

Gladewater Mirror



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Happy Turkey Day!

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50¢



Think safety while giving thanks

COVID-19 will change the holidays

The holidays are just around the corner and many of you may be planning a trip to spend time with loved ones. However, the coronavirus pandemic is growing dramatically in the United States - more than 10 million people have now been infected and more than 237,000 have died as case numbers reach alarming new records across the country. If you are planning to travel, below is some information to consider before you go, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

According to the CDC, travel increases the chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. Don't travel if you are sick or have been around someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days. But if your travel plans are still on, consider these factors:

- Is COVID-19 spreading where you're going? You can get infected

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5 ways to prevent cooking fires

While the coronavirus may have changed many of our Thanksgiving gatherings, the need to protect ourselves from cooking fires continues.

Typically, Thanksgiving is one of the peak days for cooking fires, which is the top cause of home fires in the U.S. Most often, these emergencies are caused by unattended cooking — a common behavior shared by nearly 70% of us, as shown in a national American Red Cross survey earlier this year.

To help keep you and your loved ones safe, the East Texas Chapter urges everyone to follow these safety tips:

Keep an eye on what you fry! Never leave cooking food unattended. If you

must leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

Move items that can burn away from the stove. This includes dishtowels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains. Also keep children and pets at least three feet away.

Avoid wearing loose clothing while cooking.

When frying food, turn the burner off if you see smoke or if the grease starts to boil. Carefully remove the pan from the burner.

Keep a pan lid or a cookie sheet nearby. Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire. Leave the pan covered.



COVID-19 concerns could cancel Dec. 8 Christmas parade

The Gladewater Chamber of Commerce is expected to cancel the Dec. 8 Christmas Parade, at the suggestion of Mayor JD Shipp, because of COVID-19 concerns.



MAYOR SHIPP

"I have either been made aware or seen notifications of neighboring communities canceling their Christmas parades," said Mayor Shipp.

Chamber directors were polled Sunday night via email on whether or not to cancel the parade. The results of the polling were not available at press time due to an early deadline, but it was believed the chamber directors would go along with Mayor Shipp's suggestion and cancel the 2020 Christmas Parade.

"Unfortunately, this event is scheduled to occur during a period in time that we are experiencing an upswing in COVID cases. I worry that by allowing this event to continue as

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Gladewater police officers Courtney Walker, Sgt. Jason Barnes and Sgt. Travis Prew were recognized by Gladewater Police Chief Gordon Freeman at Thursday's city council meeting for recently saving a woman's life.

The officers were recognized for actions performed on Oct. 17 after responding to a call concerning a suicide situation by a young woman trying to hang herself, Chief Freeman told the city council.

Freeman said "With quick thinking and swift reactions, Sgt. Barnes and Officer Walker was able to lift the subject by her legs relieving the pressure on her neck while Sgt. Prew cut her free. The subject received medical attention and survived the ordeal."

Freeman went on to say "It is the opinion of the command staff of the Gladewater Police Department that without the swift actions of these officers a death would have occurred. Therefore, each officer shall be issued and authorized to wear the 'Life Saving Medal' upon their duty uniform and be eligible for any and all privileges and exemptions that is associated with the award."

Photo by Jim Bardwell



Gladewater City Clerk Judy Van Houten swears in re-elected council members Mayor J.D. Shipp and councilwoman Brandy Flanagan, along with newly-elected councilman Scott Owens, at Thursday's council meeting. Photo by Jim Bardwell

City Council members sworn in and new city judge hired

The Gladewater City Council voted to hire Gregg County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Tim Bryan as the city's next municipal judge.

Bryan will replace Judge Christopher Botto, who has accepted another position.

Prior to Bryan's hiring, re-elected Mayor JD Shipp and incumbent Place 3 councilwoman Brandy Flanagan were sworn in along with newly elected Place 2 councilman Scott Owens.

Owens unseated Place 2 councilman Farrell Alexander, 1,080 to 684. Shipp and Flanagan were unopposed. Shipp received 1,734 votes and Flanagan received 1,627.

