

Gladewater Mirror



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50¢



CONGRATS GHS GRADS

Gladewater High School seniors beat back COVID-19, which took away their last quarter of school and traditional events like prom, and took to the streets Friday night for a Graduation Parade and was met by parents, family and friends who lined along the way celebrating their seniors' accomplishment. Valedictorian Elizabeth Fortenberry led the way in the parade. This Friday, June 5, at 8 p.m. graduation ceremonies will be held at Jack V. Murphy Stadium for ticketed guests of seniors. Social distancing will be observed and masks are encouraged. See more photos inside. Photo by Jim Bardwell

GHS Friday graduation guidelines

Event live-streamed on GHS Facebook

The 2020 graduation ceremony will be held at Jack V. Murphy Stadium at 8 p.m. this Friday. The stadium will open at 7 p.m. Seniors will walk directly to their designated chairs on the field and remain seated until the ceremony begins. The graduation will be broadcast on the Jumbotron and will be live-streamed on the GHS Facebook page for those unable to attend.

Families will follow all social distancing guidelines and proceed to the orange or white tables to turn in the state required COVID-19 questionnaire. Family tickets and questionnaire match the color of the table. The orange table is on the home side and the white table is on the visitor's side. Families of seniors whose last names begin with A-N will sit on the home side. Families of seniors with last names beginning with O-Z will sit on the visitor side.

There is no reserve seating. All students and guests in attendance must have a completed questionnaire in order to be permitted into the stadium. All guests must have tickets in order

Continued on Page 7

Guns, drugs seized in Union Grove arrest

According to a press release from the Upshur County Sheriff's Office released Friday, on May 28, 2020, the Upshur County Sheriff's Office's Special Investigations Unit executed a search warrant at 9955 Union Grove Rd as the result of an ongoing investigation into the alleged sale of narcotics. The search resulted in the seizure of 42 grams of Methamphetamine, 14 ounces of Marijuana, 119 grams of Ecstasy, 17 firearms and almost \$3000.00 in cash.

So far, 3 of the firearms have been confirmed stolen by serial number. The circumstances of the other guns are being investigated.

A two way portable police radio was also recovered with

Continued on Page 3



PITTMAN



The Gladewater Fire Department accepted a check for \$15,000 from the Texas A&M Forest Service last week. The money will be used to pay for much-needed equipment on the department's brush truck. On hand for the check presentation were GFD firefighter Christian Allen, City Manager Ricky Tow, Chief Cory Crowell, Mayor J.D. Shipp, Captain John Moore, Engineer John McNevin, TFS RFC Josh Bardwell, Firefighter Chris Warren, Firefighter Dylan Lassen. See story on Page 6. Photo by Jim Bardwell

Hometown hero awards all GHS grads scholarships, develops drug that fights blood cancers

By Suzanne Bardwell

The Bear Scholarship Godfather, 1985 GHS alum Dr. John Hood and his wife Sally, have for the second consecutive year offered all GHS graduates a \$500 scholarship if they attend college. Six of the 112 grads got a bigger boost for their futures. Four students have been honored with \$2,500 renewable to \$10,000 scholarships. Those hardworking senior standouts are Daisy Bewley, Graci Hart, Bailey Smith and Ramzey Osteen. Two \$10,000 scholarships renewable to \$40,000 each were awarded to promising seniors Chris Houston and Ashley Lara.

"I strongly believe that talent is everywhere but opportunity isn't," Dr. Hood said last year in an interview with the Gladewater Mirror. "There are special people graduating from GHS, Sally and I wanted to help make sure they get the opportunity to get out into the world and see what they can become."

Dr. Hood is recognized as a hero on a lot of levels. And not just to the GHS Classes of 2019 and 2020, but also to patients who have been impacted by the development of pharmaceutical drugs that address their diseases. Dr. Hood's journey from Gladewater where he grew

Continued on Page 3



DR. HOOD



Valedictorian Hannah Carter and the Union Grove Class of 2020 celebrated their senior year at graduation ceremonies held Monday.



Photos by Kim Hill

UGHS Class of 2020,

Thank you for a great year! You all did amazing things in only seven short months. However, I am most proud of your perseverance and determination to finish this year strong. In a time of great adversity, I witnessed all of you demonstrate kindness, thankfulness and resilience. I have no doubt that all of you will go on to do great things, and I look forward to hearing about your accomplishments.

As you close the door on one chapter of your life, another chapter begins. Each day is like a page in a book, and you are the author, make the most of it. You can do whatever you set out to do and if, along the way you need guidance or support, our door is always open to you. Union Grove ISD will always be your home, and you are always welcome.

We wish you the best as you embark on the next phase of your journey. Make each day count, work hard, be kind and remember you are a Union Grove Lion!

Best Wishes,
Kelly Moore

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Ed Sterling
Capital
Highlights



Proclamation allows more services, activities to resume

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott on May 26 issued a proclamation giving the green light to more services and activities in a second phase of the state's plan to reopen from mandatory pandemic closures.

The Phase II proclamation allowed water parks to open beginning May 29 on condition that the venues limit occupancy to no more than 25% of normal capacity. However, components of water parks that have video arcades must remain closed. Also, starting May 31, recreational sports programs for adults were allowed to resume but games and similar competitions must wait until June 15 to resume. Driver education programs can resume operations immediately.

Food-court dining areas in shopping malls were allowed to resume operations immediately, but malls are encouraged to designate one or more individuals responsible for health and safety practices on premises, including:

- Limiting tables to six individuals; maintaining a six-foot distance between individuals sitting at different tables;
- Cleaning and disinfecting tables between uses; and
- Ensuring no condiments or other items are left on tables between customer uses.

In other news, cumulative figures posted on May 31 by the Texas Department of State Health Services showed that some 64,287 people in Texas had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,672 deaths resulting from the virus pandemic had been confirmed.

Protests erupt in cities

Crowds gathered in many cities across the nation in recent days to protest the May 25 death of former Houston resident George Floyd, 46, in Minneapolis.

A white Minneapolis police officer, assisted by three fellow officers, arrested and handcuffed Floyd, an African-American, then pinned him face down on a paved city street. Floyd, who was heard saying he could not breathe while he was pinned down, lost consciousness and was later pronounced dead. Video of the incident was captured by a bystander and posted on social media.

Gov. Abbott reacted on May 30, saying, "Texas and America mourn the senseless loss of George Floyd, and the actions that led to his death are reprehensible and should be condemned in the strongest terms possible. As Texans exercise their First Amendment rights, it is imperative that order is maintained and private property is protected."

Some of the protests turned violent. Abbott activated the National Guard and ordered state resources to Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin, he said, to maintain public safety. The Texas Department of Public Safety deployed more than 1,500 officers to assist local police departments and more resources will be provided as needed, Abbott said.

Paxton applauds court

The Texas Supreme Court on May 27 ruled against a petition by the Texas Democratic Party in an ongoing effort to enable all Texans to vote by mail, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton applauded the ruling written by Chief Justice Nathan Hecht. Hecht concluded that a lack of immunity to COVID-19 is not itself a "physical condition" for being eligible to vote by mail under the state election law.

