

Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



Thursday, May 4, 2023

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1 Section, 12 pages

50¢

House OKs \$4.5 billion for teacher pay raises

The Texas House last Thursday passed two education-related bills, one that allocates \$4.5 billion for teacher pay raises and another to increase the annual per-student base funding from \$6,160 to \$6,300 – a 2.3% increase.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the bill would create minimum salaries for teachers ranging from \$35,000 to \$63,000 depending on experience and level of education. It would also increase funding for special education and fine arts.

Some education advocates worry the per-student funding is insufficient to keep up with inflation, which has grown by 17% in the last four years, the Statesman reported.

The bill also creates a method to adjust the per-student funding for inflation every other year, starting in 2025.

Bill calls for armed officers at all schools

A bill that would require school districts to place at least one armed officer on each campus has passed the Texas House, the Statesman reported. The measure comes almost a year after a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers in a mass shooting in Uvalde last May.

Any officer or school employee would have to complete handgun safety training. The measure also requires at least one audit for intruder detection each year in all districts. The state would provide at least \$100 per student and \$15,000 per campus to maintain and improve school safety.

State Sen. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, has filed several gun control measures in that chamber that have yet to receive a hearing. Gutierrez represents Uvalde and says more needs to be done besides the House measure.

"Let me be very clear: I'm for anything that's going to make our schools safer," Gutierrez said in the Statesman story. "But the three things that is going to really make our schools safer is extreme risk protective orders, you take guns out of the hands of the mentally ill, Florida did it, it worked; raising the age limit, take guns, AR-15's out of (the hands of) 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds, Florida did it, it worked; closing the gun show loophole and universal background checks."



Kamryn Floyd destroys the field in the 200m dash at the Regional Track Meet held in Whitehouse to earn her ticket to the State Track meet with a sizzling time of 24.63.

Gladewater Lady Bears state-bound

By Tyler Sutton

It was a big week for Gladewater track and field as they had multiple students qualify for the state meet in Austin later this month by having great performances at the 3-A regional meet in Whitehouse.

The Lady Bears relay team consisting of MaKayla Police, Kamryn Floyd, Kyla Lincoln and Payton Hunter coming in 2nd in the regional meet and qualifying for the state meet. Also Kamryn Floyd once again took home 1st place in the 200 meter sprint. Punching her ticket to a third consecutive state meet in the 200 meters. She just missed a state record by mere fractions of a second. In the 300 meter Payton Hunter came in third. Karlee Moses also came in third in the shot put and Hadassah Balcorta having a good showing in the 400 and 800 meter dashes.

White Oak track and field was also in action at the area meet in Whitehouse and also had many strong performances. In the 400 meters, Noah Carter finished 3rd, Mitchell Carter finished 7th in the 300 meter hurdles, the men's 4x400 meter relay team coming in 4th, Kyler Priest finished

2nd in the pole vault and Grayson Thompson finishing 3rd in the same pole vault. On the ladies side, Emma Nix came in 4th in the discus, Anna Iske came in 4th in the high jump, Johanna Pennington came in 6th in the pole vault

Union Grove track and field also had their own area meet in Palestine. On the boy's side: Brendon Fuller finished 11th in the 800 meters, Jase Roberts finished 10th in the 110 meter hurdles and 13th in the 300 meter hurdles, Lane Turner finished 8th in the pole vault, Jacob griffin

15th in the discus.

One the girl's side: Gracie Winn finished 5th in the 800 meters, Gracie Stanford finished 7th in the 1600 meter and 5th in the 3200 meters, Sophie Pyle finished 9th in the 3200 meters, Taylor Campbell finished 12th in the long jump, Addi Smith finished 4th and Sumeet Mattu 7th in the discus, Savanna Clark finished 9th in the shot put.

Team results included: Union Grove finished 14th in the 4x200 relay, 5th in the 4x400 relay



Peyton Hunter brings it home for the Lady Bear sprint relay team and their ticket to the State Track Meet in 4x100 as they clocked a time of 49.32. Members of the team are Makayla Police, Kamryn Floyd, Kyla Lincoln, and Peyton Hunter.

WO city to fix roads, honors 101-year-old

The White Oak City Council approved two road improvement projects at its April 25 meeting and honored Mrs. Monteen Anderson Pruitt on her 101 Birthday.

The city will spend \$697,753 to repair Old Hwy 80 - funded through a grant - and spend \$365,688 from previously obtained federal grant money to fix another portion of Old Hwy 80.

The council also approved the sale of its Fire Rescue 2, 1996 Ford F-350 to Clarksville City for \$7,500.

The council also approved a resolution suspending for 45 days the effective date proposed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. in its application filed on or about March 2, 2023, pursuant to section 104.301 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act.

The recognition proclamation for Mrs. Pruitt reads:

RECOGNIZING THE 101 BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MONTEEN ANDERSON PRUITT

WHEREAS, longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experiences this individual brings to all; and

WHEREAS, the town of White Oak recognizes with respect and admiration the contribution of citizens to our community;

Continued on Page 5

Thank a teacher on this very special week

As we honor our local teachers this next week during Teacher Appreciation Week - May 8-12 - it is seem appropriate for us to have some homework and learn just how teaching began.

Teaching is one of the oldest professions - in 561BC, the first private teacher in history was one of the most learned men of all time, Confucius. In Ancient Greece, there was huge value placed on educating children, and in the 1600s the Pilgrims also placed a similar emphasis on the practice.

By the 19th century, politicians began to believe that education was needed for political order, and elementary through college education was widespread and public, and the need for teachers has been growing ever since!

Though the origins of Teacher Appreciation Week are somewhat murky, it's clear that it was in 1944 that an Arkansas school teacher, Matty White Woodridge, wrote to politicians and educational professionals about the demand for a day to appreciate teachers. However, it wasn't for nearly a decade until the idea was introduced to Congress by none other than Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1953, she was successful in convincing lawmakers to adopt the day.

After the National Education Association (NEA) and Kansas and Indiana state affiliates lobbied Congress again to create National Teacher Day on March 7, 1980, they continued to observe it yearly even though Congress did not. They did this until 1985 when the Assembly transformed the single day into the first full week of May.

