

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢



U.S. Teacher Appreciation Week runs from May 6 to May 10, 2024, and Teacher Appreciation Day is May 7, 2024.

Since 1984, Teacher Appreciation Week always takes place the first full week of May. Teacher Appreciation Day, on the other hand, takes place on the first Tuesday in May in the United States.

Join with our many loyal partners inside in thanking these unsung heroes.

Eleanor Roosevelt was actually the first to convince Congress that we needed a dedicated time to thank teachers for their hard work in the 1950s. The first lady had an excellent understanding of what it really means to be a teacher.

"The teachers are, of course, among the most important people in our nation," she wrote in 1953. "Day in and day out they are at work preparing the future citizens of the U.S. ... I have always felt that we did not give an honorable enough place in our communities to the teachers. Next to parents they are the most important people in our communities."

"I have always felt that we did not give an honorable enough place in our communities to the teachers," said Eleanor Roosevelt.

Roosevelt continued, "It is quite impossible to give teachers monetary compensation alone that will repay for their devotion to the job and the love that must go to each and every child. But I think we could compensate a little more adequately the teachers in our communities if we were conscious of their importance."

The 81st Congress declared a National Teacher Day for 1953 at Roosevelt's urging. The holiday didn't catch on right away, though. In 1980, Congress declared March 7 National Teacher Day, but it was only for that year. It wasn't until 1985 that the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week in the first full week of May, with Teacher Appreciation Day held on Tuesday of that week.

What do teachers really want for Teacher Appreciation Week?

We've said it before and we'll say it again: What teachers really want is to be valued, paid fairly, and supported in their jobs. They want a safe teaching environment and reasonable class sizes, with quality resources to serve every student's needs. Teachers want equipment that works; texts that are up-to-date, relevant, and diverse; and plentiful classroom supplies that they don't have to pay for out of their own pockets.

Meth seized in Gladewater bust

By Phillip Williams

A traffic stop near Gladewater last week resulted in the arrest of a Kilgore man who was found possessing 163 grams of suspected methamphetamine, said Upshur County sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel.

Gerald Hosea Gibson, 47, remained in county jail at Gilmer on Friday under \$100,000 bond on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance--between four and 200 grams of methamphetamine, said Hazel.

The Special Investigations Unit of the sheriff's office arrested Gibson on April 22 near the intersection of U.S. 80 and Mesquite Road west of Gladewater, the chief deputy said.

When stopped for a traffic violation and asked where he was coming from, Gibson "mentioned names that drew suspicion," said Hazel, who gave this account of subsequent events

The suspect was informed that the unit's drug-detecting dog, "Marco," would walk around the vehicle. Gibson exited the car, reached in his pockets, and turned over one large bag and one small bag of methamphetamine, along with a methamphetamine pipe, to the unit.

Officers then searched the car, found the remainder of the suspected methamphetamine, and seized it along with \$2,343 in suspected drug sale proceeds.

Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter set bond.



Spring '24 election draws to close with final polling set Saturday at City Hall

Early voting in Gladewater's Spring 2024 Election drew 223 residents to the polls at City Hall between April 22 and Monday afternoon -- with no polling in '23, the number's just a bit more than all votes cast in 2022 and the combined total for 2021 as well.

With two contested races on the ticket including the Gladewater Mayor's seat and City Council Place 3, there were still more early votes pending: Tuesday marked the final day of advance polling this cycle, with voting booths open hours more after the *Mirror's* weekly press deadline.

Election Day itself is Saturday, May 4, and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Both Gregg and Upshur County voters cast their ballots at 519 E. Broadway Ave. Results are typically tabulated and posted within an hour of polls closing, and they'll be posted to *GladewaterMirror.com* and @GladewaterMirror on Facebook as soon as possible.

Local voters are tasked with choosing between Place 3 incumbent Brandy Flanagan and candidate Jim Valentine for mayor along with a choice of either outgoing

Mayor Scott Owens or contender Stoney Stone for the Place 3 spot.

Councilman Michael Webber drew no challengers in his re-election bid to Place 2.

In early April, the full slate of candidates received invitations to a public Q&A hosted by the *Mirror* -- find coverage of the forum at tinyurl.com/2024GladewaterForum. The *Mirror* also spotlighted the four candidates in a questionnaire published April 18 -- find it on Facebook via tinyurl.com/2024GladewaterQuestionnaire.

In other upcoming elections, city voters in East Mountain will choose between two mayoral candidates and four candidates for two at-large city council seats Saturday. Mayor Marc Covington faces challenger Terry Carter. Only one incumbent, Billy Morrow, is among the field of council candidates. Others are Stormie Combs, Jo Popma and Paul Barber.

All candidates are seeking two-year terms. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

MAYOR CANDIDATES



BRANDY FLANAGAN



JIM VALENTINE



SCOTT OWENS



STONEY STONE

PLACE 3 CANDIDATES

Chex in the mail

Letter carriers across the country are renewing their annual effort to route hunger, ready to collect locals' grocery donations May 11.

The National Association of Letter Carriers launched their cross-country Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in 1993, and it's since become the United States' largest one-day food collection. In the past three decades, the effort has picked up more than 1.9 billion pounds of food.

Set each year on the Second Saturday in May, NALC organizers invite homeowners to leave their donation of non-perishable food in a bag near their mailboxes -- their local letter carrier will pick up the contribution for delivery to a nearby food bank.

"The need is great, but you can help. We invite you to join letter carriers and our partner organizations in the fight to end hunger in our communities by participating," the association announced. "Millions of Americans live in challenging situations, uncertain of where their next meal will come from or if it will come at all. They are our customers, our neighbors, our families. They include children and seniors that we see along our routes each day.

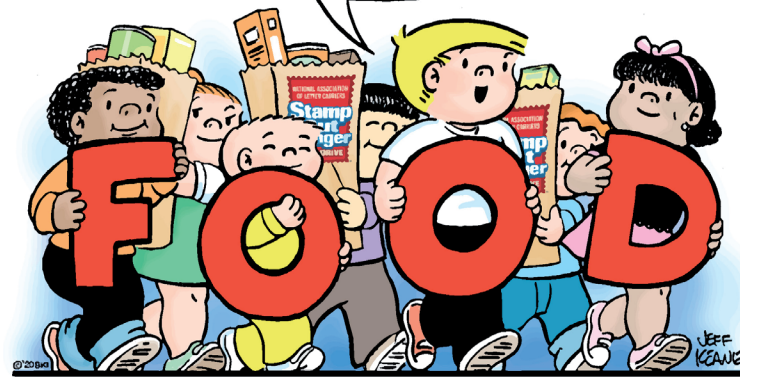
"Sadly, 1 in 10 households don't have enough food and due to the pandemic it has become worse."

According to national statistics, approximately 13 million children across the United States are food insecure. Locally, all students in Gladewater ISD may receive a free or reduced-price lunch due to the number of children within the district who qualify as economically-disadvantaged.

At the same time, data shows one in 14 U.S. senior citizens face hunger, putting them at a higher risk for chronic health conditions.

For more information, visit nalc.org/community-service/food-drive.

THIS SPELLS HELP FOR LOTS OF FAMILIES THIS YEAR!



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX. WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

Gameroom robber gets 30 years

By Phillip Williams

A judge in Gilmer last week sentenced Dewayne M. Stevenson to 30 years in prison for last year's aggravated robbery of an individual at a game room near Big Sandy, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

115th District Judge Dean Fowler sentenced Stevenson, 40, of Big Sandy, after the defendant admitted robbing the victim at gunpoint of about \$2,000 and firing a shot through the ceiling last May 23, Byrd said.

