

Gladewater Mirror



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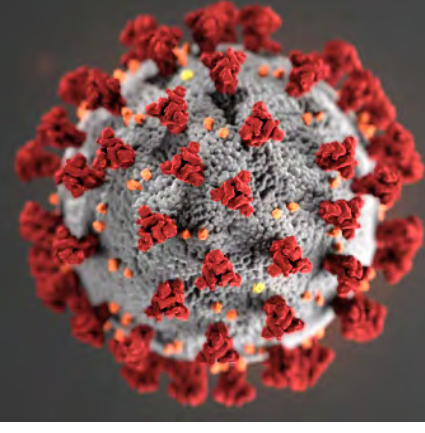
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Stoudt declares Gregg Co. local disaster/public health emergency

By Suzanne Bardwell

Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt says that when Gov. Gregg Abbott announced his state of emergency for Texas he thought it was prudent to do the same for the county. A declaration of local disaster and a public health emergency related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was issued by Stoudt on Monday morning.

"The declaration will help eliminate bureaucratic red tape and opens up assets of the state including supplies and support for Gregg County," Stoudt said.

He also said that the declaration of emergency will allow small businesses within the county to get in the system for bridge loans and low interest loans to help them manage the financial fall out that may occur as a result of the pandemic.

A confirmed Gregg County case of COVID-19 occurred on March 9 resulting in a press conference called by Judge Stoudt last Tuesday. The patient was treated at Christus Good Shepherd Medical Center

and then released under 'good condition' to recover at home under quarantine. Christus GSMC Chief Medical Officer Mark Anderson said that the patient has to test negative twice with a 2-week wait between tests before he will be released to leave his home.

Stoudt said the press conference was essential to ensure transparency and that he was depending on the news media to spread the word and counter rampant incorrect information.

"We will be notified if we have any residents testing positive and we haven't gotten any indication of that yet," Stoudt said. "My concern is that we have two major hospitals in Gregg County and we are surrounded by rural counties that they serve. We have to ensure that the hospitals are able to serve those who really need in-patient care."

Monday's declaration expressed concerns about "inappropriate accommodations for an influx of local COVID-19 patients, personal protective equipment shortages for emergency response personnel and

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City, chamber addressing cancelations, rescheduling due to COVID-19 virus

The City of Gladewater - stating its "top priority is the safety, health, and wellbeing of our community, its residents, and visitors" - issued a statement Monday concerning the COVID-19 virus and how it plans to address the growing problem.

The City of Gladewater plans to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help reduce the gathering of groups of 50 people or more by taking the following precautions concerning the COVID-19 virus.

* Court office to remain open. Court Trial Dates have been canceled for the following dates: March 17th and 23rd, and April 14th and 28th, 2020. Defendants who are on any of these dockets will have court on May 12, 2020.

* The city library remains open at this time. All events held at the Library are postponed until further notice.

* City-wide clean-up date scheduled for April 4, 2020 has been postponed. A new date will be announced when determined.

* Rentals of city owned baseball fields and pavilions have been suspended until further notice.

The city is encouraging citizens to use on-line and night drop for payments of both utility bills and court fines. A PIN to sign up for online utility bill payment, or instructions for court fine payment may be obtained by calling City Hall at 903-845-2196.

The City will be monitoring the situation and will reevaluate our closures and policies as necessary. Please monitor our Facebook page and City website for the most recent updates.

DSHS recommends these everyday actions to help prevent the spread of any respiratory virus, including COVID-19:

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

DSHS also recommends that you start practicing social distancing. Social distancing involves staying away from other people to avoid catching or spreading illness. It's a fancy term for avoiding crowds and minimizing physical contact. This could mean avoiding concerts or weddings, skipping the handshake, and/or staying at least six feet away from others.

Gladewater residents will also find the Gladewater location of the Gregg County Tax Office temporarily closed effective March 17. The Tax Office locations at 101 East Methvin in Longview and 1102 North Kilgore Street in Kilgore will remain open, according to Gregg County Tax Assessor Kirk Shields.

Area schools also have taken extra steps to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Gladewater ISD and Union Grove have extend Spring Break by at least two weeks.

Union Grove ISD Superintendent Kelly Moore posted: "After careful consideration, Union Grove ISD will extend Spring Break through March 27th. Campuses and offices will be closed for this duration. All extracurricular activities will also be suspended per UIL restrictions. School is scheduled to resume March 30th. For more information visit www.ugisd.org/covid19."

GISD Superintendent Sedic Clark had the same concern for his district and students, posting: "Dear Bear Nation, With confirmed cases of covid-19 in both Gregg and Smith counties, we are now on Level 3 of our coronavirus plan. n an attempt to limit the spread of the virus, all Gladewater Schools will be closed for students from March 16 - March 27. Additionally, all after school and extracurricular events during that time are cancelled."

In response to the CDC's suggestion of first limiting groups to under 50 people and then Monday's suggestion by President Donald Trump to have no more than 10 people in a group, the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce has voted to reschedule its annual chamber banquet set for March 26 to May 21, according to Gladewater Chamber President Lois Reed.

Gusher Days, Gladewater's annual festival celebrating the oil boom days, has been tentatively canceled. The festival was scheduled for April 17-18 and featured two nights of live music, chili cook-off, carnival rides and amusement fun, as well as food and arts and crafts vendors. Gusher Days could be rescheduled if an appropriate date can be found. The board planned to meet Tuesday night.

The Tourism & Downtown Association's Spring Art & Wine Swirl in downtown Gladewater set for Saturday, March 28 has been rescheduled for Aug. 8.

Texas STAAR test waived due to coronavirus outbreak

By Aliyya Swaby
Texas Tribune

In an unprecedented move, Gov. Greg Abbott announced Monday he would waive testing requirements for this year's STAAR exam, as many schools expect to be closed at least through the April testing window, due to the new coronavirus.

He also said he would ask the federal government to waive this year's federal standardized testing requirements, which apply to all states. According to the state, as of Sunday afternoon, 569 school districts had announced closures

due to coronavirus concerns. Texas is not alone, since more than 30 states have closed schools due to coronavirus, affecting at least 30 million public school students nationwide.

The federal government has previously said it might give out targeted waivers from testing for areas where the COVID-19 disease has had significant impact.

The state will not mandate that districts offer the exam, but some superintendents may want the test data to see how their students are doing, according to the TEA. Agency officials are working to

support those school districts, if necessary.

The governor's announcement comes a day after Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath told superintendents and lawmakers on two separate phone calls to prepare for long-term school district closures, potentially through the end of the school year, especially in areas where the new coronavirus has spread.

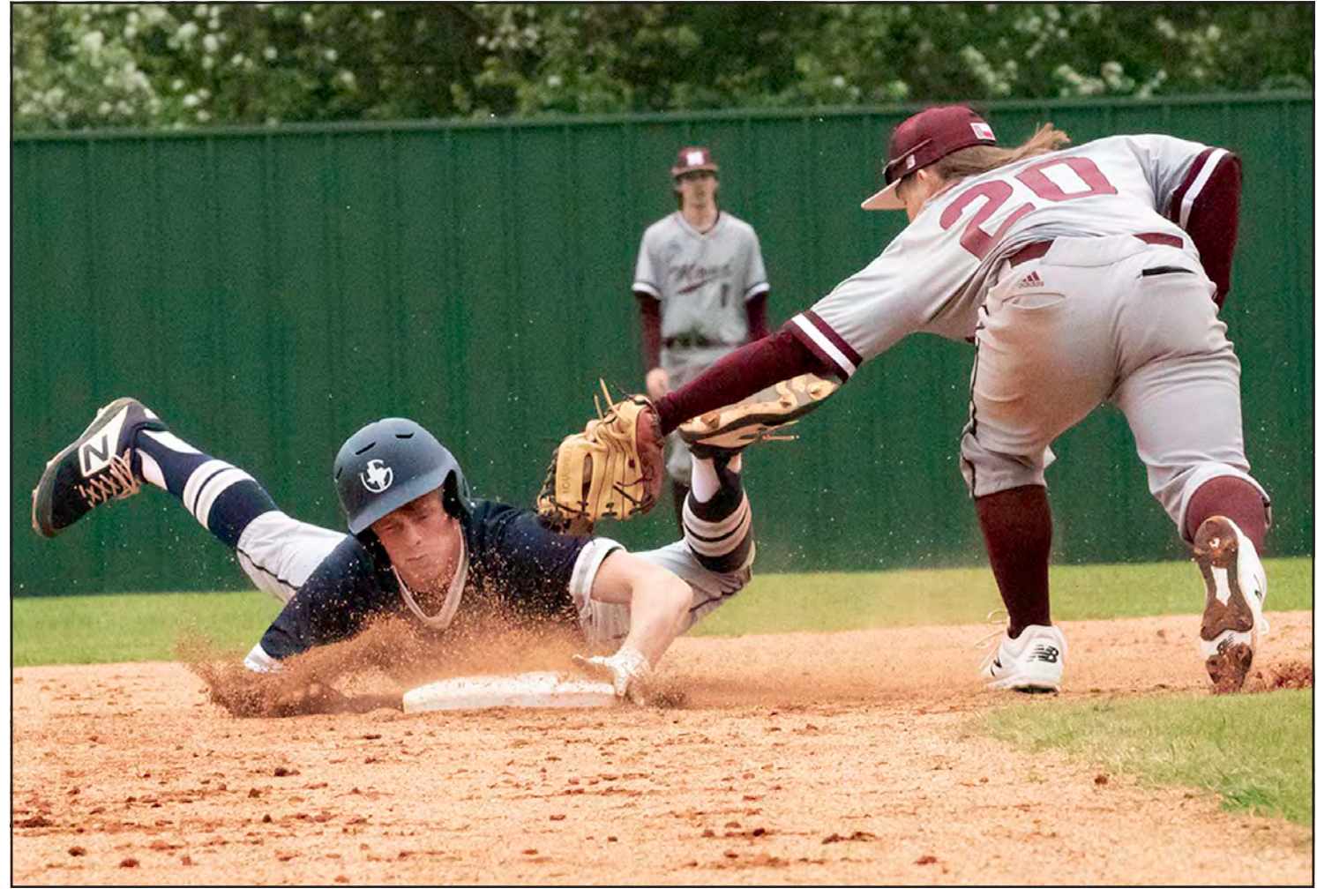
Lawmakers from both parties, as well as school superintendents, had been calling on the state to cancel the test since it became clear students would miss many

days of school, when districts started extending their spring breaks for a week or two.

