

# Gladewater Mirror



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50¢

## Council fills GEDCO board, discusses wake boating at lake

By Jim Bardwell

It was standing room only at Thursday's Gladewater City Council meeting, but it wasn't because the council was naming two new members to the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation board (GEDCO) and it wasn't because of the public hearing concerning the proposed budget and proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2021.

The crowd was there to discuss wake/wave boats on Lake Gladewater. The council was asked by the Lake Board to rescind allowing wake/wave boats on Lake Gladewater. Wake surfing involves boats creating waves big enough for people to surf without the need of a tow rope. The council addressed this issue two years ago and decided to set out buoys to keep the wake/wave boats at last 150 feet from docks. This was done to safeguard fishermen and help cut down on erosion.

Several boat owners spoke at the meeting and asked the council to not stop wake/wave boating in the lake. One person said if he

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## Former East Mountain fire chief gets 8 years

By Phillip Williams

After a judge rejected his plea for probation, former East Mountain Fire Chief James Wilson (Jimmy) Burks was sentenced to eight years in prison Monday, seven months after pleading guilty to misappropriating approximately \$45,000 of the volunteer fire department's funds, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Burks, 45, entered the plea to misapplication of fiduciary property Jan. 13 to 115th District Judge Dean Fowler, who rejected his request in a contested sentencing hearing in Gilmer, said Byrd.

"The investigation showed that Burks was taking the fire department's money and using it to fund his gambling habits, purchase items for his girlfriend and personal purchases," Byrd wrote in a news release Monday. "During the hearing today, he admitted he would

Continued on Page 3

## COVID-19 cases up

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County had recorded 315 COVID-19 cases, including three deaths, as of Monday, said county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols.

Some 242 of those stricken recovered while 70 cases remain active, he said.

More than half the total cases--199--occurred in unincorporated rural areas, Nichols noted. Of those, 156 recovered, 42 are active and one died.

The Upshur County portion of Gladewater has had 36 cases, including one death, 31 recoveries and four active, said Nichols, while Big Sandy has had 10 cases, including seven recoveries and three active.

"With a couple of nursing facilities, we had quite a bit of cases," the coordinator said. In addition, "We've had some sort of an issue (one or more cases)" in all seven school districts centrally located in the county, and while some staff members and students have been sent home, the overall impact is "so far fairly minimum," Nichols said.

The schools include Union Grove, Big Sandy, Harmony, Gilmer, Union Hill, New Diana and Ore City.

The city of Gilmer has recorded 65 cases, including 43 recoveries, 21 active and one death, said Nichols. Ore City, meanwhile, has had five cases, all of whom recovered, he added.

Nichols urged citizens to continue hand-washing, wearing masks and staying home when ill as precautions against the virus.

## Local men indicted on drug charges

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury returned 32 indictments, nine of them sealed, and no-billed four cases in Gilmer on Aug. 13, District Attorney Billy Byrd announced last week.

Defendants who were indicted, charges, and bond information were as follows, Byrd's office said Aug. 18:

Cory Neal Pitman, 26, of Gladewater, was separately indicted on three counts of theft of firearm, all alleged to have occurred May 28. He remained in county jail at Gilmer under bonds of \$10,000 per charge.

John Marvis McGill, 45, of Gladewater, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on July 22, 2019, \$10,000

James Edward Frost, 56, of Gilmer, assault/family violence--occlusion on April 13, 2018, \$15,000 bond

Jesus Dominguez, 19, of Ore City, assault/family violence--occlusion on Jan. 19, 2019, \$25,000

Cristobal Campuzano, 33, of Gilmer, assault/family violence--occlusion last Sept. 28, \$5,000

Christopher Wayne Nelson, 36, of Ore City, assault/family violence--occlusion on April 26, \$10,000

Sandra Beth Collier, 42, of Big Sandy, aggravated assault with deadly weapon on May 24, \$10,000

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### READY FOR FOOTBALL SEASON?



## Battle of the Orange and Black Thursday

By Phillip Williams

Two onetime arch-rivals armed with new head coaches, the Gladewater Bears and Gilmer Buckeyes, inaugurate their surreal 2020 football season by renewing acquaintances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Jack V. Murphy Bear Stadium.

With attendance severely restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gilmer Coach Alan Metzel and Gladewater Coach Jonny Louvier make their respective debuts as their teams' head honchos before a stadium limited to 50 percent capacity by the University Interscholastic League.

Neither, however, is a stranger to their respective schools. Metzel, an assistant at Gilmer for the past 18 years (including three Buckeye state champion seasons), is undertaking his first head football coaching job. Louvier, who was head coach last year at Spring Hill, is a Gladewater High alum.

The teams, who share common school colors of orange and black, have not met in several years. Metzel, however, doesn't seem to think that will lessen the intensity of the contest.

"Anytime Gilmer and Gladewater play, it's gonna be a battle," Metzel mused Monday. "That's just a gimme."

He lauded the Bears, saying they should have won the double overtime game they lost to Pottsville 35-34 last year under then-Bear Coach John Berry.

"They've got a good number of their good players back" with a "good strong coaching staff," and Louvier returning to



his hometown has "energized them," Metzel said. "I believe they'll be a formidable foe."

"I'm excited for our kids to get out there and perform," Bear Head Coach Jonny Louvier said. "I grew up watching and playing in this game, and for it to be my first game as the head coach of the Bears is a great way to get the season started. Both communities have a lot of pride in their football team, and we are ready to perform."

Asked what type of wargame he expects Thursday (weather permitting),

the Buckeye boss said "I think both teams have a chance to put points on the board," but possibly stormy weather that night could have an impact.

The Buckeyes weigh in with 21 returning lettermen, including 11 returning starters, which Metzel says is one of his reasons for optimism. Although senior Mason Hurt started at quarterback most of the past two seasons, he is being moved to receiver while junior Brandon Tennison, who started two playoff games at quarterback for last year's 10-4 Gilmer team when Hurt was injured, will become starting signal-caller.

Hurt "is really doing a great job" at his new position, said Metzel, who assumed his post when his predecessor Matt Turner retired. The Buckeye commandant is also counting on senior running back/safety Davion Smith and outside linebacker/wide receiver Luke Watson.

As for what Bears he esteems, Metzel said returning starting senior Tailback Elijah Carter is "kind of what makes 'em go" in the power running game. The coach also hails senior quarterback Tristan Holmes and junior receiver D.J. Allen.



The Gladewater Bears' running game looked impressive at last week's scrimmage against Daingerfield. Photos by Jim Bardwell

## Gladewater vs. Gilmer - By The Numbers

Gilmer leads the series 36-25 with 2 ties  
First meeting - 1929. Gilmer 77 Bears 0  
Last meeting - 2017 Gilmer 49 Bears 39  
Between 1991- 2017 Gilmer has dominated the series 24-2.  
Between 1929 -1990 Gladewater was ahead in series 23-12.  
Gilmer has 5 shutouts - 1929 77-0, 1932 44-0, 1961 28-0, 1997 28-0, & 2004 42-0.  
The Bears own 8 shutouts over Gilmer - 1934 7-0, 1935 20-0, 1937 33-0, 1966 33-0, 1975 28-0, 1976 26-0, 1977 34-0, & 1986 34-0.

Closest game (not including ties) 1933 Gilmer won 13-12.  
Highest point of margin was 77 points in Gilmer shutout of the Bears in 1929.  
Most points in a game by both schools was 2009 that Gilmer won 67-12.  
Total points scored in the series is Gilmer 1473 to the Bears 1180.  
Gladewater's last win was a 20-14 overtime in 2001  
The two ties were in 1971 20-20 & 1981 21-21.



