

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Lakeside Easter Sunrise Service set April 21

The Gladewater Ministerial Alliance will host a 7 a.m. Community Easter Sunrise Service at the Lake Gladewater Pavilion on Easter Sunday morning.

Everyone is welcome to come and worship together to celebrate the gift of Easter.

Storytime at library

GILMER--Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's weekly "Storytime" sessions Thursday.

"Happy Easter, Tooth Fairy!" by Peter Bently and Garry Parsons, and "Turkey's Eggcellent Easter" by Wendi Silvana, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas Hwy. 154.)

A craft will follow Storytime, said Debbie White of the library's Children's Services division.

The events are free to the public, but children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www.yousemore.com/upshur.

Gregg Co. GOP to meet
The Republican Club of

Gregg County will meet April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jalapeno Tree at 508 Eastman Road in Longview with Roy Maynard with Texas Public Policy who will give an update on the 86th legislative session. You need not be a member to attend. For information call 903-297-1908.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery meets Tuesday nights from 6-9 p.m. at Gladewater's First United Methodist Church 217 W. Quitman at Ferry Street. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. with a meal followed by a large group meeting, then small groups at 8 p.m. and He-Brews Coffee Shop at 9 p.m. Individual groups may include:

chemically dependent; co-dependency; physical/emotional/sexual abuse; adult children of family dysfunction; sexual addiction; eating disorders and food addiction; recovery from anger; financial recovery. For information call 903-261-2023 to speak to Dean Hanssen or email JeannieHanssen@aol.com.

Garden Club to dig into dirt topic

The Gladewater Garden Club will meet Monday, April 22 at 1 p.m. at the Gardens of Gladewater clubhouse at 108 N. Lee Street with a guest speaker from Vital Earth. The topic will dig deep into soil, soil testing, fertilizers, plant foods and why

pH really matters in gardening. Hostesses for the meeting are Wanda Allard, Brittany Tipton and Mary Jane Williams. All interested gardeners are invited to attend.

The Pegasus Project hosts Wings Over Pegasus on April 20

MURCHISON, - For the fifth year in a row, The Pegasus Project Horse Rescue will host Wings Over Pegasus, an airplane and equine extravaganza. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the 95-acre Pegasus Ranch, located at 7111 CR 2339 in Murchison.

GISD to get \$18,850 from Upshur's school land funds

GILMER--Upshur County Commissioners Court on Monday approved dispersing \$250,000 in "county available" funds among the nine school districts lying partly or wholly in the county.

Such funds, which come from revenue raised off county-owned "school land" in West Texas, are annually distributed among the Upshur schools on a pro rata basis. Each district's share is determined by the average daily attendance of its students living in the county (thus excluding pupils who reside outside the county).

Gladewater ISD, which lies only partly in Upshur County, received \$18,850 for an average attendance of 513 Upshur residents. Union Grove ISD received \$24,650 for an average of 670.724 pupils. Big Sandy ISD's allocation was \$24,250 for 659 students while Harmony ISD got \$25,100 for 683 pupils.

Gilmer ISD, as always, received the most funds--\$80,050 for an average attendance of 2,178 pupils. That constituted 32.02 percent of the funds distributed.

New Diana ISD had the second highest allocation--\$35,975 for 978.700 students, or 14.39 percent of the overall funds. START

Other districts, their amounts of funding, and numbers of in-county pupils' attendance, included Ore City (\$29,225, 795.400), Union Hill (\$11,350, 309) and Pittsburg (\$550, 15.)

Total number of Upshur resident students' average daily attendance was 6,801.824

County Treasurer Brandy Vick, who did not attend Monday's meeting, recommended distributing \$250,000 of the funds, which County Judge Todd Tefeller noted are raised from the annual \$250,000 lease of the land and mineral revenues.

Candidates answer questions at forum

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All the candidates agreed the city needs to grow to bring in new tax dollars, so the current tax rate of \$0.74999/\$100 valuation, which is the highest in Gregg County, can come down.

One topic drew differing opinions from the candidates when asked:

"Recently the city council had to turn down a \$250,000 grant that would have repaired Center Streets aging infrastructure - street and waterlines - because the city didn't have the required \$75,000 in matching funds. The city asked GEDCO (Gladewater Economic Development Corp.) for the money, but was turned down. Do you think GEDCO should have assisted in this project and how would you have handled it?"

Robertson said he was disappointed in GEDCO's decision to not help the city with the matching funds because the project was an infrastructure project that was seriously needed.

Owens said GEDCO needs to change from focusing on industrial grow and retention to a broader use of taxpayer 1/2-cent sales tax. He said GEDCO needs to be added to the city manager's duties, thus saving the current administrative expenses of around \$80,000 of the estimated \$350,000 in tax dollars brought in annually.

Byrd and Clark said they thought GEDCO made the right move by not paying the \$75,000 for the city. They said the city didn't have the money for the grant and shouldn't have pursued a grant it couldn't afford.

When it came to the city's Main Street Program - which appears to be on the verge of being dump after 20 years because of the city's tightening budget - Byrd said the merchants in Gladewater are the ones promoting the city and bringing visitor's to town. She said no one comes to Gladewater because it is a "Main Street" city. "They come because we are the Antique Capital of East Texas," she said.

The hours of early voting are as follows Monday 22nd, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Tuesday 23rd, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday 24th, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday 25th, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday 26th, 8 a.m. - noon; Monday 29th, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Tuesday 30th, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Election day is May 4 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m..

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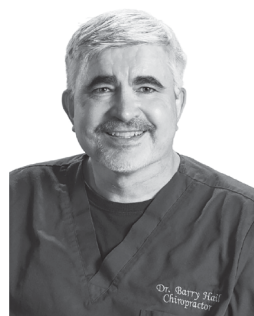
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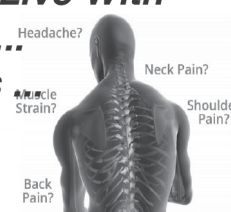
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