In other business conducted at Thursday's meeting the council:

* Re-appointment councilman Elijah "Sonny" Anderson mayor pro-tem

* Approved a blanket permit request from Anthony & Melva Gordon for a Craft & Trade Show to be held on December 5 at Jeter House from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

* Approved a Fire Protection Agreement between the City of Gladewater and Upshur County ESD #1 with Gladewater



Out-going councilman Ferrell Alexander receives a plaque of appreciation and recognition from Gladewater City Manager Ricky Tow. Photo by Jim Bardwell

receiving not less than \$34,000 annually for their service, and a Fire Protection Agreement between City of Gladewater and Upshur County ESD #1 as agent for the City of Union Grove with Gladewater being paid not less than \$10,000 annually.

* Approved hiring Karen A. Jacks & Associates for audit services for fiscal year ending 2020

* Appointed city council members as ex-officio members to several advisory boards - Owens and Nick Foster picked the city's Beautification Board, while Rocky Hawkins selected the Lake Board and Flanagan chose the Board of Adjustments.

* Amended the city's Blanket Permit Policy to define how many blanket permits are allowed to a single group to one in a 12-month period.

* Amended the city's fee schedule for 2021 and added

fees for brush pick-up, but tabled fees for event permits in the city.

Some permit fee changes included the cost of public notices, ball field rental and lake pavilion rentals. A complete list of the city's fees can be found at the Gladewater Mirror website: www.gladewatermirror.com.

In other discussion, Gladewater Fire Chief Cory Crowell advised the council his department - which was seriously depleted last month when 10 of 13 firefighters left GFD for better paying jobs (an estimated \$10,000 more annually) with the neighboring Smith County Emergency Services District No. 2 which is funded by a voter-approved 1/2-cent sales tax - would be fully staffed by Dec. 5.

Crowell said 23 firefighters recently applied for those openings and all but one passed the tryouts.

holiday Toy Drive



The Gladewater Mirror is hosting a toy drive for Manna House's Santa Toy Shop which will be open for families receiving family food boxes on Dec. 9-10 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Parents and guardians will be able to select a new toy for each child and a coloring book and crayons. Toys may be dropped off at the Gladewater Mirror through Dec. 7 during business hours.

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Chris Cobler
Capital
Highlights



Readers share many tales of internet woe

Rural Texans have a lot to say about the lack of broadband service in their communities. Since we covered the topic earlier this month, many readers have emailed to share their stories and pleas for help.

An example is the email from reader Kathryn Steuart of Freestone County, who reads the column in the Fairfield Recorder. In her east central Texas county of 20,000, she reports that cell phones don't even work well. She and her husband pay for internet via a high-priced satellite service, which isn't sufficient to allow her to work from home.

An IBM AIX and Linux system administrator, Steuart said she has explored a variety of solutions, but found nothing.

"We were willing/desperate to pay to have wire strung and present ourselves as a business to get decent speed internet," she wrote. "The rural phone companies are not incentivized to provide this service and quit answering calls. They go broke too often, as well."

She said she has some hope for Elon Musk's Starlink company, which is launching thousands of satellites promising accessible and affordable high-speed internet. Initial pricing is \$99 a month with an upfront hardware purchase of \$500. However, this project is in a testing phase dubbed "Better Than Nothing Beta," and the company warns customers of varying connectivity speeds and occasional outages during the startup period.

Most employers won't hire remote workers with only satellite connections, Steuart said.

For more on the subject, watch a replay of the panel discussion "Broadband is a Lifeline" at TexasTribune.org. "Capital Highlights" will monitor how state lawmakers address the issue when they convene in January. For resources on advocating for solutions, contact Connected Nation Texas.

COVID battle rages on

Gov. Greg Abbott touted some good news in Texas' fight against COVID-19.

"Medicines are delivered this week – and every week going forward – to heal those who get COVID," the governor tweeted. "Vaccines to prevent COVID are expected soon. Medical teams are being surged to areas that need it most."

Earlier in the day, Abbott visited Lubbock, which is confronting a surge in cases. There, he provided an update on the distribution of bamlanivimab, an antibody therapy for COVID-19. The state is sending first shipments of the drug to hospitals in regions with the highest number of new case counts, new COVID-19 hospital admissions and total COVID-19 hospital patients.

Abbott emphasized he would not be ordering any new statewide business restrictions and encouraged people to follow the same health practices, including wearing a mask and socially distancing, that helped during the state's spike in cases in July.

Texas has reported over 20,000 COVID deaths since the pandemic began, the Texas Tribune reported, based on data from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

A Thanksgiving gift

Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp is encouraging all students to get a COVID-19 test before leaving campus for the Thanksgiving break.