Teacher Appreciation Day is described by the NEA, which spearheads the weeklong event, as "a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives." Each year they provide social media kits, printable teacher achievement certificates, contests, and gift suggestions to help teachers feel all the appreciation we have for them.

Special delivery on tap

Saturday, May 13, marks the 31st anniversary of one of America's great days of giving - the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food drive.

Letter carriers walk through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many, hunger. So, each year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from their customers.

Volunteers from the local boy scouts, as well as local churches and organizations will assist the post office to deliver the food to the local Manna House, according to Gladewater Post Master David Knowles and food drive coordinator David Smith.

The need for food donations is great. Currently, more than 42 million Americans are unsure where their next meal is coming from. More than 12 million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. And nearly 5.2 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help. The food drive's timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need. Participating in this year's Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a nonperishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox May 13, and your letter carrier will do the rest.

THIS SPELLS HELP FOR LOTS OF FAMILIES THIS YEAR!



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE
SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY

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

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.

Teachers are heroes...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



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

But it was Gertrude Russell who lit my intellectual fire.

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

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

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

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

And inspired.

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

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

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

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

All of the Above

While it is widely known that Texas is a key producer of oil and natural gas, many are unaware that the state is also a leader in green energy. The installed capacity in renewables has been growing at a rapid pace, and, barring artificial obstacles, this pattern will likely continue.



Globally, renewable capacity grew from less than 1.6 million megawatts (MW) in 2013 to nearly 3.4 million in 2022. In the United States, wind and utility-scale solar power expanded by about 328% over that period. In Texas, wind capacity more than tripled, and solar capacity went from almost none to more than 8,820 MW.

Texas ranks first among US states for installed wind capacity by a wide margin. In 2021, the state's capacity was 35,969 MW, more than all but four countries (China, the US, Germany, and India). Texas is also adding more than any other state, with an increase of 3,343 MW in 2021. Wind supplies about one-fifth of the state's utility-scale generation, a substantial share though well below the almost 50% provided by natural gas.

Moreover, Texas has 8,820 MW of utility-scale solar capacity, second only to California with 13,579 MW. However, Texas is increasing solar facilities much faster of late, and the differential will narrow or disappear if that momentum persists. When small-scale facilities are included, Texas solar capacity nearly doubled in 2021, rising from 5,987 to 10,329 MW and accounting for about 3% of the state's total electricity generation.

These gains in green power have reduced emissions significantly, which is a critical benefit. They also frequently help to keep prices attractive. On a breezy and mild spring day, wholesale electricity prices can drop to extremely low levels.

One potential downside of this expansion is the intermittent nature of wind and sunshine, which can cause problems in assuring reliable electricity supplies under adverse weather conditions. Although batteries are being installed at a notable pace and the related technology is improving, there are not enough of them to bridge the gaps (nor will there likely be for quite some time). Consequently, we must also support the responsible growth of base capacity from other fuels (primarily natural gas) – an "all of the above" strategy that recognizes the realities of a dynamic and growing population and economy with a solid footing in many power-intensive sectors.

In addition to its widely recognized energy resources resting deep under the soil, Texas has abundant wind and vast expanses of vacant lands where the sun shines with great regularity. Strides are also being made in hydrogen and other emerging energy sources. We will need all of them to meet our long-term needs, and policymakers need to be aware of this incontrovertible fact.

Stay safe!

Cemetery meeting

The Rosedale Cemetery Association and members will be having their annual business meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

Place: Rosedale Cemetery Cottage

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Have questions, call Etta Withers, Manager, Rosedale Cemetery at 903-738-0631.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
MAY 7-13, 2023

To Our Teachers And Staff:

Thank you for your commitment to excellence in the academic and spiritual education of our students. You serve as role models for children and the community with your lives of dedication and integrity.

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"In the Roughneck Center"



Gladewater Primary teacher Erin Beaver was recognized at LeTourneau University last week as GLOBE Teacher of the Year.
 Congratulations to the White Oak ISD GLOBE Teachers of the Year - Pam Lattin (secondary) and April McFall (elementary) who were honored at LeTourneau University.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Real freedom is accompanied with responsibility. With freedom of choice comes the responsibility to think carefully, choose wisely, and act forcefully. Freedom of choice always has a better outcome when tempered with wisdom and good judgment. For example, parents who allow their children freedom of choice do not give them JUST freedom of choice! Rather they provide their children with rules, regulations, and guidelines intended to help them use that freedom of choice correctly. If they heed their parent's admonition, it is likely that wisdom and good judgment will prevail.

Our relationship with God is much the same. In addition of giving us freedom of choice and personal volition, He has provided the rules, regulations, and guidelines He knew we would need to help us use our personal freedom wisely. Thus, when we obey the rules, follow the regulations, and adhere to the guidelines, our lives are enriched. When we disobey God's rules, refuse to follow His regulations, and do not adhere to His guidelines, the opposite effect occurs. That's why Proverbs 13: 14-15 says: "The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. Good understanding gains favor, but the way of the transgressor (unfaithful) is hard." That is why the prophet Jeremiah wrote: "It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10: 23). Thus, recognizing, believing, and properly utilizing truth is vitally important. Especially, this is true in the spiritual realm. Jesus stressed this principle, when He said: "If you abide in (obey) My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8: 31-32). If knowing and obeying the truth makes one free from sin, surely, then, NOT knowing and obeying the truth makes us captives of sin.

