

# Gladewater Mirror

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Thursday, May 19, 2022

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50¢

## Virtual public meeting on Rural Transportation Improvement Program set for May 25 by TxDOT

TxDOT will be conducting a virtual public meeting for the proposed 2023-2026 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (Rural TIP) for the TxDOT Tyler District. The virtual public meeting pre-recorded presentation will be available for viewing on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 by 4 PM. This virtual meeting format (no in-person meeting) includes a pre-recorded video presentation and comment opportunity. To view the pre-recorded video presentation and meeting materials, please visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and Search: Tyler District Rural TIP. The presentation will include both audio and visual components.

The purpose of this virtual public meeting is to receive comments on the proposed projects of the 2023-2026 Rural TIP for the Tyler TxDOT District. The Tyler District includes Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, Van Zandt, and Wood counties. The Rural TIP includes all regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for funding. As such, these meetings offer the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. A project in the Rural TIP is a project coming to your community. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The 2023-2026 Rural TIP meetings are being held pursuant to Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 16.102, which calls for an opportunity for public comment concerning the program. Presentation materials will show how the Rural TIP operates along with associated/prioritized projects.

Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Monday, June 6, 2022 to: Texas Department of Transportation, Tyler District, Attn: Rural TIP, 2709 W. Front Street, Tyler, Texas 75702; by email to [Amy.Downey@txdot.gov](mailto:Amy.Downey@txdot.gov), with Attention: 2023-2026 Rural TIP Comment in the subject line; or by submitting your comments online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) (Search: Tyler District Rural TIP).

If you do not have internet access or have general questions regarding the proposed projects or the virtual public meeting, please contact Amy Downey, Project Management Specialist, at (903) 510-9101 or [Amy.Downey@txdot.gov](mailto:Amy.Downey@txdot.gov).

Special accommodations: The virtual public meeting will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you.



The Gladewater Beautification Advisory Board selected the Jack Phillips Company on US 271 North for its "Business of the Quarter". Board members Janie Ballard, Jon Keller, Todd Clifton, Al Harrison and Judy Van Houten were joined by Nancy Abernathy, daughter of Jack Phillips, at the presentation. The Gladewater Beautification Advisory Board is charged with stimulating civic pride and promote community involvement in order to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the City. Photo by Jim Bardwell

## Keller resigns from GISD board, Ross Morgan elected president

By Jim Bardwell

Ross Morgan was elected president of the Gladewater ISD board of trustees Monday night, Jeff Cook was elected vice president and Jamie Robertson was elected board secretary.

Morgan was selected after board president Jon Keller submitted his letter of resignation, effective following graduation next week. Keller served 14 years on the board and stepped down because a family member applied for a position with the school district.

In his letter, Keller praised the board and school staff saying "I could not be prouder of the team this board has become in supporting the great staff serving the students in our district."

The board will be accepting applications soon for the vacant seat.



GISD board Member Ross Morgan takes the oath of office as fellow recently-re-elected board member Rickie Blackmon and Garth Cockerell look on Monday night. Photo by Jim Bardwell

## Changing of the guard coming to city council

Reception for Mayor Shipp is Thursday

By Jim Bardwell

Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp will be exiting the council Thursday night after four years as mayor and another right years as a councilman.



SHIPP

Shipp will be celebrated at a reception at City Hall prior to the 6 p.m. council meeting and the public is invited to stop by between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m..

Following Shipp's farewell remarks and a special presentation by the city, the oath of office will be administered to newly-elected mayor Scott Owens, along with councilmembers Brandy Flanagan, Michael Webber and Teddy Sorrells.

Items on the agenda include:

- Consideration of the audit for fiscal year 2021
- Consideration of a resolution regarding the 2022 TxDOT Airport Layout Plan Project.

- Consideration of a resolution authorizing application for financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for sewer system improvements

- Consideration of a resolution directing publication of notice of intention to issue combination tax and surplus revenue certificates of obligation to the Texas Water Development Board to provide funds for water system improvement

Continued on Page 3



Over 3,000 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated to Manna House last Saturday during the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) 30th Annual National Food Drive. Local Boy Scout Troop 198 helped the faithful men who regularly volunteer transfer the items to the Manna House. Postal carrier David Smith markd 30 years of helping for the project. The Manna House is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11 a.m. and is located at 519 E. Broadway. Life can deal ordinary hard working people very difficult hands. Millions of Americans live in challenging situations, uncertain of where their next meal will come from or if it will come at all. They're our customers, our neighbors, our families. They include children and seniors we see along our routes every day. Some household members may have lost a job, are facing a serious medical condition, or are dealing with an unexpected responsibility of caring for grandchildren. Food drive like this one and Manna House can be a lifeline for many families. Please help if your can.





# 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.

## An open letter to the graduating Bears, Lions and Roughnecks ...

Wisdom is a beast.

It is often best acquired by making mistakes.

Now that you are stepping out into the world many of you will be on your own. Really on your own.

I want you to know that it is OKAY to make mistakes, even to fail.

You WILL survive.

Sometimes the people with the greatest number of mistakes become the greatest successes. Remember that.

And yes, I often acquired these pearls of wisdom by making my own mistakes.

I hope that each of you will find something to do with your lives that you love as much as I loved teaching. Passion is what drives joy, commitment and excellence. Passion is the cat nip of life. But remember, commitment makes the difference when passion is not enough.

I also hope that all of you are successful in all you do—personally as well as professionally. But you won't be. Not all the time. Sometimes it will be because life simply is not fair, sometimes it will be because of poor choices on your part.

**BUT NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ABILITY TO START OVER!**

I am also convinced that we can learn a great deal more from our failures than our successes. So never allow yourselves to be defeated--IT IS A CHOICE that each of you will make and more than once.

Remember that if you can see, hear, walk, talk and think you do NOT have the right to be bored--EVER! I'm not kidding.