Sharp has asked the Texas Division of Emergency Management, which is part of the Texas A&M System, to help the system get testing vans and tents to all campuses before the holiday.

"The greatest gift a student can give his or her family – including parents and grandparents – during this holiday season is the gift of a negative COVID test," Chancellor Sharp said. "Let's do all we can to stop this pandemic and get back to life as we knew it. Thanks to everyone who chooses to take a test before heading home."

COVID-19 concerns could cancel Dec. 8 Christmas parade

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planned that we will be counter productive to the efforts of our school in the continuation of on-site instruction," Shipp said. "I also worry that we will put in jeopardy families' ability to gather for Christmas. The parade, while a wonderful holiday tradition, is an event that can be revisited next year with far greater fanfare with COVID and 2020 in the rear-view mirror of a 2021 journey."

Gladewater is not alone in canceling its parade, as Longview, Liberty City, Lindale and Kilgore have nixed their parades due to COVID-19 concerns and the City of Marshall also is not having a traditional Christmas parade this year.

Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order in July that prohibits outdoor events to no more than 10 people without permission from the mayor or county judge. Although Abbott has since eased other pandemic-related restrictions, the one concerning outdoor gatherings is unchanged.

...sage & love

If you are from Texas, you know that food, love and family are synonymous. Heck, if we are honest, most of the country's families know that sweet and savory life lesson. Thanksgivings are meant to hold groaning tables and boisterous families. For many of us this year that won't be the case. And I must admit I am struggling with counting my blessings because my table will be set for only two or three.

In the spirit of the holiday despite the absence of extended family I have committed to preparing my Mom's cornbread dressing, which, of course, I think is the absolute best. I should have hijacked the pan she used to cook it in because folks that is always part of the secret. The right, well-seasoned container makes all the difference in the world.

My Mom was the matriarch of holidays with both sides of our family tree crowding around three tables, balancing plates on knees or sitting at the picnic table or on the porch if it was unseasonably warm.

Of course there would be laughter and squabbles. Impatient hands, both large and small, reaching for bites before grace was said by my Dad, who prayed the sweetest prayers you have ever heard. Even after his stroke when he struggled to make sense of his life and his words, his prayers were eloquent. Despite the fact he has been gone a decade his prayers still bless me.

One holiday after we lost Dad, my Mom sat at my Nanny's drop-leaf table in my kitchen and walked me through her mental dressing recipe. The trick she said is to get just the right amount of sage and come out of the oven with a browned crusty top and a moist, well-seasoned interior. That description sounds a lot like the people I love most in this world.

They have the right amount of sage wisdom to carry them through life, a crusty enough exterior to weather the oven of illnesses, failures and losses, while still having that interior softness that makes them warm, with just the right amount of tenderness to smooth the way.

All the feet I would like to have under my table will not be there.

**Suzanne
Bardwell**



My Mom is in far West Texas sheltering from the pandemic at my brother's lovely home which is surrounded by cotton fields and graced with panoramic sunsets each evening. I imagine my brother's Thanksgiving prayer will carry some of the grace we learned from hearing Daddy bless almost every meal.

My sweetheart's parents are sheltering at home because of vulnerability to the pandemic, my daughter-in-law will be working long, hard hours as an NP Hospitalist in a hospital rapidly headed toward capacity. And, my much loved cousins will be feeling their own losses while counting their blessings on that Blackland Prairie ranch we all love so much.

I pray that I have just the right amount of sage wisdom to get me through this stage of life. I know I have that crusty exterior I learned from generations of my family and I am still working on my interior tenderness. Not too soft and not too dry. Life requires just the right touch, just the right balance. Especially now.

For those of you experiencing loneliness and isolation during the holidays I pray you find your inner peace. For those whose tables are more empty than full I pray for your blessing and the hope for a better tomorrow. For all of our readers, friends, neighbors and supporters I give thanks.

I wish you all a Thanksgiving that is filled with good food, happy memories, and a healthy and prosperous tomorrow. And, please, this Thanksgiving, don't forget the 'sage' or the love. Combined they make the best seasoning of all.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

The Big One

A new trade agreement covering about 30% of the global economy has been signed. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) includes China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, and 10 Southeast Asian economies. It's



the world's largest in terms of the amount of gross product covered, slightly above the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) according to most estimates. About 2.1 billion people reside in member nations. India is not in the deal at this point but can join at a later date.

