

Gladewater Mirror



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BEARS CLAIM DISTRICT TITLE

Gladewater defeats Sabine, prepares for playoffs

By Elizabeth McKamy

It wasn't perfect and it sure wasn't easy but the Gladewater Bears claimed the District 6-3A D1 crown with a 63-44 victory over the Cardinals of Sabine Friday night at James Bamberg Stadium in Liberty City.

Spotting the Cardinals 10 early points, QB Tristan Holmes got Gladewater rolling, throwing for 296 yards and 5 touchdowns in the 1st half, and the Bears used a 36-7 2nd Quarter swing to cruise to a 43-17 halftime lead. Holmes hit three different Gladewater receivers with TD passes in the 1st Half. WR DJ Allen caught TD passes of 39, 28 and 29 yards. Sr WR K'Havia Reese caught a 44 yard TD pass and Malachi Gordon added a 6 yard TD catch to give the Bears their 26 point halftime cushion.

Sabine, who had never beaten the Bears in 24 tries, weren't going to give up, roll over or lay down on their "Senior Night". After giving up another Gladewater touchdown on the opening drive of the 2nd Half, the Cardinals racked up 20 unanswered points to narrow the Bear lead to 12 with 10:57 left in the game. On the ensuing kickoff a pooch kick by Sabine was scooped up by the Bears Kolin Lewis and returned 26 yards to set Gladewater with good field position at their own 46 yard line. Four plays later RB Devon Walker powered his way into the endzone from 6 yards out to give the Bears a 56-37 lead, and breathing room, with 9:27 left in the contest.

It only took the Cardinals 1:40 to cut into the Gladewater lead once again. Going 81 yards in 6 plays Sabine QB Jace Burns hit WR Kaden Manning on a 57 yard touchdown strike making the



Gladewater Bears celebrate winning the District 6-3A D1 crown with a 63-44 victory over the Sabine Cardinals Friday night. Photo by Jim Bardwell

score 56-44 Bears with 7:47 left.

Gladewater scored their final points of the night after a recovery of a Sabine onside kick gave them the ball at their own 38 yard line. Five plays later Holmes threw his 6th TD pass of the night hitting Allen with a 28 yard strike to give the Bears a 63-44 lead with 5:18 left. The Gladewater defense did the rest, stopping the Cardinals on 4 straight downs to give the Bear offense the ball and run out the clock and claim the victory and the District crown.

The Bears have an open date to get ready for the playoffs where they will take on the 4th seed - most

TEAM	SCORE BY QUARTER				FINAL
	1	2	3	4	
GWATER	7	36	6	14	63
SABINE	10	7	13	14	44

GAME STATS

First Downs	Bears 31	Sabine 14
Rushing	Bears 35/198	Sabine 24/109
Passing	Bears 21/33/381/6 TD/Int	Sabine 20/33/369/4 TD/Int
Fumbles/Lost	Bears 2/1	Sabine 2/0
Punts	Bears 0	Sabine 3/31.6 avg
Penalties	Bears 3/35	Sabine 10/89

likely Mount Vernon - from the ever dangerous District 5. The site and date are yet to be determined. Congratulations to the Bear players and coaches on another District title.



Gladewater's K'Havia Reese sprints to the endzone against Sabine. Photo by Jim Bardwell



Downtown prepares for annual Holiday Open House Nov. 14

The annual Holiday Open House will be happening in less than two weeks - Nov. 14 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to be exact. Gladewater Public Works crews were busy spreading "The Magic of Christmas" throughout the downtown area Monday putting up the Downtown Christmas Tree and placing wreaths and holiday decorations up and down the streets.

The annual event will feature Santa's mailbox for all the eager children to drop off their letters to Santa and Christmas music flowing throughout the downtown district. The annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be held at 6 p.m., while hot chocolate will be served by the Gladewater Chamber, City of Gladewater and the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

After-hours shopping will highlight the event as many downtown shops will be decked out in holiday fare, while will Chamber sponsors a gift basket giveaway. The basket will be filled with donated items from Gladewater shops. There is no charge for visitors to participate and the winner will be announced by 8:30 that evening. Gift basket sign-ups will be available at select retailers.

To protect the safety and health of residents, visitors, and community - social distancing and masks are recommended. The event is sponsored by Downtown Merchants, Gladewater Tourism & Downtown Association, The Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, and Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the need to social distance, the annual downtown carriage rides will not be available this year.

City to get \$25,200 public safety grant

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) announced \$2.5 million in grants from the Office of the Governor's (OOG) Homeland Security Grants Division will be awarded to East Texas jurisdictions to prevent terrorism and improve security. The City of Gladewater will receive \$25,200 for inter-operable communications, which will be used by the Gladewater Fire Department for mobile and hand held units. Gregg County will get \$500,000 for a radio repeater/infrastructure project.

This funding from the OOG assists Texas jurisdictions in building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities to further the National Preparedness Goal which is, "A secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

'This is education's 9/11' - Superintendents meet with legislators

By Suzanne Bardwell

The 2021 Texas legislature will be dealing with the pandemic fallout, including financial and the necessity of balancing the state budget. Union Grove ISD Supt. Kelly Moore hosted a meeting of about 60 public school superintendents and legislators at the Lion Center last week to see what that will look like and its impact on public education.

White Oak ISD Supt. Brian Gray, who has been active in the Texas Association of Rural Superintendents for many years, organized the event. Senator Bryan Hughes (R), District 7 Rep. Jay Dean (R), District 9 Rep. Chris Paddie (R) and District 1 Rep. Dr. Gary VanDeaver (R) and the educators met in person and on ZOOM to address public education concerns and the upcoming state legislative session.

"This new normal is tough," Senator Hughes said. "I hope the old normal, or a better normal is coming. I can't think of anything that has affected us this quickly and hard. It certainly has done that with education."

Sen. Hughes said that legislators know when they are working to balance the budget every two years they are working with taxpayer money.

"Gov. Abbott asked each state agency to cut 5% but education was not included," he said. "I haven't heard anyone suggest cutting back on education. The world is different and we are going to be listening to you today. I am here to listen to you."

With Sen. Hughes serving as chairman of state affairs and of the education committees, his approach to gathering information was lauded by the educational leaders.

"I think it is imperative to have strong working relationships with our representatives in Austin," Gray said. "These type of discussions really lend themselves to positive outcomes when lines of communication are open and all points of view, regardless of topic are realized. I really appreciate Sen. Hughes and Representatives Dean, Paddie and VanDeaver attending and working with local districts to come up with solutions to the issues we all face."

Representative Paddie said that despite the challenging times there were silver linings.

"We now have a greater appreciation for what you (educators) do," he said. "I know it has been especially challenging on how to serve our kids and the struggles of virtual vs. classroom learning. Public

education has risen to the challenge."

Paddie said that figuring out how to open the Capitol for the January legislative session is a challenge.