# OPINION/EDITORIAL

**Chris Cobler**  
Capital  
Highlights



## School year brings an Apple for students, too

Students across Texas returned to campuses last week as schools and universities scrambled to put into place new lesson plans that best accommodate a pandemic.

For many school districts, this meant greatly expanding the technological resources of their students to support a mix of in-person and online education. For example, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District east of Houston announced plans to buy 16,000 iPads for almost \$3.1 million. The Texas Education Agency's statewide initiative, Operation Connectivity, will pay half the cost.

Gov. Greg Abbott also announced the TEA had obtained more than 1 million personal devices and internet WiFi hotspots as part of the initiative. The effort is financed by a previously announced \$200 million allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to the TEA and matched by school districts. It will ensure that students attending a Texas public school will have both a device and connection to the internet throughout the school year and beyond, Abbott said.

In other tech-related news last week, Apple became the first U.S. company to be valued at \$2 trillion.

## Raise your hand for public schools

The Texas Association of School Boards endorsed via Twitter a column urging people to keep supporting public schools despite the pandemic.

In the column, Michelle Smith, vice president of policy and advocacy for Raise Your Hand Texas, wrote, "Enrolling your student in your public school ensures they still have access to the best-prepared teachers, access to the best resources and systems designed to help meet the needs of all students, and, whenever we can all get back to a more normal in-school experience, access to all the other things we miss — sports, arts, academic, extracurricular, and other offerings only provided by our public schools."

Mean Green welcoming team

Meanwhile, college students across Texas moved into residence halls with new social distancing protocols in place.

Amanda Lee, a resident assistant at the University of North Texas, encouraged Mean Green students and their families arriving at the dorms in Denton. Her advice:

"I would say that, even though this year is going to be pretty different, I would still say to put yourself out there."

## Calorie-free desserts

Big Tex will be lonelier but perhaps slimmer this year as the State Fair of Texas plans for a virtual event instead of a midway packed with people and deep-fried Twinkies.

Fair organizers are still trying to generate some virtual fun, announcing decidedly different arts, crafts and cooking contests. The four virtual arts and crafts contests are for face masks, sidewalk chalk art, nail art and a decorated mantel or shelf. The three cooking contests are for cake decorating, cookie decorating and mini butter sculpture. Because the cooking contest can't be tasted this year, entries will be judged on their appearance.

Participants may enter their photo submissions for the virtual contests at Creative.BigTex.com. Online submissions will open Sept. 21 and run through Oct. 4. Winners will be announced Oct. 9.

## From antiques to Amazon

Forney, proclaimed by the Legislature as the antique capital of Texas, is getting a thoroughly modern makeover.

Officials announced Amazon would build in 2021 a 1 million square-foot fulfillment center in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex suburb, bringing 500 jobs to the city of 26,000. Amazon also is planning in Forney a 200,000-square-foot delivery station, which is anticipated to open later this year.

"Bringing a transcendent company such as Amazon to Forney is a huge step for our community," Forney Mayor Mary Penn said.

## That'll Be The Day

Texas music is a cure for what ails most anything.

With this prescription in mind, the Texas Music Office encourages people to drive the Texas Music Trail through the Panhandle Plains region. You can download or stream the music office's Spotify playlist.

The first stop is the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock. The center is celebrating the rock pioneers's 84th birthday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 7.

Other stops include the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center in Pampa, the Jimmy Dean Museum in Plainview and the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo.

Pop singer Rihanna paid a surprise visit last week, stopping by the Cadillac Ranch to spray-paint an obscenity about President Trump on one of the 10 vehicles buried nose-down in the unusual public art installation. No one independently confirmed seeing the international singing sensation in Amarillo, but she posted the photos to her Instagram page, which has 98.1 million followers.

Her message did not "shine bright like a diamond" with the president's supporters.

## Clouds of bubbly joy....

The last week has been full of 'moments', mistakes and hard work. You all know that drill. It is what life deals and then we misplay a card or two. Let's get the ugly out of the way. In one of our papers I misidentified someone and it was a rookie mistake. As a former journalism teacher I am deeply embarrassed. Mea Culpa! There is no excuse, just circumstances. Monday is a press day, plus we had two huge sports posters to proof and get to press that night as well as the paper, plus I had two different school board meetings back-to-back and one story to be written on top of deadline. Still, I know better. I really do know better. Sloppy is inexcusable.

That covers my biggest mistake of the week and a lot of the hard work. The 'moments' however were amazing. A guardian grandparent asked for education advice after telling me I was wise. If you read my first paragraph you might be questioning my friend's judgment. Wise? I hope so, on some things. Experienced where education is concerned for sure, much of my heart is still committed to that calling.

Last Wednesday was my 'un-birthday' a reference that a very attentive server named Stephen at Outback Steakhouse was the only person to connect to "Alice in Wonderland". He has a BA in Literature soon to be pursuing an MA at UT in Austin. That he proceeded to round up a crew to sing LOUDLY an Aussie birthday ditty to me actually lifted me and made me laugh. Along with the gift of a dessert, the day didn't feel so 'un' anymore.

Then there were the messages, many from former students with my favorite coming all the way from Memphis, from a guy named Marcus, who works at Jerry Lee's on Beale Street. It simply said, "O' Captain, my Captain". I cried. If you have never seen the movie "Dead Poet's Society" you have no idea how much this meant to me...especially