It's been a long time in the

making, with negotiations dragging on for about eight years. With the coronavirus pandemic causing economic dislocations worldwide, however, there was an even greater incentive to get it done (though member nations still have to ratify it). In addition, the agreement may help China, Japan, and South Korea reach a free trade agreement; they've been struggling for years to work through barriers and reach an accord.

Although clearly a landmark in terms of the proportion of the world economy which is covered, tariffs among most of these nations were already low or nonexistent. While further reductions will clearly enhance growth prospects, they will be phased in over time, and the starting points are generally not that high.

Unlike more comprehensive trade agreements which attempt to reduce a variety of barriers to free trade, the primary goal of the RCEP is to reduce tariffs. In fact, some observers note that, from China's perspective, it is particularly attractive in that it is narrowly focused on tariffs rather than other issues. The agreement touches on intellectual property, but environmental protections and labor rights are not addressed.

Free trade is good for the economy. It can help open markets, strengthen supply chains, and enhance economic growth. This basic fact of economics has been proven over centuries. The increased Chinese influence may prove to be detrimental to the ability of the US to compete in the region. This outcome was largely preordained when the US pulled

out of the Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations in early 2017, but may be reversed through future policy shifts.

As an illustration of the potential magnitude of a major trade deal, we analyzed the benefits to the United States having the USMCA in place and found that it leads to an additional \$64.9 billion in gross product and almost 600,900 jobs compared to trading under the terms that would otherwise be in place (including multiplier effects). While the RCEP is not as comprehensive as the USMCA, it will nonetheless yield benefits to all member nations.

As nations struggle to recover from the pandemic fallout, free trade can help by enhancing competitiveness and reducing costs. Let's hope the US comes to the party. Stay safe!



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STANDARDS IN RELIGION

Objective standards are essential if we are to avoid chaos. This is seen everywhere in our daily lives. The baseball rulebook is the standard for baseball. The Federal tax code is the standard for income tax. Try and imagine a baseball game where the players played by their own rules, or where the umpires interpreted the rules as they saw fit. Suppose everyone paid taxes in the amount they thought was appropriate. You can imagine what would follow.

Now, think about religion. The Bible is the objective standard. What do I mean? It is an authoritative criterion, or test, by which anything in religion is measured. It is not a constantly changing standard. It is equitable i.e. it applies to all alike, rich or poor, black or white. It is a reliable standard that has stood the test of time. In spiritual matters it is the standard used in determining right and wrong. It is God's Rulebook, if you please!

That is why the apostle Peter, by inspiration, said: "If any man speak let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4: 11). One is not to speak or preach his own opinions or propagate his own prejudices, but his message must be from God's Word. To the Corinthians, the apostle Paul, by inspiration, wrote: "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1: 10). Thus, if there is to be unity in mind and judgment there must first be unity in doctrine and teaching. This passage cries out for an objective standard. The reason for disunity in the religious world, is that all are not speaking the same thing. My friend, is the Bible your standard in religion? 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

COVID-19 will change the holidays

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while traveling.

- Will you or those you are traveling with be within 6 feet of others during or after your trip? This increases your chances of getting infected and infecting others.

- Are you or those you are traveling with more likely to get very ill from COVID-19?

- Do you live with someone who is more likely to get very ill from COVID-19?

IF YOU TRAVEL

- Wear a mask in public settings, like on public and mass transportation, at events and gatherings, and anywhere you will be around other people.

- Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not from your household.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).

- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.

- Avoid touching your face mask, eyes, nose, and mouth.

STAYING WITH LOVED ONES

Going home for the holidays

may mean staying overnight at someone's residence. Consider whether you, someone you live with, or anyone you plan to visit with is at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, to determine whether to stay with them or stay elsewhere. If you are staying with loved ones, or hosting overnight guests, here are some safety steps:

- Visitors should launder clothing and mask and stow luggage away from common areas upon arrival.

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially upon arrival.

- Wear masks while inside the house. Masks may be removed for eating, drinking, and sleeping, but individuals from different households should stay at least 6 feet away from each other at all times.

- Open windows and doors or place central air and heating on continuous circulation to improve air circulation.

- Do not let pets interact with people outside the household.

- Monitor hosts and guests for symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of

breath.

- Have a plan for what to do if someone becomes sick.

