident that Donnie was extremely intelligent. He followed everything with his deep, brown eyes. He laughed. He cried.

His misshapen body made some feel uncomfortable. Others tended to put our family on a pedestal because of the perceived burden of having such a handicapped child. I don't remember how old I was, but I was young, forever questioning and wanting to know the 'why' of as much as possible. So, I asked my Mom one of the 'hard' questions... "Why did God make Donnie the way he was?"

"To teach us how to love" was my Mom's response. And at my young age I took that answer to heart. I'm not sure why I have never

I've got big paws to fill

Howdy folks ... I'm King, the new News Hound here at the Gladewater Mirror office and I'm also Jim and Suzanne's constant companion. I'm an 80-pound Collie who loves to play and take walks.

I hear I have some pretty big paws to fill.

I assure you I don't plan to replace Jack. I just want to make my mark on the journalism world (and every bush and tree I encounter) in East Texas like he did. I hope everyone will give me a chance to bark my opinion, just like Jack did.

Maybe I'll wind up winning a press association award for column writing like Jack did.

I've been here just two weeks and have already found Gladewater to be a pretty friendly place. A bunch of folks have stopped by the office to meet me and some people have even stopped me on my walks to introduce themselves. That's pretty neat stuff.

Jim and Suzanne and pretty busy people - putting out three weekly newspapers and Jim is even running for Upshur County Pct. 1 Commissioner. I'm not sure how they get it all done, but I'm having a blast riding in Jim's SUV with my nose sticking out the slightly cracked window while he puts out campaign signs. I keep offering to dig the holes for the T-posts, but he hasn't taken me up on my offer.

I'm not sure what politics are, but Jim's got my vote - even if he ran for dog catcher. I mean, if I had a dog in this hunt ... and I guess I do ... I'd be picking him.

I keep telling him he needs to take me with him to these candidate forums he's been attending. I bet I could swing a vote or two.

I hear Jack didn't like riding in the car or SUV. What was wrong with that boy? Shelties ... they can be so picky at times. I mean, that's

Suzanne Bardwell



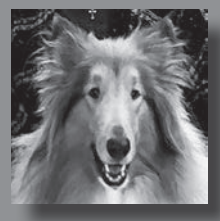
really questioned that answer. Maybe because it turned out to be true. Donnie's life shaped mine as surely as my parents' response to his situation did. I watched them do the truly hard things with love and perseverance and faithfulness.

Eventually Donnie had to be institutionalized because of his fragility. And then I saw on a regular basis the families who were like ours. Some of them were broken by their journey. Some were elevated by it, and some were enslaved.

All I know is that I learned to love more deeply, to accept more freely, and to recognize the hidden gifts from the hard places of life for what they are, blessings. I know what I want carved into stone when I leave this earth, "...the greatest of these is love" I Corinthians 13:13b. I know that to be true because my Momma told me so. More importantly, she and Daddy showed me.

I hope you know these words to be true as well because I think they may just be the most important words ever written.

KING The News Hound



the best place to get some quality time with my new peeps.

I've offered to help Suzanne drive her Buick, but for some reason she has declined the offer. I know I could do it if she would just move over and let me get my paws on that steering wheel.

My new house is a little different from what I've been use to. I'm the only puppy in the house so I've got the whole place to myself and I don't have to chomp down on my breakfast and supper until I want to. Of course I want to most of the time!

And guess what they have at my new home?

They have cats - lots of cats outside.

Jim calls them feral cats when he isn't calling them things Suzanne says I can't repeat in public and in this column. All I know is - they sure are fast ... real fast.

I keep trying to catch them to say hello. But they don't seem to be very friendly cats. I'll keep trying, though.

Meanwhile, I guess I'll spend my time laying on the couch - and its a really big soft couch - and playing catch with Jim and Suzanne and enjoying my new job as a News Hound.

I hope you'll stop by the newspaper office soon for a visit. Just a word of warning, though. I love to check people out - up close and personal. Yes - I have no boundaries.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Upskilling

The labor market is tight. Very tight! The number of US job openings is a million higher than the total number of unemployed persons. In Texas, the unemployment rate stands at about 3.5%, and the state continues to add jobs in impressive numbers.

With few people to hire, finding needed skillsets is a growing challenge. Further complicating the situation is the fact that the requirements of companies are changing rapidly with technological advances. PwC recently surveyed more than 22,000 workers and found that 53% of them believe automation will significantly change or render their jobs obsolete within the next 10 years.

Shortages and skills mismatches are a large and growing problem, and part of the answer is "upskilling," or giving people the chance to learn what they need to fill open or future jobs. While training (or retraining) is not a new idea, the difference is that firms are now increasingly embracing and paying for upskilling, investing billions in training their current workers rather than trying to hire new ones.

In addition to saving companies the difficult task of finding and luring new employees, upskilling also allows corporations to fulfill emerging objectives. As firms move away from a singular focus on shareholder value and toward broader social concerns, employees are an important stakeholder group which benefits from upskilling. It's a win-win, with workers avoiding the upheaval associated with losing a job and firms retaining valuable workers. People are

willing, with the PwC survey indicating that 77% of adults would learn new skills now or completely retrain to improve their future employability. Similarly, learning opportunities and chances for professional growth are a top reason cited by new hires in job decisions.

Not every effort at upskilling has been successful. Unless employees have the appropriate incentives (such as higher compensation or expanded opportunities), they may not participate. If methods of delivering new information are inconvenient, overly time consuming, or poorly structured, they may not be successful. There are also instances where the mismatch between existing employees and new required skills is such that the investment is not cost-effective. Nonetheless, well-conceived programs can yield impressive results.

Worker shortages are likely to

get worse (potentially far worse) even with labor-saving automation and artificial intelligence. The number of people of workforce age is basically static due to demographic patterns, labor force participation rates are stubbornly low, and immigration is declining. Throughout history, technological advances have on balance created jobs, but in the process have displaced those without needed qualifications. The US has generally failed in public policy initiatives to provide transitional training (much to our detriment). Hiring talent is increasingly difficult, and upskilling is likely to be a crucial strategy for many firms.

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.

Guest Column:

Know open government rights by remembering these basics

By Kelley Shannon, Executive Director, FOIFT

Whatever our political views, certainly we can agree we have the right to know how government is conducting business. How are taxpayer dollars spent? Who is influencing decisions?

Access to information allows us to speak up and hold public officials accountable, while a lack of transparency diminishes trust in government.

The Texas Public Information Act and Texas Open Meetings Act are the state's main open government laws. Based on recent frequently asked questions about these laws, here are a few important reminders:

Requested information must be provided promptly. That means as soon as possible and without delay. It's a misconception that a governmental body, once it receives a written request for information, can wait up to 10 days to make the records available. Ten business days is the deadline under the Public Information Act for the governmental entity to ask for a Texas attorney general ruling if it is attempting to withhold information.

Records requests can be made in multiple ways. Some government offices these days insist that requestors use a specific online form when making a public records request. Wrong! Using an online form is optional. Written requests may also be made via email, regular or certified mail or hand delivery. If you wish to email your request and can't find the appropriate address on a government's website, call and ask for it. Note: If a government office designates a single email address for records requests, then emailed requests must be sent there.

Searchable-sortable Information should be made available. Electronic information shall be provided in the format a requestor prefers if it is stored that way and can be provided in that format at no greater expense or time, the attorney general's office has stated. So, if government data is stored in a searchable and sortable electronic spreadsheet and it's requested in that format, it should be provided as a spreadsheet rather than as a PDF, which can be less useful when looking at numbers and large amounts of information.

Closed-door meetings are for deliberations only, and only for certain subjects. The Texas Open Meetings Act allows a governing body to meet in a closed or "executive" session in some cases, such as to consult an attorney for legitimate legal questions or to discuss the purchase of property. Public officials can only deliberate behind closed doors. Any vote or final action must happen in public.

A 'walking quorum' is a no-no. A quorum of a governmental body discussing official business is supposed to occur in a posted public meeting. Members of a governing board cannot knowingly have one-on-one conversations about public business - whether talking, emailing or texting - when it is part of a series of private communications that will ultimately constitute a quorum. This deliberate behavior, known as a "walking quorum," is banned, and the Legislature clarified that again in 2019. Texas law does allow discussion of business outside of a public meeting through a publicly viewable online message board.

