

# Gladewater Mirror

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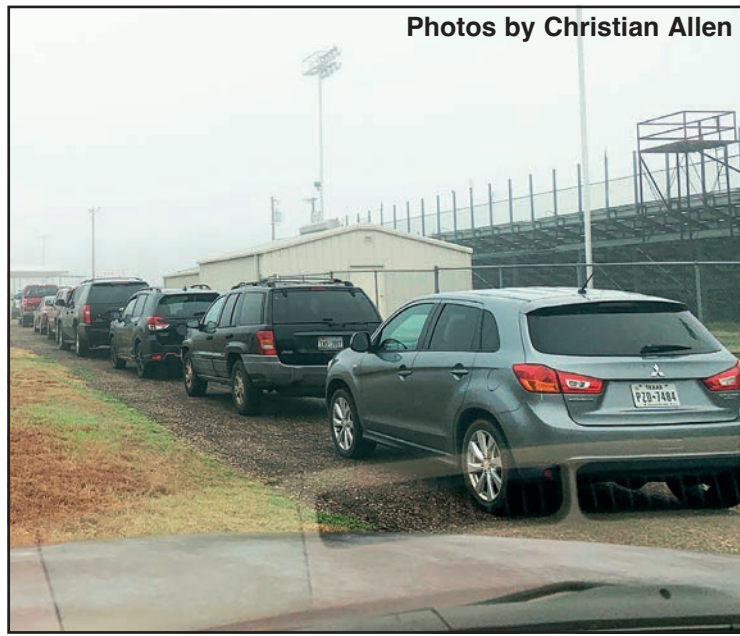
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## East Texas Food Bank hosts first produce distribution in Gladewater

Local volunteers came out in force Tuesday to help the East Texas Food Bank with its first monthly fresh produce distributions in Gladewater. The event - which served hundreds of families Tuesday - will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Gladewater Rodeo Grounds on Highway 80.

"Upshur County has a great need for food assistance as 20% of the residents are food insecure including 29% of children," said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank. "Studies show a direct link to good nutrition and health outcomes so the ability to offer more vegetables and fruits will greatly benefit the residents."

The East Texas Food Bank currently has three partner agencies that operate food pantries in Diana, Gilmer and Ore City, serving 1,500 households. There are also special programs to help seniors with a monthly box of food and children receive backpacks of food through their school. To find out more information about the different programs in Upshur County visit their website at EastTexasfoodbank.org.



Photos by Christian Allen

## City ballpark contract on tonight's agenda

The Gladewater City Council is expected to consider approving a contract on the city's ball park operations at Thursday's 6 p.m. meeting.

The agreement would be between the City of Gladewater and Michael Holochuck dba Marucci Elite. Marucci Elite is expected to work with the Gladewater Union Grove Youth Baseball Association to ensure local ball clubs continue to get use of the field, while Marucci Elite brings in tournament play.

Marucci Elite is run by Michael Holochuck and Jeff Casey. Holochuck is the head baseball coach at Jarvis Christian College and has been with Jarvis for 10 years. Marucci has been with them for four years.

At last month's council meeting Holochuck said he has 15 youth teams and a total of 20+ teams overall including softball. He said tournaments create traffic, which allows improvements to be done to the fields/facility.

In other business, the council is expected to hold a public hearing and take action regarding a request for dwelling size variance - Single Family Districts at ABS A1 75 GOODWIN, WILLIAM TRACT 55 19.85 ACRES, 1395 Phillips Springs Road.

The council also will:

- Consider the financial audit for fiscal year 2021
- Consider a professional engineering services contract between Schumburg & Polk, Inc., and the City of Gladewater in the amount of \$98,750 to provide improvements to the water treatment plant
- Consider a Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation for appointment to fill vacant board member position and/or alternate board member position
- Consider a Beautification Board recommendation for appointment to fill one vacancy
- Consider a Lake Board recommendation for installation of artificial fish habitats at Lake Gladewater.
- Consider Resolution R-22-04 for nomination to fill an unexpired term on the Upshur County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

## Texas Rangers make arrest for official oppression

By Phillip Williams

A Texas Ranger arrested the chief deputy of the Upshur County district clerk's office on the job last Thursday afternoon on a misdemeanor charge of official oppression, said the county sheriff's office.

Jon Christopher (Chris) Coleman, 51, of Gilmer, was released the same day on \$3,500 bond set by Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter, said sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel in a press release. He said Rangers are handling the investigation.

Officials had not released any details of the case as of Monday afternoon, saying it is the subject of an ongoing investigation. With Rangers handling the probe, Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb said Friday he didn't know for sure what the case was about.

Coleman, interviewed by phone while at work Monday, said his attorney, Gilmer lawyer Matthew Patton, had advised him "not to speak on it (the charge) at this time."

He confirmed that Texas Ranger Chris Baggett arrested him in the clerk's office at the Upshur County Justice Center, a building that houses the sheriff's office, Potter's office, and District Attorney Billy Byrd's office in Gilmer. Byrd said in an email Monday he "cannot comment at

this time (on the case). Matters are still under investigation."

While at the sheriff's office Friday, Baggett said it was not the Rangers' policy to talk to the press about a case, and referred questions to Texas Department of Public Safety Public Information Officer Jean Dark. She could not be reached by phone Monday.

115th District Judge Dean Fowler confirmed Monday he signed the arrest warrant, but said it is not public record under state law while the investigation is ongoing. "I'd like to give it to you, but I can't," he said.

District Clerk Karen Bunn, who lost her bid for re-election nine days before Coleman's arrest, defended her chief deputy Monday, saying "He will continue to have his job. He's been the best clerk ever." Bunn, whose term expires Dec. 31, also termed the arrest "uncalled for" and predicted "we shall prevail."

The sheriff's office said Coleman was booked at 5:04 p.m.

The Caputo Law Firm in Dallas, which handles official oppression cases, summarizes the state law on its website by saying it forbids public servants to "use their office to deny someone their rights, sexually harass, or intentionally mistreat someone." The class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to six months in jail and a maximum fine of \$4,000.

## Gladewater's sales tax revenue continues to increase - 10th month in-a-row

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$913.3 million in local sales tax allocations for March, 19.8 percent more than in March 2021. These allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

Gladewater continued to show an upswing in sales tax revenue, posting its 10th straight month in the black - up 20.65-percent over the previous year, \$101,880.61 compared to \$84,438.88. For the year, Gladewater is running ahead of 2020's totals by 14.18-percent.

Sales tax allocation comparison summary reports present data on monthly local sales and use tax payments to local jurisdictions.

| County | City             | Rate   | Net Payment This Period | Comparable Payment Prior Year | % Change | Payment YTD     | Prior Year Payment YTD | % Change |
|--------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| Gregg  | Clarksville City | 1.000% | \$5,569.87              | \$5,291.78                    | 5.25%    | \$20,620.42     | \$17,523.97            | 17.66%   |
| Gregg  | Easton           | 1.000% | \$4,753.50              | \$3,777.70                    | 25.83%   | \$14,845.82     | \$10,318.35            | 43.87%   |
| Gregg  | Gladewater       | 1.500% | \$101,880.61            | \$84,438.88                   | 20.65%   | \$321,254.02    | \$279,767.99           | 14.82%   |
| Gregg  | Kilgore          | 1.500% | \$670,314.63            | \$546,310.41                  | 22.69%   | \$2,237,572.93  | \$1,774,046.22         | 26.12%   |
| Gregg  | Lakeport         | 1.500% | \$21,110.60             | \$17,794.74                   | 18.63%   | \$66,817.92     | \$55,139.62            | 21.17%   |
| Gregg  | Longview         | 1.500% | \$3,109,664.00          | \$2,519,508.46                | 23.42%   | \$11,119,750.26 | \$9,062,804.44         | 22.69%   |
| Gregg  | Warren City      | 1.000% | \$1,376.74              | \$1,268.54                    | 8.52%    | \$4,517.93      | \$4,099.42             | 10.20%   |
| Gregg  | White Oak        | 1.500% | \$109,278.29            | \$84,823.01                   | 28.83%   | \$408,697.09    | \$276,249.23           | 47.94%   |
| Upshur | Big Sandy        | 1.250% | \$23,063.85             | \$19,737.67                   | 16.85%   | \$77,225.94     | \$65,464.81            | 17.96%   |
| Upshur | East Mountain    | 1.000% | \$2,739.86              | \$3,297.13                    | -16.90%  | \$11,407.65     | \$12,209.94            | -6.57%   |
| Upshur | Gilmer           | 1.500% | \$198,846.50            | \$162,883.88                  | 22.07%   | \$636,519.66    | \$538,169.10           | 18.27%   |
| Upshur | Ore City         | 1.500% | \$16,802.92             | \$18,002.91                   | -6.66%   | \$56,189.26     | \$56,675.45            | -0.85%   |
| Upshur | Union Grove      | 1.000% | \$363.46                | \$0.00                        | U/C      | \$1,493.13      | \$1,267.60             | 17.79%   |

## Deaths over 2021 spring break show true consequences of driving drunk

TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign urges students to celebrate spring break responsibly

Stories behind the data show the true consequences of driving drunk over spring break. That's why TxDOT is using its Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign to share with college students the real-life experiences of people affected by drunk driving crashes across Texas.