WHAT TO DO IF EXPOSED TO VIRUS DURING HOLIDAY GATHERING

If you are exposed to COVID-19 at a holiday gathering, while traveling, or at any time, quarantine yourself to protect others by doing the following:

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

- Stay away from others, especially people who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

- Watch for fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19

- Consider getting tested for COVID-19. Even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should still stay home (quarantine) for 14 days after exposure to the virus, and some infected people never have symptoms but are still contagious.

- Do not travel until 14 days after your last possible exposure.



GALA recently held a membership raffle fundraiser for a drawing of a \$100 VISA gift card. Members Brenda Kaster, Letha Cross, Donna Seery, Latresa Powell and Phyllis Bethune were joined by Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell who drew the winning ticket for Pat Applegate.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

To wash or not to wash your turkey?

Fall is the season of change. The leaves begin to change colors, the temperature begins to drop, and our thoughts begin to shift towards "the holidays." First, we have Labor Day, then Halloween, followed by Thanksgiving and Christmas. All of these holidays bring about completely different types of dangers into our home.

One of these dangers is alcohol. Alcohol is common at most holiday celebrations, but we need to remember that children are at an increased risk during this time. Don't leave alcoholic beverages within children's reach - especially those mixed with soda or juice; they are more attractive to small children. Alcohol poisoning can be fatal to a child. Also, remember to drink in moderation, and if you drink, don't drive.

Another danger that comes with the holidays is food poisoning. Bacteria account for about 70% of food borne poisonings; this includes E.Coli, Salmonella, Shigella, Staphylococcus aureus, and Clostridium perfringenz. Symptoms can take from one hour to several days to appear and usually begin in the gastrointestinal track. These symptoms may include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and blood/mucus in stool.

Here are a few steps you can take to avoid contamination of food during the holidays:

Thaw foods in their original wrapping by moving it to the refrigerator to prevent bacteria growth. If defrosting it in the microwave, remove wrapping and defrost until it is thoroughly thawed before cooking.

Most fresh foods rich in proteins (fish, beef, pork, turkey, chicken, milk products, eggs, etc.) naturally contain a certain amount of bacteria. This usually does not present any danger if cooked properly. The internal

temperature of meats should reach at least 160° F to kill bacteria, depending on the type of meat.

Always refrigerate left over food promptly. Food should never

remain at room temperature for more than two hours.

Remember to wash cooking areas and utensils that were in contact with any raw foods.



Gladewater Grey beat Gilmer 12-6 to capture the 2020 2nd/3rd Superbowl Championship. The team - P. Bell, D. Nash, P. Bell, K. Choice, T. Gothard, H. Lincoln, L. Ford, H. Walls, K. Fortson, K. Ransom and C. Nykamp - was coached by Lemonte Lincoln Montez Bell, Derrick Nash and Lamar Ransom. is coached by Lemonte Lincoln Montez Bell, Derrick Nash, Lamar Ransom.

Another flag football team to win the Superbowl was Gladewater White - beating Gilmer 26-20.

Players include Z. Reese, A. Williams, J. Hightower, P. Bell, J. Spencer, K. Mills, D. Henderson, Z. Miller and L. Lions.

The team was coached by Bryan Mills and Jamarcus Mitchell.



Sports Round-Up

Lady Lions

The Union Grove Lady Lions have entered the basketball season firing on all cylinders. While the season is still quite young, Union Grove is sitting at 5-0, averaging almost 60 ppg while holding the competition to just 24 ppg. On Saturday the Lady Lions traveled to Spring Hill and left with a 67-34 decision, and a team has put on Union Grove thus far. Senior Macey Alston put up 29 against the Panthers and is averaging 23 ppg. Carleigh Judd added 22 and is averaging 18 ppg. Makenna Littlejohn knocked down 8 points.

Lady Bears

A 4th quarter rally comes up just short for the Gladewater Lady Bears. Gladewater trailed Terrell by 11 after 3. Although the Lady Bears doubled the Lady Tiger's output in the 4th, Terrell held on to win 58-53. JaKiyah Bell scored a game high 17 followed by Hai'leigh Oliver with 16. Ebony Pipkin added to the tally with 6 while Kamryn Floyd and MaKayla Police each had 5. On Tuesday Gladewater travelled to Winona and downed the Lady Cats 76-30. Pipkin led the charge against Winona, scoring 18. Police added 14. Other contributors included Sydney Spurlock 9, Bri Boyd 8, Bell 8, Calice Henderson 8, Kiyona Parker 6, Oliver 4, Cariesma Colbert 3.