Also, never forget that HAPPINESS IS A CHOICE that is driven by attitude and effort not circumstances. Joy is the bedrock of life that is based on your personal convictions. Know what you believe.

As you Arise, Go Forth & Conquer, it might be a good idea to wrap your mind around Murphy's Laws:

1. Nothing is as easy as it looks.
2. Everything will take longer than you think it will.
3. If anything can go wrong, it will.

So here is what you need to deal with Murphy's Law:

Work harder than everyone else. It is most often not the gifted that are most successful but the hardest working.

Smile. A lot. You will be happier for it and so will all the people you come in contact with.

Laugh at your own mistakes. Sure, you can be embarrassed, and you will be, but if you can laugh at yourself nothing can really overwhelm you.

Be realistic, but optimistic. That will give rocket fuel to your ambitions.

Don't be territorial, share the praise and be the heart of every team you are on whether it is a sports team, a fundraising effort, or professionally at the top of your chosen field.

Finally, be kind and compassionate. Do not be gullible, but do be kind. Kindness is often the only gift we have to offer others day in and day out.

If I could wave my magic wand over each of you and give you fairy godmother graduation gifts I would give you: insatiable intellectual curiosity, perseverance in the face of adversity, a sense of wonder so that life remains fresh and new,

AND the knowledge that you are a gift to this weary world with the potential of changing it for the better. Now,

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



go do just that!

May God bless the Class of 2022!

### Bard's Top Ten College Tips\*

(hardcore research proven, and I have the thesis and the stats to do just that!)

10. Register early so that you get the classes & professors that you want. (If you are going to a mega-university go to the earliest orientation.) Bonus: if you end up with a crummy adviser connect with professors or grad students who can point you in the right direction.

9. Schedule classes so that like classes are not close together not number or word classes back to back. For example: MWF-English/ Chemistry/Psychology; T-Th-Statistics/Speech. (Bonus tip: take at least 15 hours per semester, if you have to drop a class you will still have a minimum of 12 college hours to maintain full-time status. Also, watch out dropping a 4-hour class, must have 12 hours to maintain full time status necessary for financial aid and scholarships.)

8. Create a study schedule that actually accounts for all the time you are awake so that you clearly see how you are spending your time. Then use it wisely. Depending on your intellectual ability procrastination will cause either failure, physical illness or emotional breakdown-sometimes all three. (You guys have one or two truly challenging classes in high school, in the fall you will have 4-5 in one semester.)

7. USE the SQ3R textbook reading method and make sure that you have done all assigned reading BEFORE going to class:

~Survey: read the chapter intro, headings, subheadings & summary (that's your map, you wouldn't drive to Disney-World by just heading east-know where you are supposed to end up and have a plan to get there.

\* turn the first heading into a question

\* read to answer the question

\* recite the answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS (if you can do that you understand it)

~when you get to the end of the reading assignment review, make sure you can still answer the question.

Bonus: You paid for those textbooks, USE them. Even if you can get by without doing the reading you are cheating yourself intellectually and in the future.

6. Use Listen/Think/Write in lecture classes. A lecturer can only talk at 100 words a minute. You (yes, you!) can think (on average) at 400 words a minute. (Bonus: Do NOT skip class. It ticks off most professors and frankly you have to be present to win!)

5. Read over lecture notes from the previous class session immediately before going to class. This gives context and meaning to what you are hearing.

4. Read notes immediately after lecture classes and add omissions before you forget.

3. Sit at front of classes and focus on what is being said not how (or the cutie next to you).

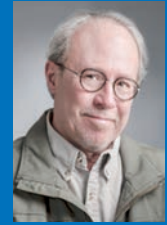
2. Get study buddies (who know what is going on) and STUDY!

1. Get help AS SOON AS YOU KNOW YOU ARE IN TROUBLE. (ALWAYS turn in assignments. In college it is almost impossible to pass if you skip even one assignment.)

REMEMBER: Ultimately YOU are the ONLY teacher you ever truly have. You choose to learn or not.

**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



### Early runoff voting ends Friday

Early voting in the May 24 primary runoff elections ends Friday, May 20. Under state law, voters who cast ballots in either party's primary election must vote only in the same party's runoff election. Voters who did not cast ballots in the primary may vote in either party's runoff election.

Topping the runoff ballots are runoff elections for attorney general. Incumbent Republican Ken Paxton faces George P. Bush, the current land commissioner. On the Democratic side, former Galveston mayor Joe Jaworski faces Rochelle Garza, a Brownsville civil rights attorney.

There are also statewide runoff races for lieutenant governor, land commissioner, comptroller and railroad commissioner, as well as several congressional seats and spots on the state board of education. See the full list of runoff races at: <https://tinyurl.com/43bzf9v6>.

### ERCOT urges Texans to conserve power

After six power generation plants went offline Friday during the start to an unseasonably hot weekend, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas urged Texans to conserve power, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

As temperatures soared into the 90s and even 100s in some parts of the state, residents were urged to set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher and avoid using large appliances such as dishwashers, washers and dryers between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. The hot weather is sparking record electricity demand across the state.

### And it's only May.

Abbott's use of COVID funds on border mission probed

The inspector general for the U.S. Treasury Department has opened a review into how the state spent federal COVID-19 aid funds, with approximately \$1 billion in relief funds shifted to the crackdown on the Texas-Mexico border, the Washington Post reported. The aid was intended to help local governments pay front-line COVID-19 workers, purchase protective equipment and for other public health costs.

Richard K. Delmar, the deputy inspector general, issued a statement citing his office's mandate "for monitoring and oversight of the distribution" of the stimulus spending, which Texas received under a federal initiative known as the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the Post reported.

"In exercise of that responsibility," Delmar said, "we are currently conducting a review of Texas's uses of CRF monies." A spokesman for Gov. Greg Abbott defended how Texas used federal funds received under the Cares Act.