When we refuse to acknowledge and believe the truth, we are susceptible to every ill-conceived plan, deceptive scheme, and false concept that the winds of change may blow our way. Therefore, people become captives to error because they abandon the one moral compass- TRUTH- that possesses the ability to show them the right way, and thereby set them free. The abandonment of truth has led to the mindset leading our culture into the sinful morass we are witnessing today. Without truth, we are LOST! Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

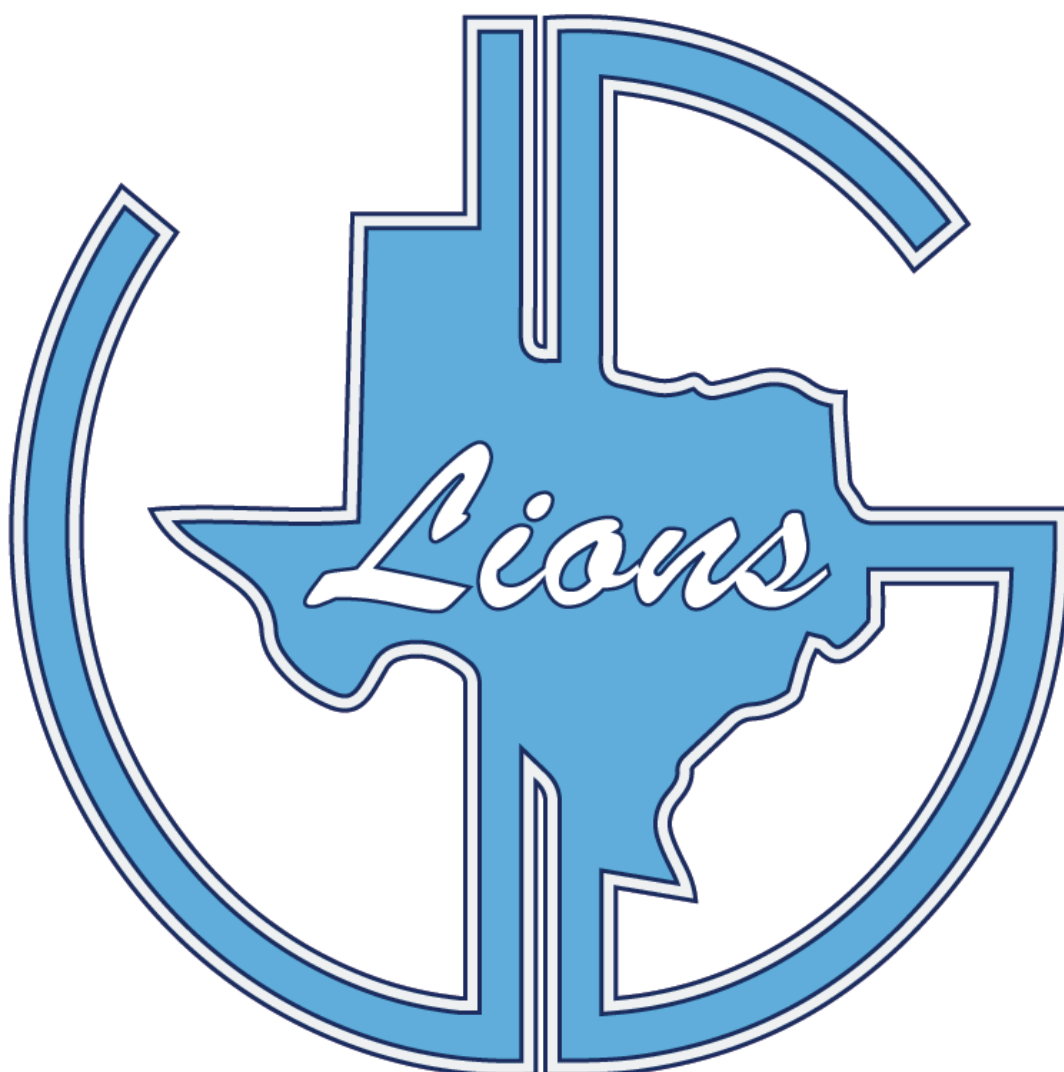
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Kerry Hradecky, Principal

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*Thank you Union Grove educators!
 We appreciate all that you do for our students and our school! You make UGISD a great place to be!*



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Morning Service	11 a.m.					
Evening Service	6:30 p.m.					

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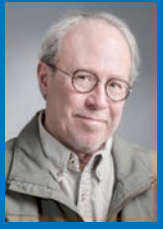
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Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Voters may decide fate of broadband expansion

Voters could decide whether the state should invest \$5 billion to expand internet availability if a bill passed last week by the Texas House makes it through the Senate. House Bill 9, sponsored by state Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, would create the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund, the Texas Tribune reported.

"This bill will have a measurable impact on each one of your districts," Ashby said last week on the House floor. "No matter whether they be urban, suburban or rural."

Nearly 7 million Texans do not have reliable broadband service, a fact hammered home during the pandemic, when connectivity often was crucial for schools and people trying to work from home. However,

state Comptroller Glenn Hegar said in March that it would take closer to \$10 billion to get all Texans connected.

The state is also expected to receive federal dollars for broadband expansion out of the infrastructure package passed by Congress in 2021, though it is unknown how much Texas will receive out of the \$42.45 billion allocated for broadband expansion. The state will need to match one-fourth of whatever it receives from the federal government.

Annual fee for EV owners goes to Gov

A bill requiring electrical vehicle owners to pay a \$200 annual fee to the state has passed both chambers and sent to Gov. Greg Abbott, The Dallas Morning News reported. Backers of the bill say the higher vehicle registration fees are needed because EV owners don't pay fuel taxes built into the price of fuel and used to fund the state's highway system. The state fuel tax on both gasoline and diesel is 20 cents per gallon.

Opponents of the bill say it would slow the expansion of EVs in the state, which pollute less than vehicles using carbon-based fuels. They also note the fuel tax funds just 29% of what is spent on Texas highways.

"The primary cause of the road funding shortfall in Texas has nothing to do with EVs, but rather with the fact that Texas has not increased their gas tax since 1991," Dylan Jaff, sustainability policy analyst with Consumer Reports, said in a memo.