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OBITUARY

STEVE MURRAY

Steve was born October 28, 1943 in Port Arthur, Texas to the late Thomas Lee Murray and Jennie Mae Robbins Murray. Steve was the Owner and Funeral Director in Charge of Croley Funeral Home in Gilmer, Gladewater and Hawkins and Grubb's Lloyd Funeral Home in Gilmer and Diana.



He married Karen Borel in 1968 and they spent 52 years together. Steve was a 32nd Degree Mason and Scottish Rite Shriner. Serving as Past Master and Counselor of the Port Arthur DeMolay Chapter, member of the Cosmopolitan Lodge #872 A.F. and A.M. and Past Master and current member of the Bethesda Lodge #142 A.F. and A.M. in Gilmer. Steve began his funeral service career at Levingston Funeral Home in Groves, Texas in 1962 before moving to Gilmer in 1974.

He was Past President of the East Texas Funeral Directors Association and served on the Texas Funeral Directors Association Board for 2 years. Steve was awarded Funeral Director of the Year and the Ed C. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award by the East Texas Funeral Directors Association for his many years of service. He was also very involved in the community and was past president of the Gilmer Rotary Club where he was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow recipient. Steve also served on the East Texas Yamboree Board for several years.

Steve was dedicated to his family, his profession and his community, always willing to help and to serve. His legacy will live on through the loving family he leaves behind.

Steve is survived by his wife Karen Murray; son, Troy Murray and wife Jimi; daughter, Lynn Murray; three grandchildren, Kade Murray, Katelyn Perryman and Brettlee Murray.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Bethesda Lodge #142 A.F. and A.M., 217 W. Harrison St, Gilmer, Texas 75644 or to The Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, Florida 33607.



Welcome to the World



Mack and Barbie Gebo welcome their little boy Ralph Roger Gebo the 3rd into the world Oct 2nd at 1pm weighing 10pounds 4 ounces 22 inches long. His brothers and sisters Sophia Alexander, James Alexander, Beth Alexander, Gabriel Alexander and Blake Gebo. His grandparents Ralph Roger Gebo the 2nd and Sheila Gebo on his dad's side; his mom's side Betsy Alexander and great grandparents Ray and Barbara Sharp.

Manna House family Christmas food box distribution

The Manna House Christmas Boxes will be given out on Wednesday, Dec. 9 and Thursday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Gladewater's First United Methodist Church Life Center located at 207 W Quitman.

Recipients of the boxes and toys must register by completing one application per household and providing photo ID and proof of residence. There is a limit of one food box per approved household. Approved applicants with children ages 12 AND UNDER permanently living in the same household may "shop" for a toy for each of the children (age 12 and under).

The new toys are donated by businesses and individuals within the community or purchased with donated monies. The Manna House Board would like to thank all within the community who help to make this annual event a success through their financial contributions, donations of toys and food, and by volunteering their time.

With the holidays approaching and rolling quarantines occurring, stay at home kids need some easy meals they can prepare. Manna House community food ministry needs cereal, peanut butter, Mac & Cheese, soups, tuna and Vienna sausages. Donations may be dropped off at the Gladewater Mirror weekdays during business hours or at Manna House in the southwest corner of



City Hall Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Financial donations may be mailed to: Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater, 75647.



Chris Martin, Kilgore Brookshire's store director, and Joe Stephens, Brookshire's district manager, present a \$25,000 check to the KC Foundation to create an endowed student scholarship fund. Photo by Rachel Stallard/KC

Rep. Dean wants STAAR test canceled

State Rep. Jay Dean and several Texas House representatives have signed a letter calling for the Texas Education Agency to cancel this school year's State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness exam, or at least not use the assessment as a part of the state's existing accountability system.

The letter, addressed to Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath, asks for the 2020-2021 school year, the Texas Education Agency seek the waivers necessary from the United States Department of Education for federal testing and accountability requirements to cancel the administration of the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam.



