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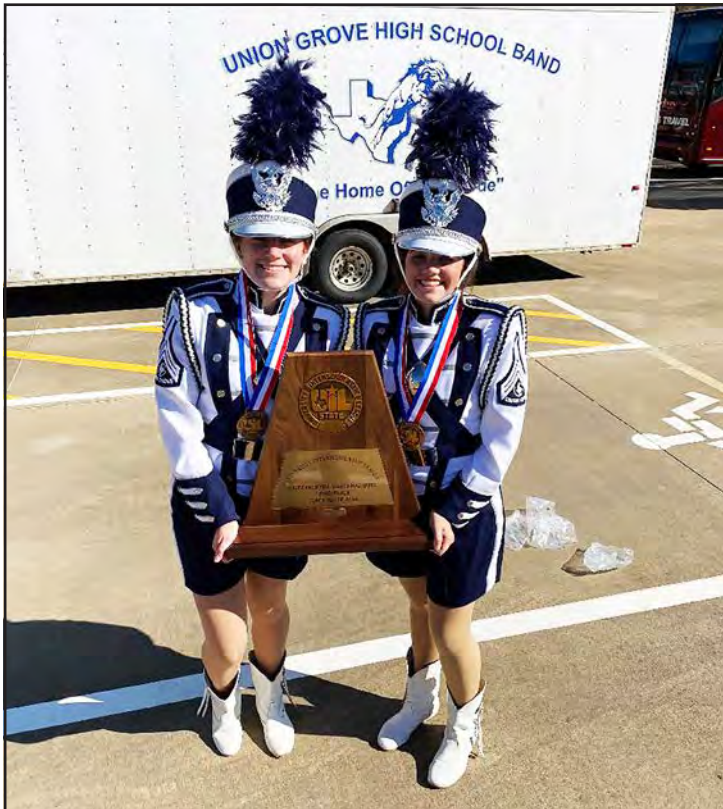
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UGHS Band captures 3rd in state contest

By Suzanne Bardwell

The pride of Union Grove High School, the Lion Marching Band attended its first UIL military sanctioned state marching contest at Pine Tree last Wednesday where the band earned third in state.

"I am incredibly proud of our band family for overcoming so many challenges that we have faced in what has been a unique school year," band director Brandon Garmon said. "Our students made the decision to not let adversity take away from the opportunity we had this season. Not only did they perform, but they made history this fall. That says a lot about the character and pride of our band students."

According to Garmon this was the first time for UIL to place their seal on the competition. The National Association of Military Marching Bands (NAMMB) has hosted a similar contest for many years.

"This new UIL competition is a big deal because it makes it possible for the military style bands that are mainly found in this part of the state to compete on a level playing field with one another for a UIL state championship," Garmon said. "This is a pilot program right now, meaning that it is in somewhat of a test period since it is brand new. The UIL will evaluate the progress, participation and other data to decide whether it should continue in the future. Based on the excitement from our recent contest, I would say we are off to a great start."

The Union Grove Band has been in existence since the early days of the Union Grove school. In the early '90s the band began to earn a consistent record of success at various competitions including UIL contests. 2020 marks the 31st consecutive year for the marching band to receive a First Division rating at UIL marching contest. According to Garmon this is one of the longest active streaks in the state of Texas.

The Lion Band also has 30 consecutive years of UIL sweepstakes awards which ties in their success at UIL Concert & Sight Reading contest to what they have achieved on the field in the fall marching

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Photo by Jim Bardwell

Santa toy run roars into Truman Smith

By Suzanne Bardwell

The recipe for Christmas cheer at Truman Smith Children's Care Center Saturday included equal parts of the Patriot Guard, Banditos, Cotton Club Riders, Patrons, Christian Club riders and a whole lot of other colors that spelled out the true meaning of Christmas—She gift of love through giving.

Gladewater's Truman Smith medical care center for fragile children saw a cavalcade of motorcyclists pull in with Santa's Sleigh filled with gifts for every single patient at the center. The event was held 29 years ago in Mom's Biker Bar. Now it is sponsored by Longview's Outlaws Bar.

Owner Melissa Lynn Kelly said that despite the pandemic people from all over the community participated to ensure the toy run



Photo by Suzanne Bardwell

was the success it has always been. With 500 gifts purchased for the 88 patients at the center no stocking was left unfilled.

"Everybody pitched in," Kelly said. "We had people from

\$4,500 while visiting the center's parking lot Saturday. There were over 100 motorcycles, dune buggies and jeeps that roared from Outlaws Bar in Longview to the Gladewater medical center where they paraded around the building so the children could see them from their windows. Due to COVID pandemic protocols none of the children were allowed outside. Many of the bikes and bikers were decked out in Christmas cheer. Even the Grinch made an appearance alongside old St. Nick. And, everyone was smiling, even that green old Grinch in his leathers.

"We understand the challenge of COVID with all the isolation," Truman Smith nurse Steffanie Stevenson said. "We are still going to have Christmas, it's just going to be modified."

everywhere who wanted to help our children this year. All of our angels were adopted."

And the giving didn't stop there. Three rough riding angels handed over checks totaling

Gladewater ISD to see almost \$5.3M in savings

By Suzanne Bardwell

The big news at Monday's GISD board meeting concerned the refinancing of the district's bond debt at a new 2.0244% and a total debt service savings of \$5.287 million by its payoff in 2044. The refinancing will result in about a \$223,000 per year savings for taxpayers.

In pursuit of more cost savings for the district board members voted unanimously to contract with Ideal Impact to upgrade the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at the high school

campus. According to Ideal Impact CEO Wes McDaniel the project to upgrade the failing system which has aged out and experiencing frequent breakdowns will cost \$174,375 to replace. Chief Financial Officer Glenda Hickey said that costs were budgeted and would be paid out of existing funds.