WO city to fix roads, honors 101-year-old

Continued from Page 1

and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Monteen Anderson Pruitt was born in Longview, Texas on April 22, 1922. Cleaster Pruitt and Monteen Anderson married in 1938. They spent a loving 60 years together. Mr. and Mrs. Pruitt raised nine children, La-grand Pruitt; Lavert Pruitt; Hillary Pruitt; Janice Mathis; Marcus Pruitt; Fell Swanson Pruitt; Virginia Pruitt Tillman; Linda Pruitt Burton; and Ava Pruitt. They are blessed with sixteen grandchildren; twenty-nine great grandchildren; and four great great grandchildren.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pruitt is a woman of great faith who loves her church family at Center Missionary Baptist Church. She has served as the President of the Mission Department and Usher President of the Mission Board. She served The Lord by taking care of the sick, caring for those in need, and teaching Sunday School. Her two favorite Bible passages are Psalm 23:1-4 and Matthew 4:19 ("Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'")

WHEREAS, Mrs. Pruitt enjoys traveling, gardening, and serving her community. She has been a leader in the 4-H program and served as a PTO President at White Oak ISD. She has worked in the White Oak community for many years. She has been a seamstress, a cook, and Florist. Mrs. Pruitt still remains in her home and is loved by many.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Kyle Kutch, Mayor of the City of White Oak in the State of Texas and on the behalf of the City Council and the citizens of White Oak,

honor Mrs. Monteen Anderson Pruitt for her long life and prosperity and wish her many more.

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903-295-8883

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ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "got ___ a mind to"
- 5 Lufkin's ___ code is 956
- 6 TX A. J. Foyt won here four times
- 7 traveled by horse
- 8 Texas Tarzan, Ron
- 9 Hewlett-___ runs its U.S. business from Texas
- 16 USS Texas aided the Normandy landings on _
- 18 great sound at Dallas' Meyerson
- 21 John Connally's wife (init.)
- 22 actor Grant of 1958 "Houseboat" with TX Martha Hyer
- 23 TX Patrick Mahomes, e.g.
- 24 national clothing retailer (2 wds.)
- 30 TXism: "let's ___ horse trading" (negotiate)
- 34 anno Domini abbr.
- 35 Dallas NE suburb
- 36 TXism: "nuff ___"
- 37 TXism: "she has to sneak ___ mirror to fix her hair" (homely)
- 39 romantic night setting? (3 wds.)
- 43 TXism: "does a bull give ___?" (no)
- 44 TX Ivory Joe's "___ Met You Baby"
- 45 dir. from Trinity to Nacogdoches
- 46 "a whole ___" (lots)

- 48 Fort Worth "Horned Frogs" university
- 49 UT grad actor, Wallach
- 51 sensational newspapers
- 54 TXism: "___ in cement" (permanent)
- 55 San Antonio based Inns: ___ Quinta
- 56 jacket or saddle leather

- 57 TX Willie's "Farm ___" was in Lincoln, NE in 1987
- 60 TXism: "dumb as a stump"
- 61 Reese ___ Force Base was in Texas
- 62 TXism: "never let 'em ___ you sweat"
- 63 Eden Echo income producers

DOWN

- 1 TX Gene Autry's "That Silver-___ Daddy of Mine"
- 2 TX Byron Nelson's pal Palmer
- 3 Fort Worth boot-maker: M.L. ___ Sons
- 4 this Dunaway was TX Bonnie Parker
- 9 Gov. "___" Ferguson

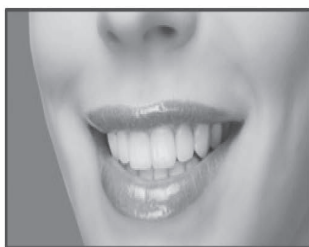
TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- 10 oil was discovered by ___ in Corsicana in 1894
- 11 TX-born Meredith MacRae was in TV show "Pettijunction"
- 12 actor Russell in TX-filmed "Silkwood" (1983)
- 13 mental hospital
- 14 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)
- 15 TXism: "___ your bill" (drink)
- 17 Father of Mexico: Father Miguel Hidalgo _
- 19 started the pickup
- 20 TXism: "dull as week old ___ pop"

- 33 an installment of "Walker, TX Ranger"
- 38 Texas Hall-of-Fame halfback Matson
- 40 TX Karolyi coached this Nadia (init.)
- 41 Conway Twitty's wife
- 42 Texas coast areas
- 47 jockey, TX Willie (init.)
- 50 TXism: "___ to" (intend)
- 52 TXism: "___ some boot leather" (run)
- 53 TX actor Tommy ___ Jones
- 58 TXism: "got as much to ___ hibernating bear" (idle)
- 59 attempted

See Answers Below



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Last Puzzle Solution

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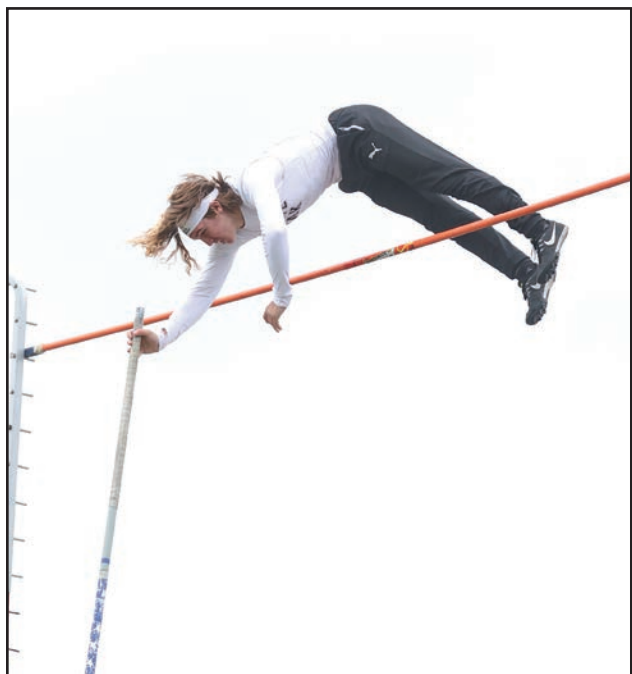
Lady Lions place at track meet