"We pray for you every day," Harleton ISD Supt. Jay Ratcliff said. "As for opening the Capitol, just look at the thousands of schools in Texas that have figured that out."

Paddie went on to say that by law the budget is the number one legislative priority because by law, it must be balanced.

"I do feel that we have the tools to manage this," Paddie said. "Where we may see real problems come will be a full cycle later. After the economic fallout in 2008-09 we felt it in 2011. I don't think it will be that bad but we have to manage the situation."

Paddie said he didn't know of any legislator who wants to back up the work they did for education in the last session.

"With that being said, there is only so much money to go around and we have to balance that," Paddie said. "

LISD Supt. Stan Surratt told the legislators that administrators and school boards need a heads up on cuts.

Continued on Page 8

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Chris Cobler
Capital
Highlights



20 years of deaths daily on Texas roads

Texas is approaching a deadly milestone that the Texas Department of Transportation is working to prevent.

The last deathless day on Texas roads was Nov. 7, 2000. Through its campaign #EndTheStreak, TxDOT is trying to stop 20 consecutive years of daily deaths on Texas roads. During that time, more than 70,000 people have died.

An average of 10 people die every day in crashes in the state. "This is so horrific. Come on Texas! We can do better!" said Dr. Beverly Thompson Kuhn of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

A&M study analyzes Medicaid expansion

The state of Texas could deal with part of its looming budget shortfall by expanding Medicaid coverage, according to Republican Rep. Lyle Larson of San Antonio.

Larson's position, endorsed by the Texas Medical Association, came in response to a new Texas A&M study that Medicaid expansion would bring the state about \$5.4 billion from the federal government. Texas is one of 12 states that have chosen to not participate in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

Most state Republicans strongly oppose the Affordable Care Act, which is going before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"As we address the budget shortfall in the next session, we should seriously consider accessing federal Medicaid funding," Larson tweeted. "This recently released study shows Texas is losing out on \$5.4 billion while 38 other states are taking the federal dollars."

New law protects breastfeeding mothers

Women are allowed to pump breast milk anywhere in public, the Texas Comptroller's Office reminded the public in its latest issue of "Tax Policy News."

A bill passed in the last legislative session aims to make it clear for businesses and employers that breast pumping in public is allowed just as breastfeeding already was under Texas law.

Texas Health and Human Services offers support for breastfeeding mothers. The Texas Lactation Support Hotline number is 855-550-6667.



Butterflies are free; license plate is \$30

You can soon buy a Texas license plate that floats like a butterfly, or at least appears to do so.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently announced the winner of its newest conservation license plate design. The public selected its favorite monarch butterfly design through an online survey.

Proceeds from the sale of the plates go to help conserve monarch butterflies and other at-risk, non-game species native to Texas. To be notified when the plates go on sale in March, sign up at <http://bit.ly/TPWDEmailNotification>.

All conservation specialty plates cost \$30 a year, with \$22 going to the parks and wildlife agency.

Changes proposed to sexual assault laws

Look for laws regarding sexual assault to change in the upcoming legislative session.

The Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force has issued its first report to the Texas Legislature. The group began meeting earlier this year after being created by the passage of House Bill 1590 during the 2019 session.

The report includes 11 policy recommendations for the upcoming legislative session. A few of those:

- Remove law enforcement's ability to decline forensic medical examinations for sexual assaults reported within 120 hours and clarify language pertaining to law enforcement's ability to decline forensic medical examinations outside of 120 hours.
- Require law enforcement to complete the Office of the Attorney General's Law Enforcement Request for Sexual Assault Exam form for every sexual assault that is reported to them.
- Require that a forensic medical exam be offered to all children who report a sexual assault, including cases reported more than 120 hours post-assault.
- Remove the word "alleged" when referencing a sexual assault or other sex offense.

One-third of adult Texans, or 6.3 million people, have experienced sexual assault at some point in their lives, according to a 2015 study by the University of Texas at Austin's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Chris Cobler is a board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He welcomes email at ccobler@texaspress.com.

...what a wonderful place to be

I should be writing an articulate column on the significance of this election, whose results should be known by the time you receive this newspaper. I should be encouraging each reader to be respectful and supportive of our electoral process and each other.

But that isn't what this column is about. I am weary of political attack from left and right. I have two letters on my desk which are highly critical and threaten to damage our ability to make a living. I have two precious notes thanking us for our work and service in our communities. So I guess it balances out.

Balance is what we are missing on a lot of levels lately. Friends and neighbors, we are a small business. Family owned. Many of you know exactly what that means. You work seven days a week regardless of how you feel or what is happening in your life. How small-town newspapers have gotten lumped into the extreme anti-media bias of the moment is so discouraging, and frankly painful.

We are the people who cover your city council and school board meetings, service club projects, local school athletics and academic successes. We pledge time and money in support of local causes. Time and money that is often in short supply.

Oddly, there are many people who do not understand that we are a small, family-owned business. That our income is derived primarily from advertising. By the way, market research shows the highest return for advertising dollars spent for newspaper advertising. No kidding.

I grew up on a ranch. We obsessed about it being too wet or too dry. We obsessed about market conditions. We conserved for years when our herds were quarantined. We worked our tails off. We were proud of the job we did and the part we played in feeding America. What we didn't have to deal with was daily scrutiny and criticism on how we did our job.

I married a newspaperman, a charming good looking one for sure. And, I learned what it means to be publicly raked over the coals. But

**Suzanne
Bardwell**



you know what? I am so very proud of the job we do. I can guarantee that if you READ the newspaper you will learn things you need to know and things you want to know. The problem is that ink comes in a barrel and we buy paper by the ton. Employees like to be paid for their work and the electric company likes to be compensated. Printing bills can sometimes run in the thousands of dollars for a month of service to our communities. You might wonder why we are still working hard to bring this newspaper to your home.

We are here because of our commitment to serving you. All of you. All socio-economic levels, races, political persuasions and faiths. We are your HOMETOWN newspaper and we care about our community and you.

Please remember that we all really are in this together, and together we can create a better corner of our world. We are betting our livelihood that this corner of the world is one of the best.

And one more thing, if an article, regardless of whose byline is on it, is labeled a column or editorial, it is THEIR opinion. You decide whether to agree or not. That is what editorial/opinion pages are for. So please, don't get bent out of shape if you disagree with me or one of our other writers. After all, it's just our opinion and we can be just as right or wrong as the next guy. You get to decide.

So if your guy won, congrats! If they didn't, four years from now you will get a another shot. In the meantime, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work together on THIS corner of our world. It is a pretty wonderful place to be.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

The Pandemic: Another View

The high human cost and loss of life due to COVID-19 is tragic and staggering. Few of us remained untouched by the disease in one way or another, with over 6.7 million US cases. As of October 28, the coronavirus had contributed to the death of more than



226,000 people in the United States. While the suffering and hardships imposed by these losses are incalculable and our primary concern, the economic consequences can't be ignored.