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa reacted to the ruling, saying, "Now, it is up to the federal court to ensure basic Constitutional rights still exist in Texas and ensure that Texans have a right to vote safely and not put their health at-risk."

Paxton said a voter ill with COVID-19 and who meets legal requirements may apply for a ballot by mail, "but fear of contracting COVID-19 is a normal emotional reaction to the current pandemic and does not amount to an actual disability that qualifies a voter to receive a ballot by mail."

Plaintiffs have a separate mail-in-ballot case pending in the federal court system.

SOS: Voting guidance

The Office of the Texas Secretary of State in consultation with the Texas Department of State Health Services on May 26 released health protocol guidance for Texas election officials and voters in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary of State Ruth R. Hughs, Texas' chief election officer, said the guidance, available at sos.texas.gov, reflects the minimum recommended health protocols to help ensure the health and safety of voters, election office personnel, polling place workers and poll watchers.

Unemployment hits high

In April, all major industries in Texas were hit with job losses related to the pandemic.

The Texas economy lost 1,298,900 non-farm positions in the month, the Texas Workforce Commission reported on May 22, causing the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to rise to 12.8%.

Justice...

Summer is here by Texas standards. We will be hitting temps in the 90s this week. The temperature around the country is hitting a high as well with protests over the shocking death of George Floyd who had been stopped for questioning by Minneapolis police officers.

Here's the heart of the matter, a 46 year old black man suffocated because of a police officer's pressure on his neck for eight minutes. The policeman was at fault. His fellow officers have responsibility as well, they should have intervened. Law enforcement officers across this country have condemned the actions of the officer responsible. And rightly so.

The injustice is evident. Statistics bear that statement out beyond this horrifying death of one man. Standing by while injustice occurs is wrong. Whatever that injustice might be.

When will we all find our voices to quit yelling at each other over politics over conspiracy theories, over unsubstantiated stories and just try to do what is right by each other? That is what matters most in this life. What we do to take care of one another.

The first thing we need to work on is to treat other people the way we want to be treated. We are one race, the human race and it is time we acted like it. We must treat each other with respect whether we 'think' someone deserves it or not. First, we might be wrong in our judgment. We often are. Secondly, and more importantly, I found in my years of teaching kids of all colors from all backgrounds, if you treat people with respect they are much more likely to return that respect.

Suzanne Bardwell



My heart breaks for this country in so very many ways. My heart breaks for those who experience injustice and worse. We must speak up when we see injustice. We must right wrongs when we can. We must stop slinging mud and expect this country to rise to greater success. We must be who we were created to be, the best we can be. We must care about others because the cost is too great not to care.

We are built on a foundation of justice, of respect, of caring for one another. Our most sacred documents proclaim these truths including the one which birthed this nation, the Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

It is time once again my friends that we focus on the principles this country was founded on, the ideals we have worked toward for over 244 years.

That is what makes us great. And when we are striving to live up to the ideals this country was founded on that makes America great.

Guest Columnist

Pandemic Ignites Need for Open Government At All Levels

Texans have been witnessing things that would have been unthinkable until now: Surge teams, testing of nursing homes for COVID-19 and the National Guard helping to disinfect nursing home facilities around the state.



This is the time for the public to have access to information for their safety, protection and understanding. Government at all levels should be releasing information so the public has confidence and clarity as to what is happening.

An example of where information should be more forthcoming is the nursing home arena. There have been instances where government at all levels won't release information on which healthcare facilities have had infections or deaths and which ones have not. Certain groups

have steadfastly refused to identify facilities where cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed. With Texas families desperately concerned about their loved ones in these centers, this is not productive or constructive.

Some groups have cited state and federal privacy laws in refusing citizens' requests for this information. That reason ignores the fact that our privacy statutes prohibit release of personal information that can identify a particular patient, not the facility where the patient became ill — or how many patients from a location were infected or died.

Federal authorities have indicated they intend to release information soon. But that's not a permanent fix.

We need to encourage health authorities at all levels to discuss outbreaks and impacts in nursing homes. This will help distraught family members to understand what is happening medically and not rely on social media and the rumor mill for information about family members.

It's important to remember that this is the people's business, not just the business of corporations and the government. Citizens may not need personally identifiable information about a nursing home's infected patients, but they do need to know whether they or their loved ones are in a precarious or dangerous situation.

In the next legislative session I will file legislation allowing public access to timely, detailed statistical information about disease transmission and mortality rates in healthcare facilities. The information would not be patient-specific, but it would be facility-specific.

As consumers we need this information to make effective healthcare decisions for ourselves and our loved ones. As citizens, we need the information for accountability reasons and to understand what is occurring.

The citizen is the ultimate decision maker in both our economic and our governmental systems. This pandemic has shown that it's time for Texans to get access to information necessary to make sound decisions about the welfare of their families and loved ones.

State Representative Todd Hunter
R-Corpus Christi, State District 32

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

The Short-Term Outlook for the US Economy

Social distancing requirements, while essential to preventing major spikes in COVID-19 cases, have caused unprecedented disruptions to the US economy. Although the pace of recovery will depend on many unknown (and currently unknowable)



factors, including health outcomes as the economy begins to reopen, our most recent forecasts account for the information presently available in a systematic manner.

Total US nonfarm payroll employment fell by 20.5 million in April, and the unemployment rate rose to 14.7%.

The hardest hit industries are those which had to largely shut

down, including travel-oriented segments such as hotels and motels, as well as restaurants and bars. Declines also occurred in health care and social assistance (largely due to lost jobs in childcare), professional and business services, retail trade (except grocery stores and a few other categories), and construction.

While portions of the health care system are strained due to the virus, others are seeing notable reductions as non-essential surgeries, treatments, dental appointments, and office visits are delayed.

Another industry with major declines is mining (which includes oil and gas), as COVID-related demand reductions across the globe and a supply shock caused crude prices to plummet.

Our most recent short-term projections for the national

economy indicate a decline in real gross product at a -5.47% rate in 2020, representing a loss of more than \$1.0 trillion. For 2021, real gross product is forecast to grow by \$973.7 billion (a 5.40% rate) and almost get back to 2019 levels. Job losses on an annualized basis are forecast to exceed 9.8 million in 2020 (a 6.49% decline), with 5.19% growth expected in 2021. Employment will likely not reach 2019 levels until 2022, with about two to five years required to achieve pre-virus baseline expectations (as long as the reopening is well managed without additional major shutdowns).

Note that near-term monthly losses are much higher, but recovery is expected to begin in earnest later this year.

The basic structure of the economy was sound prior to the outbreak, and the current

downturn is essentially caused by fallout from a health crisis. Assuming that through aggressive monetary policy, targeted fiscal stimulus, and other measures the basic economic structure remains in place and no further interruptions occur, the recovery should be relatively rapid once the virus risk has abated.

Economic patterns over the next few years are likely to be quite different from expectations prior to the pandemic (as reflected in these projections).

However, there is not yet evidence that the long-term outlook will be significantly impaired.

A disruption of this magnitude will change certain aspects of economic behavior on an ongoing basis but should not dampen overall expansion prospects in the decades to come. Be safe!!



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DO PEOPLE HAVE THE GIFT OF "SPEAKING IN TONGUES" TODAY?

What the Scriptures call "speaking in tongues" was very different from what some religious people claim to do today. In the Bible, tongue speaking was miraculously speaking a LANGUAGE previously unlearned by the speaker. It was not rapid and incoherent, unintelligible chatter. It was a real LANGUAGE, spoken through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

This is clear from Acts 2 which says the apostles on the day of Pentecost "began to speak with other tongues," and "every man heard them speak in his own LANGUAGE" (Acts 2: 4-6). Read verses 7-11 and you will see the apostles were speaking real HUMAN LANGUAGES. The miracle was that they had not naturally learned those languages.

What some today claim to do, is different from what the Bible describes. It should not be called "speaking in tongues," because it is not the tongue speaking described in the Bible. It should not be called "Pentecostal," because it is not what occurred on Pentecost (Acts 2). Whether these modern ecstatic utterances are due to excessive emotionalism, or to a type of self-induced hypnosis, or to some other cause, they are not the miraculous tongues described in the Bible.

Like other miraculous gifts, which were given to some of the early Christians, the gift of tongues was connected with the REVELATION and CONFIRMATION of the New Testament. Mark 16: 20 and Hebrews 2: 3-4 affirm that very thing. Therefore, it is no surprise that the Scriptures foretold a time when the miraculous gift of tongues would CEASE, along with the gift of prophesy and miraculously imparted knowledge. First Corinthians 13: 8 says: "Love never fails. But whether there are prophesies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease, whether there is knowledge it will vanish away." That scripture was fulfilled long ago! Thus, miraculous tongues did CEASE. The gifts some claim to possess today are but modern IMITATIONS of the real thing. 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

Obituary

ROY DEAN MACKEY

Roy Dean Mackey passed from life Monday, May 23, 2020, in League City, Texas. He was born September 23, 1934 in Union Grove, Texas to Huel Washington Mackey and Bertha Ford Mackey. He was a resident of Gladewater, Texas from age 8 until high school graduation in 1952.



Roy attended East Texas State University for 2 years majoring in Art/Education before enlisting in the US Army. He served 11th Airborne Division, 503rd Airborne, as a Paratrooper in Hawaii. At that time, Hawaii did not have statehood, so his service was rated as foreign territory. Roy then returned to ETSU, graduating in 1958. He taught Art in Clear Creek ISD at Webster Junior High/Webster

Intermediate School for 39 years with students winning awards in many different areas.

In 1958, Roy discovered Galveston County Skydivers after moving to the Houston area and won many competitions. He served as club trainer for new jumpers for several years. When his son discovered Judo, Roy immediately began to participate, becoming a black belt and serving as an assistant instructor and competition judge. He also became a member of Clear Creek Bass Club earning about 100 awards for bass caught in monthly tournaments. In July 2001 Roy was one of the "Top Six Large Mouth Bass Fishermen" in Texas rated by Black Bass magazine.

Roy is preceded in death by his parents; brother Monroe Tucker; sister Beverly Mackey Phillips; and brother Elwyn Mackey. He is survived by his wife Wondell "Dell" Ellison Mackey; daughter and son-in-law Tania Mackey and Edward Sebesta; son Dean Mackey and daughter-in-law Angelia Carlson Mackey; granddaughter Grace Ann Sebesta; and grandson Carl Ellison Mackey.

Roy provided a personal request for no formal service. Remains are to be donated for medical training/research, followed by cremation. Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or your favorite charity.

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the editor,

I recently read the column in your newspaper about the man wearing the coffee filter mask. It makes me sad that so many people are rude, especially to older folks. I have been making masks (at least 50 or more) and taking them to church for anyone that passes through who wants them. I decided to take the next ones that I make with me when I shop and if/when I see anyone that needs one I will give it to them.

Love your paper!
Betty Hudson

State Sales Tax revenue totaled \$2.6 billion in May

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.61 billion in May, 13.2 percent less than in May 2019 and the steepest year-over-year decline since January 2010.

The majority of May sales tax revenue is based on sales made in April and remitted to the agency in May. Widespread social distancing requirements were in place across much of the state throughout April.

"Significant declines in sales tax receipts were evident in all major economic sectors, with the exception of telecommunications services," Hegar said. "The steepest decline was in collections from oil and gas mining, as energy companies cut well drilling and completion spending following the crash in oil prices."

"The business closures and restrictions and stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic spurred deep drops in collections from restaurants, amusement and recreation services, and physical retail stores. These declines were offset in part by increases from big box retailers and grocery stores that remained open as essential businesses, online retailers and restaurants that could readily pivot to takeout and delivery service."

"With the easing of state and local government social distancing orders beginning in May, business activity in the sectors most affected by measures to curb the pandemic should begin to slowly recover, but operations resuming at reduced capacity will result in continued reductions in employment, income and activity subject to sales tax for months to come."

Sales tax is the largest source of state funding for the state budget, accounting for 57 percent of all tax collections, but the effects of the economic slowdown and low oil prices were evident in other sources of revenue in May 2020. Texas collected the following revenue from other major taxes:

Guns, drugs seized in Union Grove arrest

Continued from Page 1

channels related to the Rusk County Area. Follow-up investigation will be done to determine its proper owner. At this time, it is not confirmed as stolen.

Cory Neal Pittman, 26 years of age, of Union Grove was arrested and booked into the Upshur County Jail on charges of:

- 2 counts of Manufacture/Delivery of Controlled Substance (1st degree felony)
 - Possession of Marijuana over 4 ounces (state jail felony)
 - 3 counts of Possession of Stolen Firearm (state jail felony)
- Pittman is being held on bond totaling \$140,000.00 dollars.

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Hometown hero awards all GHS grads scholarships, Develops drug that fights blood cancers

Continued from Page 1

up working in construction, at the local water system and hauling hay instilled a strong work ethic which he attributes as a defining role in his success. He also credits his teachers who became mentors as well.

"In middle school Mr. Keller saw something in me that others didn't," Dr. Hood said. "I really appreciated him then and I still do now. At that time in my life, most of the teachers were supportive and did a great job as mentors."

What makes Dr. John Hood heroic in the eyes of many in the medical profession and cancer patients whose lives have been saved by his innovative work, was his fight to get a particular drug license for Fedratinib approved that was successful in treating patients with blood cancers in medical trials. Hood was one of the key developers of the innovative drug.

Dr. Hood quit his job to form a new company investing \$250,000 of his own money to seed it. In an article by the San Diego Union-Tribune published on Oct. 28, 2019 Dr. Hood's comment in a professional newsletter is quoted which sums up the innovator's motivation. "There's nothing more rewarding than knowing that the endpoint of your work is going to save lives."

And Hood's work has definitely done that.

According to biotech reporters Bradley J. Fikes and John Wilkens "only about five to 10 percent of drugs entering clinical testing make it to the finish line. To have one like Fedratinib highly effective against a cancer that doesn't often respond to other therapies, is the rarest of the rare—almost a poster child for pharmaceutical innovation."

The story of John Hood resigning his job and starting his new company Impact Biomedicines with his wife's support to ensure that the drug was available for those whose lives depend on it would make a great movie. That story has corporate wrangling, loss of life, personal sacrifice, and a timeframe of 120 days to get the financial backing for the cancer drug he helped develop. And that doesn't take into account getting the FDA's approval. But, Hood miraculously managed to do just that. Now he is focusing on breast cancer.

"He's become a rock star in biotech circles, asked to share the boom-to-bust-to boom story of Fedratinib. In his speeches, his presentations, his interviews, he tries to dissuade anyone from calling him a hero" the San Diego reporters wrote.

Whether by cancer patients whose lives have been saved by a drug John Hood helped develop and fought to get on the market, or Gladewater families affected by his foundation's generosity in awarding scholarships, Dr. John Hood has become just that, a hero.

UCSO investigtaining game room operator

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Sheriff's Office announced last Thursday it is "opening a criminal investigation involving false statements provided on three game room (operating) applications" from Gilmer resident Harry Fox.

The rooms are at 6527 Texas 155 in Big Sandy, 717 U.S. 271 in Gilmer, and 1728 U.S. 259 in Diana, said sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel in a press release announcing the probe.

After sheriff's investigator Shane Guthrie, the designated coordinator of the sheriff's office's game room regulation, received the applications May 15, he observed they "claimed to have made numerous donations of specific items to area law enforcement, including the Upshur County Sheriff's Office," Hazel wrote.

The chief deputy then summarized the case as follows:

Guthrie called Sheriff Larry Webb's attention to Fox's statement, and "it was immediately evident that the donations listed in the game room application were, in fact, donations made by Upshur County Crime Stoppers to the sheriff's office over several years."

Webb contacted Crime Stoppers President Cynthia Clark, who said her private organization had received funds from Fox, but that all the donations listed came from the group.

Thus, "these items were not donated to law enforcement from Mr. Fox."

The sheriff's office has denied the applications, which Fox can appeal to hearing officer Don Gross, and the office will turn over results of its investigation to District Attorney Billy Byrd's office.



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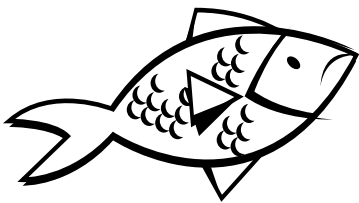
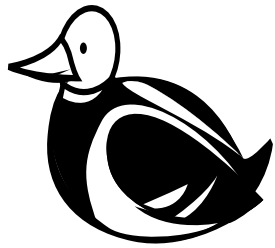


*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2. Free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes (63281). Standard S&H added per address. Not valid with other offers. Expires 10/31/20. All purchases subject to Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use & Privacy Policy: omahasteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI and omahasteaks.com/info/privacy-policy or call 1-800-228-9872. Photos exemplary of product advertised.



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THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1854: THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS.
- 1947: SAAB PRODUCES ITS FIRST AUTOMOBILE.
- 2001: POPE JOHN PAUL II CANONIZES LEBANON'S FIRST FEMALE SAINT, SAINT RAFOA.



Bear Cub Kindergarten grads had an extraordinary treat with star guest Miss Texas America Ba'Leigh Burns on hand to share in their graduation parade joy. Miss Texas attended both the morning and afternoon K-parades greeting each child and their families.



Proud K-grad Elijah Childress was celebrated by even prouder teachers of the success of their student.
Photos By Suzanne Bardwell



VAST

of great extent or quantity

With flowers in hand for his teacher Mrs. Almanza, Gladewater Primary Kindergarten graduate Wesley Carroll is ready to celebrate moving on to first grade.



Kar'Dae Ford and Kade Fortson show off their championship football rings at last week's kindergarten grad parade. Both say they are looking forward to playing with the big Bears in a few years.

Morning Kindergarten grad Jaxxon Walker is ready to see his future as a first grader after receiving his K-diploma moving on to first grade.

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Mountain
SPANISH: Montaña
ITALIAN: Montagna
FRENCH: Montagne
GERMAN: Berglandschaft

Did you know?

THE U.S. HAS 419 NATIONAL PARK SITES AND CANADA HAS 48 NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE PRESERVES.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PALM TREE



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 - St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
 - Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894
 - Joy Baptist • 903-790-4978
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- North Loop Church of Christ • 903-845-2531
 - 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

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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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Grace Baptist Church
212 E. George Richey Rd., Gladewater

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.		

Wednesday
Pastor Jim Withers

903-845-6440

- 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
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
- Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
- Love of God Church • 903-845-2623
- Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050

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GISD summer meal program

Grab and go meals began on Monday for curbside pickup at Gladwater High School. Students may come each Monday through June to pick up meals that will include five breakfasts and five lunches. Pickup time runs from 10: 30 a.m. until noon.

Oil Patch TRTA dues deadline

Oil Patch TRTA membership dues are due immediately. Local dues are \$10 and Texas Teacher Retirement Association state dues are \$35. TRTA membership is even more essential now to represent the interests of retired public school employees. The next session will see many cuts to statewide programs across the board and a voice for retirees will be even more important. Please mail state and local dues (unless state is already deducted from your annuity) to treasurer Sheryl Wittenbach 3502 Doublewood, Longview 75604.

Rock Springs Cemetery Assn. announcement

In today's health crisis, Rock Springs Cemetery Association Board has made the difficult decision to not host its usual day of shared meal, fellowship and special attention to the final resting place of loved ones. Some families may choose to gather, as usual, but there will be no formal meeting, no shared meals, no provided beverages, etc.

However, this is also the only time of the year that we solicit love offerings and donations that support the ongoing upkeep of the cemetery. Members, old and new, are urged to mail tax deductible donations to: Rock Springs Assn. Treasurer Tammy Trotter, 2896 CR 192 E, Kilgore 75662. Association President Charlie Walker and Secretary Vickie Raymond both have PayPal accounts if you prefer that method of payment. Contact information for either and a summary of the annual financial report can be found on the association's Facebook page, Rock Spring Cemetery.

GPS New student K/Head Start registration

Gladwater Primary School Registration for new kindergarten and Head Start students will be June 1-5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-K students will register in the fall. Parents need to bring two proofs of residence including one gas, water or electric bill and one of the following a current driver's license, property tax statement and rental/lease agreement. Also required will be current shot records, student's birth certificate and student's social security card. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. This is for NEW students only. Registration will be held at Gladwater Primary School at 100 Gay Avenue.



FUMC to worship in sanctuary Sunday

Gladwater's First United Methodist Church will hold sanctuary services with one service at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 7. The service will also be live streamed on both FUMC Facebook as well as YouTube. Masks are required with ones provided if you do not have one. Enter through the east door to the sanctuary. All congregants will have their temperature taken with a non-contact thermometer. Bulletins and

prayer lists are available at fumcg.com if you wish to print one out or it may be accessed by smartphone or tablet. Communion will be provided through a single serve communion cup that contains both a wafer and juice in a closed container. Social distancing will be observed throughout the service. Overflow seating will be available in Jeter Hall where the service will be live-streamed.

Gregg GOP County Convention moved

The Gregg County Republican County Convention will be held at the banquet facilities at the Summit Club which is located at 3700 Judson Rd, Longview, instead of the Pine Tree Auditorium after GOP officials were informed that facility is not available to third party events.

The convention will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 9 a.m. If you have any questions call 903-424-9587 or chairman@greggcountygop.com. There are close to 30 resolutions to be approved and delegates for the State Convention in Houston on July 13-18 will be elected.



"THE RODEO THAT ALMOST HAPPENED"

WHAT: Celebration of the Gladwater Round-Up Rodeo

WHEN: Saturday, June 13, 2020
1:00-4:00pm
(Come and Go Event)

WHERE: Gladwater Museum – Rodeo Annex
112 West Pacific Street
Gladwater, TX

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Linemen servicing equipment on Hwy. 271 North close to American Căanopy were almost a traffic stopper last week with drivers slowing down to watch the men replacing parts.
Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

GHS Friday graduation guidelines

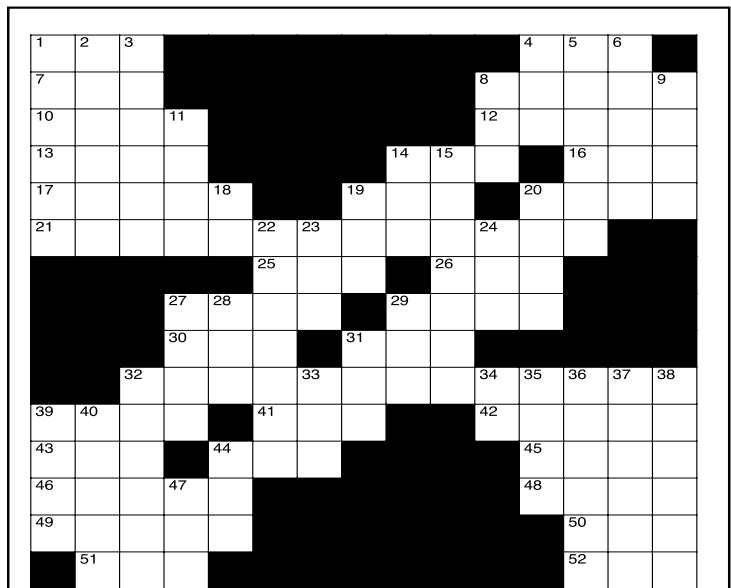
Event live-streamed on GHS Facebook
Continued from Page 1

to be permitted into the stadium as well. All in attendance are asked to practice social distancing guidelines and to remain in close proximity to their immediate family with six feet separation from those outside of each family. Anyone who has illness symptoms should stay home. All attendees are strongly recommended by GSD officials to wear masks.

At the conclusion of the ceremony graduates will be escorted out of the stadium and walked back to the teacher parking lot. Guests will remain in the stands until all graduates have been dismissed. Guests will be dismissed by sections to enforce CDC guidelines. There will be no fireworks and the stadium lights will remain on.



GHS senior basketball standout Victoria Perry signed a letter of intent to play at Arlington Baptist University next year. The Lady Bear was an All District honoree who averaged 11.3 points, 6.8 rebounds, 1.3 assists and 2.6 steals during her last season. She was coached by Jermaine Lewis who took the Lady Bears to the playoffs for the first time in 15 seasons.
Courtesy Photo

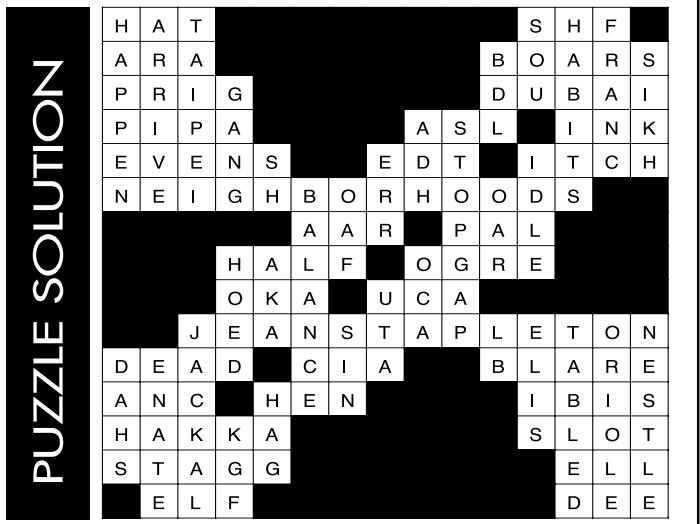


CLUES ACROSS

- Protects from weather
- Superhigh frequency
- Southern constellation
- Swines
- Self-righteously moralistic person
- United Arab Emirates city
- Surinam toad
- Sign language
- Tattoo (slang)
- Makes level
- Sun up in New York
- It must be scratched
- Where people live
- Swiss river
- Buddy
- One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- Shrek is one
- Egyptian unit of weight
- Fiddler crabs
- Carroll O'Connor's TV wife
- No longer having life
- Former OSS
- A way to emit sound
- Mandela's party
- Adult female chicken
- U. of Miami's mascot
- Southeastern Chinese people
- Casino game
- Amos Alonzo __, US football coach
- Joint connecting two pipes at right angles
- Will Ferrell film
- River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- Occur
- Show up
- Capital of Taiwan
- Former French coin
- Some are bad
- Monetary unit
- Package (abbr.)
- Indian religious person
- Crew
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Makeshift
- Baseball box score stat
- Make a mistake
- Not moving
- Even distribution of weight
- Clumsy person
- Paddle
- Worked the soil
- Alias
- Plant cultivated in Peru
- Side-blotched lizards genus
- Wild dog
- Immoral act
- Pound
- Manning and Lilly are two
- Put on the shelf for now
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Dashes
- Related on the mother's side
- Witch
- Kilogram force (abbr.)



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to surfing. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 18 = a)

A. 23 12 18 17 11
Clue: Where water meets land

B. 7 12 18 5 3
Clue: Surfer's tool

C. 23 2 5 10
Clue: Area of breaking wave

D. 1 18 4 16 17
Clue: Moving water

Answers: A. coast B. board C. curl D. waves

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to surfing.

R T S C E

Answer: Crest

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Boston on June 13, 1981. I studied at Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, honing skills I'd later use to marvel film fans with my role as a world-saving captain.