**Suzanne  
Bardwell**

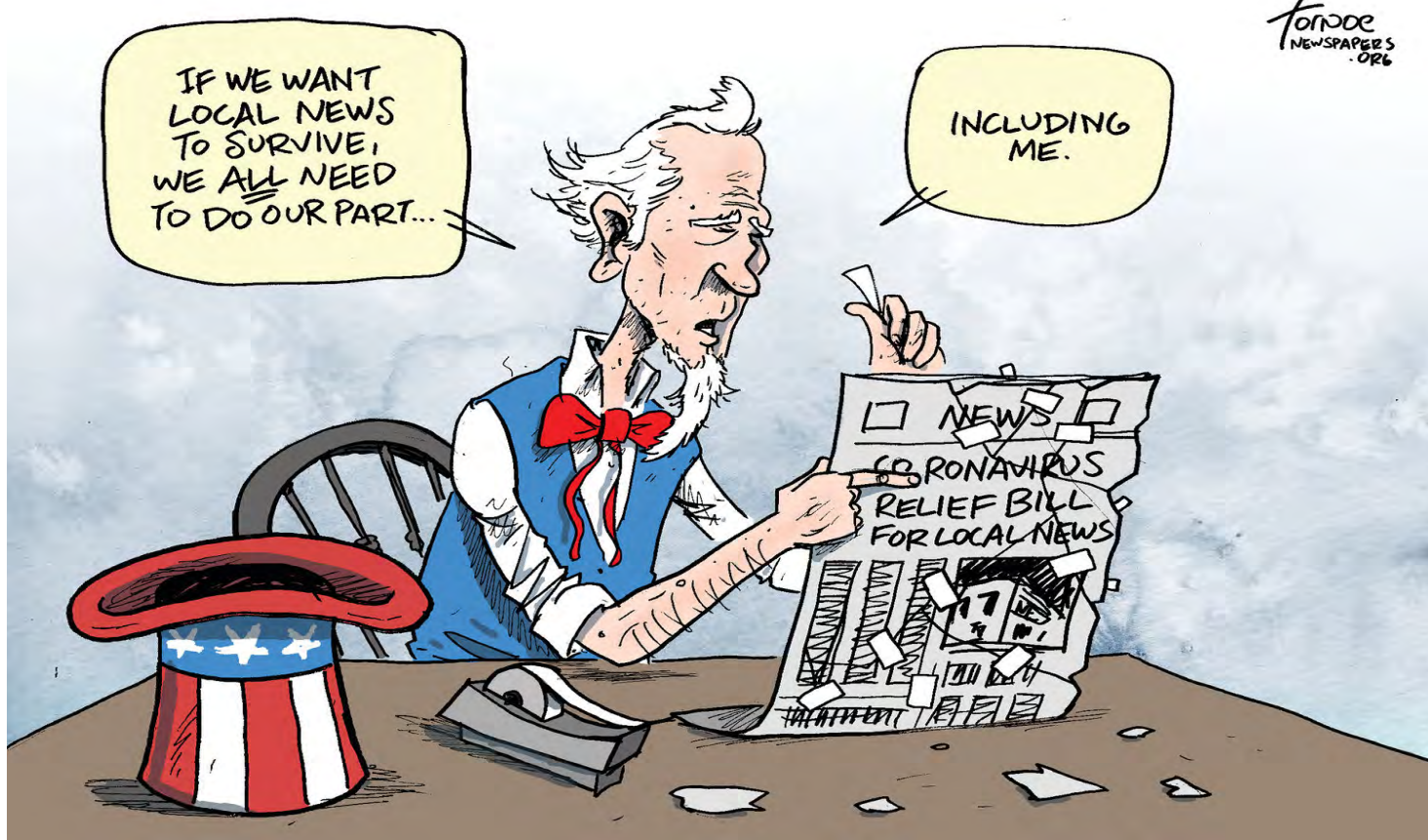


since I taught him so very long ago.

My 'un-day' ended with a late night call from my son Josh who was on some exotic around the state tour with the Texas A&M Wildland Fire Aviation team...followed by his posting of Jerry Jeff Walker's "Red Neck Mother" song on my Facebook page...he is a smart-aleck like his daddy. It's one of the things I love and loathe about that dynamic duo...they do keep me laughing...except when I want to smack them.

The day had begun with a call to my precious Mom and a quiet talk with my Daddy in heaven. I am deeply grateful for the life they gave me and the love they have shown me. Life is complicated, messy and difficult. It is sometimes easy to be mired in our mistakes, embarrassments and failures. We have to look up and see the moments that really are the measure of our lives. And when we do, we find that blessings surround us like clouds filled with bubbly joy. Things like happy yellow flowers, personalized sugar cookies, funny friends and tall, dark, handsome husbands help create those clouds.

So dear friends and readers, fix what you can, apologize when you need to, but never, never forget to look UP, look around, and see, really see the joy that fills our lives even in the most challenging of times. I pray that you find your moments, have your quiet conversations, loud songs and serendipitous experiences and rise on your own clouds of joy.



# THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

## 1.2 million Texas Jobs

Texas has been one of the strongest performing states in the US for a number of years, attracting more major corporate locations and expansions than

any other and regularly topping lists of the best places to do business. As examples, the state has won the "Governor's Cup" for the

most major projects for the past eight consecutive years and was recently named the "State of the Decade" by Site Selection magazine.

A major reason for this success is the local-option sales tax for economic development, which has been crucial to proactive efforts for over 30 years. The more than 700 economic

development corporations (EDCs) in communities of all sizes utilize these funds for a variety of purposes which enhance prosperity and have generated substantial increases in business activity and jobs. It represents the first major public investment in Texas job creation, and it remains by far the largest single source of resources allowing Texas to compete with other states and areas around the globe for economic activity.

We recently estimated the economic benefits of projects facilitated by the sales tax for economic development. (The full report, including results by industry and some specific examples from communities across the state, is available free on our website at www.perrymanngroup.com.) We found that over 20% of net new jobs

generated in Texas in the past 30 years have in some way involved efforts supported by the economic development sales tax.

These projects have also led to multiplier effects across all aspects of business activity, and we estimate that the total economic benefits include more than \$110.1 billion in annual gross product and almost 1.2 million jobs. These benefits are spread across industries and positively affect communities large and small throughout the state.

This huge economic stimulus also generates tax receipts through increasing retail sales, enhancing the property tax base and therefore property taxes, and other channels. We estimate that the fiscal benefits to the State of Texas from projects facilitated by the sales tax for

economic development include \$7.1 billion per year, with \$4.9 billion per year to local taxing entities across the state (cities, counties, school districts, and special districts). The return on taxpayer investments is substantial, with every dollar of economic development sales tax revenues bringing \$8.49 to the State and \$5.87 to local taxing authorities.

The sales tax for economic development has long been an indispensable asset in keeping Texas at the forefront of desirable corporate location activity. Future prosperity of communities across Texas and the state as a whole has been greatly enhanced by the resources provided by the tax, and, in the post-COVID-19 environment, such resources will only become more crucial to success. Be safe!!



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## ARE YOU HONORING GOD?

God said, "Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Sam. 2: 30). Millions of people have discovered this to be true in their own lives. Of course, He doesn't mean He only loves those who love Him first. First John 4: 19 says, "We love Him because He first loved us." Romans 5: 8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God loves ALL people.

However, though God loves all men, God does not honor all men. When it comes to honoring people, God reacts to us according to how we react to Him. Remember, 1 Sam 2: 30 says, "Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed." Thus, we should often ask ourselves whether we are honoring God in our lives. This means more than merely believing there is a God. It means more than merely saying the Bible is God's Word. It means more than occasionally praying to God in times of desperation and fear.

In Malachi 1: 6, God asks: "A son honors his father, and a servant His master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is my reverence?" Isaiah said: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Mk. 7: 21). John 12: 26 says: "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

So, really honoring God is not just lip-service, it is something a person does by deeds as well as by words. It is done Monday through Saturday, as well as on Sunday! One really honors God by serving and following His Son and living the lifestyle God prescribes in His Word, the Bible. Think on these things.

## Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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# Local men indicted on drug charges

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Adam Salazar Rivas, 41, of Henderson, assault against police officer on June 2. He remained in county jail under \$50,000 bond.  
 Brent Lee Bankston, a Gilmerite who turns 41 Friday, burglary of habitation on June 30, \$5,000  
 Marshall Ray Tucker, 42, of Pittsburg, harassment of public servant on May 31, \$5,000  
 Rodney Odale Wesley, 52, of Gilmer, retaliation on May 20. Bond was set at \$10,000, but he remained in county jail without bond on a motion to revoke his probation.  
 Michael Timothy Caffey, 43, of Gilmer, evading arrest/detention with vehicle on June 23. He also remained in county jail under \$15,000 bond.  
 Keenan Levon Lister, 20, of Gilmer, attempt to take weapon from officer on May 25. He too remained in county jail under \$30,000 bond.  
 Keith Fred Constant II, 44, of Longview, driving while intoxicated-subsequent offense on June 17. He too remained in county jail under \$100,000 bond.  
 Tyler Wayne Craig, 28, of Gilmer, was charged in five separate indictments--three for burglary of habitation, and one each for

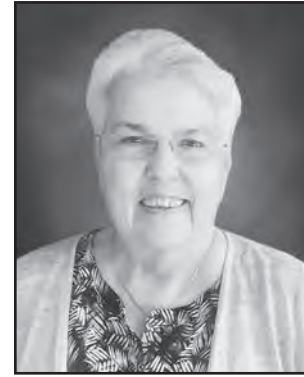
unlawful possession of firearm by felon and unauthorized use of motor vehicle, all on May 28.  
 Bond was set at \$25,000 on the possession charge and \$10,000 on the unauthorized use charge, but he remained in county jail without bond on a "blue warrant" alleging he violated parole.  
 Rebecca Chilton Reliford, 47, of Ore City, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) with intent to deliver on July 25, 2019, \$35,000 START  
 Jennifer Marie Gonzalez, 33, of Jefferson, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Feb. 19, 2019, \$10,000  
 Identity of anyone charged in the sealed indictments was not disclosed since no arrest has been made in those cases, Byrd said.  
 Those indictments included three for forgery (including a single indictment on two counts of that offense), one each for assault/family violence--occlusion, assault/family violence with previous conviction, sexual assault of a child, debit card abuse, theft of property (of) less than \$2,500 with two or more convictions and theft of property of the value of \$2,500 or more but less than \$30,000.  
 Except for a murder case in which Byrd said a defendant was no-billed because he acted in self-defense (see separate story), nature of the no-billed cases was not disclosed.

