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Bears drop loop opener, host Sabine Friday night

By Tyler Sutton

On a cool fall night in Tatum, a shootout broke out between the Gladewater Bears and Tatum Eagles as both teams opened up district play Friday night at Eagles Stadium. In a back and forth battle the Bears unfortunately fell 28-22.

Both teams came out swinging on offense as both would go for it on fourth down on their opening drives of the game and neither would convert.

The Bears got on the scoreboard first midway through the first quarter as one play after Tatum failed to convert on a 4th down play, Kyron Wilson found star receiver Kollin Lewis for a 78 yard touchdown catch and a early 7-0 lead for Gladewater. But the Eagles answered back quickly as quarterback Cole Watson found an open seam and raced 38 yards for a touchdown and tied the game at 7. Then the miscue's began to mount for both teams. Tatum fumbled a punt and it was recovered by the Bears.

But just a few plays later Gladewater gave the ball right back when Lewis could not keep handle and fumbled and Tatum recovered at their own 43 yard line as the quarter ended.

The second quarter began with more big plays from the Eagles defense as Gladewater attempted a reverse pass but it was intercepted by Tatum's Nick Calhoun. After a Tatum punt, the Eagles defense forced another Bears turnover as Wilson's pass was picked off by the Eagles Jaylin Taylor who returned it all the way to the Gladewater 15 yard line. That set up Tatum with great field position and they took advantage as Calhoun took it in from the 5 yard line and the Eagles up 14-7 at the half.

The 3rd quarter began with again both teams offense's stalling.



Bear QB Kyron Wilson found star receiver Kollin Lewis for a 78 yard touchdown catch and a early 7-0 lead for Gladewater against Tatum.

Photo by Jim Bardwell

The Bears went three and out and punted while the Eagles went for it on 4th down and did not convert. Gladewater took advantage of that good field position and tied the game at 14 when Wilson found Tyrone Maddox for a 23 yard touchdown strike. But Tatum retook the lead late in the third when Watson ran in his second the fourth quarter took look like they were putting the game away when the Eagles Carson Gonzalez intercepted a Wilson pass and returned it to the Bears 26 yard line. A few plays later Calhoun ran in his second touchdown of the night to give the Eagles a 28-14 lead. Gladewater though continued to

fight as Wilson found the endzone on a 1 yard TD run and the Bears went for two and got it to cut the lead to 28-22.

After forcing a Tatum punt, the Bears had one last gasp and got into Tatum territory but a Wilson pass on fourth down fell incomplete and that was the ballgame.

The Eagles improved to 3-3 on the season and 1-0 in district play while the Bears lost their third straight game and dropped to 1-5 and 0-1 in district play. Gladewater will be back home next Friday for their home district opener against the Sabine Cardinals. Kickoff is at 7 P.M. Sabine lost its district open as well falling 42-7 to Atlanta

GHS to pay tribute to Weldon Bumblebees

The Gladewater Bears will pay tribute to the Weldon High School Bumblebees this Friday night by wearing green and white Weldon Bumblebee jerseys, according to Gladewater Athletic Director Jonny Louvier.

A special ceremony will be held before the game to honor Weldon and its rich history to Gladewater. In the decades before schools integrated in the 1960s, Weldon High School served black children in Gladewater ISD.

The late Coach Curtis Calvin Cooksey started the football program at Weldon High School in 1939 with only 15 players.

Under his guidance, the team, named the BUMBLEBEES, became a force to be reckoned with, and gained high respect from all of its opponents.

Coach Cooksey spent 25 years as a science, math and PE teacher at Weldon while serving as the head football coach for the bumblebees. Through the years, he mentored countless students, both academically as well as, athletically.

During his quarter-century as head coach at Weldon, C.C. Cooksey and the Bumblebees attained the following record:

- Games Played-260; Games Won - 191; Games Tied-3; Games Lost-66;
- District Champions - 10 times; Co-District Champions-1 time; District Champions (Runner-up)-11 times;
- Bi-District Champions - 6 times; State Semi-Final Champions-6 times; and
- State Champions (Runner-up) - 2 times (1955 and 1963)

When Coach Cooksey passed away in 1965, assistant coach Gene L. Cannon, who had played football for Cooksey when he was a student at Weldon, became the head coach. Under his leadership, the bumblebees continued their winning tradition.

In 1967, Coach Walter Derrick took over as head coach of the Weldon Bumblebees. Derrick, a Weldon graduate, had also been one of Coach Cooksey's high school football players, and one of his assistant coaches.

Coach Derrick led the bumblebees to its third and final state championship game appearance in 1968. An article in the December 1, 1968 edition of the Gladewater Mirror congratulated the Weldon Bumblebees and their coaching staff for their achievement of reaching the high plateau of playing for the state championship in the Prairieview Interscholastic League. That same article also paid tribute to the team and coaches for the excellent sportsmanship exhibited by them, even though the game ended in a loss for Weldon.

1968 was also the last year that Weldon operated as a high school, and the bumblebees played together as a team because in 1969, Gladewater ISD became fully integrated, and Weldon became the middle school for the district serving grades 6, 7 and 8.

The 28 years of football at Weldon sum up to the following statistics:

- Games Played-316; Games Won-235; Games Tied-5; Games Lost-77;
- District Champions-11 times; Co-District Champions-1 time; District Champions (Runner-up)-12 times;
- Bi-District Champions-7 times; State Semi-Final Champions-7 times; and
- State Champions (Runner-up)-3 times (1955, 1963 & 1968)



Thirty years ago John Mumby fought for the US Army in Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. Now he's fighting to raise awareness of the war's effects, known as Gulf War Syndrome, by walking across Texas from Waskom to El Paso. He stopped in Gladewater last week to share his message - "Not too many people remember but it was a chemical war, and that has affected quite a few soldiers," Mumby told the Mirror. The symptoms can be debilitating and I had come down with some of those symptoms myself." The symptoms are so severe they stand in the way of the ability to perform certain jobs but the government does not compensate veterans for their disabilities.



TFS raises preparedness level

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M Forest Service raised the State Wildland Fire Preparedness Level to Level 2 this week due to increased wildfire activity, particularly in the eastern half of the state.

Preparedness Levels 1-5 are planning assumptions and actions dictated by fuel and weather conditions, fire activity and fire suppression resource availability in the state. Level 5 is the highest level of wildland fire activity and indicates heavy resource commitment.

Texas A&M Forest Service response numbers have steadily increased over the past few weeks, particularly in East Texas. Agency firefighters have responded to 58 wildfires for 759 acres across the state in October. Fifty-one of those wildfires were in East Texas.

"Conditions are forecast to deteriorate in East Texas over the coming days, and we anticipate wildfire occurrence to increase," said Jake Donellan, Texas A&M Forest Service East Texas Operations Department Head. "We need Texans to remain diligent with all outdoor activities that cause sparks. Preventing wildfires is the best way to ensure the safety of both members of the public and our firefighters."