### More than 900 migrants sent to D.C.

Under Abbott's direction, the state has sent 35 chartered buses with 922 migrants to Washington, D.C. since mid-April, The Dallas Morning News reported. The governor has called it a "fun" way to get President Joe Biden's attention, harshly criticizing the president for the administration's border policies. However, The Morning News reported the impact on the nation's capital has been minimal, with the migrants being processed and sent to live in different cities until their cases can be heard in court.

"He's [Abbott] no longer even making a big deal about it. You're not seeing it on the nightly news. It's a dud," said Abel Nuñez, executive director of the Central American Resource Center, one of the groups helping migrants who arrive from Texas. "It's happening in silence now. This is not giving him the political win that he wanted."

The state of Arizona has also begun busing migrants to Washington, D.C.

### Drought conditions persist across state

As a hydrologist for the Texas Water Development Board put it, "April wasn't great" in terms of rainfall. However, about a sixth of the state did get abundant rainfall, in parts of Central Texas, North Texas and South Texas. Dr. Mark Wentzel wrote that rainfall received in May could be key to getting through the summer without widespread severe drought.

"May, historically, has been the wettest month for Texas," Wentzel wrote. "We get an average of 3 1/3 inches of rainfall in that month, making it the wettest month of the year for us. We want to be cautiously optimistic."

The most severe drought conditions are found in the Panhandle and High Plains and in the Big Bend area. April showers in much of East Texas brought both May flowers but an easing of drought conditions.



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Telephone: 903-845-2235

Fax: 903-845-2237

Email: [gladwatermirror@aol.com](mailto:gladwatermirror@aol.com)

Owners:

Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell

Advertising: Darla Ferguson

Office Manager: Tiffany Harroff



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## THE RAPTURE

We continually hear new dates predicted for the so-called "Rapture" when Jesus supposedly will secretly rapture Christians. Over and over these predictions, and there have been many of them, fizzle. But that does not deter in the least all of the so-called prophets from conjuring up new dates that they have somehow calculated from the Scriptures.

It surprises some people that the word "rapture" is not in the Bible. But they hear preachers, and people who believe these preachers, talk so much about "the rapture" that they assume it must be in the Bible. But truthfully, it isn't!

Yes, the Bible certainly does teach that Jesus will come again, and when He comes, He will raise the dead, who, with Christians, living at that time, will ascend up to meet Him. For example, this is taught in 1 Thess. 4: 16-17 which says: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord." Far from being some secretive rapture or snatching away of the saints, as the rapture-theorist teach, when Christ comes again there will be nothing secret about it. The Lord will descend with a shout and the trumpet of God and voice of the archangel.

The Bible definitely teaches the second coming of Christ, and the resurrection of the dead, and the ascension of all the saved. However, what is often called the "Rapture" is different from Bible teaching. The rapture theory, with the imagined "Great Tribulation," from which the Rapture is supposed to deliver us, and "the millennial reign of Christ on the earth," are but fabrications, and part of a complex theory called Pre-millennialism. It is always important to distinguish between what the Bible really teaches, and what some people, like Hal Lindsey in his "Late Great Planet Earth" are teaching. Think on these things.

**Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ**

P. O. Box 454-White Oak, TX 75693-903-845-6139-preachab@suddenlink.net

# OBITUARY

## GARLAND LARRY BOYCE

Garland Larry Boyce, age 73, of Greenback, went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, May 10, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Lynn Boyce; parents, Marshall and Marline Boyce. He is survived by his children, Chuck and Jenifer Boyce, Shane and Marsha Boyce; grand-children, Tim and Kelsey Boyce, Jake Boyce, Tristan Boyce, and Faith Boyce; great-grandchild, Larry Greyson Boyce; and a host of extended family.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at New Providence Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. Arrangements are with Miller Funeral Home, Maryville.

## Changing of the guard coming to city council

Continued from Page 1

projects; and resolving other matters relating to the subject.

- Consideration of a resolution authorizing the submittal of one or more applications to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to act as the City's authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the application, and committing matching funds

- Consideration of a blanket permit for Juneteenth Festival to be held on

Saturday, June 18th from 10am-3pm at Bumblebee Park. In executive session the council is expected to discuss and later take action in open session on the city's treasurer, who has resigned for another job elsewhere, as well as ongoing action concerning Union Pacific land and the city's hopes of purchasing the land instead of leasing and discuss legal matters pertaining to David Wallace d/b/a D.E.W. Plans & Designs v. City of Gladewater, Upshur County, District Court, Cause Number 562-21.

## March storm debris removal date set

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Monday set a June 13 deadline for rural residents affected by the March 21 tornado to have their debris ready for pickup by contractors.

County Road Administrator Andy Jordan said residents should place the items, including felled trees, "by the road, but not in the ditch." The service is available only to those whose property was damaged by the F2 tornado, which struck multiple buildings and trees in several areas of the county.

Jordan said residents' calling the Road and Bridge Department at 903-843-7623 would help facilitate the cleanup.

The court approved the June date 4-0 with Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson abstaining, saying he may be among the contractors involved.

In other business Monday, the court heard its presiding officer, County Judge Todd Teffeller, give an update on the

# Guest Column

Mayor JD Shipp

## Thank you Gladewater for making a difference in me!

After 12 years of service to the community, with 4 of those years as Mayor, I made a personal decision to not run for re-election. I am truly blessed and thankful that Gladewater allowed me to serve this tenure.



SHIPP

When elected in 2010, an individual told me, "Congratulations on being elected, now you will grow up!" I can't begin to express how offended I was with this statement. By God, I was 36!!! I felt like I was quite grown up! As time marched on, I found this individual was absolutely correct. There was still growth to be had...and still more to come at age 48! It was through service to this community that I experienced a lot of inner growth. It enhanced my analytical thinking skills, increased my compassion for my fellow man and affected my global views. Through this tenure on council and the associated inner growth, also came new friendships and treasured memories.