McDaniel reported an energy cost savings to the district of \$127,928 as of Dec. 1, 2020 with the current energy savings program that is in effect. He said that the savings by next Dec. 1 will be \$38,535.

Supt. Sedric Clark reported that Kilgore College is fully funding a high school success coach to work with high school students. Clark expressed gratitude to Kilgore College President Dr. Brenda Kays and local KC board member and former GISD trustee Jon Rowe for the valuable addition to the campus.

GMS Principal and GHS Interim lead administrator Chris Langford reported on campus improvement plans for the two schools. He said

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OPINION/EDITORIAL



Supreme Court rejects Texas AG's lawsuit

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton challenging the results of the presidential election.

President Donald Trump and 17 Republican attorneys generals had joined the lawsuit, which asked the Supreme Court to toss out the elections in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The lawsuit claimed the states "exploited the COVID-19 pandemic to justify ignoring federal and state election laws and unlawfully enacting last-minute changes, thus skewing the results of the 2020 General Election."

Texas Democrats accused Paxton of filing the lawsuit to distract voters from his own legal problems. More than 100 Republican members of Congress signed an amicus brief supporting the Texas lawsuit.

Sen. John Cornyn, the senior

Texas Republican, did not. He told CNN that "I frankly struggle to understand the legal theory of it. No. 1, why would a state, even such a great state as Texas, have a say-so on how other states administer their elections? We have a diffused and dispersed system and even though we might not like it, they may think it's unfair, those are decided at the state and local level and not at the national level."

Shining less bright

The Texas Education Agency partially extinguished STAAR for this school year because of the pandemic.

The agency said the A-F ratings would be paused for 2020-21 school year because of the disruptions to learning. Students still will take the STAAR test to provide information about individual learning.

"The last nine months have been some of the most disruptive of our lives. The challenges have been especially pronounced for our parents, teachers and students," Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in a statement. "We continue to prioritize the health and safety of students, teachers and staff in our schools this year while working to ensure students grow academically."

Chris Cobler Capital Highlights



'Treasured up'...

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19

'Treasured up' are beautiful words. What have you 'treasured up' from across the years of your lifetime? If we don't stop to open the treasure vault of our memories, to recall the joys we have known, they are lost as if they never happened. What a tragedy that would be. So, slow down, grab that moment out of your busy day to open your treasure box of Christmas memories.

My treasures are vast and filled with sweetness and joy. At age 11 I remember peering out the big back windows of our living room with my 7-year old brother. We stared at the crystal clear endless night sky blanketed by the Milky Way and twinkling stars. Phil came home from that last day of school before Christmas deflated and jaded after being told Santa wasn't real. As the wise older sister I told him I knew for a fact that Santa was real. All the parts of Christmas that speak of love are very real. Then miraculously we saw a light streaking over the back pasture with a blinking red light.

"Why look at that Phil, there goes Santa's sleigh now," I said. "That's Rudolph in front."

My little brother may have loved me more in that moment than he ever has, or ever will. The childhood magic of Christmas for at least one more year was my gift to him.

Our older brother was severely handicapped. He would lie on a pallet and watch us watch for Christmas. I wish I knew what went through his mind. I took for granted his presence, his place in our family, his love. Because



Suzanne Bardwell

of him I did not take for granted the vast array of possibilities for my life. What a magnificent gift Donnie gave me. When I see the lights of Christmas I often see the reflection in his deep brown eyes. As I remember that reflection, I embrace the depth of love that the Lord of Light emptied on our dark world. What we choose to see in our lives is often simply a matter of 'how' we look at what we 'see'. I have been blessed to clearly see so many joyful things.

My sweetheart and I had been married almost nine years when we had Josh, our only child. I 'treasured up' so many memories from those early Christmases. The year Josh wanted to make a Happy Birthday Cake for Baby Jesus complete with candles and song is one of my favorites.

Josh was a Linus who pulled a graying white blanket with him from the cradle and throughout his little boy years.

I still see him in his footed PJs on Christmas morning, grasping that frayed blanket after discovering evidence of Santa's red fur caught on the fireplace screen. He jumped, he giggled,

he raced for a ziplock bag to save that bit of red fur as one of his "most favorite" treasures. It most certainly is one of his momma's 'most favorite'.

In this year of isolation and loss for so many. We may need to return to our treasure vaults and ponder what we have so carefully saved. It really doesn't matter what gifts are under the tree. It is the ones that are "treasured up" in our hearts that are the real gifts of Christmas. You just have to have the "eyes to see" and a heart willing to open to the treasures that surround us. When you are able to do that you are able to share treasures with others whose vaults may hold more dark than light.

In the days leading up to the celebration of the birth of the One who teaches us how to love, make the time to ponder what you have 'treasured up' and remember to give thanks for the joy we have known that far outlasts any gift found under a tree. The memories of light will vanquish the darkness. And after all, isn't that what Christmas is really about?