Saturday's fire environment may support wildfire in dry to critically dry timber litter fuel in the Western Pineywoods, Southeast, Northeast, North and Central Texas. Winds speeds are forecast to increase to almost 10 mph behind a passing cold front and will support wildfire growth.

The threat for large wildfires will remain low and is limited to pine and yaupon fuels in these areas.

Winds speeds are expected to decrease Sunday through Tuesday, but a moderate risk for wildfire remains for these areas, as no improvement in the dry to critically dry timber litter fuel is expected.

"Texas A&M Forest Service has a long history of working closely with local fire departments across the state," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "Our agency personnel provide



The Gladewater Fire Department reminds residents a permit is required to burn inside city limits at all times. To obtain the required permit for burning inside the city please contact City Hall during regular business hours. Anyone burning without a permit can be cited for each incident. Additionally, all information for burning inside the city limits can be found online at <https://www.gladewaterfire.com/burning-inside-city-limits> or with the supplied permit.

expertise in heavy equipment, like bulldozers, to help these departments suppress wildfires that ignite in the heavy timber fuels of this area."

In anticipation of wildfire activity, the agency has strategically staged personnel and equipment across areas of concern for a fast response. This includes the addition of a helicopter, which carries at least 700 gallons of water, in Smithville.

Texas A&M Forest Service does not own any aviation resources but instead uses federal aviation contracts through the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for all firefighting aircraft.

Stay wildfire aware. If a wildfire is spotted, immediately contact local authorities. For current conditions and wildfire outlook, read the Texas Fire Potential Outlook at <https://bit.ly/3kemhbg>.



OPINION/COMMENTARY

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

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



Fortune favors the brave...

Ideas matter. A lot.

Sometimes more than anything else.

They inspire revolutions, political and personal. They inspire change. They inspire...us.

The recipe for innovation includes inspiration, passion, enthusiasm, courage and strength of will. Sometimes our inspiration surprisingly comes from pop culture. It did just that in 1981 when an Australian 12-year old went to the movies to see "Raiders of the Lost Ark". That inspired kid grew up to make millions in movies playing the X-Men character Wolverine.

And I will unabashedly admit that I do love X-Men... especially Wolverine. His movie character was a dedicated soldier who was experimented on against his will to create a super soldier. Wolverine has to remember who he really was and what his convictions really are to become a hero. Remember, this is based on a comic series that exploded in the brand-name, superficial 'in' culture of the 1980s. X-Men is about gifted outsiders feared for being different who must choose a better way despite how others respond to them.

Now stick with me if you aren't a fan because there are some pretty important ideas these favorite movie characters sometimes convey that apply right here at home.

My good pal (supreme exaggeration) Hugh Jackman has taken his talent far beyond the comic driven X-Men franchise. By the way, I actually did meet him. In New York City in a blizzard as he was leaving his Broadway show "The Boy From Oz". And yes, I got his autograph and took his picture to prove it.

This weekend I finally saw my old pal Hugh in the movie musical "The Greatest Showman" which he called a risky 'passion project' that was years in the making. The movie is about how P.T. Barnum brought people who were 'different' into the limelight and in this movie, into life as equal partners. I loved "The Greatest Showman". I am a sucker for good music, inspiring messages, risk-taking for a better world, and of course, Hugh Jackman.

Here are a couple of quotes from the movie that give you an inkling of the thought provoking inspiration these characters spark in its viewers, especially this one.

"No one ever made a difference by being like everyone else."

And, my absolute favorite... "Hyperbole isn't the worst crime. Men suffer more from imagining too little than too much."

We must remember that it is often the visionary who makes the biggest difference in our lives and world.

There are lessons here for all of us. Right now, our mayor, city council, school board, GISD administration and a few key citizens are trying to create a new environment in Gladewater of cooperation, transparency and innovation. That means that 'We the People' need to allow for change, a few detours, maybe a few mistakes along the way, and the courage and will to do what needs to be done to address our economic, educational, cultural and infrastructure challenges.

I believe in this community and its leadership and together we can make a difference and build a better future for Gladewater. After all, "Fortune always favors the brave, and never helps a man who does not help himself." P.T. Barnum



Texans urged to get flu shot

Flu season is underway, and health officials are urging Texans to get their vaccinations as soon as possible, since it takes about two weeks for the shot to take effect.

"Because influenza can be a very serious disease, we recommend that all individuals aged 6 months and older get their flu vaccine every year," said Dr. Jennifer Shuford, interim commissioner for the Texas Department of State Health Services.

"The flu vaccines for the 2022-2023 flu season have undergone substantial changes since last season, which will allow them to better protect against the flu viruses that are currently circulating," she said. "So it is important to go get this season's flu vaccine before flu activity increases even more in Texas."

People over the age of 65 have a choice of three recommended higher-dose flu vaccines, which are considered more effective for this age group. People can also safely get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster at the same time they get the influenza vaccine, Shuford said.

Flu shots are widely available. To find out where, go to Vaccines.gov.

Colorful fall foliage looks unlikely

With much of the state still abnormally dry, or in some stage of drought, trees across the state are struggling with the effects of high temperatures and little rain. That means it is likely this year's fall foliage won't be as vivid as usual, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

"Many trees put on fewer, smaller leaves this spring or started to change color or prematurely drop their leaves in the summer," said Karl Flocke, with the forest service. "All of this will most likely lead to fall colors that are less impressive than in years past."

Deciduous trees drop their leaves in the autumn to conserve energy. However, due to the drought, some trees are already dropping their leaves before the green chlorophyll begins breaking down, which is what results in fall colors. Other trees still have their leaves, but they have already turned dead and brown. There are other long-term effects from drought besides a lack of pretty colors, including a higher vulnerability to wood-boring insects. It could take months to determine the ultimate toll from the drought on the state's trees.

Emergency food benefits again extended

More than \$329 million in emergency food benefits are being extended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for October, marking 30 straight months of additional benefits.

All SNAP households will receive a minimum of \$95 in emergency allotments, in addition to their regular benefits. About 1.6 million Texas households benefit from the allotments. More than \$8.2 billion in emergency benefits have been

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



provided by USA to Texans since April 2020.

"HHSC is proud to continue helping Texans who need a helping hand to put food on their table," said Wayne Salter if the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, which administers the program.

School safety chief appointed

A new position of state chief of school safety and security has been created following the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Former Secret Service agent John P. Scott is filling that post.

"Protecting Texas children and making our schools safer for all are top priorities, and John Scott is uniquely qualified to help lead our efforts ensuring their safety and security in Texas schools," Gov. Greg Abbott said. "Chief Scott's wealth of experience in security and intelligence and exemplary service to our nation make him the perfect fit as the new Chief of School Safety and Security."