## OBITUARY

### JANE OLIVIA (SHEPPERD) PARTON

Jane Olivia (Shepperd) Parton, age 81, of Gladewater, Texas, 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.

Memorial service UPDATE: 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

Dusty Puddles Dachshund Rescue  
 2503 County Rd. 7820  
 Lubbock, TX 79423

Gladewater Fire Department  
 PO Box 1725  
 Gladewater, TX 75647



## A&M System Regents OK \$60.3M for Army innovation hypersonic test facility, combat vehicle test track attracting global interest

The Texas A&M University System soon will operate the biggest enclosed hypersonic testing facility in the nation and a new place to try out high-tech combat vehicles.

In two votes Thursday, members of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents appropriated \$60.3 million for projects at the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex (BCDC) on the RELIS Campus in Bryan.

The BCDC is being built as part of an agreement between the Texas A&M System and Austin-based U.S. Army Futures Command.

Its facilities will be used

to conduct research and test prototypes as the Army tries to accelerate high-tech development for next-generation battlefield readiness.

Leaders of other military branches, tech entrepreneurs, defense industry executives and U.S. allies already have shown interest in using Bush Complex facilities once they are completed, said John Sharp, chancellor of the Texas A&M System.

"There will be no other place like it in the world," Sharp said.

Regents appropriated \$22.5 million for the hypersonic and directed energy testing range called BAM, which stands for Ballistic, Aero-Optics, and

Materials. Construction is scheduled to begin in February, with substantial completion by October 2022.

BAM will be the largest enclosed testing range of its kind in the United States, bridging a critical gap in U.S. research between lab-scale experiments and open-range testing.

When complete, BAM will be one kilometer long and two meters in diameter, with instrumentation to fully support testing and evaluation of high-energy lasers, hypersonic flight, and hypersonic impact of materials.

Regents also approved \$37.8 million for a next-generation vehicle test track called the

Innovation Proving Ground (IPG). Building is scheduled to start in May, and completion is expected a year later.

The IPG will host experiments on autonomous aerial, ground and subterranean vehicles and the various systems, equipment and instruments needed to operate them in battlefield conditions.

Time, space and position tracking will capture precisely what's going on with vehicles and their payloads. Data will be stored on the vehicles and sent for analysis to the BCDC's Research Integration Center (RIC), which is already under construction at RELIS.

State funding to establish and equip the IPG was appropriated in 2019 by the Texas Legislature, which specifically instructed the Office of the Governor to transfer \$50 million to the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), for supporting critical emerging technologies for national defense.

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Be a 'serial' giver and load up Manna House community food ministry with boxes of cereal which is currently in short supply. Donations may be dropped off at the Gladewater Mirror, 211 N. Main Street weekdays during business hours or at Manna House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Financial donations may be mailed to Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater 75647.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



## Former E. Mt. fire chief gets 8 years

Continued from Page 1

purchase spa treatments for his girlfriend and would purchase Christmas gifts with the money. The investigators proved he stole over \$40,000.

"The fire department was greatly impacted by the actions of the former chief. Burks asked for probation and made promises to pay the money back. However, in over one year he failed to pay any money back since confronted with these allegations by the fire department," Byrd added.

Fowler "decided against probation after argument from the state," the prosecutor said. Longview attorney Craig Bass represented Burks.

Burks was arrested Sept. 5, 2019, six days after the county's grand jury charged him in a sealed indictment, said sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel. Jail records show the former chief was released on bond 10 days later.

The indictment alleged Burks "knowingly and recklessly" misappropriated at least \$30,000, but less than \$150,000, by using the funds for "gambling, trips, personal purchases, food and to purchase gifts for his girlfriend." He was charged with committing the offense on or about July 16, 2018. Burks faced two to 10 years in prison for the third-degree felony, and also could have been fined up to \$10,000 and ordered to repay the stolen funds, Byrd said in January.

Sheriff Larry Webb had announced in May 2019 that his office was investigating a criminal complaint received May 23 from then-East Mountain Fire Chief Cecil David Aills "related to allegations of misappropriation of departmental funds by a member of the East Mountain Volunteer Fire Department."

The department member was not identified at the time in a four-paragraph news release which was emailed to news

organizations by Hazel, chief deputy of the patrol division of the sheriff's office. However, the week after the release was issued, a city spokeswoman said the fire department had terminated Burks as fire chief the prior week; named Aills, who had been assistant chief, as interim chief; and had then elected John Santos permanent chief while Aills became assistant chief.

In a January news release, Byrd wrote that while Burks was the department's elected chief, department members began noticing "discrepancies in the bank statement received by the agency." Burks had "entered into a relationship with" an unnamed "woman associated with the EMVFD bookkeeping," the district attorney added.

"When asked for supporting documentation regarding questionable purchases, Burks was unable to provide any, which prompted the EMVFD to contact law enforcement.

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Kamryn Floyd (8) rises to strike the ball back across the net. Photo by Chris Jones



Hai'leigh Oliver (2) and Bri Boyd (10) watch as Adasyn Williams (7) spikes the ball. Photo by Chris Jones

### Gladewater Lady Bears fall in 3

West Rusk beat Gladewater (17-25, 21-25, 12-25) Friday night at Bill Waters Gymnasium. Hal'leigh Oliver led the Lady Bears with 5 kills, adding an assist, a dig, and 3 block assist. Bri Boyd added 2 kills, 4 blocks, and 3 block assists. Adasyn Williams and Kamryn Floyd each had a kill with Williams adding an ace.

The Lady Bears hosted Jefferson Tuesday (Aug. 25) before traveling to Central Heights on Friday.

## Gladewater Lady Bears



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

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Lexi Hart reacts quickly to keep a hard serve in play. Photo by Chris Jones

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### Garrison beats Union Grove in 4

The Lady Lions dropped the first two sets (20-25, 19-25) before winning a hotly contested 3rd set (26-24).

Trailing (20-13) in the 4th, Garrison gained momentum, taking the set (22-25).

Carleigh Judd led the Lady Lions with 18 kills while Avery Brooks added 13. Makenna Littlejohn had 34 assists as Sydney Chamberlain contributed 27 digs.

Union Grove travels to Hughes Springs on Tuesday (August 25) before returning home for another Saturday morning contest against Longview Heat.

**LEFT : Maci Williams (9) digs a hard strike to keep the play alive**  
**BELOW: Makenna Littlejohn (2) watches as Carleigh Judd (15) strikes the ball back to the Garrison side of the net**

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



Avery Brooks (12) keeps the ball in play.  
 Photos by Chris Jones

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

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# Gladewater Bears 2020 Football Season Preview

By Ellis Hayden

## Aug. 27 Gladewater Bears vs Gilmer Buckeyes at Home - 7:30 p.m.

The Bears meet the Buckeyes for the first time since 2017. This long-standing rivalry has been dominated by Gilmer over the last 20 years. The Buckeyes are ranked #5 in Class 4A Division II pre-season polls. New coach Alan Metzler has 11 starters returning from a 10-4 season last year. The last 5 games have been close. Players to watch: QB Mason Hurt, WR/DB Dylan Fluellen, RB Davian Smith, LB Luke Watson

## Sept. 4 Gladewater Bears vs Spring Hill Panthers at Home - 7:30 p.m.

The Panthers went 6-6 last season reaching the area round of the Class 4A Division 2 playoffs under Coach Louvier. With 13 returning starters, new coach Weston Griffin faces off with his former boss. Will need to fill the need of QB following a 4 year starter.