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THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Rumors of Oil's Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

Among the myriad industries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic is one particularly critical to Texas: oil! As much of the global economy shut down to slow the spread of the virus this spring, fuel demand plummeted. Prices plunged, with futures contracts even briefly going negative. The industry initiated a rapid shutdown of drilling activity, which rippled through an enormous supply chain and supporting retail and service enterprises in the affected communities and the entire state. Many service firms and large swaths of production and reserves changed hands, as

capital resources for small and mid-sized firms became virtually nonexistent. Energy is the state's largest export sector, supporting a substantial segment of economic activity across Texas. When exploration, drilling, production, oilfield services, pipelines, storage, refining, shipping, and other aspects of the sector are considered, our analysis indicates that oil from the Permian Basin alone supports about 10% of the Texas economy, with the industry statewide comprising about 13-14%. As the pandemic caused chaos, comparisons to the devastation in the 1980s were inevitable. However, the issues this time were caused solely by a health crisis, and it remains merely a matter of time before recovery ensues. The pandemic has lingered beyond

expectations, but some balance has already been restored. Rig counts in Texas have recently edged upward. Early this year, over 400 rigs were running in the Permian Basin. In mid-August, the number was 116. In late October the count went back over 130 and was 163 at last count. Prices have generally been above \$40 per barrel for a while, which is sufficient to support the increase. We expect them to rise modestly next year. Obviously, there is still significant near-term uncertainty. COVID-19 cases are rising, and further restrictions may be needed, which could negatively affect demand and prices. This, too, shall pass. The pandemic has disrupted many aspects of life and the economy, and oil is certainly no exception. What has not been

materially altered, however, are the long-term global demographic patterns, manufacturing and trade flows, and pace of technological innovation that drive the ultimate patterns in petroleum demand and production. Earlier this year, the demand for oil in the world fell from about 101 million barrels per day (bpd) to just 72 million bpd in April, the lowest level since 1995. Many pundits were writing oil's obituary. However, almost 70% of the loss has already been recouped, and we and other analysts expect the 2021 level to be only 2-3% below prior peaks. Assuming vaccinations and therapeutics bring the virus under control, the market should return to previous peaks in 2022. The oil environment over this past year has not been fun, but it is also not permanent. Stay safe!



Lion's Club December student of the month, junior Logan Bohanon is a 2-year member of the varsity Bear football team and a member of the Gladewater FFA where he has participated in agriculture mechanics and show team competition. He earned Reserve Champion for the BBQ pit he built this fall. His sophomore and freshman years he participated in the Bear basketball program and as a freshman he participated in track and field competition. His parents are Jerry Bohanon and Amanda Childress. After graduation he plans to apply for the Eastman Summer Internship program and work toward a certification to become a full-time employee of Eastman.

Courtesy Photo



GHS junior Jade Thomas has been named December Lion's Club student of the month. Jade is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as varsity Bear mascot. She is also a member of the varsity softball team and in the top 10% of her class. As a freshman and sophomore Jade played the flute in the Gladewater High School Sweepstakes Marching Band. Her parents are Monica Thomas and the late Quinn Thomas. After graduation Jade plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler to major in athletic training. Then she plans to pursue a graduate degree to become a Physician's Assistant.

Courtesy Photo

What's Happening

UGJH All Region Band qualifiers

The Union Grove Junior High All Region Band results are in and congratulations goes to: Elise Daugherty-1st chair trumpet, Colton Mead-1st chair baritone, Maegan Birch-2nd chair trumpet, Hannah Coulter-2nd chair French horn, TJ Fowler-2nd chair trombone, Jesse Fulmer-2nd alternate tuba, Madysen Lowe-3rd chair French horn, August Vestal-4th chair French horn, Chloe Brooks-4th chair clarinet, Maddie Byers-5th chair clarinet, Carter Garmon-6th chair clarinet, Atley Alston-7th chair clarinet, Thomas Navarro-7th chair trombone, Keira Taylor-8th chair clarinet, Taylor Campbell-9th chair flute, Aiden Jones-13th chair trumpet, Malorie Cannon-15th chair clarinet.

Goodwyn named to Dean's List

Gladewater's Diamond Goodwyn was named to the University of Saint Mary's Dean List for the fall semester. The University is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university in Leavenworth, Kansas. To earn the honor students must be enrolled full time and achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Opry Friday Night Special

The Gladewater Opry will host a Friday Night Special at 7 p.m. with the East Mountain Bluegrass Band and the Marksmen Quartet. There will be no admission charge but a love offering will be taken.

Blood drives set

Carter BloodCare of Tyler will hold mobile blood drives at several Longview and Gilmer locations this month, and donors will automatically be entered in a random drawing for a new sport utility vehicle. They will also be presented \$20 grocery certificates to obtain turkey, ham or produce at certain area stores, she said.

Drives in Gilmer are set from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Walmart on north U.S. 271, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 23) at Tractor Supply on south 271

Upshur Sub-Tax Office closed for now

Luana Howell, Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector said the Gladewater sub-tax office, located at 2498 West Upshur, is temporarily closed due to COVID and a shortage of staff.

However, she hopes to have the office reopened soon, telling the *Gladewater Mirror* "I would anticipate re-opening Gladewater on January 4; however, in the event of another COVID shutdown, that office may be closed again for an unspecified period of time. I want, and do my best, to provide the Gladewater folks with the best possible service."

Meanwhile, Howell said the main tax office in Gilmer is open Monday thru Friday inside 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the lobby, and 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the drive-thru, and a second lane will be opening hopefully within the next month. The Gilmer office is located at 215 North Titus Street in Gilmer. If you have question call 903-843-3085.

Upshur's COVID-19 death toll now at 25

Upshur County has now recorded 659 state-confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 25 deaths, county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols said Monday. Of the total number, the state reported 630 have recovered and only four cases are active, Nichols added.

Although the state has designated Upshur as a "yellow" county as far as the level of cases (1-9 per 100,000 population), the coordinator said the overall number in the county is not rising at an alarming rate.

He said the yellow designation was based on last month's COVID statistics, when the county had a significant increase in cases during a one-week stretch that put Upshur in that category.

Nichols also urged citizens to continue precautions of hand washing, wearing masks and social distancing.

UGHS Band captures 3rd in state contest

Continued from Page 1

competition. To earn a sweepstakes a band must make a first division in marching contest, a first division on stage at concert contest and a first division in the sight reading portion of the concert band competition. Garmon has served as director since 2013.

"It goes without saying, this doesn't just happen," Garmon said. "A lot of directors and students contributed to this remarkable record over the past three decades.

The Lion Band has previously appeared at the UIL State Marching Contest in 2003, 2005, 2009, 2017 and 2018. The band finished fourth place in state in 2018. Last Wednesday's third place finish marked the highest state ranking the band has ever received. Each student received a bronze medal after the ratings were announced. This was Garmon's third time to take the band to the UIL State Marching contest.

"We talk a lot about what it means to work together to attain the goals of the group," Garmon said. "That's something unique about band where each individual plays a huge part of the success of the organization. It takes dedication and commitment for a band to see the success the Union Grove Band has for so many years."



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PEACE IN THE MIDST OF STORMS

Rest assured that life is not all calm and smooth sailing; there will be storms, and perhaps a shipwreck along the way. We are in the midst of a Coronavirus storm right now. Life can be hazardous and very often treacherous. How do we navigate these storms?

In Acts 27: 1-26 Paul and his company are caught in a storm of typhoon proportion for several days. Paul had warned the ship's officer's, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on-shipwreck, loss of cargo, injuries, and danger to our lives" (v. 10), but the sailors thought they could make it (v. 13). How often, when we are in the midst of a storm in life, do we discount God's Word, in favor of our own selfish desires or designs, thinking we can make it by ourselves?

The weather is not always sunny. Storms will come, count on it. When they do come, we must endure them with faith, understanding that eventually a brighter day will come, if not in this life, in the one to come. After all, this world is not our home, we are just passing through.

Remember, in verse 21, Paul said, "Men. You should have listened to me in the first place... You would have avoided all this injury and loss." By the same token, we should listen to God. Like Paul who said, "I believe in God. It will be just as He said" (Vs. 25, 26), we should put our confidence in what God has said. Others will eventually disappoint us, but if we listen to Him, and abide in what He has said, it will end well with us.

We learn that if we leave God out of our life and plans, our life and plans are doomed to failure. When the skies are dark, and the winds are howling, and we seem to be at the end of our rope, we just need to tie a knot in the end of the rope and hang on. Think on these things.

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Union Grove Lady Lion Carleigh Judd (32) clears out teammates and opponents alike, scoring 20 in the win over Harmony

Photo by Chris Jones

	GLADEWATER BOYS VARSITY & JV		
Dec. 18	Daingerfield	Home	5 & 6:15 p.m.
Dec. 22	New Diana	Home	5 & 7:15 p.m.
	GLADEWATER GIRLS VARSITY & JV		
Dec. 18	Daingerfield	Away	5 & 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 22	New Diana	Home	5 & 6:30 p.m.

Sports Round-Up

Lady Lions clip Lady Eagles

Union Grove's Carleigh Judd led the Lady Lions easily over Harmony 42-22.

Union Grove stifled the Lady Eagles' offense, allowing Harmony just 7 points in the first half. Macey Alston had 7 herself while Gracie Winn put up 5. Macey Roberts and Makena Littlejohn each had 3.

In Quitman, Judd dropped in 21 points as the Lady Lions jumped out to a 32-15 halftime lead over the Lady Dogs. Alston contributed 12, helping the Grove ease to a 46-26 win. Roberts scored 8 while Littlejohn had 5. After these latest games the Lady Lions are sit at 9-0.

Lady Bears edge out West Rusk

Gladewater's Kamryn Floyd led the Lady Bears with 11 points as they beat West Rusk 54-50.

Three other Lady Bears also scored in double digits. JaKiyah Bell had another great night putting up 10 points, while grabbing 7 rebounds as well as 7 steals. Adding another 10 points, Hai'leigh Oliver raided the Lady Raiders with 5 steals and 4 rebounds. Calice Henderson had 4 steals and 5 rebounds to go with her 10 points. Gladewater held a 1 point advantage at the half before expanding their lead by another 11 points to start the 4th. West Rusk tried to rally, but the Lady Bears held them down just enough to come home with the win. The victory was a nice bounce back for Gladewater after they fell to Gilmer 79-29.

Lewis leads Bears to 60-49 win

Gladewater Bear Kollin Lewis put 23 on the board to put the Bears over Clarksville 60-49.

Dennis Allen added 14 to the tally along with 11 from K'havia Reese. Tied at 41 after 3, Gladewater pulled away in the 4th. Nick Lincoln helped the Bears pull away along with Eli Kates as each added 4 points. Keilan James and Zavion Woods had 2 apiece.

Texas Girls Coaches Association 2A State Basketball Poll December 14, 2020

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Muenster 10-0 | 9. Panhandle 6-1 | 17. Wellington 3-1 |
| 2. Weimar 6-0 | 10. Yorktown 8-0 | 18. Ropes 9-1 |
| 3. San Saba 6-0 | 11. Poolville 7-0 | 19. Hearne 9-2 |
| 4. Wolfe City 11-0 | 12. Alba-Golden 6-0 | 20. Harper 9-1 |
| 5. <u>Union Grove 9-0</u> | 13. Douglass 6-0 | 21. Holland 9-2 |
| 6. Sam Rayburn 7-0 | 14. Centerville 9-1 | 22. Lipan 4-2 |
| 7. Gruver 2-1 | 15. Anson 8-1 | 23. Haskell 5-1 |
| 8. Martins Mill 6-1 | 16. LaPoynor 7-1 | 24. Forsan 8-2 |



Lady Lion Gracie Winn (5) races a defender down the court after stealing the ball.

Photo by Chris Jones

	UNION GROVE BOYS VARSITY & JV		
Dec. 19	Gary	Away	Noon
	UNION GROVE GIRLS VARSITY & JV		
Dec. 18	Carlisle (V)	Home	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	Big Sandy	Home	11 a.m.
Dec. 22	New Diana	Home	5 & 6:30 p.m.