Scott served in a number of positions in the Secret Service. He will report directly to Mike Morath, Texas commissioner of education.

Uvalde ISD suspends entire force

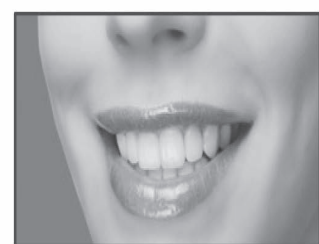
The Uvalde school district has suspended its entire police force and placed two administrators on leave, following withering criticism to law enforcement response to the late May shooting, when an 18-year-old gunman killed 19 students and two teachers.

The Texas Standard reported the action came after investigations revealed that officers waited more than an hour before engaging the shooter, as students and teachers pleaded with 911 dispatchers to send help. The shooter ultimately was killed by law enforcement officers.

Family members of the victims camped out at district headquarters for 10 days demanding action, the report said.

COVID-19 cases continue to drop

The Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University reported new cases of COVID-19 in Texas during the past week dropped once again to 14,225, with 104 new deaths. The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,359 lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state, down slightly from the previous week.



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CHOICES THAT DETERMINE OUR DESTINY

As long as we live, we will be faced with the task of making decisions. Since the creation, man has always had to make decisions. The Bible is filled with examples of choices to be made, and with those who made choices. Deut. 30: 19 says "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live." Joshua said: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" (Josh. 24: 15). On Mt. Carmel, Elijah told the people they had to make a choice of whom they would serve (1 Kgs. 18: 21). Moses chose to "suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11: 24-25). And, so it is with us today. There are a number of things we must make decisions and choices about, and these decisions and choices determine our eternal destiny. These are ETERNAL choices and decisions!

William Jennings Bryan said: *Destiny is not a matter of chance it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.*" Another wrote: "God has no policeman to pass around and grab us by the neck and say you must read your Bible, or you must go to church, or you must be baptized. When God created man, He made man superior to all other creatures. He gave man the power and privilege of choice. The Lord respects that privilege. He will not force us. With that privilege of choice goes the terrible responsibility of abiding by and living with the results or consequences of our choices."

My friend, who will you serve? Which road will you follow? Upon which foundation will you build your life? (Matt. 7: 13-14, 24-27). You may say "I don't want to choose." But choose you must and choose you will! The refusal to choose is a form of choice; disbelief is a form of belief. No answer is also an answer! You can serve God or the devil, you can build your life on the rock or on the sand, you can enter the narrow or wide gate, and stroll on the narrow or broad way. One leads to life, and the other to destruction. It's your choice! Think on these things.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Manna House needs

The local Manna House needs your help so they can help those needing assistance.

Manna House needs help - such as bread, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter and mac-n-cheese. Also needed is cranberry sauce and cake mix for the upcoming holidays.

If you are grocery shopping, consider picking up a few extra items for Manna House, so they can keep helping others. Drop off the non-perishable items at 519 E Broadway Ave. or the Gladewater Mirror at 211 N. Main. Got questions, call (903) 845-3128.

Counselors now available to assist with Medicare Open Enrollment

People with Medicare have more choices and options for their Medicare coverage in 2023. Plan costs and covered benefits have changed, so the Area Agency on Aging of East Texas (AAA) encourages people with Medicare to look at their coverage choices and decide the options that best fit their health needs.

Open Enrollment for 2023 Medicare health and drug plans begins on October 15, 2022, and ends on December 7, 2022, giving individuals a chance to modify their plans.

The AAA is also known as the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and is available to compare your current coverage with available options and assist you with enrollment at no cost.

Speak to a qualified Benefits Counselor by calling 1-800-442-8845.

GW Garden Club

The Gladewater Garden Club, established 1949, meets the fourth Monday of each month at the Gardens of Gladewater Clubhouse, 108 N. Lee Street, at 1 p.m..

They have monthly programs by gardenign experts and refreshments. If you are interested in joinign contact a garden club member.

Storytime on tap

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



The Gladewater Rotary Club's Students of the Month were Union Grove students Aaron Amos and Emily Bible. They were joined by Rotarian Sam Cloud.

Photo by Darla Ferguson

in Gilmer on Thursday, Oct. 6. "Diary of a Spider" by Doreen Cronin, and "Walter's Wonderful Web" by Tim Hopgood, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings.

A craft will follow each Storytime. 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.

ETCOG to host Grant Management Workshop

ETCOG's East Texas Economic Development District has partnered with Grant Writing USA to host a two-day grant management workshop in Longview, on October 25-26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Maude Cobb Convention Center.

"Many of our communities rely heavily on grants to support their program budgets. This is an opportunity for them to learn about managing grants once awarded. Our team can also assist with

grant research and application assistance to supplement their training," said Lynda David, ETCOG's Economic Development Specialist.

The workshop is open to jurisdictions, city managers, commissioners, emergency management departments, public safety departments, special districts, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, and nonprofits.

The cost to attend is \$565, which includes two days of instruction, a 500-page workbook, and a reference guide. Individuals who attended the first grant writing workshop in June 2022 can receive a \$100 discount and groups of five or more can receive a \$50 discount per person by using the discount code "Friends" at registration.

Tax notices going out

Some 66,000 property tax statements should begin arriving in Upshur County taxpayers' mailboxes by late this week, County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell announced.

The statements, sent to the printer Oct. 4, usually take about five days to print and mail, she said.

Howell's office sends

statements for not only the county government, but also school districts (other than Gladewater), cities, the county's two emergency services districts, and the portion of the Kilgore College district in the county.

Since New Diana ISD has called a Nov. 8 election on raising its tax rate, the approximately 3,600 statements from that school will not be mailed out with the bulk of the others, Howell said.

They will be mailed as soon as possible--"hopefully within a week or so"--after the election, she added.

She also noted that the city of Ore City and Ore City ISD abolished the discount they formerly offered for paying taxes early.

Deadline for paying without incurring a penalty is Jan. 31. For more information, contact Howell's office at 903-843-3085.

County cleanup held

Saturday's "County-Wide Clean-Up," sponsored by the Upshur County Commissioners Court and ETEX Telephone, "went smoothly," drawing 99 cars, trucks, and trailers to dump items free of charge, said Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley.

The court holds the event at the county pug mill in Pritchett community twice a year.

"There was plenty of help and participation from Upshur County departments," including four "hard-working" trusty inmates from the county jail, Ashley wrote.

"Each citizen's truck or trailer was unloaded quickly," he said.

Chili supper on tap

Bethesda Lodge No. 142, A.F.& A.M., of Gilmer will hold a fund-raising chili supper Friday, Oct. 28.

The event is set for 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the lodge, 211 W. Harrison, prior to Gilmer High School's home football game.

Tickets, available in advance or at the door, are \$7. Diners can dine in or get take-out orders.