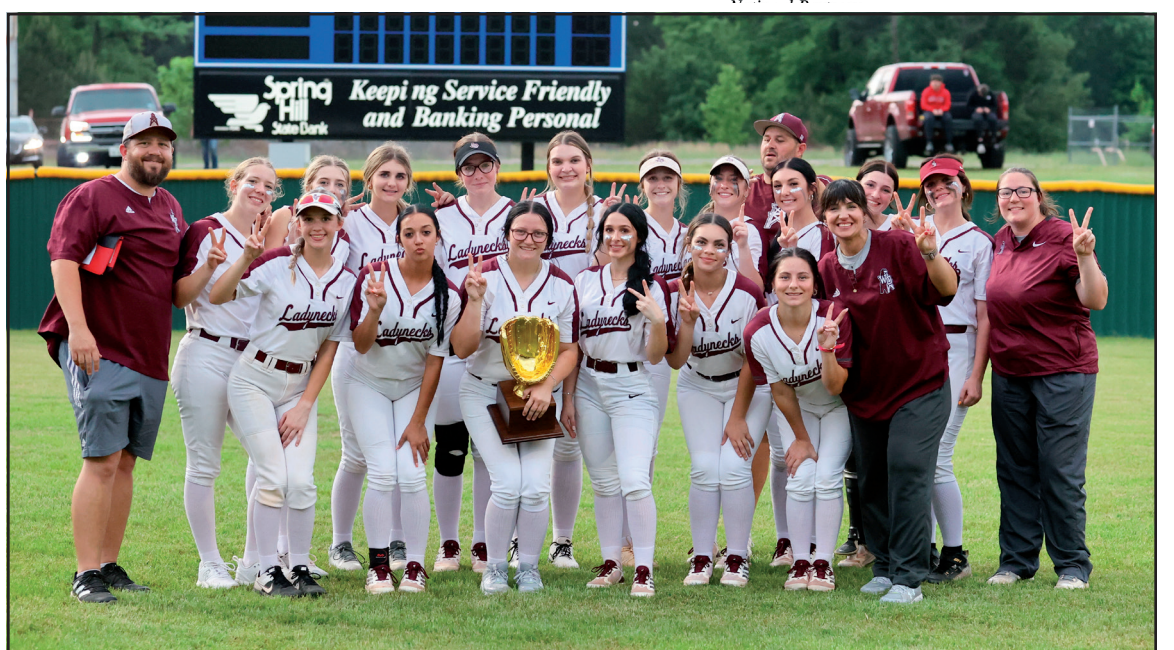
Ironically, the defendant was working security at Real Sweepstakes game room at the time of the daytime robbery, said the Upshur County Sheriff's Office.

Stevenson, sentenced on April 23, must serve at least half his sentence before becoming eligible for parole, Byrd said. The defendant, represented by Longview attorney Dave Hagan, also waived his right to appeal by accepting a plea bargain with the state, the district attorney noted.

After Longview police arrested him last July 4 on an Upshur County indictment, "The defendant would later confess he owed a large debt and needed money to pay off his debt," said Byrd. Stevenson fled on foot after the robbery, he added.

Byrd said he represented the prosecution at sentencing.

Two days after the plea, Byrd said, Fowler upheld the revocation of the operating permit for the rural game room, which faced FM 1002 near the intersection with Texas 155.



The White Oak Ladynecks swept Tatum in the Bi-District softball playoffs, 1-0 and 6-1, to advance to the Area Playoffs against Hooks. They will play at 5:45 pm Thursday and 7:45 pm Friday, and if needed on Saturday at 3pm. All games will be played at Marshall High School. Photo by Mike Peery



OPINION/COMMENTARY

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Gary Borders
Capital Highlights



High-end electrical users could strain grid

The growth of industrial-scale users of power could strain the Texas power grid, ERCOT's chief announced last week. The Dallas Morning News reported Pablo Vegas, the agency's CEO, said bitcoin miners and artificial intelligence data centers going in across the state, as well as industrial growth in the Permian Basin, could create the need for a massive buildup of power transmission lines in the future.

ERCOT is forecasting a 37% jump in power demand from industrial-sized users, even more than earlier predicted. It increased its forecast of electricity needed by new large-scale users from 111 gigawatts to 152 gigawatts. By comparison, the record for grid demand was set last August when 85.5 gigawatts were used.

ERCOT regulates 90% of the state's power grid.

State battles acute ag worker shortage

In the 1950s, 10% of the state's adult population worked in agriculture, a number that has dropped to 1% today, according to the Texas Standard.

Diane Charlton, an associate professor at Montana State University who studies where farm workers come from, said the number of individuals from Mexico working in agriculture provides the most farm workers, has dropped an average of one percent per year from 1980 to 2010. That amounts to 250,000 fewer farm workers per year.

Mexico provides the most farm workers. Among the reasons for decreasing numbers of Mexican farm workers are growing industrialization and increasing access to education in Mexico, and an aging group of immigrants who have traditionally worked on American farms.

Steve Hubbard of the American Immigration Council said more farmers are applying to hire temporary workers through an H-2A visa. Under its provisions, foreign workers are hired to do work on a specific farm for a given time before returning home.

Experts say hotter temperatures under climate change are also driving away potential farm workers.

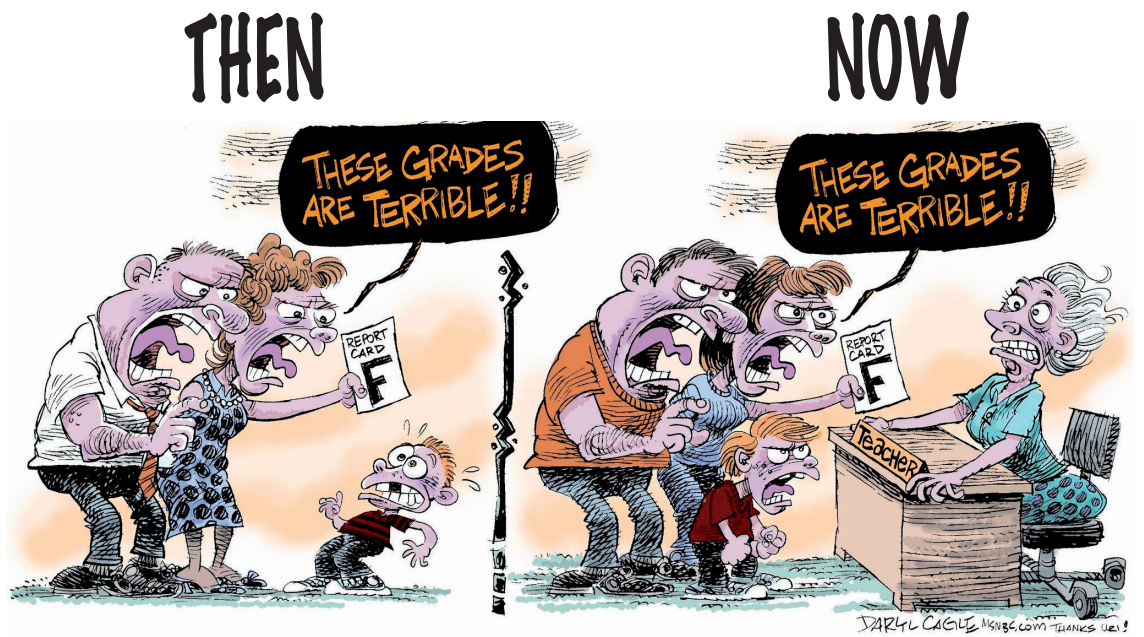
"Workers are just going to suffer significantly if there are not some immediate protections put in place to address the work in these hotter temperatures," Amy Liebman, with the Migrant Clinicians Network, said. "We're experiencing these higher heat days, higher number of heat days."

75 Texas counties lost population

The Texas Standard reported that 75 counties lost population from 2022 to 2023 in the Texas Panhandle, West Texas, parts of South Texas, and Deep East Texas.

The state's population center is increasingly concentrated in a triangle drawn from Dallas to San Antonio to Houston, then back to Dallas. Inside that triangle reside more than 30 million people — 68% of the state's population.

"These are also centers of economic development," said Helen You of the Texas Demographic Center. "This is also where you see universities and lots of educational opportunities there."



Teachers are heroes ...

One of my earliest memories is playing school. I was three to four years old and my chubby little hands held chalk as I sat at my 'desk' while my Mom did physical therapy with my handicapped brother. As she worked with him she would call out letters for me to make on my chalkboard.

Growing up on a ranch with no playmates except my rowdy boy cousins nearby meant that I spent a great deal of my spare time reading whatever I could get my hands on.

Friday was 'town' day when I was out of school and one of my favorite stops was the local library where I checked out the maximum number of books each week. I loved the crisp feel of those colorful library book covers.

Then there were the summer Weekly Reader magazines. I can still recall what they smelled like.

My grandmother who taught in a one room school house would rock and tell me stories. She also bought me special books at the 'dime' store.

Between my teacher grandmother and my school secretary Mom, coupled with a passionate love for the written word it was inevitable that I would become a teacher.

I wish I could say that I had a phenomenal public school education. I can't.