By Kimber Smith

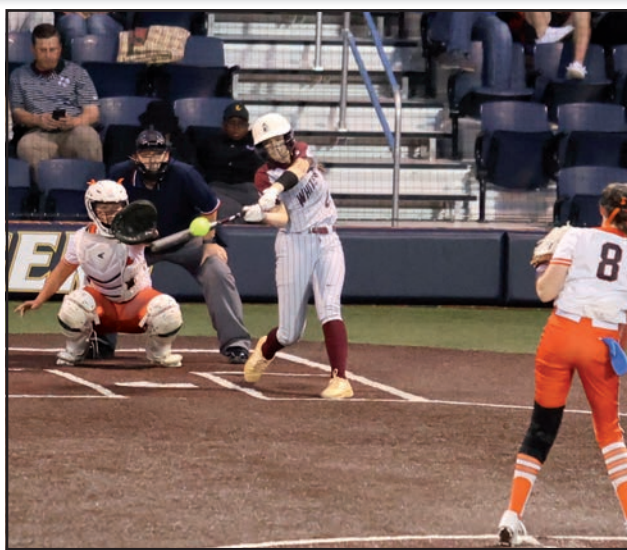
Union Grove's girls track team competed in the regional track meet at Palestine Friday and Saturday. Addison Smith placed fourth in the discus with a personal record of 112' 1", followed by teammate Sumeet Mattu in seventh. Gracie Stanford placed fifth in the 3200m run and seventh in the 1600m run, and Gracie Winn placed fifth in the 800m run. The 4x400m relay team of Ava Wightman, Winn, Sarah Prince and Taylor Campbell placed fifth, as well.

The girls advanced to regionals after winning first place team in their area contest at home April 19. In that meet, Stanford won first place in the 3200m run, second in the 1600m run and sixth in the 800m run. Campbell earned silver in the long jump and high jump, as did Savanna Clark in shot put and Smith in discus. The 4x400m relay team also won second place. Mattu placed third in the discus contest, and Smith placed fourth in pole vault.

Rylee Aiken placed third in the 100m hurdles. Sophie Pyle placed fourth in the 3200m run and sixth in the 1600m run, and Wightman placed fourth in the 200m run. Winn placed fourth in the 800m run, as did the 4x200m relay team of Wightman, Keira Taylor, Prince and Campbell. The 4x100m relay of Gracelyn Head, Karen Chavez, Kenia Velazquez and Natalie Woodard placed sixth.



Kyler Priest vaulted 14 foot to capture the silver medal and gain his ticket to Austin for the State Meet. Grayson Thompson took home the bronze medal for the Roughnecks. Photo by Mike Peery



White Oak's Addison McClanahan hammers 2 doubles with 3 rbi's to lead the Ladynecks to an 8-0 victory over Elysian Fields in the first round of the playoffs.

Photos by Mike Peery



Ladynecks softball pitcher Larkin Daniels is in full strike out mode as the playoffs are underway. White Oak won 2 of 3 from Elysian Fields in the opening round of the playoffs. White Oak will meet Queen City in this weeks matchup.

Area baseball, softball action

By Tyler Sutton

As the high school baseball and softball regular season's come to a close around East Texas and the playoffs being on the horizon, district races came down to the wire.

Gladewater baseball wrapped up its 2023 season on Monday, April 24th with a final home game as they honored their senior class on senior night and Trenton Pemberton homered, doubled, singled twice and drove in four runs for Hughes Springs, and the Mustangs rolled to a 19-1 win. Chris Collins and Dalton Hicks added doubles for Hughes Springs, which led 10-1 after four and then pushed across nine in the top of the fifth to put it away. E.J. Searcy, Hicks, Kord Johnson and Walker Duke all had two hits, with Collins and Johnson driving in two runs apiece and Searcy, Hicks, Bryson Belk, Duke and Bryce Ratley driving in a run apiece. Johnson struck out three and walked one, giving up one earned run in four innings. Caden Elrod drove in the lone run for the Bears. Gladewater finishes their season at 2-17 and 1-9 in district play. While Hughes Springs will move on to the playoffs as the 3rd seed out of district 15-3A.

The White Oak baseball team also wrapped up their regular season this past week with a pair of games. Starting on Tuesday, April 25th with a trip to Dangerfield and Landyn Grant struck out 10 in five innings, Tyler Puckett drove in four runs with a couple of hits and the Roughnecks rolled the Tigers past 12-2. Noah Carter had three hits and two RBI for the Roughnecks. Gavyn Jones homered, singled and drove in two runs. Davis Tolliver tripled, doubled and chased home two runs, and Colton Millwood added an RBI. Grant walked five and gave up one earned run. Kelton Cates worked one inning on the hill for White Oak, striking out one and giving up one hit. That was followed up with their regular season finale on Friday, April 28th with a trip to New Diana in a game that was to decide the 15-3A regular season championship and the top seed out of the district for the playoffs. And the Eagles took 4-0 lead after three and had a five-run sixth, holding on for a 9-5 win over the Roughnecks. Jacob Newland tripled and Ivan Beniot and Austin Kerns doubled for New Diana. Cohle Sherman had two hits. Benoit drove in three runs, and Hayden Thomas, Logan Simmons, Newland, Kerns and Trent Pepper all drove in runs. Benoit worked five innings on the mound, striking out two and walking three. Sherman fanned one and walked four in two innings. Gavyn Jones homered and drove in two runs in the loss for White Oak. Noah Carter added two RBI, and Davis Tolliver drove in one run. The Roughnecks finish the regular season at 23-5-2 and 8-2 in district play. But their loss to New Diana means they will enter the playoffs as the # 2 seed out of 15-3A. Opponent and dates for the playoff matchup will be determined later this week.

Switching to the softball diamond, the White Oak Ladyneck softball team opening up their postseason run taking on the Elysian Field lady jackets with all three games being played on the campus of ETBU in Marshall. Having to go to the full 3 games, White Oak won the series 2-1 and moved on to the 2nd round. The Ladynecks took game one, 8-0 on Thursday, April 27th. The Lady jackets were able to bounce back and take game two on Friday, April 28th by a score of 2-0. White Oak though was able to close out the series on Saturday night, April 29th with a 2-0 win. The LadyNecks will now move on to take Queen City in the Area round. That series will begin Thursday, May 4th at ETBU. Game 2 will be the next day Friday, May 5th in Tatum and an if necessary Game 3 will be Saturday, May 6th at Marshall high school.