Public service at the local level is far more representative of the real America than found at the State and Federal levels. Local service doesn't require you to pick a party...you only pick YOUR COMMUNITY. It's not a choice of "Make America Great Again" or "Build Back Better", one only has

to look in the mirror and ask oneself, "How can I help MY community?" It is far more about your heart and desire to help than it is a degree, a job title, or the available time you 'think' you have on hand. We have had people serve our community from all walks of life. They have all served our community well! Our city's struggles are no different than that of our neighbors...big or small. What truly sets a community apart is the willingness of its citizens to serve their community. Change...real change...in America begins at the local level.

It has been both a pleasure and honor to serve such a historic and beautiful community! The people and location of this community make it ripe for further growth and development within the East Texas area. Within city hall, there exists a tenured and supportive staff. A cooperative spirit exists between this staff and council in all city endeavors. In addition to the city council, Gladewater has multiple boards, civic organizations and volunteer groups all working to make Gladewater an incredible place to live, work and play. The only thing missing is YOU. Help your community. Help at the local level and THAT is what will make the difference... an immediate difference in the lives of your fellow citizens and bring a level of positivity that will transcend Gladewater. It will also make a difference in YOU. Thank you Gladewater for making a difference in me!

## Man arrested in Florida in connection with power station theft

By Phillip Williams

Authorities in Florida recently arrested a second suspect in last September's major damaging of an Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative substation, Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb announced last week.

Christopher Richard Corbett, 36, of White Oak, was arrested April 26 in Flagler County, Fla., and Upshur deputies brought him by car to jail in Gilmer May 5, Webb said. The other suspect in the case has already been sentenced.

Corbett remained in county jail in Gilmer without bond on

a blue warrant alleging parole violation, although Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter set bonds on two felony charges related to the September incident, said Webb.

The bonds are \$100,000 on a charge of criminal mischief of between \$30,000 and \$150,000, and \$25,000 on a charge of tampering with oil and gas rigs to limit control of operation, the sheriff said.

Webb said he did not know why Florida officers came in contact with Corbett, but that they ran a computer check with the National Crime Information Center which revealed he was wanted here. The suspect was arrested, possibly as the result of a traffic stop, between the cities of Daytona Beach and Palm Coast in a county where Bunnell is the county seat, said Webb.

The other suspect in the case, Christopher Dean Robertson, was recently sentenced by a judge to 60 years in state prison on multiple charges after admitting he disrupted power at the substation by stealing copper wire, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Webb said last week, however, that when the copper wire was cut, it started a fire and the wire was left at the scene.

Robertson, 35, of Gilmer, was sentenced by 115th District Judge Dean Fowler in Gilmer.

At the time of the incident last Sept. 1, the Upshur County Sheriff's Office and Upshur Rural said the attempted theft of equipment set off a flash fire, knocking out power to 2,000 homes for a time and causing about \$100,000 damage to the substation at the intersection of Bluebird and Venters Roads south of Gilmer.



# Sunday Services



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Morning Service 11 a.m.			
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.			<b>903-845-6440</b>

 Pastor Jim Withers  
[www.gbcladewater.org](http://www.gbcladewater.org)

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 Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425  
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 First United Methodist Church • 903-845-2565  
 McCrary's Chapel United Methodist

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
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 Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234  
 Grace Tabernacle • 903-309-8801  
**PENTECOSTAL**  
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 Northside Pentecostal  
 Abundant Life Temple U.P.C. • 903-845-6043  
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 First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905  
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING



Jim and Josh Bardwell were blessed last week to be a part of an unveiling of a White Oak ISD Roughneck Derrick in honor of Suzanne at White Oak High School's awards ceremony. Suzanne taught at White Oak for 20 years and it was a second family to her. She touched generations of students and teachers.

### Class of 1977 hosting 45th Reunion

The GHS Class of 1977 is hosting its 45th reunion on July 16th from 6 - 10 p.m. at the Red Rock Historical Association Building located at 2629 Rodeo St. in Gladewater. This reunion is reaching out to ALL classmates of this group, whether you actually graduated from GHS or not. Maybe you only went through middle school with us, "Come on down!" The event will include visiting, a buffet style dinner, 70's music and dancing. The meal will consist of a variety of soul food dishes catered by "Aunt Sandra's Boudian & More" in Gladewater. Dress is casual. The charge is \$10 a person and you can bring a date if you would like. Please send check to Dr. Margo Bell at P.O. Box 562, Gladewater, TX 75647.

### Parker receives Eastern Star honor

James Parker of Gilmer will be elected and installed Aug. 13 as worthy grand patron of the Grand Chapter of Texas Order of the Eastern Star, the highest honor a male member of the organization can receive.

Parker, chaplain of OES Chapter No. 355 in Gilmer, will be installed in Beaumont. He is currently associate grand patron of the state organization, and chaplain of Bethesda Masonic Lodge No. 142 in Gilmer.

Parker, whose new position will involve traveling the entire state, is the first member of the Gilmer OES chapter to be chosen worthy grand patron in the state organization's 140-year history. It includes about 230 chapters.

His duties will include conducting instructional schools for OES members and helping with celebrations for individual chapters' anniversaries.

"I'm greatly honored to have been given the opportunity to serve this organization in this position," Parker said.

### Class of 1972 hosting 'All School Reunion'

The Gladewater Class of 1972 is hosting this year's "All School Reunion" on September 24. Classmates of 1972 and all those who attended GHS. Forever Friends are invited to attend the event.

The Class of 1972 is also selling raffle tickets for a Visa gift card for \$750 and \$250, as well as items donated by Gladewater businesses. You do not have to be present to win. Come to the Rodeo June 8, 9, 10 & 11 and purchase your raffle tickets. They are also hosting a Classic Car, Truck and Motorcycle show in downtown Gladewater August 20 from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. Don't miss it!

Contact Lucinda Moore Coker at (903)241-0394 or cindymoore72@gmail.com for questions or more information.

### Paxton to be in Gilmer May 19

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will bring his campaign for re-election to a May 19 public meeting of East Texans for Liberty at the Gilmer Civic Center.