The public can comment at meetings. Under a law that took effect in September 2019, governing bodies must allow members of the public wishing to speak on an issue on the agenda of an open meeting to do so before or when it's considered. Reasonable rules can be adopted limiting the total amount of time a member of the public may address the body on an item. Officials cannot prohibit the person from criticizing the governing body or its acts, policies or services.

These and other topics will be addressed in a series of open government seminars the non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas is participating in this year with the Texas Attorney General's Office. The first seminar will be Feb. 25 in Corpus Christi, hosted by state Rep. Todd Hunter.

Let's take every opportunity in 2020 to improve knowledge of Texas' transparency laws. That, in turn, can lead to more effective government.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. For more information about the foundation and regional open government seminars go to www.foift.org.



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IS JESUS THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE?

Many people refer to Jesus as Lord, but never seriously think about what it means. Of course, when people call Jesus "Lord," they are right because the Bible describes Him that way. He really is Lord! For example, in Acts 2: 36 the apostle Peter said, "God hath made that same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ." That's just one of many places where Jesus is identified as Lord. But, what does it mean to call Jesus Lord?

The word Lord means "Master" or "Ruler." It means Jesus has the right to tell us what to do and how we are to live our lives. Thus, to refer to Jesus as "Lord" means He has the right to command our lives. In Luke 6: 46 Jesus asks, "Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Jesus is the Savior because He has the power to save people, and He is Lord because He has authority to command our lives.

Some people want Jesus to be their Savior, but they don't want Him to be their Lord! They want Him to save them, but they don't want Him to rule them. But, Jesus is not our Lord if we do not obey Him. He said, "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (Matt. 7: 21). Sadly, many acknowledge His divine right to rule their lives, and then ignore and reject His sayings and commandments.

But, as one old preacher said: "Salvation is not a cafeteria where you take what you want and leave the rest. You cannot take Christ as Savior and refuse Him as Lord, and be saved." For example, Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16: 16). But, many teach that one must believe to be saved, but baptism is not essential to being saved. Don't forget, Jesus asked, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Think on these things.

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Ed Sterling
Capital
Highlights



Abbott joins officials in response to virus originating in China

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on Jan. 30 commented on a White House briefing about actions to stem the transmission of novel coronavirus in the United States.

Speakers at the briefing concerning the outbreak of the new respiratory illness that originated in Wuhan, China, included U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

“The State of Texas is continuing to collaborate with our local, state and federal partners as updates come in on the status of the coronavirus,” Abbott said. “Our local communities will have the resources they need to respond to any potential cases of the coronavirus in their area, and we remain committed to ensuring the health and safety of all Texans.”

On Jan. 27, Abbott met with state health and emergency management officials for a briefing on the same topic. “The Lone Star State will remain vigilant to protect the health and safety of all Texans,” Abbott said.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is working with local health departments to assess people with respiratory illness and recent travel to the province of Hubei, China, for possible 2019 novel coronavirus testing.

The DSHS said travelers should monitor themselves for symptoms and contact their health care provider if they develop fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of being in Hubei. The agency urged Texas health care professionals to ask patients with respiratory symptoms about their travel history and contact their local or regional health department if they think a patient may have novel coronavirus. The state had not posted the number of diagnosed cases of the disease in Texas as of Feb. 2.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the best way to prevent infection is to take precautions to avoid exposure to novel coronavirus — precautions which are similar to those the agency recommends to avoid influenza.

Abbott attends signing

Gov. Abbott on Jan. 29 joined President Donald Trump for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement ceremonial bill signing in Washington, D.C.

The agreement, Abbott said, modernizes the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement “and will support mutually beneficial trade leading to freer markets, fairer trade and robust economic growth in North America.”

It is estimated that the USMCA will have a positive impact of \$17.6 billion on Texas’ annual gross product and create 164,700 new jobs in the state, according to December 2019 projections from the Waco-based Perryman Group. The USMCA also allows Texas increased access to trade with Mexico and Canada, the state’s two largest export partners, according to the governor’s office.

Law aids in unsolved cases

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Jan. 30 said law enforcement agencies have identified suspects in more than 45 unsolved cases thanks in part to the implementation of House Bill 1399, the Krystal Jean Baker Act.

The new law, which took effect Sept. 1, 2019, authorizes the collection of DNA samples from individuals charged with certain felonies and compares the samples through the Combined DNA Index System database in an effort to clear unsolved cases.

“By allowing us to collect and enter DNA evidence from offenders in a much quicker time frame, we are able to make a critical connection to previous crimes committed by the same offender. We are aiming to stop these criminals from committing any other violent acts against innocent people,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw.

According to the DPS, Baker was 13 years old when she was abducted, sexually assaulted and killed in 1996. DNA evidence was collected at the time of her death but no arrests were made. In 2010, the perpetrator was arrested on an unrelated charge in Louisiana. DNA taken at the time of the arrest linked him to Baker’s murder and he ultimately pleaded guilty.

New tax guide is released

The Texas Comptroller’s office on Jan. 27 announced its release of “A Field Guide to the Taxes of Texas” — a report providing an overview of Texas’ major state taxes.

Every year, the state collects billions in state taxes and fees, federal receipts and other sources of revenue. The funds are used to pay for all of the responsibilities of state government, including the education of more than 5 million public school students and the provision of health insurance for more than 4 million low-income Texans, said state Comptroller Glenn Hegar.

The publication, which can be downloaded free of charge from the website, comptroller.texas.gov, shows:

- How major taxes have contributed to state revenue during the past 10 years;
- Future revenue estimates, exemption value estimates and tax allocations; and
- Links to other resources about state taxes.

AG: Letter to school districts

School districts must refrain from spending public funds to advocate for or against political candidates, said Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a Jan. 28 mailing to school districts across the state.

Included in the mailing were educational materials detailing the importance of the role of educators in the civic process and providing guidelines for legally and effectively leading both employees and students through the 2020 election.

TxDOT awards millions for safer access to schools, communities

AUSTIN — New funding will help pedestrians and bicyclists get better and safer access to schools, public transit and communities across the state.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved \$24 million this week for 30 projects across the state that will build sidewalks, shared use paths, bike lanes and other safety features.

This federal funding comes from two different programs. The first is called Transportation Alternatives and includes projects that enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety, provide access to multimodal options and connect important community destinations like schools, jobs, downtowns, commercial areas and

medical facilities. These go to rural or small urban areas of the state.

The commission approved 18 projects under this category valued at \$15.8 million.

The second funding source comes from the Safe Routes to Schools program. These funds go to projects that encourage safe bicycling and walking for children in elementary and middle schools.

The commission approved 12 projects under this category valued at \$8.5 million.

These projects are set to build things like sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, bike lanes and other improvements designed to improved safety.

Don’t mess with Texas Scholarship Contest and Don’t mess with Texas K-12 School Art Contest now taking submissions

AUSTIN — Don’t mess with Texas is holding two contests to award prizes and scholarships to Texas students demonstrating efforts to raise awareness about litter prevention in their communities. The 2020 Don’t mess with Texas Scholarship Contest and the Don’t mess with Texas K-12 School Art Contest are presented in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful. Both contests are currently accepting applications and submissions.

The 2020 Don’t mess with Texas Scholarship Contest is open to any Texas high school senior currently attending public, private or home school and planning to attend an accredited college or university in the coming year. The contest will award one \$5,000 scholarship,

one \$4,000 scholarship and one \$3,000 prize in May 2020. The scholarships recognize the achievements of high school seniors who are taking an active role in preventing litter in their schools and communities, while working to build awareness for the Texas Department of Transportation’s Don’t mess with Texas initiative.

In the Don’t mess with Texas K-12 School Art Contest, Texas students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to submit their original artwork for the opportunity to be featured in the 2021 Don’t mess with Texas Calendar. The artwork should promote the Don’t mess with Texas and/or Keep Texas Beautiful litter prevention messages to encourage and

inspire Texas residents to advocate and take action for litter prevention. The top 14 winning designs will be featured in the calendar. Each winner will receive a Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1 tablet and a gift basket from Buc-ee’s. Teachers representing the students who produce the top 14 designs will each win a \$100 gift card from H-E-B/Central Market.