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White Oak ISD is now accepting Applications for Student Transfer for the 2023-2024 school year. For those interested in Becoming Roughnecks or Ladynecks, please visit the campus/district offices for a hard copy of the application or download from our website. woisd.net

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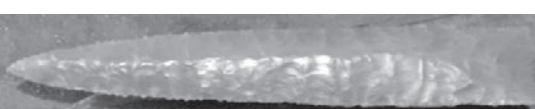
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
 To Discuss State Financial Accountability Rating
GLADEWATER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gladewater Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, on Monday, May 15, 2023, in the Gladewater Administration Building 200 E. Broadway, Gladewater, TX, 75647
 The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Gladewater Independent School District's rating On the State's Financial Accountability System

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gladewater Independent School District is requesting bids for the purchase of an 8-9 Passenger SUV, 6-8 Passenger SUV, and a 12 Passenger Van. A bid packet is available at the Administration Office at 200 E. Broadway, Gladewater Tx 75647. Packets may be downloaded at the district website at www.gladewaterisd.com. Contact person is Paul Allen, Transportation Director 903-845-4356. Deadline to submit a bid is 2:00 pm Friday 5, May 2023. Bids received after that time will be returned unopened.

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Longview MPO Transportation Public Meeting Public Comments Welcomed

(Longview, TX) The Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has scheduled a public meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Longview City Council Chambers located in the Ann Metcalf Municipal Building, 300 W. Cotton St, Longview, TX 75601. The MPO will present revisions to the 2023–2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2045 to modify let dates for SH 42 (CSJ 0545-04-048) and IH 20 – Sabine River Bridge (CSJ 0495-07-080). The project cost information estimates, for each project listed, will also be updated to reflect the most recent numbers. The meeting will be live-streamed on the City of Longview's Facebook Live, CityView Municipal TV LongviewTexas.gov/CityView, and Longview Cable TV: Channel 10.1 or 215. After the meeting, citizens may view the recorded meeting online in the CityView Video Library. A 30-day public comment and review period for the TIP and MTP will be held from May 10, 2023, to June 14, 2023. Comments and questions regarding the Longview MPO's TIP and MTP may be sent to the Longview MPO, P.O. Box 1952, Longview, TX 75606 or emailed to MPO@LongviewTexas.gov. The TIP & MTP will be available for review online, after the meeting, at LongviewTexas.gov/MPO, the Longview Public Library located at 222 W. Cotton St., Longview, TX 75601, and the Longview MPO office located at 410 S. High St., Longview, TX 75601. This public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comments on the TIP development process will satisfy the FTA's Program of the Project requirements. Persons with disabilities who may need auxiliary aid or services at the meeting and persons needing a translator or interpreter are asked to contact Bryan McBride at 903-237-1062. Para información en español, por favor comuníquese con Natasha á ime en 903-237-1060. FGR651001-651-Pub Notice

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER

Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 ("ESD No. 2" or "ESD") is requesting qualifications information ("RFQ") for an architect or engineer to serve as the Owner's representative under Local Government Code § 2269.305 related to the construction of a new fire station on a site located at 4589 FM 1252 W, Kilgore, TX 75662. The complete RFQ is available upon request from Attorney Matthew Harris at Matt@HarrisandHarrisTX.com or (903) 757-7500. RFQs should be submitted by one (1) electronic copy via email to Attorney Matthew Harris at Matt@HarrisandHarrisTX.com and three (3) hard copies via first-class mail or hand-delivery to Harris and Harris, Attorneys at Law, 1100 Judson Rd., Suite 720, Longview, Texas 75601. Please identify the electronic and hard-copy submission as "ARCHITECT/ENGINEER RFQ".

Responses to RFQs, both electronic and hard-copy, may be submitted starting Monday, May 15, 2023. The deadline for all RFQ's, both electronic and hard-copy, is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2023. RFQs will be opened any time after the deadline by a building committee consisting of two (2) ESD commissioners and the Fire Chief at 736 Wilkins Rd., Gladewater, Texas 75647. The building committee will review and evaluate the RFQs. The building committee will then determine the most qualified respondent and may authorize the attorney for the ESD to begin negotiations. The building committee and Board of Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all RFQs, to postpone selection of the most qualified firm, and expressly reserves the right to not award a contract related to this RFQ to any respondent. To the extent of any conflict between this published notice and the complete RFQ, the complete RFQ will control. Please direct all questions about the RFQs and project scope to Matthew Harris in writing at Matt@HarrisandHarrisTX.com.

Description of Services Sought: ESD No. 2 is seeking an architect or engineer to serve as the Owner's representative for ESD No. 2 during the design and construction of a new fire station in Gregg County, Texas. ESD No. 2 intends to utilize a design building project delivery method as described in chapter 2269, subchapter G., of the Texas Government Code. As such, ESD No. 2 is required to obtain the services of an architect or engineer to serve as the Owner's representative under § 2269.305. ESD No. 2 is not seeking an architect or engineer to design the new fire station under this RFQ.

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- 5. Retirement Advantages**
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Badders addresses GALA gathering

David Badders was the guest speaker at the Gladewater Area Ladies Association (GALA) on Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Badders currently works as "Chaplain/Spiritual Pastoral Counselor" for the Hospice of East Texas, serving patients and family members at the hospice inpatient facility (Homeplace in Tyler) and in homes and care facilities. David also assists with bereavement support, leading grief support groups, and offering grief education. With over 15 years of chaplaincy experience, David is a compassionate spiritual caregiver, an ordained and endorsed chaplain, with a Masters of Divinity Degree in Chaplaincy, having completed 4 units of clinical pastoral education during his residency at Trinity Mother Frances Hospital. David recently appeared as spokesperson for the Hospice of East Texas on several KLTU commercials. GALA invites ladies of the community to the monthly meetings, held the third Tuesday, alternating between noon and evening meetings. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, at noon at the Chamber of Commerce. The guest speaker will be Wynn Skelton of Vital Earth Resources. For more information, you may call 903-845-5501.