Morath said in a statement Monday morning that Abbott had made the right decision on testing: "We are thankful for Governor Abbott's willingness to waive the STAAR testing requirement, as it allows schools the maximum flexibility to remain focused on public health while also investing in the capacity to support student learning remotely."

State leaders are giving schools more leeway than they have in

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Union Grove's Kooper Smith (13) slides in safe at second base. Union Grove countered Maud's three-run third with two in the bottom half to tie it, adding a run in the sixth for the win in a 4-3 victory. This game was one the last games played before all area sports ground to a halt — some for just a few weeks and some permanently — due to concerns about the outbreak of COVID-19.

Photo by Klm Hill

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Local sales tax up 38.39%

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 11 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$766.2 million in local sales tax allocations for March. The dollar amount is 7.7% more than in the amount distributed in March 2019. The allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

Gladewater posted a 38.39-percent increase over the same reporting period last year and Gladewater Mayor J.D. Shipp called the nine straight months of positive numbers "Incredible," adding "The growth found in sales tax revenue for Gladewater over the past several months has been incredible. I believe it to not only be a result of new businesses entering our community but also the goods and services found in Gladewater. Thank you to our business owners and their staffs for making Gladewater a great place to shop."

Clarksville City posted a 76.27-percent rise, while White Oak posted a -7.01 percent decline, as did Warren City with a -6.55-percent slip.

Hegar said "As I have said before during significant downturns in energy prices, the Texas economy is less reliant on severance taxes to fund the day-to-day functions of state government than it has been historically."

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
GREGG COUNTY							
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$5,131.96	\$2,911.28	76.27%	\$14,725.84	\$11,012.96	33.71%
Easton	1.000%	\$2,574.98	\$2,472.75	4.13%	\$10,281.92	\$5,178.68	98.54%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$91,151.49	\$65,861.31	38.39%	\$331,789.85	\$240,676.72	37.85%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$627,353.27	\$892,277.06	-29.69%	\$2,108,196.07	\$2,635,041.49	-19.99%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$16,536.83	\$17,573.27	-5.89%	\$50,183.09	\$48,376.67	3.73%
Longview	1.500%	\$2,433,569.86	\$2,368,663.09	2.74%	\$8,951,206.90	\$8,555,617.00	4.62%
Warren City	1.000%	\$1,262.22	\$1,350.75	-6.55%	\$4,689.27	\$5,823.33	-19.47%
White Oak	1.500%	\$82,318.46	\$88,524.19	-7.01%	\$266,651.77	\$271,885.64	-1.92%
UPSHUR COUNTY							
Big Sandy	1.250%	\$16,658.58	\$12,963.02	28.50%	\$52,917.10	\$52,976.06	-0.11%
East Mountain	1.000%	\$2,908.15	\$4,095.74	-28.99%	\$11,458.68	\$8,773.09	30.61%
Gilmer	1.500%	\$150,754.18	\$138,130.30	9.13%	\$510,175.83	\$471,893.93	8.11%
Ore City	1.500%	\$15,592.54	\$14,372.22	8.49%	\$51,285.00	\$45,531.06	12.63%
Union Grove	1.000%	\$258.87	\$529.22	-51.08%	\$971.04	\$1,505.69	-35.50%

OPINION/EDITORIAL

“Fake News?”

Let’s talk about what ‘Fake News’ really is...it is NOT coming from credible newspapers, journalistically sound magazines or broadcast NEWS journalists. Make sure YOU, as a consumer of news, know the difference between news reporting and commentary. A great deal of what you see on the 24-hour ‘news’ channels or hear on talk radio is commentary and often opinion-based and agenda driven. It is NOT NEWS. Quite often what is shared online is flat out deception.

I hate the phrase ‘the media’. What media would you be referring to? Art? Photography? The internet? Newsprint? Broadcast? Because every time you say it, I think it is ME you are railing angrily at.

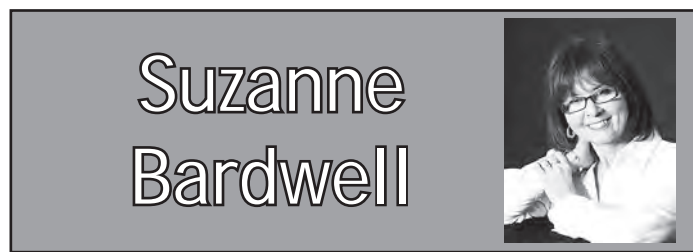
I also hate the phrase ‘FAKE NEWS’. By nature News is not fake. It is based on credible sources and is fact and logic based. When a factual mistake is made by a credible journalistic source it is corrected as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the out of control internet information on this pandemic is a virus just as dangerous as COVID-19 and it is creating havoc in our society. The vast majority of coronavirus information shared across SOCIAL MEDIA comes from FAKE NEWS SITES, according to NewsGuard, a service that rates the credibility and transparency of web news content. That means it is NOT really a NEWS source at all. Which also means, Dear Readers, that it is NOT coming from professional journalism sources.

A recently launched Coronavirus Misinformation Tracking Center has identified 106 such misleading sites in the United States and Europe. That does not count the rumor-sharing and false, delightfully macabre Zombie Apocalypse writing that permeates Facebook, Twitter and to a lesser degree Instagram.

Fifty-four of the United States’ identified ‘fake news’ websites are in the NaturalNews.com network which is a group of sites that consists of the DECEPTIVE domains FACTCHECK.news and Pandemic.news. These sites are infamous for publishing medical and other conspiracy theories since 2003. In the United States, it breaks my heart to report, that 75 such sites show much higher online interaction than with the Center for Disease Control or credible medical sites such as the Mayo Clinic.

The 75 misinformation sites recently had well over 50 million



Suzanne Bardwell

hits which was 142 times that of the CDC and the World Health Organization. I am just going to say it...how stupid are we?

People react to headlines without reading stories. They look at charts and graphs and don’t read the article for context or the explanatory footnotes. We have become a nation of attention-deficit, rumor mongering, logic deficient, angry people. My heart literally hurts. My frustration level is growing exponentially with the screams of Fake News at credible sources.

Before you pass information along make sure it is from a credible source. A credible sounding name does NOT mean it is factual. Before you react to a headline read the blooming story. Please! If you are scanning research, check the source, read all the footnotes and make sure YOU understand what you are reading. It is much more likely that you are the purveyor of fake news not those hardworking, underpaid and certainly unappreciated journalists.

We are a country that is filled with good people who care. Let’s make sure that it is also filled with smart people who pride themselves on being well-informed. Remember, commentary is NOT news and many credible sounding websites are there to deceive you. Know your sources, be discerning and not gullible.

Also, if we really care about each other we will quit hoarding supplies and stop being so angry. We Americans have always been at our best in a crisis. That is who we truly are. A little, or a lot, of prayer might be in order right now for those who are ill throughout the world and those who are caring for them, as well as all our medical personnel and first responders. That might be a good use of some of our time while we are ‘self-distancing’ physically, but hopefully not emotionally or spiritually.

Stay well Dear Readers, stay smart, and stay kind. After all, kind is who you really are. Just don’t forget that in this crisis.



Ed Sterling
Capital Highlights

Governor issues statewide disaster declaration

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on March 13 declared a state of disaster in all Texas counties and listed actions agencies are taking to contain and minimize the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, a contagious flu-like respiratory disease.

Abbott said agency actions would include:

—Provide immediate ability to move resources around the state, including resources obtained through the Strategic National Stockpile, an emergency supply of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies;

—Restrict visitations at nursing homes, state-supported living centers, hospitals, daycare facilities, prisons, jails and juvenile justice facilities, while allowing limited exceptions for situations such as end-of-life visitations;

—Direct state agencies to take any action necessary to facilitate telemedicine and to provide flexible work and tele-work policies; and

—Empower the Texas Attorney General to pursue cases of price-gouging and ensure that offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Cost waiving requested

Earlier last week, Abbott and the Texas Department of Insurance asked health insurers and health maintenance organizations operating in Texas to waive costs associated with the testing and telemedicine visits for the diagnosis of COVID-19.

Additionally, TDI requested that insurers report their actions related to consumer cost-sharing and access to services so that the department can ensure consumers are aware of their available benefits.

“Consulting a physician from home is a practical way to avoid getting sick, prevent the spread of the virus and help ensure that emergency rooms are available for those who truly need them. We appreciate the collaboration of health insurers operating in Texas to enhance our state’s proactive approach to addressing any potential outbreaks of COVID-19,” Abbott said.

Hegar: Economy is strong

Texas faces current weaknesses in financial, commodity and energy markets but the fundamentals of the Lone Star State’s economy remain strong, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said on March 9.

Texas has exposure if oil prices remain depressed for a sustained period of time, and slowdowns in economic activity related to the COVID-19 outbreak could also be a headwind, Hegar said. However, he added, it is now only six months into the state’s current budget cycle, so it is too early to tell how current fluctuations might impact long-term economic performance and state revenues.

Hegar also pointed out that the Texas economy is less reliant on oil and gas severance taxes to fund the day-to-day functions of state government than it has been historically. Additionally, the state leadership has numerous financial management tools that allow the state to react to and contend with economic pressures.

“Having said that, we will continue to monitor the economy and state revenues closely and will provide updates to lawmakers and the public as conditions warrant,” Hegar said.

Agency conducts exercise

Comptroller Hegar on March 11 said his office conducted an agencywide telework exercise on March 10.

In the exercise, some 1,800 employees representing the majority of the comptroller’s staff worked regular hours from home. Critical operations of the agency functioned normally, including call center agents who handled normal call volumes while teleworking.