A forthcoming study by Stephen J. Elledge, a virologist at Harvard Medical School, combines actuarial data on life expectancy and the distribution

of COVID-19 associated deaths to estimate lost person-years of life. The study indicates that over 2,500,000 person-years of life had been lost due to the pandemic in the US as of early October. My firm has taken this information, data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and our modeling systems to examine the resulting implications for business activity.

Although most of the fatalities have occurred among older age groups, we estimate that 2020 fatalities will cause a loss of well over 600,000 job-years (a person working for a year) over time (using the lower range of CDC estimates). This value is fully adjusted for age, gender, ethnicity, worklife probabilities, labor force participation, and stabilized unemployment rates.

As these direct losses flow through the economy in the coming years, the cumulative effects include declines of approximately \$200 billion in gross domestic product, \$120 billion in personal income, and two million job-years. This foregone activity is roughly equivalent to the annual amount generated in Louisiana or the Austin and Cleveland urban areas combined.

It should be noted that this measure does not begin to capture the full ramifications of the virus. The morbidity and lingering effects on those infected will reduce productivity over an extended period, as will the problems with forgone or delayed medical care among the rest of the population and the mental health challenges that are posed by the ongoing crisis. In addition,

there are the ongoing impacts on workers, households, and businesses that we try to measure and project on a continuing basis. The losses from fatalities are significant not only because of their magnitude, but also because they are both lingering and cannot be recouped.

Case numbers have been trending decidedly upward of late, and many hospitals are again becoming strained. If this pattern persists, the economic recovery will continue to suffer, particularly in the absence of a major new stimulus package. As the disease becomes better understood and effective therapeutics and vaccines are developed, both incidence and severity should be reduced. In the interim, we must do all that we can to minimize the fallout. Stay safe!

THOSE STUBBORN FACTS

Someone wisely observed, "Facts do not cease to exist because they are easily ignored." As John Adams said, "Facts are stubborn things."

That's certainly true in the natural world. Take, for example, the fact of gravity. Suppose one climbs to the top of a tall building, and jumps off, all the while saying there is no such thing as gravity? I'm sure you have heard about the person who said, "Don't confuse me with the facts. My mind already is made up." If the person who jumped off the tall building didn't learn anything else, he learned that "the hardest thing about facts is facing them" because the fact is, he would hit the bottom just as hard as anyone else would!

No, facts don't cease to exist because they are ignored. But, that's also true of what we might call "spiritual facts." Take for example what the Bible says about the importance of baptism. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16: 16). The apostle Peter preached, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins" (Acts 2: 38). The apostle Paul, recalling his own conversion, was told, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22: 16). The apostle Peter again said, "...baptism doth also now save us..." (1 Pet. 3: 21).

Friends, it is a fact that the Bible teaches people must be baptized to be saved. Ignoring that fact will not make it go away. But please remember, facts mean nothing unless they are rightly understood, rightly related, and rightly interpreted. Think on these things.

Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454-White Oak, TX 75693-903-845-6139-preachab@suddenlink.net



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Telephone: 903-845-2235
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Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

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Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell
Advertising: Suzanne Bardwell
Office Manager: Tiffany Harroff

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Gladewater receiver DJ Allen goes up for a pass in the end zone in the Bears' 63-44 victory over the Sabine Cardinals Friday night that clinched the District 6 3A D1 crown.
Photo by Jim Bardwell



Kolin Lewis reaches for a Tristan Holmes pass in the Bears' win over Sabine, 63-44, Friday night.
Photo by Jim Bardwell



Gladewater's K'Havia Reese catches a pass over his shoulder and helps the Bears clinch the District 6-3A D1 crown Friday night.
Photo by Jim Bardwell



Gladewater's defense held the Sabine running game to just 109 yards as the Bears clinch the District 6-3A D1 crown Friday night.
Photo by Jim Bardwell

SCORING SUMMARY

1st Quarter- Sabine goes 75 yards in 2 plays scoring on a 60 yard pass from Jace Burns to Kaden Manning. K. Jaimes was good making the score Bears 0 Sabine 7 with 11:42 left in 1st Quarter.
Sabine goes 30 yards in 7 plays scoring on a Jaimes 45 yard field goal making the score Bears 0 Sabine 10 with 4:56 left in 1st Quarter.
Bears go 65 yards in 3 plays scoring on a 39 yard pass from Tristan Holmes to DJ Allen. Justice Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 7 Sabine 10 with 4:01 left in 1st Quarter.
2nd Quarter- Bears go 75 yards in 6 plays scoring on a 28 yard pass from Holmes to Allen. Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 14 Sabine 10 with 10:26 left in the 2nd Quarter.
Bears go 42 yards in 3 plays scoring on a 29 yard pass from Holmes to Allen. Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 21 Sabine 10 with 8:27 left in the 2nd Quarter.
Bears go 59 yards in 7 plays scoring on a 1 yard run by Holmes. Malachi Gordon gets the 2 pt play making the score Bears 29 Sabine 10 with 4:50 left in the 2nd Quarter.
Sabine goes 44 yards in 3 plays scoring on a 35 yard run by Jace Burns. Jaimes kick was good making the score Bears 29 Sabine 17 with 3:03 left in the 2nd Quarter.
Bears go 44 yards in 2 plays scoring on a 44 yard pass from Holmes to K'Havia Reese. Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 37 Sabine 17 with 2:45 left in the 2nd Quarter.
Bears go 42 yards in 7 plays scoring on a 5 yard pass from Holmes to Gordon. Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 43 Sabine 17 with:17 left in 2nd Quarter.
3rd Quarter- Bears go 49 yards in 2 plays scoring on a 6 yard run by Gordon. Extra point was no good making the score Bears 49 Sabine 17 with 11:16 left in 3rd Quarter.
Sabine goes 75 yards in 5 plays scoring on a 45 yard pass from Burns to Caden Fortson. Jaimes kick was good making the score Bears 49 Sabine 24 with 9:39 left in the 3rd Quarter.
Sabine goes 49 yards in 3 plays scoring on a 11 yard run by Daylon Branham. Jaimes kick was good making the score Bears 49 Sabine 30 with 4:02 left in the 3rd Quarter.
4th Quarter- Sabine goes 80 yards in 8 plays scoring on a 33 yard pass from Burns to Manning. Jaimes kick was good making the score Bears 49 Sabine 37 with 10:57 left in the 4th Quarter.
Bears go 54 yards in 4 plays scoring on a 6 yard run by Devon Walker. Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 56 Sabine 37 with 9:27 left in the 4th Quarter.
Sabine goes 81 yards in 6 plays scoring on a 57 yard pass from Burns to Manning. Jaimes kick was good making the score Bears 56 Sabine 44 with 7:47 left in the 4th Quarter.
Bears go 62 yards in 5 plays scoring on a 28 yard pass from Holmes to Allen. Hassek's kick was good making the score Bears 63 Sabine 44 with 5:18 left in the 4th Quarter.