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Locals among KC English Honor Society inductees

Upsilon Delta, the Kilgore College chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta – the national English honor society for two-year colleges – will induct several students qualifying for membership this spring. The ceremony is set for 5 p.m. Friday, May 5, in Van Cliburn Auditorium on the Kilgore campus.

Membership in SKD requires students to maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; to earn no grade lower than a “B” in a college English class; and to have completed at least one semester of college studies.

SKD spring inductees include:
 Gladewater, TX: Abigail Gallant
 Gladewater, TX: Gabriella Montelongo
 Gladewater, TX: Rebecca Solis
 Kilgore, TX: Angie Alexander
 Kilgore, TX: Mayra Pintor-Cevantes
 Kilgore, TX: Brenden Robertson
 Longview, TX: Cynthia Mofokeng
 Minsk, Belarus: Leanid Masiuk
 Ore City, TX: Shawn Williamson
 Overton, TX: LaRae West
 White Oak, TX: Morgan Hammer




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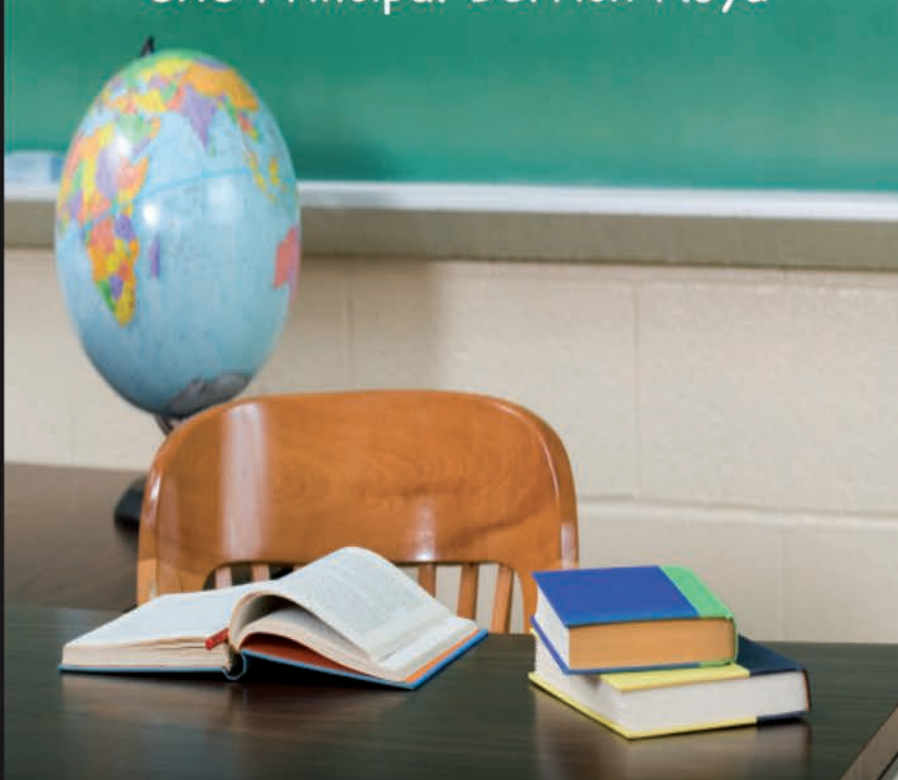
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Upshur relocates polling box

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court, in separate votes Friday, approved closing one voting box used for party primary and general elections, and relocating another.

The court effectively abolished using the Simpsonville Volunteer Fire Department as a polling place, merging it with the nearby Oak Hill Baptist Church voting box. Commissioners also moved the Big Sandy polling site from the school to the nearby city civic center.

Upshur County Democratic Party Chairman Winifred Jackson and county Republican Party Chairman Carl Byers appeared before the court in Gilmer concerning the proposed moves.

Jackson told commissioners the Simpsonville site was so small that it violated the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Byers then said the GOP agreed with the Democrats that the Simpsonville box should be merged with the Oak Hill site since the two places are only five miles apart.

He said the county Republican executive committee unanimously voted to consolidate the boxes.

Byers also pointed out that under "countywide" voting, which has allowed Upshur voters in recent years to vote at any polling place in the county, the Enon community voting site was only five miles from the Simpsonville one.

County Election Administrator Lory Harle said the proposed move from Simpsonville was "fine with me," and that the state government had issued a "bad" report on

the fire station's compliance with the ADA.

As for the Big Sandy matter, Byers said the move was proposed for the security of stu-

dents. Harle, however, noted it would be up to the school where to have school-related elections since the county has nothing to do with those.



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- PROOF OF RESIDENCE (ELECTRIC, WATER GAS, OR LEASE AGREEMENT)
- PARENT/GUARDIAN DRIVER'S LICENSE

✓ HEADSTART STUDENTS MUST BE 3 BY SEPT 1, 2023

✓ HEADSTART AND PRE-K STUDENTS MUST QUALIFY!

✓ KINDER STUDENTS MUST BE 5 BY SEPT 1, 2023


✓ REGISTRATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

CONTACT US NOW AT 

HEADSTART 3 YEAR OLDS
(903) 844-1950

PRE-K OR KINDERGARTEN
(903) 845-2254

GLADEWATER PRIMARY
100 W GAY AVE
GLADEWATER, TX 75647



Thank You!
teacher
noun | teach·er | tē·cher

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

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Thanks, Teachers!

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

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

Todd Tefteller
Upshur County Judge



Paid For By Todd Tefteller

TX CELEBRATES SMALL BUSINESS THRU MAY 6

Local, national economy rely on small businesses to keep driving progress

PRESS RELEASE

Across the United States, there are 33.2 million small businesses, defined as a firm that has fewer than 500 employees – that's 99.9 percent of all US businesses, according to the Small Business Administration.