To submit to the Don’t mess with Texas Scholarship Contest or the Don’t mess with Texas K-12 School Art Contest, visit dontmesswithtexas.org. Applications for the Don’t mess with Texas Scholarship Contest must be received via online submission by 5 p.m. (CST) March 31, 2020. Submissions for the Don’t mess with Texas

K-12 School Art Contest must be sent through the U.S. mail and postmarked on or before April 24, 2020. Sponsors for the Don’t mess with Texas Scholarship include Buc-ee’s, iHeart Media and the Astros Foundation.

“We are looking forward to rewarding students for their creativity and hard work in developing projects that keep their communities and Texas clean,” said Becky Ozuna, program administrator for the campaign.

Don’t mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, annual “Trash-Off” community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

2020 Treasures of the Texas Coast children’s art contest underway

Monday, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced that the 2020 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children’s Art Contest is now open for entries. Artwork should be based on the theme “Treasures of the Texas Coast” and depict why the Texas coast is important or special to the participating student. The top 40 pieces of art will appear in a 2021 calendar which will be distributed throughout the state.

“The Texas Coastline is one of the many treasures that makes our great state unique,” said Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush. “The Adopt-A-Beach Art Contest gives children an early opportunity to learn more about the Texas coast and discover the importance of keeping it clean. It is encouraging and inspiring to see children appreciating the wildlife and natural beauty of our coast through their own artwork and talent.”

All 40 winners will receive a ticket to the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi, two tickets to the Houston Zoo, a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium, two all day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Galveston, prizes, a certificate of recognition from the Texas General Land Office and a calendar displaying the winning artwork.

In addition, one Grand Prize Winner will be selected to receive two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines to any destination in the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean International departing out of Galveston, Miami, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale, Port Canaveral or Puerto Rico, and a class party at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Galveston.

The grand prize winner’s teacher will also receive a prize package to include two round-

trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines and one 7-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

The winning artwork will be

on display in the South Central Gallery at the state capitol May 20th through 27th. Special thanks to State Representative Dennis Paul for sponsoring the exhibit this year.

All entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Guidelines and Entry Form for the art contest can be found on the Adopt-A-Beach website.

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES:

Building the future of public education

Continued from Page 1

community.

Todd Thornton
Elected: 2016

Gladewater HS alum, Profession: Cameron-Field Service Manager

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Greatest challenges facing UGISD: Establishing and maintaining a level of continuous improvement. This is achieved by gathering ideas from faculty and staff, prioritizing input, measuring the impact and providing regular feedback.

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Morning Service 11 a.m.	
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.	

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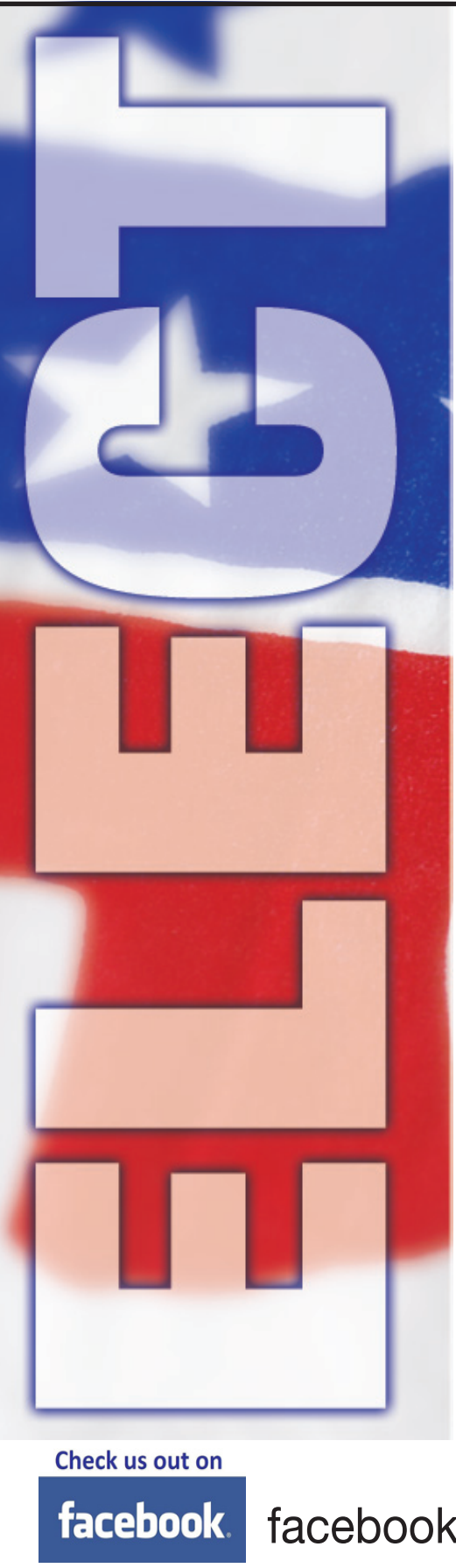
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Upshur County candidates field questions at recent forum

By Phillip Williams

Candidates in the five contested races for county or party offices on the March 3 Upshur County Republican primary ballot fielded questions on topics ranging from county roads to whether the county needs a fire marshal at a forum in Gilmer on Monday night of last week.

The Cherokee Rose Republican Women sponsored the event at Open Range, attended by about 50 persons counting the candidates. It was at least the third forum held for all or some candidates in the forthcoming primary, and another is scheduled Monday night (see separate story).

Speaking were four of the five candidates for precinct three commissioner, and two of the three contestants for precinct one commissioner. Also addressing the gathering were two of the three candidates vying for precinct four constable, both candidates for precinct three constable, and one of the two persons running for Republican precinct chairman in box 16, which is in Gladewater.

The candidates fielded questions after making opening statements. Candidates for county commissioner were asked what their other job would be if they only work part-time at their elective office.

Kent Abernathy, candidate in precinct three, said he would be full-time with “no other paid job.” One of his opponents, Richard Smith, said he worked in sales, but has an office at home and that he could continue doing his sales job as well as handling his duties as commissioner.

Another candidate in precinct three, Robert Green, said he would work full-time as commissioner and recruit businesses to the county, while Michael Ashley said his job managing ranches does not require much time and he would be “up there (at the county courthouse) any time it’s needed.”

The other candidate in precinct three, Daphne Grimes, was absent due to illness, said Cynthia Ridgeway, president of the group sponsoring the event and county chairman of the GOP.

Candidates in contested races for Upshur County office in the March 3 Republican primary, and Sheriff Larry Webb, are invited to address a Monday night candidate forum near Gilmer sponsored by East Texans for Liberty.

The event, open to the public free of charge, is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Lantana Activity Center, 80 Lantana Road. A complimentary taco bar will begin serving at 6:30 p.m.

Invited are candidates for county commissioner in precincts one and three, and for constable in precincts three and four. Each will have five minutes to speak, said ET4L Executive Director Stacy McMahan.

Jim Bardwell, running for precinct one commissioner, said he “would take this job as a full-time job,” but still attend meetings in his capacity as a newspaper publisher and promote the county. One of his opponents, James Noble, said he would be a full-time commissioner. (The other candidate in the race, Gene Dolle, did not attend because his daughter was undergoing surgery, Ridgeway announced).

Commissioner candidates were also asked whether commissioners should take back oversight of roads and bridges, now done by a central road administrator appointed by the court.

Said Green, “I know roads are the biggest complaint” citizens have, but he “doesn’t see it would make an improvement” for the court to resume control. “The problem is funding,” he explained, saying road workers are leaving the county’s employ because they are not paid a “living wage.”

Ashley said county voters had decided twice--actually three times, a reporter in the audience noted--that the current system is “what they wanted,” and that citizens can still call commissioners to see if they can get their potholes “bumped up” in priority. Smith said the current system is what residents voted for, so “let’s put some plans together for these roads.”

Smith said that if he were over the roads, it would be no different

than current County Road Administrator Andy Jordan overseeing them.

Abernathy said “I’d have to have a lot more information” to “see which one is the better way.”

Noble said the current road system is “not working” as “the roads are horrible,” and that while he was undecided whether the court should resume control of them, he would look into it.

Said Bardwell, “Should it be changed back? I don’t know.” He said the current system is “supposed to be the most economical” and “I think a lot of it’s planning, scheduling” and “getting back to the people who are having the trouble.”

He added he favored making the most of the \$2.9 million now budgeted for roads and bridges.

Commissioner candidates were also asked whether the county needed a fire marshal and how to deal with old tires creating health hazards.