Sunday Services



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 Gladeview Baptist • 903-845-3842
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 Greater New Hope Baptist
 Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
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 New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
 St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
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 Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425
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Pastor Jim Withers



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Enter Lone Star Song Search through Dec. 31

AUSTIN – Don't mess with Texas is launching a contest as big as the Lone Star State to find its new anti-litter theme song. The Don't mess with Texas "Lone Star Song Search" invites Texans to compose an original song to compete for prizes provided by iHeart Media, Guitar Center and the School of Rock. Two winners will be selected in two different categories with each winning valuable prizes.

"The contest is an exciting way for Texans to add their voice to Don't mess with Texas," said Becky Ozuna, program administrator for the Don't mess with Texas campaign. "We are seeking fresh and unique songs, written by Texans, to creatively communicate the importance of keeping our state clean and

litter-free."

The Don't mess with Texas "Lone Star Song Search" is open to Texas residents, ages 13 and above. Contest rules and entry criteria can be found at Dontmesswithtexas.org. Contestants should submit their completely original song, up to 30 seconds long, by video, incorporating the Don't mess with Texas tagline and an anti-littering message. To be eligible, entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2020.

Don't mess with Texas will choose one winner in the Best Original Song category, who will receive a home recording studio donated by Guitar Center. The second winner will be chosen from a band or musician currently enrolled at the School of Rock

for their best original song and accompanying essay. This winner will receive a School of Rock Scholarship donated by iHeart Media. The Don't mess with Texas "Lone Star Song Search" winners will also join the ranks of other notable performers featured in the Don't mess with Texas campaign throughout the years including Willie Nelson, George

Strait, The Randy Rogers Band and Las Fenix.

Don't mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, annual "Trash-Off" community outreach events and the Adopt-a-Highway volunteer program.

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SMALL BUSINESS *Spotlight*

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Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses and communities across the country. Founded by American Express in 2010, this day is celebrated each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Since it started in 2010, consumers have reported spending an estimated \$120 billion across all 10 Small Business Saturdays combined*. Small Business Saturday is celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in the U.S. Small Business Saturday will be this coming Saturday - November 28. As a consumer, you're a key part in helping small businesses thrive. By shopping or dining at small businesses in your community, you're showing support for the businesses in your neighborhood and in the community, you call your own. You can Shop Small all year-long. Get up, get out and shop or dine at a local small business, invite friends to shop with you, find a new spot online, or share on your social networks where you #ShopSmall. Find new small businesses in your community.

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Tips for safe holiday entertaining in pet-friendly households

The holidays are a time to spend with friends and family. Celebrating and entertaining are large components of what makes Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, and New Years festivities so enjoyable.

Holiday hosts with pets must consider companion animals when planning the festivities.

The holiday season brings added dangers for pets. The American Veterinary Association notes that, by keeping hazards in mind, pet owners can ensure their four-legged friends enjoy the season as much as everyone else.

- Secure the tree. Securely anchor the Christmas tree so that it won't tip over on anyone, including rambunctious pets. Also, stagnant tree stand water can grow bacteria.

If a pet should drink the water, it may end up with nausea or diarrhea. Replenish the tree basin



with fresh water daily.

- Skip the candles. When creating mood lighting, opt for electronic or battery-powered lights instead of open flames. Pets may knock over candles, and that can be an instant fire hazard.

- Keep food out of reach.

Situate food buffets beyond the reach of hungry and curious animals. Warn guests to promptly throw out their leftovers so that dogs and cats do not sneak away with scraps that may cause

stomach upset or worse. Real Simple magazine warns that fatty foods can promote pancreatitis — a potentially dangerous inflammation of the pancreas that produces toxic enzymes and causes illness and dehydration. Small bones can get lodged in a pet's throat or intestines as well.

- Avoid artificial sweeteners. Exercise caution when baking sugar-free desserts. The artificial sweetener xylitol can cause dogs' blood pressure to drop to dangerously low levels. Xylitol is found in some toothpastes and gum, so tell overnight guests to keep their toiletries secure to avoid accidental exposure.

- Be cautious with cocktails. If the celebration will include alcoholic beverages, the ASPCA says to place unattended adult beverages where pets cannot reach them. Ingested alcohol can make pets ill, weak and even induce comas.



County's 'Hazard Mitigation Action Plan' discussed

By Phillip Williams

An emergency management planner, hired by Upshur County to revise its now-expired Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, told a public meeting at the Gilmer Fire Department on Friday afternoon why the forthcoming document is needed, and how it is intended to protect the county's citizens from natural disasters.