One person in Texas dies every eight hours and 31 minutes in a DUI-alcohol related traffic crash. Last year, 1,029 people in Texas were killed and 2,522 seriously injured because someone chose to get behind the wheel while impaired. Over last year's spring break, Texas saw 872 DUI-alcohol related traffic crashes. These crashes resulted in 30 fatalities and 107 serious injuries.

"These are disturbing numbers, especially as all of these crashes are preventable," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "Whether it's transit, rideshare companies or a

designated sober friend, there are several options for students to find a sober ride. We're hoping these real-life stories show students that deadly consequences can and do happen every year during spring break."

Drinking and driving is 100% preventable and can have serious physical, emotional and financial consequences that can last for years. Not only can a DWI hurt or kill someone, devastating the lives of victims and survivors forever, it can be expensive and cause significant legal hassles. It can also make it difficult to find or keep a job and can bring a lifetime of regret.

Throughout March, TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign will conduct outreach events at key spring break designations that are popular among college students. These

events will include a video exhibit featuring powerful testimonials of Texans who deal with the daily consequences of drunk driving, either as offenders or survivors. These humanizing stories and drunk driving facts can be found at SoberRides.org.

The Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel such as wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

#EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** Suzanne's weekly columns meant a lot to many people over the years and I have received many requests to rerun her columns. I miss them too. So here is the "Best of Suzanne Bardwell." I hope you enjoy them.

## Sunshine, sousaphones & spring break memories...

The sun is shining on Main Street. Smiles are in abundance and friendly drivers are honking as they pass two young men playing their sousaphones (a kind of marching tuba) while walking down Main Street. If you have never heard a sousaphone duet, trust me, you are missing out.

Monday at the Mirror is deadline day. Usually our heads are down and our fingers are flying over our computer keyboards. Often we are behind schedule, just a hair tense and occasionally grumpy. Suddenly we heard music, very unusual music, which was floating down the street. Naturally I ran outside to accost the musicians with my camera.

Gladewater sophomores Kade Johnston and Jacob Robertson then serenaded me with their "Earthquake" duet. It was so good I had them play it again to post on our Gladewater Mirror Facebook so all our dear readers can see and hear two teenage boys who are not glued to a screen playing video games on their spring break...and who are darned good musicians.

I am still smiling from their impromptu mobile concert.

I have always had a soft spot for the 'tuba' players. First those kids get one heck of a work out carrying their instruments. Also, you don't realize how much depth those musicians add to the band until you hear a piece without their power playing. Second, I have yet to meet a sousaphone/tuba player that didn't have a great sense of humor. This was true of Kade and Jacob for sure.

Kudos boys on a great spring break memory. It reminded me of one of my favorite memories from my now, far distant past. I can remember walking on shiny spring and summer days, with my two best friends, the length of the very small town where we went to school. I can remember that warm sunshine, the silly giggles and harmless pranks of that long ago (now) golden youth.

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



I was reminded of those fun times walking Dawson's Main Street after meeting Kade and Jacob.

My friends and our spring break prank was a little, okay, a lot, more ridiculous than strolling 'tuba' duets.

At 15 we piled into Joyce's car, after liberating a stuffed antlered deer mount from her Dad's man cave den. We put 'John Deer' behind the wheel of the car. One of us was on the floorboard working the gas and brake and one of us was eye level with the dash driving. And, one of us was in the backseat... probably praying for our safety while all of us laughed hysterically.

We slapped some of those giant sun glasses from our FHA trip to the State Fair on John Deer creating quite the dashing driver cruising Main Street Dawson. After surviving that stunt we took John Deer to Navarro Mills Lake where we all sun bathed. Of course we had brought our Deer John his own beach towel. So there we were side by side...Joyce, John Deer, Sara and Suzie.

We thought we were hilarious.

I still do! My musicians today reminded me of how much fun can be had on a sunny day with friends with a little imagination making memories that can last a lifetime.

Carpe Diem boys!

You made the day a little sunnier and life lighter, and for that I thank you.

Never forget your day in the sun. It will bring laughter and joy to you long years from now.

Although friendships of our youth may grow distant with the miles they never have to become distant in our hearts or our memories.

Cherish those times and those friends. Memories really do last a lifetime. And boy, can those memories come in handy on a nose to the grindstone Monday when an infusion of joy can turn a gray day into a sunny one.

**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



### Nine accused of sex trafficking at center

Nine employees at a Bastrop County facility that cares for young victims of sex trafficking have been accused of trafficking those same girls, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

One employee of the state-contracted Refuge Ranch has been arrested on an undisclosed charge and more arrests are anticipated, according to Tara Olah, a director with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The facility employed more than three dozen employees to provide 24-7 care for the girls. According to Olah, DFPS received multiple phone calls in January to the statewide intake hotline that "alleged sexual and physical abuse, sexual exploitation, neglectful supervision and medical neglect" at Refuge Ranch, according to the Statesman.

"This is appalling and is a disregard of these children," U.S. District Judge Janis Jack, who presided at a hearing Thursday evening, told state staff, including Family and Protective Services Commissioner Jaime Masters and contract monitors. "And we had to wait for eight calls to come in before we took already trafficked children out of this situation. This is a system that remains broken."

Jack pointed out it took almost six weeks and several phone calls before the girls were removed from the facility. The Texas Rangers have been called in to investigate.

Refuge Ranch opened in 2018 on 50 acres in Bastrop County and is designed to house girls ages 11 to 19. The state ordered the shelter to close on Friday.

### Task force to address teacher shortages

At the behest of Gov. Greg Abbott, a task force has been created by the Texas Education Agency to address staffing shortages facing the state's public schools.

"Teachers play a critical role in the development and long-term success of our students," Abbott said. "This task force should work diligently to ensure that best practices and resources for recruitment and retention are provided to districts to ensure the learning environment of Texas students is not interrupted by the absence of a qualified teacher."

The Teacher Vacancy Task Force is intended to ensure Texas schools are equipped to deal with these challenges, relying heavily on the input of current and former teachers. More than two dozen superintendents, administrators and teachers have been appointed to the task force.

The state has long endured a shortage of certified teachers that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. A survey of more than 900 teachers last year by the Charles Butt Foundation revealed 68% of those surveyed were seriously considering leaving the profession.

### Drought conditions stable in February

Precipitation in February was close to normal, but Andrew Weinberg with the Texas Water Development Board predicts the entire state will be in drought conditions by the end of spring.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, only a few counties in Texas, mainly in far south Texas and along the Gulf Coast, are not considered to be in drought conditions.

The most severe drought is occurring in the Texas Panhandle, through the Great Plains and into the Big Bend area.

### Panel reviews Rolling Pines wildfire

An independent panel reviewing a prescribed fire that got out of control at Bastrop State Park recommends requiring more personnel present and smaller burns at the park.

The Rolling Pines wildfire in January involved nearly 800 acres and forced about 150 households to temporarily evacuate. No private property damage was reported. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department two days later formed the panel to investigate why the fire got out of control.

The panel also recommended that bulldozers be required to be on site during prescribed burns, which are intended to lessen the risk of large-scale fires such as the Bastrop County Complex Fire in 2011, which destroyed nearly 1,700 homes and scorched almost 35,000 acres.

### Kaufman woman arrested for timber theft

A Kaufman woman has been arrested for timber theft in Hopkins County, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Frances Charline Cole, 51, was charged with hiring a logging company to harvest timber on 42 acres on which she had entered into a real estate agreement but never actually bought.

A timber deed filed with the county clerk indicates she was paid \$8,000 for the timber. However, the logger returned to cut the tract and discovered she had backed out of buying the land.



## Upshur County special unit arrests two

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb's Special Investigations Unit arrested two men on unrelated drug charges in February, he said last week.

Webb gave these details, based on a report from sheriff's Lt. Gary Shirley, while James Grunden, the county jail's chief deputy, provided the following details on the defendants' bonds:

Lloyd Douglas Wilson Jr., 53, of Diana, was arrested Feb. 8 and charged with possession of controlled substance—at least one gram, but less than four, of methamphetamine.

He remained in county jail at Gilmer Monday under \$25,000 bond set by Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter.