Smith said “I haven’t really looked into that (the fire marshal question). . .but, yeah, I think there’s a need for it,” and he suggested enforcing anti-trash laws.

Green said the area already has two state fire marshals, so the county did not need one as it has “a budget that’s already stretched thin.” He further advocated working through the sheriff’s office and justices of the peace to apprehend persons doing illegal dumping, and “get(ting) the community involved in” dealing with the problem.

Ashley said he did not know about the fire marshal, but that he picks up trash near his home and would pick up tires if he saw them. Abernathy, meantime, said he would “have to look at both sides” of the fire marshal question, and would “have a cleanup in my precinct.”

Bardwell said the area has fire investigators, so he did not favor the expense of a county fire marshal. He also said the sheriff’s office and constables could deal with trash, that he favored raising the county’s annual number of dumping days from two to four, and that he wanted to do recycling, as the city of Gladewater does monthly and which has attracted Gilmer residents.

Noble said he would “like to look into” the fire marshal question, and that it would do jail inmates good to pick up trash for recycling.

Addressing a question whether the candidates for constable would be full-time, appointed Precinct 3 Constable Ryan Lufgivson replied he would retain his job as a full-time Big Sandy police officer, but that he had been performing constable duties on his days off.

Lufgivson’s predecessor as constable, and opponent, Ronnie Mitchell, said “I can afford to devote full-time” to the job and that he had “basically” done so when he held the post, escorting Christmas parades and funerals. He said a part-time constable could not do those things.

Incumbent Precinct 4 Constable Larry Sewell, seeking re-election, said “we are not paid, and we are not considered, as full-time” and “we have a certain budget.” He said he watches his adult son with special needs, and helps a friend in Mt. Vernon take care of his ranch.

One of his opponents, David Thompson, said he would work for the state in the daytime. The third candidate, former constable Phillip M. Hill, was unable to attend, Ridgeway said.

Also speaking at the forum was incumbent Box 16 Precinct Chairman John Lee Ussery, whose opponent, Jennifer Audet, did not attend due to what Ridgeway called “work conflicts.” Ussery said a precinct chairman’s job is promoting voter registration and GOP “party values” such as conservative, fundamental economics.

Commissioners reject policy changes

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court voted 3-2 Friday in Gilmer to reject proposed changes to the county’s policy and procedure manual which would have eliminated certain benefits for some workers.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Frank Berka unsuccessfully proposed exempting employees in supervisory positions from filling out time sheets, but also preventing them from accumulating longevity pay, sick pay and vacation time. He and Precinct 1 Commissioner Paula Gentry voted for the motion, but County Judge Todd Tefeller, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller and Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson opposed it.

On Monday, Berka said his proposal would have been “good for the employee” since affected workers could “come and go as they please” without filling out the sheets as long as they did not abuse the privilege. Those employees, however, would be exempt from being paid overtime, and could be excluded from longevity pay, sick pay, and vacation time, he said.

When Gentry noted the potential elimination of benefits during the court’s discussion of the matter Friday, county Building Supervisor David Womble objected that “I’ve earned vacation. . .I don’t want to lose any money.”

Tefeller then called the proposed changes “a good, comprehensive plan” and Berka said it had “been on my bucket list for seven years,” but the judge said he nonetheless wanted to meet with employees who would be affected before the court acted on it.

Tefeller also said he wanted to have District Attorney Billy Byrd review the proposed changes. Later in the meeting, though, his proposal to do so failed because nobody made a motion to approve it (Berka said that idea should be tabled until the list of proposed changes was complete, and Tefeller said he had no problem with tabling it).

Said Gentry, a former employee of the county tax office, “This is hard to negatively affect somebody.” She pointed out that between the time she was first elected commissioner in 2012 and the time she took office, she lost \$12,000 in annual pay (because the court voted during that period to reduce commissioners’ salaries), so she understood what it was like to get the “shaft.”

At one point during the discussion Friday, Gentry left the room for a time.

James Grunden, chief deputy of the county jail, asked what “negative” affect the court was discussing, and Tefeller said it involved removing longevity pay for certain workers.

Cathy Mullins, a deputy in the county treasurer’s office, asked the court what to do about affected workers who have been accumulating time. She asked whether they should be paid off or the time should be kept on the books, but the question seemingly went unanswered.

Finally, Gentry made “a motion that we settle this right now” as “we need to solve these issues,” but Tefeller objected that “I’m not for doing it today. I would commit to doing it by the next time” the court meets (scheduled Feb. 28). Berka then made his motion, which failed on the split vote, and Tefeller subsequently said he would meet

with certain people about the issue.

In other business, the court accepted the lone proposal from Traylor and Associates of Tyler to be administrator for a state grant to improve county roads.

The court also approved a “Complete Count Committee” to support the federal 2020 census in order to ensure that all Upshur residents are counted.

Committee members are Steve Dean, Mary Beth Johnson, Connie Duke, Reba Cochran, Larry Morse, Cloddie Henson, M. Satley, Mike Trull, Tony McCullough, Carolyn Duke, Robb Walker, Gilmer Mayor Tim Marshall, Gilmer City Mgr. Greg Hutson, Jeff Hamilton, Ore City ISD superintendent Lynn Heflin and New Diana ISD superintendent Carl Key.

Commissioners additionally approved buying security equipment for the Upshur County Justice Center, authorizing county extension agent Caitlyn Slover to purchase five egg incubators fo agriculture education of schoolchildren, and approved the Iris Garden Club’s request to use the courthouse square June 19-20 for a Juneteenth celebration.

CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

G G U G Z Y R U C R E M R B T I E C E P
D L L I H C D N I W G O F E Y P W T W F
Z Y I S N B V G Z F O B M V E F A D B E
W D O L D O W A R V Z P R B R M C F R U
H V V M B L I O B L E M A O I R H H E T
A H G E C N O T N R O G S L Y A Y A C F
A I A W H N B C A S K T C S D P S G I G
I U R N W P N T M S B O T K O Z R V K E
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D G S K E S C E A I T E D I O N E R L T
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N B D D B T L A P M C N I V O F M T T T
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N R D P O I R P B Y S A E Z B L H A V R
D E L A G F D O U T S D C G Y Y G B G T
P S M W I F R O Z E N K I S N A B Z C V

WORDS

- AIR MASS
- ALTITUDE
- ARCTIC
- BAROMETER
- BLACK ICE
- BLIZZARD
- CLIMATE
- COLD
- CONDENSATION
- CRYSTALLIZATION
- DEGREE
- FOG
- FREEZING
- FRONT
- FROSTBITE
- FROZEN
- GALE
- HYPOTHERMIA
- MERCURY
- SNOW
- TEMPERATURE
- VISIBILITY
- WINDCHILL
- WINTER

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

SCHOOL CALENDARS

GISD Calendar

2/5, Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ASVAB
10th/11th grades

2/7, Friday

8 a.m.-3:35 p.m. CNA Clinical Day
Choir Solo & Ensemble@Pine Tree
5 p.m. B/G BB@White Oak
5/7 p.m. B/G Soccer@Carlisle
5:30 p.m. Softball Scrimmage vs.
Tyler Lee-H

2/8, Saturday

Band Solo & Ensemble@Pine Tree

2/10, Monday

6 p.m. GISD Board of Trustees
Meeting

2/10, Monday

5 p.m. Softball Scrimmage vs.
Pittsburg

2/11, Tuesday

5 p.m. B/G BB vs. Harmony-H
5/7 p.m. B/G Soccer@Tatum

2/12, Wednesday

4 p.m. HoneyBear Officer Tryouts

2/14, Friday

11:45 a.m. Supt. Student Advisory
Council Mtg.
5 p.m. B BB vs. West Rusk-H
5/7 p.m. B/G Soccer vs. Kilgore-H

2/15, Saturday

Noon Softball Scrimmage vs.
Kilgore-H

UGISD Calendar

2/6, Thursday

JH Band Solo & Ensemble@Gilmer
6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting

2/7, Friday

4 p.m. JV/V B/G BB vs. Harleton-H
5 p.m. Softball vs. Pine Tree-H
HS Band Solo & Ensemble@Pine
Tree HS

2/8, Saturday

Girls Powerlifting@Sabine
UIL Academics@Mt. Pleasant
HS Band UIL Solo & Ensemble@
Pine Tree HS

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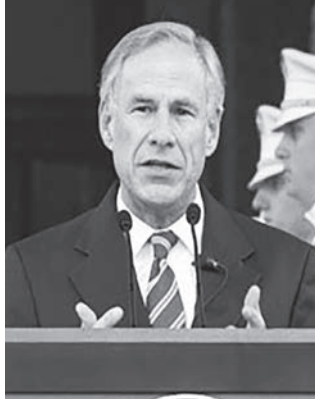
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What's Happening?