OBITUARY

ERNIE AILLS

Ernie Aills, 60, of Gilmer, passed away on October 1, 2022 in Midland at Midland Memorial Hospital. He was born on June 18, 1962, in Gladewater. Ernie was raised by the late William "Bubba" Davis and Mary (Ferguson) Davis in the Union Grove community, where he attended school as well.



On November 7, 1981, Ernie married the love of his life, Tami Sheridan, in Union Grove.

Ernie worked his entire career in the oil field industry as a wire line operator, working at the time of his passing for Vaughn Energy Services. Ernie loved to deer hunt as well as time spent camping. His family, especially his grandchildren, were first and foremost for Ernie. He loved spending time and being able to do anything to support his family. Ernie was one who would do anything he could to help you out.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Tami Aills; daughters, Crystal and her husband, Jeff, Merritt and Megan Williams; grandchildren, Anthony Merritt, Brandon Merritt, Malik Williams, Kara Williams and Kaelyn Williams; brothers, David (Mary) Aills and Faron (Laurie) Aills; stepbrother, Donald Wayne Davis and brother-in-law, Richard "Tiny" Park, as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Ernie is preceded in death by his parents, William "Bubba" and Mary Davis, his infant son, Christopher Daniel Aills, and his sister, Mary Jayne Park.

Funeral services for Ernie were held on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater. A visitation was held Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m. at the same location. Following the services, interment took place at Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery.



BARBARA PULLIN VAN HOUTEN

Barbara Pullin Van Houten, 82, of Gladewater passed away on October 9, 2022. She was born on January 3, 1940, to the late H.E. "Jake" and Lillian (Comeaux) Pullin in Gladewater. Barbara was raised and spent most of her life in Gladewater, graduating from Gladewater High School.

Barbara married Walter Van Houten on February 2, 1957, and together they raised two children, Trecia and Donald. Barbara worked a few different jobs in her life, including working at the florist shop and Walker's Pharmacy, but raising her family was of most importance to Barbara. She obtained her Cosmetology License but kept that for cutting her family's hair. Barbara enjoyed sewing and doing crafts in her spare time and helped make costumes for the Honeybears at one time. She was a long-time member of Clarksville City Baptist Church, where she attended Sunshine Class.

She is survived by her children, Trecia Cail and her husband, Neil, of Frisco and Donald "Donnie" Van Houten of Gladewater; grandchildren, Holly Nicole Van Houten of Houston and Brian Patrick Van Houten of Gladewater; brother Allen Pullin and his wife, Lyn, of Vidor.

She is preceded in death by her parents, H.E. "Jake" and Lillian Pullin, as well as her beloved husband of 61 years, Walter.

Funeral Services for Barbara will be held on Friday, October 14, 2022, at Croley Funeral in Gladewater at 11:00 am. A visitation will be held Thursday evening from 6:00-8:00 pm. Following the services, Barbara will be laid to rest next to her husband in the Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery.

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Brycen Porter rushed for a Union Grove Lions first down during the junior high scrimmage against Harleton on Oct. 6.

Photo by Ashlyn Heard

Lions fall to Harleton, 61-6

Blaine Cornelius had a hand in six touchdowns - passing for a couple and adding four on the ground - as the Harleton Wildcats earned a 61-6 win over the Union Grove Lions.

Cornelius completed 10 of 12 passes for 257 yards and two touchdowns and carried nine times for 111 yards and four scores as the Wildcats moved to 3-3 overall and 1-1 in district play. Carson Wallace had three catches for 107 yards and a touchdown, and Zane Stroman also caught a TD pass. Draven Ring, Cameron Johnson and Izayah Faris all scored rushing TDs.

Cooper Vestal passed for 31 yards and rushed for 25 in the loss for Union Grove. Jesse Fulmer added seven carries for 31 yards, and Peyton Laake had two catches for 12 yards.

Harleton will visit Big Sandy on Friday. Union Grove (3-4, 0-3) hosts Big Sandy on Oct. 20.

THE ECONOMIST

Making stuff ...

Recent data is showing some encouraging signs for manufacturing employment. The United States has recovered all production jobs lost during the pandemic and then some, and there is ample reason for this upward trend to persist.



By way of perspective, manufacturing employment in the United States reached its all-time high in June 1979 at almost 19.6 million. After falling sharply during the recession of the early 1980s, the number of jobs in the sector bounced around about 17 to 18 million for decades.

The early 2000s brought another steep drop during the dot-com downturn. Things leveled off for a few years before dropping again during the Great Recession. The bottom was reached in early 2010, with manufacturing employment of less than 11.5 million. Almost one third of US manufacturing jobs had been lost in just a decade between 2000 and 2010 alone, and employment in the sector hadn't been that low since the 1940s.

We began to see slow, but fairly steady growth after that time. By February 2020 (just before the pandemic), almost 12.8 million people worked in the manufacturing sector, a total which fell precipitously to 11.4 million a couple of months later and wiped out a decade of gains. We topped the pre-COVID-19 level again in June 2022, however, and the positive trajectory continues.

It is important to note that part of what has been going on for decades is the ability to make more stuff with fewer people. Automation and advanced manufacturing techniques have totally revamped the process. Moreover, the goods being produced have shifted toward higher value added categories, and output is much higher than in the past (approximately doubling in the past 25 years).

The recent pattern is encouraging for multiple reasons. One is that it's due to both smaller, entrepreneurial firms doing well and larger firms shifting focus for certain types of operations back to the United States. This "reshoring" reflects the realization that it makes sense to have some domestic production even if it's not always the lowest cost short-term option. The pandemic illustrated that, during difficult times, domestic production of key goods can be crucial. For example, the capacity to produce certain health products in the United States could help ensure we have the things we need in emergency situations. Similarly, tens of billions are being invested in semiconductor plants, as the risks associated with not having that capability have been dramatically demonstrated.

The pandemic escalated an ongoing trend toward considering a longer-term strategic horizon. Today's lowest cost option might be trouble for sustainability down the road. I think we'll continue to see companies diversify their supply network, with one beneficial result being more manufacturing output and jobs staying close to home. Stay safe!

Dr. Ray Perryman is President and CEO of The Perryman Group, an economic research and analysis firm based in Waco, Texas. His firm has served the needs of more than 2,500 clients, including two-thirds of the Global 25, over half of the Fortune 100, the 12 largest technology firms in the world, 10 US Cabinet Departments, the 9 largest firms in the US, the 6 largest energy companies operating in the US, and the 5 largest US banking institutions.

TPWD recommends necessary precautions to reduce spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza

AUSTIN – Recently, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a backyard poultry flock in Dallas County. As expected by disease experts, HPAI is again circulating amongst wild birds in Texas as fall migration has begun for waterbirds and waterfowl. Earlier this year, HPAI was discovered in a bald eagle and a horned owl in Texas.