INDIVIDUAL LEADER STATS

Bears	
Rushing	Tristan Holmes 11/86/TD Malachi Gordon 17/85/TD/2 pt
Passing	Tristan Holmes 21/33/381/6 TD/Int
Receiving	DJ Allen 12/229/4 TD
Kickoff Returns	Kolin Lewis 1/26
Punt Return	DJ Allen 1/15
Interception Return	Tyrone Maddox 1/22
Sabine	
Rushing	Brannigan Willige 6/53 Jace Burns 11/34/TD
Passing	Jace Burns 20/33/369/4 TD/Int
Receiving	Kaden Manning 4/190/3 TD
Kickoff Returns	Kaden Manning 5/125
Interception Return	Kaden Manning

Lions lose to Carlisle, headed to Hawkins

By Jordan Moss
The Union Grove Lions lost their second game in a row falling to the Carlisle Indians 43-22 on Friday night.
The loss dropped the Lions record on the season to 2-7 overall and 1-4 in district play. Senior quarterback Chase Mead led the Union Grove offense completing eight of 15 pass attempts for 120 yards and an average of 15 yards per completion. Mead also rushed for 173 yards and two

touchdowns on 25 carries for an average of 6.9 yards per carry.
Union Grove Head Football Coach Scotty Laymance touched on the progress he and his staff have seen from Mead over the course of the 2020 season.
"Chase Mead had another solid game last week," Laymance said. "I feel like the game is starting to slow down for him after making an offensive change mid-season."
Senior Matthew bower joined Mead in the Lions rushing attack racking up 110 rushing yards and one touchdown on just 13 carries for an average of 8.5 yards per carry. Senior Grayson Barnett led all Lions receivers with five receptions for 47 yards and defensively sophomore Blake

Moore led the team in tackles with 11 total including six solo tackles.
Laymance noted that Bower and several other Lions have made notable progress this year as well as having standout performances against the Indians.
"Matthew Bower had another solid all-around game," Laymance said. "He had over 100 yards rushing, 30 yards receiving, and played safety all game. Brice Hart has given us a spark on the offensive line since his return two weeks ago from his injury. Blake Moore had his best game defensively in a couple weeks. He continues to progress and the future is bright for him."
While the Lions will not be

making the playoffs Laymance noted the level of pride he feels in the effort he sees from his team on a daily basis.
"I'm proud of how our players are responding to the situation we are in," Laymance said. "A lot of teams will fold up shop or find excuses once they know they won't be advancing to the playoffs, but our players have continued to work hard, stay focused, fight to the end of every game, every play, and every practice."
The Union Grove Lions will close out their season this Friday night at 7:30 p.m. when they travel to take on the Hawkins Hawks from Lowrance Field in Hawkins.



Gladewater receiver DJ Allen pulls down another Tristan Holmes pass during the Bears' 63-44 victory over the Sabine Cardinals Friday night that clinched the District 6 3A D1 crown. Allen had 12 catches on the night, good for 229 yards and four TDs.
Photo by Jim Bardwell

GHS/GMS District Cross Country Results

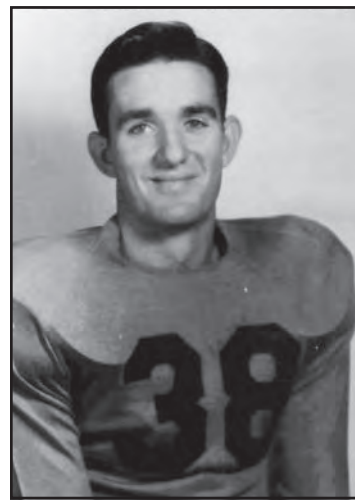
Varsity girls - 3rd place - due to COVID-19 restrictions, UIL is taking only the top two teams in each district this year. Otherwise, GHS Girls Cross Country team would have advanced to regional competition as they earned the District bronze medal. The teams are coached by Kelly Berry.	Lexie Hart - 16th - 16:12 Sunni Wade - 17th - 16:16 Katie Menjivar - 22nd - 17:03 Savannah Kegarise - 24th - 17:22	Suzy Perez - 3rd - 15:09 Brooklynn Yount - 11th - 17:04 Karli Maloney - 16th - 17:43 Rachel Sheppard - 19th - 18:14 Emmalee Eddington - 20th - 18:16
Varsity girls-3rd place Morgan Perez - 7th - 15:16	Varsity boys - 4th place John Reynolds - 14th - 20:13 Caleb Kimbrell - 18th - 20:45 Tanner Gothard - 20th - 20:46 Yahir Martinez - 23rd - 20:55 Carlos Menjivar - 24th - 20:56	MS boys - 1st place Keenan Jalomo - 1st - 12:32 Jaxxon Cook - 2nd - 12:54 Kyle Santos - 9th - 14:05 Brayson Woods - 10th - 14:24 Ryder Welch - 11th - 14:27
	MS girls - 2nd place	



OBITUARY

ROBERT GENE HONEYCUTT

Robert Gene Honeycutt, son of Luther Dell Honeycutt, former Gladewater Fire Chief, and Eddie Mae Shafer Honeycutt, who took tickets at the Cozy Theater for decades, both of Gladewater, was born on July 29, 1931, Upshur Co., Texas and passed away peacefully in his sleep at age 89 at his home in The Woodlands, Texas, north of Houston, surrounded by his family, on October 24, 2020.



He was raised in Gladewater, attending Gladewater schools, where he played football, basketball and ran track from 1946-1949. His relay team set a national record, and as a running back for the Bears he scored the only touchdown against the Longview Lobos in their undefeated but not quite unscored on season. After graduating from Gladewater High School, where he was President of the student body

his senior year and Vice President of the junior class, he attended the University of Texas at Austin on a football scholarship. He graduated from UT with a BBA in 1953, the first football player to attain a B average with such a degree. From UT he went on and received an MBA at NYU in 1954.

After college, Bob served a stint in the army at Ft. Leonard Wood and then went to work for Humble Oil, staying at Exxon for his entire career and retiring as Manager of Marketing/Real Estate Investments.

He was preceded in death by his wife Joe Ann Guynes Honeycutt of Hearne, Texas; his grandparents Levi Arthur and Martha Harriet Hodges Honeycutt (from Big Sandy), as well as Jesse Granville Shafer (former Constable of Gladewater) and Laura Lee Thompson Shafer; and his sister Marie Dell Honeycutt Molina. He is survived by his second wife Irma Todd Honeycutt, his daughter Jan Marie Honeycutt Parizek, and son-in-law Richard Parizek of Phoenix and his son Robert Conrad Honeycutt and his wife Jennifer Marie of Arizona. He had two nephews who live in Dallas: Stephen and Richard Molina. He had five grandchildren: Robert Blake, Erin Grace, and Chloe Ann Honeycutt; Marion Elizabeth Parizek Werner, and Zachary Parizek. He was also blessed with three great grandchildren: Aurora, Samuel, and Peter Werner.

He was a former member of the First Baptist Church in Gladewater and the Spring Baptist Church in Spring, Texas.



The October GMS Lion's Club students of the month Landon Brown and Samorria Daniels were recognized by GMS Asst. Principal Derrick Floyd. Courtesy Photo



GMS Asst. Principal Derrick Floyd recognized September eighth grade Lion's Club students of the month Jeremiah Alexander and Erika Ivey recently. Courtesy Photo

Sheriff gets grant for COVID

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday heard Sheriff Larry Webb explain how he will use a nearly \$33,000 grant from the state to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the county jail, justice center and courthouse.

The jail has no inmates with COVID, but the sheriff's office is looking at installing "three negative pressure cells" which could hold up to about 24 prisoners with the disease or other contagious viruses, he said. That would include about 16 male and approximately eight female inmates, he said.

Before the meeting, the sheriff said the cells would be for inmates with COVID-19 who not sick enough to be hospitalized. Air is pushed from the cell and vented to the outside of the jail, helping protect other inmates and jail staff, he had said.

Webb told the court that the \$32,962.54 grant from Gov. Greg Abbott's office under the coronavirus emergency supplemental funding program would also be used to install "no-touch" thermometers in county facilities when visitors are again allowed in the jail. (Other than medical personnel and inmates' attorneys, jail visitations were halted in March due to the pandemic, and Webb has said the jail has had no COVID cases.)

The thermometers would be placed at the security desk in the justice center (where the jail is housed), the jail itself and the nearby courthouse, he told commissioners. (They are meant to detect fever, a symptom of COVID.)

Webb also told the court his office is awaiting the State Commission on Jail Standards' approval of his plan.

The sheriff and court have made agreements with several other area counties to house their inmates, prompting County Judge Todd Tettler to ask Webb if he would accept prisoners with COVID from there. The sheriff said he "would look into" that and bring the matter before the court.

Webb said Monday he has no place to house inmates with COVID and if he got one now, what he would do "is the million dollar question" and something he "would have to look into real seriously." He added, though, that "we have protocols in place" to "deal with it here in the jail" by definitely isolating infected inmates.

He also said Monday the jail is basically screening everybody who comes in, including staff, attorneys and even himself. The facility is disinfected twice daily, new prisoners are quarantined for 14 days before being put in the facility's general population, and all those measures have worked "real well," the sheriff added.

Besides hearing Webb, the court also Friday approved nominating Stacy McMahan and Sherry Breedlove to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors of the Upshur County Appraisal District. The vacancies occurred when board members Huey Mitchell and Brandon Dodd resigned.

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What's Happening

ALERT Academy to host veterans, first responders at banquet

The International ALERT Academy will host a formal appreciation banquet Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. for all area armed services veterans, police officers, EMS and fire personnel. The speaker will be Dr. Harry Stinger who served as an Airborne Ranger Paratrooper Surgeon. His most notable accomplishment was the successful parachute delivery of a complete operating room onto a combat drop zone in March 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reservations are required but there is no charge to attend. Reservation will not be accepted after Friday, Nov. 6. Veterans, police officers, EMS and firefighters and immediate family members only please. RSVP by calling 903-636-9201. The banquet will be hosted at the ALERT Academy, 1 Academy Blvd., Big Sandy.

Dining layout will accommodate 6' spacing between tables and will be plated and served by masked staff. To find out more go to the banquet's Facebook page event at: <https://fb.me/e/4mbYoF9hL> or www.alertacademy.com/events.

Christmas parade set for Dec. 8

The annual Gladewater Christmas Parade will be held Dec. 8 starting at 6 p.m. in downtown Gladewater. The event, sponsored by the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, GEDCO, City of Gladewater and Citizens Bank, will have the theme "The Magic of Christmas."

To enter your float in the parade call the chamber at 903-845-5501

UG's FFA excels at show

The UG FFA heifer team had a great day at the Jack Cross livestock show.

Chloe Brooks Champion Brangus Supreme Champion Heifer!!	1st place Hereford 2nd place Hereford
Vance Aaron Champion Beefmaster	Finley Edwards 2nd place Mini Hereford
Josh Baker 3rd place Angus 4th place Hereford	Scarlett Edwards 1st place Mini Hereford
Maddie Byers	Avery Brooks 1st place Brangus 2nd place AOB.

Manna House Christmas family boxes

Manna House is now accepting applications for Christmas family food boxes. Families who need extra assistance with food sources may also qualify for regular family food boxes. To apply go to Manna House in the southwest corner of City Hall on Hwy. 80 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Tempest to host Veteran's Day Flag ceremony

Tempest Golf Club will host a Veteran's Day Flag Ceremony on Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. United States Marine Corps representatives will raise the flag, with country music star Neal McCoy leading the Pledge

of Allegiance followed by TAPS. According to Tempest Director of Food, Beverage & Events Jaime Winters, the club is building what will be Texas' biggest flag and flag pole. Tempest is located at 568 East Wilkins Road, Gladewater. For information call 903-984-5335.

GALA Bake Sale

The Gladewater Area Ladies Association's bake sale will be held Saturday, Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. until noon in conjunction with the Lion's Club Turkey Shoot at Gladewater Airport.

Booshay Car & Truck Show Nov. 7

Booshay's Central Station Car & Truck Show will be held Nov. 7 with registration starting at 9 a.m. and show start at 11 a.m. Voting will run from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and awards given at 2 p.m. Original and modified categories include pre-1944, 1945-1957, 1958-1969, 1970-1988 and 1989-2020. First, second and third places will be awarded in all categories, as well as a Club Award, Booshay's Choice, People's Choice and Overall Best of Show. The restaurant is located at 103 N. Main Street in Gladewater. For information call 903-347-4700. There is a \$20 entry fee, door prizes, trophies, 50/50 tickets and food specials for participants.

School Calendars

GISD Calendar	UGISD Calendar
11/4, Wednesday 3-Week Progress Reports	11/4, Wednesday FFA@REgion IV Wildlife Contest
11/6, Friday Bears Open Date	11/5, Thursday 3:20 p.m. JH/HS Pep Rally 5 p.m. JH/JV FB vs. Hawkins-H
11/10, Tuesday GPS Lifetouch Picture Retakes	11/6, Friday Early Release 7:30 p.m. V FB@Hawkins
11/13, Friday Bear Playoff Game TBD	11/7, Saturday FFA@Waskom Invitational LDE UIL Twirling Solo & Ensemble@ Pine Tree HS Noon V Boys Basketball vs. Edgewood scrimmage-H
11/14, Saturday 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Saturday School 5/6 p.m. Girls BB vs. Tyler Heat@ Tyler	

Upshur County indictments handed down

The Upshur County Grand Jury returned seven indictments Thursday. Matthew Stephen Varner, 36, of Gilmer, was separately indicted on two counts of theft of property.

Brandi Michelle Stephens, 38, of Winona, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Jan. 7, \$10,000 bond

Jerry Lynn Moore III, 18, of Longview, deadly conduct on May 11, \$25,000 bond

Texas Farm Credit launches youth video showcase

Texas Farm Credit recently launched a virtual contest encouraging local youth to submit a video spotlighting their agricultural project for a chance to win a portion of the \$20,000 cash prize.

The Texas Farm Credit Youth Ag Video Showcase aims to support the passion of ag students in lieu of canceled stock shows and other ag-related events and contests due to COVID-19. The contest is open to youth ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2020, who are involved in agriculture. They must also reside within Texas Farm Credit's 100-county territory or have immediate family that are customers of Texas Farm Credit. The contest has two age divisions: Junior for ages 8-13 and Senior for ages 14-18. Details, instructions, rules, and disclaimers, along with the entry form, can be found on the showcase webpage at www.TexasFarmCredit.com/Showcase.

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**A/B Honor Roll
1st 9wks**

Rhylan Acker, Jaxon Adams, Princeton Adams, Landon Anderson, Joaquin Arreguin, Natalie Bateman, Columbianna Benninger, Kenneth Bible, Drake Bigler, Brantley Blalock, Jaden Bohanon, Misael Cerda Hernandez, Cotton Chisnall, Kambree Cowen, Cameron Dickerson, Franchesca Dominguez, Kade Fortson, Brayden Greer, Audrey Heaney, Jakorian Henson, Liam Herman, Kacen Jones, Jett Linton, Jordan Moore, Jaedon Mumphy, Jayson Nino-Eufrazio, Laila Pierce, Ava Reynolds, Asa Robinson, Paisley Simmons, Kenneth Trantham, Zylar Vaughn, Bayleigh Wady, Weston Welch, Brandon Wheeler, Angel Williams, Austin Wright.

**Weldon Elementary
2nd Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll**

Amelia Allen-Frank, Roberto Arreguin, Ayden Bauman, Drew Brookshire, William Carney, J'Kayla Cash, Nathan Castro, Karsyn Cates, Gisselle Ceballos, Litzzy Delgado, Wyatt Edlund, Korbin Evans, Kar Dae Ford, Ceanna Gipson, Maverick Hamby, Zae'Chamerial Jackson, Iyanla Keys, Colsen Manley, Justin Melot, Kinsley Nielson, Isabella Polanco, Lily Rose, Sadie Shackelford, Chevelle Sisson, Aliyah Thomas, Blayklee Turnbow, Reagan Walts, Rylee White, Emily Youngblood

**2nd Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Enrique Arevalo Rodriguez, Caleb Bellanger, Scheyler Bisner, Qui'Aubri Blaylock, Joshua Brooken, John Brown, Talan Crenshaw, Remy, Crews, Liam Dabbagh, Garrett Davis, McKenzi Dorsey, Alyssa Gutierrez, Nickolas Hunter, Hunter Kegarise, Kavin Lincoln, Noah Mullican, Jayden Nadeau, Angel Perez Alvarado, Gracelee Pickett, Emma Porter, Dezlyn Pruitt, Isaias Sanchez-Landaverde, Garrison Smith, Landry Townsend, Jeremy Vansyckle, Laura Zihlman,

**3rd Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll**

Brady Aldredge, Carson Allen, Kolbi Alverson, Carter Bell, Killian Boyles, Fernanda Coronado, Lydia Crane, McKaylie Ferrell, Sophia Garner, Alonna Gregory, Emma Harroff, Ava LaForest, Kade Lichty, Bella Mason, Sophia McKinnon, Robert Meals, Colt Moore, Bentley Neilson, Cortland NyKamp, Ace Reed, Cullen Reynolds, London Snyder, Makyah Stewart, Cayden Templeton, Morgan Toerck, Issac Villalpando, Briley Watts, Bradley Wilson, LaRaya Woods, Joseph Woodworth

**3rd Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Sidney Anderson, Peyton Bell, Kiara Bennet, Jaethyn Brannon, Kayden Campbell, Karter Choice, Braeden Cook, Kelsi Cushatt, Rylee Farley, McKaylie Ferrell, Christopher Gomez, Kah'Moryun Gordon, Trevor Gothard, Kindyl Harper, Iven Jones, Lyla LeBlanc, Aniyah Lee, KeMoriya Madden, Bella Mason, Elizabeth Mendez, Jhonatan Mercado, Za'Kiya Miller, Hannah Nash, Brayden O'Rourke, Kanyel Oliver, Aa'Marie Page, Blakelee Rhoades, Kloe Schaefer, Tailyn Shirley, Adrian Soriano, J'Kayden Stevens, Makyah Stewart, Camden Sutphen, Spencer Walbridge, Gabriel Watts, Alyssa White, Courtney White

**4th Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll**

Tinsley Aldredge, Bentley Webber

**GISD HONOR ROLLS
1st NINE WEEKS**

**4th Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Kylie Beall, Kara Bellanger, Mitchell Bittick, Avery Borman, Levi Bowen, Jax Bradford, Daelyn Bradshaw, Natalie Canfield, Paxton Casson, Icker Ceballos, Carter Clayton, Alaina Collier, Nathaniel Cook, Everlie Costello, Natalee Cowart, Isabella Dangel, Ethan Davis, Landon Deason, Ma'Kenzie Floyd, Paigelynn Gibbons, Kennedy Harper, Aydan Holmes, Jordan Holmgren, Ashen King, Baylee Klostermn, Kaydance Love, Alexander Meza, Jayden Miller, Aubrey Monroe, Connor Morgan, Beatrice Nasados, Abigail Nino, Ja'Shawn Page, Evelin Patino, Dylan Perez, Ian Perez, Kaeyla Perez, Cyzler Pruitt, Lorenzo Rabadan, Ellicia Reynolds, Ty Richey, Aleah Rosas, Meah Rosas, Dodge Sisson, Averie Smith, Kensyn Turner, Lily Upchurch, Brynlee Underwood, Brody Vickers, Britney Vite, Railee Woodworth

**5th Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll**

Jax Glarborg, Cooper Manley, Jade Mirles, Tyler Petty

**5th Grade
1st Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Caleb Budro, Autumn Carr, Bailey Childress, Lily Childress, Samuel Corona, McKensy Cuellar Martinez, Emily Head, Kenzi Love, Konnor Mason, Jade Mireles, Axcel Nino Monsivaiz, Madison Parks, Jamie Perez Alvarado, Tyler Petty, Gavin Selman, Anna Thomas, Walter Thomas, Kamila Turner, Alexander Villalpando

**GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Coby Bellanger, Elshady Getachew, Byron Hast, Summer Hernandez, Mason Knoll, Grace Mooney, Victor Ward, Kendal Yount.