Answer: Chris Evans

SURFER SLANG WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

AERIAL
A-FRAME
AIR
BACKHAND
BACKSIDE
BAIL
BARREL
BLOWN OUT
BOOGIE BOARD
BOOST
CHANNEL
CHOPPY
CLEAN
CUTBACK
DECK
DING
DUDE
EPIC
FLOATER
GLASSY
HUMPBACK
PADDLE
TUBE
WAVE

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Gladewater, Union Grove get share of \$275,000 from West Texas land

By Phillip Williams
 Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday approved disbursing \$275,000 in "county available" funds among the nine school districts lying partly or wholly in the county.
 County Treasurer Brandy Vick recommended allotting that amount from lease revenues on Upshur County-owned land in two West Texas counties, Baylor and Throckmorton.

annually to the districts based on the average daily attendance of how many students they have who reside in Upshur County. The county treasurer recommends the total amount to be disbursed.
 Gladewater ISD received \$19,635 for 499 students, while Union Grove ISD obtained \$26,977.50 for 685.350 pupils.
 As usual, Gilmer ISD received the most funds of any district, \$88,605 for 2,250.505 students. New Diana ISD received the

second-highest share, \$39,215 for 995.7 pupils.
 Other districts' shares and number of students included Ore City ISD, \$32,120 (816.040); Harmony ISD, \$31,350 (796); Big Sandy ISD, \$25,025 (635); Union Hill ISD, \$11,412.50 (290); and Pittsburg ISD, \$665 (17).
 Total average daily attendance of Upshur residents in the nine districts was 6,984.6.
 In a related move Friday, the

court also voted to delay acting on a contention by the corporation which has the oil and gas leases on the Baylor County land that shutting in its oil wells due to the COVID-19 pandemic does not terminate the lease.
 The court approved revisiting the issue in 90 days.
 County Judge Todd Tefteller said he received a letter from a corporation official April 17 announcing it was shutting the wells since the price of oil "is so low that I'm losing money operating them."
 The judge said that "basically, when you lease minerals," it is for a stated period and "you can't just lease land and not do nothing with it." The county's lease says

the lessee will not be responsible for delays, Tefteller added, but contended that "the Christian thing to do is to tell this guy, 'Okay, we understand'" since "I don't think it's fair" to make him produce when "everybody loses money."
 Although the Texas Supreme Court would probably disagree, the judge continued, the corporation has an "out" on its leases due to the pandemic. "I think personally we ought to let him claim the excuse" and the court has no need to act, Tefteller added.
 "Let this ride till the governor declares the epidemic over," or the court would have to hire attorneys, which is not economically

"feasible," the judge warned. He also said some of his friends in the oil and gas business considered the corporation's request "reasonable."
 Gilmer City Manager Greg Hutson told the court he assumed it did not want to "drive the guy into selling" as he might sell to China. Replied Tefteller, "We don't have to take any action," urging "Cut the guy some slack and we wait this out."
 When Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson, however, moved to reconsider the matter in 90 days, the judge said that was a "good" motion and that "I'm just talking about it so the public knows." Nicholson's motion passed unanimously.

Body found off roadway identified

By Phillip Williams
 The Upshur County Sheriff's Office announced last week it has identified a body found in the Pritchett area May 23 as that of 56-year-old Robert David Rodriguez, and that an autopsy showed "no initial evidence of foul play."

Gregg counties." The autopsy, performed in the Tyler area at the order of Upshur County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter, indicated "no evidence of assaultive action," but "did indicate a serious health issue," the chief deputy added.
 Hazel gave no details of the health issue, but said officers have not yet received results of the toxicology part of the autopsy, and that they will continue investigating "why Mr. Rodriguez was in the particular area where he was found."
 "It is unknown whether he died where he was found or was transported there from somewhere else after he died," Hazel said. The body was found about a mile from FM 1404, the chief deputy said in his initial news release.

A passerby who found Rodriguez's body on the ground on Crabapple Road notified authorities shortly before noon May 23, said sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel, who issued a news release that day saying the body had not been identified, but appeared to be a bearded white male with long hair who had died recently.
 In a news release on Wednesday of last week announcing that the remains had been identified, Hazel said Rodriguez "has a transient history with no known place of residence, other than the areas of Upshur and

else after he died," Hazel said. The body was found about a mile from FM 1404, the chief deputy said in his initial news release.
 The case will be considered active until all autopsy test results are in and are reviewed.

Tree-killing insect confirmed in Denton and Bowie counties

COLLEGE STATION — The presence of the deadly emerald ash borer (EAB) was confirmed May 19, 2020 in Denton and Bowie Counties. EAB has infested and killed ash trees in both counties, soon adding them to the list of Texas jurisdictions to be placed under the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) wood transportation quarantine on EAB.

Without forest management mortality can be 100% in heavily infested areas - so early detection could improve our chances to manage for the pest.
 Lab results for both specimens tested positive as EAB.
 "In Denton, the urban forest has an approximate a 4% ash component, but the neighborhood where the detection was made the ash component is about 20%" said Courtney Blevins, Texas A&M Forest Service Urban Forester. "Some streets much have a higher percentage and some lower, but many trees in the affected area are already infested."
 The state's mandatory quarantine by TDA, restricts movement of any woody ash material exiting the county or quarantined area.
 According to Smith, there is no stopping EAB, but the quarantine helps slow the beetle's spread by restricting the movement of wood in and out of affected areas. The insect often is transported unintentionally on firewood and other wood.
 All species of ash are susceptible to the destructive EAB. Infested trees die within two to five years after infestation. Texas A&M Forest Service urban tree canopy inventories estimate that ash trees comprise approximately 5% of the Dallas/Fort Worth urban

forest and approximately 1% of the standing inventory forests in East Texas.
 "There is no known stop to this epidemic," said Texas A&M Forest Service Urban Forester Courtney Blevins. "But we can help communities minimize loss, diversify their tree species and contribute to the health and resiliency of their urban forests."
 Texas A&M Forest Service has resources available to help affected communities identify signs of EAB infestation, as well as make decisions about preventative measures they can take and how to handle tree management and removal.
 The agency will work with communities on state and federal quarantines of the movement of wood into and out of the area. These quarantines are standard protocols with such infestations and in Texas are set by TDA.
 For more information on EAB in Texas, please visit <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/eab/>.
 EAB photos and resources can be viewed and accessed at <http://ow.ly/LJi30lbBxz>
 For information from TDA on EAB quarantine, visit <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/PlantQuality/PestandDiseaseAlerts/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx>.
 To report emerald ash borer, please call 1-866-322-4512.

Gladewater Primary School Registration

For NEW kindergarten and Head Start students
 Pre-K students will register in the fall.

June 1st - June 5th 8:00am to 4:00pm

What to Bring:

2 proofs of residency

Select One and Select One

- gas bill
- water bill
- electric bill

current driver's license

property tax statement

rental/lease agreement

current shot records

student's birth certificate

student's social security card

Please wear a mask.

This registration is for NEW students only.