HPAI has been detected in 46 states across the country

and is a highly contagious virus that transmits easily among wild and domestic bird species. Symptoms include diarrhea, incoordination/stumbling, lethargy, coughing and sneezing and sudden death, though birds infected with HPAI may not always have outward signs of infection. The virus may spread in a variety of ways, including through contact with infected wild and domestic birds as well as by contaminated equipment, clothing and shoes of caretakers.

Because of the ease of transmission, TPWD recommends facilities with wild or domestic birds enhance their biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introduction. The public can assist in interrupting HPAI transmission by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds. Wildlife rehabilitators should also remain cautious when taking wild birds with clinical signs consistent with HPAI, quarantining them to limit the potential for exposures within the facility.

Additionally, game bird hunters should consider precautions such as disposing carcasses properly, wearing gloves when processing, avoiding consumption or processing of any sick bird, cleaning and disinfecting tools between carcasses using 10% bleach solution and cooking meat to proper temperature of 165 F.

The transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low for now, but TPWD advises basic protective measures (i.e., wearing gloves, face masks and handwashing) if contact with wild birds cannot be avoided. TPWD also recommends contacting the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for more information on the potential of HPAI to spread to humans and how to reduce your risk of exposure. If you had prior contact with a confirmed HPAI positive animal and are exhibiting signs of illness, immediately contact DSHS.

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DA recuses self from DWI case

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd announced last week that the state has granted his request to disqualify himself from handling the misdemeanor driving while intoxicated charge against 115th District Judge Dean Fowler, and that Smith County District Attorney Jacob Putman was assigned to the case.

"Judge Fowler and I work closely every day in the 115th District Court," Byrd said in a Oct. 5 news release. "I wanted to ensure our citizens that there was no appearance (of) or actual inpropriety, and the only way to do that was to remove myself" from handling the case.

"Our citizens need to know that their business is being handled professionally and that the pursuit of justice is always our goal. Removing any potential conflicts or appearance of impropriety was the only way to proceed forward," Byrd added.

Fowler, 60, of Gilmer, was arrested after a Sept. 9 two-vehicle nighttime crash on Texas 154 three miles east of the city, according to the Upshur County Sheriff's Office and Texas Department of Public Safety. No injuries were reported.

The judge, who has declined comment on the charge itself, was released on \$1,500 bond and said he would continue performing his normal duties while the case was pending. Fowler, whose court includes Upshur and Marion Counties, also said he retained Longview attorney David Moore to represent him.

Byrd's news release from his Gilmer office erroneously stated that "the offense date" for the charge "stems from Friday, September 10" when the crash date was actually Friday, Sept. 9. He added that on Sept. 14, "I filed a

motion with the administrative judge over our region, the Honorable Alfonso Charles, asking that I be recused from the prosecution and charging decisions."

Charles, who is a state district judge in Gregg County, agreed and assigned Putman "to handle the charging decisions and prosecution of this case," Byrd added. (The news release erroneously spelled Putman's name as "Putnam.")

The district attorney said he "felt it necessary" to issue the news release "due to the amount of ongoing phone calls and inquiries that have been made to me regarding" the case's status.

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct lists disciplinary actions against judges on its website, which showed no mention of Fowler on Monday. When The Mirror emailed the commission to inquire whether it had taken any action involving him, its executive director, Jacqueline Habersham, replied that under "strict statutory confidentiality rules," the commission "cannot confirm or deny a complaint has been filed or is pending."

In addition, Habersham wrote, the commission is not "permitted to comment on the results of any investigation absent the issuance of public discipline. As such, the commission has no information responsive to your request."

Reached for comment Monday, Putman said, "It's a pending case, so we are, you know, collecting the discovery (of evidence) in the case, and we'll be in contact with Judge Fowler's attorneys in the future, and proceed like every other case."

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CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
10/22/22	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20224918	1:08	VICTOR'S MUSIC EXCHANGE	1303 S TYLER TYLER
	EMS	20224919	2:11		321 EDDY EDDY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20224920	2:35		MELBA MELBA
	ASSIST	20224922	9:08	CEFCO #79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20224923	9:24	WALKER PHARMACY	402 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20224924	10:19		105 N PAUL PAUL
	EMS	20224925	14:00		605 S GLENDA GLENDA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224926	17:16		HWY 80 E HWY 80 E
	EMS	20224927	18:02		11756 UNION GROVE UNION GROVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224928	18:22		UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224929	19:29		1107 N LYNN LYNN
10/3/22	10-50 MINOR	20224930	5:31	SABINE RIVER BOAT RAMP	1000 S RIVER RIVER RD
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20224931	9:58		2186 N MAIN MAIN ST
	CRIM TRESPASS	20224932	12:57		225 LOCKER PLANT LOCKER PLANT
	EMS	20224935	13:43		510 WHITE WHITE
	ASSIST	20224936	13:58		1388 W GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20224937	16:03	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	
	ASSIST	20224938	18:26		512 W JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20224939	20:05	SHEPPARD SHEPPARD	
	EMS	20224940	20:32		66 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224941	22:01		2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20224942	23:39		211 MILLS MILLS
10/4/22	ALARM/OTHER	20224943	4:44	ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE	409 N MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20224944	9:34		105 N PAUL PAUL ST
	ASSIST	20224945	10:29		N RODEO RODEO ST
	EMS	20224946	12:56		1520 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	ASSIST	20224948	14:31		205 S MILL MILL ST
	ASSIST	20224949	14:34		5886 FM 1844 FM 1844
	ABANDONED 911	20224951	16:29		100 LEE LEE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224952	21:11	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224953	22:34		HWY 80 HWY 80
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20224954	22:37		1000 NORTH NORTH ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20224955	23:46		57 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
10/9/22	MISCELLANEOUS	20224956	0:09	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224957	0:17		303 COOPER COOPER
	ABANDONED 911	20224958	1:02		303 COOPER COOPER
	THEFT	20224959	2:41		103 N COTTON COTTON ST
	MISSING PERSON	20224960	5:22		401 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS
	ASSIST	20224961	5:40		162 HICKORY HICKORY
	10-50 MINOR	20224962	6:27	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	EMS	20224963	9:45	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224964	11:22		W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20224965	11:43		1110 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS
	ESCORT	20224966	11:49	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	10-50 MINOR	20224967	15:12	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20224968	15:26		518 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20224969	15:41	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224970	16:18		132 N LEE LEE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224971	17:12		1306 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20224972	19:57	BUMBLE BEE PARK	637 COACH COOKSEY ST COACH COOKSEY ST
	WARRANT	20224973	19:59		905 PACIFIC PACIFIC ST
10/6/22	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20224974	0:20	GLADEWATER FIRE TRAINING TOWER	400 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20224975	0:31	ALLSTATE COATINGS	100 N LEE LEE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224976	0:44		905 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20224977	1:31	EVERETT PARK	901 N LEE LEE ST
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20224978	3:17		600 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	EMS	20224979	3:20		2806 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ABANDONED 911	20224980	5:02	ALLSTATE COATINGS	100 N LEE LEE ST
	RECKLESS DAMAGE	20224981	7:15		E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20224982	9:44		205 W GAY GAY AVE
	ESCORT	20224983	12:37	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224984	15:45		73 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224985	18:08		508 N POST POST
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20224986	18:22		2203 WOODBINE WOODBINE