The event is set for 6 p.m. at the center, located on north U.S. 271 in Gilmer.

Paxton is opposed in the May 24 Republican runoff by state Land Commissioner George P. Bush, who campaigned in Gilmer prior to the March 1 GOP primary. The winner will face a Democratic opponent in the November general election.

### Storytime Thursdays in Gilmer

Two Disney-themed books will be read to small children at each of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer Thursday, May 19.

"101 Dalmations" and "Alice In Wonderland" 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.)

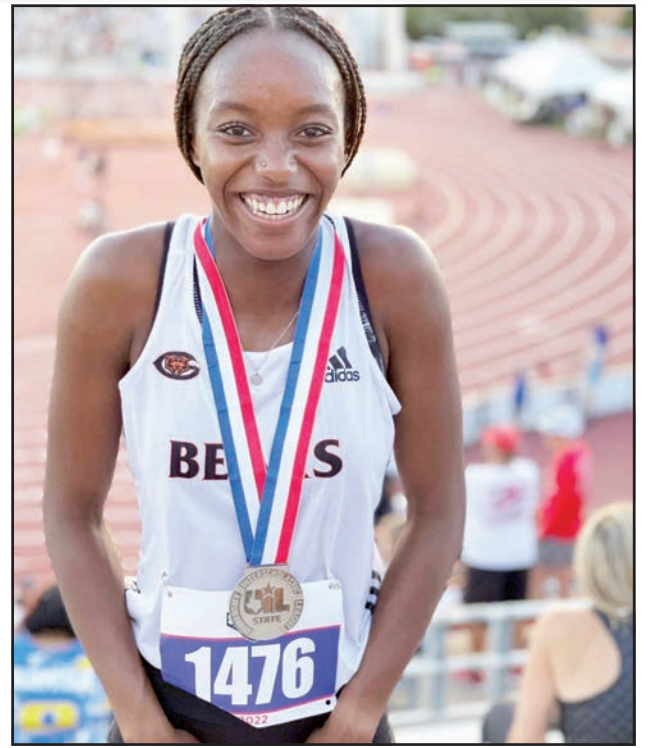
Although the events are free to the public, children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at [www.youseemore.com/upshur](http://www.youseemore.com/upshur).

### Water donations needed

Clarksville City - Warren City Volunteer Fire Department is seeking donations of water to help keep their firefighters' bodies hydrated during calls. If you can donate water, feel free to drop it by their station or call 903-844-9992 and they will come pick it up! Thank you in advance for helping out!

### SBA offers help to storm victims

Victims of the March 21 storm are reminded that the Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Gilmer is open in the Upshur County Courthouse, 100 West Tyler St.. Victims of the Severe Storms and Tornado on March 21 can visit the location and



Gladewaters' Kamryn Floyd is fast. Peaking at the right time, Floyd set a personal best 24.85 at the State Championships in the 200m. This time was good enough to be the second fastest in the State of Texas at the 3A level. Floyd qualified for the state meet last year in the 200m as a sophomore. Shortly after representing the Bears at the 2021 State Championships, she opted for knee surgery to correct a nagging injury. This would sideline Floyd for much of her Junior year. By track season however, she had not only rehabbed the knee, but had gotten herself back in competition form. With two state meets under her belt, Floyd is primed for a great senior year.

get in-person help to complete the application for a federally backed disaster loan to help cover uninsured losses for homeowners, renters, businesses, and private non-profits.

To apply online visit: <https://DisasterLoanAssistance.SBA.gov>.

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339

According to Rick Tillery, Public Information Officer for the Office of Disaster Assistance, Field Operations Center - West U.S. Small Business Administration, the SBA disaster loans are the primary source of federal assistance to help pay for repair or replacement costs not fully covered by insurance or other compensation. SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and most private nonprofit organizations.

Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters may also borrow up to \$40,000 to replace personal property.

Businesses may borrow up to \$2 million for any combination of property damage and/or economic injury.

SBA offers low interest working capital loans (called Economic Injury Disaster Loans) to small businesses, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, nonprofit organizations of all sizes having difficulty meeting obligations as a result of the disaster.

Interest rates can be as low as 1.438 percent for homeowners and renters, 2.940 percent for businesses, and 1.875 percent for private nonprofit organizations. The loans may have terms up to 30 years.



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# ET4L hears Webb detail sheriff office's work

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb gave a comprehensive overview of his office's work, and improvements he has made to it, at a public meeting of East Texans for Liberty outside Gilmer last week.

About 30 attended the May 9 event at the rural Barbwire Halo Cowboy Church.

"I can't tell you how happy I am to be y'all's sheriff," said Webb, adding "my door has always been open" to the public during his five years in office and that part of his office's mission is to "preserve the constitutional rights" of citizens. Another part, he said, is reducing crime and the fear of it.

He noted the educational activities he has instituted for the public, such as the citizens' police academy (which was not held the last two years due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but will resume), and church safety seminars. He also said he now has a training room for deputies with the "latest, greatest technology" and is building a rural firing range at which his office will conduct handgun classes.

In addition, Webb presented statistics concerning the types of cases his office handles, warning that "some of these things are gonna shock you a little bit" although "generally speaking," Upshur is "not a violent county."

The county does, however, have thefts and illicit drugs, and drug users steal in order to purchase their narcotics, he observed. "One way to take care of" the "war on drugs" is to have a sheriff, justices of the peace, other judges and citizens "on board" with combatting them, he noted, praising County Judge Todd Tefeller, 115th District Judge Dean Fowler and the county commissioners court for their performances.

Noting his office handles all law enforcement-related calls in the county (except those made to the Gilmer Police Department between 8 a.m. and midnight), Webb said 25,225 calls for service were received in 2021 in a county of only about 40,000 population.

The top 10 categories of calls, in this order he listed, included medical, animal (such as "somebody's cows got out" or other livestock did), information needed, suspicious activity, welfare checks, warrant services, "incident calls," reckless drivers, disturbances and thefts.