But I can say that my first grade teacher Mrs. McQuary was a phenom. My 2nd and 3rd grade teacher Jeffie Hagle (how could I forget that name?) must have been good but I remember her affectionate nature and her hair most vividly. I think I could bounce quarters off that 'do'. That was it until I had the lovely and dedicated young teacher Anita Murray for junior high English. She cared. About junior high kids. Can you imagine that?

In high school there were three dedicated teachers who fought the good fight against the apathy, ignorance and laziness of their students. Nervous Mavis Bennett taught me to type fast and accurately. As a result I was able to work my way through college in clerical rather than food service jobs. I got every job I applied for thanks to Mrs. Bennett's attention to speed and accuracy.

Ettie Belle Robinson, a tragic and romantic spinster (she lost her fiance in WWII and wore her engagement ring on her right hand) dug in and taught the country girls to sew,

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



cook, decorate, dress appropriately for interviews and made sure we had every Red Cross certification that teenagers could qualify. She was special and we took her for granted.

But it was Gertrude Russell who lit my intellectual fire. She was a 65-year old widow who came to my high school when her other school had forced retirement for all teachers at 65. Her son, a Vietnam War combat pilot was a POW in the Hanoi Hilton.

She took her fears, her loneliness and her need for purpose and taught a bunch of hard-headed, previously intellectually unchallenged country kids to the best of her ability. I had the privilege of her influence for three years of high school. Then she was forced to resign because of disgruntled parents. Needless to say they weren't mine.

She and the school librarian argued about book orders. The librarian saying: "None of these kids will read these books." Mrs. Russell said: "Suzie Brown will!"

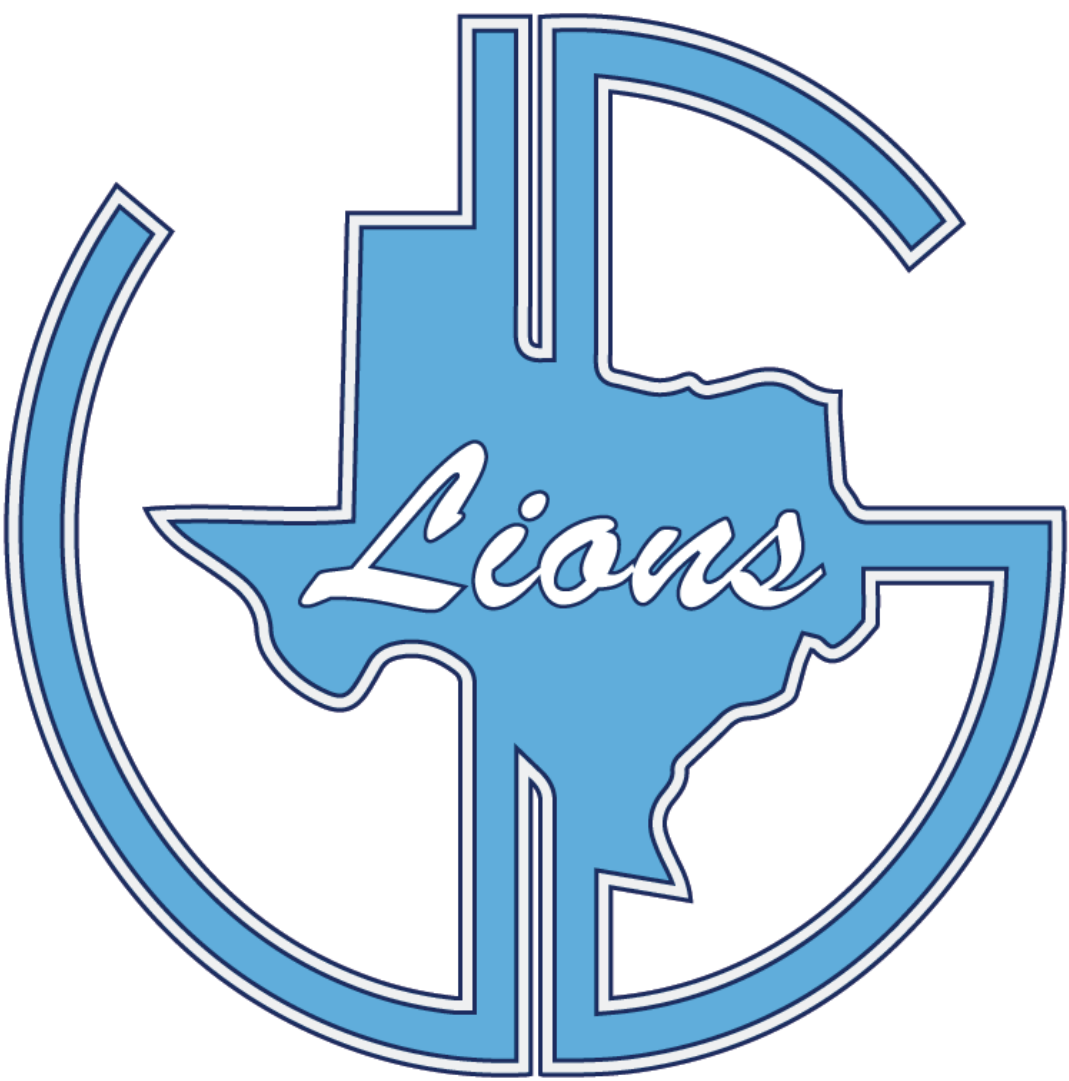
And I did. Because smart-aleck that I was, I respected Mrs. Russell. As a result, a world was opened and when I got to college, despite graduating with only 15 students, I found myself prepared.

And inspired. I taught public school for 33 years because of Mom, Mam'ma and Mrs. Russell. The teachers in my life who touched my future. In turn I have taught somewhere in the neighborhood of 4,000 students in my career as a public school and community college teacher. I just pray I have touched their lives just a bit as mine was touched.

To all the teachers in the trenches: you are my heroes! Do not let the testing, the pressure, the exhaustion, the discipline problems take your eyes off of the truth that you write the future for generations.

The FUTURE!
 What a gift you hold in your hands. What a gift you are!

Thank you Union Grove educators!
We appreciate all that you do for our students and our school! You make UGISD a great place to
ENCOURAGE - EMPOWER - EDUCATE



With Lion Pride!
UGISD Board of Trustees & Kelly Moore, Superintendent of Schools

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WO 2nd in UIL academic meet

White Oak ISD's Academic Competitors secured 2nd Place at the University Inter-scholastic League's Academic Regional competition with numerous students securing individual awards and qualifying for state as well.

TEAM STATE QUALIFIES

One Act Play
REGIONAL CHAMP STATE QUALIFIERS
 Kate Dusek, Copy Editing
 Alli Sims, Editorial
 Jayce Parker, Top Chemistry in Science
STATE QUALIFIERS
 Rilee Brittain, Poetry Interpretation
 Alli Sims, Headline Writing

Kynlee Bright, Ready Writing
STATE ALTERNATES
 Elliott Lattin, Accounting
 Brody Miller, Informative Speaking
 Lucas Watson, Prose Interpretation
 Kate Dusek, Headline Writing
 Alli Sims, Copy Editing

Area Agency on Aging hosts community events

Throughout May, the Area Agency on Aging of East Texas (AAA) is joining organizations nationwide to celebrate the seniors in our communities for Older Americans Month (OAM). The AAA will host six celebration events across East Texas at area senior centers

and community centers focusing on connection – how communities can build relationships to maintain a healthy senior population.

OAM is a national initiative led by the Administration for Community Living. This year's theme, Powered by Connection, offers an opportunity to explore a wide range of aging experiences and to emphasize the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on the health and well-being of our elderly population.

"Join us in honoring and celebrating our beloved seniors during Older Americans Month! As we embark on this journey of connection, let's come together to



Gladewater Rotary's Program on April 25 featured the GHS Choir members - front row: Illyssa Hawley, Johnnay Hawley, Samyra Williams, Morgan Perez and back row: Logan McKnight and Rotarian Darren Richardson.

cherish their wisdom and contributions. I invite you to join us at our six community events across East Texas, where we'll share food, fun, and valuable resources. Together, let's build a more connected and supportive environment for our elderly population," said Aging Director Colleen Halliburton.

The following OAM celebration events are open to the public and will include food, fun, door prizes, and information on services available to East Texas seniors:

May 8th at the Forever Young Activity Center, located at 404 S. Main St. in Quitman, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

May 9th at the Harrison County Extension Office, located at 2005 Warren Dr. in Marshall, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

May 14th at the Douglas Alumni Association Inc., located at 408 Terry St. in Pittsburg, from 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM (Power in Community event partnered with Texas Legal Services Center)

May 16th at the First United Methodist Church, located at 225 Lovers Ln in Athens, from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m..

May 16th at the TASCA Activity Center, located at 10495 County Road 2167 in Whitehouse, from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

May 30th at Central Baptist Church, located at 220 W. Sabine St. in Carthage, from 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
 The AAA is the region's

leader in advocating and providing various services, such as information and referral, benefits counseling, case management, health education classes, senior nutrition, housing repair, and support through the Ombudsman program for people in nursing and assisted living facilities. These services help older individuals live independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Contact the AAA for questions about the events by calling (903) 218-6500.

Cherokee Rose Festival slated

The Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking sponsors and vendors for the May 18 annual Cherokee Rose Festival on the downtown square.

The event is set from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call 903-843-2413.

County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children Thursday (May 2) at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer.

"Hug Me" by Simona Ciruolo, and "How to Hug a Cactus" by Emily Smith and Aleksandra Szmids will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154).

While the events are free to the public, children under

12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www.yousemore.com/upshur.

County cleanup a success

The "countywide cleanup" sponsored by the Upshur County Commissioners Court on Saturday was a success with 126 residents participating, said Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley.

The free dumping was at the county's pug mill site in the Pritchett area. The East Texas Council of Governments in Kilgore funded Saturday's event. Ashley said ETCOG employee Lisa Smith, an Upshur County resident, was instrumental in procuring the funding.

All but 21 of those who came to the site Saturday at 1426 Cottonwood Road did so by noon, said Ashley. County residents were invited to dump such no-longer-useable items as appliances, furniture and computers.

The next cleanup day will be sometime in late October, and the date will be posted soon on the county's official website, he added.

4 churches join for 1st Sunday service

Four area congregations of the Church of Christ, which meet jointly on the first Sunday of each month, will do so Sunday at the Lyles Street Church of Christ in Big Sandy.

The service at 301 Lyles is set for 4 p.m.

OBITUARIES

CURTIS DEWAYNE VASQUEZ

Curtis Dewayne Vasquez was born in Grand Prairie, Texas March 18, 1967 to Joe Vasquez and Mary Sue Pennington Wilkins. Curtis passed away on March 23, 2024 in Gladewater. With a love for the woods and living off the land,

Curtis cherished the simple joys of life. Throughout the years, he made countless memories with his loved ones, never forgetting a face or a story. Always willing to lend a helping hand, Curtis touched the lives of many with his kind heart and generous spirit. Whether it was a word of encouragement or a helping hand, he was there for anyone in need, never turning a blind eye to those seeking his assistance.

As we remember Curtis, we recall his unwavering love for people and his ability to make everyone he met feel like family.

His legacy lives on through his beloved wife, Lovie Sharlene Vasquez; sons, Cody Vasquez, Ervin Davis and Isaiah Davis; daughters, Summer Shipp and husband Taylor, Autumn Vasquez and Lovie Davis; grandchildren, Paxton Shipp, Kaleigh Lang,

Welles Shipp, Brooklyn Sprayberry, Addison Vasquez and Ana Sprayberry; brothers, Joe Vasquez Jr., Leo Vasquez and Danny Vasquez; sisters, Janet McGee and Diana Vasquez as well as many others who were grateful to have known him.

Curtis was welcomed at the gates of Heaven by his parents, grandparents and many others that loved him throughout his life.

In anticipation of honoring his life, a visitation will be held at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater, on May 2, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

On May 3, 2024, at 11:00 am, a funeral service will take place at the same location, surrounded by those who cherished Curtis dearly. Following the service, Curtis will be laid to rest at Morris Cemetery.

As we say our final goodbyes, we take comfort in knowing that Curtis has been reunited with his parents, grandparents, and all those who meant the world to him. Let us come together to celebrate a life well-lived, a heart full of love, and a spirit that will forever remain in our hearts. Rest in peace, Curtis Dewayne Vasquez. Your memory will live on in the stories and lives you touched along the way.

Croley
 FUNERAL HOME

MARCUS WAYNE MOORE

Marcus Wayne Moore, passed away on April 28, 2024, in Longview, Tx. He was born on June 23, 1998, to Kyle and Marla (Mackey) Moore in Longview, Tx.

Marcus was just your good ole boy, the light in the room and the one to keep everyone laughing. Marcus was a man with a work ethic beyond compare. He put his all into everything he did, from work, to life to love.

His love for the lord was something he was never shy of, from a little boy with the kindest heart he could tell you all about his lord and savior. Marcus was a man with a heart the size of Texas and never knew a stranger, he had a helping hand to save the world. He saw the good in all around him. Marcus had many things he was proud of in his life but becoming a daddy was top tier, from the day he knew he was having a little boy he planned the hunting and fishing trips for years

to come. Marcus will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Marcus is survived by his parents, Kyle and Marla Moore of Gilmer; wife, Sierra Blankenship Moore of Gilmer; and brought immense joy to his son, Hansyn K. Lane Moore; grandparents, Harold Mackey (Mildred) of Gilmer; brother, Cody Moore of Midland, Tx; uncles, Mark Moore (Julie) of Gladewater, Pat Gibson, Mike Gibson; aunt, Michelle Moore of Gilmer; father and mother in law, Chad and Lezlie Lee; brother in law, Dakota Cate; along with numerous cousins, family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jerry and Glynda Moore.

A Memorial Service to honor and remember Marcus will be held on May 4, 2024, at Calvary Baptist Church in Gladewater, TX. The service will commence at 11:00 AM to celebrate the life of a beloved soul who touched the hearts of many. Friends and acquaintances are welcome to pay their respects at this gathering.

Memorial contributions can be made to City National Bank, 895 E. Broadway Avenue Gladewater, Tx.



These White Oak tennis players are Regional Qualifiers and will play in the 3A Regional Tournament at the Tyler Cascades Country Club on May 9-10. LtoR Shawn Richardson and Valeria Garcia (mixed doubles), Abby Lobue and Layne Simpson (girls doubles), Luke Bueno and Caleb Glenn (boys doubles), Fiona Rolland (girls singles), Blaine Vaughn (boys singles).

Photo by Mike Peery

HEAR HIM

From the mountain where Jesus was transfigured, God's voice came out of a cloud, saying: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matt. 17: 5). With misguided zeal, Peter sought to honor Jesus "alongside" Moses and Elijah. Luke wrote that he "did not realize what he was saying." (Lk. 9: 33). God the Father let Peter know that Moses and Elijah, and Jesus were not equals. Christ is God's Son; He is Deity. As great as Moses and Elijah were, they were not on par, or equal to Jesus. They were human, while He is Divine. They were not to be worshipped, but Jesus is!

While Moses, who received the Law, was God's spokesman to Israel before they entered the Promised Land, and Elijah, representing the prophets, and considered to be the greatest of the oral prophets, was God's spokesman to Judah and Israel, only Jesus is God's spokesman to the age in which we live. Jesus has all authority today, both in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28: 18). This leaves none for man! But many today make the same mistake. In their minds, Jesus is just one among many great spiritual teachers and leaders. They would be more than happy to build multiple tabernacles honoring Jesus, Mohammad, Buddha, and so on. But we do not look for authority from Mohammad in the Koran, or from Joseph Smith, Jr in the Book of Mormon, or from the Pope in Rome, or from any self-acclaimed prophet or preacher, etc. No latter-day prophets have any authority to speak for God, and no latter-day revelations are being given to man today! We are not to hear anyone else who claims to be God's special spokesman. We are to listen to Jesus because God the Father "has in these last days spoken to us by His Son." (Heb. 1: 2). Through Him is the only way to the Father. (Jn. 14: 6).

Wouldn't it have been exciting to see our glorified Lord on that mountain? We will never have that experience, but, if we are faithful to Him, we WILL someday see Him in His glory. (1 Jn. 3: 2). Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

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Abernathy wins 2024 Gusher Days bass tourney

Kent Abernathy took first place in Saturday's East Texas Gusher Days Big Bass Classic held at Lake Gladewater with 5.37 lbs.. The winning catch netted him \$500 cash, a \$250 Skippers Pier gift card, and a \$100 Mannis Italian Kitchen gift card.

Second place went to Bud Mahaffey, who reeled in a 4.87 lbs. bass, good for \$250 cash and a \$50 Mannis Italian Kitchen gift card.

