

Gladewater Mirror



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Guidance for houses of worship during the COVID-19 crisis

During these challenging times, government and faith communities throughout Texas need to work together to stop the spread of Coronavirus.

To facilitate this collaboration, State and local governments must clearly articulate their directives aimed at mitigating spread of the virus. This joint guidance from the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor responds to frequently asked questions by members of the faith community and is the official guidance regarding the effect of Executive Order GA 14 on religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship.

The government must give special consideration to houses of worship when issuing orders related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I of the Texas Constitution protect the right of Texans to freely exercise their religion. In addition, the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act ("RFRA") provides even stronger protections to faith communities, and government must ensure that it complies with RFRA when it acts. Thus, when state or local governments issue orders prohibiting people from providing or obtaining certain services, they must ensure that these orders do not violate these constitutional and statutory rights.

Houses of worship provide "essential services."

On March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA 14, which defines essential services to include "religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship."¹ Institutions providing these essential services can provide them under certain conditions described in Executive Order GA 14 and local orders by counties or municipalities that are consistent with GA 14. To the extent there is conflict between the Governor's Executive Order GA 14 and local orders, GA 14 controls.

Houses of worship must, whenever possible, conduct their activities from home or

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UGISD to light stadium nightly in recognition of sacrifices, Asks community to turn porch lights on in solidarity

By Suzanne Bardwell

An average of 120 meals were served to hungry Lions last Monday, Wednesday and Friday according to Union Grove ISD Superintendent Kelly Moore.

"We are blessed to be able to provide these meals to our students and we look forward to seeing them during the week," she said. "The cafeteria staff is doing a tremendous job preparing meals."

Moore said that the third week of distance learning is now completed with a significant increase in packet pickup on Mondays at the secondary campus. The packets are available in four newspaper boxes which are labeled according to campus and courses. The boxes were donated by the Gladewater Mirror. She said that the students who are completing work on line are primarily from the high school. Moore said that the teachers are establishing lines of communication and checking in on students on a regular basis.

"Our teachers are using a variety of strategies to reach



The Gladewater Mirror donated four newspaper boxes to Union Grove ISD for their lesson packets for their students to conveniently pick up the work at the free standing boxes located on the grounds of the secondary campus.

students including phone calls, emails, virtual meetings and other technology platforms," Moore said. "We are here for academic support and guidance and that will continue, but most importantly we want them to know that we love and support

them. I can honestly say our teachers, parents and students are doing the very best they can given the circumstances. We are all working together and there will be a light at the end of this tunnel."

Beginning this week, Moore

said that UGISD will light the stadium lights from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. to show support for staff, students and the community.

"The light is a symbol of hope that we will get through this challenging time," Moore said. "We want everyone to keep their

porch light on from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. to recognize the Seniors of 2020, our students, staff, community and most importantly those on the front lines of this battle. Let's all show our Lion Pride."



With a pause in their driveway basketball pickup game to greet the Weldon Elementary School teacher car parade on Monday morning, Bears seventh grader Joseph Webber, kindergartner Parker Webber and third grader Bentley Webber greeted their teachers with their own messages of appreciation.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

Parks, potholes, water update by city manager

By Suzanne Bardwell

The Gladewater parks are still open according to City Manager Rick Tow. However, he cautions parents that the playground equipment in parks can not be kept clean between uses and urges parents to use their discretion.

"Parents should wipe the area being used and wash hands afterward as soon as possible after returning from playing as well as use hand sanitizer at the site," Tow said. "We are monitoring the parks to request that social distancing recommendations are being observed. We may have to reduce some amenities when this guidance is not being followed."

Tow said that all city staff are monitoring all areas as they go about their work day.

"As we observe a possible issue we advise the owners or occupants of the need to adhere to the guidance from our governor, Mayor Shipp and the CDC."

Tow said that guidelines for businesses and individuals are posted on the city website.

Crews of two are working daily on pothole repairs, limb pickup and drainage issues around town Tow said. He also reports that contract crews have finished the



The City of Gladewater extended its disaster declaration last week to May 21. Due to the Covid-19 Social Distancing Directives the City Council Special Session meeting was held by video conferencing online. Taxpayers were able to watch and listen online using Zoom Meeting or by watching the Gladewater Mirror Live Facebook Stream. No one signed up for "citizen comments" to speak during the meeting.

Photo by Jim Bardwell

water line project tie ins and are now in the cleanup phase. Crews continue with line repairs as needed and the repair of the 2 lift station with pump repairs Tow reported.

"Our construction projects this

past week have seen the completion of the Gay Avenue tower rehab and the tower is back in service now," Tow said. "We will be starting the last phase of water projects in the next 30 days which includes the intake structure repairs."

Tow said that the crews continue to work on the wastewater plant and that crews have completed the building that will cover the new belt press and installations of the belt press. He said that the project when completed will put four new

pumps online to handle the flow that comes through the plant.

"We have been working with two pumps for a number of years," Tow said. "The work at the plant will continue for approximately five more months."

Perspective on jobs lost

By Dr. Ray Perryman

Recent estimates of massive job losses associated with COVID-19 are drawing frequent comparisons to the Great Depression. Some calmer thoughts in the midst of the chaos are warranted.

A number making headlines is

that unemployment could jump to 32% in the second quarter, an estimate derived by researchers at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. Using detailed occupational data, they analyzed whether various jobs were essential, could be completed remotely, and were salaried to estimate the "high-risk occupations" which met none of these criteria. They also quantified jobs that are high contact. The average of these approaches suggested that about 47 million people could be laid off during the second quarter, yielding 32% unemployment.