	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20224987	18:37		601 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224988	19:58		500 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224989	19:59		601 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20224990	22:27		EDDY EDDY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20224991	23:00	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
10/7/22	10-50 MINOR	20224992	1:46	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20224994	7:58	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20224995	10:04	GAY AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20224996	11:39	GLADEWATER CITY HALL	519 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20224997	12:00		602 N POST POST ST
	EMS	20224998	12:18		801 ALLISON ALLISON
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20224999	13:22		W SUNSET SUNSET AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20225000	13:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20225001	14:28	CHRISTUS EMS	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FIRE DEPT	20225002	15:38		511 S TYLER TYLER
	FIRE DEPT	20225003	16:09		MAIN MAIN
	FIRE DEPT	20225005	17:25		271 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225006	18:42	FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225007	19:53		511 S TYLER TYLER
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20225009	23:06		2709 W GAY GAY
	EMS	20225010	23:27		511 TYLER TYLER
10/8/22	WARRANT	20225012	1:50		900 S TYLER TYLER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225014	9:35	WILSON ROYALTY FUNERAL SERVICES	505 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225015	11:41		305 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	WARRANT	20225016	11:46		100 N LEE N LEE
	EMS	20225017	12:17		203 OAK DR OAK DR
	EMS	20225018	12:45		140 PR 3479 PR 3479
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225019	12:56		THOMAS RD THOMAS RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225020	13:35		1905 CHESTNUT CHESTNUT
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20225021	14:28	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20225022	21:56		1004 N RODEO RODEO
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20225023	23:18		LYNN LYNN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225024	23:44		28 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD
10/9/22	MISCELLANEOUS	20225025	6:09		28 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD
	ABANDONED 911	20225026	9:46		
	ASSIST	20225027	11:29		10882 LOCUST LOCUST RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225028	11:48	SABINE RIVER BOAT RAMP	1000 S RIVER RIVER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20225029	12:03		321 W SUNSET SUNSET
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20225030	14:07		110 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20225031	14:25	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	UNATTENDED DEATH	20225032	14:35		28 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20225033	14:44		1110 N LYNN LYNN
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20225034	14:51	SABINE RIVER BOAT RAMP	1000 S RIVER RIVER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20225035	15:48		517 N FERRY FERRY
	10-50 MINOR	20225036	17:19		UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20225037	17:28		1204 NORTH NORTH
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20225038	18:50		1199 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
10/10/22	EMS	20225039	0:56		500 RIVERSIDE RIVERSIDE DR
	EMS	20225040	5:16		1310 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR

Police Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
10/2/22	10/2/22	2:37	BUCKNER, TONI DENISE	W	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	600 N TENERY
	10/2/22	2:37	BUCKNER, TONI DENISE	W	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	600 N TENERY
10/5/22	10/5/22	19:50	MCREE, THOMAS EDWIN JR	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	905 E PACIFIC AVE
10/8/22	10/8/22	2:00	BERRY, DUSTIN DEWAYNE	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	800 S TYLER
	10/8/22	2:00	BERRY, DUSTIN DEWAYNE	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	800 S TYLER
	10/8/22	12:07	FLOYD, DENNIS CHARLES	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	100 N LEE

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Union Grove runners capture 21AA crown

By Faith Woodall

Each of Union Grove's cross country teams traveled to Hawkins for the district meet on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

Both the varsity Lions and Lady Lions won their district championships and will head to the regional contest in Huntsville on Monday, Oct. 24. The Varsity Girls are the 2-time Region III Defending Champions and will be going for a Three Peat.

The Lady Lions earned four top-10 medals with Gracie Stanford finishing in second place, Sophie Pyle in third, Gracie Winn fifth, Keira Taylor 12th, Kenia Velazquez 16th, Jenna Scott 17th and Analeice Jones 20th. The Lions also earned four medals with Celson James in third, Will Wilson sixth, Brendon Fuller seventh, Preston Woodall ninth, Isaiah O'Neal 11th, Lane Turner 13th and Jaxson Daniels 27th.

The junior varsity girls' and boys' teams also won first place overall. Madyson Lowe and Mason Stanley finished in first place individually, earning them the official title of district champion. Gracelyn Head came in second, Ava Wightman third, Moriah McTyre fifth and Allie Calhoun sixth. Kenneth Flanagan finished second, Colton Cowan third, Cason Cowan fourth, Josiah Sturkie seventh and Josh Baker eighth.

The junior high girls won their division and the district championship. Landry Harris led the team by earning first place individually. Rachel Potter came in fourth, Danica Vestal sixth, Hailey Griffin seventh, Emma Wadle 14th, Jill Taylor 17th, Hannah Pillow 24th, Averi Cook 26th, Miley Nono 29th, Rebekah Downing 31st, Alana Cox 36th, Bree Cox 41st, Auora Pavlovsky 44th and Brinley Campbell 47th.

The junior high boys left as district runner up with three top-ten medalists. Kody Nutt finished in fourth place, David Shaver ninth, Ryder Martindale 10th, Hudson Wightman 18th, Easton Head 19th, Liam Mayhan 28th, Kolby Nutt 34th, Waylon Clift 35th, Connor Mead 36th and Conner Stanford 37th.

"I'm super proud of all of their efforts, and the results speak for themselves," head coach James Littlejohn said. "Now for varsity runners to prepare for the regional meet and advance to the state meet because it's what we do here in XC!"

The Union Grove Varsity Girls' 21AA District XC Championship is the 8th-straight year and the Varsity Boys District Championship makes it 4 out of the last 5 years.



Freshman Madyson Lowe wins first place in the junior varsity girls' division.

Photos by Daytona Vaughn

Lady Bears sweep Daingerfield

The Gladewater Lady Bears volleyball team had a 1-1 week this past week as they split 2 games on the road in district play.

The Lady Bears traveled to Daingerfield on Tuesday afternoon and picked up a 3-0 sweep of the Tigers. Gladewater would then travel to New Diana and fell 3-0 to the Eagles. With a 1-1 week, the Lady Bears record now sits at 15-20 and 1-4 in district play. Another 2 road games will be on the schedule this week as the Lady Bears head to Sabine on Tuesday and Hughes Springs on Friday. Both are 4:30 starts

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Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council hears state agencies' responses to ongoing fentanyl crisis

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar recently chaired a meeting of the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council (O AFC) to discuss what state agencies are doing to combat the ongoing fentanyl crisis.