James Arnold took third place with weighing in a 4.59 pounder. That earned him \$100 cash and a \$25 Mannis Italian Kitchen gift card.

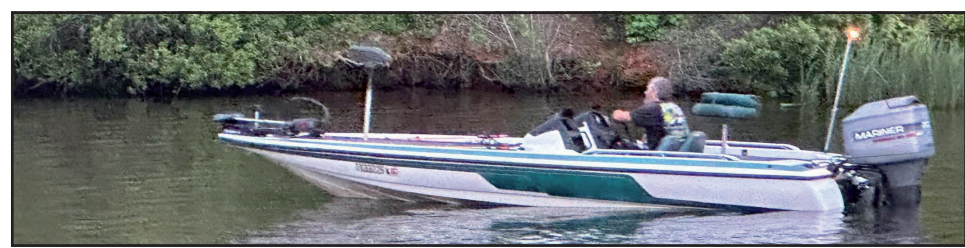
Tournament sponsors were Shipp's Marine Service, Inc., Austin Bank and Skippers Pier Coastal Cajun Kitchen!



Kent Abernathy took first place in the East Texas Gusher Days Big Bass Classic held at Lake Gladewater with 5.37 lbs. He was congratulated by co-sponsor Wayne Shott.



Bud Mahaffey weighed this 4.87 lb bass and wound up winning second. James Arnold's 4.59 lb. bass netted him third place.



Thank you to all our teachers!

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Teacher Appreciation Week

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Sports Roundup ...

By Tyler Sutton

Playoff series were started and playoff spots were clinched this week as the local baseball and softball teams were in action.

Gladewater baseball saw themselves accomplish a goal on Tuesday when they clinched a playoff spot for the first time in multiple years as they finished the regular season with a walk off win in the 8th inning over Hughes Springs on senior night.

Trent Jackson delivered an RBI single in the bottom of the eighth inning. Jackson had two hits on the night, and Hayden Torres doubled and drove in a run. Mason Budro also drove in a run for the Bears. Luke Brown struck out four and walked two in seven innings. Sean Burke pitched one inning, striking out one and issuing no walks.

The Bears finish the regular season 14-10 and 6-4 in district play and will be the 2 seed out of 15-3A.

Gladewater will travel to Atlanta to begin its 1st round playoff series against Elysian Fields on Thursday. Game 1 is Thursday night at 7 p.m., Game 2 Friday night at 7 P.M. and a if needed Game 3 is Saturday at 2 P.M.

White Oak softball opened up its 1st round series on Thursday at Spring Hill's Panther park and the district champion Ladynecks kept on rolling as they swept Tatum in the best of three series. Game one on Thursday was pitcher's duel between White Oak's ace and ETBU signee Larkin Daniels and Tatum's Noa Cart.

White Oak scored the lone run of the game in the bottom of the 6th inning and that was all Daniels needed as she went into the Ladyneck record books with her 1,071 strike out putting her alone at the top for

most strikeout's in White Oak softball history. Moving on to Friday, this time it was the White Oak offense that flexed its muscle as they scored early and often in route to a 6-1 win. Jaidyn Marshall produced a leadoff single, and eventually scored the go-ahead run during Addison McClanahan's sacrifice groundout to make it 1-0 lead.

Graycen Sipes started the 2nd inning surge with a RBI double that drove in Kara Kennedy, Marshall added a RBI that scored Sipes, and Tristyn Cox followed with a RBI single that sent Kylie Caraway and Marshall home to make it 5-1 White Oak. Larkin again was dazzling as she gave up just 1 earned run with 15 more strikeouts

The Ladynecks are now 27-5 on the season and will head to Marshall beginning on Thursday on the campus of Marshall ISD to take on Hooks in round two.

Game one is Thursday evening at 5:45. Game two will be Friday at 7:45 with Game 3 (If needed) on Saturday at 3 P.M.

The White Oak baseball team came into the final week of the regular season with playoff seeding on the line.

Tuesday night the Roughnecks closed out their regular season on the road at Daingerfield and fell to the Tigers 2-1. Caleb Maxted doubled and singled in the loss for White Oak. Kelton Cates struck out five and walked three in 7.1 innings.

The loss forced White Oak to play the Tigers again on Friday in a tie breaker game for the 3rd seed in the district. And on Friday, in a back and forth contest the Roughnecks fell 5-4.

White Oak will be the 4 seed out of 15-3A and will

open up the playoffs on Thursday in Marshall at Maverick ballpark against Tatum. Game 1 is Thursday night at 7 P.M , Game 2 is Friday night at 7 P.M and a if needed Game 3 is Saturday at 2 P.M

The Union Grove baseball team needed to win their final 3 games and get some help to force a tie breaker game for the final playoff spot with Carlisle and the Lions did their part as they went 3-0 on the week. Starting on Monday with a 6-2 win over Hawkins.

A game that had to be pushed back twice because of rain. That was followed up on Tuesday with a 15-0 win over New Summerfield.

Andrew Jacobus dominated on the hill over three innings, and Jacob Griffin headed up the offensive attack with a home run, single and two RBI. Jacobus struck out seven and walked one.

Jax Daniels had two hits and two RBI. Kayden Day singled and drove in two runs. Peyton Laake had a double and an RBI, and Wrigley Roberts singled and plated two runs. Judson George also tripled and drove in a couple for the Lions.

Finally on Friday as the Lions celebrated senior night, they jumped out early and pounded Leveette's Chaple 10-0. Peyton Lake tossed a five-inning no-hitter, striking out eight and walking three. Lake also doubled, singled and drove in a run for the Lions. Carter Cooper doubled, and Kayden Day drove in two runs. Jax Daniels chipped in with an RBI. But alas the help that was needed didn't come as Carlisle won its final regular season game on Saturday and ended the Lions playoff dreams. Union Grove finishes the season at 13-9 and 10-8 in district play.



Larkin Daniels struck out 29 Lady Eagle batters in their two game Bi-District series with Tatum as the Ladynecks won 1-0 and 6-1 at the Spring Hill ballpark. The Ladynecks will face Hooks in the next round of playoffs in Marshall. Photo by Mike Peery

“Coot’s Corner” By Coot Putley

Still no wagering, please ...

Last week we discussed our projected results for the American League. This week we'll give you our predictions for the National League.

NL East

1. Atlanta - The best line-up in baseball. Spoiler alert – I'm picking them to win the World Series in 2024.
2. Philadelphia - Solid line-up, great pitching staff. Should be in the mix for a championship.
3. New York - The Mets have an owner who is willing to spend whatever it takes to win, but they appear to be pausing to reload and wait for another free agent crop.
4. Washington - This team has a bad roster - almost as bad as the other "teams" in that city.
5. Miami - Another fran-

chise in disarray. The Marlins are beginning to smell a little fishy.

NL Central

1. Milwaukee - No-one is expecting much from the Brewers, but I've got a feeling they may remain competitive and win this wide-open division.
2. Cincinnati - This is a really good young team but they're still a year away from taking that next step.
3. Pittsburgh - Quietly putting together a strong line-up, the Pirates are my surprise team to compete in the National League.
4. Chicago - This is the trendy pick this year, primarily due to their hiring of Craig Counsell as manager. I'm still not convinced.
5. St. Louis - A once proud franchise has fallen on hard times.

NL West

1. Los Angeles - The billion dollar team may win 120 games in the regular season, but they will still fall short in the playoffs.
2. Arizona - The best starting rotation in baseball and an opportunistic offense.
3. San Diego - Several superstars but can't seem to mesh.
4. San Francisco - Trying to get to the next level, but their roster is still a little short.
5. Colorado - A bad team, but the view of the Rockies from Coors Field is beautiful!

World Series

Atlanta over Baltimore Remember that these predictions are only for fun. No wagering please! That's one man's opinion – what's yours?