This number aligns closely with our recent estimates, which were derived through detailed analysis by industry and simulations of resulting economic interactions using our large-scale models. We found losses of 11.4 million jobs on an annualized basis (or 45.6 million if concentrated in a single quarter). None of us know what will ultimately happen, but the similarity and enormity of these results suggest that the job market will endure a powerful jolt.

The talk of massive layoffs and 30% unemployment has led to ubiquitous comparisons to the Great Depression. THAT IS JUST WRONG!! Many researchers (including me) have extensively examined the forces behind that calamity. There were massive structural problems at that time, and we knew precious little about proper policy responses. The major harm of the Great

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

A place at the Table...

We arrive at the Holy Week of Easter with COVID-19 on the rise here, in our area, as well as throughout America. Many of us are fearful of losing our livelihoods, of contracting the disease, of how to provide for our families, teach our kids, protect our aging parents, pay our bills, and on and on.

As our fuses grow shorter and our stress level rises I am here to tell you that you can handle more than you think you can. You are capable. You are gifted. And, you are strong.

I read somewhere that if you sang 'Happy Birthday' through twice while washing your hands that would be long enough to get rid of those nasty COVID-19 germs. In the last few days, I have changed my song to 'Jesus Loves Me' and 'Jesus Loves the Little Children'. And, you know what? It makes me smile every time. It makes me feel loved. And, it makes me feel strong.

A lot of us remember being seated at the kids' table at large family celebrations of Easter. It was the fun table, full of laughter and teasing. Later as we reached young adulthood we found our place at the 'Big' table, not just because we were bigger, but because it was time. I want to remind you this week that it is your time. That strength births courage. And courage can multiply grace, for ourself and others.

Courage is something we all need right now. We need to lean in

Suzanne Bardwell



Ed Sterling Capital Highlights



Abbott calls on Texans to help limit spread of coronavirus

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on April 1 posted an online video message seeking Texans' individual and collective help to reduce the spread of the deadly new coronavirus, COVID-19.

In the message, Abbott requires all Texans to stay home unless they are participating in an essential service or activity, such as going to a grocery store. "Now I know this is a great sacrifice and we must respond to this challenge with strength and with resolve. By following social distancing practices, we will slow the spread of COVID-19. We will save lives. And we will make it through this challenge together. Thank you and God bless you all," he said.

On April 3, Abbott joined other high-ranking state officials in a news conference, saying that hospital bed availability in Texas had increased by more than 140% since March 18. Every Texan who needs a hospital bed will have access to one, Abbott said.

On April 4, Abbott called Dr. Anthony Fauci of the White House Coronavirus Task Force and discussed the importance of adhering to federal guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Abbott talked about "a uniform standard among Texans" to stay home unless performing an essential service or activity as well as other actions the state of Texas has taken to combat the virus. The two also discussed the trajectory of COVID-19 in Texas, the importance of continued social distancing through April 30 and the expansion of COVID-19 testing in Texas.

Abbott issued earlier executive orders to:

- Expand hospital bed capacity, directing all licensed health care professionals and facilities to postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a patient;
- Suspend regulations to allow for increased occupancy of hospital rooms;
- Suspend regulations to increase the number of emergency medical services personnel;
- Require hospitals to submit daily reports of hospital bed capacity to the Texas Department of State Health Services; and
- Waive certain hospital licensing rules.

On March 29, Abbott announced a joint effort of the state, the Texas Military Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify and equip additional locations to serve as health care facilities if hospital capacity is exhausted. Abbott announced the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas as the first of such sites.

According to figures posted by the state health department at noon on April 5, some 6,182 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 127 deaths resulting from the disease had been confirmed.

Revenue increases in March

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 2 announced state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.69 billion in March, 2.9% more than the amount reported in March 2019.

The modest growth in state sales tax revenue was led by collections from the retail trade sector, while collections from oil- and gas-related sectors declined from a year ago, Hegar said.

"While some businesses may have begun to experience slowing traffic in late February, formal social distancing measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic were not adopted until well into March and the impact of those measures would not be reflected in this month's sales tax collections based on February sales," he said.

Hegar added that he expects future sales tax revenue would be "drastically affected because much of the economy has been shut down to combat the coronavirus pandemic and because of the negative impact of a global oil price war."

