

Gladewater Mirror



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Texas Die Casting closes

Texas Die Casting, which was started in Gladewater in 1984 by John Patrick with a 28,000 square foot manufacturing facility on south Loop 485, has closed its doors.

According to Gladewater city officials, employees were let go the first week of August and there are no plans to reopen the facility. At the time of the closure it was estimated 80 people were employed by Texas Die Casting. Patrick retired and sold the company in 2007.

It is estimated more than half of the employees who included machinists, finishers and maintenance workers live in or just outside Gladewater.

Texas Die Casting ranked behind Gladewater ISD, with 300 employees, as the second-largest employer in Gladewater.

"I was saddened to learn of the closing of Texas Die Casting last week," said Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp. "This was initially a locally owned and operated business. The late John Patrick was very involved with the city during his tenure as

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GISD opens without hitch

By Suzanne Bardwell

Gladewater ISD students started school on Wednesday, Aug. 12 which was the first time campuses were open since March 5 according to Supt. Sedic Clark who reported on that start to school board members Monday night.

"I am pleased to report that the reopening has been very smooth," Clark said. "All campuses and departments are functioning at high levels. Unfortunately, we have had to make three calls, including one today, announcing that two employees and two students have tested positive for COVID-19. It saddens me to say that I do not believe that those calls will be the only ones like them that I will have to make. Those calls serve as a reflection of the time in which we live and the protocols that we have put in place to protect and hold ourselves accountable to our stakeholders."

Clark went on to praise the parents, students, employees and community members that have worked together to observe the practices and protocols that have been put in place by the state.

"I personally want to thank the administrative team for their

Continued on Page 5



Gladewater High School math teacher Jamie Cook sends off her son Juddson for his first day of school from the GPS drop off station. The car pickup line stretched several blocks as parents grappled with first day jitters and pandemic protocols. The last primary school student entered the building around 8:20 a.m.

Photos By Suzanne Bardwell



Masked and ready to learn, Zylar Vaughn is welcomed by GPS ESL teacher Jennifer Ritchey after taking his temp and he was sent on his way to class for his first day of school. Although children under the age of 10 are not required by the state to wear masks to school many have chosen to do so.



Confident Madilyn Villalpando is ready for her first day of kindergarten at Gladewater Primary School loaded with supplies and a full backpack. There will be limited to no shared classroom supplies due to the state's pandemic protocols.

GISD tackles COVID challenges

'We're fighting an enemy who is both invisible and unknown...'

By Suzanne Bardwell

Bears and Cubs alike are excited to be back in school. That was evident on the first day as students headed into GISD campus buildings. But much about the year is different and it is a mountain that school administrators, staff, students and parents are climbing together. The COVID-19 pandemic protocols have rewritten how school is held.

"The greatest challenge in this situation has been uncertainty," GISD Supt. Sedic Clark said. "We're fighting an enemy who is both invisible and unknown. The guidance (from the state) that we get on how to fight COVID-19 has changed several times. As the guidance changes, so do our COVID protocols, practices and procedures, all of which are put in place to protect our students and employees."

Campus administrators agree that the constantly changing information is making it difficult to guide their campuses. GMS Principal Chris Langford says that developing plans to meet all of the protocols laid out for schools to follow has been a huge task.

"Just being present in the building is a challenge," Langford said. "The direction and guidance we were getting (from the Texas Education Agency)

seemed to change weekly during the summer. We also had to figure out how to refine the online learning piece too. Some of this is unreasonable, but we are trying our best to have school."

GHS Principal Cathy Bedair said that the administration team met many times in person and by ZOOM to make plans and procedures that adhere to TEA guidance and Gov. Greg Abbott's directives.

"Our kids are wearing their masks and following the new procedures," Bedair said. "I have been impressed with how well they are wearing their masks. This is very important in the classrooms, hallways and on buses because it is not possible to distance in those places."

GPS Principal Kerry Hradecky said the planning was detailed to ensure preparedness.

"A new master schedule was created and every procedure from the first minute of arrival to the last minute of dismissal was reviewed and adjusted," Hradecky said. "Our administration, nurses, maintenance and custodial department worked all summer preparing for students and staff. We have a plan that is flexible."

Hradecky expressed confidence in

planning by GISD administration while Langford says that guidance from the state has been limited.

"TEA and most government agencies are

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First grade big brother Conrad Burks escorts his sister Harlo into Gladewater Primary School for her first day of kindergarten. Parents were required to remain in cars due to COVID-19 protocols which were enacted at school campuses throughout East Texas.

With her second place NTPGA trophy almost as big as she is, Elizabeth Harris of Sabine hefts it proudly after the results of the 2-day NTPGA Summer Series Championship. Elizabeth competed against Metro and West area golfers. Elizabeth had a 97-stroke game just one stroke over first place winner Jillian Chu of Frisco. Third place was Ada Schmedes of Tijeras, New Mexico with a score of 101. The Sabine third grader qualified for the invitational tourney by being the East Texas Prep Champion.

"My husband, Matthew, is a Wounded Warrior who started golf as therapy when our oldest, Stephen, was a year and a half," Elizabeth's mother Lucero Harris said. "Since then our two children have been involved in golf programs such as the First Tee of the Piney Woods as soon as they could."

Elizabeth's brother, Stephen, tied for third in the East Texas Medalist Championship to earn an invitation to the Summer Series Championship but had to decline because the team was a caddy short. Stephen encouraged his sister in her competition sharing tips on the range, cleaning her clubs and supporting her. Due to COVID-19 Elizabeth's qualification to compete in the 2020 Texas Challenge in Austin and the Texas vs. Mexico Cup in San Antonio were cancelled but she is looking forward to qualifying for those events in 2021.

Courtesy Photo



Local sales tax revenue dips to -14.16 percent

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$908.7 million in local sales tax allocations for August, 3.6 percent more than in August 2019. These allocations are based on sales made in June by businesses that report tax monthly and on sales made in April, May and June by quarterly filers.

Widespread social distancing requirements were more relaxed across the state in June than in previous months.

For the first time this year Gladewater's sales tax revenue dipped into the red 14.16-percent. But for the year, Gladewater remains strong at 9.52-percent for the year over last year's numbers.

Gladewater's sales tax revenue was \$111,446.51 compared to \$129,839.96 for the -14.16 percent posting. For the year Gladewater's sales tax revenue stands at \$799,208.30. When compared to last year's \$729,711.96, Gladewater is holding at 9.52 percent above 2019 revenue.

Clarksville City went up - soaring 94.59-percent, and White Oak posted a 25.54-percent jump in sales tax revenue. Warren City went up by 9.03-percent, while Kilgore slipped to a -29.74-percent.

OPINION/EDITORIAL



Chris Cobler
Capital Highlights



Screamers, blessings & growing older...