Players to Watch: WR/DB Curtis Crowe, OL Aaron Collier, RB Devonte Powers, LB Brody Barnhill

## Sept. 11 Gladewater Bears vs Center Roughriders at Center - 7:30 p.m.

The Roughriders have 10 offensive and 9 defensive starters back following a 6-5 campaign last year under Scott Ponder. Strong in the trenches with balance offense. Center is projected to finish third in District 10-4A Division 2 behind Carthage and Jasper. Players to Watch: RB Keomodre Horace, QB Jake Hanson, DL Colton Crawford

## Sept. 18 Gladewater Bears vs Kilgore Bulldogs at Kilgore - 7:30 p.m.

The Bulldogs are ranked #20 in the preseason poll following a down year in 2019 at 5-6, but are expected to contend for the District 9-4A Division I district title against Lindale and Henderson. Coach Mike Woods has 11 starters returning from last year's team. Players to Watch: QB Dalton McElyea, LB Brian Brown, RB Tray Epps, WR Donovan Adkins

## District 6-3A Division 1 Competition 9/25 Gladewater Bears vs Tatum Eagles at Home - 7:30 p.m.

The Eagles missed the playoffs last season with a 3-7 record overall and 2-4 district record. Coach Jason Holman has 18 starters returning which could put Tatum in the mix for the district crown. Projected 4th behind Gladewater, Atlanta and Jefferson. Players to Watch: RB/LB Decartian Allison, QB/LB JaPatrick Blanton, WR/DB Dexter Monroe

## Oct. 2 Gladewater Bears vs New Boston Lions at New Boston - 7:30 p.m.

The Lions are coming off a dismal 2019 campaign with only one

win. With 6 starters returning on each side of the ball, Coach Justin Waltz is looking to improve the Lions fortunes in 2020. Players to Watch:

QB/DB Kyle Atkinson, FB/LB Kevon Thompson, LB Brian Reid, OL/DL Cody Rutherford

## Oct. 9 Gladewater Bears vs Atlanta Rabbits at Home - 7:30 p.m.

Coach Matt McClure's Rabbits are ranked at #18 in the pre-season polls. Fortunately, the Bears get them on their home turf. With 12 returning starters, the Rabbits be challenging for the district title. Their LB Parker is pre-season pick for defensive MVP. Players to Watch: LB De'Korian Parker, RB Caleb Hamilton, WR Terunte Neal,

## Oct. 16 Gladewater Bears vs Jefferson Bulldogs at Jefferson - 7:30 p.m.

The Bulldogs lost in the area finals to Malakoff, but Coach Antwain Jimmerson will be rebuilding his team hit hard by graduation. The Bulldogs rarely go down without a fight. Look for them to be competing for a playoff berth in October. Players to Watch: WR Christian Shepherd, QB Joshua Thomas, DB Zion Hopes and DL Alex Romano

## 10/23 Gladewater Bears vs White Oak Roughnecks at Home - 7:30 p.m.

The Roughnecks went 0-10 last year. But Coach Kris Iske has a group to build around so with 8 starters on offense and 7 on defense this season. They may not compete for a playoff berth, they just might spoil another team's chances.

Player to Watch: FS/WR Colton Cobb, LB/RB Michael Stevens, WR/LB Dylan Creager, DE/RB Rylie Redden

## Oct. 30 Gladewater Bears v Sabine Cardinals at Sabine - 7:30 p.m.

The Bears will wrap-up their district schedule on the road against the Cardinals. Coach Rex Sharp's team is coming off a 10-2 season who was 5-1 in district last year. The Bears can't be looking ahead to playoffs against the Cardinals, as they should be in the mix for a playoff berth. Players to Watch: RB/LB Brannigan Willige, DL Asher Foster, QB/DB Jace Burns, DB/WR Cayden Fortson

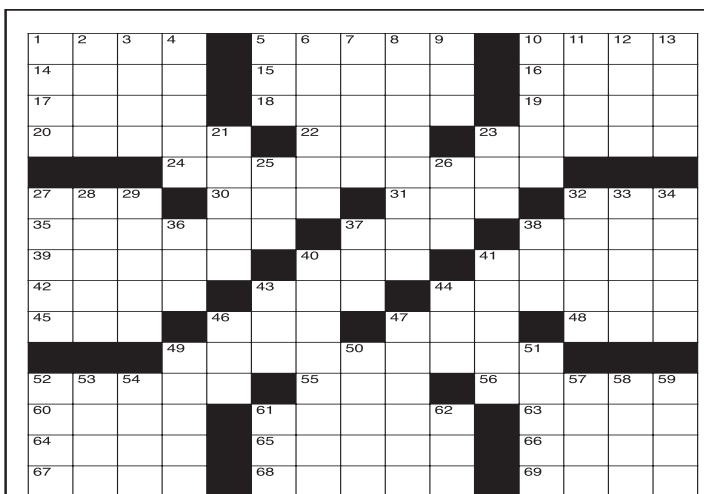
## Nov. 6 Open Date for the Gladewater Bears Nov. 13 Class 3A Division I Region II Playoff Picks

The #6 Gladewater Bears are picked by Dave Campbell's Texas Football to win District 6-3A Division I, followed by Atlanta, Jefferson and Tatum.

The top four teams likely to come out of District 5-3A Division I will be #3 Pottsboro followed by Winnsboro, Mineola and Mt. Vernon.

The top four teams likely to come out of District 7-3A Division I will be #2 Grandview followed by Whitney, Dallas Madison and West

The top four teams likely to come out of District 8-3A Division I will be #4 Malakoff followed by Fairfield, Teague and Kemp.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Aurochs
5. Central Dravidian language
10. Split pulses in Indian cooking
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
15. Well known constellation
16. About aviation
17. Bowfin genus
18. Proper
19. Expression of annoyance
22. Bro or sis
23. Spiritual leader
24. Where football coaches work
27. Old TV part
30. A way to color
31. Touch lightly
32. Surround: \_\_\_ Centaurus
35. Breached
37. Aristocratic young woman
38. Dry ravine
39. Hebrew measurement units
40. Supporter
41. Type of sword
42. Influential Irish playwright
43. Witch
44. Flower cluster
45. Mark Wahlberg's animal friend
46. Psychedelic amphetamine
47. Actors' group
48. Cool!
49. Salts
52. Group of SE China
55. Illuminated
56. Semitic Sun god
60. Water (Spanish)
61. Employed
63. Japanese ankle sock
64. Fishing fly
65. Some pheasants are this
66. Literary name for Ireland
67. Must have
68. A way to write
69. One point east of southeast

### CLUES DOWN

1. American state
2. Hindu model of ideal man
3. Type of acid
4. Drenches
5. "The Raven" writer
6. Emerged
7. Alpha Centauri: \_\_\_ Kentaurus
8. Democratic Presidential candidate
9. Hostelry
10. Fathers
11. Any plant with leaves used for flavoring
12. Member of a Semitic people
13. Lesotho monetary unit
21. Lots
23. Jewish address for "Sir"
25. Male parent
26. A way to get
27. Body part
28. Seam in an organ
29. Landlocked African country
32. Process for producing ammonia
33. Fluid accumulation in tissues
34. Bugged down
36. Native American tribe
37. Unfashionable person
38. Female grunts
40. Well known
41. Gurus
43. Norse mythological site
44. Tell on
46. \_\_\_ Farrow, actress
47. Cotton fabric
49. Reciter of Scandinavian poems
50. Clouds
51. Satisfies
52. Shuttered Air Force base in Germany
53. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
54. Japanese seaport
57. Female horse or zebra
58. 1st month of ancient Hebrew calendar
59. Trigonometric function
61. Fashionable knowledge (Stang)
62. Insecticide

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C	R	T		T	A	N		D	A	B		H	E	M
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T	E	D		M	E	M		S	A	G		R	A	D
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## NY Giants sign Daylon Mack

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. – The Giants last week released kicker Chandler Catanzaro and signed free agent defensive tackle Daylon Mack.