“I want to stress that this was a scheduled business continuity exercise designed to simulate a scenario in which comptroller employees were required to work from home. This exercise will allow the agency to identify and address any weaknesses in our continuity plan under controlled conditions,” Hegar said.

Texas joins consortium

The Office of the Secretary of State on March 9 announced that Texas will become the 30th state to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a non-profit consortium that assists member states in increasing voter participation and improving the accuracy of voter rolls.

Governed and managed by member states, ERIC was formed in 2012 with assistance from The Pew Charitable Trusts. During its 2019 session, the 86th Texas Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for Texas to join the consortium.

Participation in ERIC will assist Texas elections officials in identifying and conducting outreach to eligible but unregistered voters to encourage them to register to vote, according to the Secretary of State’s Elections Division.

It’s Sunshine Week in America

By Donnis Baggett

It’s Sunshine Week in America, and thanks to the leadership of key legislators, the sun shines brighter in Texas than it did a year ago.

The 2019 legislative session brought reforms to restore muscle to transparency laws that were pounded to mush by appeals court rulings in recent years. More on that in a bit.

Sunshine Week is observed annually to spotlight the importance of government transparency. By law, most government actions are supposed to be readily transparent via public meetings, public records and public notices so citizens can hold their government accountable.

During an election year politicians of all stripes vow to let the

sun shine on government business. “I’m all for transparency” is as common a refrain as “I pledge allegiance...” But once they take office, too many officials add a word to that sentence: “I’m all for transparency, but...” And they look for ways to avoid revealing how they spend taxpayer’s money.

Case in point:

In 2015, the City of McAllen held a holiday parade headlined by singer Enrique Iglesias. When the party was over, the McAllen Monitor asked for details on parade expenses — including a copy of the city’s contract with Iglesias.

The city refused, citing a dumbfounding 2015 Texas Supreme Court ruling that allowed governmental bodies to keep their business contracts secret for competitive reasons.

It took four years, a major media campaign, two legislative sessions and intense lobbying by transparency advocates to put teeth back into some of the transparency laws eviscerated by rulings such as this by the Texas Supreme Court and the 3rd Court of Appeals.

Thanks to the leadership of legislators like Sen. Kirk Watson, Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, Sen. Kelly Hancock, Rep. Terry Canales, Rep. Todd Hunter, Rep. Joe Moody, Rep. Dade Phelan, Rep. Eddie Rodriguez and Sen. Nathan Johnson, some needed reforms were passed in the 2019 session. There’s still work to do, but at least Texans can again follow how government is spending their money in cases like this.

Thanks to one of those reform bills, on Jan. 1, 2020, McAllen’s contract with Iglesias was released for public scrutiny at long last.

The city paid the singer \$485,000 for a one-hour performance. Taxpayers also footed the bill for a charter flight from Guadalajara, Mexico, plus 24 hotel rooms for two nights.

Here are additional details reported by the Texas Tribune:

“The long-concealed document also sheds light on Iglesias’ preferred pre-show menu (one plate of chicken with vegetables and mashed potatoes, one plate of steak with vegetables and mashed potatoes, ‘simply cooked, no sauces’) and his post-show preferences (one California roll, one spicy tuna roll, one shrimp roll and two pieces of sashimi; tuna, yellowtail and salmon were all acceptable). By 3 p.m., his dressing room was to contain, among other things, thirty-six 500-milliliter bottles of room-temperature spring water (‘Fiji only’), one bottle of aloe juice without pulp, one bottle of aloe juice with pulp (‘Ask for clarification if necessary’), six bottles of room-temperature orange Gatorade, one bottle of KetelOne Vodka (‘NO SUBSTITUTES’) and two washed king-sized white sheets (‘THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT’).

The McAllen case will be remembered for years as a poster child for government transparency and accountability. But the fight to keep the public’s business in the public eye will never end. As long as human nature is what it is, we’ll need Sunshine Week to remind us to stay vigilant.

Donnis Baggett is executive VP of the Texas Press Association.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AND GLADEWATER CITIZENS:

Hats off to the City of Gladewater leaders and GISD staff. Mayor JD Shipp has asked for everyone to avoid crowds of more than fifty (50) people for the next eight (8) weeks. This action was taken after careful consideration of facts and discussions by our elected officials. As City Manager Ricky Tow stated in a press release “Our top priority is the safety, health, and wellbeing of our community, its residents, and visitors.”

Therefore, the 90th Chamber Banquet which was planned for Thursday, March 26th has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020. This event is celebrated yearly with over two hundred citizens in attendance. Banquet sponsors and table sponsors in addition to those who have already purchased individual tickets, do not need to do anything. Marsha Valdetero, Chamber Manager, is available to sell additional tickets which cost \$25.00 each. She can be reached at (903) 845-5501.

Another Chamber event, Gusher Days will not occur on April 17th and 18th. The committee will be making a decision this week whether to cancel or reschedule. Thanks to those volunteers who have worked so hard to make this year bigger and better.

Please follow the instructions provided by the Center for Disease Control so that the Coronavirus doesn’t continue to affect so many people. Your cooperation is desperately needed.

This may be a great opportunity for you to complete the CENSUS 2020 form which has already been mailed to homes. These results affect our community in very important ways.

Let’s continue to support our Small Businesses downtown.

Prayers for our great country, world, state, city, and residents during this time.

Lois Reed, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce President



North & East Texas Press Association

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THE PRICE OF VICTORY IS HIGH

Former Alabama football coach, Paul Bear Bryant said: “The price of victory is high, but so are rewards—My attitude has always been, if it’s worth playing, it’s worth paying the price to win.” Coach Bryant was right on when it came to football, but the same can be said for Christianity.

Jesus said there is a price to be paid if we are to follow Him. Therefore we must count the cost and be willing to renounce all we have to be His disciple (READ “Lk. 14: 26-33). Many will happily follow Jesus as long as He is going where they want. But when He leads down the road of sacrifice, self-denial, suffering, or even death, are they willing to trust Him and keep following?

At times, Jesus had large crowds following Him. People loved His miracles, healing, and at times free food. He was cool, the talk of the town, the latest fad! But, Jesus knew they desired the benefits of what He “did” rather than an understanding of who He “was.” They loved His gifts, not the life He was calling them to. In Jesus’ earthly ministry, there came a time when the public opinion turned ugly, the cheering crowds became jeering crowds, and He knew those who were willing to follow Him, simply for what they could get, wouldn’t stick around when the going got tough.

How many love the idea of eternal life, escaping hell, and having Jesus at their beck and call, but, who are not willing to leave the life they now live? Their desires, lifestyle, and sinful habits are too precious to them! Sadly, we want the rewards, but are we willing to pay the price? Are we willing to “deny ourselves, and take up our cross daily, and follow Him?” (Lk. 9:23). Think on these things.

Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454-White Oak, TX 75693
903-845-6139-preachab@suddenlink.net

NFPA and State Farm encourage communities to participate in safety activities during Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

In the last two years, wildfires have claimed more than 100 lives and cost more than \$25 billion in property losses.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and State Farm are helping communities take steps toward safety with their national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day (Preparedness Day) event on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Preparedness Day plays an important role in helping to raise awareness of wildfire risk, and provides a platform to share information and offer guidance to residents as they make changes to improve the survival of their homes and neighborhoods.

Thanks to generous support from State Farm, 150 communities across 26 states will receive project funding awards of \$500 each to support activities on Preparedness Day aimed at reducing potential loss of life, property, and natural resources to wildfire. See the list of winners.

“Since NFPA and State Farm first partnered together on Preparedness Day, the number of projects has grown tremendously. We are pleased to provide 150 communities with a grant to fund their wildfire risk reduction activities on May 2,” said Vickie Hodges, P&C underwriting analyst, State Farm. “For State Farm, the largest home insurer in



the U.S., it is important to us to take a leadership role in helping homeowners stay safe and better protect their property.”

Over the last few years wildfire events have made the need for Preparedness Day more important than ever before. In

2018, nearly all of the \$13 billion in property damage and losses from large fire incidents in the U.S. was due to just six wildfires. As annual federal spending for

wildfire management has gone from roughly \$1 billion per year in the mid-1990's to close to \$4 billion per year today, the average annual area burned from wildfires has jumped from about two million to eight million acres over the same period.

“Since our initial launch of Preparedness Day in 2013, participation in the campaign has grown,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “Taking action on Preparedness Day can help make a difference in the survival of home and neighborhoods. We are

inspired by all of the great work these communities are doing to reduce their risk.”

There is still time to make homes and communities safer from wildfire. NFPA and State Farm encourage people to get involved by planning a project and participating on May 2. Plan a project with the help of NFPA's free Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Toolkit.

For more information about national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day including videos and tip sheets, visit www.wildfireprepd.org.

Texas STAAR test waived due to coronavirus outbreak

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the past, showing the increasing seriousness surrounding the COVID-19 disease.

When Hurricane Harvey decimated Houston-area and Coastal Bend communities in 2017, Morath hesitated to give them a break on testing or accountability requirements, arguing that doing so would harm student learning. He argued that getting rid of state testing requirements would violate federal requirements and put federal funding at risk.

Eventually he agreed not to hold poor STAAR results against schools and districts, though he did not waive the requirement that

they test students.

“Accountability results have been waived for Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Harvey. But never has testing itself been waived,” said Dee Carney, a longtime school accountability consultant in Texas. “It’s absolutely an unprecedented event requiring extraordinary measures of our schools and our teachers and our communities.”

It is not clear exactly what the implications are for students who need to take certain state tests in order to graduate from high school or move on to the next grade. Morath said he would send more specific guidance on student

testing and school accountability this week, likely before Thursday.

State leaders have urged school districts to continue to instruct students remotely while they are absent or while schools are closed due to COVID-19, including providing equal access to students with special needs. Morath has said districts will not be financially penalized for student absences as long as they show they are providing remote instruction.

Not every school district has the resources or training necessary to provide quality online instruction, and many low-income students do not have access to reliable internet or have computers at home.

Everyone wants to save money on their taxes, and older Americans are no exception. If you're age 50 or older, here are two tax tips that could help you do just that.