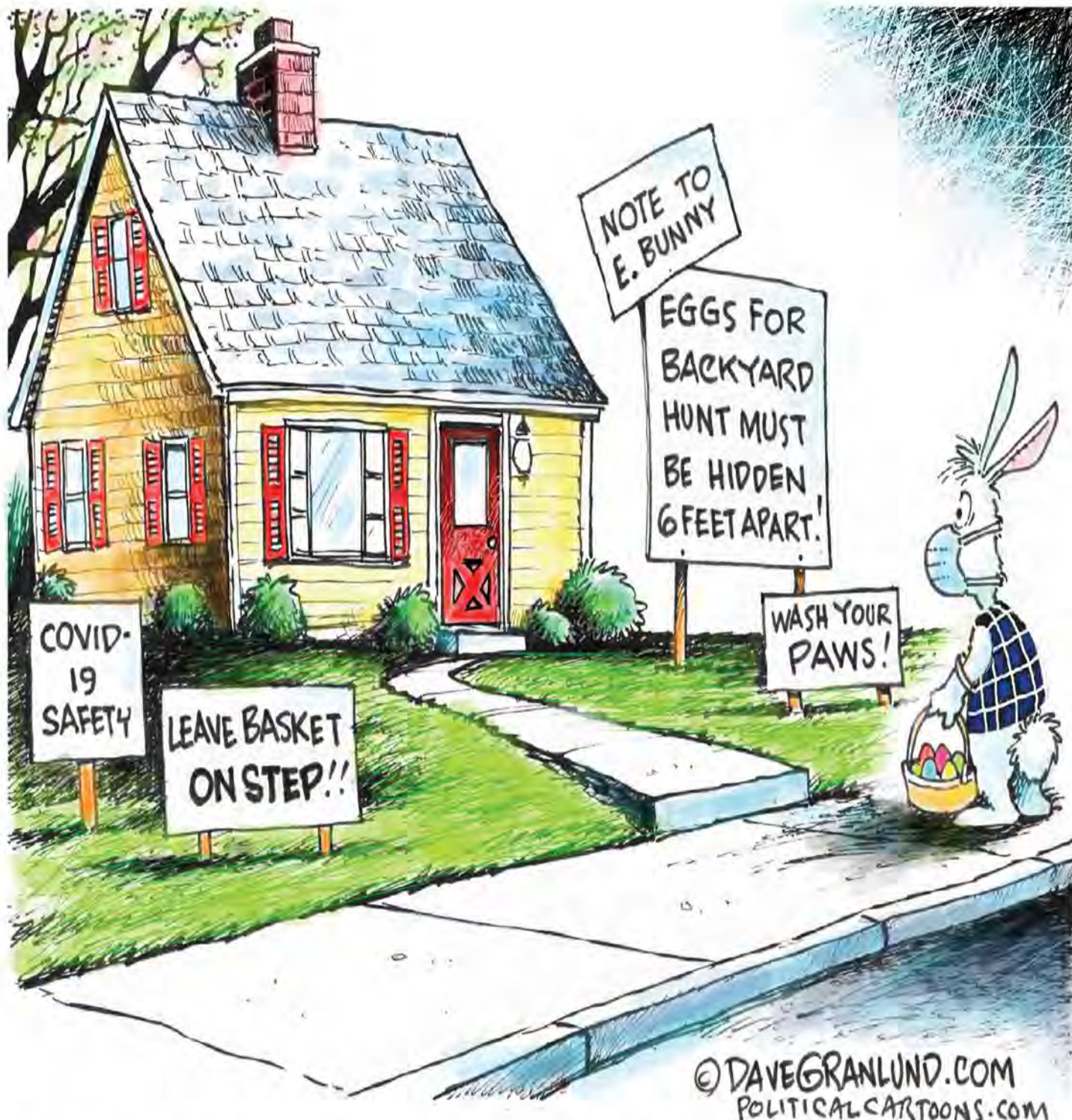
Worshippers get consideration

Gov. Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton on April 1 issued joint guidance regarding the effect of Abbott's Executive Order GA-14 on religious services.

Under the order, houses of worship must, whenever possible, conduct their activities from home or through remote audio or video services.

"For example," according to the official guidance, "a church may hold Easter services in its parking lot, with attendees remaining in their cars (windows down), parked in every other parking spot, with the minister using amplification to preach. Or because Executive Order GA 14 permits drive-thrus to operate, then a house of worship may, according to their faith practices, provide communion or a blessing through a similar drive-up service. Or pastors with smaller congregations may consider conducting multiple services of 10 people or fewer in their sanctuaries, so long as they maintain appropriate social distancing, properly sanitize the building between each service, and provide hand sanitizer."

"All Texans must work together to stop the spread of COVID-19 and houses of worship face a particular challenge as we work to combat this pandemic," said Paxton. "This guidance provides clear direction for houses of worship to protect the health and safety of Texans as they continue to hold religious services, exercise their religious liberty and serve their faith communities."



Comptroller's office extends franchise tax deadline

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide Texas businesses relief, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today that his agency is automatically extending the due date for 2020 franchise tax reports to July 15 to be consistent with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The due date extension applies to all franchise taxpayers. It is automatic, and taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms.

"We recognize that the information aggregated from taxpayers' federal tax returns comprises the building blocks for their Texas franchise tax returns," Hegar said.

"In addition to coping with the unprecedented impacts of the growing pandemic, we understand the difficulty Texas businesses will face in filing franchise tax returns now that the federal deadline has moved, and so we thought it appropriate to align the state's franchise tax deadline with the IRS deadline."

The Texas franchise tax is a tax imposed on each taxable entity formed or organized in Texas or doing business in Texas. Unlike the sales and use tax, the franchise tax is not collected from the consumers

of those taxable entities.

Franchise taxpayers who need an extension beyond the July 15 date have these options:

Non-electronic funds transfer (non-EFT) taxpayers who cannot file by July 15 may file an extension request on or before July 15 and must pay 90 percent of the tax due for the current year, or 100 percent of the tax reported as due for the prior year with the extension request. Non-EFT taxpayers who request an extension have until Jan. 15 to file their report and pay the remainder of the tax due.

On or before July 15, taxpayers who are mandatory EFT payers may request an extension of time to file to Aug. 15 and must pay 90 percent of the tax due for the current year or 100 percent of the tax reported as due for the prior year with the extension request. On or before Aug. 15, EFT taxpayers may request a second extension of time to file their report and must pay the remainder of any tax due with their extension request. The Aug. 15 extension request extends the report due date to Jan. 15. Any payments made after Aug. 15 will be subject to penalty and interest.

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THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Publishers Weekly, said, in reviewing Richard Dawkins, well-known atheist apologist, book: The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence For Evolution; "Biologists depend on the reality of evolution. It's the theory that makes every other theory possible... Since many people actively abhor the idea of evolution, since it seems to contradict the Bible and diminish the role of God, Dawkins decided to write a book for these "history-deniers." In his book, Dawkins calls those who don't subscribe to evolution ignorant, fatuously ignorant and ridiculous, and compares them to "holocaust deniers."

The word, fatuously means: "silly, foolish, stupid, insane, nonsensical, childish, infantile."

Now, read one of his typical diatribes in his book: "Only ignoramuses and those who just fell off the turnip truck would dare question science... It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that).

Evolution is a fact, beyond reasonable doubt, beyond serious doubt, beyond sane, informed, intelligent doubt, evolution is a fact... It is a plain truth that we are cousins of chimpanzees, somewhat more distant cousins of monkeys, more distant cousins still of aardvarks and manatees, yet more distant cousins of bananas, and turnips... continue the list as long as desired."

After reading this, perhaps you are wondering, like myself, who it is that fell off the turnip truck! 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

Local man charged with eight offenses in a single indictment involving child

By Phillip Williams
 The Upshur County Grand Jury returned 14 indictments in Gilmer last Thursday, all but one against defendants who were already in county jail, said District Attorney Billy Byrd's office.
 Before the jury met, Byrd had said its meeting was considered essential, especially for jailed defendants, but that jurors would be "spread out" and that he would "try to keep the docket as small as possible" due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 Defendants, charges and bond amounts in the indictments were as follows, his office reported:
 Jonathan Blake Parker, 36, of Gladewater, was charged with eight offenses in a single indictment.
 They included four counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, three counts of sexual assault and one of indecency

with a child, all on or about Jan. 1, 2016. Parker, who Byrd's office said was arrested March 4 of this year, remained jailed under \$100,000 bond.
 The only defendant listed as not currently in jail, Terry Lynn Landry of Clarksville, was charged with possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine) last Dec. 6. Bond for Landry, who turned 51 the day after being indicted, was set at \$50,000.
 Josh Christopher Hadley, 27, of Big Sandy, evading arrest/detention with previous conviction on March 3, \$3,500 bond
 Maurice Manuel Hall, 42, of Big Sandy, retaliation--habitual offender on Jan. 27. Although bond was set at \$25,000 on that charge, he remained held without bail on a "blue warrant" (which alleges parole violation.)

Joshua Wheat Yazell, 35, of Gilmer, unlawful possession of firearm by felon on Jan. 28. While bond was set at \$10,000 on that charge, he also remained held without bail on a blue warrant.
 Shannen Raquel-Renee Rizzio, 21, of Mount Pleasant, was separately indicted on two charges: tampering with physical evidence, and theft of property (of) less than \$2,500 with two or more previous convictions, both on Jan. 4.
 Bond was set at \$10,000 per charge.
 Michael Lawrence Moses, 41, of Gilmer, aggravated assault--family violence with weapon on Jan. 23, \$50,000
 Hope Nicole Wadlington, 22, of Gilmer, unauthorized use of vehicle on Jan. 11, \$5,000
 Cory Dean Shelton, 43, of Chandler, unauthorized use of vehicle on March 2, \$5,000
 Big Sandy resident Aaron Riley Harris, who turns 22 Friday, was charged in a single indictment with two offenses--aggravated assault with deadly weapon--family violence, and assault--family violence with previous conviction, all on Feb. 2.
 Total bond was set at \$10,000.
 Andrew Garza, 44, of Clarksville, possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine) last Dec. 6. Although bond was set at \$50,000, he was also being held without bond on a "blue warrant" alleging parole violation.
 Richard Daniel Donaldson, 46, of Gilmer, assault--family violence with previous conviction on Jan. 11, \$3,500
 Jerry Don Joe Baker Underwood, 35, of Diana, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on March 2, \$20,000

OBITUARIES

ZOLA INEZ JOHNSON

Zola Inez Johnson was born March 10, 1921 in Lufkin, Texas to Vernon and Clara Atteberry. Because her father was a Nazarene pastor, they moved often during her youth. She had two sisters, Edith Williams and Theda Gardner and one brother, Alton Atteberry. Her family always called her "Tottie" which was a nickname her father gave her as a child. As a young adult, she lived in Seattle and San Francisco during WWII. In her first marriage, she had two children born in Seattle, WA. Penelope (Penny) was born in 1945 and deceased in 1945. Her daughter, Jacqueline (Jackie) was born in 1947.

She came to Gladewater in 1949 to live with her parents and go to Tyler Commercial College. Soon after, she met a young, handsome English teacher named Roy Johnson at a gas station on hwy 80. They married April 6, 1950. Their son, Mark, was born June 5, 1957. Although Roy had many opportunities to go to bigger school systems, he chose to stay in Gladewater his entire career because he and Zola loved Gladewater so much. Zola held various secretarial jobs throughout the years but her favorite jobs were wife, mother and grandmother. She took great pride in her family and had many wonderful friends. She and Roy built a new home on Lake Gladewater in 2001 where they lived and made wonderful memories for the next nine years. Their son, Mark, died unexpectedly in 2002.

After 58 years of marriage, Roy died on September 13, 2008. Zola's daughter Jackie became her caregiver until her death. Zola was a beautiful, amazing lady and had a great sense of humor. She lived a long life free of health issues until her death March 27 at Azalea Trails Assisted Living in Tyler, TX at the age of 99. She had wonderful friends and incredible caregivers while living there the past five years.

She will be buried between her son and husband at Lakeview Memorial Gardens, Longview, TX. Zola will live on in our hearts and treasured memories.
 She is survived by her daughter and husband,

Jackie and Wes Ray; granddaughter, Carrie Moore; and numerous nieces and nephews, David and Lois Atteberry of Kingwood, TX, Dennis and Sandy Williams of Bend, OR, Doug and Cynthia Williams of Leavenworth, WA, Denise and Tom Diffeo of Kirkland, WA, and Diane and Dwight VanInwegen of Bothell, WA
 There is no service planned at this time.
 Those who wish to do so may make memorial donations in memory of Zola to:
 Education Foundation Gladewater
 PO Box 1387, Gladewater, TX. 75647

MARSHAL LEE DAY

Marshal Lee Day, 17 of New Braunfels, Texas died March 28, 2020.
 He was born May 8, 2002 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to John Lee Day and Mari Beth Day.
 Marshal was a beloved child of God, son, brother, grandson, cousin, and nephew.
 He is survived by his parents, his sister, Katy Day, his grandparents, Marilyn and Phil Daily, Royce Day, and preceded

in death by Tonna Day.
 Marshal loved his family and friends, Grace, hunting, fishing, and football. Marshal was a member of the Chickasaw Nation, loved the outdoors and all things wild, had a generous heart, and was compassionate, kind, funny, and most of all loving. Marshal would have graduated early from New Braunfels High School with the class of 2020.
 A Celebration of Marshal's life will be held after the quarantine is lifted.

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This inspiring Easter reminder can be found at the home at 2605 Woodbine. Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

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Gladewater Bass Club's Chris Dees and Dustin Kincaid won first place with a 16.50 pound string and the big bass which came in at 6.42 pounds at their last tournament. In second place was the angler team of Wayne Carrell and Bud Mahaffey at 15.97 pounds and third place went to Ricky McDonald and James Wright at 12.89 pounds. The tourney was held at Lake Bob Sandlin. Courtesy Photo

Dr. Perryman's perspective on jobs lost

Continued from Page 1

Depression was not that joblessness spiked above 30%; it was, rather, that it remained there for almost a decade.

The current situation emanates from a horrific pandemic, but the economic structure is basically sound. The numbers will likely be terrible, but temporary. Once the worst of the virus subsides and social distancing is relaxed, venues will reopen and tens of millions of jobs will quickly be restored. The stimulus package (and perhaps others) and aggressive monetary policy should maintain the fundamentals needed for a rapid recovery.

Prominent psychologist Dan Kahneman received a Nobel Prize



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- State Rep. Jay Dean**
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for work exploring how our behavior interacts with the economy. He demonstrated that how we present things can greatly affect our attitudes and actions. Focusing on peak job losses and drawing inaccurate parallels to the Great Depression can, in and of itself, be harmful.

To the extent a similar historical period exists (and there are myriad differences), it is the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918-19. The population was one-third of current levels, and 600,000 US lives were lost. We must remember, however, that the period immediately thereafter is known as the "Roaring 20s." If the economic structure remains intact, we can expeditiously rebound from a health-induced crisis.

Be safe! The jobs will return!



The North Loop Church of Christ met in their cars for Palm Sunday practicing social distancing while worshipping together. Pastor Joe Chase led the congregation from the porch of the church. Courtesy Photo



While Guadalupe's Mexican Restaurant owner Mary Rodriguez was preparing for her curbside orders on Friday afternoon she had a very special customer. He purchased a \$200 gift certificate to do, as he said to Rodriguez, "... my part to help". Rodriguez said she was so overwhelmed at his generosity that she forgot to ask for his name. "All I know is he just moved here from San Antonio," she said. "He told me he wanted to support our business. I will be proud to have him, and his kindness as a customer. I appreciate all my customers for supporting us." Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

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Morning Service 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m. 903-845-6440
Wednesday
Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Jim Withers

First Christian Church Disciples of Christ
309 Cotton Street, Gladewater
Pastor - Dr. Ray Boulter
Schedule of Services
SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:45 a.m./Worship 10:50 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.
www.fccgladewater.org

- Full Gospel Fellowship
- Gladewater Revival Church
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Guidance for houses of worship during the COVID-19 crisis

Continued from Page 1

through remote audio or video services.

Houses of worship often gather as large groups of people in one building during a religious service or activity. But during this public health crisis, in accordance with guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), and Texas Department of State Health Services ("Texas DSHS"), providers of essential services must follow certain mitigation strategies to slow the spread of the virus.² Thus, under the Governor's Executive Order GA 14, houses of worship should conduct remote audio, video, or teleconference activities whenever possible.

If a house of worship cannot conduct its activities remotely, then the White House and CDC guidelines still control in order to stop the spread of Coronavirus.

If a house of worship cannot conduct its service remotely due to a lack of capability (technological or financial), then it should follow the Governor's Executive Order GA 14, that houses of worship are to conduct their activities in accordance with the White House Guidelines.³ For example:

Instruct sick employees, volunteers, and guests to stay home;
Practice social distancing by maintaining appropriate distance between people;

Maintain good hygiene by washing your hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, using your elbow to cover coughs, and not touching your face; and

Clean and disinfect work areas frequently.

Houses of worship, like providers of other essential services, are to follow additional guidance from the White House and CDC whenever possible.⁴

Some houses of worship must avoid large gatherings.

Texas is a big state and the transmission rate of COVID-19 varies in different communities. Given this, houses of worship should work with counties and municipalities to evaluate the rate of local community

Many area churches will hold online services. Check these sites online for worship experiences either on the churches' Facebook pages or websites. This is an incomplete list and readers are urged to "Google" the church of their choice to worship this Easter Sunday.

FUMC Gladewater First United Methodist Church's facebook page will broadcast Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services live beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday evening. Easter Sunday service will be live at 10 a.m. Sunday.

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St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Union Grove
New Hope Baptist Church Gladewater
New Life Fellowship Church
First United Pentecostal Church of Gladewater
Gladewater Bible Church
New Mountain CME Church
Gladewater Baptist Church
St. James Missionary Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church Gladewater
Friendship Baptist Church Gladewater
East Mountain Baptist Church
White Oak Community Church
White Oak Baptist Church
First Christian Church Longview

spread and determine the appropriate level of mitigation strategies to implement. For example, more detailed guidance from the CDC currently recommends that if a community is experiencing substantial community spread of COVID-19, then the houses of worship in that community should cancel all in-person gatherings of any size. But if a community is experiencing moderate to substantial spread, then the CDC recommends a reduction of activities in coordination with local health officials, possible smaller gatherings incorporating social-distancing measures, cancellation of activities with 10 or more people when high-risk populations attend in person (including those over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions),⁵ and use of creative means to deliver other faith-based services.

12 sentenced by 115h District judge

By Phillip Williams

115th District Judge Dean Fowler sentenced 12 felony defendants and one misdemeanor defendant to prison or jail time on Tuesday of last week in Gilmer, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd's office.

Ten of the felony defendants pleaded guilty, two others' probation was revoked, and details were as follows, the office reported:

Brittany Ann Herron, 24, of Owasso, Okla., received three years in prison for theft of property of the value of \$30,000 or more but less than \$150,000.

She was also ordered to pay court costs and an attorney fee.

Gladewater police investigated the Oct. 10, 2019 offense. Byrd represented the state at sentencing, while Longview attorney Craig Bass represented Herron.

Micheal Joe Combs, 29, of Kilgore, drew 180 days in state jail for theft of property (of) less than \$2,500 with two or more previous convictions. He also was ordered to pay court costs and an attorney fee.

Gilmer police probed the Nov. 3, 2019 crime. Byrd and Bass handled the sentencing.

Tequan Jerome Ray, 22, of Mt. Pleasant, received 76 days in county jail for evading arrest/detention with previous conviction. He was also ordered to pay court costs and an attorney's fee.

Gilmer police investigated the Jan. 13 offense. Byrd and Bass handled the sentencing.

Dennis Chad Nichols, 47, of Gilmer, drew 180 days in state jail for possession of a controlled substance--less than one gram of methamphetamine. He also was ordered to pay court costs and an attorney fee.

Gilmer police probed Nichols' Dec. 21, 2019 crime. Byrd and Bass handled the sentencing.

Dominique Monet Bennett, 42, of Pittsburg, received 180 days in state jail for theft of property (of) less than \$2,500 with two or more previous convictions. She must also pay court costs and an attorney fee.

Gilmer police investigated her May 10, 2019 offense. Byrd represented the state in the case; Marshall attorney Brendan Roth represented Bennett.

Kimberly Jo Wright, 39, of Pittsburg, drew five years in prison for burglary of a habitation.

The Upshur County Sheriff's

Office probed her July 19, 2019 crime. Byrd represented the state at sentencing; Gilmer attorney Matthew Patton represented Wright.

Shadrick Howard Jones, 47, of Ore City, received 180 days in county jail for unauthorized use of motor vehicle. He must also pay court costs and an attorney fee.

The sheriff's office investigated his Dec. 10, 2004 offense. Explaining the 15-year delay between the date of the crime and the time of sentencing, Byrd said Jones was named in a sealed indictment before he took office, and was not arrested for more than a decade afterward.

Byrd and Roth handled the sentencing.

John Travis Stanley, 31, of Pearland, drew two concurrent 5-year prison terms--one for theft of property of the value of \$30,000 or more but less than \$150,000, and one for evading arrest/detention with vehicle.

Stanley must additionally pay court costs, a fee to Crimestoppers and an attorney fee. Big Sandy police probed his Dec. 11, 2019 crimes.

Byrd represented the state at sentencing on the theft charge, while Assistant District Attorney Sarah Lyn Cooper represented the prosecution in the evasion case. Gilmer attorney Brandon Winn represented Stanley.

Glen Edward Blaylock, 51, of Gilmer, drew 15 months in state jail for burglary of a habitation.

He also must pay court costs and an attorney fee. The sheriff's office probed his June 17, 2018 crime.

Cooper and Patton handled the sentencing.

Details of the revocations were as follows and both defendants admitted violating probation, Byrd's office said:

Maci Lafay Collier, 29, of Big Sandy, received 15 months in state jail for credit card abuse. Gladewater police investigated her Oct. 20, 2015 offense.

Byrd and Bass handled the revocation.

Edward Shawn Hollan, 36, of Sumner, drew eight years in prison for possession of a controlled substance--one gram

or more but less than four grams of methamphetamine.

Gilmer police probed the July 16, 2015 offense. Byrd and Winn handled the revocation.

Edward Wayne Palmer, 65, of Gilmer, received 180 days in state jail for failure to register as sex offender. He must also pay court costs and an attorney fee.

The Texas Department of Public Safety investigated the May 2, 2019 crime. Cooper and Bass handled the revocation.

In the misdemeanor cases, a 59-year-old Big Sandy man drew two concurrent 1-year county jail terms after pleading guilty to two counts of assault. He also was ordered to pay court costs and an attorney fee.