Webb also addressed his office's staffing, noting his patrol division has only 3-4 deputies on duty per shift to cover the county's 593 square miles. While his office gets help from constables and the Texas Department of Public Safety, having few deputies to cover such a wide area is "where the citizens come in," the sheriff said.

In 2021, patrol deputies received 11,777 calls for service, made 1,427 traffic stops, 257 arrests for various offenses, and issued 1,171 written or verbal citations, he noted.

Webb noted his office also has a four-member Criminal Investigation Division of plain-clothes detectives who cleared 741 of their 881 cases last year and filed 395 with District Attorney Billy Byrd's office for criminal processing. (The 741 cleared cases either went to Byrd's office or

the complainant didn't want to pursue charges further, the sheriff noted).

The sheriff praised county commissioners for giving his personnel a major pay raise last year. Starting pay for deputies rose from \$34,000 up to \$40,000, he noted.

Webb also discussed the operation of the 226-bed county jail, which has a separate budget from his office, saying it averages about 130-140 inmates daily. Of these, about 52 are inmates from other counties, which the county is paid for housing, he said.

The jail, which passed an unannounced state inspection a few months ago, has 23 jailers (counting a supervisor) who works 12-hour shifts of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., or vice versa, Webb noted.

One major problem in the jail he addressed is that it must house, for prolonged periods, prisoners with mental issues because there is no room for them in state mental hospitals.

## Data breach at Department of Insurance exposed personal information of 1.8 million Texans

The Texas Tribune

The personal data was accessible to the public for nearly three years because of a glitch in the code of the department's web application.

A massive security breach at the Texas Department of Insurance leaked the personal information of almost 2 million Texans for nearly three years, according to a state audit released last week.

The department said the personal information of 1.8 million workers who have filed compensation claims — including Social Security numbers, addresses, dates of birth, phone numbers and information about workers' injuries — was accessible online to members of the public from March 2019 to January 2022.

The department did not

publicly acknowledge the security issue until the state auditor's office conducted a review in March. On March 24, the Department of Insurance sent out a notice acknowledging it became aware of the issue in January.

The breach occurred because of an issue in the programming code in the department's web application that manages workers'

compensation data. The issue in the code allowed members of the public to access a protected part of that online application, the department said.

The state's insurance department said it would provide 12 months of free credit monitoring and identity protection services to individuals whose data was breached.

## Texas law prohibiting social media companies from banning users over their viewpoints reinstated by appeals court

The Texas Tribune

The court did not evaluate the law on its constitutionality but will allow it to go back into effect while a legal case plays out. Texas lawmakers passed the law, saying social media platforms have an anti-conservative bias.

A federal appeals court on Wednesday reinstated a Republican-backed Texas law that prohibits large social media companies from banning users over their political viewpoints.

The decision hands a win to Republicans who have long criticized social media

platforms such as Twitter for what they call anti-conservative bias — disapproval that was amplified when President Donald Trump was banned from Twitter for violating the platform's rules on inciting violence during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

The order did not evaluate the law on its constitutionality but instead allows the law to go back into effect while the case proceeds in district court, according to a statement from one of the plaintiff groups. The ruling came from a three-judge panel on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals — which is often considered the most conservative appeals court in the country — and was not accompanied by a written opinion explaining the decision at the time of publication.

Two large industry trade groups that represent companies such as Google and Twitter sued to block the law last fall. On Friday, they asked the U.S. Supreme Court to again block the law while their lawsuit plays out. In December, a federal

district court judge ruled in favor of the groups and blocked the law while the lawsuit continues, reasoning that the First Amendment protects a company's right to moderate content and called parts of the law "prohibitively vague." As a result, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton appealed the district judge's decision to the circuit court.

Passed during a special session last year, House Bill 20 also requires social media platforms with more than 50 million monthly users to publicly disclose information about content removal and account suspensions.

"HB 20 is an assault on the First Amendment, and it's constitutionally rotten from top to bottom," Chris Marchese, counsel for the NetChoice industry trade group, tweeted after the ruling. "So of course we're going to appeal today's unprecedented, unexplained, and unfortunate order by a split 2-1 panel."

The decision comes as businessman Elon Musk is poised to buy Twitter and

possibly remake the company's moderation policies — a move that conservatives have cheered. Musk recently said he would reinstate Trump's account if the acquisition is completed.

"Sadly, we have a handful of people in America today who want to control the town square, who want to control social media and want to enforce silence," state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, said in support of the bill last year. "If you have a viewpoint different from theirs, they want to shut you up. That's not the American way, and that is not the Texas way."

The law does not provide any specific civil penalties for breaking the law, besides allowing users to sue to recoupate their court costs from the company found in violation. The law also empowers the attorney general to pursue violations.

The Texas attorney general's office said in a tweet late Wednesday that the appeals court made the right decision and said it would continue defending the Texas law.

## Texas wildfire preliminary agriculture losses total \$23.1 million

COLLEGE STATION, — Texas wildfires that ravaged the Eastland Complex, parts of the Panhandle and Coryell County regions encompassing 433,000 acres have resulted in \$23.1 million in preliminary agricultural loss estimates, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economists.

The losses include more than 400 livestock deaths, lost grazing values and fence repair costs. Dry, windy conditions throughout the winter season and into early spring heightened the fire danger threat.

"AgriLife Extension continues its commitment to providing the resources needed for landowners and livestock producers to help recover from this tragic event," said Rick Avery, Ph.D., director of AgriLife Extension, Bryan-College Station. "We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our dedicated agent network and industry partners. Texas agriculture producers are resilient, although the damages to thousands of acres of grazing land, livestock and infrastructure will be long lasting."

"The Texas Division of Emergency Management will continue to support local of-

icials' response and recovery efforts from the devastating wildfires that have impacted the state this year," said Texas Division of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd. "I thank the hundreds of local and state first responders who worked around the clock to protect life and property from these wildfires. TDEM field staff will continue supporting local partners in affected areas as those communities recover."