Samuel Clay Gideon, 44, of Harleton, was arrested Feb. 10 and charged with manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance—more than four, but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine.

He was released from county jail Feb. 23 on \$100,000 bond set by Potter.

In Wilson's case, the unit was investigating suspicious activity at the Diana Game Room on U.S. 259 when the SIU made a traffic stop and, with help from the K-9 police dog Marco, seized methamphetamine from the vehicle.

In Gideon's case, the unit was working drug interdiction in the Glenwood Acres area when it stopped a vehicle at the intersection of 726 and Finch Road. Marco assisted the unit in seizing approximately 42 grams (nearly an ounce) of methamphetamine.

North & East Texas  
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Telephone: 903-845-2235

Fax: 903-845-2237

Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

Owners:

Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell

Advertising: Suzanne Bardwell

Office Manager: Tiffany Harroff



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## OUTWARD AND INWARD APPEARANCE

Does "looking good pay off?" Researchers of the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Business thinks so. They found that "good-looking men and women make more money than less attractive ones." Their study showed that "handsome men get higher starting salaries, and both women and men who look good make more once hired." That may not be news to you, but I'm reminded that at least one relationship where people who aren't handsome or beautiful aren't at a disadvantage, and that's with God. You see, God impartially judges people on the basis of their heart, and not mere outward appearance.

In 1 Samuel 16, God sent the prophet Samuel to a man's house to anoint a future king. When Samuel saw one of the man's sons, he was convinced he was the one God had picked. But of that one God said: "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16: 7). Of course, God's pick was the shepherd, David. When the world looked at David they saw a shepherd, but God saw a king. (Psa. 24: 3-4). Of Christ also it is said: "There was nothing beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him." (Isa. 53: 2).

Well. That's good news for a lot of us, isn't it? We may be at a disadvantage in the business world, but, if our hearts are right, we're not at a disadvantage with God. Our inner appearance matters to God. We need to accessorize our inner character, and not just the outer attire! (1 Pet. 3: 3-4). Of course, the Bible doesn't teach people to look sloppy and be immodest, which is becoming more the norm today. (1 Tim. 2: 9-10).

And so, no doubt we should do the best we can with what we've got. Henry Ward Beecher said: "Clothes and manners do not make the man; but when he is made, they greatly improve his appearance." Therefore, it is comforting to know that our worth with God doesn't depend on how we look on the outside, but on what we really are on the inside! 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

## OBITUARIES

### ADJUTANT GENERAL WILLIAM “CHARLIE” WILSON

AUSTIN – Family and friends gathered together on March 12, 2022, at the Methodist Church in Commerce, Texas, to honor the life of former Texas Adjutant General, retired Maj. Gen. William “Charlie” Wilson who passed away on March 3, 2022. Wilson served as the 45th Adjutant General of Texas from April of 1989 through January of 1993.



Wilson was born May 31, 1931, in Nashville, Arkansas. He began his military career with the Arkansas Army National Guard in October of 1947. He later enlisted in the Texas National Guard and held a series of enlisted positions. He attained the grade of

First Sergeant of a mechanized infantry company before receiving his commission in August of 1957.

“Maj. Gen. Wilson’s service to our nation and our state will never be forgotten,” said Maj. Gen. Tracy R. Norris, the 52nd Adjutant General of Texas. “It is because of past heroes, like Wilson, who put their life on the line that we enjoy the freedoms we have today. Texas Military Department members extend our deepest condolences to the Wilson family in their time of grief, and we ask that all Texans join us in keeping them in their thoughts and prayers.”

He obtained a Master’s in Education in 1956 from East Texas State Teachers College (now known as Texas A&M Commerce). His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; Fourth U.S. Army Area Intelligence School; Civil Disturbance Orientation Course; Command and General Staff College; the NATO Orientation Course for Reserve Officers; Command and General Staff College, Combat Division Staff Officer Refresher Course (3 times); Joint Firepower Control Course for Reserve Officers; Senior Commanders Chemical Course; Reserve Components Brigadier General Conference; Battle Staff Officers Course; and Senior Tactical Battle Commanders Course.

General Wilson’s decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, Texas Outstanding Service Medal, Texas Medal of Merit, Texas Federal Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Texas Faithful Service Medal, the Adjutant General’s Individual Award and the U.S. Meritorious Service Medal

Wilson retired from the Texas Army National Guard on Jan. 6, 1993. Mr. Wilson settled in White Oak, Texas. He became very active in Meals on Wheels, the Lions Club, served 14 years as a member of the White Oak ISD Board of Trustees and was the White Oak Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year. He is preceded in death by his late son, Wade, and survived by his wife, Sharon, his daughter Charlotte, son David, his step-daughters Kathy, Jan, and Linda.

The viewing and funeral were held at the 1st Methodist Church in Commerce, on March 12, 2022, and concluded with military honors at the family cemetery in Quinlan.

## Guest Column

### At the root of democracy: Free flow of information

By Kelley Shannon  
Executive Director

#### Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas

As Ukrainians fight and die for democracy, Russia is arresting its own citizens who are protesting the war and threatening prison for journalists who report the truth.

The attempt to crush a democratic government and stop the flow of information comes as American news organizations and transparency advocates observe Sunshine Week from March 13-19, a time for highlighting government openness and a free press.

Certainly, let’s commemorate the freedom of information we enjoy – and constantly strive to improve – in the United States. But it’s imperative to contrast it with what’s happening around the world and understand how devastating it is when a government allows only its own tightly controlled version of events to trick e out.

Earlier this month, Vladimir Putin’s government changed its domestic media laws to make it a crime to distribute what it deemed to be “false news” about the war. Doing so could mean up to 15 years behind bars. Many news organizations pulled journalists out of the country or shut their operations; the government also cut off access to major social media sites, the Neiman Journalism Lab reported in its thorough rundown on the severe restrictions.

The censorship amounts to an “information dark age,” according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, which called on journalists everywhere to stand in opposition.

Thwarting free speech isn’t only happening in Russia. We simply need to think back to the Olympics a few weeks ago to remember the spotlight on China’s crackdowns on dissent and free expression and its control of internet content. And, of course, there are other examples.

It’s astounding – and a lesson for us all.

Blocking information is a favorite weapon of authoritarian

regimes. Information is essential for democracy to flourish. The ability to examine public records and tune in to independent news sources enables us to speak out and hold our leaders accountable.

In our state, we are fortunate that the Texas Public Information Act, originally known as the Open Records Act, was established in the early 1970s to ensure citizens have the right to watch over government. It gives us the ability to obtain public documents and largely forces state and local officials who want to withhold information to argue to the attorney general’s office – an umpire, of sorts – as to why information should be kept secret. The law presumes all records are open unless a specific exemption in law states otherwise.

In short, the Texas law is intended to give an advantage to the individual information requestor, not the government, unlike some states’ information laws.

Public officials are only the custodians of our public records. They do not get to tell us what information we have a right to view. Texans want to see basic police reports, documents relating to a local school district’s property purchase and a state university’s athletics consulting contract. That’s just a small sampling of how our state’s Public Information Act is used.

The law is not perfect. There has been incremental weakening of it over the years, but open government supporters work every legislative session with lawmakers of both political parties to strengthen the act. We should fight with all our might to protect it.

In the end, in a democracy, the people get to judge their leaders and decide whether they will remain in office or get voted out. The free flow of information is the people’s path to questioning authority. That, ultimately, is real power.

**Kelley Shannon is executive director of the nonprofit, non-partisan Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, based in Austin. For more information go to [www.foift.org](http://www.foift.org).**

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Reality Check ...

Oil prices are touching an altitude not seen since the spike in summer 2008, pushing gasoline prices into uncharted territory and raising other costs in their wake. The situation in Ukraine and efforts by financial markets to predict it are driving the immediate spurt in prices, but even before Russia invaded, prices were trending upward as the global economy rebounded from COVID-19 and demand rose faster than supply.

Russia is the third-largest producer of oil (after the United States and Saudi Arabia), and the military action raises the potential for supply disruptions. In addition, because oil and natural gas are the mainstay of the Russian economy, some countries (including the United States) are just saying “no.” This action is effective in decreasing financial resources supporting Russian aggression, but it also takes a significant portion of the global supply of fuels off the market (at least for some countries for some span of time).

The geopolitical risk of relying on Russian energy has become readily apparent, and measures should be taken to permanently mitigate the situation. The only practical path toward true energy security for the foreseeable future is supporting the development of oil and gas resources even as we address very real climate issues and foster renewable energy development. Facilitating increased supply is also the optimal mechanism to keep prices in check over an extended period.