Gov. Abbott to speak at Lincoln Day Dinner



GILMER--Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is scheduled to be featured speaker at the Republican Party of Upshur County's fund-raising Lincoln Day Dinner here Feb. 28.

The event is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Gilmer Civic Center and some 400 are expected to attend, said DeBorah Bankston, coordinator of the dinner.

Information on ticket sales will be announced once a caterer for the gathering is determined, she said.

Fire truck pull for Special Olympics

Pulling it together for a cause will be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at Lake Gladewater to raise funds for Special Olympics Texas athletes. Play "tug of war" with a fire truck in support of Special Olympians. Check in begins at 11 a.m. with the first pull at noon. Registration is \$250 per team of 10 or \$25 per individual. For more information or to register please call 936-639-1755 or go online to www.sotx.org/firetruckpull.

UTT offers free SAT prep courses

The University of Texas at Tyler announced that it is offering free Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparatory courses to help East Texas high school students prepare for the March 14 exam. Partnering with Capstone Advising, UT Tyler will offer the course on its Tyler, Longview and Palestine campuses beginning Saturday, Feb. 15 through Saturday, March 7. Courses will be held at the following times and dates: Feb. 15 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday

Feb. 29 8 a.m. - Noon Saturday (Practice Test), March 7 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday. Space is limited to 30 students per campus, and food will be served during each session. To register or for more information, visit uttyler.edu/community/test-prep-cour

Lee Library Storytime

Lee Public Library children's story time will be this Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Lee Public Library is located at 312 West Pacific Avenue.

Lions Camp registration open

The Texas Lion Camp Children's registration is now open. Those eligible for the variety of camps includes children with: physical disabilities (includes cancer and epilepsy) ages 7-16 May 31-July 4; Down Syndrome children ages 12-16 July 5-11, children with Type One diabetes ages 8-15, July 19-Aug. 1. Registration may be completed online at: <http://lionscamp.com/become-a-camper.html#Apply>. For more information go online to www.lionscamp.com.

Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

A 2020 Polar Plunge will be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at Lake Gladewater to raise funds for Special Olympics Texas athletes. Registration begins at 9 a.m., opening ceremonies at 9:45 a.m. and the plunge begins at 10 a.m. The entry fee is \$20 for youth and \$30 for adults. Find out more online at www.sotx.org/polarplunge.

Manna House food, cash donations needed

Manna House provided 90 family holiday Christmas boxes that served 169 adults and 119 children. There were also 42 guardians who were able to provide Christmas toys for 92 children ages 12 and under because of the Manna House Santa Toy Shop.

Manna House food donations may be dropped off 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the southwest corner of City Hall or at the Gladwater Mirror at 211 N. Main Street during business hours. Financial donations may be mailed to: Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater, 75647.

WES Black History program Feb. 21

Weldon Elementary School will host a Black History program on February 21 at 8:30 a.m. in recognition of Black History Month. There will be performances by the newly formed Unity Choir, the drama club and special artwork exhibited which will celebrate the theme of Voting Rights. The community is warmly invited to attend.

Upshur Historical Commission seeks donations

The Upshur County Historical Commission is seeking to raise \$4,500 to complete the restoration of the historic Dickson Colored Orphanage Ceremony in Gilmer, where a state historical marker will be unveiled Feb. 22.

The funds will go toward fencing around the site, and road surface material in the right-of-way of U.S. 271, where the graveyard is located. Fencing cost is \$3,000 and the road material will cost \$1,500, said the commission, which seeks to raise the money by Feb. 22.

A flyer from the commission says the orphanage, "rediscovered in 2014," was the sole orphanage for "colored children" in Texas from 1901-1943.

Anyone wishing to donate may contact Eddie Turner at 903-801-0004, or make checks payable to the Upshur County Historical Commission, which is at 119 Simpson Street on the downtown Gilmer square.

Gilmer Chamber banquet slated

Gary Patrick and his band will perform at the annual banquet of the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce Thursday night (Feb. 6).

The event is set for 6 p.m. at the Gilmer Civic Center on U.S. 271. Tickets are \$18 in advance at the chamber, \$20 at the door. Longhorn Smokehouse will cater the event.

Glade GED/ESL classes

Kilgore College offers free GED and English as a Second Language classes at the Adult Education and Literacy Center in Gladewater. For information call 903-236-2004.

UT Health East Texas offers free Lunch & Learn about pain management

UT Health East Texas will offer a free Lunch and Learn seminar, titled Understanding Pain Management, on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at the UT Health Tyler Pavilion, 801 Clinic Drive.

Pain Management Physician Dr. Mark Hackbarth will discuss topics including understanding pain management, the key factors and treatment options for pain. Register online at UTHealthTylerHospital.com/pain or call 903-747-4749. Seating is limited and reservations are required by Feb. 21.

Garden Club to meet Feb. 24

The Gladewater Garden Club will meet Monday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. at the Gardens of Gladewater Clubhouse at 108 N. Lee Street. The program will be presented by Longview Lawn and Garden Center Master Gardener Danny Armstrong who will speak on garden water features. Hostesses for the meeting are Judy Banner, Diane Richardson and Linda Wells. All area interested gardeners are warmly invited to attend.



Carthage was not content in allowing the Lady Bears to bask in their win earlier in the week. The Lady Dawgs took a decisive 3-1 victory over the Lady Bears soccer team who had just stunned the Carlisle Indians with a 1-0 win on Monday night. In the game against Carlisle it looked destined for overtime behind two stingy goalkeepers, Kayce Cahal broke the stalemate. With a mere 43.6 seconds remaining in regulation, Cahal zipped the ball by a defender and past a goalkeeper who had stymied Gladewater all night. After these latest games, the Lady Bears record stands at 3-3-1 on the season.

Photo by Chris Jones



Three first half goals carried the Carlisle Indians to a win over the Gladewater Bears. The Bears showed some resilience in the second half, keeping the Indians at bay and scoreless. Gladewater even managed a goal of their own early in the second half but, it was disavowed due to an extra man on the field. The Bears will host the Indians of Grand Saline on February 4th. Gladewater will be looking for its' first win of the season in this rematch.

Photo by Chris Jones



Lady Lion Macey Roberts (21) shoots over Big Sandy defender as the ladies of Union Grove proved greedy with the basket against the Ladycats of Beckville. Allowing only 8 points in the first half and 20 for the game. Putting up 20 points in just the first, the Lady Lions would go on to a final of 66-20. With 17 points, Carleigh Judd led all scoring. Macey Alston wasn't far behind with 16. Shala Gallagher and Madelynn Lacaze both had good nights with 13 and 10 points respectively. Rounding off the scoring for Union Grove were Makena Littlejohn, Macey Roberts, and Winn combined for 10. On Tuesday the Lady Lions took command early against the Ladycats of Big Sandy and never relinquished it. Scoring more than enough to secure the win in the first period, Union Grove made it look easy with a 71-21 decision. Leading the scoring melee was Macey Alston with 24. The ladies of Union Grove generously shared the basketball as Carleigh Judd put 13 of her own and Makena Littlejohn added a respectable 12 herself. With 10 from Shala Gallagher and a combined 12 from Jolea Robertson, Madelynn Lacaze, and Macey Roberts, the Lady Lions looked on top of their game and ready to play anyone.



Lions Club Gladewater High School Students of the Month are juniors Tristan Hogue and Edith Alvarez. Tristan is a member of the National Honor Society, was a Spotlight on GHS nominee for Outstanding Student. He is an active member of FFA who participates in the livestock judging team, Ag Mechanics show team and cattle show team who has won many ribbons exhibiting his heifer Joesy. He is currently serving as FFA Vice President. As a sophomore he was named chapter Top Shop Hand. As a freshman he participated on the poultry judging team, was a member of the football team and was a Spotlight on GHS Outstanding Student nominee. Tristan plans on attending Kilgore College to become a lineman.