"I appreciate what Chandler did for us. I have a lot of respect for him," coach Joe Judge said.

A 6-1, 340-pounder, the former Gladewater Bear played in one game in 2019 for the Baltimore Ravens (Sept. 29 vs. Cleveland).

Mack was a fifth-round draft choice (No. 160 overall) last year by the Ravens out of Texas A&M. He was released by Baltimore on Aug. 1 and signed the following day by the Detroit Lions, who waived him on Aug. 7.

Mack played in 52 games with 14 starts at Texas A&M and finished his career with 108 tackles (52 solo) and 8.0 sacks.



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.





GPD ACTIVITY REPORT

Table with columns: CALL DATE, CALL DESC, CFS#, CALL TIME, BUSINESS NAME, ADDRESS. Contains a detailed log of police activities from 8/17/20 to 8/24/20.



Gladewater Boy Scout Troop 198 members Cajay Taylor, Austin Bateman, Jake Lowry, Noah Smith, Nathan Smith and Landon Brown decided to work on a community cleanup project and met Saturday to clean up around Lake Gladewater...

Courtesy Photo

Upshur County couple indicted for identity theft in connection with CARES Act Economic Impact payments

A couple from Gilmer, Texas has been indicted and charged with federal violations in the Eastern District of Texas, announced U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Cox today.

Dalton Brewer and Emilee Fenton, both 24, were indicted by a federal grand jury on August 19, 2020 and charged with conspiracy to unlawfully transfer, possess, and use a means of identification.

Free classes offered to local law enforcement officers on gas pump skimmers

The East Texas Police Academy (ETPA) at Kilgore College will offer highly specialized training courses at no cost to local law enforcement officers to improve gas pump skimmer enforcement...

Classes are free thanks to a Texas Department of Agriculture training grant secured by East Texas Council of Governments.

These courses will train officers on how to identify skimmers, collect vital evidence that can lead to the prosecution of criminals installing the devices on gas pumps and provide information on how officers and their departments can educate store owners on both securing gas pumps and preventing them from being tampered with by unauthorized persons.

Two classes will be offered on the Kilgore campus on Wednesday, Aug. 26, specifically designed for patrol officers.

A session will be from 8 a.m. to noon, and the second will be from 1 to 5 p.m.

Officers from multiple local law enforcement agencies are scheduled to attend.

Because of social-distancing requirements due to COVID-19, seating is limited in each session.

Officers who wish to attend are strongly encouraged to contact the ETPA office at (903) 983-8663 to reserve a spot in the class.

of identifying information. Fenton was also charged with theft of government money and aggravated identity theft for her role in obtaining two Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) using the means of identification of other persons.

The CARES Act is a federal law enacted on March 29, 2020, designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the CARES Act, qualifying individuals may receive up to \$1,200 in EIPs per adult, up to \$2,400 for married couples filing jointly, and \$500 per child under 17 years old.

Fraudsters engaged in identity theft to steal taxpayer refunds have now turned their attention to stealing Economic Impact Payments, said U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Cox.

It's disheartening to see individuals and communities

already facing challenges related to COVID-19 be targeted with crimes like these, said Kitty Larco, Acting Inspector in Charge of the Fort Worth Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), and its law enforcement partners, will aggressively pursue those who endeavor to steal Economic Impact Payments afforded to the American public under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act,

IRS Criminal Investigation continues to pursue identity thieves who view the American taxpayer as an easy target, said Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge Marcus Henderson of the Dallas Field Office.

Today's indictments highlight our commitment to protecting the very people the Economic Impact Payments were intended to benefit during this global crisis.

If convicted, Brewer and Fenton face up to 15 years in federal prison. A grand jury indictment is not evidence of guilt.

Body found near Big Sandy, death ruled self-inflicted

By Phillip Williams

A Henderson man whose body was found outside the Big Sandy city limits Monday morning may have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, said Upshur County Sheriff's Deputy David Hazel.

Ronald Beuford Maxey, 69, was pronounced dead at the scene on U.S. 80 about a mile east of city limits by Upshur County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Anthony Betterton, who ordered an autopsy, Hazel said.

A passerby found Maxey's body off the highway and notified the sheriff's office just after 11:30 a.m., the chief deputy said.

While Maxey appeared to be the victim of a gunshot wound, indicators suggest the possibility of an intentional self-inflicted event, Hazel said.

Investigators will follow up and review autopsy results before making a final determination of cause of death, he added.

Maxey's next of kin has been notified, Hazel said.

GPD ARREST REPORT

Table with columns: ARREST DATE, TIME, FULL NAME, RACE, SEX, OFFENSE, LOCATION ADDRESS. Shows three arrests on 8/18/20 and 8/20/20.

Helpful Contact Numbers ...

Table of contact numbers for various services: Chamber of Commerce (903-845-5501), GEDCO (903-845-5441), Gladewater Mirror (903-845-2235), Gregg Co. PCT #3 J.P. (903-845-2672), etc.

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# Upshur County grand jury no-bills man in murder case

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury, having viewed video evidence, has no-billed Matthew Gregory Harris on a murder charge, finding that he legally acted in self-defense when he shot a man June 18 in Rhonesboro community, said District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Harris, 36, of Gilmer, had been arrested on murder charges after shooting his acquaintance Michael Clint Moses, 45, of Gilmer, at a home in the 200 block of Private Road 3051, said Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb in a news release soon after the incident.

Wood County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Tony Gilbreath said he pronounced Moses dead that morning at the UT Health

Quitman hospital after doctors ruled time of death at 8:18 a.m. An autopsy provisionally showed Moses suffered a gunshot wound to the aorta and heart's right atrium, the judge said.

Moses had been making threats against Harris and, on the day of the shooting, a dash cam in the shooter's vehicle "captured Moses running at Harris in his truck and saying 'Matthew Harris was going to die,'" Byrd said in a press release last Thursday after the grand jury no-billed the case in Gilmer Aug. 13.

In a news release Friday, Byrd said sheriff's deputies were dispatched after Harris made a 911 call and told operators he shot Moses. Harris also said he "would be en route to his home and be waiting on deputies to arrive,"

Byrd said.

"This phone call clearly demonstrated how distraught Matthew was," the district attorney added.

Byrd added these details of events leading up to and following the shooting:

Moses had recently made threats against Harris to others while wanting "Harris to pawn items to help him make bail" from the Van Zandt County Jail. When Harris did not, Moses "became increasingly aggravated at" him and appeared at Harris' home twice in days leading up to the shooting.

The district attorney's lengthy news release detailed Harris' background as a military combat veteran who later met Moses, and procured drugs from him.

Investigation showed Harris was from New York, and enlisted in the United States Army the day after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack against New York City and other locales. He suffered combat wounds in the Middle East, was medically discharged after nearly 11 years' service, and moved with his wife to Texas after a New York school district prohibited his child from bringing a Bible to school.