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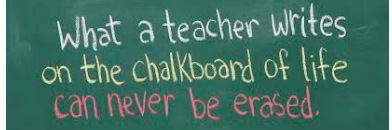
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 - "French Legation State Historic ____"
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 - billiards stick
 - regulator of DFW Airport (abbr.)
 - TXism: "plain ____ nose on your face"
 - Texas has made ____ into controlling litter
 - TXism: "don't change horses in the middle of the ____"
 - meeting items lists
 - TX Ginger Rogers 1946 film "Heart-beat" also starred Jean-____ Aumont
 - Gov. Greg ____
 - TXism: "he has short arms and ____ pockets" (frugal)
 - slang for most Texas soldiers in the Civil War
 - tackle, Mark, who helped Cowboys win 3 Super Bowls
 - Luke Bryan country hit: "Down ____"
 - shorthand writer, for short
 - Texas-based 1960 film: "____ Hill"

- defamed someone's character
 - "W" of Texas crime "DWI"
 - TXism: "that's ____ different color"
 - one under par in golf
 - this program brought women into the USAF from 1948 to 1976
 - speech sound uttered with breath, not voice
 - golf gadget (2 wds.)
 - Green County
 - Dallas-born "Usher" 1999 film: "____ All That"
 - "muck and ____"
 - Amarillo's "____-State Fair & Rodeo"
 - moon to Houston: "The Eagle ____ Landed" (1969)
 - ____hart, Texas
- DOWN**
- "Sheriffs' ____ Texas"
 - "New Braunfels Herald-____"
 - TXism: "____ up" (mad)
 - Gen. Robert ____
 - TX Buddy Holly's "Not ____ Away"

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Conversation develops around proposed shipping container home on lake shore

By James Draper

Typically, Jamie Sanchez is excited to lay out the vision for a shorefront home on Lake Gladewater: nine shipping containers connected and stacked to craft an attractive floorplan of about 2,200 square-feet.

The custom home builder's enthusiasm was dampened, though, when she learned local council members took a pre-emptive stance against her proposed lodgings for the lake. By the time Sanchez learned of looming new restrictions for 'manufactured housing,' she feared her objection would be too late: "I was dumbfounded, to be honest."

City leaders tapped the brakes, however, and a dialogue's taking shape. Sanchez is making new plans for her lot, but she does want to continue the conversation about container homes

– there are plenty of places inside the city for them.

"This is the future," she said. "It gives people a different opportunity."

Council members almost adopted a ban in March but ultimately directed city staffers to flesh out new home-building restrictions for consideration a month later. During the council's regular meeting April 18, Mayor Scott Owens noted the code changes were delayed for various reasons.

"We've had a couple of things this month," he said, "so we're going to put that off as far as considering that ordinance until next month's meeting. This ordinance will draw from four different sections. It's kind of complex."

The pending rule change was poised to effect shipping container homes, manufactured housing and mobile homes throughout the com-

munity, and the topic was opened to public comment not long after Owens announced the postponement.

"The city council focus should be on bettering our community's future," said William Blackmon, frustrated since the proposed code change was first debated March 21. "The proposal of this is very discriminatory towards most of the community."

"There are several homes in the city that are in far worse conditions... How's that not worse than a new modular home or a new pre-manufactured home?"

Sanchez was glad to have a chance to weigh in before the council took official action ("Mind you, I had two hours' notice that anything was going down...") and some of the elected officials reached out for more insights later. She's eager to open

minds, angling to make a presentation about shipping container homes at the May council session.

The owner and operator of Amelia Custom Homes understands (to a point, at least) knee-jerk opposition to the idea of a shipping container home, but she's eager to outline the benefits.

"I think it was just the unknown," Sanchez said later. "It's just a different exterior; everything on the interior will be the same, up to code, as a standard home."

At the very least, Sanchez is confident repurposed shipping containers are reliable

for construction.

"It's waterproof. It's fireproof. It's windproof," and relatively low-cost at an average of \$4,000 per container: "It's a lot less expensive than mortar, cement, lumber. All that is crazy expensive right now."

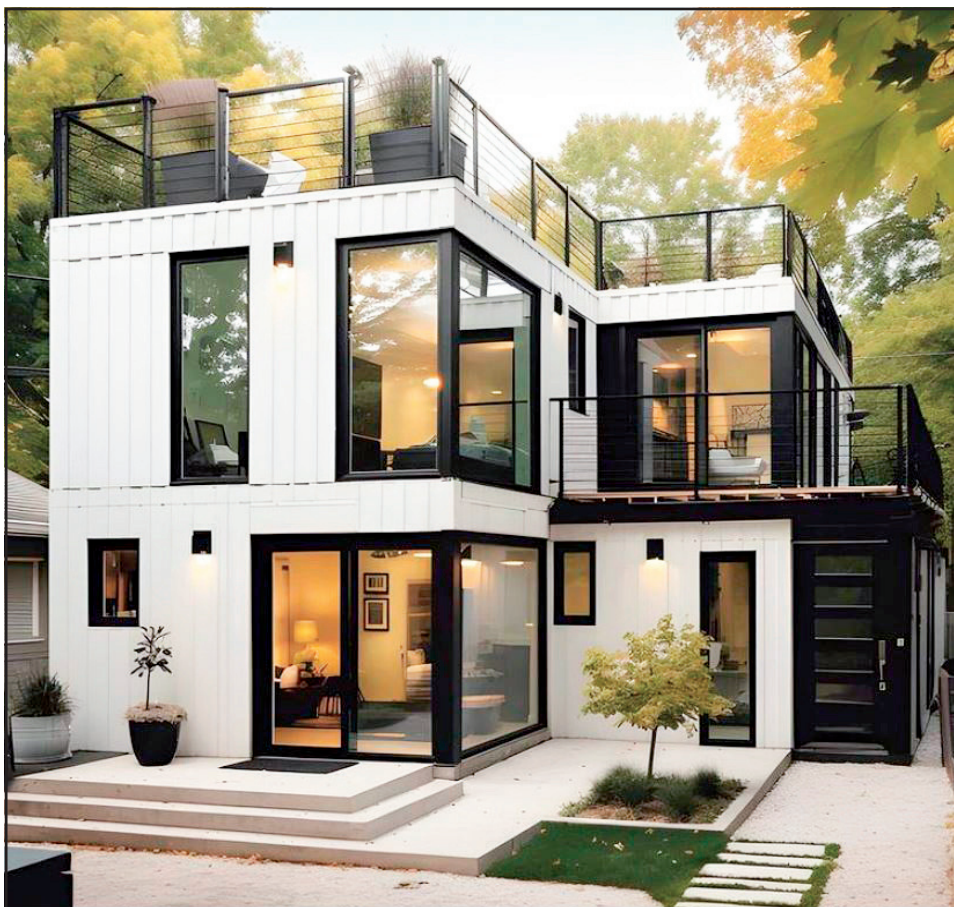
It's also an ideal solution for the tricky topography of a lot like hers on Lake Gladewater.

"I build homes, so I know the process. It's something you can really turn fast, it's good on the pocket book, and it's great for our environment," she said. At an average of \$4,000 per container, it's an affordable

option: "It's a lot less expensive than mortar, cement, lumber. All that is crazy expensive right now. Right now, people can't afford homes. Inflation's killing everybody."

Currently a Southlake resident, Sanchez aims to move to Gladewater in the next 12 to 18 months. She already owns 35 rental properties here.

"I plan to bring more business to Gladewater," she said. "I would never want to bring anything that's an eyesore to the lake. I'm not trying to make Gladewater look worse; I'm trying to make Gladewater better."



This shipping container home of 2,000-plus square-feet is similar to plans developed by custom home builder Jamie Sanchez for her shorefront property on Lake Gladewater. Following resistance from the Gladewater City Council, Sanchez says she's shelved that vision for her lot, but she hopes local elected leaders won't quash the shipping container home option in the community.

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Teachers Appreciation Week discounts and deals for 2024

This year, Teacher Appreciation Week runs from May 7th to May 10th. You have ample time to find the perfect gift to show your favorite teachers how much you appreciate them.

As we gear up for the annual celebration of educators during Teacher Appreciation Week, there are many dis-

counts and deals to choose from. We've put together a curated list to save you time and highlight the absolute best ideas.

Office Depot / Office-Max: Offering 30% back in Bonus Rewards on a qualifying in-store purchase. This is a great opportunity to stock up on classroom essentials.

Staples: Keep an eye out for deals and promotions tailored for teachers. Staples often provides special discounts during Teachers Appreciation Week.

Ford: Teachers who take a virtual test drive through May 7 will receive a \$50 e-gift card that can be used to contribute to teacher requests

on DonorsChoose.

Burger King: Enjoy free fries with any purchase. Teachers and all other customers can indulge in this savory treat during Teachers Appreciation Week.

Buffalo Wild Wings: Offering six boneless wings for just \$1 with the purchase of any BBW Burger.

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf: Providing any large drink for \$5 if you have a valid teacher's ID from May 6 to 15.

Adidas: Teachers with verified status enjoy an exclusive discount of 30% at adidas.com and in-store or 20% off at factory outlet stores.

Ann Taylor LOFT: LOFT Loves Teachers, and the feeling is mutual. Enjoy 15% off every day in-store with your teacher ID. Get exclusive teacher discounts online during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Bonobos: Verify your teacher ID to get 20% off five different orders throughout the year.

Cole Haan: Cole Haan offers teachers a 20% discount off full-price and sale items online.

Costco: Costco provides a \$20 Costco Shop Card to teachers who join as new members.

Cross: Verified teachers received 15% off all full-priced styles online.

Dagne Dover: Dagne Do-

ver offers an exclusive 20% discount for the teachers like yourself shaping the next generation.

Dockers: Dockers proudly provides teachers with a 25% discount on any of their apparel.

FedEx Office National Educators Discount Program: Corps members and alumni can receive 15% off most products and services at participating FedEx Office locations nationwide. Reach out to your local TFA regional office to acquire a regional discount card, then present your regional discount card to receive your discount when making a purchase in-store or online.

Hanes Brands: Current and retired educators worldwide receive 10% off at all Hanes Brand stores, including Champion, Bali, and more.

J.Crew: Flash your teacher ID at J.Crew and enjoy 15% off full-price items.

Karen Kane: Snag 20% off purchases with a valid teacher ID.

L.L. Bean: L.L.Bean is proud to support teachers in leading a healthy, active lifestyle. Receive your 10% promo code after verifying your eligibility.

Liberty Mutual: Liberty Mutual offers unique and exclusive auto insurance savings. Learn more.

Madewell: Madewell

gives teachers 15% off in-store and online.

Puma: Puma is giving back to teachers like you with a 10% discount on your order.

Reebok: As a verified teacher, you are qualified for a discount on shoes and apparel of up to 50% from Reebok.

Sunglass Hut: Switch up your look with a pair of new shades. Teachers get 15% off their orders.

ThirdLove: Treat yourself to a 15% discount valid on all full-priced items.

Barnes & Noble: Receive 20% off purchases for the classroom and enjoy discounts of up to 25% off the publisher's list price during Educator Appreciation Days.

Books-A-Million: Receive free custom quotes for your classroom, special pricing on shipping, bulk orders and more when you sign up for the BAM Educator Card!

Half Price Books: Save 10% year-round with HPB's Educator's Discount Card.

The New York Times: Subscribe to get up to 50% off with discounted rates for educators and schools.

USA Today: Educators can get up to 45% off classroom subscriptions.

Wall Street Journal: Join Wall Street Journal for Professors to save over 70% on a WSJ subscription.

Teacher Appreciation Week

In a world where your impact extends far beyond textbooks and lesson plans, you are the guiding lights igniting curiosity, instilling confidence, and nurturing the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators. Thank you for your endless dedication, patience and belief in the potential of every student. You truly make a difference and your efforts are deeply appreciated.

THANK YOU TEACHERS!

Gladewater Primary
Kerry Hradecky, Principal
100 W Gay Ave., Gladewater
(903) 845-2254

Let's say **thanks** to teachers!

WHITE OAK HIGH SCHOOL
Skylar Stagner - Principal

Our Teachers are heroes every day, but especially now!
We love and appreciate our teachers at GHS. Thank you for all you do!
Thank you for loving our kids!
GHS Principal Derrick Floyd

TEACHERS ARE Heroes

To all our teachers who have risen above the extraordinary challenges of educating students by keeping them engaged, learning and growing, thank you for making a world of difference!

**Thank You All!
Teacher Appreciation Week**

David Chatterton, Principal
Union Grove Jr. High & High School
11377 Union Grove Rd., Gladewater
(903) 845-5506

Teacher Appreciation Week

Community members gather for prayer Thursday at Pacific Ave. veterans plaza

Local liturgical leaders are poised to 'Lift Up the Word – Light up the World' during the 2024 National Day of Prayer observation today.

The noontime observance May 2 coincides with similar events across the country, crafted "to mobilize unified public prayer for America," according to nationaldayof-prayer.org.

This year is the 73rd annual event since President Harry S. Truman first proclaimed the joint gathering for July 4, 1952. President Ronald Reagan later moved the ceremony to the first Thursday in May.

Gladewater's prayer event is centered on the Veterans' Memorial Plaza maintained by Gladewater Former Students Association downtown

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



on East Pacific Avenue. According to local organizer Lois Reed of Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, the 12 p.m. kick-off aims to accommodate community members' during their lunch hour.

For the prayers themselves, "We have community leaders and pastors intermingled," she said.

Former Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp will serve as Master of Ceremonies during the 2024 event, which opens with Gladewater High School Choir Members performing the National Anthem under the direction of Darren Richardson.

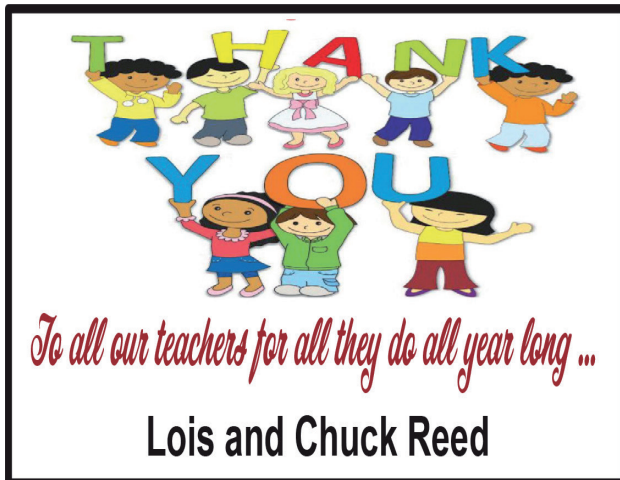
Nine local civic and religious leaders have been invited to offer prayers during the event. Each has been delegated a particular theme beginning with Pastor Joe Chase's 'Prayer for the Nation' followed by Gladewater Council Member, pastor and veteran Teddy Sorrells' praying for the United States Military.

Prayers for the community, churches, schools and families will be offered, respectively, by pastors Kelton Wilson, Brian Zappa, Stacy Price and council member Rocky Hawkins. Gladewater Mayor Pro Tem Sonny

Anderson will follow with a prayer for emergency responders (EMS, firefighters and police officers).

After a 'Prayer for Israel' by Pastor Farrell Alexander, the Rev. Bailey Harris will offer a closing prayer for peace.

For more information, contact Reed at 903-845-5501.



Thank You Teachers!

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Teacher Appreciation Week

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TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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Let's say **thanks** to teachers!

White Oak Primary School
Stephanie Bradley, Principal

White Oak Intermediate School

Teacher Appreciation WEEK

The Influence of a Great Teacher Can Never Be Erased.
White Oak Intermediate School is filled with GREAT teachers!

SHANE WRIGHT, Principal

THANK YOU

To All Our Area Teachers!

Gregg County Sheriff Maxey Cerliano
101 E Methvin, Ste. 559,
Longview, TX 75601
(903) 236-8400
www.greggcountytexasheriff.org

Thank a Teacher

115th District Judge Dean Fowler
903-843-2836

What a teacher writes on the chalkboard of life can never be erased.

Paid For By Dean Fowler



Gladewater Police Officer Courtney Carrington directs traffic April 24 following a collision involving at least three vehicles in the 1600 block of Highway 80. Emergency responders were dispatched to the scene at approximately 8:30 a.m. Wednesday morning. No significant injuries were apparent. Photo by James Draper



Gladewater firefighters tackle dock repairs at Lake Gladewater last week. With local and visiting anglers heading to the lake for the East Texas Gusher Days Big Bass Classic April 27, the GFD crews wrapped their revitalization up with time to spare – “I have some incredible people working for me,” fire chief Mike Simmons praised.

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WOPD Police Activity

For the reporting period of April 22nd through the 28th, 2024, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 190 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Thefts, Traffic Issues (collisions, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Two traffic collisions were investigated which resulted in no injuries and no continuing criminal investigations.

One person was arrested by White Oak Police during this reporting period: Benjamin Andrew Malcolm, 32, of Longview on an outstanding White Oak warrant for No Valid Driver's License.

White Oak Police submitted two cases to the Gregg County District Attorney's Office, one for Injury to a Child w/ Bodily Injury and the other for Assault Family Violence w/ Bodily Injury. Both cases involved arrests made during previous reporting periods.