Suffice it to say, they're the backbone of the American economy, and small businesses play an essential role in creating jobs, driving innovation, and providing unique products and services to local communities. While the majority of Gladewater Economic Development Corporation's focus is on development through primary employers, GEDCO recognizes the critical role small businesses play in the local economy and is committed to supporting their growth and success.

Small Business Week kicked off Sunday in the Lone Star State and continues through May 6. In Texas, small businesses employ 4.7 million people in the labor force, and they're at work in Gladewater doing the same: creating jobs and fueling economic growth.

"Small businesses have made Texas the economic legend that we are today," Gov. Greg Abbott said in an April 27 release, "and people from across America continue moving to our state in droves to take advantage of the unique freedom and opportunity only offered in our great state."

GEDCO is proud to support small businesses whenever the opportunity arises, providing

resources and assistance to help local firms work for their own sake, for their employees' benefit, and for their community.

"While small businesses aren't our primary focus, they're still really important to our economy," said GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer. "We're always looking to help them connect with the Small Business Development Center, and, of course, we want them to utilize our resources like the Grow Gladewater Grant."

Launched this year, the program recently awarded its first small business recipient in Gladewater, the Sasquatch's Trading Post, to help fund key improvements at the operation. The GEDCO grant program remains open for applications from existing and new businesses in the target investment zone of the Highway 80 corridor and downtown.

Learn more about the grant and its guidelines online at GladewaterEDC.com. Download a program guide in PDF via tinyurl.com/growgladewater.

"We're proud to support small businesses in Gladewater and help them thrive," Palmer added. "They're

"They're the lifeblood of any community, and we want to ensure that they have the resources and support they need to succeed."

Michelle Palmer, GEDCO Executive Director

the lifeblood of any community, and we want to ensure that they have the resources and support they need to succeed."

COVID-19 hit small businesses hard, rendering as much as one-third non-operational, according to a 2020 study by the Small Business Roundtable. Three years later, with Small Business Week underway, it's an ideal time to give patronage to local small businesses, especially in Gladewater, and to congratulate the people working hard to make them thrive and to help make their hometown a great place to live, work and do business.

"We've seen firsthand the positive impact that small businesses have on the local economy," Palmer said, "and we're committed to supporting their growth and success."



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK 2023

The influence of a great teacher can never be erased.

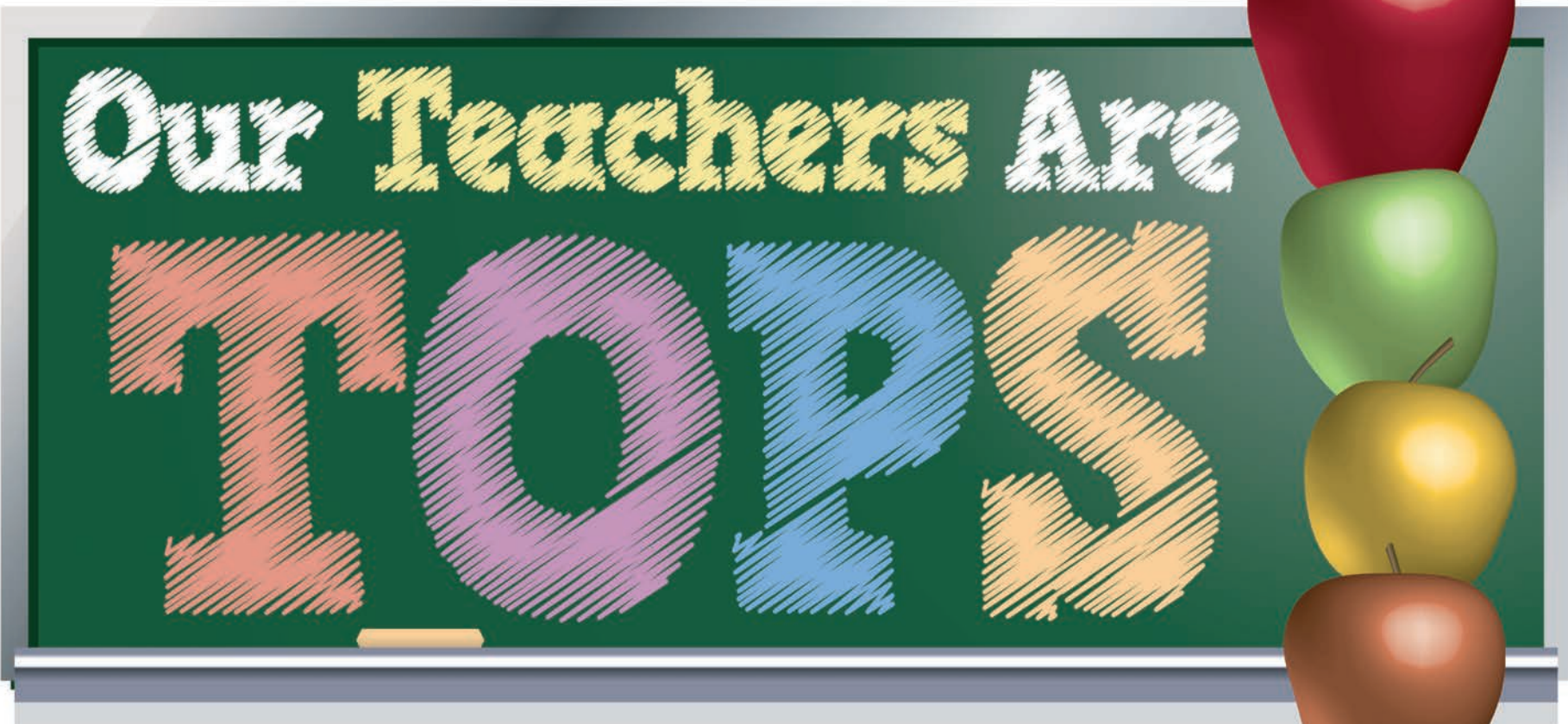


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The Best Thing about Being a Teacher is that it Matters.

The Hardest Thing about Being a Teacher is that it Matters EVERY Day.

Thank you Gladewater ISD Teachers for making a difference when it matters most.
GISD Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark