

# Gladewater Mirror



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50¢

## Gov. Abbott to let restaurants, movie theaters and malls open with limited capacity Friday

*Businesses must limit occupancy to no more than 25%.*

By Patrick Svitek  
Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday said he will let the state's stay-at-home order expire at the end of the month and allow businesses to begin reopening in phases starting Friday, the latest ramp-up in his push to restart the Texas economy amid the coronavirus pandemic.

First to open on Friday: retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters and malls. But they will only be allowed to operate at 25% capacity. Museums and libraries will also be allowed to open at 25% capacity, but hands-on exhibits must remain closed.

Abbott said a second phase of business re-openings could come as soon as May 18 — as long as the state sees "two weeks of data to confirm no flare-up of COVID-19." That second phase would allow business to expand their occupancy to 50%, according to the governor.

Abbott made the announcement during a news conference at the Texas Capitol that began with him saying he would let the stay-at-home order expire because it has done its job to slow the growth of COVID-19.

"Now it's time to set a new course, a course that responsibly opens up business in Texas," Abbott said, flanked by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen. "Just as we united as one state to slow COVID-19, we must also come together to begin rebuilding the



lives and the livelihoods of our fellow Texans."

Abbott said his new order "supersedes all local orders" saying those businesses must remain closed. But he stressed his order "gives permission to reopen, not a requirement," and business can remain closed if they would like to.

At the same time, Abbott said he is holding off on reopening certain businesses for the time being, including barbershops, hair salons, bars and gyms. He said he hopes those businesses can open "on or no later than mid-May."

Abbott's news conference Monday marked his second announcement about restarting

the Texas economy amid the pandemic. He announced initial steps 10 days ago that included the formation of a task force, loosening of restrictions on medial surgeries, reopening of state parks and allowance of "retail-to-go." That option, which lets stores make deliveries to customers' cars or homes, went into effect Friday.

Since Abbott's April 17 announcement, Abbott has had to contend with a small but increasingly vocal faction of his party that wants him to act more aggressively to get the state economy going again. Abbott has also had to be mindful of President Donald Trump, who has agitated for an economic restoration but

last week dinged another red-state governor, Georgia's Brian Kemp, for moving too quickly.

Democrats have continued to argue the state is woefully unprepared to reopen without a long-promised ramp-up in testing, which has not happened yet.

Abbott's announcement Monday came as the number of coronavirus cases in Texas reached at least 25,297, including 663 deaths, according to the latest figures from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Over 80% of Texas' 254 counties — 205 — are reporting cases. At the same time, the DSHS numbers show there have been 290,517 tests done in Texas.

### Mayor Shipp taking concerns of business owners not allowed to reopen to Governor

"I do understand that the re-opening of the State while still under the threat of a pandemic is disconcerting to some but it is truly necessary for all. The economy is what provides the necessary resources for government to function and provide services to all. The economy is what provides for the livelihood of business owners and employees alike affecting countless families across the State. While the re-opening of Texas is to occur in phases, there is a constant that exists throughout this process and that is an individual's right to choose how one reacts to this re-opening. An individual may choose to continue sheltering in place.

Continued on Page 2

#### Highlights of the plan:

Executive Order to Stay at Home expires at midnight on Thursday, April 30

#### Phase 1 will begin May 1, 2020

25% Occupancy at Restaurants, Retail, Movie Theaters, and Malls

25% Occupancy at Libraries and Museums

Sole Proprietorships can reopen

Churches & Places of Worship can expand capacity

Outdoor Sports limited to 4 participants (example golf & tennis)

Dr., Nurses, and Dentist (all licensed healthcare providers) can see patients

#### Phase 2 will begin May 18, 2020 (if curve continues to slow)

50% Occupancy at Restaurants, Retail, Movie Theaters, and Malls

50% Occupancy at Libraries and Museums

Barbershops, Hair Salons, Bars and Gyms will not reopen at this time and

the Governor did not give a timeline for reopening, but the hope is Mid May.

#### UPDATE: COVID-19 confirmed cases

\*Source: DSHS, NET Health 4/27/20

County	Total	Recovered	Fatalities
Gregg	73	42	0
Upshur	13	8	0
Smith	136	76	3
Harrison	86	6	4
Panola	78	3	5
Rusk	34	7	1
Wood	7		

## GHS Class of 2020 graduation plans

Without a doubt the graduation plans for seniors throughout the country will be radically different from those in the past. Gladewater High School's plans are no exception.

"Gladewater High School and Gladewater ISD are heartbroken over the losses that our seniors have to experience because of this pandemic," GHS Principal Cathy Bedair said. "We want our seniors to know that they are loved and very important to us."

The plan to celebrate the seniors, as well as have graduation in a way that keeps everyone safe is in place with the goal of holding a face-to-face celebration for seniors and their families. The 2020 Senior Plan includes the purchase of senior signs with students' names, 2020 and their senior cap and gown picture to place along the high school grounds and downtown to celebrate their accomplishments.

Graduation 2020 Celebration, Friday, May 29 with the time to be determined at a later date, will include the following guidelines:

\*senior parents' guardians will drive their senior in a Graduation 2020 parade (one car per student and absolutely no trailers allowed).

\*Parents/Guardians will drive the car so no senior is distracted.

\*Seniors will wear their cap, gown and tassel.

\*Cars line up beginning at the rodeo grounds through the student parking lot.

\*Students and their families may decorate cars.

\*Places of business and families are encouraged to decorate in

honor of seniors.

\*Top 10 percent will be first in the procession.

\*The procession will drive throughout town with the route to be determined and published at a later date.

\*The procession will return to the high school bus ramp where diplomas will be presented to each senior in their car.

\*A photo opportunity will be available next to the Jack V. Murphy sign by the stadium for 24 hours after graduation. Please follow Governor Abbott's social distancing guidelines by having one senior photographed at a time. Do not congregate together with other seniors and families.

\*Gladewater's Chief of Police and GISD's School Resource Officers will provide safety supervision during and after the parade.

"We are proud of our graduates and hate that graduation can't go on as normal," Supt. Sedric Clark said. "We plan to have a face-to-face graduation exercise before the members of the Class of 2020 begin the next stage of their lives.

"We await guidance from our state and local leaders on when that may happen. We hope that the plan that we have communicated and are executing show our graduates how proud we are of them and how much we want to celebrate them and their success.

"Kudos to Mrs. Bedair and her graduation team for the creation of this plan."

### GPS Kindergarten grad parade May 27

Gladewater Kindergarten graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27 with a car procession at Gladewater Primary school according to GPS Principal Kerry Hrdackey. Parents are encouraged to come in a decorated car with student name and BEAR pride. There is a limit of one car per student. Parents and students will remain in their cars for the ceremony. There will be a special guest appearance by Miss Texas 2019 Ba'Leigh Burns.

Cars will line up at GPS parent pick up/drop off in front of the school and pass through as the kindergarteners are celebrated. The parade schedule includes a 10 a.m. parade for Mrs. Easley's, Ms. Carr's, Mrs. Mawer's and Mrs Rapp/Ms. Hightower's classes and a 1 p.m. parade for Mrs. Almanza's, Mrs. Tennison's and Mrs. Mize's classes.

## Search for AD begins, interims announced

By Suzanne Bardwell

With the resignation of GISD Athletic Director and head football coach John Berry to rejoin the coaching team of Longview High School's Lobos, the positions have been filled on an interim basis while the interview process begins.

"First, we are grateful to Coach John Berry for all that he did during his time in Gladewater," Supt. Sedric Clark said. "He is both a great man a great coach. We wish him well."

Clark went on to say that the district was fortunate to be able to move two other "great men" into the the interim positions, Coach Scott Clower will serve as interim athletic director and Coach Jermaine Lewis as interim head coach.

"These two men will ensure that our programs remain stable as we transition," Clark said. "As with all positions in our district we are looking for the best possible person and fit to make us better. This means that we are looking for someone who is student centered and focused and who has a passion for making the Bear athletic program the best it can be, a person who can meet both our student athletes and coaching staffs where they are and work to make them better."

Berry was the Lobo defensive coordinator for a decade before coming to Gladewater in 2010 and was named athletic director and head coach in 2014. Berry racked up a 48-21 Bear record during his time with the district.

"Gladewater has historically had both a strong football team and a strong athletic program," Supt. Clark said. "We will proceed with this search in a manner that ensures the same type of success."



LEWIS



CLOWER

### Gladewater free of COVID-19 cases

Gladewater Mayor J.D. Shipp announced last week that the three confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the city limits of Gladewater (two in Upshur County and one in Gregg County) were no more.

"All three cases have been updated to recovered. This means that as of today at 8 pm on April 24, 2020, we currently have no confirmed cases within the city limits," Shipp said.

Shipp reminded everyone to "please keep in mind that the pandemic is not over and that this status could easily change tomorrow. We ask all citizens to continue to do their best to practice social distancing and following CDC guidelines. We love you Gladewater!"

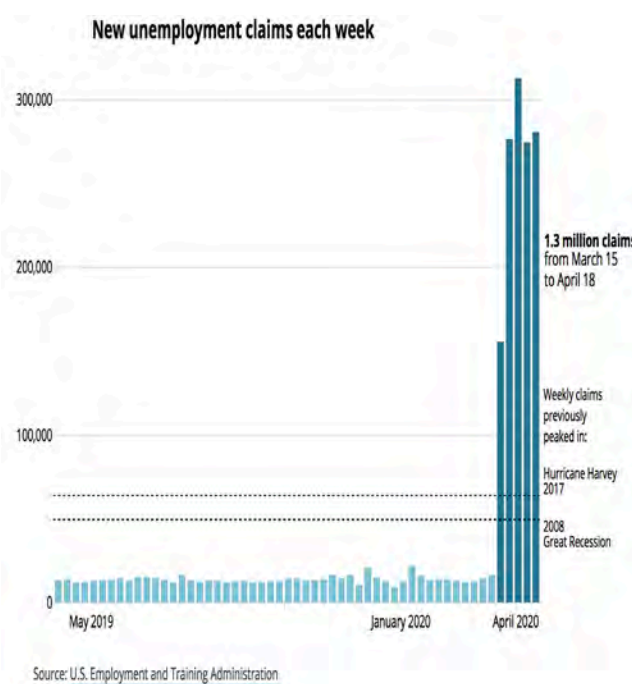
## Coronavirus' impact on economy

The coronavirus pandemic has steered the economy into the path of a recession.

In Texas alone, more than 1.3 million people filed for unemployment relief in the last five weeks. The real number of people facing job losses is even higher; the Texas Workforce Commission's website and phone lines have been overwhelmed by millions of queries daily.

What has emerged is lagging data and an undercount of jobless Texans who need help.

In just a five-week span during March and April, 1,301,441 Texans applied for unemployment insurance, more than in all of 2019. The Texas Tribune is tracking the number of out-of-work Texans filing for unemployment relief with the Texas Workforce Commission each week.



# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## Apocalyptic pail...

“To be open, or not to be...that is the question”...for our businesses that is. Gov. Abbott will start the slow opening of the state’s public venue businesses Friday. And that is good, IF we are smart about how we conduct ourselves.

We are living in one of those strange times that define history. For a post-World War II Baby Boomer who grew up in the Cold War, saw the changing of the guard politically and culture change dramatically, this is one more drop in the apocalyptic pail.

In first grade we had bomb drills. You know, the kind that are based on the threat of ICBMs? For you reading crowd babies that means intercontinental ballistic missiles. Even I knew that crouching under a desk and covering our 6-year old heads with spelling books was NOT going to save us. “Dr. Strangelove” or the much more chilling “Fail Safe” were defining movies of that iced up, fear crazed Cold War culture.

We have not been invaded by aliens from outer space as on “Independence Day” and “Invasion of the Body Snatchers”, but some of the postings on social media surely have to be from ‘aliens’, the spacey ‘human’ kind.

Much more likely is the scenario from “Armageddon” with the giant asteroid heading straight at our beloved home sweet earth, ready to wipe us all, or mostly out. Earth science tells us that it has happened before, which means...it can happen again. But surely not to us...

The apocalyptic movie with the most bite, at least while we navigate the current pandemic, is the movie “Contagion”. It is about everyday people coping while medical professionals scramble to find a movie kind of cure. The problem for us is that there may not be a cure. Vaccines may or may not be the answer and in a growing culture of anti-vaxxers how is that going to work? Especially now that we are seeing growing numbers of cases of reinfection in other parts of the world.

We can’t stay home forever. Obviously there are those who

### Suzanne Bardwell



desperately need to be back at work, but there are also a small number of folks who have discovered a cushy life of Netflix and financial support. Those folks might want to check out the movie “Idiocracy”.

Fortunately, most of us are definitely not in that group. So, we are going to have to be smart and work really hard for recovery. We are going to have to help each other survive both physically and financially.

Many people are blissfully, obliviously unaware of the highly contagious nature of this particular virus and that it takes only a microscopic particle to infect someone. The stats are just numbers, unless one of them is your Momma, or baby or sweetheart.

There are a host of movies about pandemics that I don’t plan to watch. I also plan to avoid online sites and information set up to lead us down a path of political agendas or trying to sell us something ridiculous. Sometimes I feel as if we are living in an age of apocalyptic movies, snake oil sales and politics. Don’t you?

I will keep wearing my mask in stores, washing my hands to “Jesus Loves Me” and trying to keep my family safe and our business alive. After all, that is all I can do and all I really need to do.

I know you have COVID-19 fatigue. So do I. But I am kinda partial to YOU, dear readers. I want you all to live long and happy, as well as successful lives. We are all in the same storm, so keep safe and be mindful of those nasty germs out there. Relax with a good movie, be kind, and, we will all look forward to the next big problem. Looking backward reminds us we can make it through almost anything... together.

### Ed Sterling Capital Highlights



## Texas bolsters COVID-19 testing capabilities, moves toward reopening

AUSTIN — Texas continued to feel the effects of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic last week as Gov. Greg Abbott and advisors worked on a plan to ease his statewide stay-at-home order.

Abbott set April 27 as the target date for announcing his plan for the state to move toward normalizing business activities.

The Texas Democratic Party criticized the governor for following President Trump in rushing “to reopen Texas for business against the advice of experts and medical professionals.” Democrats said doing so would risk “a new surge of cases and deaths, threatening not just the public health, but also the health of the economy in the long term.”

Meanwhile, on April 24, Abbott announced that the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Department of State Health Services have launched an online COVID-19 test collection map.

The interactive map on the Texas.gov COVID-19 resource page displays information on public and private mobile, walk-in and drive-thru test collection sites around the state. A search feature allows users to locate test collection sites near them and includes details such as contact information and hours of operation for each location.

“By using this map,” said Abbott, “Texans will have access to pertinent information on a variety of test collection options that will help fulfill testing needs in communities across the Lone Star State.”

More than 340 test collection sites are currently listed on the map. Additional locations will be added as more sites are identified across the state, Abbott said.

On April 20, Abbott said the Texas National Guard would mobilize more than 1,200 personnel operating in 45 teams to share the work of other COVID-19 mobile testing teams in various parts of the state. Guard personnel also have helped local communities manufacture more than 4 million pieces of personal protective equipment, have helped conduct more than 9,000 COVID-19 tests and have helped distribute food and supplies to thousands of Texans each day, according to the governor’s office.

## Update: COVID-19 numbers

Figures posted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at noon on April 26 showed that some 24,631 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Officials had confirmed 648 deaths resulting from the virus.

## SBOE approves course

At its first-ever virtual meeting on April 22, the State Board of Education gave final approval to include an African-American Studies course for high school students as a component of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. More than 1,100 viewers tuned in for the live stream of the meeting, the Texas Education Agency said.

This is the second ethnic studies course adopted by the board, following the passage of Mexican-American studies in 2018. Texas is now the first state in the nation to offer stand-alone Mexican American studies and African American studies courses for its students.

African American Studies will provide a broad overview of African American involvement in history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture and science and technology.

The board also gave final approval to a legislature-mandated career and technical education plan to help students master academic, technical and employability skills. The intent is to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage and in-demand occupations in current and/or emerging professions.

## Price drop hits hard

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar on April 20 issued a statement on the historic drop in oil prices to less than \$0 per barrel last week. Hegar called the decrease “unprecedented and likely indicative of very limited storage capacity” and that “supply gluts continue to strain storage capacity.”

Hegar pointed out that severance tax reductions would primarily affect the state’s Rainy Day Fund and State Highway Fund and to a lesser extent the amount of general revenue available to meet budget needs. Contraction in the energy industry also will affect other sources of tax revenue, including sales and franchise taxes.

“The Texas budget is based on the average price of oil in each year of the biennium, thus daily market activity doesn’t significantly affect revenues, which are forecast based on average prices rather than spot prices or prices for specific futures contracts. That being said, given the historic nature of today’s market moves, we are carefully monitoring trading as June contracts come into focus. Should prices remain depressed over a long period of time, we anticipate the impact will be reflected in a reduction in the revenue forecast we’ll be releasing in July,” Hegar added.

## Mayor Shipp taking concerns to Governor

Continued from Page 1

avoid stores at peak hours, wear facemasks while in public and other practices which they personally feel protects them from this virus.

“Re-opening the State in phases with monitoring and evaluation between each is a thoughtful and wise approach to awakening the economy from its pandemic slumber.

“There must be great care in avoiding a regression of the progress made thus far. However, I do feel some industries could have been a part of this first phase given those present within it. I’m referring to barbershops, salons and gyms. After the governor’s announcement, I did hear from some local business owners in these categories that were disheartened.

“These are self-employed individuals that felt they could provide as safe an environment as some of the other businesses allowed to re-open in phase one.

“I do find it hard to disagree with their sentiment. I have reached out to the Governor’s office on their behalf to share this in hopes that action could come sooner than May 18 but most certainly on that date for phase two.”

Shipp wrote:

Governor,

Re-opening the State of Texas in phases with monitoring and

evaluation between each is a thoughtful and wise approach to awakening the economy from its pandemic slumber.

There must be great care in avoiding a regression of the progress made thus far.

However, I do feel some businesses could have been a part of this first phase given those present within it. I’m referring to barbershops, salons and gyms.

After your announcement, I did hear from some local business owners in these categories that were disheartened. These are self-employed individuals that felt they could provide as safe an environment as some of the other businesses allowed to re-open in phase one.

I do find it hard to disagree with their sentiment. I do sincerely hope that action for these specific businesses could come sooner than May 18th but most certainly on that date for phase two.

Thank you and your staff for the countless hours of work on behalf of the citizens of Texas!

With respect and admiration,

JD Shipp, Mayor  
City of Gladewater

# THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

## Chaos

Oil markets are in turmoil. In January, oil prices were trending in the upper \$50s per barrel. Now, spot prices are a fraction of

that level and futures prices actually went decidedly negative for the first time in history for certain contracts as they neared maturity.

Traders scrambled to avoid taking delivery of oil they didn’t want or have any place to store.

Prices have declined due to the combination of (1) plummeting demand as economies and industries around the world shut down due to COVID-19 and (2) rising supply with threats of even more due to the collapse of tanks

earlier this year among major oil producers to try to bring discipline to the market. As I’ve discussed previously, the recent agreement by OPEC++ (which includes market-based adjustments in the United States) is not sufficient to rebalance markets, though it’s an important step.

In the midst of the market turmoil, unfavorable comparisons to the 1980s oil bust are inevitably being drawn. I want to emphasize that the current situation is completely different.

In the 1980s, prices fell to around \$8.00 per barrel and didn’t recover for a long time because of massive structural problems in the market, Cold War geopolitics, and a weak economy (from the savings and loan and real estate collapse) which exacerbated a growing oversupply situation (I wrote a

book about it). Even further back, prices fell to a dime per barrel in the East Texas oil field in the 1930s and didn’t rebound for a while due to the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl.

By contrast, the current situation is caused by a health crisis that rapidly shuttered much of the world economy.

There were no major structural problems prior to COVID-19; in fact, we were in the midst of the longest expansion in history. Once the economy can reopen, a substantial portion of global consumption should resume quickly.

In fact, with the recent OPEC++ agreement and the related effects of bringing fewer wells online in the US and elsewhere, only about half of the lost demand must be restored to facilitate a more orderly

market.

Recovery of oil prices is particularly critical to Texas.

When exploration, drilling, production, oilfield services, pipelines, storage, refining, shipping, and other aspects of the energy sector are considered, oil from the Permian Basin alone supports about 10% of the Texas economy, with the industry statewide comprising about 13-14%. As the economy begins to recover from COVID-19 restrictions and travel prohibitions, oil markets can normalize expeditiously.

Prices should recover to sustainable levels for West Texas producers (where costs were falling notably for years before the pandemic) in the next few months, which will be good news indeed. Be safe!!



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Traders scrambled to avoid taking delivery of oil they didn’t want or have any place to store.

Prices have declined due to the combination of (1) plummeting demand as economies and industries around the world shut down due to COVID-19 and (2) rising supply with threats of even more due to the collapse of tanks

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**Jim & Suzanne Bardwell**

**Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell**  
**Advertising: Suzanne Bardwell**  
**Office Manager: Tiffany Hobbs**

## DOES YOUR BIBLE MARK YOU?

It has been well said that, *“A Bible in hand is worth two on the shelf.”* Of course that is just a way of saying it is not merely owning a Bible that helps us, but it is using the Bible that actually blesses us. For example, Psalms 119:11 says: *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”* The value of God’s word is not unlocked by having a copy of the Bible somewhere. It is profitable to us when we get it into our hearts. Intellectual knowledge in and of itself will not make one closer to God, nor will it keep one from sin. There is a difference between having the word in the head, and having it in the heart!

That reminds me of the saying about using a pen or pencil to make notes or mark certain verses in the Bible: *“It is good to mark your Bible, but it is better to let your Bible mark you.”* The way we let the Bible “mark” us is by writing it upon our hearts. Hebrews 8: 10, says: *“I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts...”* You see, God’s Word in our heart gives us some fortification and preparation when the time of temptation comes.

Friend, it’s not enough to just own a Bible if you do not read and study the Bible. Neither is it enough to study the Bible if you do not apply God’s word to your own life. So, please remember, you must put God’s word into your heart and mind on the inside, then live it out on the outside. As someone once cleverly said: *“The best thing to do with the Bible is to KNOW it in the head, STOW it in the heart, SOW it in the world, and SHOW it in the life.”* 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

TYLER – TxDOT is planning to conduct the following construction and maintenance work in the district during the Week of April 27, 2020. Schedules are subject to change due to weather conditions, equipment failure or other unforeseen issues. Slow down and pay attention when traveling through work zones.

Gregg County – Longview Maintenance crews on Monday plan to continue bridge joint repairs on the 1-20 westbound lanes at Mile Markers 589-590 before moving to eastbound. Expect lane closures during this work.

**Gregg County construction projects updates:**

**Various Landscape Projects**

Limits: Corner of Spur 502/Judson Rd and Loop 281; median of SH 149 and US 259/Eastman Rd  
 Contractor: Encino Landscape, Inc.  
 Cost: \$298,628.00  
 Anticipated Completion Date: June 2020  
 Work continues in the right-of-way with little to no traffic impacts.

## UT Health East Texas urges patients not to delay seeking medical care

A survey of nine major hospitals reported earlier this month in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) that the number of severe heart attacks being treated in U.S. hospitals had dropped by nearly 40% since the advent of COVID-19 in March.

Cardiologists are worried about a second wave of deaths caused indirectly by COVID-19: patients so afraid to enter hospitals that they are dying at home or waiting so long to seek care that they're going to suffer massive damage to their hearts or brains. Some call it "a virus of fear."

This concern is becoming reality. After the governor of Texas loosened restrictions and allowed hospitals to open more services to patients last week, UT Health Tyler experienced an increase in patients seeking emergency care. These non-COVID-19 patients are sicker than typical emergency patients from waiting too long to seek care.

UT Health East Texas officials said:

Patients can be assured that our hospitals' top priority before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic is to provide an environment that is safe for our patients and staff.

We always follow safety protocols in cleaning our hospital, and more extensive protocols for cleaning areas where COVID-19 patients are treated.

Every person must pass a verbal screening test before they are allowed to enter the hospital, including staff and providers.

We practice universal masking, so that every person – patient/ staff/ provider/ visitor – is masked to help prevent community spread of the virus.

Our COVID-19 patients and Patients Under Investigation (PUI) are isolated in negative pressure inpatient areas to prevent the virus from spreading.

Our staff wears appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols, and those caring for COVID-19 patients do not care for non-COVID-19 patients.

Patients seeking care in our Emergency Department are triaged into isolated waiting and treatment areas if they exhibit symptoms of respiratory distress.

If you feel ill or need surgery, please do not delay your treatment. We will take good care of you, and keep you safe while you are there.



The project consists of landscaping improvements at Spur 502 and Loop 281, and SH 149 at US 259. Work will include landscape beds, irrigation system, and retaining walls.

**FM 3272 Restoration Project**

Limits: From US 80 to FM 2275 in White Oak  
 Contractor: Reynolds and Kay, LTD  
 Cost: \$3.1 million  
 Anticipated Completion Date: September 2020  
 Work continues to construct new sidewalks and driveways. Expect daytime lane closures and delays. The project consists of pavement restoration including milling, pavement repair, one course surface treatment, hot mix overlay, new sidewalk on the east side, new pedestrian crossing, and pavement markings.

**FM 1844 Widening Project**

Limits: From SH 300 (Gilmer Rd) to SS 502 (Judson Road)  
 Contractor: Madden Contracting Company, LLC  
 Cost: \$2.6 million  
 Anticipated Completion Date: May 2020  
 No work is scheduled for the week. The project includes widening, placing hot mix asphalt, surface treatment, extending culverts, and applying striping.

Smith County – Tyler Maintenance crews plan to continue base repair work on SH 110N at FM 3271. Expect lane closures with flaggers and a pilot car providing traffic control.

**Smith County construction projects updates:**

**SH 135 Widening Project**

Limits: From Arp to Troup  
 Contractor: Drewery Construction Co. Inc.  
 Cost: \$9 million  
 Anticipated Completion Date: Fall 2021  
 The contractor is scheduled to perform pavement widening operations. Expect daily lane closures. The project consists of adding passing lanes, improving drainage structures, and pavement resurfacing.

**FM 346 Bridge Replacement Project**

Limits: From FM 346 at Prairie Creek, south of Lake Tyler

· Contractor: Staline Construction, LLC

· Cost: \$2 million

· Anticipated Completion Date: Spring 2020

The contractor is scheduled to place topsoil and perform project cleanup activities. The speed limit is 45 mph. The bridge replacement project is building a wider structure.

**I-20 Ramp Improvement Project**

Limits: From US 69 to Jim Hogg Road

Contractor: Longview Bridge and Road, Ltd.

Cost: \$14.8 million

Anticipated Completion Date: Summer 2021

The contractor is scheduled to continue frontage road and ramp construction. The new I-20 eastbound frontage road is open to traffic with daily lane closures between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The existing eastbound entrance ramp from US 69 is closed for removal. US 69 eastbound traffic will now use the entrance ramp east of Jim Hogg Road. The project consists of ramp improvements and construction of frontage roads.

**US 69 Overpass at FM 346**

Limits: At FM 346

Contractor: Longview Bridge & Road, Ltd.

Cost: \$16.7 million

Anticipated Completion Date: Fall 2020

The contractor is scheduled to continue bridge construction. The work zone speed limit is 60 mph. The project is building a new bridge to take US 69 over FM 346.

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## OBITUARIES

**ROY DAVIS GILLILAND**

Roy Davis Gilliland, the kindest person his friends and family ever knew, passed away quietly on Sunday, April 19, 2020. In the midst of our grief, we'd like to share a few memories of this most joyous of lives.

Roy was born on March 8, 1928, in Fort Worth, but spent his blissful childhood among the pine woods of his beloved Gladewater. He was given the rarest of possessions, a happy childhood, as he flitted between doting parents and adoring aunts and uncles

Roy attended Texas A&M University, where he majored in engineering. He loved the Corps of Cadets, but hated engineering. Instead, he would graduate with a degree in accounting. He was called to Korea with the 45th Infantry of the US Army. He served with distinction and was nominated for the Bronze Star.

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## Mother's Day ideas for moms from all walks of life

Mother's Day is a celebration of women who devote so much of their effort and energy to their families. Celebrating Mom on Mother's Day lets her know all of her efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

Mothers may perform similar tasks, but no two moms are the same. Finding ways to celebrate Mom's uniqueness can make the day that much more meaningful and memorable.

### The Crafter

Mothers who are avid crafters may enjoy a craft-themed Mother's Day. A family crafting project can make for a fun afternoon and



produce mementos that Mom will cherish for years to come. Dads and kids can plan the project in advance without Mom's knowledge, arranging all of the materials ahead of time and setting up the crafting station the night before or while Mom is relaxing on Mother's Day morning. Kids can even get a head start on the day by making their own craft for Mom and giving it to her as a Mother's Day present. Dads can keep the craft theme going at dinner and get a laugh out of Mom by pouring her a craft beer when dinner is served.

### The Reader

A recent survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that women read more than men. Women read an average of 19.8 minutes per day, which can make a Mother's Day focused on Mom's love of books an ideal and unique way to spend the day. Kids can write Mom their own books, and Dad can help put them together. Dads can visit rare bookstores and look for original copies of Mom's favorite books that she might not find elsewhere.

### The Nature Lover

Fishing and other outdoor activities might have a reputation as predominantly male hobbies, but studies show that's not really the case. A 2016 report from the Outdoor Foundation found that 46 percent of people who participated in outdoor activities were women. If Mom is a nature enthusiast, families can plan a Mother's Day enjoying the great outdoors, even giving Mom a new fishing pole, hiking gear or other items that align with her favorite nature activity.

### The Relaxation Specialist

Of course, some mothers may want to simply unwind with a relaxing morning at the spa on Mother's Day. In fact, the 2018 U.S. Spa Industry Study found that the spa industry has enjoyed seven consecutive years of consistent growth, with more than 187 billion spa visits in 2017 alone. A relaxing morning at the spa can be the perfect way for moms to begin Mother's Day before they enjoy a brunch of dinner out with their families.



## Make Mother's Day special

Each and every day a new woman becomes a mother for the first time or all over again. Being a mother changes a person's life in dramatic ways.

Mother's Day is a great time of year to honor mothers and attempt to give back just a portion of the tireless love and devotion moms offer their children. Some children provide large gestures, while others feel it's the little things that can help a mom to feel appreciated. For those needing a little inspiration on treating their mothers in special ways, consider these ideas.

- Make mom a breakfast in bed with her favorite morning treats.
- Enjoy a movie at home with mom. Let her pick the flick and share her favorite film with you.
- Agree to not bicker for the entire day, especially if you are prone to getting into arguments with siblings.
- Put together a collage of photos from moments you have shared with mom or your family.
- Cook a meal together and learn about everyone's favorite recipes or the family history.
- Give her a locket with your photo inside and have a duplicate you can wear containing her photo.
- Customize a coffee mug, tote bag or a blanket with a meaningful sentiment or photo.
- Treat mom to a day off from her chores. Tackle all of the jobs she normally does for the family.
- Bake a delicious dessert that mom will absolutely devour.
- Pamper mom with a gift card for her favorite nail salon or massage therapy location.
- Prepare a jar of mom's favorite candies wrapped in pieces of paper that have loving sentiments written on them.
- Compile a playlist of songs and artists mom prefers and download them to her phone.
- Begin a charm bracelet tradition by purchasing a charm bracelet and a new charm each year that represents a meaningful memory you both shared.
- Write a new email each day with an inspirational quote or special words of love for mom.

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First Baptist Church • 903-845-2171  
Friendship Baptist Church • 903-845-4603  
Gladeview Baptist • 903-845-3842  
Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174  
Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440  
Greater New Hope Baptist  
Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174  
Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768  
New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042  
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**—SCHEDULE OF SERVICES—**

**SUNDAY** - 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. - Morning Worship & Children's Church  
6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship

**WEDNESDAY**: 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School	10 a.m.	Prayer and Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Morning Service	11 a.m.		
Evening Service	6:30 p.m.		903-845-6440

Wednesday  
Pastor Jim Withers

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North Main Church of Christ • 903-845-2816  
Rocky Church of Christ

**CATHOLIC**

St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306

**CHARISMATIC**

New Life Church • 903-845-8108

**DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

First Christian Church • 903-845-2545

**LUTHERAN**

Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019

**CHURCH OF GOD**

Living Stone Church • 903-845-8108

**NAZARENE**

Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425

**METHODIST**

First United Methodist Church • 903-845-2565  
McCrary's Chapel United Methodist

New Mountain CME Church • 903-845-1175  
Starville Methodist • 903-877-4040  
Union Temple CME Methodist • 903-845-1050

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

New Life Fellowship Church • 903-261-4227  
Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234  
Grace Tabernacle • 903-309-8801

**PENTECOSTAL**

First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922  
Northside Pentecostal  
Abundant Life Temple U.P.C. • 903-845-6043  
Southern Pentecostal Church (Starville) PRESBYTERIAN  
First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905

**OTHER**

Starville Church of the Living God • 903-877-3205  
Friendship Community Church  
Full Faith Holiness • 903-845-8195

**First Christian Church Disciples of Christ**  
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Pastor - Dr. Ray Boulter

Schedule of Services

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m./Worship 10:50 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
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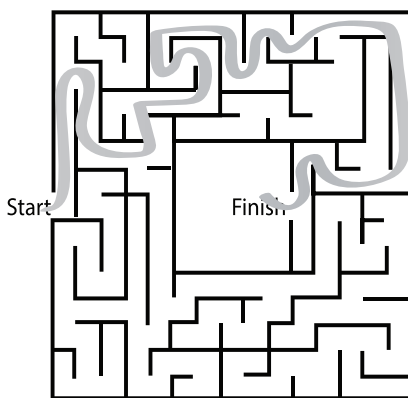
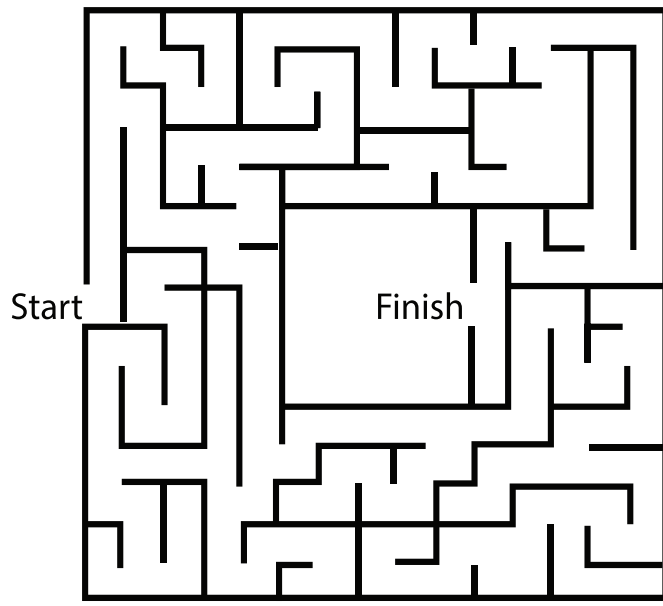
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**kids' corner**

**Maze Craze**

Can you find your way to the center of the maze?

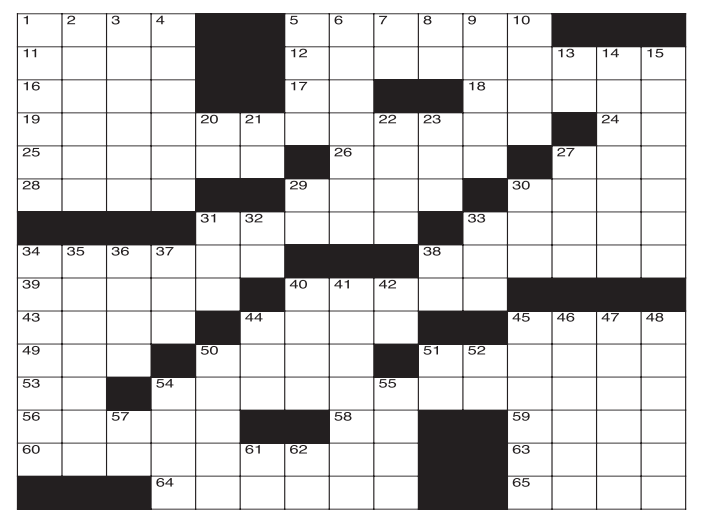


**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

- **1788:** MARYLAND BECOMES THE SEVENTH STATE TO RATIFY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.
- **1969:** CHARLES DE GAULLE RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE.
- **1986:** THE SOVIET UNION ANNOUNCES THE NUCLEAR DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL AFTER HIGH LEVELS OF RADIATION ARE DETECTED IN SWEDEN.

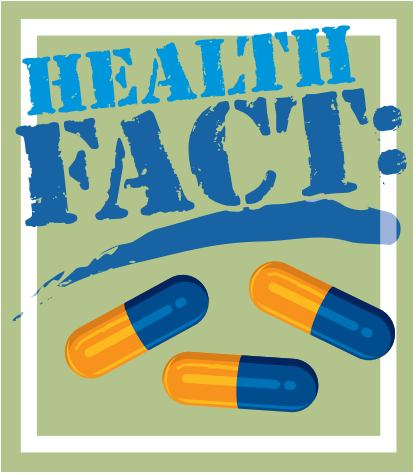


**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Curved symmetrical structure
- 5. One's partner in marriage
- 11. Male admirer
- 12. Spend in a period of dormancy
- 16. Popular Easter meal
- 17. Doc
- 18. Bearing a heavy load
- 19. Gratitude
- 24. The Mount Rushmore State
- 25. Driving
- 26. Girl
- 27. British thermal unit
- 28. Makes a mistake
- 29. A defined length of time
- 30. Lions do it
- 31. Large quantities
- 33. Become less intense
- 34. Famed peninsula
- 38. Emerges
- 39. Rare Hawaiian geese
- 40. Dance style
- 43. Drove
- 44. Measures speed of an engine (abbr.)
- 45. Yankee hero Bucky
- 49. Midway between west and northwest
- 50. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 51. Makes clothing
- 53. Spielberg's alien
- 54. Agreeable to the taste
- 56. Injury treatment protocol
- 58. Cools your house
- 59. Imaginary line
- 60. New convert
- 63. Some do it to their windows
- 64. Wore away
- 65. Work units

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Remove body tissue
- 2. Harvester
- 3. Roadside living quarters
- 4. Excessive self-confidence
- 5. Lapp
- 6. Bicycled
- 7. Entrance to a passage
- 8. Western U.S. state
- 9. Grain towers
- 10. "Westworld" actress — Rachel Wood
- 13. Commercial
- 14. One who left a will
- 15. Makes it through
- 20. Within (prefix)
- 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Cigarettes (slang)
- 23. A doctrine
- 27. Constrictor snakes
- 29. Atomic #73
- 30. Baseball stat
- 31. Female sibling
- 32. A soft gray metal (abbr.)
- 33. Southern constellation
- 34. Belgian city
- 35. Go in again
- 36. In a different, more positive way
- 37. A place for sleeping
- 38. Blood type
- 40. Syrian news agency (abbr.)
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Millibhenry
- 44. Populous Israeli city — Aviv
- 45. Widen
- 46. Magical potion
- 47. Acknowledging
- 48. Private romantic rendezvous
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 51. Terabyte
- 52. Artificial intelligence
- 54. Bullfighting maneuver
- 55. Breezed through
- 57. Santa says it three times
- 61. \_\_\_ and behold
- 62. 36 inches (abbr.)



TRUE OR FALSE?  
INHALING AIR POLLUTION CAN CAUSE ANYTHING FROM BURNING EYES TO BREATHING PROBLEMS.

ANSWER: TRUE



**EXHALE**

breathe out

*How they SAY that in...*

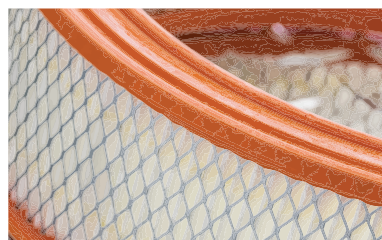
- ENGLISH:** Breath
- SPANISH:** Respiración
- ITALIAN:** Respiro
- FRENCH:** Souffle
- GERMAN:** Atem

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HOUSEPLANTS CAN NATURALLY FILTER THE AIR IN A HOME, MAKING IT HEALTHIER TO BREATHE.



**GET THE PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CAR AIR FILTER

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

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# Nine handed sentences in 115th District Court

By Phillip Williams

115th District Judge Dean Fowler sentenced 9 defendants who pleaded guilty to felony charges in Gilmer April 14, Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd's office announced Monday.

Details of the sentencing were as follows, and unless otherwise shown, all were ordered to pay court costs and an attorney's fee, the office reported:

Aaron Riley Harris, 22, of Big Sandy, received 10 years in prison for assault/family violence with previous conviction.

Big Sandy police probed the Feb. 2 crime. Byrd represented the state at sentencing, while Gilmer attorney Matthew Patton represented Harris.

Christopher Dean Robertson, 33, of Gilmer, drew concurrent 15-month state jail terms for two counts of burglary of building. Under the plea agreement, the state took into consideration five filed or unfilled misdemeanor charges against him.

The Upshur County Sheriff's Office investigated the Dec. 5, 2019 burglaries. Byrd and Patton handled the sentencing.

Mandy Lynn Mercado, 36, of Longview, drew 15 months in state jail for possession of controlled substance--less than one gram of methamphetamine.

The sheriff's office probed the Sept. 29, 2018 offense. Byrd and Patton handled the sentencing.

Billy Thomas Burke Jr., 25, of Yantis, received 180 days in county jail for credit card abuse.

Gilmer police investigated his Oct. 27, 2018 crime. Assistant District Attorney Catherine McQueen represented the state at sentencing; Patton represented Burke.

Andrew Garza, 44, of Clarksville, received 20 years in prison for possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver--four grams or more but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine. He was the only

defendant not shown to be ordered to pay court costs or an attorney fee. The sheriff's office probed his Dec. 6, 2019 offense. Byrd and Patton handled the sentencing.

Seth Allen Seabolt, 25, of Gilmer, drew 15 years in prison for delivery of controlled substance--one gram or more but less than four grams of U-47700 (a synthetic opioid medication).

He was fined, but the state agreed to refuse pending felony cases against him. The sheriff's office investigated the Dec. 9, 2017 crime.

Byrd represented the state; Longview attorney John Moore represented Seabolt.

Christian Dominique Smyth, 20, of Talco, was placed on 5 years "deferred adjudication" probation for burglary of habitation. Under deferred adjudication, no permanent conviction appears on a defendant's record if he/she successfully completes probation, but if such probation is revoked, up to the maximum sentence can be imposed.

Some terms of Smyth's probation include a fine, 300 hours of community service, undergoing an alcohol/drug evaluation, training in "life skills" and classes for theft defendants.

The sheriff's office probed the July 19, 2019 offense. Assistant District Attorney Sarah Lyn Cooper represented the state at sentencing; Longview attorney Carl Dorough represented Smith.

Nathaniel Wayne White, 53, of Gilmer, drew 5 years in prison for failure to register as sex offender. He was also ordered to pay a fee to Crime Stoppers, but the state agreed to dismiss another felony charge against him. Gilmer police investigated the Nov. 26, 2019 failure to register. Cooper and Dorough handled the sentencing.

Joshua Lane Ray, 28, of Diana, received 7 months in state jail for criminal mischief. He must also pay a fee to Crime Stoppers.

The sheriff's office probed the Aug. 3, 2019 crime. Cooper and Moore handled the sentencing.

## Governor Abbott, HHSC announce \$54 Million to support older Texans during COVID-19 Pandemic

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will receive nearly \$54 million in federal funds to support older Texans and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 response. The funding will be used to support programs and services administered by the state's 28 Area Agencies on Aging such as home delivered meals, help with household chores, assistance with groceries, and respite care or other services for family caregivers.



ABBOTT

"Older Texans and Texans with disabilities face a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and they need continued support during these trying times," said Governor Abbott. "These federal funds will help provide higher risk Texans with additional support and resources to meet their everyday needs while allowing them to stay at home and stay safe. I thank the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

for providing Texas with this crucial financial support so that we can continue to serve our fellow Texans."

"With Governor Abbott's continued leadership, we're committed to supporting and assisting the state's most vulnerable population during the difficult time," said HHS Executive Commissioner Phil Wilson.

Funding will also be used to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, which provides advocacy and complaint resolution services on behalf of residents in long-term care facilities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living awarded Texas nearly \$54 million in funds through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic (CARES) Act recently signed into law by President Trump.

## Upshur tax office extending hours after Gov. reopens Texas

Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell announced Monday she is lengthening the hours for her Gilmer office to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

County offices had been closed to the public at noon for several weeks under an order from the county commissioners court.

In an email announcing the new hours, Howell did not say whether she was re-opening the Gladewater and Diana branches of her office, which have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## U. Grove seeking help with roads

By Phillip Williams

At yet another meeting which will be shown online since public attendance is limited, Upshur County Commissioners Court on Thursday will consider approving an interlocal agreement with Union Grove Mayor Randy Simcox for the county to resurface 4.1 miles of roadway in and near the city.

That is among items on the agenda for the 10 a.m. meeting in Gilmer, at which public attendance will be restricted as a precaution against spreading the COVID-19 virus. The meeting will be broadcast live online, however, at the county's Facebook site, which can be accessed by going to [www.countyofupshur.com](http://www.countyofupshur.com) and clicking on the Upshur County Facebook link.