Officials from more than half a dozen state agencies, including the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), gave presentations detailing the scope of the current fentanyl crisis in Texas, strategies for abatement response and the deployment of #onepillkills, a cross-agency anti-fentanyl communication plan.

"Texas agencies made

clear they are taking this crisis seriously and are utilizing available resources to fight against this deadly epidemic," Hegar said. "From combating criminal activity at the border, to deploying an array of communication strategies to educate Texans on the dangers of fentanyl, and utilizing targeted behavioral health interventions to treat opioid use disorder, the state is actively working to abate this crisis."

Texas DPS Director Col. Steven McCraw highlighted an "epidemic of opioid overdoses." Since March 2021, DPS has seized enough fentanyl to kill over 337 million Americans, he said. McCraw attributed the rise in fentanyl to drug cartels that are

producing and smuggling fentanyl across the Texas-Mexico border and gangs that are distributing this deadly product within Texas and the United States.

More than 2,700 Texans were killed by drug overdoses in 2019, according to a study from HHSC. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in collaboration with leadership at HHSC and input from partners and stakeholders, laid out its action plan to address substance abuse in Texas, which has three public health areas of focus: surveillance, education and resource development. The plan, officials said, has already led to some key accomplishments,

such as better data reporting. Other developments include new online resources for continuing education related to substance abuse and for connecting people to treatment and recovery services.

Officials from HHSC and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice also discussed the need for broadband services across the state to improve access to treatment through telehealth services, especially in rural and underserved areas that may have few or no health-care providers.

TEA officials discussed their immediate response to reach parents, students and caregivers. Each school superintendent was sent a letter

citing data on the prevalence and lethality of fentanyl. School systems have been provided with a list of targeted resources that are available now to initiate local prevention efforts.

TEA also explained the dual meaning behind certain emojis. Drug traffickers are using emojis to advertise and sell counterfeit pills and other illicit drugs through texts and on social media. TEA cited a poster intended to give parents and caregivers a better sense of how this language is being used in connection with illegal drugs. TEA is working on developing communication materials for school systems and providing materials to equip parents and caregivers

with important information and convening awareness events.

The meeting concluded with a commitment by the O AFC to prepare processes and procedures to guide future funding decisions, with the goal of maximizing the impact of opioid settlement dollars by ensuring they fund effective, evidence-based programs.

O AFC, overseen by the Comptroller's office, was formed to ensure money recovered through the joint efforts of the state and its political subdivisions through a statewide opioid settlement agreement is allocated fairly and spent to remediate the opioid crisis using efficient, cost-effective methods.

Drought impacted forage, pastures different statewide

By Emmy Powell
Communications Specialist

This year has been nowhere close to normal. Throughout the spring and summer, Texas experienced drought. Some areas remain in drought, and others have seen relief.

"This has been a unique year," Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension forage extension specialist in Overton, said. "There are counties in Central Texas where half of the county has had moisture and the other half has not. So, rainfall has been fairly sporadic, and most of the rainfall that we've received has probably been toward the end of August, beginning of September."

Corriher-Olson put emphasis on the varying conditions in Texas.

"In some parts of the state, we have had some improved growth on some of our forages in those areas where there has been some moisture," she said. "There are still parts of our state that are in extreme drought conditions and still have reduced forage production, and those areas and folks are having to depend very heavily on hay or other feed sources to maintain any of their livestock."

Farmers and ranchers face important decisions concerning planting and options for winter forages.

"How producers are responding is very dependent on where they are in the state," Corriher-Olson said. "I do recommend, if it is economical and if they can, to use winter forages as part of their forage system. A lot of folks have been relying heavily on hay. And if they do not plant winter forages or they're not able to plant winter forages, they'll continue to have to rely on hay, as well as other supplementation, to maintain any numbers of livestock."

Another challenge that affected forage production is the cost of fertilizer.

"High fertilizer prices have had a huge impact on our forage production," she said. "Some have not applied fertilizer which, of course, reduces forage production and forage persistence. And you top that with drought conditions, both have had a huge impact on our overall forage production for 2022."

She does not expect to see much relief in costs.

"I do not anticipate that we will see much relief in regard to fertilizer prices this winter," she said. "We do need to assume and prepare that they could likely still be this high next spring as we start moving into our hay, pasture season for 2023."

As cooler temperatures set in, farmers and ranchers are encouraged to be on the lookout for armyworms.

"I recommend producers start scouting for armyworms," she said. "We'll tend to see armyworms if we've been dry, then we get some moisture. There can be some concerns that are highly dependent, oftentimes, on weather conditions."

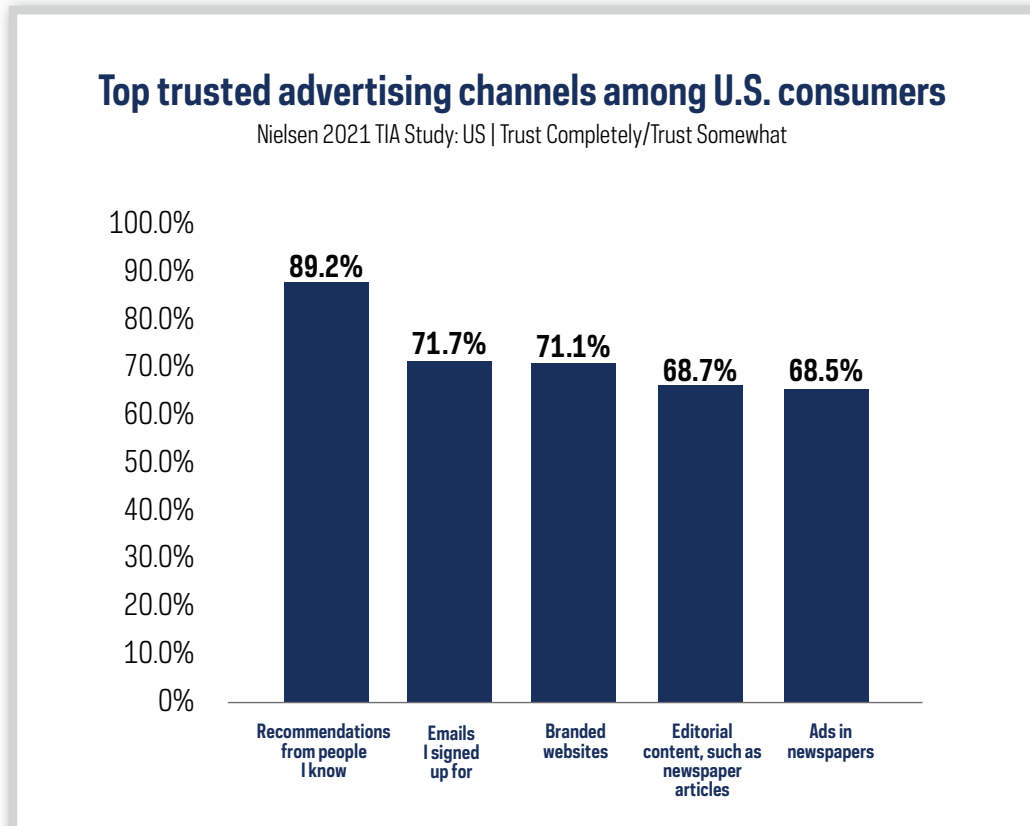
Other concerns that may arise, depending on weather, include nitrate toxicity, prussic acid or hydrogen cyanide poisoning. These concerns vary on the type of forage and weather conditions, but producers are encouraged to be aware and to evaluate hay.