Big Sandy police investigated the May 27, 2019 crime. Byrd and Bass handled the cases.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The non-err resolution and statements made about me in last weeks paper are erroneous and misleading. That's why I said « no comment . » If the Executive Committee ever attempted to ask me to come in and face my accusers, I would have corrected their misunderstanding. Some people need to get a life and let the rest of us do grown up work. De'Borah Bankston

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GISD to serve meals through Thursday this week

By Suzanne Bardwell

Gladewater ISD Superintendent Sedric Clark says that the district is currently serving over 300 students two grab and go meals each day, a lunch and a breakfast.

"This week, student meals will be served on Monday through Thursday as our employees will not work on the Good Friday holiday," Clark said. "Our cafeteria workers who prepare and serve meals, bus drivers who ensure delivery to satellite locations, and school resource officers who work at all sites to ensure safety are all appreciated for what they do to make this program work."

Clark said that as of Friday he has stopped posting daily updates

on the district's site and will update on an as needed basis during the closure. Currently that closure extends through May 4 by mandate of Gov. Greg Abbott.

"By the time our school closed due to COVID-19, we had covered, in most cases, over three-fourths of the year's curriculum in each subject," Clark said. "Our goal with our at home learning is twofold. First we want to reinforce what students have already learned this year in order to avoid regression. Secondly, we want to ensure that students are exposed to the remaining parts of the curriculum for their classes.

Our teachers and administrators are working with our students and parents to make this 'new normal' work."

Clark also said that the district's grounds and maintenance workers are focusing first on the normal upkeep of facilities.

"Their work, along with that of our custodial department ensures that our campuses are always ready for our return," Clark said. "Grounds and maintenance workers are also catching up on completing projects that will ensure that all district owned properties look and operate at their best."

Brookshire Grocery Co. to donate \$1 million to food banks, will match \$500K in customer contributions

TYLER, Texas, April 6, 2020 – Due to the COVID-19 situation, food banks across America are seeing a rise in demand for resources to serve those most in need and Brookshire Grocery Co. is determined to make a difference in the communities it serves. BGC is donating \$1 million to food banks across Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, along with matching customers' donations up to \$500,000 with the goal to help thousands of people at risk.

The \$1 million donation will be distributed across BGC's market area including the East Texas Food Bank, Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, FoodNet Food Bank (Louisiana), Northeast Louisiana Foodbank, and Harvest Regional Food Bank (Texarkana) over the next two years.

Through May 5, all Brookshire's, Super 1 Foods, Spring Market and FRESH by Brookshire's stores will have \$1, \$3, and \$5 scan coupons available for customers to make monetary donations at checkout. Customer contributions and BGC's match will be donated to a local food bank in each community. This donation will be in addition to

the \$1 million the company is donating to the selected food banks.

"Our company is committed to supporting our communities and helping give hope to those at risk," said Brad Brookshire, Chairman and CEO for Brookshire Grocery Co. "We know people are in need right now and that the food banks are seeing increased demand for resources in all of the communities we serve. We care about our neighbors and are committed to doing what we can to lessen the impact of COVID-19."

The \$1 million donation and the additional \$500,000 match program will bring more than 16 million meals for families in East Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Based in Tyler, Texas, BGC is a regional family-owned grocery business that employs almost 14,000 individuals throughout Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. The company operates more than 180 stores under the Brookshire's, Super 1 Foods, FRESH by Brookshire's and Spring Market banners, along with three distribution centers and corporate offices.

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Moments & Memories

Forget New Year's! WHAT'S YOUR EASTER RESOLUTION?



Does anyone ever keep their New Year's resolutions? I certainly never have! When the weather is miserable, and I've just dealt with all the Christmas craziness, I'm really not in the mood to give up treats, clean my house or place any other demands on myself. When do I feel fired up and ready for something new? Spring! The days are longer and warmer, the flowers are opening and the air is filled with renewal and vigor and the promise of something new. So I say, out with New Year's and in with Easter resolutions!

Spring is already the time of year when we clean our house and tidy up the yard. Everything is blooming, the animals are having their little ones and those winter blues have been chased away by blue skies. Whether you celebrate a Christian Easter or you're more of an Easter Bunny fan, this holiday is about rebirth and renewal. A Resolution to start something new is a perfect way to celebrate the season!

Take advantage of all those end-of-season sales to buy that special outfit you can exercise your way into.



Use the warmer weather to get yourself out of the house for walks or even jogs.

Easter baskets are a great premise for gift baskets for local shelters, senior centers, or other charities that will get you out into your community helping others.

Let the fresh air and sweet smell of newly opened flowers remind you why you want to quit smoking.

Allow the new growth all around you to inspire you to do something for the environment, like planting a tree or joining a local group.

Spring is filled with new growth and allowing that to fill you with new possibilities will greatly improve your chances of following through with your resolution! No matter what you've resolved to do, the sunny joy of spring will inspire you more than the gray, mucky days of New Year's! Good luck!



A BRIEF HISTORY OF The Easter Bunny

At first blush of course, it can seem like quite a stretch from the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the appearance of a fluffy, chocolate toting bunny. When we look a little deeper, the connection of eggs, rabbits and Easter becomes a bit clearer. For millennia, eggs have symbolized new life and have been given as gifts at Easter time. Many of these early Easter eggs were crafted out of silver and gold, and while not as delicious as the chocolate variety, they were quite valuable.



Like the egg, the rabbit has long been a symbol of life and fertility and the appearance of the rabbit was seen as a harbinger of spring in many cultures. The Easter Bunny legend is thought to originate from an old folk tale involving a woman who hid Easter treats for her children outside on the eve of the holiday.