Supply responses have lagged for myriad reasons, ranging

from OPEC policy to financial recovery of firms devastated by the pandemic-driven price collapse. There have also been challenges raising necessary capital for small and medium-sized energy firms (driven in no small measure by climate-oriented requirements and policy pronouncements). Various federal policies have hampered development, discouraged capital formation, and raised perceived risks of future exploration and production.

Simply stated, it’s time for a reality check. Renewables are critical to meeting climate goals and must expand rapidly. However, they can be implemented neither rapidly enough nor with adequate consistency to meet global requirements. In fact, the Department of Energy’s baseline forecast reveals the need for a 34% increase in petroleum resources by 2050, even as renewables almost quadruple. It’s incontrovertible that conventional fuels burned cleaner will be essential, and the Permian Basin of Texas and New Mexico has by far the lowest carbon footprint among the world’s major onshore fields. Until there is greater acceptance of this inescapable fact, we’ll see production grow slower than necessary, with the inevitable outcome being higher prices, greater uncertainty, and increased geopolitical risk.

Rather than stifling the domestic industry, we should advance the technologies to burn conventional fuels cleaner. As the current disruption has brought home, it is imperative that this shift happen now.

Stay safe!

## Suspect identified in church theft

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Sheriff’s Office has identified a male suspect in the Dec. 6 theft of money from a collection plate at the rural Woodland Baptist Church, and is recommending to District Attorney Billy Byrd that the man be charged, authorities said Friday.

Sheriff Larry Webb said his investigators found the man, and two women who were with him at the time of the theft, at a Longview hotel two days after the incident. Chief Deputy David Hazel said the officers spoke to the threesome separately and “we are satisfied” the two women didn’t know “there was a plan” to commit the theft at the church near Glenwood community.

Webb said the collection plate was “right at” the back door of the church on FM 3358 (old Texas 300) when someone came in and took its proceeds on a Sunday morning. Hazel has said church officials estimated probably about \$300 was stolen.

The two women and man had earlier asked for money at another rural church, and their images were caught on video at both congregations, Hazel said.

They were in a 1998 Ford Mustang which appeared to have been painted with a grayish-green primer and

which was believed to have the Oklahoma license plate KCU 223, he said. After the theft, a citizen reported seeing what officers “had reason to believe” was the vehicle in White Oak that day, said Hazel.

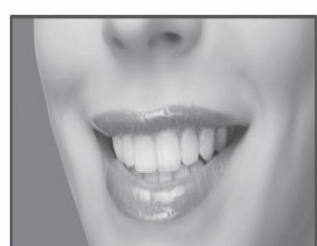
After the sheriff’s office posted photographs and information about the case on Facebook, a citizen in Longview photographed the car at Walmart on Gilmer Road, said the chief deputy. A unit of Upshur County officers that was near the Gregg County line found the car gone from Walmart before it was located at the hotel, the sheriff’s office said.

Hazel gave this account of

the series of incidents on the day of the theft:

The threesome initially went to the Barbwire Halo Cowboy Church on Texas 154 west of Gilmer about 10:30 a.m. and asked for financial help, with one of them saying they needed money for a hotel. When advised that the church would make a decision on the request after its morning service concluded, they left.

About 40 minutes later, they arrived several miles away at the Woodland congregation, which was keeping the collection plate near a door rather than passing it among the audience as a COVID prevention measure.



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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

### Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, May 7, 2022

#### Proposition Number 1 (SJR 2)

**SJR 2** proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person’s homestead from the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead.”**

#### Proposition Number 2 (SJR 2)

**SJR 2** proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.”**

Published by The Office of the Texas Secretary of State, [www.sos.texas.gov](http://www.sos.texas.gov), 1/800-252-VOTE (8683).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Storytime held each Thursday

Two books will be read to small children at each of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer Thursday.

"The Luckiest St. Patrick's Day Ever!" by Teddy Slater and "Lucky Tucker" by Leslie McGuirk, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions, said the library's children's coordinator, Kari Dunn.

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

Although the events are free to the public, children under

## 26 indictments handed down in Upshur County

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury on Friday returned 26 indictments, 17 of them sealed, and passed one case in Gilmer, said District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Defendants, charges and bond information in the open indictments were as follows, said Byrd.

Bryan Matthew Harris, 31, of Longview, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) with intent to deliver--habitual offender last July 7, \$45,000 bond

Diondi Tamil Harris, 31, a Gilmer man, driving while intoxicated--subsequent offense last Oct. 26, \$25,000 START

Jose Daniel Tafoya Loeza, 26, of Gilmer, driving while intoxicated--subsequent offense on Jan. 26. He remained in county jail under \$10,000 bond.

Jonathan J. Bonnette, 43, of Ore City, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last April 14, \$25,000 Colton Campbell, 31, of Longview, tampering with physical evidence on Aug. 24, 2020, \$10,000

Jacob Cole Johnson, 36, of Gilmer, tampering with physical evidence on Sept. 29, 2020, \$5,000

Jason Shane Moses, 48, of Gilmer, evading arrest/detention with vehicle on Feb. 4. He remained in county jail under \$25,000 bond.

LaKashia Sharease Pugh, 44, of Tyler, debit card abuse on Feb. 28, 2020, \$5,000

Jeffery Moore Hudson, 34, of Gilmer, evading arrest/detention with vehicle last Dec. 9. He remained in county jail under \$25,000 bond

Identify of anyone charged in the sealed indictments was not disclosed as no arrest had been made in those cases, Byrd said.

They included, he said, three for engaging in organized criminal activity, three for possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine), and two for theft of property (of) less than \$2,500 (value) with two or more (prior) convictions.

They additionally included two apiece for burglary of building and debit card abuse.

Others were one each for delivery of controlled substance (methamphetamine), aggravated assault/threaten with deadly weapon, credit card abuse against elderly individual, assault/family violence-occlusion, and aggravated assault with deadly weapon--enhanced.STOP(Enhanced means the defendant has a prior criminal record and could receive a harsher punishment if convicted.)

Nature of the passed case was not revealed.

age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at [www.youseemore.com/upshur](http://www.youseemore.com/upshur).

## Camp takes students from pasture to plate

FORT WORTH – Summer camp just got beefed up.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association announced it will host its first TSCRA Cattle Raisers Roundup July 25-29. The event is open to students who have just completed their sophomore to senior years of high school and are interested in gaining in-depth beef industry knowledge.

TSCRA Cattle Raisers Roundup will include tours at cattle operations and beef packing plants, as well as the opportunity to speak with industry leaders.

Hughes Abell, a rancher from Austin and the association's president, said this is the first event of its kind from Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

"We are incredibly excited for this opportunity to support the next generation of cattle raisers," Abell said. "This intensive experience will benefit participants no matter which segment of the beef industry they choose to enter."

Applications are due April 15, 2022.

For more information, or to apply, visit [tscra.org/2022-tscra-cattle-raisers-roundup-july-25-29-2022](http://tscra.org/2022-tscra-cattle-raisers-roundup-july-25-29-2022).

## Workforce Solutions to host Youth Opportunity Expo

Workforce Solutions East Texas is proud to partner with Region 7 Education Center to host its second Youth Expo, a job fair for teens age 16 and up who are looking for summer jobs, paid internships, or their next career!

## 72-year-old Upshur man sentenced for child porn

By Phillip Williams

A judge in Gilmer sentenced a 72-year-old Ore City man to three concurrent 20-year prison terms last week after the defendant pleaded guilty to three counts of possessing child pornography with the intent to promote or distribute.

John Charles Plunkett, who sought probation on the grounds he had served the nation "for many years during the Vietnam War," was sentenced March 9 by 115th District Judge Dean Fowler, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Plunkett "fueled his sickness around the world with 2,363 images of child pornography," including some which depicted "very young children being raped," Byrd said in a news release announcing the sentencing.

The prosecutor said he successfully sought the maximum sentence for each offense and that if Plunkett is ever paroled, he must register as a sex offender. Gilmer attorney Matthew Patton represented him.

"Evidence revealed last year the defendant was found by undercover agents to be downloading child pornography and sharing the images on a peer to peer software program that allowed people from all over the world to access child pornography," Byrd wrote. 41

"Let this sentence be received crystal clear to all that hear or read; Upshur County is not the county to commit any criminal offenses, especially those against children," he added. "This is never a victimless crime."

Were it not for Texas Department of Public Safety officers, "the exploitation would still be going on today," Byrd said. "A big thanks to our DPS partners and Judge Fowler for agreeing this case deserved the maximum sentence allowed by law."

This is a great opportunity to interact with employers interested in hiring the next generation of talent. It is also the perfect time for students to navigate the hiring experience and secure a job that will lead to a possible career.

This event will be held in person on April 7th at the Region 7 Education Service Center in Kilgore and virtually on April 8th. These events will be open for job seekers and employers across East Texas.

## Ronald McDonald House Scholarship Program open

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas (RMHCNTX) announced the opening of applications for its Scholarship Program, which grants more than \$60,000 to 30 local high school seniors each year. Funded by North Texas McDonald's owner/operators and donations from the community, the annual scholarships recognize students for their outstanding academic achievements and community involvement.

Applications are open online at [rmhcntx.org/scholarships](http://rmhcntx.org/scholarships) and must be submitted by April 1, 2022. All students can apply. To qualify for an RMHC Scholarship, students must:

- \* be a high school senior
- \* be younger than 21 years old
- \* be eligible to attend a two- or four- year college or university with a full course of study
- \* be a legal U.S. resident
- \* live in the geographic areas of the RMHC of Greater North Texas Chapter
- \* and submit a complete application and all required documentation by the deadline.

## AEL students win Adult Learner of the Year awards

Kilgore College Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) students received Adult Learner of the Year Awards for the seventh-straight year.

Three AEL students, representing the East Region of the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education (TALAE), received awards in the HSE Learner of the Year and ESL Persistence Adult Learner of the Year categories.

Abigail Gaona of Longview and Justin Carmack of Kilgore were awarded the HSE (GED) Learner of the Year Award, and Martha Castillo of Henderson was awarded the ESL Persistence Adult Learner of the Year Award.

Recipients of the awards were recognized at the TALAE annual awards ceremony streamed live via Zoom on Feb. 11.

Carmack and Gaona received cash awards of \$1,200 and Castillo received \$500.

Cash awards were made possible by sponsorships from GED Testing Service and Burlington English.

"These amazing students demonstrate the ideals stated in the AEL program's philosophy and mission statement. We are so proud of the hard work, leadership and perseverance each student has and continues to exhibit," said Charmyn Tumey, AEL director.

The award finalists were chosen from adult learners and educators nominated by local program instructors and staff for their contributions to the completion of academic goals.

## Upshur Democrat convention Saturday

The Upshur County Democratic Party will hold its county/Senate District 1 convention at 10:15 a.m. Saturday at the Solid Rock of Praise, 613 Cass in Gilmer, said county Democratic Chairman Winifred Jackson.

The Upshur County Republican convention is set March 26 at Lantana Activity Center on Lantana Road outside Gilmer. Delegates to it were elected at precinct conventions at that location Saturday.



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The Gladewater High School Marching Band performed at Walt Disney World Tuesday, marching in the Main Street Parade at the Magic Kingdom.

Photo by Chris Jones

## Texas Upstream Oil and Natural Gas jobs continue to climb in 2022

Last year showed steady recovery for upstream oil and gas employment in Texas and new data from the Texas Workforce Commission confirms that this climb continues. In January 2022, Texas upstream jobs grew by 1,200. Since the low point in employment in September of 2020, job growth months outnumbered decline months 14-to-2 with an average growth of 1,206 jobs per month over that same period.

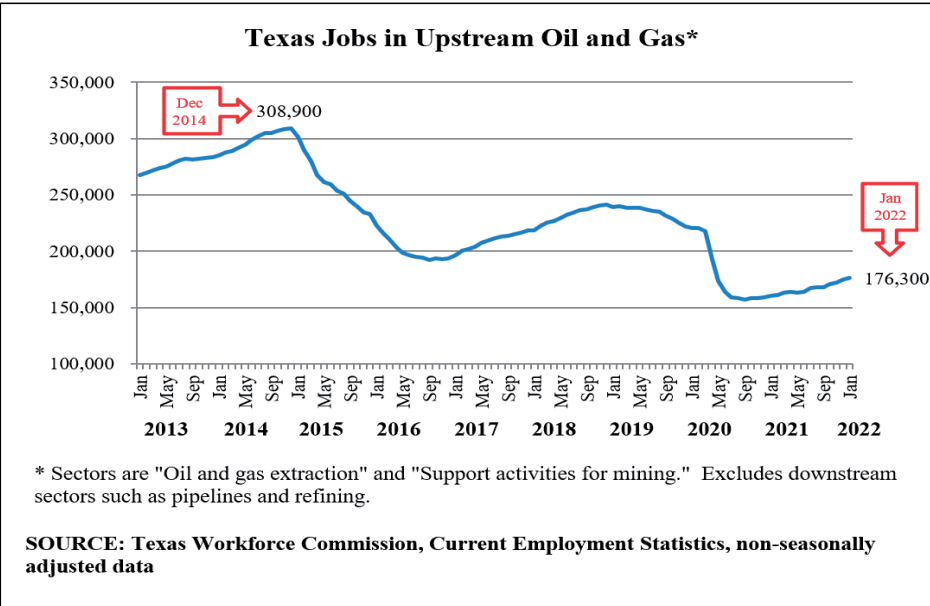
At 176,300 upstream jobs, January 2022 jobs are up by 16,000, or 10%, from January of 2021. Since the low point in September of 2020,

industry has added 19,300 Texas upstream jobs.

"In Fiscal Year 2021, the oil and natural gas industry directly employed over 422,000 Texans with jobs that pay among the highest wages in Texas and we should all be encouraged to see this upward trend continue in 2022," said Todd Staples, president of the Texas Oil and Gas Association. "For every direct job, an additional 2.2 indirect jobs are created elsewhere in the economy, which means you don't have to be employed by the oil and natural gas industry to benefit from the

tremendous economic prosperity and opportunities the industry brings Texas."

The upstream sector involves oil and natural gas extraction and excludes other industry sectors such as refining, petrochemicals, fuels wholesaling, oilfield equipment manufacturing, pipelines, and gas utilities, which support hundreds of thousands of additional jobs in Texas. The employment shown also includes "Support Activities for Mining," which is mostly oil and gas-related but also includes some small amount of other types of mining.



## Moorehead promoted to Texas A&M Forest Service Associate Director

COLLEGE STATION – Wes Moorehead, former Assistant Director, has been promoted to Associate Director of Forest Resource Protection and Fire Chief at Texas A&M Forest Service. The forest resource protection division of the agency provides statewide leadership in the protection of the people, property and natural resources of Texas from wildfire and other disasters.

"I am privileged to provide leadership and counsel to the 280 employees in the division," said Moorehead. "The many departments in the division have varied functions, but I feel it is my job to ensure everyone is effectively fulfilling the agency's mission to protect the communities and natural resources of Texas."

Before moving to College Station in 2020 and being promoted to Assistant Director of the Forest Resource Protection Division, Moorehead served as Department Head of East Texas Operations since 2012 where he was responsible for overseeing the agency's forestry and firefighting efforts on 12 million acres of forested lands.

Moorehead started his career with Texas A&M Forest Service as a Forest Inventory and Analysis Forester in Kirbyville before transitioning to a District Forester position. He then served as one of three Regional Foresters for the agency based in the Nacogdoches office.

Moorehead earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program.

In 2020, Moorehead was the recipient of a Texas A&M University System Regents Fellow Service Award for 2019 – 2020. He was also the recipient of the Outstanding Leadership in the Field of Forestry Award from the Society of American Foresters and has previously been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Texas Forestry Association.

"Wes Moorehead has the leadership, experience and vision to lead the forest resource protection division," said Al Davis, interim agency director of Texas A&M Forest Service. "Over the last six months, I've gotten to know him both professionally and personally. He values and advocates for those he is privileged

to lead and is committed to enhancing and expanding both internal and external operational and strategic relationships. I am looking forward to his continued visionary leadership of the division under a new title."

Moorehead has set a course for the division with several goals that will contribute to moving the agency forward as a premier response and natural resource organization in the nation. He sees the potential in the division and its personnel and has high hopes for the agency to be better than it ever has been.

"One of my priorities is to foster relationships with our partner agencies and cooperators across the state with the ultimate goal of protecting communities from wildfire," said Moorehead. "In a changing landscape with a growing population and more fire-related challenges, the importance of preparing communities and coordinating efforts is becoming increasingly important."

As the newly appointed Associate Director and Fire Chief, Moorehead is emphasizing preparedness to his staff as wildfire activity is expected to increase this year. In 2022, Texas A&M Forest Service fire resources have responded to 309 wildfires that burned 27,724 acres.

Rainfall from last year resulted in above normal grass production, which is expected to serve as the catalyst to increased wildfire activity during the 2022 fire season. Warm, dry and windy conditions combined with the underlying drought and dry vegetation will support wildfire activity across the state.

Working with communities to educate, build capacity and ensure preparedness for wildfires or other disasters is a priority for the agency and division personnel.

"Texas A&M Forest Service is actively working to ensure the preparedness of communities so that they are able to effectively address the challenges associated with wildfires and other disasters," said Moorehead. "Continuing this work is imperative and I am excited for the challenge."