I am trying to count my blessings. It is one of those days when it is easier to count the projects that must be done, the bills that must be paid, and the critics who know exactly how we should do our jobs. That is all just part of it. The day you are likely to be reading this column will be my 'un' birthday. I am trying to turn a blind eye to another year gone by. A year shaped by our understanding, or lack thereof, in how to respond to a pandemic, education, politics, illness, loneliness and economic fragility. And then there is just the fragility of life.

Sunday as Jim was coming to work he witnessed an accident in which a couple on a motorcycle was hit by a car in a main intersection. Several eye witnesses stopped to help, including Jim. He turned the motorcycle off and he took pictures of the accident. He posted one of the pictures on one of our newspapers' Facebook pages which showed the bike and EMTs caring for the people from a distance. It did not show the injured's faces. Immediately our Facebook readers started posting prayers...until someone took offense at the picture. That is just a part of Facebook. However, one of those offended called the paper and her first words to me were, "I want to talk to someone higher up". "Ma'am, I am a co-owner of the newspaper, how can I help you?" From there the conversation ended and she was screaming her opinion laced with truly offensive profanities at me for a good five minutes.

We were on two deadlines, so Jim just deleted the posting so we could keep working without interruption. Ironically, we received the following message via private messenger later that evening: "The family of the people in the bike wreck this morning told me, if they had not seen your post and people sharing-they would not have known about the accident and were glad it was shared so they knew. My husband and I were on the scene helping until EMS got there. We saw all the comments and wanted to share this."

Suzanne Bardwell



Geez...what someone thinks is so very wrong can often turn out to be very good. It is all a matter of perspective. But I do know this, screaming at me did not help anyone, even the screamer who didn't understand the situation fully, although I get her POV, I truly do, I just could've done without the screaming obscenities.

So, in honor of my un-birthday and aging soul, let me look clearly at the blessings that have a tendency to hide behind the dark clouds of worry, stress, missing my Mom who is sheltering with my brother near a West Texas cotton field while we sift through more work than there is time.

At the top of my list is my sweetheart who always and forever has taken care to ensure my safety...as much as I will let him. I am grateful for our hours of riding Texas' scenic roads on our 1995 Anniversary Edition Harley Electro-glide. I am thankful for children, teachers and laughter, fresh peaches, prayer partners and 80 lb puppy dogs. I am blessed beyond measure to have a son who is a man of strength and character and a daughter-in-heart who truly is my bonus child from God. I am thankful for wildflowers, songbirds and my occasional sighting of wildlife. I am thankful for readers and friends who reach out to us and remind us that what we do has value and meaning. I am thankful for YOU! That's a heap of blessings all wrapped up with a heavenly bow...pretty good gifts for an 'un-birthday'!

Guest Columnist

Defending Rural Texas

By Carl Ray Polk Jr.,

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association director

There have been a lot of valuable lessons and reminders from the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief among these is the simple fact that urban and suburban America cannot survive without rural America.

Our nation is fortunate to have an extremely safe and efficient food supply, but if the delicate balance of the supply chain is upset, the results could be catastrophic. COVID-19 has given all of us a small taste of what that might mean. A surge in demand and logistical challenges led to long lines and empty store shelves in the early days of the crisis. For the first time, many Americans felt a little anxious about how they would feed their families.

About 80% of America's population lives in urban and suburban areas, but their survival depends on the farmers and ranchers who dot the rural landscape. If there is a silver lining to this pandemic, I hope it will be a renewed focus on protecting rural America and those of us who toil to feed our nation.

Despite the tremendous importance of rural America, we find ourselves under constant attack. Those attacks often originate from the people who rely on us the most but disregard the impact their infrastructure projects have on rural residents.

In rural Texas, land is plentiful and people are few. That makes us an easy target. We often find ourselves subsidizing urban convenience with our property, taken through eminent domain — the process by which land is condemned for public use. The state takes land to expand highways. Cities take land to build reservoirs. Oil and gas companies take land to pipe their products to market. Electric companies take land to send electricity across the state.

Now, another private, for-profit company wants to get in on the action. Texas Central Rail, also known as TCR, is developing plans for a high-speed rail line that will slice through rural Texas between Houston and Dallas.

A noble idea, but as usual, all the "public benefit" will go to the major metropolitan areas, and the rural areas will bear all the harm. Families displaced, properties cut in two, ear-splitting trains blowing past homes, schools and businesses at 200 miles per hour, and rural residents will not even have access to the train service unless they first drive to Dallas or Houston.

If the project itself wasn't disruptive enough, TCR has repeatedly claimed the authority to condemn private land for its European-style experiment in transportation.

Here at Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, we will always embrace progress; but not when it comes at the expense of our members, when it violates our private property rights, or when it threatens our ability to provide the food our nation needs.

TCR's blind ambition to take the land they want has led to questions about their legal standing to do so, and numerous property owners along the route have challenged them in court.

One such case is working its way through the courts now. The premise of the challenge is that TCR is not an actual railroad under Texas statute, and thus cannot use eminent domain. The 87th District Court of Leon County ruled in favor of the property owners, but on appeal, the Texas 13th Court of Appeals overturned the ruling and declared TCR was an operating railroad.

Fortunately, the property owners in the case intend to appeal the verdict to the Texas Supreme Court, but the ultimate decision will be incredibly impactful to every rural property owner in Texas.

If the Texas Supreme Court refuses to hear the case or finds in favor of Texas Central Rail, it will seal the fate of thousands of property owners along the proposed route. They will no longer get to decide how their land will be used, if they want to sell their land, or how much compensation they receive for the forced sale. Worse, it will set a lasting precedent that allows anyone who calls themselves a railroad to condemn private land without recourse.

Alternatively, if the Texas Supreme Court finds in favor of the property owners, thousands of their fellow landowners along the route will breathe a sigh of relief. After years of uncertainty, they will finally regain control over the destiny of their homes, farms and ranches. It will also send a strong signal that companies should stop trying to profit at the expense of rural property owners.

I encourage you to follow this case, Texas Central Railroad & Infrastructure, Inc. and Integrated Texas Logistics, Inc. v. James Fredrick Miles, as it makes its way through the Texas Supreme Court. The justices will ultimately make the decision, but it is another example of why judicial elections are so important to rural Texas.

In the meantime, the leaders and staff at Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association will do everything in our power to protect your rights as ranchers and rural landowners.

Shuttling people back and forth between Houston and Dallas may indeed be a public use, but raising the food we rely on is a public necessity. It's time to take a stand and put an end to profiteering at the expense of rural private property rights.



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Texas tries nation's first virtual criminal trial

A Texan's speeding ticket put her in the legal history books last week.

To combat the backlog in criminal cases created by the pandemic, a Travis County justice of the peace conducted the nation's first virtual criminal trial. The case was livestreamed on YouTube, and the jurors deliberated in a private Zoom room.

Legal experts debated whether trial by Zoom properly balanced constitutional concerns such as the right to a speedy trial and the right to confront witnesses.