The legend says that when the children went outside, they saw a fluffy bunny sitting next to the treats that had been hidden. This simple folk tale is thought to be the start of the Easter Bunny legend, and for centuries since, children have awakened to the array of treats left by this symbol of Easter:

The Easter Bunny is the favorite symbol of the holiday for most children and bunnies figure prominently in many Easter celebrations. No Easter party would be complete without the appearance of the Easter Bunny and the rabbit is frequently seen adorning chocolates, cakes and other Easter goodies.



Easter Pound Cake



THIS RECIPE IS A GREAT ADDITION TO ANY EASTER GET TOGETHER. IT'S COLORS ALONE ARE AN INVITING SOFT PASTEL COLOR, LIKE THE COLORS ASSOCIATED WITH EASTER.

Lemon Glazed Pound Cake

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt

Glaze

- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 tsp lemon juice plus more, as needed

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 325 F.
- Spray an 8"x4" loaf pan with cooking spray and line with a piece of parchment paper that covers the bottom and with an inch extending past the top of the pan.
- Crack eggs into a measuring cup and set aside.
- In a large bowl with an electric mixer, beat the butter with the sugar until fluffy.
- Beat mixture for about 4 minutes.
- Add the eggs one at a time and mix well.
- Scrape down the sides of the bowl, as needed. Beat in the lemon juice and vanilla.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, salt and baking powder.
- With the mixer on low, add the flour mixture to the butter mixture one cup at a time. Do not over mix.
- Scrape into prepared 8"x4" loaf pan and level batter. Bake in preheated oven for 55-60 minutes, or until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean.
- Allow to cool in the pan for 15 minutes, then run a knife along the short ends and use the parchment paper edges to lift and remove from pan. Allow to cool on a cooling rack.
- While loaf is still a little warm, prepare the glaze, adding enough lemon juice to make a pourable glaze.
- Place a baking tray under the cooling rack to catch any drips and spoon glaze slowly over top of loaf, allowing it to drip down the sides a bit. Cool completely, then slice and enjoy.

Nutrition Facts Per Serving

Energy 265 kcal.....	12%
Protein 4.41 g.....	8%
Total lipid (fat) 11.5 g.....	24%
Carbohydrate 35.68 g.....	15%

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Jan Bradford and his third grade son Jaxx parked their truck on North Lee Street to see the Weldon Elementary teacher parade. They were joined by Betsy Thompson and her third grade son Conner. The boys are both members of teacher Miguel Reyes' class.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



Weldon Elementary Principal Amanda Langford led off Monday's teacher car parade ringing her cowbell as her son Sam tooted his kazoo to celebrate shelter-in-place Bear students who turned out along the route. GMS Principal Chris Langford was the chauffeur for the lead car. The parade route extended over neighborhoods throughout the city and the teachers were met with enthusiastic students happy to see their teachers.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



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Texas farmers, ranchers answer the call during COVID-19 outbreak

By Russell Boening
Texas Farm Bureau President

Texas farmers and ranchers are in a unique position in regard to the COVID-19 outbreak and our nation's response.

Each of us is battling the impacts of the pandemic on our own farm or ranch, while at the same time, committing ourselves to feeding our country at a time when food security matters most.

The hardships created by the virus add to an already difficult year for Texas agriculture. But one thing is certain. Americans do not have to fear a decrease in the safety and security of the U.S. food supply.

Agriculture was named a critical industry by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security amid the coronavirus outbreak. The announcement allows those in the food and agriculture supply chain to continue operating to meet the demand across the nation. The declaration covers farmers, food processors and producers, distributors and retailers.

Farm Bureau has been actively engaged on issues associated with COVID-19 in an effort to minimize its impacts to agriculture.

We're concerned about the

number of companies adopting social distancing policies, per health directives, that could significantly impact processing plants and supply chains. Meat packing plants, dairy processors, ethanol plants and other processing facilities all play roles in delivering the food and fuel consumers depend on, especially now during this pandemic.

Disruptions in supply chains could also mean less access to seed, fertilizer and crop protection tools that we, as farmers and ranchers, rely on to grow crops and feed livestock.

Farm Bureau asked for livestock haulers and other trucks carrying food to receive emergency waivers for hours of service, so those folks can get food and supplies where it's needed, as quickly as possible.

We are concerned about possible livestock market manipulation and are urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to monitor the situation. I have visited with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and other top USDA officials about this concern, and they are fully aware of the issue. TFB recently joined 25 other state Farm Bureaus asking Secretary Perdue to explore all options

FOCUS ON FARMING

Technology in agriculture

within his authority to provide relief to cattle ranchers impacted by pandemic.

Growers of fresh produce are worried about possible dumping of products from other countries.

USDA and other federal agencies should assist farmers and ranchers by taking measures to maintain stable and fair markets during this time. Price forecasts for most agricultural products are bleak. Dairy prices have dropped 26-36 percent, corn futures have dropped by 14 percent and cotton futures have plummeted 31 percent. Despite a rise in retail beef prices in some areas, the prices paid to cattle ranchers have fallen 25 percent.

Texas Farm Bureau members are concerned about labor, especially since the U.S.-Mexico border was impacted.

We are working with members of Congress and the U.S. State Department to address labor issues that are critical to farm and ranch families. We're pleased the U.S. State Department has announced a commitment to processing H-2A program applications to ensure an agricultural workforce.

Add impacts from the virus to trade, farmer and rancher health and federal inspections to the list, and the scale and scope of the problem become evident. The impacts are real and serious for those of us producing food, fiber and fuel.

Times like this remind all of us of the importance of ensuring our nation's food security. We must protect it. And I know our Texas farmers and ranchers are committed to doing so.

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