In-person attendance is limited to department heads, their designees, and those receiving permission from County Judge Todd Tefeller. The general public can watch the gathering online, as it has been able to do for all court meetings since March 23, and should submit any questions it has for the court via the county's

Facebook page before 9 a.m. Thursday.

County Road Administrator Andy Jordan said Monday that Union Grove proposes to donate \$320,000 to the county to pay for materials while the county will provide the labor. Some \$310,000 will be spent on the proposed project, and the other \$10,000 will remain in the county budget for further work, he said.

Under the agreement, part of the work will occur within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction, which extends up to one mile outside city limits, and thus allow paving a complete road instead of only part of it, Jordan said.

Simcox, who has met with Jordan and Tefeller concerning the proposed agreement, said Monday he is approving it under his executive authority. He said some of the roadway involved has had no asphalt work since 1957.

In other business Thursday, the court is scheduled to consider approving a resolution to seek a state grant for repairing roads affected by energy exploration.

Jordan said prospects for the Texas Department

of Transportation approving the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund grant are "extremely good." The county would receive 90 percent of the funding for the \$452,934 project and pay the remaining portion of about \$45,000, he said.

Plans call for improving Seagull Road and part of Silk Tree Road in Precinct 1, and Orange, Mulberry, and portions of Lemon and Cottonwood Roads, all in Precinct 3.

Jordan said, however, that in his total road and bridge budget, he would attempt to spend roughly equal amounts on each of the county's four precincts. He invited those who question why the prospective grant monies would be limited to the roads in two precincts to contact him at 903-680-8341 to discuss the matter.

Only other non-routine items on Thursday's seven-item agenda are declaring property listed by County Librarian Cynthia King as salvage or surplus, and considering approval of placing SHOPLocalFirst banners on county-owned properties.

## Woman killed in East Mountain accident

By Phillip Williams

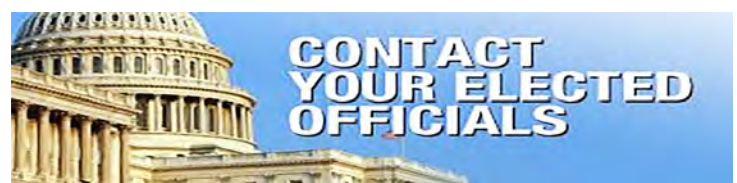
A Longview woman died when the pickup she was driving struck a pine tree on Texas 300 in the East Mountain area on Wednesday afternoon of last week, said Upshur County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes.

Manes said she pronounced Heather Evon Sullivan, 31, dead at the scene at mile marker 276, and ordered an autopsy performed at a facility in Owentown.

The woman had no identification on her, said Manes, who added she did not believe Sullivan was

wearing a safety belt. The truck, which reportedly had bald tires, was northbound when it ran off the right side of the roadway, the judge said. She said Texas Department of Public Safety troopers were called to the scene at 3 p.m.

The body was taken to McWhorter Funeral Home in Gilmer, which said the autopsy facility advised that it was being moved to another unnamed funeral home. Manes speculated death probably resulted from "multiple blunt force injuries."



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<b>Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick</b> 1400 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701	(512) 463-0001
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<b>Comptroller Glenn Hegar</b> 111 East 17th Street, Austin, TX 78774	(512) 463-4444

## COVID-19 testing set

With Upshur County's number of confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus having increased to 12 last week, the state is offering free mobile testing for the virus Wednesday (April 29) at the Gilmer Civic Center.

The testing by Texas Health and Human Services, for which pre-registration is required online or by phone, is set from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the facility on U.S. 271.

Those interested can begin registering at 9 a.m. Tuesday at [TXCOVIDTEST.ORG](http://TXCOVIDTEST.ORG) or 512-883-2400.

Citizens will be examined for, among other symptoms of the disease, fever and/or chills, coughing, shortness of breath, and loss of taste and smell.

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## Farming for the Future of Texas

Passing the family farm down from generation to generation, once a given, is now far less common. Yet for some young Texas farming families, working the land and livestock are still passions deeply rooted in history, tradition and family.

The average age of the Texas farmer is 58, and only six percent of farmers are under the age of 35, according to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture. This aging trend has prompted the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas Farm Bureau to seek out young farmers like Sam Sparks of Harlingen and offer them the support and resources needed to succeed.

Sparks, 33, is a recipient of the Texas Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Award. He and his wife, Shannon, operate a 10,000-acre farm where they grow sugarcane, cotton, corn, grain, sorghum and soybeans. The Sparks family also raise registered and commercial Brahman and Brangus cattle. A third-generation farmer, Sparks grew up working his father's land.

"When I was just 5 or 6 years old, I can remember going out with my older cousins during harvest season to help my dad and

uncle," Sparks says. "Whether it was hoeing weeds or picking up cotton to take to the gin, I wanted to help."

He says his parents welcomed his decision to join the family business, even though he "was never pushed in any direction."

"They let me choose my own path, but they welcomed my decision because farming is in our blood. It's our passion," he says.

It's a passion also shared by Jake Griggs, who operates a 1,000-acre ranch in Corsicana with his brother and father. The Griggs family raises rodeo cattle, with a focus on producing bucking bulls. Griggs grew up helping his father on their cattle ranch. He studied finance at Texas A&M University and received his degree in business administration. After a postgraduate stint as a banker, Griggs joined his dad and brother's operation. He says his education helped him better understand how to make the business profitable.

"It's all about using resources efficiently — whether it be money or seed," Griggs says.

Griggs is a recipient of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Young Farmer Grant program, which provides grants to young agriculture producers between



the ages of 18 and 45 who are starting or expanding agricultural businesses in Texas. Rising to the challenge Griggs says young farmers face obstacles similar to those of their predecessors; take weather, for instance. He says his ranching operation has been significantly impacted by the recent drought.

However, Griggs also is quick to point out new technological advances that have helped overcome some of those hurdles. For example, he uses apps on his smartphone to measure the size of a pasture, determine how much seed to put out and how much fertilizer to spread. Still, of all the resources available, Griggs says the experience and wisdom passed down by older farmers and ranchers are the most valuable.

"Even though there have been many technological improvements, there's a lot of proven techniques

and experience from people who have been doing this for 50 or 60 years," he says.

Cade Richmond agrees. He grows 450 acres of coastal Bermuda under irrigation, as well as 2,500 acres for cattle grazing and dry land farming in De Leon.

Richmond says he worries that with the aging population of farmers and fewer young people entering the profession, this generational knowledge will disappear.

"It takes years of learning under the older generation," Richmond says. "It's nearly impossible to just start farming; the learning curve is too costly."

"My overall concern is that there are fewer and fewer of us. It's a lot easier to go into town and work an 8-to-5, but for those of us who have the passion for agriculture and this way of life, it's worth the hard work."

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