1. Standard Deduction for Seniors. If you and/or your spouse are 65 years old or older and you do not itemize your deductions, you can take advantage of a higher standard deduction amount. There is an additional increase in the standard deduction if either you or your spouse is blind.

2. Credit for the Elderly or Disabled. If you and/or your spouse are either 65 years or older--or under age 65 years old and are permanently and totally

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City council plans public hearings on demolition work

A public hearing regarding the demolition of several structures will be held Thursday night at the monthly Gladewater City Council meeting.

The structures to be demolished include:

- a) LOT 6, BLK 1 SILVER CITY ADDN #2 S347 (A8) 0.1377 ACRES & OLD HOUSE-NCV; more commonly known as 110 S.

GISD earns 'superior' rating in state's financial accountability system

By Jim Bardwell

The Gladewater ISD Board of Trustees heard that the district's performance rating on the "State Financial Accountability System" was "superior," getting a 98 out of 100.

The trustees, meeting Monday night at the Gladewater Middle School, also hired a new Ag teacher. Rachel Taylor will replace Morgan Walker. In other personnel action, the board accepted the resignations of Abigail King, Shelley Fredrick, Romanda Holley and Renea Byers.

In other business Monday:

* The Department of Agriculture Administrative Review of the School Nutrition Programs Report was reviewed and GISD did well, missing only one out of 450 requirements.

* Reviewed the 2019-2020 District Climate Survey Results, where district employees were allowed to give their opinion about GISD anonymously. The board was advised the results found employees liked where they worked and felt they were part of the team and listened to by their supervisors.

* The Board approved an audit firm for the 2019-2020 school year.

* The Board voted to begin the 2020-2021 school year budget process.

* The Board approved the purchase of a replacement oven for Gladewater Primary School for \$8,985 and approved a budget amendment to pay for it.

* The Board also approved getting Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification.

* The Board approved the 2020-2021 school year calendar, which calls for school to begin Aug. 17, 2020 and end May 22, 2021, with graduation set for May 28, 2021..

* The Board named GISD Superintendent Sedric Clark its representative to the Region VII Advisory Committee.

* And since all three incumbents - Jon Keller, Jamie Robertson and David Floyd are unopposed in their bid for re-election the board approved a certification of unopposed candidates for the Gladewater ISD Board of Trustee Election of May 2, 2020, and then approved an order of cancellation for the GISD election. This action saves the district the expense of holding an election.

Culver Street

b) LOT 7, BLK 1 SILVER CITY ADDN #2 S347 (A8) .2583 ACRES & HOUSE; more commonly known as 112 S. Culver Street

c) LOT 8, BLK 10 GLADEVIEW ADDN S177 (A8).2583 ACRES & HOUSE; more commonly known as 1205 N. Edwards Street

d) LT 1 BLK 3 NORTON & OLSON; more commonly known as 400 W. Sunset Avenue

e) LTS 8 & 9A BLK 3 (N 12.5' LT 9) BELWOOD; more commonly known as 609 White Street

f) LTS 9 THRU 11 BLK 3 BELWOOD; more commonly known as 611 White Street

The city council will also consider a budget amendment for a Forestry Service Grant for a brush/skid unit for a GFD truck and a budget amendment for a GFD refrigerators.

The council also will consider a grant for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment and consider an ETCOG fire department grant for radios.

Gladewater Police Chief Gordon Freeman will discuss DDACT, which is a law enforcement operational model that integrates location-

based crime and traffic crash data to establish effective and efficient methods for deploying law enforcement and other partner resources, and the council will consider the appointment of a local babies control authority.

The council is also scheduled to discuss a proposed ordinance regarding game rooms and amusement redemption. Upshur County recently passed regulations on game rooms.

At a special meeting held last Thursday, the council discussed a possible liquor election so restaurants can serve mixed drinks, the council, talked about the lake store and how to shop it to potential investors, and discussed the land along the railroad tracks which the city leases.

The council was told a petition is required to initiate any council action concerning a liquor election. Two local restaurateurs have requested a change in the current liquor law so they can serve more than wine and beer. They say such a change will bring more tax revenue to the city.

The council also chose to review its current process of granting blanket permits to groups to lessen the city's liability.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Oil

The price of crude oil has fallen substantially, roiling markets. Let's look at what has happened and what we might expect going forward.

Since the coronavirus outbreak

began, slack has developed in demand for crude oil. Disruptions and quarantines have caused economic

growth in China and elsewhere to slow. With the huge Chinese economy expanding less, slower growth has rippled out, and areas with significant outbreaks have experienced even greater negative effects. The result has been falling demand for oil and natural gas, and therefore downward pressure

on prices. Early in the year, prices were in the \$63 per barrel range; they had fallen to less than \$42 by March 6.

Then OPEC+ fell apart, at least for the moment. While OPEC (The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) dates back to 1960, over the past few years, Russia has been added to the talks and various production agreements.

Production cuts were proposed in recent OPEC+ discussions to boost prices, but a disagreement between Saudi Arabia and Russia ended with both sides indicating they would instead increase output.

With oil prices already down due to virus-related disruptions, the decision by the Saudi Arabian government to engage in what is essentially a price war with Russia

caused a substantial decline (about 25% in one day, the largest drop since 1991). As I am writing, there has been some subsequent recovery in response to signals that the Saudis and Russians might resume discussions; if either side dramatically increases crude production, it will create a "supply shock" to the oil market, and the result could be further declines (which the market appears to be pricing in already).

Neither Russia (because of inefficiencies in its production) nor Saudi Arabia (because of the social spending that is tied to oil production) can sustain these prices indefinitely, but it remains to be seen when someone blinks. While both nations would like to put pressure on the US industry as it gains market share, the most likely outcome of low

prices would not be shrinking US production over time, but rather consolidation with US companies with capital acquiring those who falter. In the meantime, US production costs will continue to decline, making any such efforts ultimately futile.

Until things settle down, there will be tremendous pressure on the industry as capital dries up and profits shrink. Although production costs have fallen dramatically in Texas in recent years, sustained prices at current levels could lead to notable near-term disruptions in the state economy.

It is not practical for Saudi Arabia or Russia to sustain the current situation for long, but the timing of the truce may depend as much on extraneous factors as it will economics.

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 6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
WEDNESDAY: 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting

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 Wednesday
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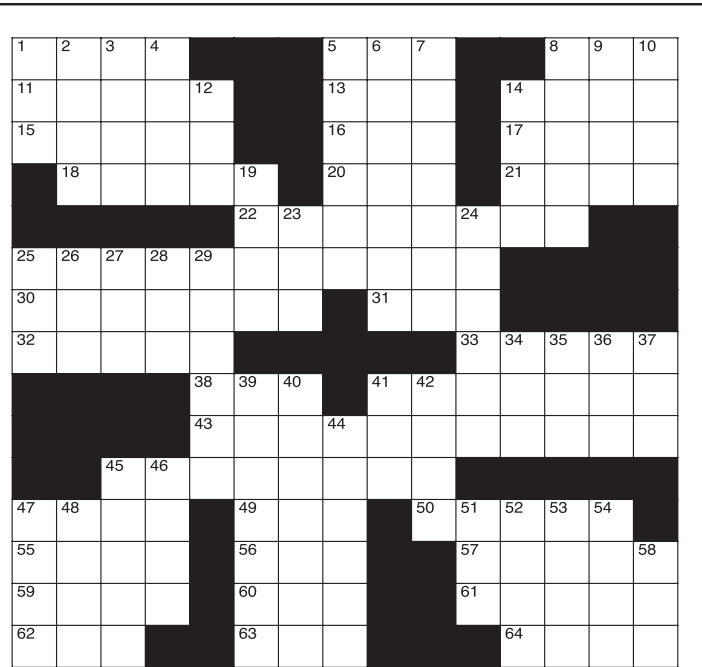
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. As soon as possible
- 5. Gateway (Arabic)
- 8. Doctors' group
- 11. Madder genus of plants
- 13. A team's best pitcher
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Go up
- 16. Neither
- 17. Bolivian river
- 18. Manila hemp
- 20. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 21. British School
- 22. Human reproductive organs
- 25. Surrenders
- 30. Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
- 31. Sun up in New York
- 32. Lead alloy
- 33. Eastern Asian plant
- 38. Rapid deployment force (abbr.)
- 41. Japanese warrior
- 43. Festivity
- 45. Interruptions
- 47. Nonsense (slang)
- 49. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. French river
- 56. Global business conference (abbr.)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Con man's game
- 60. No (Scottish)
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Fish
- 63. Camera term (abbr.)
- 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A continuous portion of a circle
- 2. Genus of seabirds
- 3. Infant's dining accessory
- 4. Native Americans from Arizona
- 5. Popular fruit
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Scolded
- 8. Assists
- 9. Hand (Spanish)
- 10. Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
- 12. Basics
- 14. Cain and __
- 19. Malaria
- 23. Indicates particular shape
- 24. Respiratory disease
- 25. Central Standard Time
- 26. Imitate
- 27. Golf score
- 28. A place to lay your head
- 29. Three cards of the same suit
- 34. Not in
- 35. Human gene
- 36. Ancient Chinese philosophic concept
- 37. French river
- 39. Thinks up
- 40. Type of geological deposit
- 41. Helps little firms
- 42. Area units
- 44. A device to remove
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Polite interruption sound
- 47. Foundation
- 48. Clare Boothe __, American writer
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resistance fighters
- 58. Speak disrespectfully of

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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



BODY FACT:

THIS PART OF THE EYE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FORMATION OF VISUAL IMAGES.

ANSWER: RETINA

What's the Difference?
There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A

B

Answers: 1. Glasses on man 2. Tie on man 3. Missing glasses on shelf 4. Ponytail on woman

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

MAR 27

- **1886:** THE APACHE WARRIOR GERONIMO SURRENDERS TO THE U.S. ARMY, ENDING THE MAIN PHASE OF THE APACHE WARS.
- **1958:** NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV BECOMES THE SOVIET PREMIER AND FIRST SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
- **1964:** A 9.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS 80 MILES EAST OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.

New Word

FOCUS

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How they SAY that in...