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COVID-19, 'THIS GLOBAL TRAGEDY,' FLATTENS U.S. AG EXPORTS

Throttled by pandemic, U.S. farm exports this year will barely exceed last year's totals, wiping out hopes of a speedy recovery from trade-war losses, said the USDA. Sales to China are rising but slower than projected when the Phase One trade agreement with Beijing took effect in February and far from the tripling necessary to satisfy the purchase levels specified in the pact.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has created a shock to world economies that will cause an unusually high level of uncertainty for the foreseeable future," said USDA economists in a quarterly forecast of agricultural exports on Friday. World growth will decline 5.5% on a per capita basis under the weight of "this global tragedy" that is damaging both productive capacity and buying power, they said.

U.S. farm exports were forecast at \$136.5 billion this fiscal year, which ends September 30, only \$1 billion higher than fiscal 2019, when the trade war bit deeply into sales. They were \$143.4 billion in fiscal 2018. Cotton exports are forecast to run \$1 billion below 2019's totals, with corn down nearly \$1 billion and soybeans down more than \$400 million. But pork exports would be \$1.4 billion higher and beef up \$1.3 billion.

"China has been sourcing record volumes of soybeans from Brazil, aided by the weak Brazilian real," said the USDA. It pegged U.S. sales to China at \$13 billion this fiscal year, compared to its February estimate of \$14 billion. In 2019, sales totaled \$10 billion. Before the trade war, China was the leading destination for U.S. ag exports and sales averaged \$21 billion annually.

Phase One calls for China to buy \$36.5 billion of U.S. food, agricultural, and seafood products during calendar 2020. A broad range of U.S. analysts are skeptical that goal will be met, considering the slow pace of sales. China prefers to buy U.S. crops at harvesttime during the fall, when prices are lowest.

"It was already going to be a herculean task to make Phase One, and we haven't made what I would consider even the seasonal progress needed to meet the agreement," said Seth Meyer of the FAPRI think tank at University of Missouri. "Prospects for full implementation in 2020 already



looked pretty dim" before the recent chill in Sino-U.S. relations, he said.

President Trump assailed Chinese policies on Friday and said the U.S. would withdraw trade concessions to Hong Kong because of Chinese muzzling of democracy in the former British colony. But he did not mention the Phase One agreement, one of his leading trade achievements.

Despite the coronavirus slowdown around the world, sales of U.S. ag exports to Canada and Mexico, the top two customers, were forecast to rise from fiscal 2019. Canadian purchases would climb 1% and sales to Mexico 4% "as stronger exports of poultry, pork, and dairy more than offset lower corn and cotton shipments," said the USDA. Sales to Japan, the No. 4 market, and South Korea, the No. 5 market, would hold steady. Sales to the EU would fall by \$1.1 billion.

"All things considered, ag trade is holding up a lot better than many might expect with all of the COVID-19-related problems," said Joe Glauber, former USDA chief economist.

Exports generate roughly 20¢ of every \$1 in farm income and are one of the few sectors of the U.S. economy to consistently run a positive balance of trade. Imports are forecast at \$130.2 billion this year, down marginally from fiscal 2019, for a balance of trade of \$6.3 billion in the United States' favor.

Private exporters reported the sale of 396,000 tonnes of U.S.-grown soybeans worth \$122 million to China last week.

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

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Gladewater High School

2019 - 2020 Band Booster Scholarship Recipients

Summer golf programs for youth now open

The First Tee of Piney Woods will begin holding their life skills programs centered around learning golf starting the first week of June. Ages 5 to 17! Here is the summer schedule:

Alpine Target Golf Center Tuesdays, June 9th – July 28st			
PLAYER	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 7-14
Par	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 7-14
NO CLASS JUNE 30TH			
Wednesdays, June 10th – July 29nd			
Birdie/Eagle	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 11-17
Teenager Class	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 13-17
NO CLASS JULY 1ST			
Thursday, June 11th – July 30th			
Girls Golf	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls	Ages 6-17
NO CLASS JULY 2nd			
Saturday, June 13th – August 1st			
PLAYER	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 7-14
Par	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 7-14
Girls Golf	8:30 am – 10:30 am	Girls	Ages 6-17
Pee Wee	11:00 am – 12:00 am	Girls & Boys	Ages 5-6
NO CLASS JULY 4TH			
Gladewater/Kilgore -Tempest Golf Course Tuesdays, June 9th – July 28th			
PLAYER & Par	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Girls & Boys	Ages 6-17
NO CLASS JUNE 30TH			
The Challenge at Oak Forest Country Club Tuesday, June 9th – July 28st			
PLAYER & Par	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Girls & Boys	Ages 6-17
NO CLASS JUNE 30TH			

No child is ever turned away for financial concerns. For additional information or to register contact us via the web at www.firstteepineywoods.org or by phone at 903 753 1416.

Upshur GOP chair-elect not a delegate to state convention

By Phillip Williams

Signs of dissension in the Republican Party of Upshur County surfaced at its county convention Saturday when delegates by a split voice vote rejected county GOP chairman-elect DeBorah Bankston's request to be named as an alternate delegate to the upcoming state Republican convention.

The county's GOP Executive Committee in March passed a resolution rebuking Bankston, claiming she expressed animosity toward current county chairman Cynthia Ridgeway, that she falsely claimed there is division in the Upshur GOP, and that she had said she wanted to bring liberals into the party.

It also questioned actions she took at polling places during the March 3 GOP primary, when she was unopposed on the ballot. Bankston defended herself in a letter to the Gladewater Mirror.

The county convention, which met at Lantana Activity Center outside Gilmer, elected delegates and alternates to the state convention in addition to approving resolutions on numerous issues.

In an email sent to a representative of this newspaper afterward, Bankston said she was rejected "because two strong personalities cannot agree and not because of my qualifications." The chairman-elect, who takes office Aug. 3, also said she would be attending the state conclave as an invited guest.

When Bankston requested at Saturday's meeting to be an alternate, delegates Stacy McMahan and Sherry Breedlove backed her request, but county GOP vice-chairman John Melvin Dodd, who said he had known Bankston for several years, opposed it, saying the incoming chairman had "declared war on Cynthia Ridgeway and in effect, the executive committee."

He also said Bankston had only in the last week decided to work with the committee. When Bankston replied that "who you like or don't like" is not a qualification to attend the state convention and said she had experience working in the GOP, Ridgeway ruled her out of order.

Breedlove, who earlier complained that she thought an attempt was being made to keep Bankston "blocked out a little bit," said the incoming chairman was "willing to work with everybody." Breedlove rebuked Ridgeway for ruling that Bankston was out of order, telling the chairman "you are really showing your colors."

Upshur has 25 confirmed COVID-19 cases

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County now has 25 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 14 of which have recovered and 11 of which are active, County Judge Todd Tefteller announced Friday.

At an Upshur County Commissioners Court meeting earlier that day, county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols said the total had reached 23, including two added that morning. Another case had been added to the total two days earlier, Nichols said.

Tefteller, noting the county has had no virus-related deaths, said during the meeting that "We seem to be weathering the storm a whole lot better than our neighbors around us, especially Titus County."

The court on March 23 had ordered county offices to remain open to the public only from 8 a.m. to 12 noon as a precaution against the pandemic, but voted May 15 to return to normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours.