## Police Activity Report

| CALL DATE | CALL DESC             | CF88     | CALL TIME | BUSINESS NAME                   | ADDRESS                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 3/7/22    | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221110 | 3:33      |                                 | 208 HULL HULL ST                          |
|           | FIRE DEPT             | 20221111 | 5:42      |                                 | 2652 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD |
|           | EMS                   | 20221112 | 9:32      |                                 | 1515 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP RD               |
|           | ASSIST                | 20221113 | 6:39      |                                 | 210 HURLEY HURLEY AVE                     |
|           | ESCORT                | 20221114 | 13:48     | CROLEY FUNERAL HOME             | 401 N CENTER CENTER ST                    |
|           | ALARM/HUMAN ERROR     | 20221115 | 18:08     | WALKER PHARMACY                 | 422 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE                   |
|           | ASSIST                | 20221116 | 19:43     | DOLLAR GENERAL                  | 2670 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE                  |
|           | EMS                   | 20221117 | 21:09     |                                 | 1606 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD             |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221118 | 22:12     | SONIC DRIVE-IN                  | 1103 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | EMS                   | 20221119 | 3:28      |                                 | 2011 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW HWY        |
|           | ALARM/OTHER           | 20221120 | 8:34      | GLADEWATER ISD BUS BARN         | 721 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA ST                  |
|           | DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE | 20221121 | 10:05     | GREENWAY VILLAGE                | 27 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE      |
|           | ABANDONED 911         | 20221122 | 15:39     |                                 |   |
|           | ENDANGERED CHILD      | 20221123 | 16:02     | FAMILY DOLLAR                   | 601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR                       |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221124 | 16:16     | GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT    | 511 S TYLER TYLER RD                      |
|           | RECKLESS DRIVING      | 20221125 | 16:23     | FAMILY DOLLAR                   | 601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR                       |
|           | EMS                   | 20221126 | 16:44     |                                 | 110 MONEY MONEY ST                        |
|           | INCIDENT - NO REPORT  | 20221127 | 18:00     | TEXAS TIRE AND BRAKE            | 503 S TYLER TYLER                         |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221128 | 19:07     |                                 | 262 WHITE PINE WHITE PINE RD              |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221129 | 21:40     |                                 | DAY GAY                                   |
|           | RECKLESS DRIVING      | 20221130 | 2:27      |                                 |   |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221131 | 2:38      | EZ MART                         | 400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE                   |
|           | WARRANT               | 20221132 | 5:13      |                                 | 2800 W UPSHUR W UPSHUR                    |
|           | BURGLARY/HABITATION   | 20221133 | 13:00     |                                 | 316 N CENTER CENTER                       |
|           | EMS                   | 20221134 | 14:18     |                                 | 100 W COMMERCE W COMMERCE                 |
|           | ESCORT                | 20221135 | 14:48     |                                 | S TYLER S TYLER                           |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221136 | 17:34     | SUBWAY                          | 106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR                       |
|           | FALSE 911             | 20221137 | 17:48     |                                 | 605 HOLLEY HOLLEY                         |
|           | INCIDENT - NO REPORT  | 20221138 | 17:54     |                                 | 269 S MAIN MAIN ST                        |
|           | MISSING PERSON        | 20221139 | 18:58     |                                 | 707 N MAIN MAIN ST                        |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221140 | 20:04     | DOLLAR GENERAL                  | 904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE               |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221141 | 0:13      |                                 | W UPSHUR UPSHUR                           |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221142 | 0:27      |                                 | 2406 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS                  |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221143 | 0:37      |                                 | 2406 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS                  |
|           | ASSIST                | 20221144 | 2:01      |                                 | HWY 271 N HWY 271 N                       |
|           | ASSIST                | 20221145 | 7:08      | GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT    | 511 S TYLER TYLER RD                      |
|           | ASSIST                | 20221147 | 11:27     | AUSTIN BANK                     | 1625 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | EMS                   | 20221148 | 12:39     |                                 | 702 W CLAIR W CLAIR                       |
|           | THEFT                 | 20221149 | 13:21     |                                 |   |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221151 | 17:26     |                                 | 512 N FERRY N FERRY                       |
|           | FIRE DEPT             | 20221152 | 18:26     |                                 | E SABINE SABINE ST                        |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221154 | 19:41     | MC DONALD'S                     | 1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221156 | 22:38     |                                 | 1000 N RODEO N RODEO                      |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221156 | 22:57     | REGENCY INN & SUITE             | 1006 E BROADWAY BROADWAY                  |
|           | ALARM/OTHER           | 20221157 | 23:37     | WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL        | 314 SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST                  |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221158 | 1:10      | LAKE GLADEWATER                 | 1602 LANSHORE LANSHORE DR                 |
|           | EMS                   | 20221159 | 3:22      | TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER  | 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR                      |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221161 | 5:44      |                                 | 108 N PAUL PAUL AVE                       |
|           | EMS                   | 20221162 | 6:16      | LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME        | 1201 FM 2685 FM 2685                      |
|           | EMS                   | 20221163 | 6:18      |                                 | 314 W OLIVER W OLIVER                     |
|           | ANIMAL CONTROL        | 20221163 | 14:04     |                                 | 710 WOOD WOOD ST                          |
|           | 10-50 MINOR           | 20221165 | 14:51     |                                 | 1107 E BROADWAY E BROADWAY                |
|           | MCNAP                 | 20221166 | 16:46     |                                 | 515 GODFREY GODFREY ST                    |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221167 | 16:13     |                                 |   |
|           | RECKLESS DRIVING      | 20221169 | 17:09     | AUSTIN BANK                     | 1625 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | ALARM/HUMAN ERROR     | 20221170 | 19:25     | ACE HARDWARE                    | 1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221171 | 21:37     | CEFCO #78                       | 1106 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221172 | 21:57     | DOLLAR GENERAL                  | 2670 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE                  |
|           | BURGLARY/BUILDING     | 20221173 | 9:44      |                                 | 105 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST                |
|           | ESCORT                | 20221174 | 10:41     | CROLEY FUNERAL HOME             | 401 N CENTER CENTER ST                    |
|           | ANIMAL CONTROL        | 20221175 | 10:58     | GRANNY BE'S SHAVED ICE AND MORE | 1603 N MAIN MAIN ST                       |
|           | FIRE DEPT             | 20221176 | 11:38     |                                 | 1203 RODEO RODEO ST                       |
|           | ALARM/HUMAN ERROR     | 20221177 | 14:44     |                                 | 510 WOOD WOOD ST                          |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221178 | 15:17     | WILD WEST HAIR SALON            | 3001 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE              |
|           | EMS                   | 20221179 | 16:53     |                                 | 2115 SILK TREE SILK TREE RD               |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221180 | 16:21     |                                 | 43 MCNEESIE MCNEESIE                      |
|           | FIRE DEPT             | 20221181 | 18:45     |                                 | 1300 N RODEO N RODEO                      |
|           | WARRANT               | 20221184 | 22:47     | VICTOR'S MUSIC EXCHANGE         | 1303 S TYLER TYLER                        |
|           | EMS                   | 20221188 | 1:47      |                                 | 121 N LEE LEE ST                          |
|           | BURGLARY/VEHICLE      | 20221189 | 6:00      | TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER  | 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR                      |
|           | INCIDENT - NO REPORT  | 20221189 | 7:42      |                                 | 200 E ALLISON ALLISON ST                  |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221190 | 7:55      | LAUNDRY KING                    | 601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR                       |
|           | ALARM/OTHER           | 20221191 | 8:52      | GLADEWATER BIBLE CHURCH         | 115 MONEY MONEY ST                        |
|           | FIRE DEPT             | 20221192 | 9:21      |                                 | 521 RED HEN RED HEN RD                    |
|           | ABANDONED 911         | 20221193 | 14:30     |                                 |   |
|           | ALARM/OTHER           | 20221194 | 14:34     |                                 | 108 W OREGON OREGON                       |
|           | ABANDONED 911         | 20221195 | 14:37     |                                 | 903 MARTHA MARTHA DR                      |
|           | EMS                   | 20221196 | 14:50     | TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER  | 2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR                      |
|           | FIRE DEPT             | 20221197 | 17:28     |                                 | 1602 WOODHAVEN WOODHAVEN                  |
|           | EMS                   | 20221198 | 18:28     |                                 | 2528 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD |
|           | SUSPICIOUS PERSON     | 20221199 | 21:28     |                                 | 101 S PINE S PINE                         |
|           | ANIMAL CONTROL        | 20221200 | 21:54     |                                 | 565 BIRCHWOOD BIRCHWOOD                   |
|           | DISTURBANCE-OTHER     | 20221201 | 0:26      | GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL          | 2801 W DAY GAY AVE                        |
|           | EMS                   | 20221202 | 4:37      |                                 | 85 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS ST             |
|           | ALARM/OTHER           | 20221203 | 7:06      | JACOBS INSTITUTE/ RESTORED 180  | 214 E GLADE GLADE                         |
|           | MISCELLANEOUS         | 20221204 | 8:17      |                                 | 805 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE                   |