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ITALIAN: Occhio
FRENCH: Oeil
GERMAN: Auge

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ANSWER: EYEGLASSES

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in California on February 25, 1976. I have famous parents in the entertainment industry, but originally I wanted to be a lawyer and attended Harvard University. I have been in several films and a TV show about office life.

Answer: Rashida Jones

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to creativity.

EYTRHO

Answer: Theory

CRAFT & CREATE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ADHESIVE
ANTIQUING
APPLIQUE
ARTIST
BEADS
BRUSHES
CANVAS
CLAY
DETAIL
EMBOSS
FASHION
GRID
INK
INSPIRATION
JEWELRY
MATERIALS
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NEEDLES
PAINT
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PATTERN
PHOTOGRAPHY
RULER
SEWING

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

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

EAST TEXAS FISHING

Pineywoods Region

B.A. Steinhagen

GOOD. Water stained; 57-58 degrees; 0.30' low. Largemouth bass are good with topwater, worms, and flashers pushing the spawn spots. Crappie remain fair on jigs and minnows close to shore. Catfish are good on cut and prepped bait.

Bob Sandlin

FAIR. Water clear; 52-54 degrees; 0.38' high. Black bass are good on crankbaits, plastic worms and spinnerbaits in creeks. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows in deeper water 12-22'. Catfish are fair on cut bait and blood bait.

Caddo

GOOD. Water stained; 53-56 degrees; 1.60' high. Largemouth bass are good in shallow water with swimbaits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on slabs and jigs in deeper water. Chain Pickerel are fair. Catfish are good on stinkbait and live bait.

Conroe

FAIR. Water stained; 57-59 degrees; 1.44' low. Largemouth bass remain good on topwaters soft plastics, spinners, and jigs in all-natural spawning spots. Crappie remain fair on minnows and jigs. Hybrid striped bass are slowing on shad. Catfish are good on stinkbait and cut bait. Sunfish are fair with live worms or crickets in shallow water.

Fork

FAIR. Water lightly stained; 54-58 degrees; 0.35' low. Largemouth bass are good on soft plastics. Pre-spawn bass activity near creeks drains, flats and coves in 2-6'. White and yellow bass are fair in deep water. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows staging near creeks in 12-18'. Catfish are fair on prepared bait and cut bait in deeper water.

Houston County

GOOD. Water lightly stained; 58-59 degrees; 0.2' high. Black bass are good using a 1/8 copper shaky head, stick bait, crankbait off the west point, Carolina Rigged French Fry in 3 to 5 feet of water around rocks and boathouses. Black and blue jig and 10-inch worm are also good. Crappie are good in creek channels, coves, and brush piles in varying depths using jigs and minnows. Catfish are good in the

shallows and using fresh cut shad for deep catfishing.

Lake O' the Pines

GOOD. Water stained; 56 degrees; 5.04' high. Largemouth bass are good on medium size crankbaits, and Texas rigged creature baits. Bass are staging in pre-spawn shallow areas. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in the creek mouths and drains. Catfish are fair on cut bait and blood bait in 10-16 feet of water.

Livingston

FAIR. Water lightly stained; 59-62 degrees; 0.19' high. Black bass are good in the back of creeks with worms, spinners, and jigs. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows and

jigs in creeks and most structures under seven feet. White bass are good on spoons. Catfish are fair on live baits.

Martin Creek

GOOD. Water stained; 60 degrees; 0.25' low. Largemouth bass are good on jigs and crankbaits in shallow coves and creeks. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows at Dirgin Bridge and RR trestle. Catfish fair on cut bait.

Naconiche

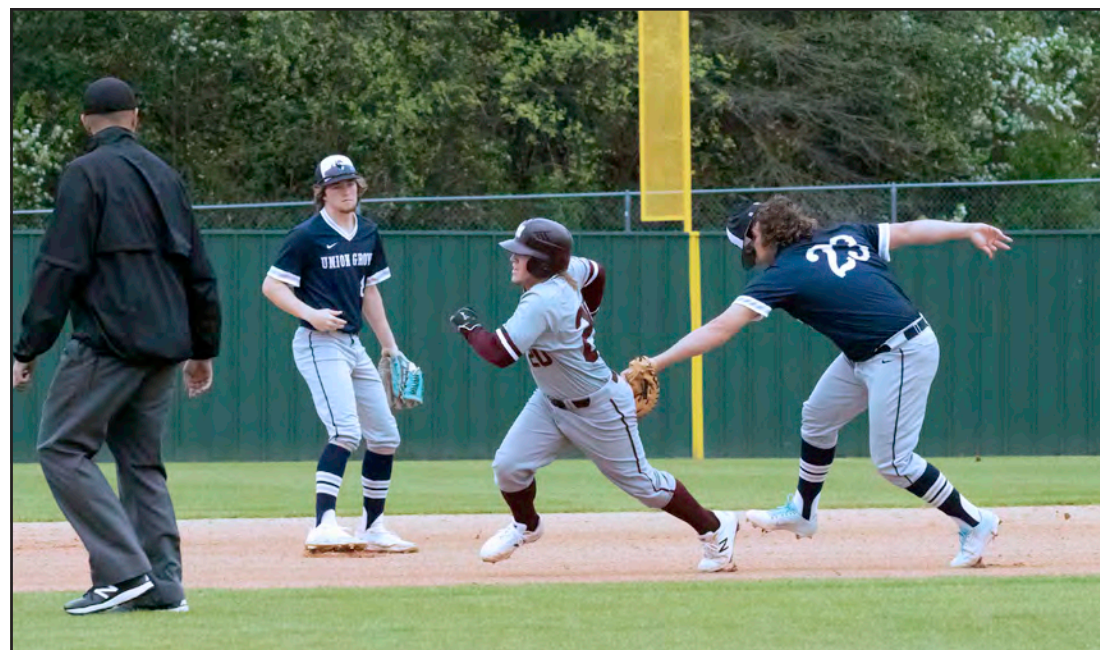
GOOD. Water slightly stained; 58-59 degrees; Largemouth bass are good on spinners, jigs and creature baits on shallow points, creeks, and coves. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows



Gladewater struggled to the home team, falling 13-5 to Hawkins at the Hawkins Tournament last week. Photo by Chris Jones



Lady Lions #5 Gracie Winn slides and is safe at third plate. Photo by Kim Hill



Union Grove's #23 Carson Daniels chases a Maud runner and tags him out. Photo by Kim Hill

UG Lions capture tourney

The Lions punched their ticket to the Championship game with a 9-2 win over Gladewater in the second round of the Hawkins Tournament.

The Lions struck first when Cameron Johnson laid down a bunt to advance Noah Mayhan from second. As the ball was thrown to first, Mayhan turned on the jets, rounding third and making it home. Gladewater would repay this move in the top of the second when Hayden Turnage would get Austin Moran across the plate from third with a bunt of his own.

A close game, with a championship spot on the line, exploded in the bottom of the fourth for Union Grove. Multiple batters found success at getting the ball into play. Once on base, the Lions were very active at base running, leading to a couple of runs. As pressure mounted for the Bears, Gladewater committed a key throwing error from the catcher to third in which two more UG runners made it across the plate.

Up by 5, Carson Daniels pounded the ball deep to the outfield, getting himself to second and bringing two more base runners back to home plate. Union Grove would't score again as the inning would come to a close with Daniels still on base. They wouldn't need to score again as UG defended the top of the fifth and allowed no more runs from Gladewater. The game would be called on time mid inning. Earlier that morning, the Lions sent Maud to the losing side of the bracket when Cannon Cowan brought in a runner on a base hit in the bottom of the sixth.

This broke a tie, giving Union Grove a 4-3 win. Unfortunately, a Championship game would not be played as all UIL games would be

Bears struggle at tournament

The Gladewater Bears struggled against the home team in the third place game of the Hawkins Tournament.

Hawkins showed their familiarity with their own batter's box, knocking in 7 runs in the 2nd inning and 5 more in the third in route to a 13-5 win in what could be the last baseball game for a while. Gladewater found home plate first when Austin Moran (batting fourth) singled to right field, bringing Robert Hodges around from second base. The Hawks matched things up at 1 all in the bottom of the first. After a scoreless at bat, the Bears allowed Hawkins to load the bases with no outs in the second. Still searching for his rhythm, Robert Nino hit a batter, walked the next, and threw a high pitch over the following slugger that the catcher, Hodges couldn't handle allowing three easy runs. After managing two outs, Nino was replaced on the mound with Ben Alvarez. Alvarez too, found it difficult to avoid the bats from Hawkins. The Bears would go down swinging, garnering 2 runs in the fourth and 2 more in the fifth before the game was called on time. Gladewater earned their shot in this game by beating Alba-Golden 9-4.

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Using agricultural propane offers a number of important benefits for farmers. Propane's abundance means there are plenty of local suppliers that can deliver it right to the farm, which alleviates concerns about running out of fuel. Propane is also amazingly affordable.

According to the Propane Education and Research Council's 2013 Propane Farm Incentive Program study, farmers who used propane to fuel irrigation engines lowered their fuel costs by 56 percent in comparison to those who used diesel-fuel engines. What's



more, clean-burning propane produces fewer greenhouse gases (GHGs) than diesel fuel, making it a more environmentally-friendly agricultural energy solution.

PROPANE FARM INCENTIVES

Because propane is classified as an environmentally-friendly alternative fuel source, there are a number of financial incentives available to farmers to encourage them to switch to propane-powered equipment. The Propane Education & Research Council-sponsored Propane Farm Incentive Program can provide up to \$5,000 to farmers who purchase agricultural propane heaters, irrigation engines, grain dryers and other equipment. There are also a number of government

and state propane farm incentive programs including:

- Rural Energy for America: Provides government-sponsored grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers who purchase renewable energy systems and equipment.
- Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency: Offers a wide range of rebates and other incentive programs at the state level.
- Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center: Serves as a resource for data and tools that can help agricultural equipment fleet operators find ways to reduce petroleum consumption through the use of alternative fuels such as propane.