The preliminary estimates were calculated beginning with the early March fires and running through the end of April. AgriLife Extension economists say the preliminary loss estimates could climb higher due to ongoing fire threats.

"Drought conditions are only intensifying the potential for further economic losses moving forward considering the prospects of hay availability and associated feed costs," said David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock economist, Bryan-College Station.

AgriLife Extension deployed its Disaster Assessment Recovery agents along with its county agents to implement animal supply points in the Eastland Complex at

Rising Star, Cross Plains and Gorman. Agents assisted with collecting donations and distributing hay, feed and other resources. They also provided field and damage assessment support.

"Our Disaster Assessment Recovery agents worked tirelessly to establish and operate animal supply points at key areas," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension Disaster Assessment Recovery program coordinator, Bryan-College Station. "Agents were working around the clock coordinating the distribution of hundreds of round bales of hay, livestock and pet food, assisting with field assessments and identification of cattle during this catastrophic event. Again, we thank those throughout Texas and our friends out of state who donated during this critical time of need."

During a seven-day span in late March, state, federal and local fire resources responded to 192 wildfires that burned 173,559 acres. More than 300 Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters and more than 200 Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System firefighters, along with firefighting personnel from 28 states, were positioned across the state to respond.



### Notice of Virtual Public Meeting Texas Department of Transportation Available for Viewing on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 by 4 PM 2023 - 2026 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Tyler District

TxDOT will be conducting a virtual public meeting for the proposed 2023-2026 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (Rural TIP) for the TxDOT Tyler District. **The virtual public meeting pre-recorded presentation will be available for viewing on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 by 4 PM.** This virtual meeting format (no in-person meeting) includes a pre-recorded video presentation and comment opportunity. To view the pre-recorded video presentation and meeting materials, please visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) and **Search:** Tyler District Rural TIP. The presentation will include both audio and visual components.

The purpose of this virtual public meeting is to receive comments on the proposed projects of the 2023-2026 Rural TIP for the Tyler TxDOT District. The Tyler District includes Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, Van Zandt, and Wood counties. The Rural TIP includes all regionally significant projects to be funded within a TxDOT District during the next four years, including those eligible for funding. As such, these meetings offer the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. A project in the Rural TIP is a project coming to your community. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The 2023-2026 Rural TIP meetings are being held pursuant to *Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 16.102*, which calls for an opportunity for public comment concerning the program. Presentation materials will show how the Rural TIP operates along with associated/prioritized projects.

Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by Monday, June 6, 2022 to: Texas Department of Transportation, Tyler District, Attn: Rural TIP, 2709 W. Front Street, Tyler, Texas 75702; by email to [Amy.Downey@txdot.gov](mailto:Amy.Downey@txdot.gov), with Attention: 2023-2026 Rural TIP Comment in the subject line; or by submitting your comments online at [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) (**Search:** Tyler District Rural TIP).

If you do not have internet access or have general questions regarding the proposed projects or the virtual public meeting, please contact Amy Downey, Project Management Specialist, at (903) 510-9101 or [Amy.Downey@txdot.gov](mailto:Amy.Downey@txdot.gov).

**Special accommodations:** The virtual public meeting will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting, please contact the project team at (903) 510-9101 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Friday, May 20, 2022. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

# Election runoffs near

By Phillip Williams

Texas voters go to the polls Tuesday for Republican and Democratic runoff elections, with the Upshur County GOP ballot featuring the unusual aspect of three contested races for precinct chairmanships.

Early in-person voting, which opened Monday, continues daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at County Election Administrator Lory Harle's second-floor office in the Upshur County Courthouse in Gilmer. As of about 11:30 a.m. Monday, 23 Republicans had voted, but no Democrats, said Deputy Election Administrator Kami Whitworth.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday in the county at nine locales.

They include the Upshur County Library in Gilmer, Pritchett Community Center, Big Sandy School, East Mountain Community Center, Ashland Masonic Lodge on Texas 154 in Diana, Assembly of God in Gilmer, Ore City Community Center, Oak Hill Baptist Church in Bettie community and St. James Baptist Church in Gladewater.

Under Upshur's "countywide" voting system, a voter can cast a ballot at any polling place in the county. However, he or she cannot vote in a race which does not include the area where the voter resides.

For example, only Democratic voters in Congressional District 1 can cast ballots in the race for U.S. representative between Jrmarr (JJ) Jefferson and Victor D. Dunn. In addition, only Republican voters who live in certain areas can cast a ballot in one of the contested precinct chair races.

Voters can only cast ballots in one party's runoff. Anyone who voted in one party's March 1 primary election cannot vote in the other party's runoff.

Statewide races on the GOP ballot include Attorney General Ken Paxton, seeking re-election against Commissioner of the General Land Office George P. Bush; incumbent Wayne Christian, seeking re-election to the Texas Railroad Commission against Sarah Stogner; and Dr. Dawn Buckingham, vying with Tim Westley to succeed Bush as land commissioner.

The three contested races for precinct chairmanships on the county's Republican executive committee have received an unusual amount of attention this time for an office which is rarely contested. Precinct chair races were not on the GOP's March 1 primary ballot due to redistricting.

In Precinct 10, which includes only voters who live in the area covered by the Pritchett voting box, incumbent John Melvin Dodd seeks re-election against Mary Anne Farrow.

In Precinct 9, which includes only voters in the area covered by the Big Sandy voting box, Sherry Breedlove and Bridget Fowler are vying for retiring incumbent Pam Dean's seat.

In Precinct 6, which includes only voters included in the area covered by the North Diana voting box, incumbent Jackie Oliver seeks re-election against Deanna Leslie. (Voters in this area have cast ballots in the past at Walnut Creek Baptist Church, but the voting box this time will be at the Ashland Masonic Lodge).

Political organizations in the county have split in their endorsements in the races.