Edith Alvarez is a member of the National Honor Society and currently ranked first in the junior class academically. As a sophomore she was a Spotlight on GHS Outstanding Student nominee and as a freshman she was a class favorite nominee. She also was a member of the GHS sweepstakes marching band her sophomore year. After graduation she plans to attend the University of Texas at Arlington to pursue a degree in nursing. Edith's proud parents are Juan Alvarez and Erika Martinez.

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GPD ACTIVITY REPORT

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
1/27/20	ASSIST	20200508	1:31	RESTORING JOY MINISTRIES	214 E GLADE GLADE ST
	ASSIST	20200509	2:02	RESTORING JOY MINISTRIES	214 E GLADE GLADE ST
	THEFT	20200510	7:39		1000 N LOOP 485 N LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200511	7:50		BERNICE BERNICE
	ASSIST	20200512	8:21		GAY GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200513	11:10		311 E QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20200514	11:57	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200515	16:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200516	17:21		1114 N SHELL SHELL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200517	17:25	BUMBLE BEE PARK	605 S COACH COCKSEY COACH COCKSEY
	10-50 MINOR	20200518	19:08		320 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	EMS	20200519	22:54	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
1/28/20	MISSING PERSON	20200520	0:37		344 N LAKE LAKE
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20200521	1:57		207 MAPLE MAPLE ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20200522	10:27		1007 N LYNN LYNN ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20200523	10:42		HWY 135 HWY 135
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200524	12:01		1600 SMITH SMITH
	10-50 MAJOR	20200525	12:07	CHICKEN EXPRESS	1101 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20200526	12:38		593 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD
	FIRE DEPT	20200527	13:02		1578 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200528	14:53	TEXAS STENCIL	204 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20200529	16:27	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200530	16:47		502 E EDDY EDDY ST
	EMS	20200531	17:33	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20200532	17:39	MOBILE VILLAGE TRAILER PARK	1520 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD ST
	EMS	20200533	18:23		1103 LYNN LYNN ST
	10-50 MINOR	20200534	20:29	WILLCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200535	21:07		1107 N LYNN LYNN ST
	EMS	20200536	22:05		1105 N RODEO RODEO ST
1/29/20	MISCELLANEOUS	20200537	0:24	GODFREY GODFREY	2727 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200538	0:52		1208 NORTH NORTH
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200539	3:12		500 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	EMS	20200540	6:43		1178 PHILLIP SPRINGS PHILLIP SPRINGS
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20200541	8:48		707 MELBA MELBA
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20200542	9:30		213 MAHOGANY MAHOGANY
	ASSIST	20200543	10:06		1003 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200544	10:49		401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	ESCORT	20200545	11:37	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	801 COACH COCKSEY COACH COCKSEY
	EMS	20200546	13:31		202 S CULVER CULVER ST
	EMS	20200547	14:55		202 S CULVER CULVER ST
	DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID	20200548	14:38		202 S CULVER CULVER ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20200550	15:35		202 S CULVER CULVER ST
	WARRANT	20200551	16:41		202 S CULVER CULVER ST
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20200552	16:39		W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20200553	19:37		66 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200554	20:18		10884 LOCUST LOCUST RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200555	22:19	RODEO RODEO	504 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200556	22:34		JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
1/30/20	MISCELLANEOUS	20200557	0:09		100 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20200558	1:31		QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200559	1:40		100 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20200560	7:57		2202 PINECREST PINECREST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200561	10:12		UPSUR UPUR
	10-50 MINOR	20200562	10:26		500 W GAY GAY AVE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20200563	11:08		600 W GAY GAY AVE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20200564	11:12		1007 N LYNN LYNN ST
	TERROR THREAT	20200565	11:46		300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20200566	13:12	SENTINEL GARDENS	110 N CENTER CENTER
	FIRE DEPT	20200567	15:46		114 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200568	15:51		2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20200569	15:10	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	1007 N LYNN LYNN
	CRIM TRESPASS	20200570	16:33		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200571	16:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1201 STONE STONE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200572	18:49		108 N LEE LEE ST
	ABANDONED 911	20200573	21:01	GARDENS OF GLADEWATER	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	HARASSMENT	20200574	21:05	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	103 N DEAN DEAN
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20200575	21:07		400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20200576	22:20	EZ MART	365 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200577	22:37		JEANNETTE JEANNETTE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200578	23:17		2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
1/31/20	EMS	20200580	8:45	TRUMAN SMITH	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20200581	9:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	2 MCKAIG MCKAIG CIR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200582	9:34		307 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20200583	10:05	HUGMAN-KENT CLINIC	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20200584	10:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1511 PHILLIP SPRINGS PHILLIP SPRINGS
	EMS	20200585	11:36		1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20200586	13:35	MCDONALD'S	GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY RD
	FIRE DEPT	20200587	14:15		135 135
	ESCORT	20200588	14:51		1106 N LYNN LYNN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200589	14:57		1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200590	17:25	DOLLAR GENERAL	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	THEFT	20200591	17:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200592	17:58	BROOKSHIRE'S GROCERY	1103 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200593	20:23	SONIC DRIVE IN	108 N LEE LEE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200594	20:39	GARDENS OF GLADEWATER	711 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	EMS	20200595	22:43		1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200596	23:30	AJ'S FAST STOP EXXON	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
2/1/20	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200597	2:21	LAKE GLADEWATER	HAMPTON HAMPTON
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200598	4:20		1700 W GAY GAY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20200599	5:06		CANFIELD CANFIELD
	ASSIST	20200600	12:18		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	THEFT	20200601	14:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1816 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	ABANDONED 911	20200602	16:11		1211 N CULVER CULVER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200603	17:18		1500 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS
	FIRE DEPT	20200604	18:38		HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200605	19:01		1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200606	22:27	LAKE GLADEWATER	524 MARSHALL MARSHALL
2/2/20	MISCELLANEOUS	20200607	0:24		TYLER TYLER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200608	0:38		1302 S HWY 271 HWY 271
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200609	2:11	GLADEWATER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	VESTA VESTA
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200611	3:23		309 S MATTHEWS MATTHEWS
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20200612	5:40		41 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	WARRANT	20200613	7:38		MCCOMIC MCCOMIC
	ASSIST	20200614	11:51		1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20200615	12:24	DOLLAR GENERAL	1108 N LYNN LYNN ST
	ASSIST	20200616	12:49		34 JULIAWOOD HOMES JULIAWOOD HOMES
	EMS	20200617	13:29		1014 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	EMS	20200618	13:40		SUNSET SUNSET
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200619	14:12		JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200620	14:33		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200621	15:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20200622	16:30	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	HARASSMENT	20200623	16:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	900 VESTA VESTA
	EMS	20200624	16:56		2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	ABANDONED 911	20200625	17:30	WOODBINE COMMUNITY HOME	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200626	17:58	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	2801 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	EMS	20200627	18:28		6148 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200628	18:38		601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200629	19:08	FAMILY DOLLAR	205 MILL MILL
	THEFT	20200630	19:19		218 W GAY GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200631	20:08		506 MELBA MELBA AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20200632	23:48		N MAIN MAIN ST
	WARRANT	20200633	23:32	SMART MART (FMR G&J'S SUPER STOP)	103 RICHEY RICHEY DR
2/3/20	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20200634	0:45		6148 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	ASSIST	20200635	0:12		1309 DAISEY DAISEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200636	1:34		309 MATTHEWS MATTHEWS ST
	ASSIST	20200637	1:39		1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20200638	1:17	REGENCY INN & SUITE	209 E GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20200639	5:28		1607 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20200640	6:38		903 MARTHA MARTHA
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20200641	7:31		300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20200642	7:39	SENTINEL GARDENS	1101 NELWYN NELWYN
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20200643	8:08		355 E PACIFIC PACIFIC ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200644	8:08	PACIFIC CRAFTERS MALL	2495 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20200645	8:23	UPSUR COUNTY JP 3 OFFICE	



The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the East Texas Council of Governments by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for 2018. The Certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the department designated as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to the East Texas Council of Governments Operations Division. Operations team members include: David Cleveland, Executive Director; Wendi Horst, Operations Director; Rhonda Barber; Sloane Bodle; Lynda Bond; Charlotte Countryman; Robin Emmel; Christy Fowler; Christy Green; Dawn Goodeman; Noweka Harvey; Rita Hitt; Patricia Hudspeth; Elizabeth Jones; Glenda Lamothe; Michaela Marotta; Monty Scroggins; and Kim Zimmerman.

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We, the editors of this 2019 Area's Best Business Review, offer this suggestion to the people in our area: So, whether or not you need a big grocery shopping trip, get your tire changed or pick-up a prescription, do what smart shoppers do...make WAL-MART your one-stop shopping headquarters for the best products, the largest selection and the ultimate in everyday bargains!

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* Savings amounts are averages based on information from The Hartford's AARP Auto Insurance Program customers who became new auto insurance policyholders between 1/1/18 and 12/31/18 and provided data regarding their savings and prior carrier. Your savings may vary.

** Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of April 2019.

*** The gift offer is good for first time responders who provide a valid email address. Responders will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All responders in IA, IL, MA and RI who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in GA, ND, NM or PA, and residents may still request a quote. The gift is available only as a limited time offer. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Bottle not included.

† If you are age 50 or older, once you're insured through this Program for at least 60 days, you cannot be refused renewal along as applicable premiums are paid when due. Also, you and other customary drivers of your vehicles must retain valid licenses, remain physically and mentally capable of operating an automobile (not applicable in MA), have no convictions for driving while intoxicated and must not have obtained your policy through material misrepresentation. Benefit currently not available in HI, MI, NH, NC and TX.

§§ Limitations apply.

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†In Texas, the Auto Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company, through Hartford Fire General Agency, Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company.

006131

GPD ARREST REPORT

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
1/27/20		1/27/20	2:08 WYERS, TAMARA LYNN	W	F	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	214 E GLADE ST
1/29/20		1/29/20	16:53 DIXON, ROBERT WAYNE	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	600 TENERY ST
		1/29/20	15:00 WADE, RODNEY LAVAUGHN	B	M	DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID W/PREV CONVI/SUSP	510 HANCOCK
1/30/20		1/30/20	22:49 LOWERY, JARED MICHAEL	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	400 W UPSHER
2/2/20		2/2/20	7:46 DAVIS, DAVID CHRISTIAN	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	300 MCNEECE
2/3/20		2/3/20	0:01 FLOYD, DENNIS CHARLES	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	200 S MAIN ST
		2/3/20	0:12 JONES, DERICK DWIGHT	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	500 W MARSHALL



Union Grove High School 16-2A Cross Examination debate winners heading to state competition are Dakota Arden and John Caviness with the district gold, Mireya Evans and Emily Melton with district silver, and bronze medalists Kyler Littlejohn and Logan Rust who will be state alternates, along with fourth place Brendon Fuller and Alex Prince. Top Speaker was Logan Rust. Sandy Spears coaches the debate team.

Courtesy Photo



Recently an East Texas Ozarka water factory contacted Hawkins ISD about a bee problem and a team of four girls - juniors Brook Goddard and Rachel Parish and seniors Mackenzie Rutherford and Jessica Henneous, with the guidance of Matt Byrd, the Hawkins High School agriculture teacher and adviser for the National FFA Organization, came up with a sweet solution. Together the foursome became 4G and took up beekeeping to help solve the issue of bees swarming at the water plant. The team created bee boxes from Eastern Red Cedar (juniper) at the Ozarka factory fields to help mitigate the infestation. The group's project took home reserve grand champion for showmanship at the Houston Livestock Agriculture Mechanics Show and beat students from 500 other schools to earn overall reserve champion. And they received recognition from the Texas Department of Agriculture. They were also featured on the NBC Today Show show. "The goal was to make beehives to control the bees off Ozarka's 2,700 acres," Byrd told the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce last week at its luncheon. The Hawkins teens have now become licensed contractors at Ozarka. And Nestle Waters presented the chapter with a \$10,000 check for their efforts and each of the four female FFA members with \$5,000 scholarships. Now the group is preparing for their next competition in March where they hope to take home grand champion. Photo by Jim Bardwell

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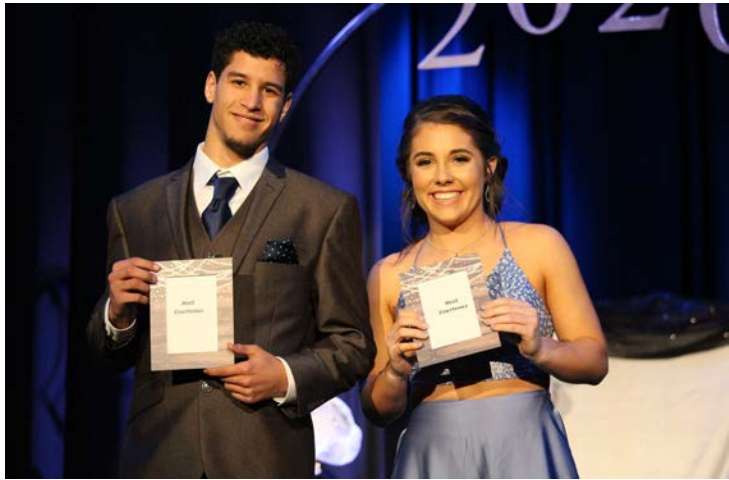
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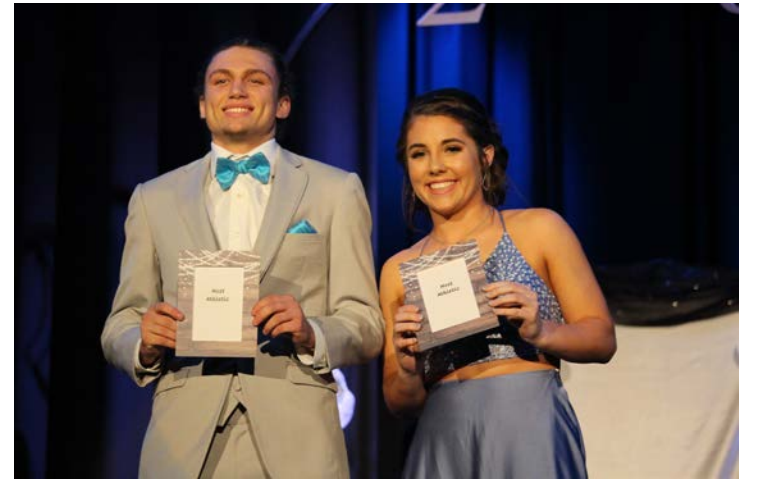
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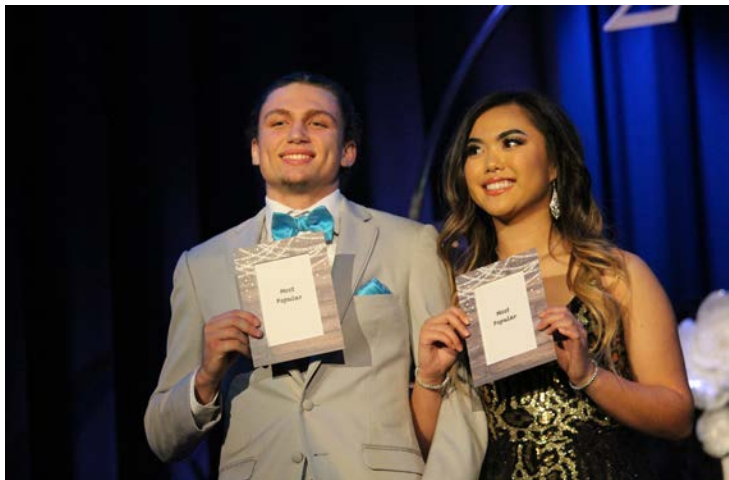
Most Handsome
Marcos Haines and **Most Beautiful** Tia Gbawar.



Most Likely to Succeed
Christopher Houston and Elizabeth Fortenberry.



Best Personality
Hannah Ballard and Isaiah Castille.



Most Popular
Robby Hodges and Michelle Teve.



Most Studious
Ramzey Osteen and Lily Cahal.



Most Talented
Kade McDaniel and Daisey Bewley.



Freshman Outstanding Students are Kollin Lewis and Kamryn Floyd.

GLADEWATER OUTSTANDING student



GHS Freshman Class Favorites are Fernando Coronado and Gracie George.



Junior Class Favorites are Tristan Holmes and Pamela Zarate.



Junior Outstanding Students are Nick Lincoln and Madelynn Timmons.



Sophomore Outstanding Students are Tanner Gothard and Jade Thomas.

