Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020

Vol. 92, No. 53

1 Section, 10 pages

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REVIEW









dewater IIII







2020 It was a heck of a ride

By Jim Bardwell

This year is almost over and it couldn't come too soon. We've had a heck of a news year - that's "news year" not New Year.

We've reported in the COVID-19 Pandemic and how it has touched almost every aspect of our lives - from car parade high school graduation to the Gladewater rodeo being canceled for the first time ever. Schools had to rethink how they could keep kids connected and educated while keeping everyone safe.

It has been a sad year in many ways - but not totally. The Gladewater Bears won another district crown, and most businesses survived the mandatory closer orders as government officials tried to flatten the curve on the rising cases of COVID. We still had Holiday Open House while social distancing and wearing masks, and life went on - not quite as usual, but it went on.

The following are some of the top stories of 2020.

January

We started off 2020 with news that the Gregg County sheriff's deputies and Gladewater Police captured a 34-year-old jail escapee on US 271 after searching for the escapee all night long. Jace Laws was arrested and was transported by the Gregg County Sheriff's Office from the scene to the Smith County Courthouse where he was

Continued on Page 9

Mayor anticipates a better and brighter 2021

Wow! Here we are in the 11th hour of one of the most trying years of all our lives...2020! We end the year with vaccines being distributed across the world. It's not just a distribution of vaccines but

of hope. We all anticipate a better and brighter 2021! We deserve it...all of us!!!



MAYOR JD SHIPP

We have all journeyed together through the uncertainty of 2020 and the COVID pandemic. It changed how we interacted with one another. On the lighter side, we exchanged a handshake for a fist bump, an elbow tap or even a foot tap. We began wearing masks to protect one another. How often did you get to the storefront and then recognize you didn't have your mask? I did it numerous times! On a sadder note, we were unable to see loved ones for long periods of time and, in some cases, still

have not seen loved ones to date. This serves as a reminder to cherish every moment with a loved one. Should there be a positive impact of the pandemic, may it be a greater respect and love for one another.

The pandemic has changed how we do business. Ordering online has always been an option but not for all businesses. Businesses who did not previously offer online service began doing so. We also saw curbside pick-up for meals or products becoming more available. Zoom meetings allowed businesses to keep operating while also protecting staff. Conventions went online as well. Will we continue to see these business practices once the pandemic is over? Will a demand for use of convention centers and office buildings return? After the pandemic is over, the economics of these choices still remain.

The city faced how to continue serving its citizens while also protecting staff and citizens. First responders were made aware

Continued on Page 2













New COVID restrictions required - capacity goes from 75% to 50%

Upshur County had suffered 31 state-confirmed deaths as of Monday out of a total of 710 confirmed COVID-19 cases, but the state also reported the county has had 955 total "probable cases," according to county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols.

The Texas Department of State Health Services also reported the county has an estimated 182 active cases, and an estimated 1,452 cases in which the patient recovered, Nichols added.

In Gregg County, NET Health officials reported Monday that there were 985 active cases, 76 deaths and 3,038 recoveries. NET Health also reported 77 new cases in Gregg County on Dec. 28.

Over the past two weeks, the number of cases in Upshur county has been rising at a faster rate than before, said the coordinator, adding that "Folks still need to be diligent in what they're doing" in taking precautions against the virus.

That includes hand washing, wearing masks and

social distancing, Nichols said. The coordinator also said he does not know how

the state is compiling its statistics. DSHS announced Dec. 21 that Upshur and 18 other counties which comprise the "Piney Woods

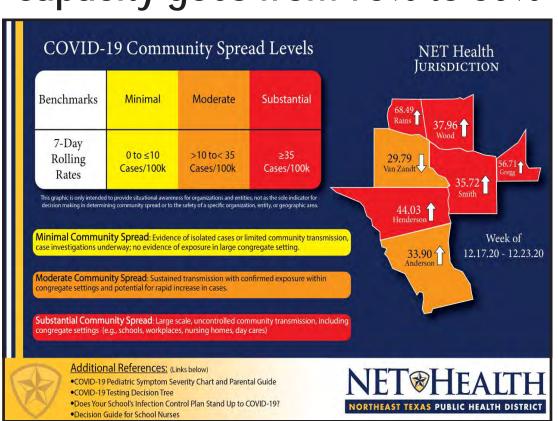
Trauma Service Area G 2020 Population Estimate - 968,611 Total Staffed Hospital Beds - 3,217 Available Hospital Beds - 934 Available ICU Beds - 26 Available Ventilators - 222

Trauma Service Area" are now in an "area with high hospitalization," as defined by Gov. Greg Abbott, and thus will come under restrictions on business

They include limiting the capacity for restaurants and many business establishments. Firms which were allowed to operate up to 75 percent of their total listed occupancy are now restricted to 50 percent.

In addition, customers cannot visit bars unless those places are allowed to keep operating drivethrough, pickup and delivery operations.

Trauma Service Area G (TSA-G), operated by the Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council, includes the counties of Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Franklin, Freestone, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Houston, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Upshur, Van Zandt. and Wood counties.



OPINION/EDITORIAL

...new year, auld wishes

Well friends and neighbors, here we are in the last days and hours of 2020. That is a cause for celebration in itself. End-of-year columns are usually reflective or a look back. I feel the urge to run full speed ahead into 2021 with its vaccinations, family gatherings, open businesses, banquets, concerts, rodeos and festivals.

But here's the problem, we can't run yet. Just because we turn the calendar this weekend doesn't mean our problems are going away. For some, the cost of 2020 will weigh heavily for a long time to come.

Shortly before Christmas one of my dearest friends lost both of her parents within a few days of each other from this 21st century plague, COVID-19. My friend's heartbreak will not mend with the turn of the calendar page. Few heartbreaks do.

When life is well-lived and folks are well-loved, loss makes an awful hole. My favorite movie "It's a Wonderful Life" is filled with profound messages about life well-lived. Three timeless quotes from the film well worth remembering are:

~"All you can take with you is that which you have given away."

~"No man is a failure who has friends."

"Strange isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

The point of the movie is that our individual lives matter. We have purpose in this life and we need to find what our purpose is...over and over again throughout our lives.

We need to remember, just as George Bailey needed reminding in the movie, that we seldom know the impact we have on others.

What will your impact be?

You have the next few days or hours of tired, old 2020 to ponder what you would like your impact in 2021 to be. We need to recognize

Suzanne Bardwell



that there will always be a Mr. Potter (the movie villain) in our lives. That villain could be a betrayal, an illness, a financial crisis, a personal mistake of gigantic proportions, depression, or an injustice that we struggle to overcome. The goal is not to give in and let the Mr. Potters take our joy and purpose from us.

No matter how broken, ill or fallen we are, our lives have value. If you have no other resolution for the new year than this, please recognize that life is a gift. And while you are unwrapping that gift see past the superficial to the transcendent. When you can do that, life is full of wonder.

The real lesson of "It's a Wonderful Life" is that what we think we want out of life and how we spend our days in it, may not be nearly as important as the journey and our relationships. The importance of not necessarily doing great things, but small things in a great way, creates genuinely wonderful lives. Like the 'auld' song says:

"We'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for days of auld lang syne".

Pass out those cups people, we are all ready for a little more kindness in 2021.

Raise those cups of kindness in a toast to 2021, a year of promise filled with hopes for a better tomorrow. Now let's roll up our sleeves and work for that better tomorrow.

Cheers!

Chris Cobler Capital Highlights



Texans urged to roll up their sleeves

Gov. Greg Abbott and other Texas leaders are rolling up their sleeves to get the COVID-19 vaccine and to encourage the public to follow suit.

"I will never ask any Texan to do something that I'm not willing to do myself," Abbott said before getting vaccinated at a televised event in Austin.

The next round of vaccines will go to people 65 and older and to those who are at greatest risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19. More than 70 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Texas have occurred in people 65 or older, Texas Department of State Health Services officials said in announcing the updated priority list.

"The focus on people who are age 65 and older or who have comorbidities will protect the most vulnerable populations," said Imelda Garcia, Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel chairwoman. "This approach ensures that Texans at the most severe risk from COVID-19 can be protected across races and ethnicities and regardless of where they work."

The state is in Phase 1A of vaccine distribution, which includes residents of long-term care centers and front-line health care workers. With an estimated 1.9 million Texans in those groups, it will likely be at least two weeks people in Phase 1B can get the vaccine.