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The newly reorganized Gladewater EAA held its second meeting Saturday morning with several pilots from Carthage, Tyler, and Marshall flying in to show their support. Newly elected officers include: President: J.D. Clark, V.P.: Steven Shores, Secretary: Adam Clark and Treasurer: David Sorrells. Everyone in attendance was excited and eager to help with future events and the pilots enjoyed a chili lunch after the program on Preventive Maintenance presented by Adam Clark in one of the larger hangers. A volunteer is needed to serve as the Young Eagle Coordinator who is responsible for keeping records each time a pilot provides a free ride to a minor. The officers plan to sponsor two events next year free to the public.



Photos by Lois Reed

BBB Scam Alert: A COVID-19 vaccine is on the way. So are the scams.

Government officials have already been cracking down on phony COVID testing kits and treatments. Now, they are ramping up efforts to prevent the sale of fake vaccines.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is working with the drug companies developing the vaccines to stop the sale and distribution of phony versions. Also, the Federal Trade Commission issued warning letters to several companies claiming they had a product to cure or prevent the virus.

Selling fake vaccines and other treatments is likely only one of many ways scammers will try to cash in on the vaccine release. Watch out for phishing messages attempting to trick you into sharing your passwords and personal information.

Con artists have already impersonated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in phishing emails that claim to have news about the disease. BBB has also seen an increase in scams using robocalls to impersonate government officials.

ACCORDING TO THE BBB, HERE'S HOW TO SPOT A CORONAVIRUS CON:



RESEARCH CAREFULLY



CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR



IGNORE CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION



DOUBLE CHECK THE URL

How to Spot a COVID Vaccine Con:

* Research carefully: Scammers are very creative, so be skeptical of anything that seems too good – or crazy – to be true. Double check any information about the vaccine with official news sources. And be aware that none of the vaccines can be currently purchased online or in stores.

* Check with your doctor: If you want a vaccine early, reach out to your healthcare provider about your options. If you don't have a primary care physician, check out the official website of your local health department for more information

* Ignore calls for immediate action. While you may want to be first in line for the vaccine, don't let that sense of urgency cloud your judgment. Scammers try to get you to act before you think. Don't fall for it.

* Think the link may be real? Double check the URL. Scammers often buy official-looking URLs to use in their cons. Be careful that the link is really what it pretends to be.

If the message alleges to come from the local government, make sure the URL ends in .gov (for the United States) or .ca (for Canada). When in doubt, perform a separate internet search for the website.

SMALL BUSINESS *Spotlight*

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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On October 13, 2020, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or Company) filed a Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or the Commission) in Docket No. 51415, and with those municipal authorities in its Texas service territory that have original jurisdiction over SWEPCO’s electric rates. This notice is being published in accordance with Section 36.103 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act and Commission Procedural Rule 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

SWEPCO has approximately 187,000 Texas retail customers. All such customers and all classes of customers will be affected by the relief requested in SWEPCO’s Petition.

SWEPCO’s request to change its rates is based on the financial results for a 12-month test year ending on March 31, 2020. SWEPCO’s Petition seeks an overall increase of \$105,026,238, an increase of 30.3% over adjusted Texas retail test year base rate revenues exclusive of fuel and rider revenues. SWEPCO’s proposed revenue increase will be offset by a \$14,826,502 decrease in annualized Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) and Distribution Cost Recovery Factor (DCRF) revenue. Thus, the net proposed Texas retail revenue increase is \$90,199,736, an increase of 26.0% over adjusted Texas retail test year base rate revenues exclusive of fuel and rider revenues. The overall impact of the rate change, considering both fuel and non-fuel revenues, is a 15.6% increase. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice, as shown in the table below. In addition, SWEPCO is seeking recovery of the reasonable rate-case expenses, including expenses paid to reimburse intervening municipalities, that it incurs in this case and those rate-case expenses incurred in three prior dockets that have yet to be recovered.

A Residential Service customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per month will see an increase in their total bill (including fuel costs and rate riders) of \$15.71 per month, an increase of approximately 15.0%.

The following table presents the percentage annual revenue increases, by type of service, under the proposed rates in this proceeding:

SWEPCO Texas Proposed Base Rate Increase			
Applicable Service	Change in Non-Fuel Revenue (\$) *	Change in Non-Fuel Revenue (%) **	Change in Total Bill (%) ***
RESIDENTIAL	\$ 34,924,204	23.75%	15.64%
GENERAL SERVICE W/DEMAND	4,461,476	26.25%	18.45%
GENERAL SERVICE WO/DEMAND	2,167,555	38.23%	27.15%
LIGHTING & POWER - SEC	28,784,427	28.49%	14.96%
LIGHTING & POWER - PRI	6,789,019	28.44%	14.40%
COTTON GIN	69,427	26.14%	15.74%
LARGE LIGHTING & POWER - PRI	1,506,976	28.44%	14.40%
LARGE LIGHTING & POWER - TRANS	6,300,461	28.14%	13.23%
METAL MELTING - SEC	40,125	27.91%	17.81%
METAL MELTING - PRI	369,199	26.32%	13.11%
METAL MELTING - TRANS	320,810	21.40%	9.74%
OILFIELD PRIMARY	3,009,127	28.29%	13.23%
OILFIELD SECONDARY	191,671	32.55%	15.94%
MUNICIPAL PUMPING	196,244	9.76%	7.00%
MUNICIPAL SERVICE	171,173	10.37%	6.60%
MUNICIPAL LIGHTING	221,268	9.76%	7.00%
Street Lighting Sheet IV-23	226	19.75%	13.39%
Municipal Street Lighting Sheet IV-24	389	23.23%	19.12%
Municipal Street and Parkway Lighting Sheet IV-25	268,331	12.60%	9.23%
Municipal Street and Parkway Lighting Sheet LED IV-65	n/a	n/a	14.84%
Street Lighting Service Sheet IV-31	(48,498)	-22.61%	-19.90%
Public Highway Lighting Sheet IV-27	819	19.50%	13.02%
PUBLIC STREET & HWY (Sheet IV-26)	800	2.65%	1.23%
PRIVATE, OUTDOOR, AREA	595,175	14.34%	10.18%
Private Lighting Sheet IV-28	210,792	29.00%	21.99%
Area Lighting - Outdoor Sheet IV-29	6,910	18.49%	14.65%
Area Lighting - Outdoor Sheet IV-30	326,842	9.68%	7.06%
Floodlighting Service Sheet IV-32	26,157	28.82%	20.79%
Outdoor Lighting Sheet IV-33	24,474	32.98%	28.11%
Area Lighting - Outdoor LED Sheet IV-66	n/a	n/a	14.84%
CUSTOMER-OWNED LIGHTING	79,569	27.15%	14.84%
Recreational Lighting Sheet IV-21	65,016	24.55%	14.84%
Customer Supplied Lighting Sheet IV-22	14,554	24.55%	14.84%
* Base rate revenue net of transmission and distribution cost recovery revenues.			
** Transmission and distribution cost recovery factor revenue recovered in existing base rates will be reset to zero with this filing.			
*** Bill impact includes base rate revenue plus fuel factor, energy efficiency cost recovery factor, rate case expense surcharge, transmission cost recovery revenue, and distribution cost recovery revenue.			

SWEPCO has proposed that its requested rate change become effective 35 days after the filing of the Petition and Statement of Intent. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission and other regulatory authorities.

SWEPCO is proposing revisions to most tariffs and schedules. In addition, in order to facilitate future TCRF, DCRF, and Generation Cost Recovery Rider (GCRR) filings pursuant to 16 TAC §§ 25.239, 25.243, and 25.248, respectively, SWEPCO requests that the Commission: (1) set the Company’s current TCRF and DCRF to zero; and (2) establish in this docket the baseline values consisting of the inputs to the calculations that will be used to calculate SWEPCO’s TCRF, DCRF, and GCRR in future dockets.

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 the Petition and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 51415. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the commission, unless otherwise provided by order of the presiding officer. The presiding officer for Docket No. 51415 has ordered an intervention deadline of February 10, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the preferred method for you to file your request for intervention or comments on the application is electronically, and you will be required to serve the request on other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address on the intervention request. Instructions for electronic filing via the “PUC Filer” on the Commission’s website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Filer are available at http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/New_PUC_Web_Filer_Presentation.pdf. Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: centralrecords@puc.texas.gov. For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission’s Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or helpdesk@puc.texas.gov. You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.



Darla Ferguson got help from local elves - also known as Gladewater firefighters - this week in delivering toys to 125 kids as part of the annual Darla's Angels. Local banks again pitched in hosting the Christmas trees full of angels. Thanks to everyone's generosity, each child will get six toys. Courtesy Photo



Deck The Paws: Ensuring A Pet-Safe Holiday Home

The holiday season is a favorite time of year for many who transform their homes with festive decorations, bake winter treats, and open their doors to guests. Because these traditions introduce new variables into their furry friend's environment, pet owners should be aware of any potential hazards that might arise.

Dr. Lori Teller, an associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that owners adding a floral touch to their holiday decorations should be mindful of which plants they select. Lilies, European mistletoe, amaryllis bulbs, and pine needles can all cause serious health complications if consumed.

"In general, they can cause oral irritation and may cause your pet to salivate and drool. Excessive quantities can lead to gastrointestinal upset," Teller said. "It is a myth that poinsettias are toxic to pets."

Other holiday decorations pet owners should avoid include candles, which may burn pets or cause a serious fire if knocked over, and liquid potpourri, which is extremely toxic to cats. If your pet is a curious climber, consider anchoring your Christmas tree to a wall or ceiling to avoid falling and sharp broken ornaments.

When opening gifts, keep in mind that batteries are toxic to pets and should be kept out of reach. Any decorative elements containing string, such as ribbons or tinsel, may also cause an obstruction if ingested.

"Ornaments made from food, like popcorn balls, can also be a source of danger. Hang these ornaments well out of reach," Teller said. "When putting presents under the tree or around the fireplace, make sure that any gift-wrapped food items are out of reach."

Pets hunting for a holiday snack may also be at risk.

Chocolate, especially dark and baking chocolates; raisins; bones; alcohol; and fatty foods can all cause serious issues. Macadamia nuts can cause neurologic problems in pets as well. Anything that contains xylitol, an artificial sweetener found in many foods from gum to peanut butter, is toxic to dogs, leading

to acute liver failure and death if not treated immediately.

"Normally, raw dough is a seasonal problem during the holidays, but this year there has been an exponential increase in the number of yeast and dough intoxications because so many people have been perfecting their baking skills during the pandemic," Teller said. "Don't stop baking your delicious goodies—just keep the raw versions away from your pets!"

Pet owners choosing to host a holiday gathering should be mindful of whether their animal enjoys company. Pets that prefer to keep to themselves should be confined to a quiet area of the home with a comfortable place to rest. Owners can leave on a radio or TV to help mask the noise from a party and provide a favorite toy.

If a pet is known to become excessively nervous when guests visit, owners can reach out to their veterinarian to discuss remedies that may alleviate anxiety. These may include pheromones or some medications. Some people may opt to board their pet at a kennel.

"If your pet enjoys a good get-together, make sure to keep it away from doors that are frequently opened so that you don't have to worry about your pet getting loose in all of the excitement," Teller said. "Just in case, make sure your pet is wearing a collar and identification tag and that it has a microchip that is registered with your current information in a microchip database. Advise guests not to slip treats to your pet as well."

During the season of gratitude and family, many pet owners may wish to include all of their loved ones, human and animal, in their celebrations. Creating a pet-safe environment ensures that both owners and their furry friends can enjoy the holidays worry-free.

"Our pets have played a huge role in our lives, especially during the pandemic. Be sure you take some time to give them extra attention," Teller said. "That will be the best gift of all."



JH A HONOR ROLL 2nd MP 7TH GRADE

Atley Alston
Creeann Bozarth
Chloe Brooks
Kenneth Flanagan
Carter Garmon
Parker Haley
Ryan Hickerson
Madysen Lowe

Jacob Griffin
Torryn Humber
Gaige Polen
Sarah Prince
Jenna Robertson
Katherine Scudday
Allison Smith

HIGH SCHOOL - A HONOR ROLL 1ST MP 9TH GRADE

Kathryn King
Sydney Pritchett
Jenna Scott
Addison Smith
Rowdy Williams
Grace Woodall

8th GRADE

Thomas Branscom
Keira Taylor

JH A/B HONOR ROLL 2nd MP 7TH GRADE

Hope Cannon
Brianna Carrion
Karen Chavez
Landon Clark
Calab Day
Nathaniel Haggard
Ayden Johns
Alyssa Mullican
Thomas Navarro-Gonzalez
Natalie Pritchett
Nicholas Scavone
Garrett Staley
Preston Travis
August Vestal
Lyndsey Wallace
Natalie Woodard

10TH GRADE

Emily Lynch
Gracie Stanford

11th GRADE

Avery Brooks
Emily Calhoun
Sydney Chamberlain
Bailey Clowers
Kerigen Ellis
Kennedi Gordy
Payton Haley
Adam Hanson
Olivia Hudgens
Emily Melton
Brent Reeves
Jolea Robertson
Mia Rust
Jace Stanley

HS A HONOR ROLL 2ND MP 9TH GRADE

Sarah Clowers
Jaxson Daniels

8th GRADE

Bailey Baird
Taylor Campbell
Hannah Coulter
Elise Daugherty
Judson George
Abigail Grace
Izabelle Gregg

UNION GROVE ISD HONOR ROLLS 2nd NINE WEEKS

Kathryn King
Brittini Parman
Sydney Pritchett
Sophie Pyle
Keeley Rust
Jenna Scott
Addison Smith
Kameron Townsend
Ava Wightman
Faith Woodall
Grace Woodall

10TH GRADE

Caden Handorf
Carsyn Hudgens
Lainey Ledbetter
Emily Lynch
Sumeet Mattu
Gracie Stanford
Gracie Winn

11TH GRADE

Avery Brooks
Sydney Chamberlain
Bailey Clowers
Samantha Coleman
Kerigen Ellis
Mireya Evans
Kennedi Gordy

Adam Hanson
Olivia Hudgens
Jolea Robertson
Mia Rust
Jace Stanley
Jocelyn Suarez
Katelyn Vaughn
HS A HONOR ROLL 2ND MP

12TH GRADE

Macey Alston
Dakota Arden
Madeline Barnett
Kole Burns
John Caviness
Kannon Childress
Noah Childress
Catalina Collings
Cannon Cowan
Collin Demoss
Carlos Escobedo
Camille Hanson
Saylor Jasper
Carleigh Judd
Makena Littlejohn
Jayce Nutt
Catherine Pritchett
Brandi Robinson
Macy Williams

Wyleigh Wilson

HS A/B HONOR ROLL 2ND MP 9TH GRADE

Vance Aaron
Carson Bogue
Mason Byers
Brayden Carter
Brady Colby
Clason Dillard
Esmeralda Escobedo
Anna Flanagan
Rylee Graham
Owen Matthew
Jeremiah McGee
Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez
Elijah Parham
Katherine Potter
Anthony Scavone
Bayli Seymour
Cade Sullivan
Jeremy Taylor
Lane Turner
Emily Valdes
Rowdy Williams
Weldon Wilson

HS A/B HONOR ROLL 2ND MP 10th GRADE

Aaron Amos
Mackenzie Arden
Joshua Baker
Emily Bible
Briyanna Blalock
Mckenzie Ellis
Landon Goodman
Analeice Jones
Bailey Kirkland
Jordan Lee
Stacy Leon-Ramos
Angelina Leyva
Tyler Littlejohn


Natalie Martin
Blake Moore
Brayden Pirtle
Chloe Staley
Makayla Wallace
Madison Waller

11th GRADE

Cameron Aguilar
Emily Calhoun
Hunter Cannon
Buddy Ferguson
Sabeta Fernandez
Payton Haley
Brice Hart
Harlee Kirbis
Kadynce Matthew
Emily Melton
Trevor Moore
Alex Prince
Brent Reeves
Tyler Rodgers
Taylor See
Carter Smith
Aubrey Woodard


HS A/B HONOR ROLL 2ND MP 12th GRADE

Krista Batterton
Brooklyn Berry
Jared Childress
Nathan Huckabay
Maya Huffman
Trinity Humber
Kenneth Johnson
Joshua Kessler
Angel Martin-Lindsay
Gracie McKinley
Allison Shott
Gannon Smith
Chance Spivey
Jerry Wallace



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Local sales tax down 20.29%

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$790.3 million in local sales tax allocations for December, 3.7 percent less than in December 2019.

These allocations are based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

Gladewater posted a -20.29-percent decline in sales tax revenue over the same reporting period last year - \$78,717.59 compared to \$99,598.44. But for the year, Gladewater is still ahead of 2019 by 2.91-percent - \$1,157,394.54 compared to \$1,124,584.17 the previous year.