## Police Arrest Report

| ARREST DATE | ARREST DATE | TIME  | FULL NAME              | RACE | SEX | OFFENSE                                      | LOCATION ADDRESS1  |
|-------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|------|-----|--|--------------------|
| 3/9/22      | 3/9/22      | 9:40  | RHODES, RUSSELL EDWARD | W    | M   | WARRANT (LOCAL)                              | 11861 US HWY 271   |
|             | 3/9/22      | 9:40  | RHODES, RUSSELL EDWARD | W    | M   | WARRANT (LOCAL)                              | 11861 US HWY 271   |
|             | 3/9/22      | 9:40  | RHODES, RUSSELL EDWARD | W    | M   | WARRANT (LOCAL)                              | 11861 US HWY 271   |
|             | 3/9/22      | 9:40  | RHODES, RUSSELL EDWARD | W    | M   | WARRANT (LOCAL)                              | 11861 US HWY 271   |
|             |             |       |                        |      |     |  |                    |
| 3/11/22     | 3/11/22     | 21:58 | VARNER, JOHN DAVID     | W    | M   | POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA             | 200 N LOOP 485     |
|             |             |       |                        |      |     |  |                    |
| 3/12/22     | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA             | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |
|             | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | NO DRIVERS LICENSE                           | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |
|             | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | FAILURE TO APPEAR (CLASS C OFFENSE)          | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |
|             | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |
|             | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | NO DRIVERS LICENSE                           | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |
|             | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | VIOLATE PROMISE TO APPEAR (CLASS C OFFENSE)  | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |
|             | 3/12/22     | 23:30 | THOMPSON, KIM JONES    | B    | M   | FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY | 1300 N SOUTH TYLER |

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## 2021 second deadliest year on Texas roads

AUSTIN – When friends and coworkers heard there was a crash nearby, they tried to call tow truck driver Isaac Simmons for an update. They never heard back.

“You don’t realize how much somebody impacts your life until they’re gone,” Simmons’ friend Nathan Bryant said. “He was ripped away from us violently and it’s not right.”

Isaac Simmons was killed on the side of the road in May, 2021 while responding to a stalled vehicle. He was one of more than 4,480 people killed on Texas roads in 2021, making it the second deadliest year since TxDOT began tracking fatalities in 1940. Sadly, 1981 was the deadliest year with 4,701 fatalities.

The increase in fatalities in Texas last year reflects a deadly trend nationwide. An estimated 20,160 people died in motor vehicle crashes in the first half of 2021, up 18.4% over 2020. In Texas, traffic fatalities were up 15 percent from 2020-2021.

Recognizing roadway safety is a shared responsibility between all of us – the public, engineers and law enforcement – Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan is pleading with Texans to do their part.

“Driver behavior is one of the causes, but also one of the most important solutions,” Ryan said. “This is not blame. These are facts. We all have a role. TxDOT can do more, and we accept that responsibility. The driving public can do more. For instance, in 2021, a total of 1,522 people were killed because of speed, and a total of 1,219 people were killed because they were not wearing a seat belt. These were decisions made by people that could have potentially saved 2,741 lives.”

At this year’s annual Texas Transportation Forum, University of Texas psychology professor Dr. Art Markman told TxDOT leaders and transportation stakeholders that pressures from COVID are adding to disastrous outcomes on our roadways.

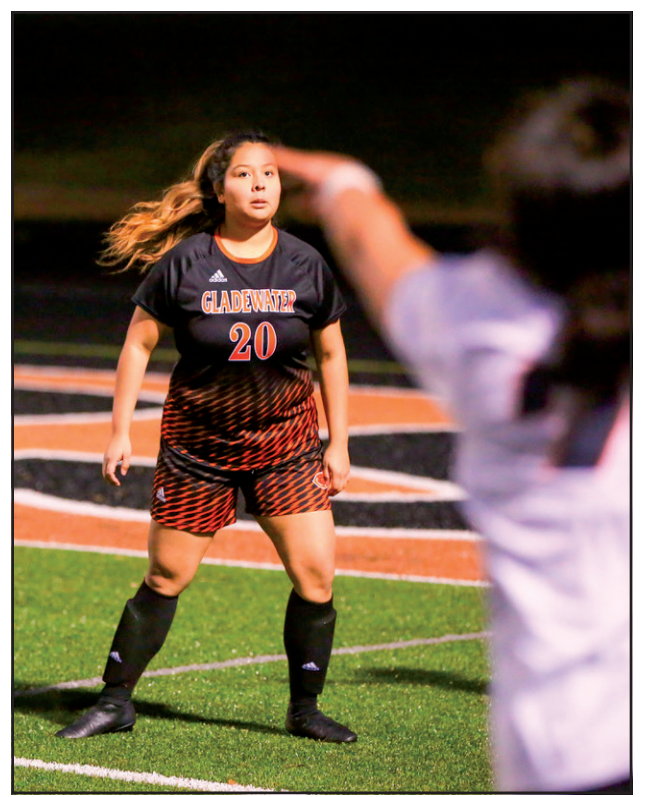
“We have to remind people that they are part of a community,” Markman said. “We have to start considering everyone as part of our community. If we don’t do that, there are going to be all sorts of negative consequences, and those are going to include negative consequences on the road.”

In addition to funding traffic safety campaigns and grant funds to law enforcement, TxDOT is working with researchers to deploy and study new roadway design features that are proven to save lives. The agency is using crash data to pinpoint areas where drivers are more prone to crash and will be focused on improvements in those areas and sharing that data with the public.

With increased focus on engineering, enforcement and on the critical role drivers play in road safety, Ryan and TxDOT leaders believe we can end the streak of daily deaths.



Gladewater’s Lexi Hart looks to take the ball from a Grand Saline player. Photo by Chris Jones



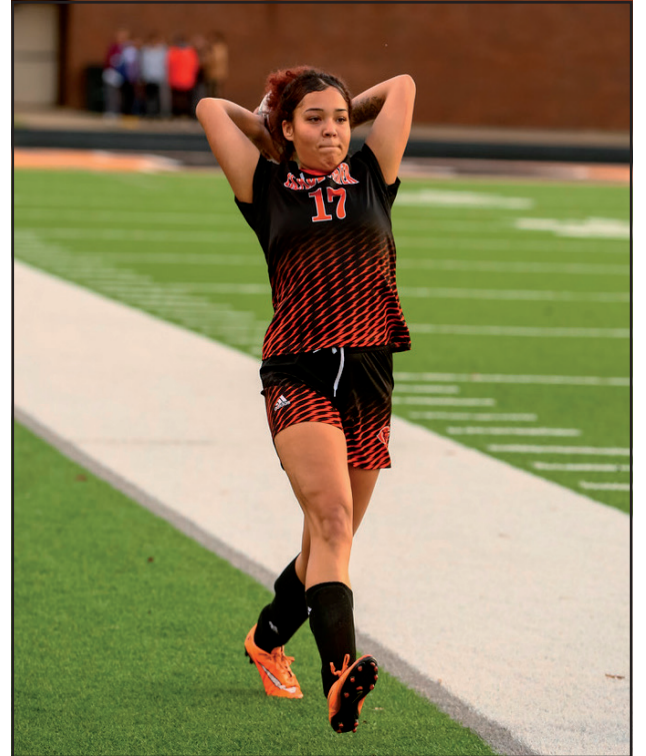
#20 Gicel Cerda of Gladewater stands ready to defend against a Grand Saline inbound pass.

Photo by Chris Jones

## Lady Bears blank Grand Saline, 8-0

Lexi Hart scored six goals against Grand Saline in route to an 8-0 win for the Lady Bears.

Hart acquired the first of her two Hat Tricks in the first half as Gladewater took a 5-0 advantage into the locker room. With the win, Gladewater wrapped up its’ season fifth in district play with a 4-8 district record. The Lady Bears went 11-9 on the season marking the first winning season in the history of the program. These ladies achieved another milestone winning the Waskom Tournament earlier in the year. The 11 wins are by far the most for a program that has struggled since its’ inception. Gladewater’s Lady Bears soccer seems to be heading in the right direction. To keep them moving forward however, Coach Mann will have to replace some key seniors that played their final game in Jack V Murphy Stadium including Hart. Alise Sanders, Kaila King, and Savanna Kinsey are also key starters who will graduate from Gladewater this year.