Angela Norton convened the meeting to seek input on natural hazards threatening the county, and ideas for reducing the risk associated with those hazards. During the more than 50-minute gathering, she addressed eight individuals—who included representatives of the Gilmer and East Mountain fire departments, Texas A&M Forest Service, county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols, a contractor and a reporter.

She is also seeking persons to serve on the the HMAP Revision Committee, and anyone interested may contact her at 903-725-5322 or Nichols at 903-240-3574.

Norton, a former Upshur County assistant district attorney and retired employee of the East Texas Council of Governments, explained that the county's current plan, which expired in 2018, needs revising to keep the county eligible for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The real important reason," however, is trying to keep county residents safer and minimize property damage in the event of such potential disasters as tornadoes, droughts, wildfires and floods, she said.

The plan must meet state and federal approval.

Possibly examples of mitigation, said Norton, would include having persons put a "tornado pod" in their yards, additional warning sirens, a drive to collect fans for needy persons in extreme heat, taking ice and water to outside workers on very hot days, offering shelter in public buildings to prevent heat stroke, classes for weather spotters, public education, metal roofs on public buildings to prevent hail damage to city equipment, and lightning rods to avoid strikes on buildings.

The state has identified 15 hazards which county governments and a county's jurisdictions (four incorporated cities in Upshur County) must each consider, and any entity which decides it does not need to address one or more of the 15 must explain why, she pointed out.

Each city--Gilmer, Big Sandy, Ore City and East Mountain--will have its own respective five-year plan, as will the county government. (The city of Gladewater, partly in Upshur and partly in Gregg County, will participate in the Gregg County plan.)

Norton indicated she did not believe the entities would need to address some of the 15 hazards, such as earthquakes (rare in this area) or coastal erosion since the county is so far from a coast.

Mitigation plans are first submitted to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, which usually wants changes in them, Norton said. Once the state approves a plan, it goes to FEMA, which also usually wants changes, she added.

After federal approval the county commissioners court and the city councils in the county would formally adopt their respective plans, she explained.

@

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gladewater City Council adopted the following ordinance November 19, 2020:

Ordinance #O-20-17 to renew the fee schedule in connection with the specific services of the City of Gladewater for the year 2021; repealing any ordinance or part thereof in conflict herewith; providing a penalty; and establishing an effective date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication as required by law.

Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from Judy Van Houten, City Clerk, Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, Texas.

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Sentinel Gardens looking for an assistant (must be able to work all shifts) and a cook.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO RECONCILE FUEL COSTS

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) applied to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on June 30, 2020, for authority to reconcile its eligible fuel expenses and revenues for the period of March 1, 2017, through December 31, 2019 (Reconciliation Period). SWEPCO's request, if granted, will affect all of SWEPCO's Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors. The request has no effect on SWEPCO's non-fuel base rates.

During the Reconciliation Period, SWEPCO incurred a total of \$616,370,432 in eligible fuel, fuel-related expenses, and purchased-power costs to generate and purchase electric energy for its Texas retail customers, as well as expenses associated with environmental consumables and emission allowance costs incurred by SWEPCO and allocated to its Texas retail customers. As of the end of the Reconciliation Period, SWEPCO calculates that it has over-recovered its Texas retail fuel, fuel related, and purchased-power costs by \$10,041,895, excluding interest. Including interest, SWEPCO's cumulative over-recovery balance is \$10,144,696 as of December 31, 2019. SWEPCO seeks to carry over the cumulative Reconciliation Period fuel over-recovery balance into the next reconciliation period beginning January 1, 2020. SWEPCO also requests a prudence finding for certain fuel-related contracts and arrangements entered into or modified during the Reconciliation Period. Finally, SWEPCO requests recovery of its reasonable rate-case expenses associated with this fuel reconciliation proceeding and a prior fuel refund proceeding, including those expenses paid to reimburse municipalities for their participation.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application is available for inspection at the address listed above.

Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120, or toll free at 1-888-782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll free) at 1-800-735-2989. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 50997.

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<p>903-845-2311</p> <p>Bodacious BBQ 1105 West Upshur Ave, Gladewater Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or until Sell Out Take Out and Dine-in</p>	<p>903-295-0506</p> <p>El Rincon 209 West US Hwy 80, White Oak Open Monday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. <i>Open for Dining Curbside Pick Up</i></p>
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