However, game rooms in the county remain shut down as the result of an order which the court approved March 23.

USDA promotes resources to help rural

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Bette Brand today kicked off National Homeownership Month by highlighting USDA's ongoing role in supporting rural homeownership. President Trump issued a proclamation on May 29 recognizing June as National Homeownership Month.

"Rural communities are rising to the challenge put forth by the coronavirus pandemic," Brand said. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA is committed to being a strong partner in building prosperity in

rural communities and for the people who call them home – especially those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic." To assist homeowners facing current hardships, USDA is offering payment moratoriums and modified application processes. USDA Rural Development is also working with new borrowers and their lenders to make special accommodations based on local needs and restrictions.

For the most up-to-date information on Rural Development's response to COVID-19, visit rd.usda.gov/coronavirus. Updates are also distributed via Twitter @usdaRD.

In Texas, USDA invested \$486 million to help 2,904 families and individuals buy a home. The state also provided \$3.6 for home repairs for 580 very low-income rural residents.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.



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Upshur Commissioners OK early voting hours for July 14 primaries

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday approved times of day for the first week of early voting for the July 14 Republican and Democratic primaries.

The court set such balloting, all to take place at county Election Administrator Lory Harle's courthouse office in Gilmer, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from June 29 through July 2. No voting is scheduled Friday, July 3, a county holiday since July 4 falls on a Saturday this year.

The court had earlier approved early voting hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 6-8, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 9-10, before Gov. Greg Abbott ordered an additional week of early balloting.

The runoffs, originally set in May after the March 3 primaries, were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GOP runoff ballot has two races for local office—one for precinct three commissioner between Kent Abernathy and Michael Ashley, and one for precinct four constable between incumbent Larry Sewell and David Thompson.

Winners of those races face no Democratic opponent in the November general election. The only contested race for county office so far in November is for tax assessor-collector between incumbent Republican Luana Howell and Democrat Jurel White.

Besides setting voting hours, the court on Friday took no action on an agenda item to consider re-opening game rooms in the county, which commissioners ordered closed on March 23 due to the pandemic.

County Judge Todd Tefteller said Abbott had banned playing certain

games in bars, taverns and skating rinks, but that he (the judge) would be willing to let the gaming rooms sell cards "to play away from the premises." He also said he could have issued an order letting the game rooms re-open, but commissioners would not have ratified it.

Tina Lindsey, a game room operator, asked if her business could use a computer "mouse," and offered to space out customers, limit occupancy, and have cleaning after each patron leaves. When Tefteller said Abbott "has not said anything specific to game rooms," Lindsey replied, "We've been without work for three months."

The judge asked her if it would help to let customers buy on credit to play away from her building, and she replied yes. "To be able to operate, I'd be very grateful," Lindsey added.

Tefteller then noted, however, that Sheriff Larry Webb, who was in the audience, "does not like game rooms," which Webb confirmed. At that point, county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols, who said earlier in the meeting that the county had 23 confirmed COVID-19 cases, said Abbott had not addressed game rooms in any of his recent pandemic-related orders, but had barred video games in settings like skating rinks.

When Lindsey replied her operation had no video games, Nichols said the county could contact the governor's office "and try to get some clarification" on regulating game rooms. Gilmer City Manager Greg Hutson, however, said that as of the prior day, the Texas Municipal League advised him that Abbott had "not given his blessing" on re-opening game rooms or tattoo parlors.

Tefteller ended the discussion by saying "I recommend we don't take action today," adding he would bring the matter back before the court if necessary. Also on Friday, the court:

--Took no action on a licensing agreement with Net DATA Corporation, which provides county software and collection of fees and fines. Tefteller said he would place the item on a future agenda.

--Also took no action on a proposal to hire additional custodians to clean and sanitize county buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

--Approved a resolution aimed at obtaining a state grant, partly to help sanitize polling places.

--Nominated Richard Gage for a vacancy on the Upshur County Appraisal District's board of directors.

--Approved letting the Gilmer Area Farmers Market committee use the courthouse lawn, and/or county-owned county lot across the street, all but two Saturdays from June through September.

--Voted 3-2 to permit a line item transfer of funds in the county library's budget. Tefteller, Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay Miller approved the transfer, while Precinct 3 Commissioner Frank Berka and Precinct 1 Commissioner Paula Gentry opposed it.

--Accepted, for recording, the plat for North Village on North Street in Gladewater.

--Recorded County Auditor Connie Williams' certification of the recent receipt of funds from the city of Union Grove to resurface roads there, and established a special budget for the monies.



Union Grove High School senior Heath Stinson's picture in last week's graduation tab was incorrect. We regret the error.

How to avoid being the victim of 'Zoom-Bombing' and other intruders

With the coronavirus outbreak forcing many people to work from home, taking computer security measures to protect both themselves and their company has grown even more important.

Video conferencing, for one example, isn't always safe from intruders. The FBI has received many reports of "Zoom-bombing," in which graphic images pop up during company Zoom meetings and video chats.

"In a regular office, most companies make sure to protect their devices and networks," says Stephen Hyduchak, CEO of Aver (www.goaver.com), an identity-verification service. "But system

administrators aren't coming out to every employee's home and setting everything up to keep with corporate standards.

"Therefore, it's incumbent on the workforce when working from home to know how to protect their computer system and be thorough about it. Because if a confidential document somehow gets leaked from your home computer, you're in a bad spot with your company."

Hyduchak suggests these security tips when working remotely:

Change the router login and password. This is a must because the default passwords for many

models are weak and also known across the internet, Hyduchak says. "Attackers often simply write them into the code of malicious programs," Hyduchak says. "And if they work, the router is captured. The intruders can also spy on you, because everything that you send online passes through the router."

Protect with an antivirus solution. "Companies often install powerful security solutions to protect computers from malware," Hyduchak says. "At home, it is trickier to provide that level of protection, but leaving a computer vulnerable when work documents are stored there is

not an option. It's vital to install a reliable security solution on all devices that handle corporate data. Even a free antivirus will significantly reduce the risk of getting infected."

Configure a Wi-Fi encryption. "An attacker connecting to your Wi-Fi can intercept everything you send or enter online, including passwords for remote access to an office-based computer or corporate mail," Hyduchak says. "So it's essential to configure your network connection correctly. Make sure that the connection is encrypted to keep information safe from prying eyes. If your Wi-Fi asks anyone connecting to it

for a password, the connection is encrypted. You can use the router settings to select or change the type of encryption, and remember that your Wi-Fi password should be strong."

Update programs and operating systems. "Because new vulnerabilities are frequently being found in operating systems and applications, cybercriminals exploit them to invade other people's devices," Hyduchak says. "They often rely on people being too lazy to update software. It's vital to regularly update everything installed on any device that you use for work purposes."

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Takeout guide

Our local restaurants are here to serve you. Call ahead and have your food ready to go for pick up.

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Tuesday - Saturday 11 am to 4 pm
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Take Out

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