Alise Sanders inbounds the ball for Gladewater.

Photo by Chris Jones

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 Schedule of Services  

| Sunday                    | Wednesday                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday School 10 a.m.     | Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. |
| Morning Service 11 a.m.   |                                  |
| Evening Service 6:30 p.m. | 903-845-6440                     |

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# Areas with historically strong turkey populations sets the table for hunter success this Spring

AUSTIN – Areas in Texas that have historically had huntable populations of wild turkeys will have solid numbers again this spring hunting season. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists say hunters will have the most luck in the Cross Timbers, the Edwards Plateau and South Texas regions.

“Much of the state had fair to good recruitment last spring and summer, and hunters should expect to see quite a few jakes,” said Jason Hardin, TPWD Wild Turkey Program Leader. “That also means there will be a lot of jennies (juvenile hens) on the landscape, which could distract gobblers and make a hunter’s calls and decoys less desirable. It’s hard to beat the real thing!”

In East Texas, only 12 counties have an open hunting season. Areas in the region that have traditionally supported a good population of turkeys will see similar conditions this year. Hunters are reminded to report their harvest of wild turkeys through the My Texas Hunt Harvest app or online within 24 hours of harvest. The East Texas counties with an open spring season and mandatory reporting include Bowie, Cass, Fannin, Grayson, Jasper, Marion, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Red River and Sabine counties.

The Rolling Plains has been a long-time destination for wild turkey hunters. This area has historically held very good numbers of birds along major and secondary watersheds like the Canadian River, the Salt Fork and the Red River. Timely winter and spring rainfall led to good poult (young turkeys) production and recruitment last spring and summer. However, there has been a significant decline in some areas over the past decade due to dry winter weather patterns. Fortunately, the southern counties in the Rolling Plains are in better shape, even seeing birds expanding their range in some areas.

The Edwards Plateau has long been a stronghold for wild turkeys, providing some of Texas’ highest bird densities and annually providing some of the highest harvest numbers. The western Edwards Plateau has some of the highest densities and production and recruitment appears to have been fair to good over the past few years.

As with most large ecoregions, TPWD biologists have mixed reports of turkey numbers and recruitment in south Texas. While the areas around Uvalde reported below average production and recruitment over the last two years, other areas just east reported good recruitment. Hunters should expect to see lots of jakes across most areas that hold wild turkeys in south Texas. Hunters should focus their efforts on creeks and drainages with larger trees in the central and western portions of south Texas and around oak mottes in the Coastal Sand Sheet in Brooks, Kenedy and Willacy counties.

Only 10 counties in the Oaks and Prairies region of central

Texas (Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam and Wharton County) offer a spring season from April 1-30. Historically, there hasn’t been a significant number of turkeys in the region so only a spring season is offered, and hunters are only allowed a one bird bag limit per county. Starting this year, all wild turkeys harvested in these counties now have mandatory harvest reporting requirements and must be reported within 24 hours of harvest through the My Texas Hunt Harvest app or online.

The traditional North Zone spring season boundary has moved south to Highway 90 west of San Antonio. Several counties in the southern Edwards Plateau that were previously in the South Zone are now part of the North Zone and will have an opening date of April 2 this spring season. Hunters are reminded to review the Outdoor Annual before opening day to ensure

they are hunting during a legal season. Hunters must possess an Upland Stamp Endorsement to hunt wild turkeys in Texas.

The spring season dates are as follows:

- Youth Only
- Rio Grande — North Zone - March 26 - 27; May 21 - 22
- Rio Grande — South Zone - March 12 - 13; May 7 - 8
- Spring Regular Season
- Rio Grande – North Zone - April 2 - May 15
- Rio Grande – South Zone - March 19 - May 1
- Rio Grande – Special 1 Turkey Bag Limit - April 1 - 30
- Eastern Turkey - April 22 - May 14

Additional information about harvest reporting, bag limits and more can be found in the Outdoor Annual on the TPWD website or via the Outdoor Annual app. Both apps are available for free download from Google Play or the App Store.

## USDA report shows a decade of conservation trends

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report shows use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation method and advanced technologies have climbed in recent years.

The report from USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) demonstrates progress made through voluntary conservation over a 10-year period. Findings from the report will inform future conservation strategies, including USDA’s efforts to tackle climate concerns.

The “Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland: A Comparison of CEAP I and CEAP II Survey Data and Modeling” was developed by USDA’s Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). It found significant gains for soil health and soil carbon storage, while also identifying areas where additional and targeted nutrient management strategies are needed.

“This latest CEAP report shows that farmers have done an outstanding job over the years in using innovative conservation strategies that help mitigate climate change,” said Kristy Oates, NRCS state conservationist in Texas. “But we have more work to do. Reports like this one help us better understand conservation approaches and make improvements to increase positive impacts. This report will help steer our conservation efforts well into the future to help us adapt to changing trends in production, climate and technology.”

Key findings include:

- \* Farmers increasingly adopted advanced technology, including enhanced-efficiency fertilizers and variable rate fertilization to improve efficiency, assist agricultural econo-

mies and benefit the environment.

\* More efficient conservation tillage systems, particularly no-till, became the dominant form of tillage, improving soil health and reducing fuel use.

\* Use of structural practices increased, largely in combination with conservation tillage as farmers increasingly integrated conservation treatments to gain efficiencies. Structural practices include terraces, filter and buffer strips, grassed waterways and field borders.

\* Irrigation expanded in more humid areas, and as irrigators shifted to more efficient systems and improved water management strategies, per-acre water application rates decreased by 19% and withdrawals by 7 million-acre-feet.

\* Nearly 70% of cultivated cropland had conservation crop rotations, and 28% had high-biomass conservation crop rotations.

Because of this increased conservation, the report estimates:

\* Average annual water (sheet and rill) and wind erosion dropped by 70 million and 94 million tons, respectively, and edge-of-field sediment loss declined by 74 million tons.

\* Nearly 26 million additional acres of cultivated cropland were gaining soil carbon, and carbon gains on all cultivated cropland increased by over 8.8 million tons per year.

\* Nitrogen and phosphorus losses through surface runoff declined by 3% and 6%, respectively.

\* Average annual fuel use dropped by 110 million gallons of diesel fuel equivalents, avoiding associated greenhouse gas emissions of nearly 1.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents.



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**Fri., Mar. 18 ~ 8:00 - 5:00 (NOT 5:30)**  
**Sat., Mar. 19 ~ 8:00 - 2:00**  
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Pictures: [DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com](http://DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com)

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**NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE TARIFF FILING**

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on March 14, 2022 its Petition requesting approval of its proposed Military Base Surcharge Tariff.

Section 36.354(a) of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), at Texas Utilities Code § 36.354, provides that each electric utility in an area where implementation of full customer choice has been delayed by the Commission in accordance with PURA Section 39.103 shall discount charges for electric service provided to a military base. Section 36.354(b) of PURA establishes the discount to be provided to military installations as a 20 percent reduction of the base commercial rate that the electric utility would otherwise charge the installation.

Section 36.354(c) of PURA provides that the electric utility may assess a surcharge to all its Texas retail customers to recover the difference in revenue between the revenues from the discounted rate for military bases and the base commercial rate. SWEPCO’s Tariff Sheet No. IV-16 provides the Military Base Adjustment Factor per billing kWh as reflected below:

| Major Rate Classes                    | \$/kWh      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Residential                           | \$0.0000747 |
| Commercial & Small Industrial         | \$0.0000556 |
| Industrial / Large Lighting and Power | \$0.0000251 |
| Municipal                             | \$0.0000524 |
| Outdoor Lighting                      | \$0.0000909 |

SWEPCO has requested that the tariff become effective with the first billing cycle of June 2022. The Petition has been assigned Tariff Control No. 53351. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon this proceeding must notify the Commission within 21 days of SWEPCO’s filing of the Petition. 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 Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (800) 735-2988. The Company can be contacted at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, or by calling (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours.

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**AUCTION**

**Karnes City Auction Special Sale** – Sat., March 19 @ Noon, Regular Saturday Sale to follow. 200+ head: Hereford, Tiger Stripe, Santa Gertrudis, Brangus, Brahman, Young Bred Cows & Pairs, Heifers & Bulls. Call Josh 830-623-2855, 1918 Hwy 80, Karnes City, TX. Pictures: [www.karnescityauction.com/special-sales](http://www.karnescityauction.com/special-sales)

**EVENT**

**South Texas Home and Garden Show, Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** 15th annual. Free Admission – Plants – Concessions – Kids Activities. Floresville Event Center, 600 Hwy 97 W, Floresville.

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