No additional warrants, outside of traffic warrants, were obtained.

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Teacher Appreciation Week Ideas

Teachers deserve to be recognized for all their hard work, and this week is the perfect time to do it! By the end of a long school year, teachers have given their all every single day. So take this week to show them some love. These teacher appreciation ideas are a great way to start.

1. Collect thank-you notes

A pile of handwritten thank you notes for US teacher appreciation week. Meaningful teacher thank-you notes are always appreciated, as these examples can attest. Send a request home to students and families requesting they fill out a form or write a letter to help show appreciation for their teacher. Supply prompts or questions to make things a little easier, such as:

- Why do you like your teacher?
- What's something cool your teacher taught you this year?
- What makes your teacher special?
- Share a special story about your teacher.

2. Record thank-you videos

Set up a Flip page for your school (or one for each teacher) and invite students and families to record a quick thank-you video. This way, others can see and celebrate your educators too.

3. Cover daily duties

Ask parents, administrators, and school board members to volunteer their time to cover recess or lunch duty, so teachers can get a much-needed break. Parent volunteers can also handle tasks like making copies, assembling supplies for a project, or organizing classroom bookshelves.

4. Pass out coupons for the future

Give teachers some flexibility by providing them with coupons they can trade for help in the future. (Be sure you're not tasking other teachers with covering for them, though. Instead, arrange for administrators or parents to step in as needed.) Some possible ideas: Cover a duty (lunch, drop-off/pickup, etc.), Early leave/late arrival, Long lunch, Lend a hand (Be a second pair of hands and eyes in the classroom.)

5. Create collaborative art

One principal says she takes over art class for one week and works with students to create a big art piece specifically for their teacher. It's a cooperative and visual way to say thanks for all that they do. See our favorite collaborative art projects here.

6. Decorate their doors

Classroom door decorated with a campfire and marshmallows. Text reads "We need s'more teachers like you."

Loudly and proudly celebrate your teachers by decorating their doors. This costs very little. You just need some time and parent volunteers to pull it off. One principal turns his teachers into superheroes, complete with large face cutouts and capes!

Teachers Make Our World a Better Place



Thanks to the dedicated educators who help our community's kids learn, thrive, succeed and create a better future!

Teacher Appreciation Week



May 6-10



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Thank You!

teacher

noun | teach·er | tē·cher

1. one that teaches; *especially* : one whose occupation is to *instruct, inspire* and *encourage* us to strive for greatness, live to our fullest potential and see the best in ourselves!

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Thanks, Teachers!

"Thank you for being a teacher, for the sacrifices you make, the weekends you give up, the training you go through, and the many lives you touch in a positive way every school day.

I remember like yesterday when I was a boy in 1966 in first grade and I figured out: "I am reading! See Tip catch the ball." My first grade teacher was Mrs. Follis. May God rest her soul and may God bless all of our teachers.

Todd Tefteller
Upshur County Judge

Paid For By Todd Tefteller

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK 2024

The influence of a great teacher can never be erased.



895 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater (903) 374-2533



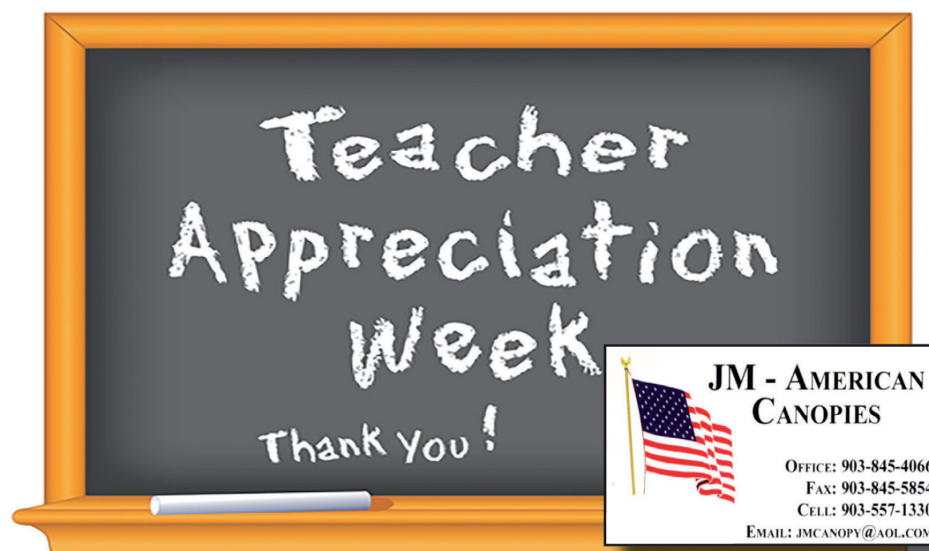
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Our favorite Teacher! Suzanne

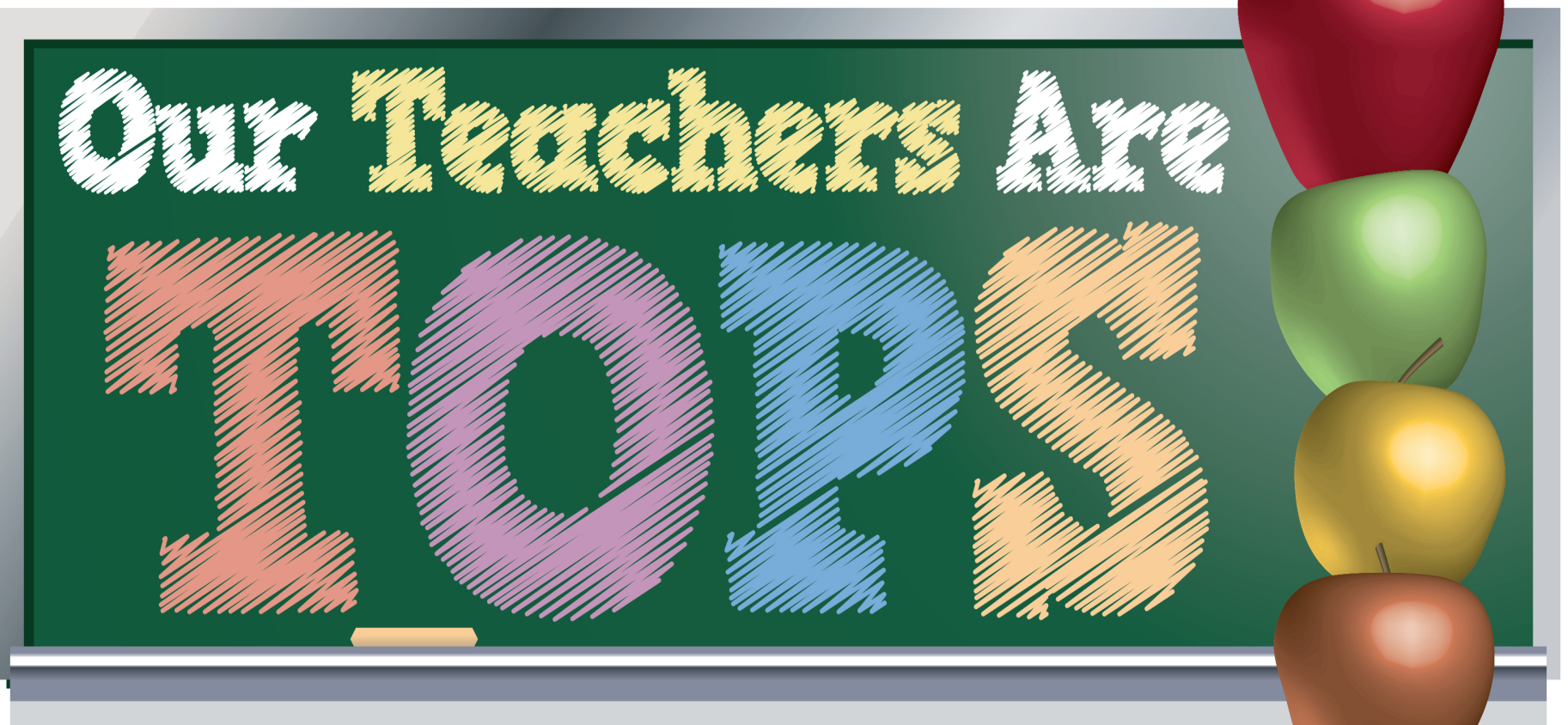


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