EQUIPMENT UPGRADES YOU CAN MAKE

There are a number of equipment upgrades you can make to experience the financial and environmental benefits of using propane in your agricultural operation:

- Agricultural propane heaters: Propane-powered space heaters emit 73 percent fewer GHGs, than comparable electric-powered units.
- Generators: Standby and portable generators that run on propane emit 25 percent fewer GHGs than electric models, while also providing easier access during power outages.
- Water heaters: Propane-fueled water heaters can reduce GHG emissions by as much as 39 percent in comparison to electric storage and tankless models.
- Pickup trucks: A number of propane-autogas-powered pickup trucks are now available that emit fewer GHGs than gasoline-powered models, without sacrificing torque or horsepower.
- Forklifts: Propane forklifts produce 12 percent fewer GHGs than gasoline-powered units.

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CNB Branch President Jon Keller and wife Candy pose proudly with son Nathan whose steer won its class and made the sale at the Yamboree.



East Texas car enthusiasts didn't let a virus get in the way of cruising on Gladewater's brick streets Thursday as the "Back to the Bricks" resumed thanks to Daylight Savings Time kicking in. The monthly event, hosted by the Gladewater Mirror and Copeland Insurance, held on the second Thursday of every month and is free to attend. There are always great looking cars to view and great fellowship to enjoy. Come on down next month and join us!

Photos by Lois Reed



115th District Judge hands down sentences

By Phillip Williams
115th District Judge Dean Fowler sentenced several people on felony charges recently, Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd's office announced last week.

Details of the sentencing were as follows, and all defendants whose probation was revoked admitted violating terms of probation, Byrd's office reported: Kilgore resident Spencer A. Wilson, who turned 20 March 2, drew 12 months in state jail Jan. 29 when the probation he was serving for possession of a controlled substance--less than one gram of methamphetamine--was revoked.

East Mountain police investigated the April 8, 2017 crime. Byrd represented the state in the revocation. Longview attorney Craig Bass represented Wilson.

All the following cases involved guilty pleas, Byrd's office said: Shanell Lavette Knox, 41, of Longview, drew nine months in state jail Feb. 24 for theft of property (of) less than \$2,500 (value) with two or more previous convictions.

Gilmer police investigated the July 16, 2016 crime. Byrd represented the state at

sentencing: Longview attorney Chris Botto represented Knox.

White Oak resident Christopher Wayne Wagon, who turned 38 the day after his Feb. 24 sentencing, was placed on 10 years "deferred adjudication" probation for aggravated assault--threaten with deadly weapon. Deferred adjudication means no final conviction appears on Wagon's record if he successfully completes probation, but up to the maximum sentence for the crime could be imposed if such probation is revoked.

Some terms of probation include paying court costs, a fee to Crimestoppers, a contribution to the crime victims fund, a \$1,000 fine and 400 hours of community service.

The Upshur County Sheriff's Office investigated the Aug. 2, 2018 offense. Byrd and Botto handled the sentencing.

Kenneth Fernandez Lewis, 46, of Gilmer, received 18 months in state jail Feb. 24 for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver--less than one gram of cocaine.

Gilmer police probed the Aug. 26, 2018 crime. Byrd represented the state; Gilmer attorney Brandon Winn represented Lewis.

Reesha Nichelle Powell, 35, of Ore City, drew four years in prison Feb. 24 for possession of

a controlled substance--four grams or more but less than 400 grams of tetrahydrocannabinol.

Sade Sheverriace Haley, 19, of Gilmer, was placed on five years deferred adjudication probation Feb. 24 for engaging in organized criminal activity. She was ordered to pay court costs, an attorney's fee, \$500 fine and perform 250 hours of community service, but another pending felony case against her was dismissed.

Spencer Lavon Jones, 31, of Gilmer, received concurrent sentences Feb. 25 of five years in prison for unlawful possession of firearm by felon and 18 months in state jail for burglary of a building.

Bradley Dillon Parmer, 22, of Kilgore, was placed on 10 years deferred adjudication probation Feb. 25 for online solicitation of a minor younger than 14 years of age. He must pay a fee to Crimestoppers, \$1,000 fine, perform 500 hours of community service, and register as a sex offender, but another pending felony charge against him will be dismissed.

In a misdemeanor case, said Byrd's office, Fowler placed a 45-year-old Gilmer woman on two years "deferred adjudication" probation Feb. 25 when she pleaded guilty to possession of controlled substance--less than one gram of methamphetamine.

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GPD ACTIVITY REPORT

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
3/9/20	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001344	1:06		WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001346	8:40		MCNEESE MCNEESE
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	202001347	8:41		3004 W UPSHUR W UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	202001348	9:15	CITIZENS BANK (FMR GLADEWATER NATL BANK)	978 N MAIN MAIN ST
	10-50 MAJOR	202001349	12:29	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	202001350	13:24		511 N MAIN N MAIN
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202001351	14:28		104 N LYNN LYNN
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001352	17:16		596 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	ABANDONED 911	202001353	17:21		S TYLER TYLER
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001354	17:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSAULT CLASS A	202001355	17:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202001356	17:47		611 N MAIN MAIN ST
	THEFT	202001357	20:03		210 HURLEY HURLEY
	WARRANT	202001358	19:56		100 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001359	20:21		611 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001360	20:42		207 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001361	20:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001362	22:14		716 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
3/10/20	ALARM/OTHER	202001363	0:38	GLADEWATER CITY HALL	519 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001364	1:29		TENERY TENERY ST
	EMS	202001365	1:31		N TENERY TENERY ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001366	2:46		2206 W GAY GAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	202001367	7:21	CITY NATIONAL BANK	896 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	202001368	13:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	202001370	13:44		1520 E SHEPPARD E SHEPPARD DR
	FORGERY	202001371	14:03	BROOKSHIRE'S GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	202001372	14:51		465 SPENCER SPENCER ST
	EMS	202001373	15:24		601 TENERY TENERY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001374	17:43		CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
	EMS	202001375	18:52		801 COACH COOKSEY COACH COOKSEY
	ASSIST	202001376	19:04		513 MILL MILL ST
	ASSIST	202001377	19:53		514 NORTH NORTH ST
	FIRE DEPT	202001378	19:56		307 AMES AMES ST
	EMS	202001379	21:28		1800 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001380	23:58		513 RODEN RODEN
3/11/20	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001381	5:01	BROOKSHIRE'S GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	202001382	11:51		690 BRIAR COVE BRIAR COVE
	EMS	202001383	12:14		1047 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	ASSIST	202001384	12:36		1200 S TYLER S TYLER
	ASSIST	202001385	13:19		690 HWY 135 HWY 135
	ESCORT	202001386	15:08		GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY RD
	ALARM/OTHER	202001387	16:33	ALLSTATE COATINGS	100 N LEE LEE ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001388	16:54	LAND SURVEYING SERVICES	200 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	202001389	14:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001390	17:27	DOMINOS	1050 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001392	19:48		5140 AMES AMES ST
	TERROR THREAT	202001394	20:48		1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001395	22:15	MCDONALD'S	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001396	23:07		MELBA MELBA
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001397	23:42	SMART MART (FMR G&S SUPER STOP)	227 S MAIN MAIN ST
3/12/20	MISCELLANEOUS	202001398	0:43		1024 KAY KAY DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001399	5:04		138 TEXAS TEXAS ST
	FIRE DEPT	202001401	10:00	TRUMAN SMITH	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	THEFT	202001402	10:31		405 MELBA MELBA AVE
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	202001403	10:38		2815 W GAY GAY
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001405	11:18	CEFCO	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	202001406	12:25		601 TENERY TENERY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001407	12:30		1106 FOREST HILLS FOREST HILLS
	THEFT	202001408	14:05		501 N RODEO RODEO
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001409	14:25		408 W MAPLE MAPLE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001410	15:30		305 N COTTON COTTON
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001411	15:44		1004 KAY KAY DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001412	16:23		2205 PINECREST PINECREST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001413	17:33		513 S MILLS MILLS
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001414	17:52		513 S MILLS MILLS
	10-50 MINOR	202001415	18:21	CITY NATIONAL BANK	896 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001416	20:57		FERRY FERRY
	FIRE DEPT	202001417	21:28		105 LYLE LYLE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001418	22:26		1520 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001420	23:51		TENERY TENERY
3/13/20	EMS	202001421	0:29	TRUMAN SMITH	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001422	1:07	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	202001423	2:01		3550 WHITE OAK WHITE OAK RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001424	4:15		1009 KAY KAY DR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001425	5:08	STURKIE PROPERTIES	100 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ASSIST	202001426	6:54	WELDON HOMES	EDDY EDDY ST
	EMS	202001427	7:08		1709 ARMSTRONG ARMSTRONG
	EMS	202001428	7:14	MIKE'S MINI MART	1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	202001429	7:16		1300 S TYLER S TYLER
	ASSIST	202001430	10:18		106 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA
	ASSIST	202001431	10:23	WELDON HOMES	74 EDDY EDDY ST
	EMS	202001432	11:39		4465 W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	HARASSMENT	202001433	12:10		516 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	202001434	12:54		406 N HOWARD HOWARD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001438	13:18	TOBACCO JUNCTION	1400 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	202001439	14:31		312 HAYNES HAYNES
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001437	15:08		BELL BELL ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001438	15:17		504 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001439	15:46		716 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	ABANDONED 911	202001440	16:00		2804 RAMPY RAMPY
	ALARM/OTHER	202001441	16:36	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	202001442	17:17		E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001443	19:05		518 N LEE LEE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001444	20:21	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001445	20:28	ANTIQUUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001446	22:11	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001447	22:12		TYLER TYLER
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001448	22:22		511 GODFREY GODFREY
3/14/20	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001451	2:09		2405 WOODBINE WOODBINE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001452	3:17		104 LYLE LYLE
	UNAUTHORIZED USE MOTOR VEH	202001453	4:53	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001454	5:14		400 S TYLER TYLER
	FIRE DEPT	202001455	8:38	EGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2895 FM 2895
	ESCORT	202001456	9:44	RIISING STAR CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST	801 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001457	11:38		600 S TYLER S TYLER
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001458	12:21		502 SPENCER SPENCER
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001459	12:52	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ESCORT	202001460	13:05		GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001461	14:09		30 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001462	14:37		1789 CR 1577 CR 1577
	FIRE DEPT	202001463	15:31		33 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001464	16:41		GREGGORY GREGGORY LN
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001465	17:31		11794 UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
	RECKLESS DRIVING	202001466	17:48		HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001467	18:00		206 HICKORY HICKORY
	ABANDONED 911	202001468	19:00		407 SPENCER SPENCER
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001469	20:06		16665 CR 352 CR 352
	EMS	202001470	20:31		CANFIELD CANFIELD
	EMS	202001471	21:28	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001472	22:28	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	202001473	22:38	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
3/15/20	ASSIST	202001474	0:03		NORTH POINT PLEASANT NORTH POINT PLEASANT
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001475	0:29	THE BAR	2827 COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB RD
	ALARM/OTHER	202001477	1:47		801 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001478	1:57		18 WELDON HOLMES WELDON HOLMES
	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	202001479	4:06	ECONOMY TOWING	302 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	202001480	5:16		501 EDDY EDDY AVE
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	202001481	8:46		414 W GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202001483	12:31		1101 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	ASSIST	202001484	12:56		MAPLE MAPLE ST
	ALARM/OTHER	202001485	13:44	BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB (FMR BROADWAY ELEM)	200 BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202001486	14:42	SUNBELT MANUFACTURING	100 S PINE PINE ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202001487	16:27	BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB (FMR BROADWAY ELEM)	200 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001488	16:58		1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	202001489	17:59		WHITE OAK WHITE OAK RD
	FIRE DEPT	202001490	18:17		1107 VESTA VESTA
	MISCELLANEOUS	202001491	21:26	LEE BUILDING	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE

GPD ARREST REPORT

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
3/9/20	3/9/20	20:10	HARPER, DARRELL FITZGERALD JR	B	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	106 E UPSHUR AVE
	3/9/20	20:10	HARPER, DARRELL FITZGERALD JR	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	106 E UPSHUR AVE
3/12/20	3/12/20	11:00	BAILEY, COURTNEY LAMONT	B	M	ASSAULT: FAMILYHOUSE MEMBER IMPEDE BREATH/CIR	401 SPENCER
	3/12/20	5:30	JOHNSON, JAMES BENNETT JR	B	M	EVADING ARREST DETENTION W/VEHICLE	2515 FM 1844
	3/12/20	5:30	JOHNSON, JAMES BENNETT JR	B	M	POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ANALOGUE PG 1	2515 FM 1844
3/15/20	3/15/20	2:30	JONES, RICHARD JAVON JR	B	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	1609 W ELEANOR APT#16 ST
	3/15/20	4:19	HUMPHRIES, TROY CLAYTON	W	M	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	302 S TYLER ST

Helpful Contact Numbers ...

WATER/TREATMENT PLANT:903-845-3715
 AEP/SWEPCO: Customer service, ... 1-888-216-3523
 AEP/SWEPCO Outage reporting, 1-888-218-3919
 CENTERPOINT ENERGY:903-759-7133
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:903-845-5501
 GFSA BLDG INFO:903-845-2631
 GEDCO:903-845-5441
 GLADEWATER MIRROR:03-845-2235
 GREGG CO. PCT #3 J P:903-845-2672

AIRPORT:903-845-2116
 CITY HALL :903-845-2196
 WATER BILLING:903-845-2474
 TAX ASSESSOR:903-845-2436
 CODE ENFORCEMENT:903-845-2011
 FIRE - ,NON EMERGENCY:903-845-2484
 LEE LIBRARY:903-845-2640
 POLICE ,NON EMERGENCY:903-845-2166
 PUBLIC WORKS:903-845-2586

DPS takes preventative measures against COVID-19, encourages all texans to do the same

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is taking preventative measures against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by implementing additional sanitation practices at driver license (DL) offices and issuing guidance to members of the department on best practices, as we know that common sense hygiene and cleaning practices can aid in preventing the spread of many diseases, including COVID-19.

The best way to prevent infection is to take precautions to avoid exposure to COVID-19, which are similar to those you take to avoid the flu. That’s why the department has posted signage throughout DPS offices related to best practices for hygiene and prevention efforts.

DPS is following recommended guidelines set forth by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). DSHS has a number of resources on their website related to COVID-19 and the ways we can all do our part to stop the spread.

Specifically, at DL offices across the state,

DPS has issued guidance to custodial and DL staff to increase sanitation practices throughout the day, including cleaning office equipment with alcohol-based products after customer transactions. Additionally, the department has increased janitorial services provided in offices, and public spaces within DL offices, i.e. kiosks, public restrooms, door handles, etc., are being cleaned more frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is also available for customers throughout DL offices.

DPS wants to remind Texans of the many ways to conduct their DL transactions online without the need to come into an office. Some individuals may be eligible to skip the trip and quickly renew their Texas DL or identification (ID) card online (or by phone). Address changes can also be taken care of online (or by mail) in many instances. Find out if you are eligible to renew online by visiting Texas.gov. The fee is the same for online, in-person and telephone renewals. For additional information about renewing your driver license or ID card, visit the DPS website.

SWEPCO temporarily suspending disconnections

SWEPCO is temporarily suspending all disconnections of service for non-payment.

In a statement SWEPCO stated, “We know our customers are concerned about their families, and ensuring they have reliable electric service allows them to focus on staying healthy and well.

“We are committed to doing what we can to help

our customers, our employees and the communities we serve navigate this uncertain time.

“We urge customers to make every effort to keep their accounts current during the period when disconnections are suspended. If customers anticipate problems paying their electric bills, please contact SWEPCO to discuss payment options.”

AT&T, Comcast, Verizon and others agree not to overcharge customers during coronavirus

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai introduced a new broadband and telecom industry measure on Friday called the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which is designed to rein in any potential abuses from US internet service providers during the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic.

The pledge, which is for the next 60 days, asks that companies not terminate service for residential or small business customers, waive any late fees incurred due to the economic effects of the virus, and open access to public Wi-Fi hotspots to “any American who needs them.”

So far, Pai says that virtually every major company in the US broadband and telecom businesses has committed to the pledge, including AT&T, Charter, CenturyLink, Comcast, Cox, Sonic, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon, among others.

The pledge arrives just a day after AT&T said it would suspend broadband data caps from home internet customers and Comcast said it would be raising internet speeds on its Internet Essentials tier, its broadband planned designed for low-income families. Verizon on Friday said it would be waiving late fees for customers and small businesses, too.

Part of the Keep Americans Connected Pledge is also urging other companies to follow AT&T in suspending data caps as well as asking companies not to charge long-distance and overage fees and to

prioritize connectivity to health care providers and hospitals. All of these policies should help alleviate issues stemming from the spike in work-from-home policies being instituted throughout the country to promote social distancing and help reduce the spread of COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus.

“As the coronavirus outbreak spreads and causes a series of disruptions to the economic, educational, medical, and civic life of our country, it is imperative that Americans stay connected. Broadband will enable them to communicate with their loved ones and doctors, telework, ensure their children can engage in remote learning, and — importantly — take part in the ‘social distancing’ that will be so critical to limiting the spread of this novel coronavirus,” Pai said in a statement.

In addition to agreeing to the pledge, Verizon said on March 14th it would be implementing “social distancing” by temporarily reducing the number of its retail stores that remain open.

“I applaud those companies that have already taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge,” he added. “They are stepping up to the plate and taking critical steps that will make it easier for Americans to stay connected during this pandemic and maintain much-needed social distancing.” Pai is asking for other companies to continue stepping forward to sign the pledge.

GFD Fire Report

The Gladewater Fire Department reports 85 responses for the month of February. Thirteen of the calls were outside city limits with two in Smith County that included a medical assist and a car accident with injuries, and two in Gregg County including one building fire and one medical assist.

Upshur County saw nine responses outside city limits with one grass fire, two medical assists, one motor vehicle accident with injuries, two unauthorized burns, one canceled en route and one authorized controlled burn.

Gregg County inside city limit responses numbered 40 with 29 medical assists, one motor vehicle accident with injuries, one public service assistance, two public service calls, two good intent calls, one canceled en route, one no incident, two smoke odor and one false alarm.

City, chamber addressing cancelations, rescheduling due to COVID-19 virus

Continued from Page 1

Also, Oil Patch TRTA's meeting for Thursday, March 26 has been canceled. Due to growing concerns over the COVID-19 respiratory illness, also known as coronavirus, the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) Board of Directors is imposing a hold on all TRTA affiliated meetings across the state for 30 days according to TRTA Director Tim Lee.

And Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative (URECC) and ETEX Communications, in concern for the wellness and overall well-being of its members and

community have postponed both company's Annual Meetings. The URECC annual meeting was scheduled for April 2nd, with the ETEX Communications Annual Meeting a week later on April 9th. The Corona Virus (COVID-19) is having a major impact in our society. Just as with many other cooperatives and businesses, URECC and ETEX Communications are faced to make decisions for the betterment and safety of its members and the communities they serve. Considering these decisions, the Board of Directors for both cooperatives have

directed the executive teams and staffs to create and execute action plans to help prevent the spread of the virus, as well as its exposure to members. Within this preventative action plan is the postponement of the upcoming scheduled annual meetings, which will be rescheduled to a date later in the year.

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative and ETEX Communications appreciate the members' patience and understanding with this current crisis affecting not only our East Texas communities, but also the nation and the world. URECC and ETEX asks that their members be safe and take all precautions to preserve their health through this pandemic.

In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, plans for the Upshur County Republican Party convention, originally scheduled for this Saturday at the Gilmer Civic Center, remained in limbo

Monday afternoon pending a conference call from the party's state chairman that night, said county GOP Chairman Cynthia

Ridgeway.

The event "will not be held as planned," and might either be postponed, or held by either

videoconference, conference call or online, she said. She said she would notify delegates of the revised plans.

Stoudt declares Gregg County local disaster/public health emergency

Continued from Page 1
the potential for the escalating spread of the disease in pandemic form."