"Following his discharge from the military, he began to use and abuse alcohol, which then led to other drugs being used as a coping mechanism. His wife and children moved back to New York while Matthew stayed in Texas. The VA helped them purchase a home in northwest Upshur County."

Harris had recently met Moses, who "had a long history with law enforcement and was known to be a member of the Aryan Circle Brotherhood, a criminal gang. Michael began providing drugs to Matthew Harris and somewhat of a friendship began."

The week before the shooting, Moses, who was in a stolen truck, was arrested in Van Zandt County "for possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver after a large amount of drugs were found following a traffic stop." Byrd's office contacted that county "to retrieve recorded

jail calls," and found Moses made "several death threats."

After bonding out of the Van Zandt County Jail on or about June 13, Moses appeared the next day at "Harris' home with an axe making threats. Harris called 911, but Moses fled prior to deputies arriving." On June 17, Moses was back, "trying to get into the home. Deputies made contact and issued a criminal trespass warning to Moses."

The next day, Moses "had enlisted the help" of an individual Byrd identified only as Randy Price. "While sitting across the road from Harris' home, Moses and Price waited" in a Corvette stolen from Wood County. "That morning, Harris went to leave his home and saw the stolen car on the side of the road, but did not recognize it" and proceeded to a home about six miles away, followed by Moses and Price.

"Moses jumped from the Corvette when Harris stopped" and the dash cam recorded him saying Harris would die. "Moses tried to grab Harris through his window and Harris pulled a 9 mm handgun from his waist and shot him one time" before driving away and calling 911.

Price picked up Moses, who was driven to the Quitman hospital.

"When deputies arrived,

Harris had the Glock 9 mm laid on the ground, clip removed and the slide locked back. He was arrested and remained cooperative. He remained in the Upshur County Jail until this action by the grand jury." (Soon after the incident, the sheriff's office said Harris was jailed under \$500,000 bond set by Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter).

Sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel has said that following the shooting, Harris was arrested at a home in the 300 block of Private Road 4351 about five miles from the shooting scene. Webb has said deputies were dispatched to the shooting about 7:40 a.m.

Said Byrd in the news release, "We have worked with his (Harris') attorney, Matthew Patton, and the Veterans Administration on taking possession of Harris and they have done so. Harris has spent time in the VA hospital for mental health treatment and also subsequent surgeries for his wounds.

"While any death is a tragedy, the absolute right of self-defense, including deadly force, was justified in this case. We appreciate the hard work of the Upshur County Grand Jury in arriving at this decision," Byrd concluded.



Bennie Moore reports that the dirt work has begun on the Red Rock Historical Association's Activity/Community Center. She says the with a hoped for completion date of November with John Paul Tallent acting as construction project supervisor. Moore said that the land which encompasses 4.2 acres was donated by sisters Carolyn McAlister and Marilyn Scott. Their father, Rev. B.W. Lockett was a well-known minister in the East Texas area having served at Longview's historic Galilee Baptist Church and as dean of a school established there, as well as serving at other churches during his call to service.

Community members wishing to donate funds to help with the project may mail checks to the Red Rock Historical Assn. P.O. Box 230, Gladewater, 75647 or go online to redrockha.org to learn more about the association and its work as well as a link under 'Support' to make online donations.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



Last week the Gladewater Mirror announced that Rhonda Dunahoe was recognized with the 2019-20 PCAT Bus Driver of the Year Award by the Gladewater ISD school board. Pictured with Dunahoe is school board president Jon Keller, GISD Supt. Sedric Clark and GISD Director of Transportation Steve McFarland. Dunahoe's husband Bill also was present at the presentation, but was not pictured in the photo. We apologize and regret any unintended confusion in identifying those in last week's photograph.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

## NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$.751562
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$.751562
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$.772274

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2020 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Gladewater from the same properties in both the 2019 tax year and the 2020 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that the City of Gladewater may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that the City of Gladewater is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

A public meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 6pm at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, TX 75647.

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, the City of Gladewater is not required to hold an election to seek voter approval of the rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Gladewater City Council at Gladewater City Hall, or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

Your taxes owed under any of the above rates can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = \text{tax rate} \times \text{taxable value of your property} / 100$$

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Gladewater last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Gladewater this year.

	2019	2020	Change
Total Tax Rate	.749999	.751562	Increase of .001557 per \$100, or .2084%
Average homestead taxable value	\$119,942	\$121,739	Increase of 1.49%
Tax on average homestead	\$899.56	\$914.94	Increase of \$15.38, or 1.71%
Total Tax Levy on all properties	\$2,429,083	\$2,464,835	Increase of \$35,752.59, or 1.47%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for more information:

**Gregg County**  
Kirk Shields, CPA, PCC  
Tax Assessor-Collector  
101 E. Methvin  
Longview, TX 75601  
903-237-2552  
[Kirk.Shields@co.gregg.tx.us](mailto:Kirk.Shields@co.gregg.tx.us)  
[www.co.gregg.tx.us](http://www.co.gregg.tx.us)

**Upshur County**  
Luana Howell  
Tax Assessor-Collector  
215 N. Titus  
Gilmer, TX 75644  
903-843-3085  
[lhowell@countyofupshur.com](mailto:lhowell@countyofupshur.com)  
[www.countyofupshur.com](http://www.countyofupshur.com)

## Council fills GEDCO board, discusses wakeboating at lake

Continued from Page 1

has to stop using his \$150,000 boat on Lake Gladewater he will sell his home and move. He also told the council he had spoken to his attorneys and said legal action was possible if the council rescinds the rules.

Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp said he was offended by the threat of legal action - saying he hoped the man had given the council more credit when all possible compromises have not been explored.

Those opposed to the wake boats claim the boats are big and heavy, built to produce very large waves, which causes shoreline erosion

After a lengthy discussion, Shipp suggested the council send the issue back to the Lake Board for more discussion with lake

residents and boaters.

In other business the council approved the demolition of structure located at 519 Roden Lane, following a public hearing, and the council approved a variance request for covered parking to be added to a home at 203 Oak Drive.

A public hearing was held regarding proposed budget and proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2021 and no one spoke for or against the proposed \$0.751562 proposed tax rate to fund the \$4.3 million general budget.

After interviewing five of 11 applicants for the two vacant GEDCO board seats, the council voted to place local banker Luke Kimbrough and former mayor and home builder John Paul Tallent to the board.

The vacancies become open when former GEDCO board members Marsha Byrd and Larry Clemens resigned after the city council replaced three incumbent board members.

The council also amended an ordinance ordering the election for the City of Gladewater and an ordinance postponing the election until November 3, 2020.

An ordinance amending the Lake Gladewater swimming regulations also was approved. The change addresses a safety issue and says no one under the age of 16 may swim in the designated swimming area without adult supervision. This does not apply to homeowner's

property.

The council also amended an ordinance addressing "Dangerous Structures; Condemnation," which is designed to stop transients from sheltering in abandoned homes in the city.

Council members approved two Gladewater Fire Department requests - Fire Protection Agreement between City of Gladewater and Upshur County ESD #1 and Fire Protection Agreement between City of Gladewater and Upshur County ESD #1 as the agent for the City of Union Grove.

The city was asked to amend the "School Resource Officer Agreement" between the City and GISD for the 2020-2021 school year for raises which will be paid by the school district.

The council also approved an interlocal cooperation contract with Texas State University for tobacco enforcement. The funding will allow local police to conduct stings to catch underage tobacco purchases.

Regulations regarding game rooms and amusement redemption machines were reviewed. The regulations will help keep gaming establishments from locating in the city without meeting stringent rules.

Finally, the council accepted the resignation of city treasurer Amanda Hill, who has taken the city manager's job in the city of Rusk, near Tyler, after 2-1/2 years in Gladewater.





# Texas A&M research to examine mysteries of armyworms

A Texas A&M University graduate student received a research grant to better identify, understand and ultimately mitigate fall armyworm populations in Texas and the central U.S.

Ashley Tessnow, a doctoral candidate in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology, said armyworms have long been a pest that agriculture producers throughout the central U.S. have tried to manage. But despite the long-standing battle against fall armyworms, there is still a lot experts do not understand about the pest.

"There have been increased occurrences of major armyworm outbreaks over the past few years," she said. "And armyworms have also made it into news because they were introduced to Africa, Asia and Australia. With this increased attention, we have come to realize how little we actually know about them."

Tessnow's research, under the advisement of professor Greg Sword, Ph.D., Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology, will focus on identifying genomic differences in fall armyworm populations in Texas and beyond, which she hopes will ultimately help producers combat the pest more effectively and efficiently. Her research was awarded a \$51,574 grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

### Research to battle armyworms

Fall armyworms are green, brown or black in color and can be identified by the white inverted Y on their head. They can grow up to 1 inch in length when mature. The pest got its name because they appear to march across crop and hay fields like a military formation, consuming everything in their path.

The pest overwinters in South Texas and migrates north through the central U.S. and into Canada annually. Fall armyworms migrate as moths, but it's the caterpillars that are destructive to a wide range of crops, including corn, sorghum and forage grasses.

Tessnow is particularly interested in studying two distinct strains of fall armyworms as they migrate northward throughout annual growing seasons. These strains of fall armyworms are identical but have genetic differences that make them inherently different pests. The research will look at the C-strain, originally named for its prevalence in corn fields, and the R-strain, named for its identification in rice fields, but also known for consuming small grasses like Bermuda grass.

These fall armyworm strains are each a unique agricultural pest that exhibit different crop preferences and respond differently to insecticides, she said. Although these two strains are distinct, they can occasionally hybridize creating a third "unknown" type of pest.

This project will develop new genomic tools to effectively control armyworm infestations based on the strains present, Tessnow said.

The goal of the research is to use next-generation sequencing methods to characterize the populations of these two strains in the central U.S., she said. This will provide insights about which fall armyworm pests are present across different regions of Texas and the U.S., and how frequently these strains hybridize in each region.

"We'll be looking at genetic differences between these strains and any instances of hybridization as the moths migrate from south to north every year," she said. "We have preliminary data that shows the same populations of armyworms can be found from Weslaco to Minnesota, but we want to study the genomic structure and how these strains differ."

Tessnow said the research also



Fall armyworms can be distinguished by the upside-down, cream-colored "Y" shape on its head capsule. In large numbers, these insects can be devastating to crops, hayfields and pastures.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension photo by Bart Drees

aims to develop new diagnostic tools to differentiate between the strains. These tools could help identify novel approaches to effectively manage each strain separately or together in fields and/or hybrid strains that emerge during the annual migration.

"When collecting moths in corn and sorghum fields, which are expected to be primarily comprised of C-strain fall armyworms, we've found there is actually an even mix of both strains," she said. "So, we want to understand the relationship between strains, what is causing them to be genetically distinct, and look for patterns of hybridization. We know hybridization occurs between strains at relatively low rates, but we don't know how this may affect the fall armyworm's susceptibility to insecticides, including Bt crops."

### Armyworm research objectives

There are two objectives for Tessnow's research. First, Tessnow hopes to

identify small differences in the DNA of moths collected from five locations. She will also use these genetic differences to identify patterns of inter-strain hybridization from moths collected in the field.

Fall armyworm moth traps have been placed in corn or sorghum fields at five Texas locations including Weslaco, Corpus Christi, College Station and Lubbock, and Rosemount, Minnesota. At least 25 moth samples from each location will be collected at several times throughout the year.

DNA from 20 individuals per sampling point will be sent to the Texas A&M Genomics and Bioinformatics Service for DNA sequencing, she said. The DNA sequence data will be uploaded into the Texas A&M High Performance Research Computing Clusters, and bioinformatics analyses will be used to differentiate the C-strain, the R-strain and any inter-strain hybrids.



Newly-appointed city councilman Rocky Hawkins was caught, in his words, "just looking for something to do", cleaning up the vacated bank lot on Main Street. The owners of the building have a contracted lawn service that has fallen behind and Hawkins spent Monday morning weed eating the lot "to get it ready for mowing," he said. Community members are encouraged to join Hawkins, and others, who pitch in by picking up litter, weeding public plantings and more to help maintain and beautify Gladewater.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

## What's Happening?

### GISD Calendar

8/27, Thursday 4:30 p.m. GMS VB@Hawkins 7:30 p.m. Bears vs. Gilmer BLACKOUT Game—wear black	9/3, Thursday 5 p.m. JV Bears@SH	Progress Reports UGISD Calendar
8/28, Friday 4:30 p.m. JV/V VB Lady Bears@ Central Heights	9/4, Friday Homecoming 7:30 p.m. V Bears vs. SH—H	8/27, Thursday 6 p.m. JV FB vs. WO-H
8/29, Saturday 8 a.m. CC Gladewater Meet	9/5, Saturday 10 a.m. JV/V VB@Kilgore	8/28, Friday 7:30 p.m. V FB@Paris Chisum
9/1, Tuesday Progress Reports JV/V VB vs. Mineola—H	9/7, Monday Labor Day Holiday	8/29, Saturday 1 p.m. JV/V VB vs. Longview Heat JH/HS Cross Country@Gladewater
	9/8, Tuesday Students may change from virtual to on-campus learning	8/31, Saturday 4:30 p.m. JH VB vs. New Diana-H
	9/9, Wednesday	9/1, Tuesday 4:30 p.m. JV/V vs. Harmony-H

**SELL IT IN THE Classifieds**

903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladewatermirror.com

### Small Taxing Unit Notice

The Warren City Council will hold a meeting at 8:15 p.m. on September 8, 2020 at 3004 George Richey Rd. Gladewater, TX 75647 to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2020. The proposed tax rate is 25 per \$100 of value.

(\*Include this statement if the proposed tax rate exceeds the taxing unit's no-new-revenue tax rate calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04.)

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ %.

### HALLIBURTON REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS

## Texas Auctions Oct 7

Buildings Open: 11-2pm Fri Aug 28 & Sept 11  
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Text if you Can't

## SEEKING CITY TREASURER

The City of Gladewater is seeking a City Treasurer with strong financial and human resource background. Salary to be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The City Treasurer is appointed by the City Council and provides administrative direction to all municipal financial activities and supervises City Hall staff. Serves as Human Resource Director and Investment Officer.

Requirements: Minimum High School diploma or equivalent; licenses, college courses or related course work in public administration, business management and accounting. Preference will be given to CPA or bachelor's degree in accounting. Three years of government accounting or finance experience and progressive public administration management experience required. Texas Government Finance Officer Certification or ability to obtain within four years of hire. Obtain application form at [www.cityofgladewater.com](http://www.cityofgladewater.com). Send application along with resume and supporting documents to City Manager Ricky Tow at [rtow@cityofgladewater.com](mailto:rtow@cityofgladewater.com). Position open until filled with first resume review September 10, 2020. EEOC

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**Halliburton Real Estate Auctions – Texas Auctions Oct 7.** Locations Include Industrial, Warehouse, Office & Land Properties in Brownfield, Odessa & Sonora. Buildings Open: 11-2 p.m. Fri. Aug. 28 & Sept. 11. All Sell Without Reserve. TX Jeffrey Michael Ashby RE LIC 550021; Thomas E. Barnes III AUC LIC 6457. Call 800-801-8003, [williamsauction.com/halliburton](http://williamsauction.com/halliburton).

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