A/B Honor Roll

Leila Allen, Ethan Alvarez, Riley Ashworth, Austin Bateman, Dylan Botonis, Cheyenne Braulick, Abigail Carney, Lia Castaneda, Hydye Collins, Aliyah Criss, Colton Cusatis, Alivia Duncan, Adyson Evans, Xavier Gregory, Daymun Guerrero, Reid Hass, Achilles Hess, Nobellee Humphrey, Christian Jackson, Bryce Lankford, Audryana Lorenzo, Lily Mahfood, Lillian McKnight, Olivia Miller, Jenni Mireles, Miryam Perez, Talon Robinson, Matthew Smith, Alex Stotts, Kila Tisdale, Claire Townsend, Logan Walts, Jeremy Williams.

**7th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Harper Bittick, Makenze Boyce, Elizabeth Brown, Aidan Clay, Jakobe Crosby, Emily Delgado, Elizabeth Dennis, Hayli Edwards, Karyme Gomez, Kevin Mireles, Edwin Nino Eufrazio, Madison Rector, Donovan Tolbert, Ella Williams, Carson Wood.

A/B Honor Roll

Anay Aguillon, Saul Alvarez, Elijah Anthony, Eloy Barajas, Alexis Bauman-Cooper, Mason Biddle, Ma'khya Boone, Luke Brown, Mason Budro, Aaron Chavarria, Lucas Cherry, Brittany Clark, Jayleen Delapaz, Jeremiah Flanagan, Aubry Floyd, Pierce Garcia, Jacksyn Gleghorn, Alayah Gordon, Ricky Green, Stormie Greeson, Kenarean Hall, Rylan Hilton, Peyton Hunter, Emily Jackson, Lizzet Jaramillo, Seth Josey, Cody Kegarise, Katelin Kennimer, Shayla Lara, Cydence Martin, Grafton Morgan, Matthew Padilla, Matthew Perales, Azucena Perez, Olivia Pilgrim, Cian Ray, Joseph Riojas, Christian Rojas, Esmeralda Rojas, Kyle Santos, Kingston Sheffield, Akeela Stevens, Jakub Stotts, Ivan Thomas, Dillon Walke, John Watson, Oscar Williams, Brayson Woods.

**8th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Astrith Alvarez, Jaxxon Cook, Janee Davis, Erika Evey, Tristian Ferman, Jasmine Fisher, Nathan Fortenberry, Cynthia Gutierrez, Ava Langford, Karlee Moses, Jessica Perez, Rachel Shepard, Nathan Smith, Noah Smith, Mason Thompson, Reagen Verner, Cameron White, Brayden Wood.

A/B Honor Roll

Nicholas Allen, Fatima Arteaga Cervantes, Mathias Bales, Preston Bohanon, Tabitha Bongfeldt, Emily Brown, Landon Brown, Katrina Bush, Juliann Canfield, Braden Carter, Kelton Cates, Hallie Cinnard,

Samorria Daniels, Joshua Diaz Mucio, Ethan Evey, Pamela Fagans, Nevaeh Flanagan, Charlene Frazier, Tatiana Gunder, Tanner Hammett, Taylor Harrod, Landon Hawkins, Cross Hawley, Ilyssa Hawley, Olivia Hawley, Destiny Hughes, Keenan Jalomo, Jada Kinsey, Liliyana Lorenzo, Karli Maloney, Jaxson Maricle, Logan McKnight, Amiyah Minter, Gabriel Navarro, Isaiah Neves Knight, Alicia Perez, Landen Porter, Zoie Reddock, Garrick Rogers, Luke Rogers, Luke Schaefer, Carter Snider, Tristan Tolbert, TiffiniWatts, Jamie Webb, Kaydance, Webb, Joseph Webber, Ryder Welch, Brianna Wheeler, Marissa Williams, Samyra Williams, Ashley Wilson, Taylor Wright, Brooklyn Yount.

**GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL
9th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Hadassah Balcorta, Madisyn Bedair, Katelyn Biddle, Haillie Bulmer, Seth Cross, Bayleigh Edwards, Samuel Edwards, Kire Guerrero, Timothy Heashe, Katie Menjivar, Adam Miles, Sixto Rojas, Ryan Silva, Lily Smith, Logan Stehno, Savannah Warren, Kaytlin White, Grayson Wynn

A/B Honor Roll

Ethan Bailey, Alexis Bleckley, Israel Cerda, Tristan Collins, Blake Crane, Blake Goodes, Johnnyay Hawley, Hailey Head, Christopher Hernandez, Abigail Hess, Allayah Jackson, Trenton Jackson, Emma Langford, Katelynn Lewis, Kyle Martin, Camron Mckinney, Jimmarion Medford, Erik Omdahl, Eddie Patino, Oraceleste Plunkett, Khalil Sheffield, Wyatt Taylor, Jordan Toerck, Michael Torres, Sunni Wade, Layne Warburton, Brianna Willson, Phillip Wilson

**10th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Ryan Bailey, Lexi Betts, Kylie Jalomo, Tyler Milstead, William Perry, Eduardo Rojas, Matthew Smith, Matthew Tant, Sarah Walbridge, Alexandria White

A/B Honor Roll

Austin Allen, Karter Bocanegra, Alexis Boyd, Ne'Adriya Bradley, Morgan Brown, Maria Cano, Rigo Castaneda, Fernando Coronado, Jude Criss, Kamryn Floyd, Gracie George, Aminah Gordon, Khristian Jolliff, Makaila Kinsey, Kollin Lewis, Avery Mays, Catherine McKinney, Landon Mcknight, Chance Mendez, Breanna Newman, Vanesa Nunez, Kiy'ona Parker, Megan Perez, Taylor Pickett, Clayton Plunkett, Ladairion Smith, Keiley Steddum, Haylee Stotts, Jocelyn Taylor, Princess Zandrea Tyeskie, Austin Verner, Sara Weathersby

**11th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Christina Campbell, Joshua Choate, Ke'asia Garland, Avery Glarborg, Daniela Gomez, Tanner Gothard, Antonio Mejivar, Ta'mya Miles, Gabriella Montelongo, Trinity Mooney, Haleigh Moran, Katelynn Moses, Deepas Rasaily, Maddison Teague, Jade Thomas, Jersey Turner, Shelby Weaver, Adasyn Williams

A/B Honor Roll


Dennis Allen, Benjamin Alvarez, Savanna Arroyo Kinsey, Diego Arteaga Cervantes, Haylee Boyce, Makenna Boyles, Kaitlynn Canaguier, Gicel Cerda, Cariesma Colbert, Riley Crane, Vanesa Delgado Sandoval, Hannah Edwards, Jane Gasperik, Teya Grooms, Kasi Harper, Alexis Hart, Ryleigh Hightower, Zeshon Jackson, Brock Jones, Kaila King, Michael Lewis, Adamaris Lopez, Jillian Moon, Maria Nino, Ebony Pipkin, Zachary Polanco, Lyndsey Robertson, Riley Rodriguez, Ximena Rojas, Alise Sanders, Zachary Shipp, Brian Vanhouten, Mariana Vargas, Devin Walker, Zavion Woods

**12th Grade
A Honor Roll**

Janet Aguillon, Edith Alvarez, Riley Bewley, Jordan Bradshaw, Megan Cooper, Alyssa George, Garrett Glenn, Jason Harris, Nathan Keller, Jordan Kinsey, Deja Martin, Mia Medina, Juan Menjivar, Lucas Miles, Desirae Peavy, Karen Peralta Camargo, Jennifer Rivera Hernandez, Jala Roberson, Jaionna Sanders, Sydney Spurlock, Cassie Steele, Madelyn Timmons, Aalatiyah Turner, Cinthia Vicente Contreras


A/B Honor Roll

Kaylee Alderson, Jazmine Arreguin, Shanaya Bell, Trent Bolt, Isaac Castaneda, Mackenzi Dans, Morgan Dans, Landon Ellis, Felipe Gomez, Christopher Green, Katlin Grice, Daylon Hernandez, Cheyenne Herndon, Olivia Herndon, Tristan Hogue, Blake Holder, Tristan Holmes, Kierra Jackson, Neri'ah Jackson, Hunter Jones, Nickalus Lincoln, Azucena Lopez, Kelsey Lumpkins, Ryan Martin, Yahir Martinez, Caden Mckaskle, Gage Mitchell, Kelly Omdahl, Cristian Perez, Livia Prince, James Puckett, David Ramo, Derrion Simmons, Jasper Taylor, Luna Tisdale, Nehemias Ventura, Brett Vickers, Arabella Whitlock, Pamela Zarate



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Mitsy Wempe, who along with her husband Jason host about 100 pigs at their pig sanctuary – the Oinkin Oasis Forever Home at their Rockn W Ranch located northwest of Gladewater, were welcomed into the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce by directors Oct. 29 at a formal ribbon cutting. Oinkin Oasis is a 501c3 nonprofit sanctuary, governed by a five-member board with Jason Wempe as vice president and Mitsy Wempe as president. The tax-free status allows them to hold fundraisers.

Anyone wishing to help can check out the sanctuary's wish list on its Facebook page. Photo by Jim Bardwell



Oil Patch Texas Retired Teachers Association representatives Suzanne Bardwell and Lois Reed presented First Little Readers for White Oak Primary School pre-Kindergarten students to WOPS Asst. Supt. Stephanie Bradley and Principal Claire Koonce last Wednesday. Oil Patch presents new books annually to area school district children to emphasize the importance of reading.

Oil Patch TRTA meets monthly with their next meeting Thursday, Dec. 3 and will be conducted by ZOOM. Contact Becky Cerliano at bcerliano@gmail.com for instructions on how to participate.

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'This is education's 9/11'

Superintendents meet with legislators

Continued from Page 1

"We realize this is a tough session coming up," Surratt said. "If we have to make cuts to schools we have to know early. It is much easier to make decisions well."

Surratt also expressed concerns about the extension of charter schools at the expense of public education and suggested a two to four year freeze while the economic pandemic impact shakes out.

"Public school funding comes 50% from the state and 50% local, while charters are funded 100% by the state. We need to look at funding issues."

Paddie told the superintendents it wasn't their fault they were forced into a position to deal with the pandemic and they should not be penalized for it.

"We want to work with you," Paddie said. "We also know you have had frustration dealing with the agency (Texas Education Agency)."

District 7 Rep. Jay Dean expressed concern for maintaining promises made to public education retirees, as well as standing by legislation from the last session for public education.

"Our education fund is a huge fund and that makes it low hanging fruit," Dean said. "We need a good House Speaker who can work with all members of the House regardless of party."

Paddie, a Republican from Marshall has expressed interest in the position.

Former superintendent, now state legislator from New Boston, Dr. Gary VanDeaver knows better than most what the challenges are and the difficulty of addressing them effectively.

"If people did not value a teacher prior to this, I think they do now," Dr. VanDeaver said. "I hope they remember this long term."

The deficiencies of virtual learning such as technology that has been ordered and paid for by the districts has yet to be delivered and isn't expected to be until January. Multiply that by missing infrastructure in rural areas where hotspots won't work and virtual learning become



Union Grove ISD Supt. Kelly Moore welcomed about 60 superintendents from across Northeast Texas at last week's meeting with Senator Bryan Hughes and state representatives Jay Dean, Chris Paddie and Dr. Gary VanDeaver. The legislators listened to the concerns of the educational leaders and addressed expectations for the upcoming January legislative session.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

virtually useless.

Add in the challenges of dealing with school fund balance issues, standardized testing accountability, average daily attendance issues, accounting for missing students, a looming teacher shortage, and the obstacle of a significant financial penalty when schools hire a retired teacher and the challenges can look overwhelming.

"Right now, in the pandemic, it is like a school snow day on steroids," Dr. VanDeaver said. "Any decision you make may be the wrong one. That is the position Gov. Abbott is in right now."

All of the legislators expressed their support for relaxing standardized testing accountability, while many of the superintendents advocated maintaining testing to monitor student progress but eliminating TEA school evaluation methods during the crisis.

"Remember, accountability and testing are two different things," DeKalb ISD Supt. John Booth said. "We don't have a standard in the world of COVID. Push the pause button on accountability. Things change every two weeks right now. But, we do welcome testing to see where we need to go in the future."

Rep. Dean said that it seemed that just as schools get to the point of understanding state testing

standards the rules are changed by TEA. Paddie agreed.

"We are putting a horrible weight on a snapshot in time," Paddie said. "Success is not the same for all students and that's okay. We should not discourage that. The current system is not preparing kids to head down the road to success and that road doesn't have to mean college. In fact, for most, it wouldn't. We have to figure that out and do a better job. What handcuffs can we take off you to allow you to do that?"

Michael Lee of the Texas Association of Rural Superintendents urged the superintendents to be active in the process.

"We need to help these guys find solutions," Lee said. "If you bring a problem, bring a solution. Who knows better than you guys in the trenches?"

Dr. David Fitts of the Region 8 Education Service Center said that educators have lost a lot of time and energy during the pandemic.

"When COVID hit, the state looked to schools to ensure kids were fed and taken care of, our schools have done herculean work," Dr. Fitts said. "One of my biggest fears is that with the pressure TEA is putting on our teachers and staffs we are going to see a huge loss of employees. This is education's 9/11."



State Rep. Jay Dean



State Sen. Bryan Hughes



State Rep. Chris Paddie

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