Judge Stoudt's signature on the declaration activates the Gregg County Emergency Management plan which will allow him to control entrance to and exit from the county if deemed necessary.

Stoudt said that it was necessary to declare the local disaster and qualify for emergency powers to ensure resources were available to not only preserve and protect the public health of Gregg County citizens but also to qualify for a

variety of available assistance if needed at any point. Longview Mayor Andy Mack also declared a city public health emergency on Monday.

"The most important thing that citizens can do besides washing their hands, social distancing, working from home if you have a cold, is to use credible medical information and that is the Center for Disease Control or your doctor, period," Stoudt said. "We can not overburden our hospitals. If you get sick, call your doctor first for guidance. Do not go to the ER unless you have a high

temperature and/or you can't breathe."

According to Texas Government code this declaration of "a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of declaration unless continued or renewed by the Gregg County Commissioners Court".

"We are in uncharted waters and of course deeply concerned," Stoudt said. "However we have to manage this with calmness and logical thinking. Please stay home if you are sick."

Jury trials, jury service canceled until March 31

On Friday, March 13, the Judges of Gregg County canceled all jury trials and jury service through March 31.

This action is based upon guidance provided by the Office of Court Administration, the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Regional Presiding Judges. This action is taken to reduce the potential impact of the coronavirus on the parties, jurors, the public, the jail, and court staff.

In addition to canceling jury service for the remainder of the month, the judges have also taken the following actions. The courts will not schedule or conduct large docket calls through April 1 and the judges will not schedule nor conduct "Non-essential" in person court proceedings to the extent possible at least until April 1, 2020. Essential proceedings include, but are not limited to, criminal magistration proceedings, CPS removal hearings, temporary restraining orders / temporary injunctions, juvenile detention hearings, family violence protective orders, emergency guardianship, and certain mental health proceedings.

In addition, conducting a jail docket for pleas and nonjury trials would also be considered an essential hearing. Also, child custody issues in certain circumstances could be considered an essential hearing. Individual judges possess the authority to determine other matters that could constitute an essential proceeding under the circumstances.

Further, the courts will, to the extent possible, conduct hearings by telephonic or video remote appearances when the rules of procedure allow or when the parties agree. The judges will notify the Gregg County Bar Association of these changes.

While the Gregg County Courthouse remains open, the public is encouraged to avoid coming to the courthouse if it unnecessary. Many of the services that one needs from the offices in the courthouse can be conducted on line at www.co.gregg.tx.us. This would include requests for birth and death records. The Gregg County Commissioner's Court will still meet as scheduled on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The judges understand that these actions will be inconvenient and cause delays in our judicial system. However, these actions are being taken to reduce the possible spread of the virus to the degree possible. Again, jury service is cancelled through April 1, 2020.

SWEPSCO, other Louisiana parties reach agreement in wind power proposal

SHREVEPORT – Southwestern Electric Power Co. (SWEPSCO), an American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP) company, has reached a settlement agreement with all parties, including the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) Staff, the Alliance for Affordable Energy and Walmart, Inc., regarding SWEPSCO's proposal to add 810 megawatts (MW) of wind energy.

The settlement agreement is subject to final approval by the LPSC following the submission of testimony and a settlement hearing.

"This project is a key part of our long-term goal of serving customers with a resource mix of more than one-third renewable energy. In addition to the environmental benefits of wind energy, SWEPSCO customers will save an estimated \$2 billion over the 30-year expected life of the new facilities," said Malcolm Smoak, SWEPSCO president and chief operating officer. "We appreciate the hard work of all the participants in this regulatory review as we seek to bring more low-cost renewable energy to Louisiana customers."

SWEPSCO is proposing to acquire three wind facilities in north central Oklahoma – known as the North Central Energy Facilities – in conjunction with its sister company, Public Service of Oklahoma (PSO).

PSO received final Oklahoma Corporation Commission approval Feb. 20, 2020, of a settlement agreement in its plan to add 675 megawatts of wind energy.

SWEPSCO and all Arkansas parties reached a unanimous settlement agreement in January 2020. It is subject to final approval by the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

"The parties are continuing to work through the regulatory process in Texas in the hope that our customers in East Texas and the Panhandle can benefit from this low-cost energy while helping businesses and other customers meet their renewable energy goals," Smoak said.

SWEPSCO's proposal is scalable to align with regulatory approvals by state, subject to commercial limitations. Two states that approve the project would have the ability to increase the number of megawatts allocated to them if one state does not approve the proposal.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved the acquisition of the wind facilities by SWEPSCO and PSO.

SWEPSCO serves more than 536,300 customers in three states, including 231,000 in northwest and central Louisiana, 185,500 in Texas and 119,800 in Arkansas.



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert Link Riley Deceased, were issued on March 9, 2020, under Docket No. 2020-0069E pending in the County Court of Law No. 2, Gregg County, Texas, to Nancy Christina Riley. Claims may be presented in care of executor for the estate, addressed as follows:

Nancy Christina Riley, Executor

Estate of Robert Link Riley

605 Sheffield Dr
Longview TX 75605

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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Ingleside Round-Up Days and Music Festival, March 20 & 21, N.O. Simmons Park, Ingleside, TX. Music, Food & Fun. Admission \$5. Presented by the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce, www.inglesidetxchamber.com.

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show, April 24-26, 2020, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common Street, New Braunfels, www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com. No Dogs Please.

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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



Clothes Closet volunteer Donna Cramer, of the Church of the Nazarene, says there is an immediate need for men's jeans size 38" down. Work clothes for men are always in demand. Clothing donations may be dropped off Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the southwest corner of City Hall. Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



With schoolchildren at home because of the Coronavirus closings there is an immediate need at Manna House for kid friendly and easy to fix food items such as ravioli, Raman noodles, Spaghetti-O's, beans & weinies, Mac and cheese, fruit, pudding cups, jello, etc. There is also an expected upturn in application for family food boxes with many people unable to work. Food items may be left at the Gladewater Mirror at 211 N. Main Street daily during business hours (closed noon-1 p.m.) or at Manna House, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the southwest corner of City Hall on Hwy. 80. Financial donations may be mailed to: Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater, 75647. Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

Upshur runoff early voting set

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Monday approved times of day for early voting for the May 26 Republican and Democratic primary runoff elections.

Meeting in Gilmer, the court approved County Election Administrator Lory Harle's proposal that all in-person early voting be conducted at her county courthouse office in that city from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. May 18-20 and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. May 21-22. Harle told the court the state sets the dates for early voting, but the county sets the hours.

In the motion approving the hours, the court also approved the 14 election-day polling places set by county GOP chairman Cynthia Ridgeway and county Democratic chairman Winifred Jackson. Harle said the chairmen eliminated two polling places which were utilized in the March 3 primary elections--the Indian Rock Baptist Church and Frontier Cowboy Church--due to low voter turnout there.

The only two races for county office, both on the GOP ballot, involve Kent Abernathy and Michael Ashley, running for precinct three commissioner, and incumbent Larry Sewell opposing David Thompson for precinct four constable.

Winners of those contests face no Democratic opponent in the Nov. 3 general election. The only race for county office with a Democratic candidate on the November ballot is for tax assessor-collector, as Jurel White is challenging incumbent Republican Luana Howell's bid for re-election.

Besides approving the early voting hours, the court Monday approved an "official road report" from County Road Administrator Andy Jordan, needed to obtain a state grant for repairing certain county-maintained roads, and approved recording a separate "annual road report" from him.

The official report rates the condition of every county-maintained road, said Jordan, who asked it be kept in County Clerk Terri Ross' office. The annual report, he said, lists the length of each of the county's approximately 725 miles of county-maintained roads.

Jordan said the annual report should have been compiled in 2011, but Precinct 1

Commissioner Paula Gentry said that "slipped through the cracks" because of the illness and death several years ago of a county employee who handled the county's 9-1-1 system.

In other business Monday, the court approved allowing the county Road and Bridge Department to collect trash at the intersection of FM 1404 and Crabapple Road during an area-wide "clean-up" March 30. No household trash will be accepted.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Frank Berka praised Jordan for his help in such clean-ups.

Also on Monday, the court:

--took no action on nominating someone to fill a vacancy on the Upshur County Appraisal District's Board of Directors. County Judge Todd Tefeller said the matter would be on the agenda for the court's next meeting.

--approved paying a \$275.23 invoice for computer parts for Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes' office after Gentry said that office "lost a lot of information" in the recent ransomware attack on the county's computer system, and that the new parts were for building a backup computer.

--re-appointed Larry Morse as the county's representative to the board of the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority.

--accepted Julie York's resignation from the Upshur County Child Welfare Board. (After the meeting, Gentry said the board has several vacancies, not just the two created by York's resignation and Dan Miles Jr.'s

recent death, and that anyone wanting to serve on it may contact Gentry at 903-843-4006.)

--approved auctioning off surplus dump trucks.

--in separate votes, accepted for recording the respective plats for Blue Sky Estates, located at Squirrel Road and FM 2088, and the Woodbriar subdivision on Flamingo Road. (The court also placed the roads in Woodbriar on the two-year waiting list to receive county maintenance.)

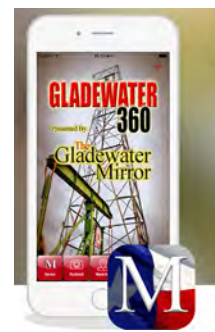
--authorized spending up to \$800 to repair or replace a typewriter in County Treasurer Brandy Vick's office after she told the court a typewriter is still needed to fill in certain "old" forms. She said few people repair them nowadays, and a firm in Kilgore had estimated doing so would cost \$800 at \$69 an hour, but Upshur County Republican Party Chairman-Elect DeBorah Bankston told the court new typewriters could be obtained cheaper online.

--accepted a donation of a half pallet of bottled water from Ozarka.

--approved by 4-0 vote, with Berka abstaining, a number of mostly-routine items, ranging from paying bills to accepting various documents. Berka said he abstained because he did some unspecified work for which the county paid him.

--approved a resolution declaring April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the county. Tefeller said statistics show one of every five women will be raped sometime in her lifetime.

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