The Phase 1B priorities are below, and additional information is available at dshs.texas.gov:

• People 65 years of age and older

• People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies; solid organ transplantation, severe obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease and type 2 diabetes.

Capitol to reopen

Closed since March, the Texas Capitol will reopen Jan. 4, about a week before the 87th Legislature convenes.

In announcing the reopening, Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen said safety protocols have been put in place to maintain a safe environment for all visitors, lawmakers and staff.

"Preparations to safely conduct business in the Texas House and Senate are ongoing, and each chamber will vote upon their respective rules and protocols at the start of the legislative session," the officials said in a statement.

The session opens at noon Jan. 12.

Also last week, Austin and Travis County officials, alarmed by a spike in cases, raised the community's COVID-19 risk warning to its highest level since the pandemic began. Under the Stage 5 risk warning, the local officials are asking people not to gather with anyone outside their household and to limit their trips outside homes to essential ones such as going to the grocery store or work.

Dr. Mark Escott, Austin-Travis County interim health authority, said the Stage 5 warning was necessary even though the hospital system in Austin remained stable.

"When you see smoke, are you fully alarmed and call the fire department, or do you wait until the flames roll down the hallway?" he told KXAN-TV. "What we've learned over and over again ... if you wait to pull the alarm until the hospitals are full, that surge will continue until the hospitals, and the morgues, are overwhelmed."

State vs. local CARES money

The state of Texas is not living up to its promise of allocating federal pandemic relief funds to local governments, an advocacy group contends.

After Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act in March, Gov. Abbott said \$1.85 billion of the funding Texas received would go toward supporting local governments. However, advocacy group Texas Housers said its analysis shows the state has not delivered.

The local governments are supposed to apply through a reimbursement process administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, according to a May 11 letter from the governor.

"Since the letter, TDEM has stymied local governments at every turn," Houser officials said in a statement. "Although the process should have been a clean handoff of resources specifically earmarked for cities and counties, money has been complicated for local governments to access and has flowed slowly or not at all."

A Texas emergency management official has said the largest barrier to reimbursement has been local governments not submitting the correct documents. Also, some of the CARES money has been spent on state projects that benefit cities and counties.

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

Mayor anticipates a better and brighter 2021

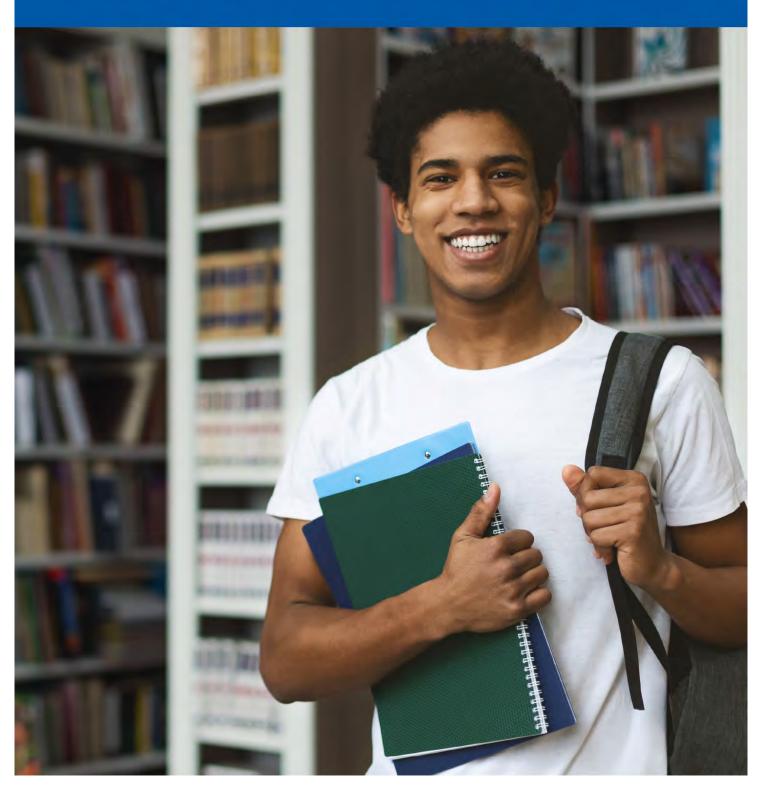
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of the location of active cases in the community. Without the ability to clean public restrooms on an hourly basis, they were shutdown. Basketball courts were shutdown. The municipal elections were moved from May to November. The city hall lobby was shutdown with services available by appointment. Cross training saved the day for city operations to continue as positive cases appeared among staff at city hall. Council meetings continued via Zoom. Face masks and temperature readings became the practice for those wishing to

enter City Hall. I applaud all city staff...fire, police, public works and city hall...for continuing to work their normal schedules while making procedural adjustments to ensure services to our citizens continued without interruption! Thank you!

We appreciate our citizens for adjusting to the various mitigation recommendations throughout the pandemic! We must continue to practice social distancing, proper hygiene, wearing a mask and, most of all, stay at home if you're sick! We must all do our part as it's the best way to put 2020 in the rearview mirror and have a better year in 2021!

SPRING 2021 REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY!



CLASSES START
JANUARY 19



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Guest Column:

Gladewater Museum 2021 preview

By Elaine Roddy **Gladewater Museum Director**

Remember Jan. 18, 2020 when the Gladewater Museum sponsored "Night at the Museum"? Over 100 visitors enjoyed the fellowship, refreshments, demonstrations and exhibits in the main museum and the annex. This past year of the pandemic and its continuing impact has changed our lives and our plans.

The museum board has agreed to postpone its celebration for 2021 until a later date. Watch for the date in the Gladewater Mirror newspaper and on the Gladewater Museum website.

The museum opened in 2005, therefore 2020 was our year to celebrate and remember 15 years of operation. A previous date, June 19, 1987, should also be honored. That is the date the Gladewater Heritage Society was formed.

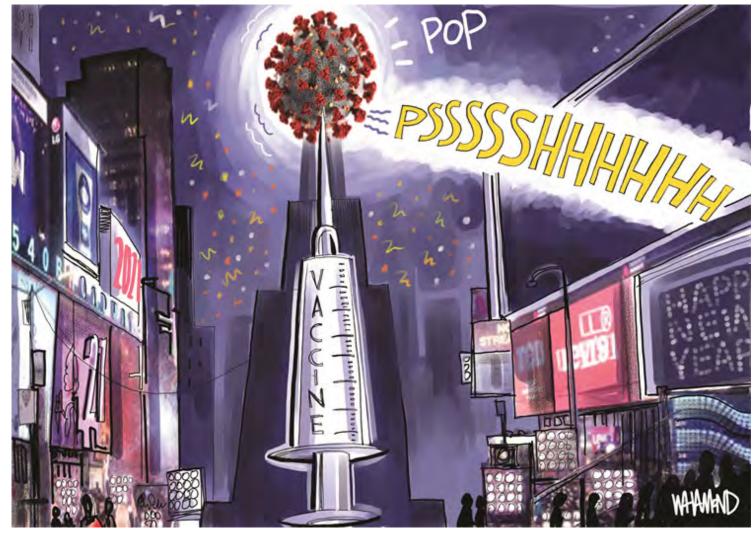
A quote from the first minutes reports: "John Ben Shepperd called together a group of 'old-timers' of Gladewater who met in the Jess Turner Room of the Chamber of Commerce. Attending were: Sheppered, Fredaline Clark, Elizabeth Osteen, Virginia Baker, Wallace Bozman, Dorothy Sypert, Mozelle Berryhill and Nauty Byrd Mayer".

In a July 1989 letter to the public, the group stated that the purpose was "to capture and preserve the colorful history of our town". The officers listed were president Fredalene Clark, Vice president Harold Wells, Vice president Elizabeth Osteen, secretary Nauty Byrd Mayer and treasurer Mildred Barker.

The dream of the Heritage Society is realized in the Community Building built in 1939 by Gregg County at the corner of Pacific and Dean streets. The building was the library, tax office and a wellused building for community events. Now it houses the Gladewater Museum, which is honored to "capture and preserve the colorful history of our town". We are open every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 116 West Pacific Street in Gladewater. Thank you for your continued support.



Union Grove High School was awarded the Carter Blood Care Center Great Grant before the Christmas holiday break. **Courtesy Photo**



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Compassion: An Economic Perspective

To say that 2020 has been a rough incalculable toll on the stability year is an extreme understatement. The pandemic and actions taken to slow the spread of COVID-19



insecure or face housing challenges, or are experiencing

mental health issues. It is worthy of note that, beyond the pressing human concerns for those affected, failing to support these vulnerable populations has profound economic consequences. We've studied these phenomena for decades, and the empirical evidence is incontrovertible.

Beyond the obvious

and dignity of families across the US, there is also a tremendous economic cost. For example, health care needs of people who are food insecure are higher due to increased incidence and severity of disease.

In addition, outcomes are worse, thus reducing productivity and lifetime earnings.

Education expenses are also higher. Food insecurity is associated with a greater need for intervention, and achievement levels (and, hence, lifetime earnings) are negatively affected. COVID slide only magnifies the

The dislocations caused by the pandemic and the necessary response have caused millions to lose jobs and, for many, their health insurance. Every person who loses health insurance costs consequences of poverty and the the economy about \$46,000 per

Others are facing eviction, and we estimate that every newly homeless person brings longof almost \$2 million.

and food insecurity multiply as dynamic annual rates of return they work their way through the to taxpayers of between 40% and business complex and are largely 111%. borne by the whole of society. Even after fully accounting for easing these burdens are readily various stimulus packages, we apparent. In this season of giving have determined that the increase and celebration, it is also an in poverty in the US during the economic imperative. In fact, if we pandemic will bring long-term fail to do so, we will permanently losses of \$436.4 billion in gross lose substantial potential product and 4.7 million job-years activity and productivity even of employment (a job-year is the as vaccinations and therapeutics equivalent of one person working bring prospects of recovery much for one year). For Texas, the closer to reality. Happy Holidays! pandemic-related losses are \$48.5 Stay safe!

billion in output and over 500,000 job-years.

The benefits of reducing such problems are profound. term economic losses of over We estimate that every \$1.00 \$900,000. The added stress is also contributed to combat hunger contributing to domestic violence, yields \$33.00 in benefits to and every child suffering first time the economy. Government maltreatment brings lifetime costs investments in food programs, mental health services, and The negative effects of poverty indigent health care brings

The humanitarian reasons for



Union Grove Junior High One Act Play students competed in a virtual district competition prior to Christmas break and took first place and the district crown. The play was directed by Sandy Spears. **Courtesy Photo**



Members of the Gladewater High School Band competed for spots in the Region 4 ATSSB All Region Band. Band members who earned a place in the All Region band are Antonio Menjivar (euphonium), Matt Smith-euphonium, Sarah Walbridge-trumpet, Hannah Edwards-flute, Madisyn Bedair-clarinet and Hailey Head-clarinet. All of the musicians placed high enough to compete in the January All Area round of competition. "Students in East Texas are very talented and that makes it difficult to earn a spot in our All-Region Band," GHS Band Director Jeff Smith said. "I'm so proud of these students. In a few weeks, the four students who are advancing will have a shot at making the Texas 1A-2A-3A All State Band. That is very exciting for the students and their teachers." The Gladewater HS Band directors are Jeff Smith, Rhett Pilcher, Don Kitchell, and Mitchell Smith. **Courtesy Photo**

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FOOLING GOD?

I suppose man has always tried to get away with fooling his fellow man. Kids have forever been trying to fool their parents. Remember Joseph's brothers deceiving their father about the fate of their brother in Genesis thirty-seven? Politicians give us a steady diet of foolery. Criminals are forever trying to bluff or fool their way into getting away with their crimes.

For example, when two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan refused to hand over the cash to an intoxicated robber, the robber threatened to call the police. When they still refused, the robber called the police and was arrested.

Then, there was the case where the police fooled the criminal. This was in Radnor, Pennsylvania. They interrogated the suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connected it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message "He's lying" was placed in the copier, and the police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect wasn't telling the truth. Believing the "lie detector" was working, the suspect confessed." Trying to keep secrets from God is even more foolish than these two examples. I'm sure you have heard the old saying: "You can fool all the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time!" Or, as Spanky of the Little Rascals would say, "But you can't fool Mom any of the time!"

But you can be sure, "You can never fool God!" Proverbs 15: 3 says, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place. Beholding the evil and the good." Hebrews 4: 13 says, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Nothing escapes the scrutiny of God! He sees all things! He hears all things! He knows all things! Thus, those who think they have God fooled are only fooling themselves! 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









OBITUARY

MR HERSHAL L. GAGE

Mr. Hershal L. Gage 66 of Longview, was born on June 8, 1954. in Dallas to Jimmy and Betty Phillips Bowles and passed away on Friday, December 18, 2020, in Longview.



Hershal earned a degree in Computer Technology at the University of Texas in Tyler and later became a master printer and worked for the Gladewater Mirror for 15 years. He was also an active member of the Pritchett Church of Christ. Mr. Gage will be greatly missed by the many friends and family members he leaves behind.

Mr. Gage is survived by his wife, Cindy Gage; mother, Betty Holmen; stepsons, Charles Keller-Weaver, John E. Watkins, and

William Watkins; brothers, Clarence, Thomas, and Dennis Gage; and sister, Liz Garner.

He is preceded in death by his father, Jimmy Bowles; and brother, used for the purchase of Billy Bowles.



The winners (or guardians) of the bicycles given away by The Manna House were: Girls - Kiara Murphy (age 5) parent/guardian Shakeyia Murphy, Averi Chase (age 8) parent/guardian Destiny Fishburn and Lilly Rogers (age 12) parent/guardian Frederic Rogers

Boys - Fisher Weiss (age 4) parent/guardian Anthony Weiss, Kade Fortson (age 6) parent/guardian Stacie Minter and Kolton Hock (age 11) parent/guardian **Roxanne Hock**

Robert Baker, son of Manna House volunteer Kathy Baker, donated \$500 to The Manna House with instructions that the money be bicycles.

Courtesy Photos





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Lady Bears beat New Diana, 4--34

The Gladewater Lady Bears improved their win streak to 4 with a 40-34 victory over New Diana.

Kiyona Parker topped the scoreboard with 12 while Hai'leigh Oliver and Ebony Pipkin each added 10. Pipkin also grabbed 6 steals giving Gladewater more opportunities to score while subsequently denying the Lady Eagles.

JaKiyah Bell was held to only 3 points, but grabbed 10 rebounds to keep the Lady Bears in possession of the ball. Kamryn Floyd had a solid afternoon with 4 points, 3 rebounds, and 2 steals.

While New Diana wouldn't go away, Gladewater remained steady and consistent to grab their 7th win of the season and improve to 3-0 in district

The Lady Bears closed out 2020 at home Tuesday against Nacogdoches in their final nondistrict match-up before traveling to Hughes Springs on Jan 5 to begin the new year trying to stay on top of 3A Region II District 15.

Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest now open

George P. Bush announced the 2021 "Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest" is open for entries. All Texas students (public, private, and home-schooled) in grades K-6 are encouraged to participate. Artwork should be based on the theme "Treasures of the Texas Coast" and portray why the Texas coast is important or noteworthy to the participating student.

The top 40 pieces of art will appear in a 2022 calendar, distributed throughout the state.

"Each year, I am inspired Contest entries and how these Puerto Rico, and a Feed the Fish

AUSTIN - On Monday, young students are eager to Texas Land Commissioner showcase their work and how our coast is special to them," said Commissioner Bush. "I share these young students' excitement and look forward to see the Texas coastal environment pictured through their talent."

This year's grand prize winner will receive two round-trip coachclass tickets to United Airlines' destinations throughout the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean International departing out of Galveston, Miami, Tampa, by the Adopt-A-Beach Art Ft. Lauderdale, Port Canaveral or

The grand prize winner's teacher will also receive two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines, and one 7-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean International. All 40 winners will receive a ticket to the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi, prizes and a certificate of recognition from the Texas General Land Office and copies of the 2022 calendar displaying the winning artwork.

All entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

For more information, guidelines and entry form for the art contest, visit the Adopt-A-Beach website.



Senior Sydney Spurlock



Senior Hai'leigh Oliver



All East Texas Volleyball

Gladewater Hai'leigh Oliver -OH Jakiya Bell-MB Alexis Boyd-MB

Union Grove 2nd Team Sydney Chamberlain-libero HM

Avery Brooks-OH Carleigh Judd-MB Makena Littlejohn-Setter

Sabine

1st Team Aubree McCann-MB Sierra Richter-Setter 2nd Team Ally Gresham-Libero HMCale Brown-MB

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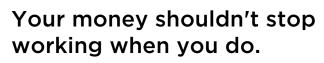


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903-663-0936

GPD ACTIVITY REPORT

CALL DAT 12/14/20	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	CFS# 202007338	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS FM 2685 FM 2685
	ALARM/OTHER EMS TERROR THREAT	202007339 202007340 202007341	7:13 11:04	PIZZA HUT SENTINEL GARDENS	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE 1106 N RODEO N RODEO 300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS INCIDENT - NO REPORT ANIMAL CONTROL	202007342 202007343 202007344	11:52 15:05 16:17	THE RIBBON PLACE	500 EDDY EDDY 203 W COMMERCE COMMERCE 405 N POST POST
	10-50 MAJOR SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202007345 202007346	17:35 17:49		HWY 271 HWY 271 S TYLER TYLER
	EMS RUNAWAY	202007347 202007348	18:24 18:50		312 HAYNES HAYNES 18 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007349	20:46		604 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA DR 409 N MAIN MAIN ST
/15/20	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE BURGLARY/HABITATION MISCELLANEOUS	202007351 202007354 202007355	21:59 0:53 1:01		1560 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS 2816 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 413 S MILL MILL ST
	EMS EMS	202007356	11:09		591 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD 1016 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	THEFT EMS	202007358 202007359	14:11 14:19		1619 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR 418 GODFREY GODFREY ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE BURGLARY/VEHICLE	202007360 202007362		BROOKSHIRE'S GROCERY	2816 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
/16/20	SUSPICIOUS NOISE EMS SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202007363 202007364 202007365		TRUMAN SMITH	500 WOOD WOOD 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE GUY GUY
/16/20	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007366 202007367	5:23 7:42 8:42		207 S CENTER S CENTER 300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ESCORT ASSIST	202007368 202007369	9:34 10:03		1016 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE S LOOP 485 S LOOP 485
	RECKLESS DRIVING ANIMAL CONTROL	202007370 202007371	10:41 11:03	SMART MART (FMR G&J'S SUPER STOP)	500 S TYLER S TYLER 227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS MISCELLANEOUS	202007372 202007373	12:46 13:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	608 CANFIELD CANFIELD 511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT EMS	202007374 202007375	13:28 13:43	1	801 N RODEO N RODEO 215 W GAY W GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	202007376 202007377	14:18 14:17	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1800 W GAY GAY AVE 511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EXTRA PATROL ANIMAL CONTROL	202007378 202007379	15:35 16:03	1	1114 N SHELL SHELL RD SHERROD SHERROD ST
	ASSIST THEFT	202007380	17:11		S TYLER TYLER ST 700 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	202007382	18:22	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	417 S MILL MILL ST 301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	ASSIST SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202007384	19:55		2 MCKAIG MCKAIG CIR 1005 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
17/20	ALARM/OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	202007386 202007387	22:15 1:06		3043 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE 1202 NELWYN NELWYN
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER 10-50 MINOR	202007389 202007390	5:56 7:01		601 W GAY GAY E BROADWAY E BROADWAY
	10-50 MINOR EMS BURGLARY/HABITATION	202007390 202007391 202007392		GREENWAY VILLAGE	22 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE 2250 FM 2685 FM 2685
	BURGLARY/HABITATION ALARM/OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	202007392 202007393 202007395	9:03 9:40 11:27		2250 FM 2685 FM 2685 410 MONEY MONEY 312 HAYNES HAYNES
	ESCORT EMS	202007396 202007398	11:27 11:32 11:59		N MAIN N MAIN 305 W OLIVER W OLIVER
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT EMS	202007399		MIKE'S MINI MART	1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 1106 N RODEO RODEO
	FIRE DEPT	202007401	15:38		12 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	MISCELLANEOUS	202007402	15:55 16:10		RAMPY RAMPY TENERY TENERY
	MISCELLANEOUS	202007404	21:21		EDDY EDDY ST MARTIN LUTHER KING MARTIN LUTHER K
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE 10-50 MINOR	202007406		TRUMAN SMITH	EDDY EDDY ST 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
/18/20	10-50 MINOR INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202007408	23:42 8:14		205 W GAY GAY AVE S TYLER S TYLER
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT EMS	202007410	9:12 10:49		100 E UPSHUR UPSHUR 417 S MILL S MILL
	10-50 MINOR EMS	202007412 202007413	11:58		1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY 1100 N SHELL RD N SHELL RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	202007414	12:06		215 W GAY AVE W GAY AVE 3043 E LAKE E LAKE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE EMS	202007416 202007417 202007418	13:28 13:34		507 1/2 MELBA MELBA 2816 W UPSHUR W UPSHUR 1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	CRIM TRESPASS FIRE DEPT	202007419	14:24		3043 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR 17917 CR 3132 CR 3132
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007421	14:38		LOCUST LOCUST 169 PINE PINE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS THEFT	202007423 202007424	16:04 16:21	KILGORE POLICE DEPT	909 N KILGORE KILGORE ST 1911 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS CRIM TRESPASS	202007425 202007426	17:19 17:29		1911 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR 1504 N ALICE ALICE
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007427 202007428	17:32 18:23	TRUMAN SMITH	1111 N LYNN LYNN 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007429 202007430	18:35 20:14		800 WILLOW WILLOW BLVD 407 HOWARD HOWARD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER RECKLESS DRIVING	202007431 202007432	21:09 21:22		1599 SCARLETT OAK SCARLETT OAK GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER UNAUTHORIZED USE MOTOR VEH	202007433 202007434	21:33 22:25		24 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLA 504 WILLOW WILLOW
/19/20	MISCELLANEOUS ABANDONED 911	202007435	0:05	ALLSTATE COATINGS	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY 100 N LEE LEE ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE ALARM/OTHER FIRE DEPT	202007437 202007438 202007439		RODEO GROUNDS PIZZA HUT	2502 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE 507 S WHITE WHITE
	EMS EMS	202007441	10:27		1107 N LYNN LYNN 7 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007442	12:08	PRAYER ROOM LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1104 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007445	13:10		704 W UPSHUR UPSHUR 601 GAY GAY
	RECKLESS DRIVING EMS	202007447 202007448		BODACIOUS BBQ	1105 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 512 RODEN RODEN LN
	RECKLESS DRIVING SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202007449 202007450	16:48 17:07		S 271 271 1600 E VIOLA VIOLA
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007451 202007452	17:28 21:12		606 N MAIN MAIN ST 1592 N RODEO RODEO
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007453 202007454	22:00 22:42		106 OLIVE OLIVE ST 5501 SWEET GUM SWEET GUM RD
/20/20	EMS MISCELLANEOUS	202007455 202007457	23:31 0:12	CEFCO	1106 N RODEO RODEO 1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE MISCELLANEOUS	202007459		FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 3043 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007461	3:19		1208 NORTH NORTH ST 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS ANIMAL CONTROL	202007463		TRUMAN SMITH	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE 1107 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	EMS EMS	202007465 202007466	12:20	PROGRESSIVE CHURCH OF GOD GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	119 S EDWARDS EDWARDS ST 511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	202007467	13:30	BROOKSHIRE'S GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	202007468 202007469	14:59		511 S TYLER TYLER RD 1818 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007470	16:07 16:55		901 CANFIELD CANFIELD 222 W GAY GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007472	17:50 18:22		1818 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW HWY 317 W SUNSET SUNSET
	RECKLESS DRIVING DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007474 202007475	18:25 20:26		1109 N OLIVE OLIVE 1106 N RODEO RODEO
/21/20	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE EMS	202007476 202007477	21:55 1:22		302 MAPLE MAPLE ST 22 JULIAWOOD HOMES JULIAWOOD HOME
	ALARM/OTHER ASSIST	202007478 202007479	4:53 8:29	SUPER STOP EXXON	601 N MAIN MAIN ST N MAIN N MAIN
	FIRE DEPT	202007480	8:43	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE

GPD ARREST REPORT

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
12/14/20	12/14/20	21:53	CHAMBERS, MICHAEL THOMAS	w	М	WARRANT (LOCAL)	409 N MAIN ST
12/17/20	12/17/20	13:21	STARKEY, SHANON ELIZABETH	w	F	EVADING ARREST DETENTION W/VEHICLE	100 W GREGG ST
	12/17/20	13:21	STARKEY, SHANON ELIZABETH	w	F	UUMV-UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE	100 W GREGG ST
	12/17/20	13:21	STARKEY, SHANON ELIZABETH	W	F	ACCIDENT INVOLVING DAMAGE TO VEHICLE >= \$200 - FA	100 W GREGG ST
	12/17/20	23:55	LEIMER, JESSI NICOLE	w	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	205 W GAY
	12/17/20	23:55	MATNEY, DANIEL MACK	w	М	DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID W/PREV CONV/SUSP/W	205 W GAY
	12/17/20	23:55	MATNEY, DANIEL MACK	w	М	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 3RD OR MORE	205 W GAY
12/18/20	12/18/20	9:21	ALLEN, LARRY ALLEN	В	М	IMPEDING TRAFFIC	106 E UPSHUR AVE
	12/18/20	9:21	ALLEN, ANGELICA MARIE	В	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	106 W UPSHUR AVE
	12/18/20	9:21	ALLEN, ANGELICA MARIE	В	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	106 W UPSHUR AVE
12/20/20	12/20/20	13:05	HADAWAY, JEREMY CLINT	w	М	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	511 TYLER S

GPD ACTIVITY REPORT

/21/20	EMS ALARM/OTHER	202007477	1:22	SUPER STOP EVYON	22 JULIAWOOD HOMES JULIAWOOD HOMES
	ALARM/OTHER ASSIST	202007478	8:29	SUPER STOP EXXON	601 N MAIN MAIN ST N MAIN N MAIN
	FIRE DEPT EMS	202007480 202007481	8:50	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE 606 E BROADWAY AVE E BROADWAY AVE
	EMS EMS	202007482 202007483	9:17 9:31		5763 SWEETGUM RD. SWEETGUM RD. 305 W OLIVER AVE. W OLIVER AVE.
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202007484 202007485		DOLLAR GENERAL	1520 E SHEPPARD E SHEPPARD 1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	CRIM MIS 10-50 MINOR	202007486 202007487	12:23 12:45		3043 E LAKE E LAKE SOUTH MAIN SOUTH MAIN
_	SIMPLE ASSAULT "C" HARASSMENT	202007488 202007489	13:47 14:03	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST 506 NORTH NORTH ST
	10-50 MINOR SUSPICIOUS PERSON	202007490 202007491	14:04 14:35		105 BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE 510 WOOD WOOD ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007492	15:51 16:15		902 MARTHA MARTHA DR 507 MELBA MELBA
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER FIRE DEPT	202007493	17:07		507 MELBA MELBA 1402 GAY GAY
	ALARM/OTHER 10-50 MINOR	202007496	17:25 17:51		311 HAYNES HAYNES 514 AMES AMES
	ABANDONED 911	202007498	18:50	OFNITINE CARRENO	
	EMS FIRE DEPT	202007499	21:04	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST 1114 N SHELL SHELL RD
	FIRE DEPT MISCELLANEOUS	202007501 202007502	21:55 22:31		1911 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR 3043 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
2/22/20	THEFT MISCELLANEOUS	202007504 202007505	23:40 5:02		1208 NORTH NORTH ST 1013 KAY KAY DR
	ALARM/OTHER ASSIST	202007506 202007507	8:20 8:32		214 E GLADE E GLADE MELBA MELBA
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE EMS	202007508 202007509	10:14 11:10	TRUMAN SMITH	1576 N RODEO N RODEO 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	202007510	11:18	FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	CRIM MIS ASSIST	202007511 202007512	12:17 12:54		1102 W UPSHUR W UPSHUR 3043 E LAKE E LAKE
	FIRE DEPT 10-50 MINOR	202007513 202007514	14:50 15:50		620 GREEN GREEN ST WALTON WALTON
	TERROR THREAT	202007515	17:05	SONIC DRIVE IN	1103 E BROADWAY BROADWAY W GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER ASSIST	202007517		CASH AMERICA PAWN #552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE ASSIST	202007518 202007520	19:55 20:38		MELBA MELBA AVE 1602 E VIOLA VIOLA ST
2/23/20	ASSIST ALARM/OTHER	202007521		ACE OF PAWN SUPER STOP EXXON	207 S MAIN MAIN ST 601 N MAIN MAIN ST
_,U;	FIRE DEPT	202007524	4:20		283 SWAMP CITY SWAMP CITY RD
	EMS THEFT	202007525 202007526	7:29 10:01	BREITBURN OPERATING LP	1102 E SHEPARD E SHEPARD N LOOP 485 N LOOP 485
_	EMS INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202007527 202007528	10:28 12:43		1502 E VIOLA E VIOLA 1202 SANDERS SANDERS
	EMS	202007529	13:53		1022 CHEVY CHACE CHEVY CHACE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	202007530 202007531	14:51 14:58		1202 SANDERS SANDERS ST 3043 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON EMS	202007532 202007533	15:53 16:14	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR 1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	202007534	17:50		1202 SANDERS SANDERS ST
	10-50 MAJOR ASSIST	202007535 202007536	18:33 18:50	REGENCY INN	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE 525 NORTH NORTH ST
	ALARM/OTHER FIRE DEPT	202007537 202007538	21:13 21:28	AEP SCHOOL	700 MELBA MELBA ST 596 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202007539	21:59	AEP SCHOOL	700 MELBA MELBA ST
2/24/20	FIRE DEPT MISCELLANEOUS	202007540 202007541		DEARION AND DAVIS FUNERAL HOME	706 CULVER CULVER 900 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT FORGERY	202007542 202007543	3:53 5:46	EZ MART	1305 N OLIVE OLIVE 400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	202007544	7:36		600 WOOD WOOD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT ANIMAL CONTROL	202007545	10:35		215 W GAY W GAY 2101 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE ASSIST	202007547 202007548		ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485 511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	202007549 202007550	16:33 17:37	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	1503 HUMBLE HUMBLE 511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202007551	17:40 18:27		5501 SWEET GUM SWEET GUM RD 500 E EDDY EDDY
	10-50 MINOR	202007553	19:18	DOMINOS	1050 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER EMS	202007554 202007555	20:43 21:20		601 TENERY TENERY 1012 KAY KAY DR
	EMS EMS	202007556 202007557	21:46 21:51		222 W GAY GAY 309 N LEE LEE DR
2/25/20	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007558	22:16	SENTINEL GARDENS	614 JEANETTE JEANETTE 300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	202007561	9:59		307 W SHEPPARD W SHEPPARD
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202007562 202007564	10:56 12:28		605 N GARY N GARY 1520 E SHEPPARD E SHEPPARD
	FIRE DEPT INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202007565 202007566	18:58 19:09		10290 S US 271 US 271 604 GAYLE GAYLE
	MISCELLANEOUS SUSPICIOUS NOISE	202007567 202007568	19:15 21:43		7 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS 505 GAY GAY
	FIRE DEPT DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007569		SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST 503 RIVERSIDE RIVERSIDE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202007571	22:30		1502 VIOLA VIOLA
2/26/20	EMS FIRE DEPT	202007572 202007573	23:51 7:32		2416 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS 308 TEXAS TEXAS ST
	EMS DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007574 202007575	8:20 10:09	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685 505 S OAK OAK
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT SUSPICIOUS NOISE	202007576 202007577	11:32 13:21		303 MUSTANG MUSTANG DR 1629 CRONJE CRONJE
	ASSAULT CLASS A	202007578	13:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007579	13:51		63 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS 208 ELEANOR ELEANOR
	THEFT EMS	202007581 202007582		REGENCY INN & SUITE GARDENS OF GLADEWATER	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY 108 N LEE LEE ST
	EMS DISTURBANCE-OTHER	202007583 202007584	16:47 17:50	WILCO	1620 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR 1298 E BOADWAY BOADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON CRIM TRESPASS	202007588	18:43		DEAN DEAN 1520 SHEPPHERD SHEPPHERD
2/07/27	10-50 MAJOR	202007590	21:58		1307 RODEO RODEO
2/27/20	MISCELLANEOUS EMS	202007591 202007592	2:24 3:15		CENTER CENTER 3689 WHITE OAK WHITE OAK RD
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE ALARM/OTHER	202007593 202007596		BUMBLE BEE PARK CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	605 S COACH COOKSEY COACH COOKSEY 1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	202007597	12:32		JORDAN JORDAN
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED ASSIST	202007598 202007599	12:34 13:04	NEW LIFE CHURCH	815 N MAIN MAIN ST N MAIN MAIN ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL RECKLESS DRIVING	202007600	13:33 14:15		S TYLER TYLER ST 507 W GAY GAY
	HARASSMENT	202007602	14:25		2109 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON INCIDENT - NO REPORT	202007603 202007604	15:48 17:31		1211 SHELL SHELL RD 205 S MILL MILL
	EMS SUSPICIOUS NOISE	202007605 202007606	18:20 18:38		2418 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS S WHITE WHITE
	MISCELLANEOUS	202007607	19:57		1520 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
2/28/20	INCIDENT - NO REPORT THEFT	202007608 202007609	21:30 8:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	2405 WOODBINE WOODBINE 511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	+				2808 W GAY W GAY

GPD ARREST REPORT

	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
12/21/20	12/21/20	14:25	SAPP, CHRISTAL ANN	w	F	DISORDERLY CONDUCT: ABUSIVE LANGUAGE IN PUBLIC	1621 N MAIN ST
12/26/20	12/26/20	20:04	SAPP, CHRISTAL ANN	W	F	CRIMINAL TRESPASS	1520 E SHEPPARD
12/27/20	12/27/20	2:30	COLOGNA, BRANDON	W	М	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	100 S MAIN
	12/27/20	2:30	MONTES DE OCA QUINTERO, JOSE ELIAS	w	М	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	100 S MAIN
	12/27/20	2:30	SANCHEZ, ABEL	w	М	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	100 S MAIN

Helpful Contact Numbers ...

GREGG CO. PCT #3 J P:	903-845-2672	UPSHUR CO. PCT #3 J P:	903-844-8254
GREGG CO. AUTO & TAX:	903-845-3514	UPSHUR CO. AUTO REG. & TAX:	903-844-0658
GREGG CO. VOTER REGIS:	903-236-8458	AIRPORT:	903-845-2116
HOUSING AUTHORITY:	903-845-2493	CITY HALL:	903-845-2196
RODEO ASSOCIATION:	903-845-5126	WATER BILLING:	903-845-2474
MEALS ON WHEELS:	903-309-7968	TAX ASSESSOR:	903-845-2436
STIDDENLINK COMM :	903-845-4036	CODE ENEORCEMENT:	903-845-2011

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		26.25%	18.45%					
GENERAL SERVICE W/DEMAND GENERAL SERVICE WO/DEMAND	4,461,476							
	2,167,555	38.23%	27.15% 14.96%					
LIGHTING & POWER - SEC	28,784,427	28.49%						
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.

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/.

^{**} 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.

DOK BACK AT 2020











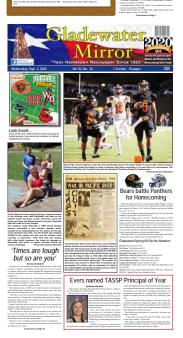
































































Good riddance to 2020, Hello to a better 2021

Continued from Page 1

arraigned by Judge Christi Kennedy of the 114th District Court who set Laws' bond at \$1 million for the charge of "Escape While in Custody." Laws reportedly carved out portions of the brick in the Gregg County South Jail in Longview, gaining access to the building infrastructure and making his way to the exterior of the Gregg County Courthouse. Laws was being held in the Gregg County Jail after being sentenced on two accounts of assault on a Longview police officer in the 188th District Court totaling 70

- Gladewater's Winston Hill, the most decorated New York Jet and former Weldon Bumblebee football star, was selected for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 2020 Centennial Class. Hill, who earned his first AFL All-Star Game berth in his second season, 1964, and then was chosen for three straight AFL All-Star Games from 1967-69, was also selected to Pro Bowls in the Jets' first four seasons as members of the NFL from 1970-73. He holds the franchise mark for offensive linemen with 195 consecutive games played and 174 consecutive starts.
- Former East Mountain Fire Chief James Wilson (Jimmy) Burks was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to misappropriating approximately \$45,000 of the volunteer fire department's funds. Burks, 45, entered the plea to misapplication of fiduciary property Jan. 13 to 115th District Judge Dean Fowler.

Burks was arrested last Sept. 5, six days after the Upshur County Grand Jury returned a sealed indictment against him.

February

Local Gladewater City Council races were set in February with Place 1 incumbent Mayor .J.D. Shipp being challenged by local businessman Matt Byrd, who is married to then-city council woman Karla Byrd. Incumbent Place 2 councilman Farrell Alexander, a local realtor and served as chief of police in Gladewater, was challenged by former city councilman Scott Owens. And incumbent city councilwoman Brandy Flanagan drew no opposition in her bid for re-election. When all the dust cleared and the elections were moved to November due to COVID-19, Owens defeated Alexander and Byrd withdrew from his bid to unseat Shipp.

March

- The COVID-19 Pandemic grew worse in March, resulting in the city council adopting an ordinance postponing the May 2 general election for Mayor Place 1, Council member Place 2 and Council member Place 3 to the Nov. 3, 2020 Uniform Election Date. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a proclamation waiving certain provisions of the Texas Election Code because of the threat of COVID-19 which required the local action item which was approved 5-0. The measure was adopted throughout the state as a result of the threat to citizen health.
- In addition, effective March 23, the lobby of Gladewater City Hall was temporarily closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. City-wide clean-up date scheduled for April 4, 2020 was postponed and rentals of city owned baseball fields and pavilions were suspended until further notice.

Gregg and Upshur County commissioners' courts, reacting to the worldwide pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, ordered all county offices to close to the public except for "essential" functions, and Upshur County went so far as closing gaming rooms in the county until further notice.

The problem would grow worse as months rolled along and county and city officials looked to state and federal officials for guidelines and monetary assistance in dealing with the worldwide pandemic.

- Also, in an unprecedented move, Gov. Greg Abbott announced he would waive testing requirements for this year's STAAR exam, as many schools expect to be closed at least through the April testing window, due to the new coronavirus. He also said he would ask the federal government to waive this year's federal standardized testing requirements, which apply to all states. According to the state, as of Sunday afternoon, 569 school districts had announced closures due to coronavirus concerns. Texas is not alone, since more than 30 states have closed schools due to coronavirus, affecting at least 30 million public school students nationwide.
- Earlier in the month, primary elections were held with Upshur County Republican primary voters nominated Gene Dolle for Precinct 1 county commissioner and Ronnie Mitchell for Precinct 3 constable, while throwing races for Precinct 3 commissioner into May 26 runoffs. Kent Abernathy and Michael Ashley landed in the runoff for commissioner, with Ashley winding up on top following the runoff.
- The Gladewater Chamber of Commerce wad forced to cancel its annual membership banquet due to COVOD-19 health concerns. Many more chamber-related activities – like the annual July 3rd fireworks show - would also be canceled as the year wore on. And COVID-19 even got the Yamboree, with famous East Texas Yamboree festival, which draws thousands to the city of Gilmer each October, and the city's annual July 3 fireworks show were canceled. Also canceled was Gladewater's annual Fall Fest at Holloween.

April

• It was no April Fools for education as the calendar rolled on to April, with Union Grove ISD beginning drive through pickup for meals and distance learning substituting for classroom instruction, while Gladewater ISD closed its campuses and set up

Classroom. Printed copies of learning materials were also placed in specially marked containers at the front entrance of each student's school campus and available for pickup. School officials were forced to travel new avenues as they attempted to keep children learning during uncertain conditions.

• Also in April, President Donald Trump signed a \$2 trillion stimulus bill that would include \$1,200 checks to many adults, expanded unemployment insurance payments and extended loans to businesses, all in an effort to combat the coronavirus outbreak's toll on the economy.

As of April, the coronavirus had infected at least 136,880 people in the U.S. and killed at least 2,409 people.

Unfortunately, this was just the beginning of many more cases of COVID-19 and too many

• As if the COVID-19 situation wasn't enough to deal with, on Easter Sunday storms not only caused wide-spread property damage in Gregg and Upshur County, but it also cost one man his life. Kelly 'Bear' Kalinec, 60, of Upshur County, was pronounced dead Sunday evening after a tree fell on him in his driveway. Kalinec was a teacher and coach at Linden-Kildare CISD, coaching football and baseball and taught special education.

The severe storms included straight-line winds and possible tornadoes Sunday, leaving approximately 22,000 SWEPCO customers without power.

And a reported 38,000 Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative members were left without electricity throughout.

- Gladewater ISD AD/Head Football Coach John Berry announced in April he was headed back to Longview to work for his former boss Lobo Head Coach John King. In his six years as the Bear's head coach, Berry racked up a 48-21 record. The Bears were 10-4 in 2019 and made it to the Regional Finals playoff round before losing to Pottsboro 34-35 in double OT.
- In late April, Gov. Greg Abbott let the state's stay-at-home order expire and allowed businesses to begin reopening in phases, the latest ramp-up in his push to restart the Texas economy amid the coronavirus pandemic. First to open were retail stores, restaurants, movie theaters and malls. But they were only allowed to operate at 25% capacity. Museums and libraries were allowed to open at 25% capacity, but hands-on exhibits remained closed.

A second phase of business re-openings came in May —allowing businesses to expand their occupancy to 50%, according to the governor. That was later moved to 75%.

• With the end of school only a month away - Gladewater ISD looked at how it would handle graduation plans during COVID-19.

"Gladewater High School and Gladewater ISD are heartbroken over the losses that our seniors have to experience because of this pandemic, GHS Principal Cathy Bedair said. "We want our seniors to know that they are loved and very important to us."

The 2020 Senior Plan included the purchase of senior signs with students' names, 2020 and their senior cap and gown picture to place along the high school grounds and downtown to celebrate their accomplishments. Then GHS grads would participate in a car parade that weaved throughout downtown and neighborhoods. Finally, the GHS grads were allowed to have an in-person graduation ceremony on the high school football field – each student seated six feet a part for social distancing. It was truly an unusual graduation, and one the Class of 2020 and the rest of Gladewater will never forget.

May

• News came that the FEMCO - Spencer Harris Facility based in Gladewater would cease operations permanently. FEMCO Holdings, LLC would continue to operate its existing five locations based in Colorado, California, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, continuing to support its existing customers and OEM's through these locations, according to Brad H. Kerkhoff, Vice President, Sales & Marketing. "FEMCO's additional locations will continue to specialize in manufacturing, fabrication, refurbishment, commissioning, line boring, turn-key equipment installation and relocation services, as well as 24/7 emergency repair and maintenance services across the United States, Kerkhoff, said in a press release. "Thank you for the many years you have allowed us to serve you."

Spencer Harris began in 1934 as a job shop serving the East Texas oilfield. Spencer Harris evolved into a manufacturer of trailer-mounted vertical drill rigs and a repair center for drilling components.

• For the first time in the Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo's 82-year history, it was announced that due to COVID-19 the chutes would not open and the stands would be silent, empty of excited fans.

While Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott allowed restaurants to operate at 50% capacity in May and gyms could reopen with limited capacity, his rules on 25% occupancy for rodeos would make it impossible for the Gladewater rodeo to open June 10-13 as planned.

The governor's rules state: "Effective May 22, 2020, individuals may engage in, and sponsors may put on, rodeos and equestrian events. Spectators are allowed, provided that indoor venues limit the number of spectators to no more

student lessons and assignments through Google than 25% of the total listed occupancy of the venue, on the last two and half months of their senior year. and outdoor venues may operate at up to 25% of the normal operating limits as determined by the facility never an option," Supt. Sedric Clark said. "After owner."

rodeo in 2021.

 Also in May, Scott Clower was named GISD Athletic Director while the Bear head football coach job went to home grown GHS 2002 alum Jonny Louvier.

June

On a muggy June 5 in Jack V. Murphy Stadium the culmination of 13 years of learning, play, competition and growth was celebrated with the \$10,000 scholarships. "I strongly believe that talent Gladewater High School Class of 2020. Born during is everywhere but opportunity isn't," said Dr. Hood. the year that 9/11 occurred, and lucky to have an inperson graduation during the COVID-19 pandemic Sally and I wanted to help make sure they get the thanks to the

Herculean efforts of GISD administration and staff, the graduates were at last celebrated after missing out

"Not having a face-to-face ceremony was completing 13 years of school and after having Plans are underway for an even bigger and better their senior year cut short by the pandemic, our graduates deserved to have the ceremony. Celebrating them was of the utmost importance

> And GHS Bear Scholarship Godfather, 1985 GHS alum Dr. John Hood and his wife Sally, for the second consecutive year offered all GHS graduates a \$500 scholarship if they attend college. Six of the 112 grads got a bigger boost for their futures. Four students were honored with \$2,500 renewable to "There are special people graduating from GHS, opportunity to get out into the world and see what

> > Continued on Page 10



HELP WANTED

The City of Gladewater is accepting applications for a full-time utility billing clerk. This position assists customers both in person and on the telephone; receives and accurately posts payments; issues work orders and assists with monthly reports. Visit www.cityofgladewater.com for complete job description and an application. Submit completed application to City of Gladewater, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 1725,

Gladewater, TX 75647 or via email to jfail@cityofgladewater. com. Position open until filled with first application review on January 4, 2021.

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Good riddance to 2020, Hello to a better 2021

Continued from Page 9

they can become."

- In a year of great change, people also made big changes - after celebrating 30 years of service as an educator, GISD Coordinator of Community Relations and 1985 Bear alum, Darren Richardson's retired. Richardson's career led through GHS to the University of North Texas where he played bassoon in the band and was a vocal major. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Texas in 1990. Richardson spent 10 years as an elementary music teacher in Tyler ISD before coming home to Gladewater where he has served as choir teacher, Fine Arts Director, GHS Assistant Principal, Weldon Elementary Principal and culminating his career in the GISD community relations position.
- Powerful prayers and evidence of striking community unity were at the heart of the 2020 Juneteenth prayer vigil held at Gladewater City Hall's parking area with well over 100 community members in attendance. "Thank God for the reason to assemble for prayer, for intense prayer for our nation, our state and our communities," New Hope Baptist Pastor Emmitt Pettigrew said in the opening prayer. "It is good that we can gather in a peaceful manner. Pray for yourself, your neighbors and your co-workers."

The gathering included 14 speakers leading prayers in the hour-long community service.

"I am so proud to see all our participants here today," Mayor Pro-Tem Sonny Anderson said. "We want all of you to pray and you can pray without opening your mouths. Just pray and let God get the glory."

"Gladewater consists of many wonderful people from all walks of life and all professions," Gladewater Mayor Shipp said. "Gladewater is a family of people.

Given the size of our community, it certainly should be. We should all know one another, we should all feel both comfort and trust among us. This is our home...a home consisting of brothers and sisters of colors white, black, brown and blue."

Shipp went on to address the national discussion of lives that matter, which grew from the tragic death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, who had died May 25 after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground by a white Minneapolis police officer's knee. Protests were held nationwide in response to Floyd's death, but not in Gladewater where people came together to pray for unity.

July

 July saw major changes when the Gladewater City Council shook up the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation by replacing three Gladewater Lake Board. of five incumbent directors with new members. Board members John Ussery, Charla Nash and GEDCO board president Robert Green were not re-seated following a 4-2 vote that saw council members Karla Byrd and Kevin Clark vote to approve GEDCO's recommendation to retain the current board members. With the motion's failure, councilman Nick Foster then made the motion to appoint Jim Bardwell, Laura Talley and Mark Carpenter to the board, with councilman Sonny Anderson seconding the motion. Councilwoman Brandy Flanagan voted for the motion, as did mayor JD Shipp, while Byrd and Clark cast no votes. Councilman Ferrell Alexander was absent from the meeting and Byrd turned in her letter of resignation after the council meeting.

This was one of the few times in recent history the council chose to not go along with the GEDCO board's recommendation. The action then prompted two current board members - Larry Clemens and Marsha Byrd to resign. Those two vacancies were then filled weeks later when the city council appointing John Paul Tallent and Luke Kimbrough to the GEDCO board of directors. In addition, news came that GEDCO executive director Robert Johnson had been terminated just prior to the council's July decision to replace board members. But that news wasn't shared with the council before the vote.

With a new GEDCO board, the city council began holding joint planning meetings that resulted in the council approving a special election concerning GEDCO's ½=cent sales tax. The council wants voters to approve using some of the existing sales tax revenue GEDCO takes in for "quality of life" projects around the city. The special election will be held in May 2021.

• GEDCO committed \$25,000 to support COVID-19 impacted small businesses in Gladewater, with a maximum of \$500 in funding. These funds could be used for utility bills such as gas, water/sewer, electricity, internet, and phone services and for eligible promotional services and costs. The GEDCO board wound up handing out more than a dozen checks to qualified recipients.

August

 Rocky Hawkins was selected to replace former councilwoman Karla Byrd in the Place 6 seat on the Gladewater City Council. The Gladewater native was picked from a field of six applicants. Hawkins is retired from Texas Eastman and has run his own restaurant business, as well as being active on various boards including the

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 COVID-19 continued in August and continued to disrupt plans - the Gregg County Fair was canceled according to Billy Clay the chief organizer of the event. The fair joined a lengthy list of East Texas events that have been felled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fair which originated in 1949 had been scheduled for Sept. 11-19 at the Gregg County Fairgrounds in Longview.

In Gladewater, since the start of the pandemic and awareness of its community spread, canceled events include Gusher Days, the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, the 82nd Round Up Rodeo and the Independence Day fireworks celebration at Lake Gladewater. On the Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce was held - with masks and social distancing strongly encouraged.

- Two Gladewater residents died in August in a two-vehicle fatal crash. According to the Department of Public Safety, the crash occurred on George Richey Road (FM 2275) about 1 mile east of Gladewater. Crash reports indicated that Adam Benjamin Chadbourne, 35, of Gladewater, was driving north on Texas Street approaching George Richey Road. According to the report, Chadbourne failed to stop at the intersection and his car was hit in the right passenger side by a pickup driven by a 16-year-old. Chadbourne and his passenger, Sara Elizabeth Chadbourne, 35, also of Gladewater, were pronounced dead at the scene. Two juvenile passengers, a 12-year-old boy and a 1-year-old girl, were taken to a local hospital.
- Even COVID-19 couldn't stop Texas high school football – slow it some – but not stop it.

Since Gladewater ISD, like all districts in the state of Texas, was limited to 50% stadium capacity due to the COVID-19 protocols, ticket sales were handled differently this year. Because of the pandemic restrictions no 2020 season tickets were offered, but will be honored for the 2021 season. The majority of schools in Texas followed this pandemic protocol procedure. Ticket sales were restricted on the first day of sale to athletes' families, on the second day to auxiliary (Bear Band, HoneyBears, cheerleaders etc.) students' families, and on the third day to the public at large.

Away game tickets were not sold at gates but distributed to GISD for sale based on the opponent school's stadium capacity which varied schoolto-school.

- Texas Die Casting, which was started in Gladewater in 1984 by John Patrick with a 28,000 square foot manufacturing facility on south Loop 485, closed its doors in August. According to Gladewater city officials, employees were let go the first week of August and there are no plans to reopen the facility. At the time of the closure it was estimated 80 people were employed by Texas Die Casting. Patrick retired and sold the company in 2007. It is estimated more than half of the employees who included machinists, finishers halftime lead and the eventual victory. and maintenance workers live in or just outside Gladewater. Texas Die Casting ranked behind second-largest employer in Gladewater.
- Gladewater ISD students started school on Aug. 12, the first time campuses were open since March. Gladewater Bears and Cubs alike were excited to be back in school in late August. That was evident on the first day as students headed into GISD campus buildings. But much about the new year was different and it is a mountain that school administrators, staff, students and parents climbed together. The COVID-19 pandemic protocols have rewritten how school was to be held.

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

September

 Not everything was affected by COVID-19 in 2020.

Standing on the shoulders of giants is something Bennie Moore understood and she wanted to ensure that future generations were aware of the shoulders that form the foundation they stand on.

As a founding member of the Red Rock Historical Association (RRHA) she worked hard to keep the history of the Red Rock community from being lost. A ground blessing and breaking was held in September at the building site of a community center which lies at the heart of preserving the culture of the Red Rock Community. Nearby is a building which will house historic exhibits that preserve the stories of the historic Red Rock community. "I am the product of one such community, and I am responsible to be sure that the lifestyles, accomplishments, achievements and contributions of those citizens are preserved and will stand as proof of their existence and in spite of their hardships, they not only survived but they rose above the obstacles that were placed before them," Moore said.

October

- Giddy Up & Give was the premier event in October and people did just that to the tune of approximately \$35,000. The newly re-formed Education Foundation of Gladewater (EFG) hosted its first event Saturday night at Stockyard Steakhouse with 100 tickets sold.
- In October the Gladewater City Council received news that eight Gladewater firefighters were leaving for better paying jobs - about \$10,000 more per year.

Gladewater Fire Department employs a staff of 13, including GFD Fire Chief Cory Crowell, with seven part-time firefighters and five volunteers.

The firefighters chose to leave to join Smith County Emergency Services District No. 2, which was approved by voters in November 2019 to raise sales taxes to fund and hire additional firefighters for stations across rural Smith County. The ultimate goal is to have paid firefighters at each fire department 24 hours a day 7 days a week. According to the Smith County ESD 2 website, the starting pay for qualified firefighters is \$46,345.

Gladewater's starting salary is \$35,823, while the median annual salary of firefighters in state of Texas ranges from \$32,280 to \$71,300. The highest paying area for firefighters in Texas is Waco with a median annual salary of \$71,300. The second highest paying city/area in Texas is Fort Worth-Arlington (mean annual salary \$66,180). The lowest paying area is Gulf Coast Texas non-metropolitan area with a median annual salary of \$32,280.

Closer to home, Tyler's median pay for firefighters is \$37,890 per year, while Longview's \$63,030.

Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp assured everyone that the decision to part company was totally on the firefighters, not the city. And within a month more than three dozen applications were received and by December the GFD was back to full force.

November

● The Gladewater Bears claimed the District 6-3A D1 crown with a 63-44 victory over the Cardinals of Sabine at James Bamburg Stadium in Liberty City.

Spotting the Cardinals 10 early points, QB Tristan Holmes got Gladewater rolling, throwing for 296 yards and 5 touchdowns in the 1st half, and the Bears used a 36-7 2nd Quarter swing to cruise to a 43-17

• The 2021 Texas legislature will be dealing with Gladewater ISD, with 300 employees, as the the pandemic fallout, including financial and the necessity of balancing the state budget. Union Grove ISD Supt. Kelly Moore hosted a meeting of about 60 public school superintendents and legislators at the Lion Center in December to see what that will look like and its impact on public education.

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

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

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

December

Union Grove High School senior Carleigh Judd has been named the 82nd Yamboree Queen. The pageant will be held March 6-7. The participants will follow all pandemic protocols during the race as well as the pageant.

Local Upshur tax office to reopen

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell said Monday she still intends to reopen the Gladewater branch of her office next Monday and that both the original and new drivein Gilmer should be operational on Dec. 30.

Howell had temporarily closed the Gladewater branch earlier this month when some workers' expo-sure to COVID-19 left her office short-handed. The office's Diana branch remains closed until further notice.

The Gilmer office was closed on Tuesday of last week to install a second drive-through window, which became operational the following day and is "great" since

on a very busy day for the office, Howell said.

The original drive-through lane was closed due to construction of the second, and the finishing touches were to be put on both through lanes at her main office lanes Monday and Tuesday, Howell said.

> Brazos Banc of Waco and JPJ Construction of Quitman installed the new lane, the more than \$20,000 cost of which was covered by a federal grant, said Howell. County Auditor Connie Williams said Monday the grant was for COVID-19 related expenses, and that the new drive-through facility qualified as one because it promotes social distancing.

Opening the new lane will

it "divided the lines" of vehicles allow the original one (next to the building) to "be full service, making it possible to process almost all transactions at that window, including simple personto-person title transfers," Howell said recently.

While the original lane will accept all forms of payment, the new one is only for vehicle registrations and property tax payments, requiring cash or checks instead of credit cards.

In another development, Upshur County Judge Todd Tefteller last week ordered both the county courthouse and justice center in Gilmer closed to the public, citing "the recent COVID-19 spike and the increasing number of county employees being absent from work due to COVID-19.

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