The test case? A nurse's misdemeanor ticket for speeding in a construction zone. The jury found the nurse, Calli Kornblau, guilty of speeding but acquitted her of the construction zone violation. She received a deferred sentence and was ordered to pay a \$50 fine, plus court costs.

The jury is still out on whether Zoom is the courthouse of the future. The Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association had some fun on Twitter with the practice: "A JP is having a virtual jury trial this morning on a speeding ticket. Does that mean the JP will have to have virtual coffee with the police officer before the trial starts, too?"

Texas docs: Get your shots

Texas doctors are taking their best shot at encouraging people to get immunized.

August is National Immunization Month, and the Texas Medical Association is distributing a series of columns by physicians in support of vaccinations.

"Vaccines are among the safest and most effective tools available to and used by physicians. Yet vaccine hesitancy and even refusal are increasing," Dr. Sue Bornstein, a Texas Medical Association board member, wrote in her column.

Doctors should make recommending vaccinations a part of routine patient visits, she said. The pandemic makes this even more important as researchers race to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, she added.

This job will take you places

SpaceX aims to put people on Mars from its launch site near Brownsville. First, though, the spaceport needs an out-of-this-world resort.

The company placed an unusual help-wanted ad last week: for a resort manager in the tiny unincorporated Boca Chica Village near Brownsville on the mouth of the Rio Grande River. The right candidate will develop the resort from inception to completion, according to the ad.

The job requires a bachelor's degree and five-plus years of experience in construction management. One additional requirement: Must be able to travel for short and extended trips as needed.

SpaceX, which made history recently as the first private company to send astronauts safely to space and back, also released footage of a successful 150-meter hop Aug. 4 by its Starship SN5 prototype.

Ports-to-Plains plan

The Ports-to-Plains corridor study of Interstate 27 will be navigated during a virtual public hearing at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, and Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Texas Department of Transportation officials will make the presentation and allow time for public comment. People also may mail or email comments about the study until Sept. 10.



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ABORTION'S SLIPPERY SLIDE

The number of those killed under the banner of "freedom of choice" is horrific, and the number continues to mount today. What a sad commentary on our beloved country.

God says "choose life!" (Deut. 30: 19). Abortionists choose death. God says He hates "hands that shed innocent blood" (Prov. 6: 17). Abortionists shed innocent blood.

Some politicians say they "personally oppose abortion," yet they vote for it. They say they believe "life begins at conception," yet they vote to take that life away. How inconsistent can one be? Others say "the fetus is not a human being." My question is, "if the fetus is not human what is it?" Medical science enables us to see it in the womb. God thinks it is a human being. He said to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1: 5).

The Supreme Court says a fetus is not a person. But David wrote: "You knit me together in my mother's womb...my frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place (womb)...Your eyes saw my unformed body." (Ps. 139: 13, 15-16). Medical science has proven when life begins, but sadly, many do not value human life. They want to pick and choose which individuals have value. They want to deny that every human life has intrinsic worth.

Every legislator, every doctor, and every citizen, need to recognize that the real issue is whether to affirm and protect the "sanctity" of all human life, or to embrace a social ethic where some human lives are valued and others are not. Each of us must choose between the "sanctity of life" ethic and the "quality of life" ethic. Thus, abortion concerns not only the unborn child, it concerns every one of us. Mother Teresa said: "If a mother can kill her own child, what is left but for me to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between." We are on a slippery slope and we are losing our footing fast. Think on these things.

Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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Owners should prepare now for separation anxiety issues when they return to work

A silver lining to the stress of stay-at-home orders for many has been extra time spent with us pets. Whether that means extra-long walks for us dogs, chin scratches for cats (Yuck!) or quality time and attention for all of the other critters, many of my furry friends have benefited from this pause in society.

I, for one, have not experienced such anxiety because I go to work with Jim and Suzanne almost every day. I work for a living, unlike those stupid cats that lounge around my backyard and front porch.

But for those pets that aren't as hard working as me and have people who take them to work, Dr. Lori Teller, an associate professor in the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says pets that have grown used to having near-constant contact with their owner may experience separation anxiety when their owner returns to a more regular routine. Because of this, she recommends that owners prepare now for a return to work or school.

"Before the pandemic, people would come and go and most animals were quite used to this. But now, owners have been at home for much of the day, and their pets are used to getting frequent walks or other types of attention. An abrupt change in the schedule can be very stressful for some animals," Teller said. "It also is possible for a pet that has not had previous symptoms of separation anxiety to develop these symptoms as people return to work or school following stay-at-home orders."

"Owners can help their pets adjust by leaving the house for short periods of time and monitoring the pet's response," Teller said. "An owner may need to set up the camera on a phone or tablet to record the pet's response to his or her departure. If the animal seems fine, increase the amount of time away from home to determine if there will be problems."

Whoa, whoa, whoa - Let me throw in a personal note here. Last week Jim and Suzanne went to a press outing in Fredericksburg that lasted three days. I spent three days at Josh and Jennifer's house visiting my cousins Mort, Dozier and Rosie.

While my family get-together with the cousins was fun, I distinctly remember Jim telling me he and Suzanne would - and I quote - "be right back."

BE RIGHT BACK?
I know we dogs have little concept of time, but 3 days is not - "be right back."

Sorry - I digressed.
Teller recommends identifying high-value treats a pet enjoys, such as food puzzles or toys filled with frozen treats. If owners only provide these treats when they leave the house, the pet will associate good things with their departure and be less prone to anxiety. Owners should also make their departures as low-key as possible after giving their pet a special treat.

I guess this is where Jim got the "be right back" thing.

"You can also leave on some music for the pet," Teller said. "Studies have shown that dogs and cats like classical music and soft rock, and some dogs have a preference for reggae."

As for me, I like Jim and Suzanne to leave on Guns N' Roses (the early years when it was black and white).

Teller said by beginning to match pets' quarantine routine with what owners expect their future schedule to look like, people can acclimate their animal to certain walk lengths, times and cuddling schedules before any big changes.

Teller also says that people who adopted a puppy or kitten during the pandemic should be extra mindful, as these pets have only ever lived in a household where

humans are always around.

"Dogs with separation anxiety may pace, pant, salivate, or bark or howl excessively. In more serious cases, a dog may become destructive and scratch or chew at doors or windows in an effort to escape," Teller said. "Cats may groom excessively or stop urinating in the litter box."

See what I mean about cats - you just never know what a cat is going to do or what it is thinking.

According to Teller, the most important step owners can take in preventing separation anxiety is to prepare early. Even if a pet is only exhibiting mild signs of separation anxiety, their owner should reach out to a veterinarian to get help before a pet hurts themselves or damages their home.

"For mild cases, veterinarians may recommend some of the dog or cat pheromones that promote calmness and relaxation," she said. "There are also some nutraceuticals (a pharmaceutical alternative that claims psychological benefits) that help with calming and relaxation, as well as a variety of prescription medications that can help lessen anxiety."

A veterinarian can help you determine what is best for your pet and how you can best help them adjust to time alone.

"If separation anxiety is allowed to go unchecked, it can be that much more difficult to treat," Teller said. "Reach out to your veterinarian as soon as you suspect a problem. Issues generally have a good prognosis when intervention happens early."

All this is good to know - but I think the best way you can prevent separation anxiety is to do like we do - take your pet work!

It works for me. Stop by the office some day and I'll run up and greet you and slobber all over you.

OBITUARY

JANE OLIVIA (SHEPPERD) PARTON

Jane Olivia (Shepperd) Parton, age 81, of Gladewater, passed peacefully on to her heavenly reward on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at Pine Tree Lodge Nursing Center of Longview.

Jane was born in Gladewater, Texas on May 7, 1939 to parents John Foy and Mary Olivia (Ganus) Shepperd. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers (Henry Lee, Lewis Monroe and John Stanley Shepperd) and a sister (Rebecca Mae (Shepperd) Farner), as well as her beloved husband of 56 years, Edward Myrle Parton.

She was a graduate of Gladewater High School where she maintained many lifelong friendships, and she also attended Abilene Christian College where she completed her freshman year and found her husband, whom she married in Gladewater on August 31, 1958.

A treasured daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and friend, Jane relished being a homemaker and enjoyed the family's various dogs throughout the years, reading, cooking and baking for a crowd, birdwatching, crafts, gardening, and most of all, spending time with her friends and family.

A faithful member of the North Main church of Christ in Gladewater where she and Ed served continually since they made Gladewater their home in 1985 after living in the Middle East, Jane leaves a legacy of love and faith that is an honor to her memory and an enduring benefit to all who were blessed by her influence.

Mrs. Parton is survived by her sister, Mary Nelwyn (Shepperd) and husband Don Ford of Bedford; sisters-in-law Patricia (Beard) Shepperd of Longview and Jacqueline (Alford) Shepperd of Pryor, OK; Sandra (Guthrie) Parton of Dallas; daughter, Lisa Lynn (Parton) and husband Dr. J. David Holcomb of Sarasota, FL; son, Bryan Edward and wife Mary Angela (Crossland) Parton of Ft. Worth. Her grandchildren include: Erin Ashley (Holcomb) and husband Gary Lenn Davenport of Lompoc, CA; Nicholas (Cole) Edward and wife Julia Christine (White) Parton; and Caitlin Emily Parton, all of Ft. Worth. Jane was also blessed with two great-grandsons, Bradley James and Ethan Thomas Davenport of Lompoc, CA.

In addition, she leaves behind numerous, adored cousins, nieces and nephews and scores of precious friends.

Jane will be dearly missed and remembered with so much love, delight and respect for a valiant life well lived.

The family wishes to thank and recognize the extraordinary care and efforts made on Mrs. Parton's behalf by: Amy Elbert of A Dust Above; the medical staff and administration of Pine Tree Lodge; her incredible team of loving therapists with Highland Park Home Health, as well as the wonderful first responders with the Gladewater Fire Department.

For the love and safety of friends and family, the decision has been made to POSTPONE a physical gathering until a more suitable time. The family will communicate plans for a memorial at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jane's honor to A Dust Above c/o Amy Elbert, 2667 Willow Oak Rd., Gladewater, TX 75647 or 2503 County Rd. 7820, Lubbock, TX 79423, PO Box 1725 Gladewater, TX 75647.

Online tributes and condolences can be made at www.croleyfh.net



PHILLIP MANSFIELD EDWARDS

Phillip Mansfield Edwards passed away August 14, 2020, doing what he loved best, riding his motorcycle with his friends. Phillip was born October 7, 1969 at Eglin AFB, Florida to Max Mansfield and Sandra Knight Edwards.



Phillip was a 1987 graduate of Gladewater High School in Gladewater and a 1989 graduate of the FAA academy in Oklahoma City. He was retired from a career he loved with the FAA as an air traffic controller. In the final years of his career he was valued as a trainer for the next generation of controllers.

Phillip had a larger than life personality that made each person that met him feel like they had instantly made a friend. His childlike way of embracing life was reflected in his passion for the joys that he embraced

so completely. He enjoyed many hobbies including gaming and his cats, but mostly racing and working on motorcycles. He had recently learned the art of doing body work and painting the bikes that he and his friends loved and refused to accept payment for doing so. He is remembered by his many friends as highly intelligent, loyal, funny, and selfless. He is remembered by his family as all this as well as stubborn, sarcastic, bossy, opinionated, cat obsessed, and generous.

Phillip leaves behind his beloved wife and the love of his life, Jamie Booze Edwards, of Arlington, adored pets Mr. Fuzzy Britches and Simon, mother Sandra Knight Edwards of Gladewater, mother in law Shirley Booze of Fincastle, Virginia, sisters and brother in laws, Gayla and Max Hart of Gladewater, Kelly Edwards of Gladewater, Emily and Gary Mayfield of Longview, brother in law and sister in law Glenn and Tammy Thomas of Selma, Virginia, and many close friends. He was preceded in death by his father Max Edwards, father in law James Booze, and sister Melinda McKnight. Phillip will be missed by his many nieces and nephews to whom he was the "cool uncle".

A memorial will be held Friday August 21, 2020, at 2:00 pm at the Moore Bowen Funeral Home on South Bowen St in Arlington. The memorial will also be live streamed on Facebook Live through the funeral home. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to the National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation, a charity about which Phillip was passionate after the recent loss of his sister, Melinda.

GCHA sets deadline for historical markers

The Gregg County Historical Association met last Tuesday where it was announced that historical marker submissions will have a deadline of April 30, 2021.

Historic cemetery preservation chair Jeanne Collins reported on volunteer John Richardson's dedication to mowing and cleaning neglected cemeteries. She also shared the Findagrave.com online site which allows individuals the opportunity to search for grave sites of family members. Gem Meecham discussed the historic resource survey which will be conducted in Kilgore in 2021.

Suzanne Bardwell shared information about the Gladewater Museum Rodeo Annex art mural news story.

GCHC will also make new member appointments at its Nov. 10 meeting in the Gregg County Commissioner's Courtroom in the Longview courthouse.

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

THE ECONOMIST

The Importance of the 2020 Census

Accurate Census counts are far more than just a matter of interest. They are vital to ensuring adequate federal funding for various programs,



appropriate representation in Congress, and an understanding of demographic trends to plan for the future. Over

300 federal programs rely on Census data to allocate funds geographically, as do numerous state and local initiatives. For example, many resources and dollars for hospitals and health clinics are distributed according to Census data. Important aspects of the social safety net, such as Medicaid and CHIP, SNAP, and housing vouchers, also depend on Census estimates, programs that will only become more vital as the economy continues to experience disruptions from the pandemic.

The economic and fiscal costs of a significant undercount would be substantial. We recently estimated that the direct losses of federal funding in Texas could total nearly \$21.3 billion over the 2021-2030 period, or \$2.1 billion per year on an average annual basis. Primary categories of funding reductions are in sectors critical to the ongoing wellbeing of the population and economy such as health care, housing, education, and infrastructure.

Direct losses lead to negative ripple effects through the economy, multiplying the overall economic harms of an

undercount. Over the decade, total losses include \$39.2 billion in gross product and nearly 418,500 job-years of employment. Even beyond these negative economic impacts, reductions in funding involve substantial "downstream" effects such as reduced wellness, less infrastructure improvement, greater food insecurity, and more limited job training. The decrease in economic activity associated with funding losses would also generate a notable decrease in tax receipts to the State and local government entities including cities, counties, schools, and special districts (even beyond the loss of direct funding). It should be noted that these measures were based on the "expected" undercount in Texas under normal circumstances. We appear to be heading for a much, much more dire outcome.

In a year of myriad challenges, the importance of completing Census forms can easily be lost amidst seemingly more pressing concerns. Collecting Census data is difficult at best, and the additional complications from the pandemic are very real. Vulnerable populations (including young children in low income families, those experiencing housing insecurity, and immigrants) are particularly difficult to count. The recent executive order blocking the inclusion of undocumented immigrants for legislative apportionment, while unlikely to be upheld, can further depress participation. The decision to shorten the time for responses can only make things worse.

An accurate Census count is vital to assuring that communities receive the representation and funding they require. The effects of this year's count will persist throughout the decade, and the consequences of a significant undercount are profound. Fill out the Census - and stay safe!!



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What's Happening?

City Worker recognition luncheon

On Tuesday, Aug. 25 from noon to 1 p.m., a recognition luncheon honoring Gladewater city employees will be held at the home of Beverly and John Paul Tallent at 200 Allison Street. Each city employee is invited to drive through the portico of the Tallent home to pick up a boxed lunch and drink.

According to Tallent the event is co-sponsored by the Red Rock Historical Association and by the Tallents to help raise money for the new Red Rock Museum.

So far, funds have been raised to purchase the metal building, do the dirt work for the foundation, set forms and rough in the plumbing, pour the concrete slab and erect the metal building. Phase 2 will begin once more money has been raised.

GISD Calendar

8/21, Friday
4:30 p.m. JV/V VB Lady Bears vs.

West Rusk
6 p.m. Bear Scrimmage vs. Daingerfield
8/22, Saturday
TBA JV/V VB@Henderson

8/25, Tuesday
4:30 p.m. JV/V VB vs. Jefferson
8/27, Thursday
7:30 p.m. Bears vs. Gilmer

8/28, Friday
4:30 p.m. JV/V VB Lady Bears@ Central Heights
8/29, Saturday
8 a.m. CC Gladewater Meet

9/7, Monday
Labor Day Holiday
9/8, Tuesday
Students may change from virtual to on-campus learning
9/9, Wednesday
Progress Reports

Hood Scholarship still available

Attention: All 2020 graduates who intend to take advantage of the Hood Scholarship need to log on to the GHS Website and visit the Hood Family Foundation

Scholarship tab listed under Scholarships.

There will be a short survey that asks name, email and college ID. If they have any questions they can email Mrs. Lanham at lanhamb@gladewaterisd.com.

UGISD Calendar

8/19, Wednesday
4:30 p.m. JH Volleyball@Sabine
TBA JV/V Football@New Boston

8/21, Friday
4:30 p.m. JV/V VB vs. Troup@ Rusk
8/22, Saturday
11:30 a.m. JV/V VB vs. Garrison-H

8/25, Tuesday
7:30 a.m. PICTURE DAY
5 p.m. JV/V VB vs. Troup-H
8/28, Friday
7:30 p.m. V FB@Paris Chisum

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2020 Union Grove Lions Football Schedule

VARSITY				SUBVARSITY			
DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
August 13 th	Overton	Union Grove	TBD	August 13 th	Overton	Union Grove	TBD
August 20 th	New Boston	New Boston	TBD	August 20 th	New Boston	New Boston	TBD
August 28 th	Paris Chisum	Paris Chisum	7:30	August 27 th	White Oak (JV Only)	Union Grove	6:00
September 4 th	Queen City	Queen City	7:30	September 3 rd	Queen City	Union Grove	5:00
September 11 th	Alba-Golden*^	Union Grove	7:30	September 10 th	Alba-Golden	Alba-Golden	5:00
September 18 th	Maud	Maud	7:30	September 17 th	Maud	Union Grove	5:00
September 25 th	Open			September 24 th	Harmony	Harmony	5:00
October 1 st (Thursday)	Linden-Kildare@%	Union Grove	7:00	October 1 st	Open		
October 9 th	Beckville	Beckville	7:30	October 8 th	Beckville	Union Grove	5:00
October 15 th (Thursday)	Big Sandy+	Union Grove	6:00	October 13 th (Tuesday)	Big Sandy	Big Sandy	5:00
October 23 rd	Frankston	Frankston	7:30	October 22 nd	Frankston	Union Grove	5:00
October 30 th	Carlisle#	Union Grove	7:30	October 29 th	Carlisle	Carlisle	5:00
November 6 th	Hawkins	Hawkins	7:30	November 5 th	Hawkins	Union Grove	5:00

Superintendent: Kelly Moore
HS/JH Principal: Rachel Evers
Athletic Director/Head Football: Scotty Layman
Band Director: Brandon Garmon
Cheer Sponsor:

*Heroes Night
*Homecoming
% KKK Game of the week
@Little League Night
+Pink Out
#Senior Night

2020 Lady Lion Volleyball Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Teams	Site	Time
8/7	Friday	Henderson (scrimmages)	JVV	Henderson	TBA
8/8	Saturday	Union Grove (scrimmages)	JVV	Union Grove	TBA
8/11	Tuesday	Elysian Fields	JVV	Union Grove	5:00
8/14	Friday	*MP Chapel Hill/Queen City	JVV	MP Chapel Hill	4:30
8/15	Saturday	*Pittsburg/Daingerfield	Varsity	Union Grove	TBA
8/18	Tuesday	Alba Golden	JVV	Alba Golden	5:00
8/21	Friday	*Troup/Rusk	JVV	Troup	4:30
8/22	Saturday	Garrison	JVV	Union Grove	11:30
8/25	Tuesday	Hughes Springs	JVV	Hughes Springs	5:00
8/29	Saturday	Longview Heat	JVV	Union Grove	11:00
9/1	Tuesday	Harmony	JVV	Union Grove	4:30
9/4	Friday	*Timpson/Winona	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
9/8	Tuesday	Fruitvale	JVV	Fruitvale	5:00
9/11	Friday	*Leverett's Chapel	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
9/15	Tuesday	*Hawkins	JVV	Hawkins	5:00
9/18	Friday	*Carlisle	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
9/22	Tuesday	*Big Sandy	JVV	Big Sandy	5:00
9/25	Friday	*Union Hill	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
9/29	Tuesday	*Overton	JVV	Overton	5:00
10/2	Friday	BYE			
10/6	Tuesday	*Leverett's Chapel	JVV	LC	5:00
10/9	Friday	*Hawkins	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
10/13	Tuesday	*Carlisle	JVV	Carlisle	5:00
10/16	Friday	*Big Sandy	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
10/20	Tuesday	*Union Hill	JVV	Union Hill	5:00
10/23	Friday	**Overton	Varsity	Union Grove	4:30
10/27	Tuesday	BYE			

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Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440
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Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768
New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
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GISD opens without hitch

Continued from Page 1
 leadership and all employees for making this a great start to the school year," Clark said. "I want to thank our students, parents and community for their compliance and support."
 According to Asst. Supt. Dr. Cliff Lightfoot between 28-30% of students have chosen online learning for the first marking period. GHS currently has 360 students on campus with 101 virtual learners. GMS has 291 on campus learners and 88 virtual learners. Weldon Elementary School has 357 on campus students and 120 virtual students and Gladewater Primary School has 247 on campus learners and 91 virtual students.



Rhonda Dunahoe was joined by her husband Bill, at Monday's school board meeting where she was recognized with the 2019-20 PCAT Bus Driver of the Year Award. School board president Jon Keller and Supt. Sedric Clark along with the rest of the board gave Dunahoe a standing ovation.

"Each day, school bus drivers are entrusted with safely transporting our children to and from school," GISD COO Kim Chatman said during the presentation. "No matter the weather conditions or the traffic, their performance on the road must always be A+." Chatman went on to say that bus drivers set the tone for each child's day and that Mrs. Dunahoe exemplified what that means.

"You could say that our bus drivers are our school's ambassadors, typically, the bus driver is the first school person who children see in the morning and the last they see in the afternoon," Chatman said. "And, just as it's said about great school teachers, PCAT believes that the same holds true for the best school bus drivers, it's not a job, it is a calling."

The award from Property Casualty Alliance of Texas evaluates nominations on five attributes: leadership, attitude, perseverance, student and parent relationships and technical skill. The evaluators look particularly for exceptional drivers, like Dunahoe, who demonstrate a consistent desire to positively influence both students and co-workers through their actions and attitudes, not just their words.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

Upshur okays child safety fee

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday unanimously approved adding a 50-cent "child safety fee"--half the amount the organization requested--to each auto registration to benefit the Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center.

The organization, which has offices in Gilmer and elsewhere, investigates and helps prosecute child molesting cases, and provides counselors trained to talk to children, said County Judge Todd Tefteller. "This is the front line" against child sexual abuse, he said.

Melda Tatsch of the center told the court that 25 percent of the children who come to it are from Upshur County.

Upshur County Sheriff's investigator Freddie Fitzgerald told the court the \$1 fee the group requested was "a small, small" amount, which would be partly used to train interviewers who are prohibited from asking children leading questions. He also said the center helps clear innocent persons and puts on programs in schools as most outcries of sexual abuse come from children to teachers.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Frank Berka, however, said imposing a fee is "adding something to them (vehicle owners) they don't have a vote in." Berka, who initially offered to donate \$100 to the center, ended up approving the 50-cent compromise proposed by Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson.

Tefteller had favored the \$1 fee, saying "we have a duty to protect children." Tatsch said the county registered 43,866 vehicles in 2019 and that the proposed fee would go for all services the center provides, including counseling and classes.

She also said the county could take part of the proceeds for an administrative fee. Nicholson's successful motion stipulated the county would waive doing that to the extent the court can do so.

County holds budget hearing

After holding an hours-long public hearing on the matter Monday, Upshur County Commissioners Court reached an informal consensus to later approve a \$17 million county budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year--a figure based on retaining the current tax rate of 61.5 cents per \$100 valuation.

County Auditor Connie Williams said the potential new budget, scheduled along with the proposed tax rate for possible final approval Sept. 4, is about \$108,000 above the current 2019-20 budget (the \$17 million covers both the county's general fund and insurance fund.) The new budget does not contain an across-the-board pay raise for county workers.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller said he liked the idea of such a raise, but County Judge Todd Tefteller replied that the county "can't afford" them.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tefteller confirmed he had asked department heads to trim five percent from their budgets. The court, however, ran into some mandatory new expenses for the new budget, such as certification pay for certain employees.

The court spent Monday hearing from 17 individuals who are either elected officials, department heads, or who represented a county office, concerning their individual budget requests. Tefteller pointed out that other such persons who did not attend the hearing had submitted their proposals in writing to Williams, and that nobody had anticipated questions for those individuals.

East Texas Oil Museum at KC receives Humanities Texas Relief Grant

The East Texas Oil Museum at Kilgore College is the recipient of a \$5,000 Humanities Texas Relief Grant to help compensate for lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Thanks to Humanities Texas, these funds helped the museum offset expenses incurred during the two-month closure. Without these dollars, the museum's programs could have been negatively impacted in the future," said Olivia Moore, ETOM director. "Because of this grant, the museum has been able to maintain a bit of normalcy for

our visitors."

This summer, Humanities Texas awarded more than \$1.1 million to 198 Texas nonprofits that suffered losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients include museums, libraries, preservation organizations and heritage and cultural centers, among many others.

These organizations offer historical and cultural programs that have significant impact within their communities. Humanities Texas aims to help these organizations remain vital in this difficult time.

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Upshur County not raising taxes

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday approved proposing retaining the current county tax rate of 61.5 cents per \$100 valuation in the coming 2020-21 fiscal year.

The court, which held a public hearing on the forthcoming budget Monday, will adopt the tax rate and budget Sept. 4, County Judge Todd Tefteller said Monday. Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rate Aug. 31.

County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell calculated that a 60.9-cent rate would generate the same amount of revenue as in the current fiscal year, but no new income. County Auditor Connie Williams said at Friday's meeting, however, the county could "get by" on the 61.5 current rate.

Before Friday's meeting, Williams said the county's taxable valuation, calculated by the county appraisal district, had dropped this year, particularly in oil and gas, but Tefteller added that new properties on the tax roll "helped out a little." (See separate story for details of Monday's budget hearing.)

In other business Friday, the court approved holding early voting for the Nov. 3 general and Gilmer municipal elections at the Gilmer Civic Center, and additionally approved having 16 polling places on election day.

Hours and dates for early voting are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13-17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 18, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 19-23; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 25 and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 26-30.

Early voting for elections in recent years has been held at County Election Administrator Lory Harle's office in the county courthouse, but she told the court Friday that "you can't really social distance" (as a precaution against COVID-19) there.

At its meeting the prior Tuesday, the city council had approved allowing such voting at the city-owned civic center. The city election, which features two contested races for council seats, was originally set May 2, but postponed due to the pandemic.

Any county voter can vote at any polling place in the county on election day, when polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Only voters living in Gilmer city limits can vote in the city election, however.

In a related matter, the court Friday approved Republican and Democratic election judges and alternate judges for the 16 polling places for terms starting Sept. 1.

Listed below, in this order, are the Republican judge, Republican alternate judge, Democratic judge, and Democratic alternative judge for each polling place:

Indian Rock Baptist Church--Darlene Rappazzo, Brenda Allegrezza, Cynthia Poole, Eddie Turner

East Mountain Community Center--Jesse Loffer, Roberta McCrary, Morris Garmon Jr., Tom Mitchell

Glenwood Water Supply Corporation--Sandra McFadin, Sheri Lipscomb, Anna Scott, Kirk Price

Ashland Masonic Lodge No. 1138 (in Diana)--Deborah Hodge, Donna Allen, Henrietta Smith, Bennie Moore

Assembly of God (in Gilmer)--Carl Byers, Bridget Byers, Alma Wells, Chasity Thomas

Walnut Creek Baptist Church (in Diana)--Joan Skinner, Jackie Oliver, Bonnie Sanford, Elaine Rains

Ore City Community Center--Margaret Wright, Raymond Wright, Vernell Jeffery, Lashun Haley

Frontier Cowboy Church--Glenda Kinard, Lind Bradley, Helen Johnson, Evelyn Walker

Big Sandy ISD--Cheryl Corbin, Jeannine Howard, Evangeline Street, Rebecca Appert

Pritchett Community Center--Theresa Wilson, Donna Moree, Roy Helpenstill, Kennedy Scott

St. James Baptist Church in Gladewater--Madison Barrett, Allen Byers, Richard Brown Sr., Joyce Brown

Enon Community Center--Mickey Denton, Jimmy Sanders, Marie Taylor, Pamela Slaughter

Keith Rutledge, Evelyn Jones, TiDache Wayne

Simpsonville Volunteer Fire Department--Bridget Fowler (no Republican alternate listed), Geraldine Ray, Vickie Tidwell Beavers

Rosewood Baptist Church--Amorette Burch, Jean Miller, T. Carlyn Short, Joyce Moon

Upshur County Library--Ben Dodd, Robert Perry, Mary Rabbs, Cheryl Jackson.

In other action Friday, the court approved extending its contract with NCIC Inmate Communication Inc., which provides phone service to county jail inmates, for two years and adding video calling to the phones.

Sheriff Larry Webb recommended the move, saying prisoners have not been allowed visitors since the COVID outbreak (in March) and that allowing video calling would net the county 25 percent more revenue than the current annual \$75,000 it gets from NCIC.

The calling, which will be monitored, will also help with the office's "work flow," eliminating the need for certain handwritten

records, the sheriff said.

Also on Friday, the court:

--Approved a proposal by Tyler-based Employee Benefits Consulting to change to a different pharmacy benefit manager in order to save money. Rachel Means, head of EBC, said her firm had saved the county \$127,000 on drug "pure ingredient costs" in nine months, a savings that will reach about \$169,000 by fiscal year's end.

--Approved attempting to slow the speed of traffic near the Rosewood Baptist Church on Arrowwood Road by adding rumble strips, and imposing a 15 mile per hour speed limit on an 800-foot stretch during certain hours Sundays and Wednesdays. Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller said a private donor would finance the strips and speed limit signs.

--Authorized lowering the age at which county workers can withdraw from a voluntary retirement plan from 70.5 years to 59.5. County Treasurer Brandy Vick said the county has no matching funds in the 457(b) governmental plan with VALIC.

Gladewater Lady Bears

2020 Volleyball

Date	Opponent	Place	Teams	Time
Fri. Aug 7	Play Day (Scrimmage)	Home	All	1:00
Sat. Aug 8	Play Day (Scrimmage)	Big Sandy	J/V/V	8:00
Tues. Aug 11	Carlisle	Carlisle	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Aug 14	Grace Community	Grace Community	J/V/V	4:30
Sat. Aug 15	Overton/Van	Home	J/V/V	10:00
Tues. Aug 18	Hawkins	Home	J/V/V	5:00
Fri. Aug 21	West Rusk	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Sat. Aug 22	Henderson/Waskom	Henderson	J/V/V	TBA
Tues. Aug 25	Jefferson	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Aug 28	Central Heights	Central Heights	J/V/V	4:30
Tues. Sept 1	Mineola	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Sat. Sept 5	Kilgore/Rusk	Kilgore	V	10:00
Tues. Sept 8	*Ore City	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Sept 11	Gary	Gary	V/J/V	4:30
Tues. Sept 15	*Sabine	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Sept 18	*Daingerfield	Home	V	4:30
Tues. Sept 22	*New Diana	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Sept 25	*Hughes Springs	Home	V	4:30
Tues. Sept 29	*White Oak	Home	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Oct 2	*Ore City	Ore City	V	4:30
Tues. Oct 6	Jacksonville/Heat	Jacksonville	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Oct 9	*Sabine	Sabine	V	4:30
Tues. Oct 13	*Daingerfield	Daingerfield	J/V/V	4:30
Thurs. Oct 15	*New Diana	New Diana	V	4:30
Tues. Oct 20	*Hughes Springs	Hughes Springs	J/V/V	4:30
Fri. Oct 23	*White Oak	White Oak	V	4:30
Oct. 29 - Oct. 31	**Bi-District	TBA	TBA	TBA
Nov. 2 - Nov. 3	**Area	TBA	TBA	TBA
Nov. 5 - Nov. 7	**Regional Quarters	TBA	TBA	TBA
Nov. 9 - Nov. 10	**Regional Semi-Finals	TBA	TBA	TBA

[*]Denotes District 15-3A District Games [-]Denotes Teacher Appreciation Night [-**]Denotes Senior Night
[-]Breast Cancer Awareness



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903-845-5999

Tele's

401 S Tyler St., Gladewater
Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
50% occupancy for Dining in
Curbside pickup available!

(903) 845-5571

Pizza Hut

1408 E Broadway Ave., Gladewater
Open Sun.-Thurs.: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Dining room open, no buffet or salad bar.
Must wear a mask.
Drive Thru, Take-Out & Dine-In

903-845-2318

Guadalupe's

101 E Pacific Ave, Gladewater
50% occupancy for Dining in
Curbside pickup available!

903-295-0506

El Rincon

209 West US Hwy 80, White Oak
Open Monday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Open for Dining
Curbside Pick Up

(903) 844-7171 2 Lg 2 topping \$10.99 each

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Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
We love our Community. If we have food, You'll have food.

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TAKE OUT and DINE-IN service here!
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or 903-845-2235!

903-845-5885

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Dining room is closed.
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LET'S SUPPORT Our Local RESTAURANTS

SELL IT IN THE **Classifieds**

903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladewatermirror.com

Divide & Conquer Downsizing Sale for Bob Wilson
Thurs., Aug. 20 ~ 7:00-5:30 Fri., Aug. 21 ~ 8:00-5:30
Sat., Aug. 22 ~ 8:00-2:00
7240 Prinedale - Tyler Texas 75703
Outside SSW Loop 323 and off Old Jacksonville Hwy., turn east into Oak Hollow onto Three Lakes Parkway just south of FRESH. Travel on Three Lakes Parkway, at the stop sign, it becomes Prinedale.

This 2223 sq. ft. home, offered by Cheryl Sartin of ERA-The Property Shoppe, is for sale; contents and consignments must go; din. table & 8 chairs; china cabinet; iron & marble entry demilune console table; beautiful king bed and matching TV armoire; queen bed; club chairs; gorgeous punch bowl & many cups; crystal; 4-panel Asian screen; sofa tables; framed art; lovely lamps; clothes, shoes, purses, costume jewelry; Haviland china; tea sets; hunt scene art; hunt scene dishes; chargers; Thanksgiving dishes; Christmas selections; quilts; needlepoint; sewing notions; over 300 books; games; stainless coffee server; small appliances; globe; CD's; planters; patio furniture; walkers; hand / yard tools; camo sleeping bags; soooooo much more!!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF WARREN CITY FIRE, AMBULANCE, SERVICE TRUCK (FAST) GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Warren City is giving notice of the City's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant application for a Fire, Ambulance and Service Truck Fund grant request of \$499,200 for the purchase of a fire truck, bunker gear, and PPE in the City of Warren City. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. Para obtener una copia en espanol, comuníquese con Ricky Wallace al 903-845-3917.

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GISD tackles COVID challenges

'We're fighting an enemy who is both invisible and unknown...'

Continued from Page 1
 trying to keep their hands clean of all the possible fallout that may come from this," Langford said. "This whole thing is so politically charged and incredibly difficult to navigate. TEA and Gov. Abbott have said we will be at school and gave us guidance to follow. It is extremely difficult to meet all of these guidelines. This is one of the bigger unfunded mandates I have experienced as an educator. CARES Act money was sent to Texas and TEA absorbed all that money. I guess TEA used it to buy Schoolology, an online learning platform, for parents in the state. Most districts already have a learning management system so the usefulness of that is very limited."

Bedair says that the impact of the pandemic will be felt for years to come.

"Students from rural areas without internet access or devices will be at a greater disadvantage," Bedair said. "Students will have to take the SAT or ACT in smaller settings. This will impact college enrollment. If sports aren't able to be played, athletic scholarship opportunities will be lost."

Langford is concerned about students falling behind academically.

"Our students who are in special programming are kind of left in limbo because of the lack of guidance offered for their learning needs," Langford said.

Dealing with the unknown of holding school is a bigger issue than most community members are aware.

"I feel our staff is more susceptible to this than we could imagine," Langford said. "We only have a few people on our sub list. I feel that if we get our school shut down it will be because our faculty and staff have been quarantined before

our kids will be. I have staff members and students that are extremely vulnerable to this and I am worried for their health and safety constantly. We are doing things differently than we have in the past. Lunch looks different, classrooms are different, and even how people come into the office is different."

The biggest difference may well be in online learning.

"You can never replace the impact that a high quality teacher can have on a young person's learning," Langford said. "I do believe that this will change how we do school moving forward."

Bedair says there are some specific ways parents can improve the online learning experience for their children by making sure that their kids are logging in each day and completing their assignments. Langford agrees that parent involvement is essential to successful online learning.

"What kids hear at home is more powerful than anything we could try and impress upon them," Langford said. "Be supportive of the educational process and encourage students to engage in learning."

Both Bedair and Langford want parents to know that the district is working to the best of its ability to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

"It's hard to measure the time that it (COVID-19 protocols) absorbs, but it takes a portion of each class period," Langford said. "What is easy to see is how much energy and focus COVID takes from our student and staff. From wearing masks to cleaning desks we are trying to do the best we can. It's a battle against an enemy you can not see."

Langford urges parents to be encouraging and supportive.

"Please be patient with what is



Social distancing protocols were carefully observed last Wednesday on Gladewater Primary School's first day of school. GPS staff were positioned from outside all the way to classrooms to ensure that students were warmly welcomed and knew where to go.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

going on," Langford said. "Our goal is to be 'in' school. School looks different this school year. I would have never imagined we would be doing this. Our viewpoint on students and staff wearing masks is about respect for others and their families. Please encourage the people in your family to follow the guidelines out there for us. If we don't as a community, we won't be able to have in person school very long."

Supt. Sedic Clark says that GISD appreciates the community's response to the changes that have been made during this challenging time.

"Parents have become our first line of defense as complete wellness checks on their children

each morning keep those who are exhibiting symptoms home," Clark said.

"More parents are bringing their kids to school which lessens our numbers on buses and helps us put more space between kids. Our students have complied with new practices for their new normal while in school."

Langford says that the district has provided options for students to learn in person or at home.

"We respect each family's decision on how to make that happen," said Langford. "Our teachers were trained and have sharpened their craft based on the premise that you work closely with students. We look forward to all of this being over and getting back to a more reasonable normal."



GLADEWATER VARSITY

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8/27##	Gilmer	Home	7:30 p.m.
9/4^^	Spring Hill	Home	7:30 p.m.
9/11	Center	There	7:30 p.m.
9/18	Kilgore	There	7:30 p.m.
9/25*	Tatum	Home	7:30 p.m.
10/2*	New Boston	There	7:30 p.m.
10/9*%%	Atlanta	Home	7:30 p.m.
10/16*	Jefferson	There	7:30 p.m.
10/23**	White Oak	Home	7:30 p.m.
10/30*	Sabine	There	7:30 p.m.
11/6	Open		

*District Games ## Black Out ^^Homecoming %%Pink Out **Senior Night

JUNIOR VARSITY

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
8/25 (TUES)	Gilmer	There	5:00/6:30
9/4	Spring Hill	There	5:00/6:30
9/10	Center	Home	5:00/6:30
9/17	Kilgore	Home	5:00/TBD
9/24	Tatum	There	5:00/TBD
10/1	New Boston	Home	5:00/TBD
10/8	Atlanta	There	5:00/TBD
10/15	Jefferson	Home	5:00/TBD
10/22	White Oak	There	5:00/TBD
10/29	Sabine	Home	5:00/TBD

7th & 8th GRADE

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
9/3	Spring Hill	Home	4:30& 6:30
9/10	Center	There	4:30& 6:30
9/17	Kilgore	There	4:30& 6:30
9/24	Tatum	Home	4:30& 6:30
10/1	New Boston	There	4:30& 6:30
10/8	Atlanta	Home	4:30& 6:30
10/15	Jefferson	There	4:30& 6:30
10/22	White Oak	Home	4:30& 6:30
10/29	Sabine	There	4:30& 6:30

All games and times are subject to change due UIL, TEA and GISD policy concerning COVID-19 guidelines.



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