On the Democratic ballot, Jefferson and Dunn are vying to face Republican Nathaniel Moran in the November general election.

Other races in the Democratic runoff include: Attorney general--Rochelle Garza, Joe Jaworski Lieutenant governor--Mike Collier, Michelle Beckley. Winner faces incumbent Republican Dan Patrick in November.

Comptroller of public accounts--Angel Luis Vega, Janet T. Dudding. Winner faces incumbent Republican Glenn Hegar in November.

Commissioner of general land office--Jay Kleberg, Sandra-grace Martinez.

For more information on the runoffs, call Harle's office at 903-680-8506.

## 2022 Graduation Reports:

### Cities with the Most Student Debt

With graduation season upon us and student debt at a staggering \$1.61 trillion, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released a report on the Cities with the Most & Least Student Debt in 2022 (accompanying videos and audio files), along with a nationally representative Student Money Survey.

WalletHub's editors also picked the Best Credit Cards for 2022 Graduates, to help new college and high school grads build credit and maximize savings.

Most Overleveraged Cities	Least Overleveraged Cities
Selma, AL	Vienna, VA
Ypsilanti, MI	Fremont, CA
Avon Park, FL	Menlo Park, CA
Cordele, GA	Sammamish, WA
Ridgeland, MS	Milpitas, CA
McComb, MS	Gilroy, CA
Orangeburg, SC	Delano, CA
Hattiesburg, MS	Bronxville, NY
Ashland, KY	Sunnyvale, CA
Ithaca, NY	Coachella, CA

### Survey Results & Best Card Picks

93% of students are concerned about the economy.

The number one post-graduation fear among students is not finding a job (36%), followed by student loan debt (30%).

20% of students think that a college education is less important due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

52% of students say their school is not doing enough to educate them about personal finance.

Having emergency savings (44%) is the most important financial lesson students have learned from the pandemic, followed by not going into debt (23%) and having a steady job (22%).

The best credit cards for 2022 graduates are the Bank of America® Unlimited Cash Rewards credit card for Students (limited credit & EDU email), the Petal® 2 Visa® Credit Card (limited credit & no EDU email) and the Discover it® Secured Credit Card (damaged credit).

# THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

## Double Whammy!

Things are tough for anyone trying to purchase a house, with a double whammy of rising prices and increasing interest rates. Inventories are very low, and supply chain issues and labor shortages continue to complicate construction.



The past couple of years have seen median sales prices of existing homes jump by close to \$100,000 in many Texas markets. Costs of existing homes had been rising fairly steadily for almost a decade before the pandemic.

As COVID-19 increased remote work options and the need for additional space in homes for work and school, many people started looking to buy. Stimulus packages increased available cash, further fueling demand, while monetary policy moves to stabilize the economy pushed interest rates to historic lows. The result was a steep increase in housing prices as demand far outstripped supply.

Over the past few months, typical mortgage rates have jumped from less than 3% to well over 5%, quite modest by historical standards (they were higher from the 1960s through late 2009), but substantially above recent experience. Although the Federal Reserve doesn't directly control mortgage rates, tightening policy by reducing security purchases and raising the federal funds rate target generally

signals other rates to rise. There is little doubt that Fed action is necessitated by inflation, but it also assures that borrowers will face higher costs.

Although there are many factors involved in individual loans, the change in mortgage rates is clearly affecting Texas homebuyers. For every percentage point the interest rate rises, monthly payments jump about \$60 per \$100,000 in loan value on a 30-year note. In the Austin area, for example, where the median sales price in March was over \$520,000, the two percentage point increase we've seen since the beginning of the year means well over \$500 per month added to the payment (with 10% down on a 30-year note).

Among the hardest hit groups are first-time buyers and those looking in lower price ranges. When prices for everything from food to gasoline are also rising, higher costs for housing are even more difficult for many to navigate. Housing values further translate to incremental property taxes and insurance costs, which affects even those who aren't currently buying. Rents have increased sharply as well.

Construction challenges and price increases for essential inputs will keep new homes pricey and discourage building lower-cost residences which typically provide smaller profit margins. Interest rates will likely continue to rise as the Fed battles inflation, and there are notable near-term headwinds. There are early signs that the market may be calming down to some degree as people give up or are "priced out" of the market, but unfortunately, it's unclear that relief is coming any time soon. Stay safe!

## West Mt. Cemetery Assoc. elects directors

By Phillip Williams

The West Mountain Cemetery Association re-elected three members of its board of directors at its annual luncheon meeting Sunday afternoon.

They include Craig McCrary, Danny Johnson and Llean Williams.

In addition, the association announced the names of six persons--some of them deceased--it is honoring with "dedication bricks" for exceptional service to the graveyard.

They include J.C. Smith, Clinton Clark, Seth Bowden, veterinarian Dr. Hugh Phillips, Nell Brinkley and McCrary.

Association President Larry Pyle additionally announced that such bricks would also be presented next year in honor of Franklin Sobey, Louis Wayne Clark and Coleman Starkey.

About 35-40 persons attended Sunday's event under the historic cemetery's pavilion on U.S. 271 between Gilmer and Gladewater.

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**CONTEST OPEN** to all Texas amateur and professional photographers

**ENTRIES ACCEPTED** NOTE NEW LOCATION! 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., TBT Marketing Building, 309 East Methvin, Longview

**QUESTIONS?** Contact 903-237-5583 for additional information

**TEXAS BANK AND TRUST**  
ENTRY FORMS are available at all TB&T locations, or online @ [www.texasbankandtrust.com/photocontest](http://www.texasbankandtrust.com/photocontest)

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Suddenlink is becoming Optimum and as part of the change we're building Optimum Fiber in Tyler, our all new, 100% Fiber Internet that delivers upload speeds as fast as downloads for seamless working, streaming, and gaming.

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Learn more about the change from Suddenlink to Optimum and let's reconnect at [suddenlink.com/reconnect](https://suddenlink.com/reconnect).

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is becoming **optimum**.

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