UP SHUR COUNTY REPUBLICAN

JIM BARDWELL

REPUBLICAN
For Upshur Co.
Pct. 1
Commissioner



Sophomore Class Favorites are Tanner Gothard and Trinity Mooney.



Paid for by Jim Bardwell

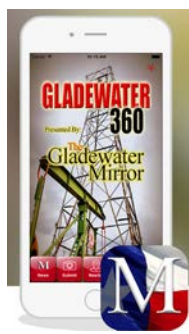
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Choir—Aaliea Johnson.



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Mariha Kinsey.



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Graphic Design—Darian Hughes.



HoneyBears—Daisey Bewley.



Math—Christopher Houston.



Ready, Set, Teach
Makayla Holland.



Science—Abigail Townsend.



Social Studies
Bethanie Longmire.



Spanish—Jewel Hall.



Theater—Jacob Weaver.



Yearbook—Hannah Ballard.

**JP/CONSTABLE
REPORT**

Upshur County Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Judge Rhonda Welch and Constable Ryan Ludvigson Report for the month of January 2020:

New Cases Filed:

- Criminal Cases- 55
- Civil Cases- 18
- Truancy-2
- Civil Hearings-5

Magistrate Warnings:

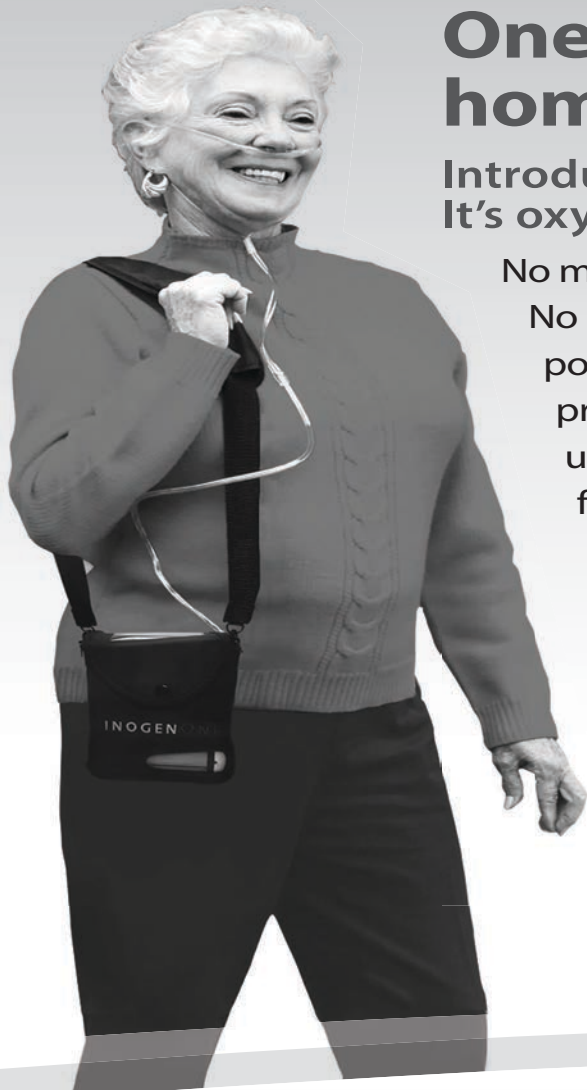
- Class C Misdemeanors-12
- Class A and B Misdemeanors-10
- Felonies-10
- New Warrants Issued-28

Collections for the month- \$9,300

Constable Ludvigson had 4 evictions, 1 out of county, 2 writs, for a total of 7 papers served, with 2 attempts made. He sought 1 warrant.

He had 7 office hours and 25.5 patrol/paper service hours.

He had 6 agency assists, 2 traffic stops w/ 2 warnings given, 1 welfare concern, 1 motorists' assists, 2 drug investigations, 5 after hour security checks, 15 extra patrols.



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WHO

S.OHM

GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL



A multi-department response to a house fire on the west end of Green Street off George Richey Road in Clarksville City included the White Oak, Clarksville-Warren City, Gladewater, East Mountain and West Mountain fire departments. White Oak police closed a section of Green Street during the fire which reportedly was caused by an electrical issue. No one was home at the time although the family's pets were rescued.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



The Black History Chorus made up of Gladewater High School students brought the house down at the conclusion of Monday's annual Black History program celebration. The joy-filled program featured guest speaker Longview City Councilman Wray Wade, a poem by KLTV producer Nytesia Ross and spirited performances by Sunshine Missionary Baptist Church, the GHS drum line and No Greater Love Dance Ministry.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



The lovely home at 1333 Phillips Springs Road owned by William and Cynthia Scott is the February yard of the month. Incorporating the native and natural growth with carefully planned landscaping in its country like setting within the city limits makes this a showcase home.

Yard of the Month

Sponsored by



The HoneyBears added a colorful dance program to Monday's Black History Program at Gladewater High School which was a celebration of possibilities. The program also serves as a fundraiser for the Lamont Jeter Jr. Scholarship Fund.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Clark's vision drives mission

Continued from Page 1

Christ as Savior nearly 35 years ago. Not surprisingly, Clark has served as a Bible study teacher, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and is currently serving as a Deacon. He also has directed the choir and served as the pianist.

"My faith guides my life," Clark said. "I believe that Christians should show their Christianity every day and in every situation. The Bible is the book that has had the greatest impact on my life. I've found no situation or challenge in life for which the Bible does not provide a solution."

The multi-talented superintendent's adult life has been dedicated to educating young people as an English and algebra teacher and an administrator in Louisiana, and as a principal at Foster Middle School in Longview. Clark has served GISD for three years and has garnered a tremendous amount of support from both staff and community.

"Mr. Clark is taking great strides at GISD," school board president Jon Keller said. "He's planning for our future while also dealing with our current needs. Our students and staff are growing under his leadership."

Clark is addressing needs within the district at the same time he has created a Vision 2025 plan for the district that calls for increased community engagement and partnerships, a community based accountability system, the re-establishment of the education foundation, an increase in career and technology programs and a Texas Education Agency "B" rating for all campuses. Clark's district vision slogan of "Small Town Schools-World Class Education" is at the heart of his GISD mission.

"Our strategic plan and partnerships with community entities, such as GEDCO, and with institutions of higher learning, such as Kilgore College, are examples," Clark said of the innovative resources and relationships being developed to enhance educational opportunities for students.

"I recently read an article that spoke of a current Gladewater revival," Clark said. "I think we are on the right track. I intend to make sure that our school district is not just a part, but is a leader in this revival."

Clark's 'spirit' is often cited as one of his greatest strengths by those who know him. In a 21st century that often seems driven by turmoil Clark has found his 'center'.



Katonya and Sedric Clark

"We have made great gains since the civil rights era and the articulation of Dr. King's dream. There are countless examples of those gains, including my position as GISD superintendent," Clark said. "However, I don't know if his dream will ever be completely realized. I believe that the fulfillment of Dr. King's dream is determined by each individual. Sadly there will always be those who carry biases and hatred toward others for reasons only

known to them. Gladly, there are more opportunities for all to show that your zip code and outer appearance does not have to determine who you are or who you will become."

Clark said that many of his personal dreams have been fulfilled.

"But, I am still dreaming," Clark said. "My dreams now center on GISD and our students and their future. I still have work to do."

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



There is an immediate need for spaghetti, elbow macaroni, pasta of all kinds as well as spaghetti sauce for Manna House community food ministry. Manna House provided 97 family food boxes during the month of January which helped nourish 172 adults and 122 children who are food deprived within the greater Gladewater community. Donations may be dropped off at the Gladewater Mirror weekdays during business hours at 211 N. Main St. or at Manna House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Financial donations may be mailed too: Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater, 75647.

Upshur computers hit by ransomware

By Phillip Williams

The computer system for the Upshur County government was hit by a Ransomware virus attack Friday, but the county had a backup system to deal with it and will pay no ransom, County Auditor Connie Williams said Monday.

Email service for county offices was suspended until improvements to the system are completed, which Williams said she hoped would be sometime this week.

The county had the backup system since other counties had been struck by such attacks, said the auditor, who said the county's information technology consultants were "very quick to respond" to the attack and "minimized the impact of this particular virus."

She said she was "extremely confident" the county would recover from the incident and "the county is doing very good in their recovery process." Improvements will be made to securities software and a firewall will be placed on email to guard against viruses, Williams said.

The virus did not prevent all computer work since some employees, though not all, have received their computers back, she added.

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