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
GREGG COUNTY							
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$5,256.97	\$4,554.13	15.43%	\$81,868.41	\$53,703.26	52.44%
Easton	1.000%	\$3,070.36	\$3,157.49	-2.75%	\$47,116.51	\$31,571.15	49.23%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$78,717.59	\$99,598.44	-20.96%	\$1,157,394.54	\$1,124,584.17	2.91%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$487,170.13	\$719,867.63	-32.32%	\$6,962,622.54	\$9,822,740.85	-29.11%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$18,311.12	\$16,301.39	12.32%	\$237,786.93	\$217,117.96	9.51%
Longview	1.500%	\$2,549,198.73	\$2,795,078.21	-8.79%	\$33,602,228.20	\$34,436,922.42	-2.42%
Warren City	1.000%	\$1,198.83	\$1,758.37	-31.82%	\$16,152.94	\$19,914.44	-18.88%
White Oak	1.500%	\$77,310.46	\$118,828.50	-34.93%	\$1,069,695.00	\$1,131,789.86	-5.48%

Gladewater ISD to see almost \$5.3M in savings

Continued from Page 1
that working with GMS Asst. Principal Derek Floyd the top priority at the middle school was to overcome the COVID learning gap that has resulted from students missing one quarter of their school year in the spring..

"We have worked hard to be present and be open so kids can be in school and parents can go to work," Langford said. "At the high school we are trying to make sure our kids are ready to graduate. We are also getting help

for our teachers. All I can say is that this is the weirdest year ever in schools."

Langford went on to say that the next high school principal has the opportunity to be very successful.

"I think we can become the best high school in East Texas," Langford said.

Trustee Garth Cockerell thanked Langford for the job he has been doing.

"You are the man for the job," Cockerell said.

Asst. Supt. Dr. Cliff Lightfoot reported that 57 high school students had retested for End of Course requirements

for graduation that were pre-pandemic tests. He said that despite this year's TEA waiver on STAAR and EOC testing the district is gearing up for future testing requirements.

Board members approved the purchase of new playground equipment for Gladewater Primary School at a cost of \$32,249 out of budgeted funds to replace the 25-year old sets

in place. Supt. Clark announced that filing for the May 1 school board election would run from Jan. 13 until Feb. 12. The places up for election are Place 6 held by Jamie Robertson and Place 7 held by George Glenn.

Clark also recognized the Education Foundation of Gladewater for its efforts to support teachers and classroom

SCHOOL CALENDARS

GISD Calendar

12/15, Tuesday
5/6:30 p.m. G BB vs. Sabine-H
5/7:15 p.m. B BB vs. Tyler Heat

12/17, Thursday
Noon Early Release
Parent Conferences w/teacher

12/18, Friday
Student Holiday
Parent Conferences w/teachers
5/6:30 p.m. G BB@Daingerfield
5/7:15 p.m. B BB@Daingerfield

12/29, Tuesday
1/2:30 p.m. G BB vs. Nacogdoches-H

1/4, Monday
Student Holiday
Teacher Workday

1/5, Tuesday
Student Holiday
Teacher Workday
5/7:15 B BB@Hughes Springs

1/6, Wednesday
Spring Semester begins

UGISD Calendar

12/18, Friday
Early Release
5 p.m. JVV B BB@New Diana
5:30 p.m. V G BB vs. Carlisle-H

12/19, Saturday
Noon JVV BB@Gary

Brookshire's gets naming rights

Brookshire Grocery Company (BGC) and City of Bossier City are excited to announce that BGC has purchased naming rights of the Bossier City Arena to be known as the Brookshire Grocery Arena.


Mayor Lo Walker made the announcement last week.

"We are incredibly excited to extend our involvement and dedication to Bossier City and the surrounding community in this whole new way," said Brad Brookshire, Charman and CEO of Brookshire Grocery Co. "As it has been for more than 92 years, our mission is to provide

customers with exceptional shopping experiences while also furthering our commitment to and involvement in the communities we serve. We look forward to a long and meaningful partnership with Bossier City to help bring tourism and revenue to the city."

The Bossier City arena is constantly rated among the top arenas in the United States and has become an industry leader among arenas its size. The partnership with BGC runs through 2030 and will start with a six-month branding period as the arena undergoes a transition.

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Matt Byrd of the Byrd's Nest presented a cash love offering to Suzanne Bardwell for Manna House from a fundraiser held at the business owned by he and his wife Karla. Financial donations for Manna house may be mailed to: Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater, 75647.

Photo By Jim Bardwell

City calling special election

The Gladewater City Council is scheduled Thursday night to order a special election to be held Saturday, May 1, 2021, for the purpose of considering authorization to use the Type A Economic Development Sales Tax for some Type B Economic Development projects.

This is not a new tax. It is simply taking existing 1/2-cent sales tax revenue and reallocating a portion of it. And such reallocation of EDC Type A funds require voter approval.

The council met last week with board members of the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation (GEDCO) to discuss how "quality of life" projects could be funded by GEDCO, which is a Type A Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Type A EDCs routinely focus on industrial projects. This would widen the scope and provide taxpayers with more tools to improve Gladewater.

The council and GEDCO board hope to work together - if approved by the voters - on projects that the city doesn't have the funding for, but need to be done - such as the restrooms at the lake, parks, the downtown area, loft apartments, and airport hangars.

The council is also expected to discuss an agreement with Gregg County for support of Lee Public Library, a joint election agreement between Kilgore Junior College District and the City of Gladewater, and a First Amendment to Municipal Water Tower Lease Agreement between the City of Gladewater and New Cingular Wireless PCS.

The council also is scheduled to authorize the creation and advertisement of a Request for Proposal (RFP) related to ballpark facility lease.



Mallory Dippold Shelton was sworn in as Union Grove Mayor Friday night along with new City Councilwoman Kim Mullins. A community reception was held including a special visitor and treats for the children in attendance. They were sworn in by Wyone Manes. Courtesy Photo

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