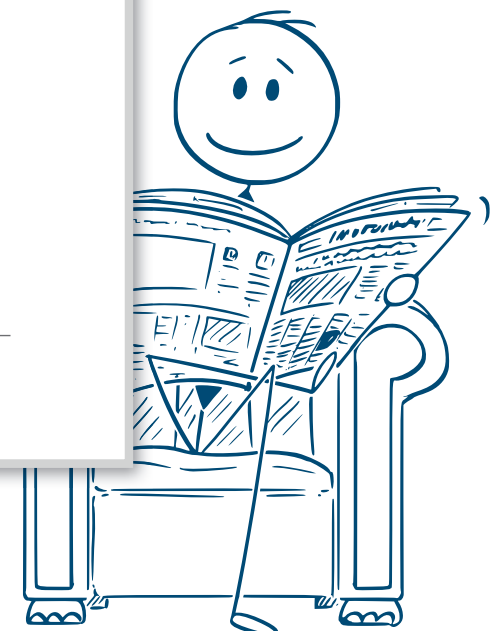
The Gladewater Middle School Chapter of The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) held a new member induction on October 4th to induct new members for the 2022-2023 school year. NJHS recognizes outstanding middle school students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. The current officers of the Gladewater Middle School's Chapter of NJHS are Coby Bellanger- President, Abigail Carney-Vice President, and Hydie Collins-Secretary. Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Choice serve as Advisors for the club. Courtesy Photo

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Special note: The Relevance Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience, measurement, data, ad analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 21 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.



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This Eagle Scout project by Landon Brown, son of Amanda and Donald Brown, and Troop 198 will be repairing wood as needed at the pocket park at US 271 and Quitman Street. The scouts will be staining the wood and rewiring electrical box so lights can be installed. Photos by Lois Reed



A pile of a variety of orange and white pumpkins. A pumpkin patch in Bryan. Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Laura McKenzie

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Texas pumpkin yields down, demand sky high

Texas pumpkin producers experienced a second sub-par season in a row, as drought conditions led to fewer management issues, but lower yields, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts. However, lower yields were translating into higher prices and demand.

Mark Carroll, AgriLife Extension agriculture agent, Floyd County, said drought contributed to below average yields, though many fields performed better than 2021 when too much rain led to yields 30% below average.

The pumpkin harvest in Floyd County, the top-producing area in the state, should wrap up within the next 10 days, Carroll said.

Producers reported a mixed bag of results due to drought, he said. Some who had ample irrigation capacity improved production by 10%-20% compared to last year, while others reported yields 10% below last year.

Boggy conditions made it difficult to impossible for producers to enter fields to manage the crop effectively in 2021, and yields suffered.

"We had virtually no rainfall this summer, so the crop relied entirely on irrigation," he said. "Getting the crop well established was an issue, but by July most fields looked good because pumpkins do really well in the heat."

Texas pumpkin production

Producers typically plant pumpkins between early May and June depending on the production window for harvest. Operations hoping to provide pumpkins for wholesale markets around the state and country want harvest in early September, while producers hoping to fill direct-to-consumer demand want harvest to begin in late September.

"It all comes down to the market they are hoping to supply," Carroll said. "Whether that is the wholesale route to grocery stores and other retailers or selling from their storefront, they want them ready for Halloween and fall decorations."

Most of the state's few thousand acres of pumpkins are grown in Floyd County around Floydada, a small agricultural town northeast of Lubbock.

Pumpkins represent a small amount of acreage in Texas when it comes to crop production, but Floydada is famous for its pumpkins. Illinois produces around 90% of the nation's crop, but a handful of Texas growers continue to produce high-demand heirloom and jack-o'-lantern standard varieties.

Their harvest is sold at wholesale and shipped throughout Texas, Oklahoma and as far east as Mississippi. Some producers sell pumpkins and pumpkin-based products directly to consumers at seasonal destination stores.

Producer perspective

Pumpkin producer Cris Hacker, of Hacker Farms in nearby Knox County, said demand and prices have been better than ever but unfortunately his production was about 50% of what it should be. Last year, his production was down about 40% compared to an average season.

Hacker produces about 20 varieties, including several jack-o'-lantern cultivars, as well as fairy-tale, ghost and Cinderella varieties to meet a mix of commercial and direct-to-consumer demand. He is also a contract grower for large grocery retailers.

Crop emergence was an issue in 50 acres of the 150 acres he planted this year, he said. He planted 100 acres around Memorial Day. Rainfall followed the planting, and plants emerged well. He planted the additional 50 acres two weeks later, and only around 20% of those plants emerged even with irrigation.

Hacker suspects poor pollination was another issue that hurt yields in his fields. He noted a much lower bee presence this season and said daytime temperatures were around 110 degrees during peak pollination.

In previous reports, AgriLife Extension horticulture specialists and plant physiologists said poor plant pollination during extreme heat could impact various crop yields. Pollen viability begins to degrade when temperatures rise beyond the mid-90-degree mark, and bees are less active in extreme heat.

"The plants looked better than ever, healthy and full, but did not put on any fruit," he said. "There were nowhere near as many bees compared to last year, and I noticed neighbors with irrigated cotton had a similar issue – good looking plants that were not putting on bolls."

Beyond the poor emergence and potential pollination issues, Hacker said the 2022 season presented fewer production issues compared to the overabundance of moisture last year. But the resulting yields were disappointing amid such good market conditions.

High demand is a result of lackluster production in Texas and other states, including New Mexico and Oklahoma.

"The price is the best it's ever been, and the demand is incredible," Hacker said. "Buyers call every day begging for pumpkins because it looks like most everyone's production is down this season."

Drought conditions were spreading across East Texas. Counties were reestablishing burn bans. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to good. Subsoil and topsoil conditions were short. Hay production came to a sudden halt. Producers in some areas began feeding hay. Livestock were in fair to good condition with some supplementation taking place. Producers continued to cull herds.

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