

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢



NO OUTDOOR BURNING
within the White Oak city limits until further notice.

County may cut property taxes

By Phillip Williams

Monday's meeting of Upshur County Commissioners Court turned up two major pieces of welcome news for local taxpayers—that the court may lower its property tax rate by about 10 cents, and that the state has awarded an additional \$2.3 million to the county for the forthcoming courthouse renovation project.

Upshur County Judge Todd Tefteller announced the court will lower the tax rate from the current 59.9 cents per \$100 valuation, possibly to 49.6 cents. That would be the county's lowest tax rate since about 2011, he added.

The court will not formally vote on setting the tax rate until Sept. 15, said County Auditor Connie Williams.

Tefteller gave no reason for the planned decrease, but the Upshur County Appraisal District raised property valuations so much this year that several citizens recently attended a protest of the hikes at a meeting of the district's board of directors.

A property's taxable value, not just the tax rate itself, affects the amount of taxes assessed on it.

In other major news emerging at Monday's meeting in Gilmer, the court's adviser on the courthouse restoration, Marion County Judge Leward J. LaFleur, told commissioners the Texas Historical Commission has increased the amount of grant money it will give counties doing such projects.

He credited the state's multi-billion dollar budget surplus for the move.

After the court went into a lengthy closed session, LaFleur said during a brief interview that the county will get \$2.386 million more than originally expected, bringing the total to \$7.605 million.

He also said, though, that local officials are waiting to see if the county's share of matching funds will go up, down or stay at 15%.

"Really, honestly, I don't think they're (state officials) gonna change the percentage, LaFleur said.

"If everything goes right, we should be swinging hammers in October," added the judge, who was hired to oversee the project because his own courthouse in Jefferson underwent such a historical restoration.

When LaFleur told the court about the expected boost in the grant Monday, Tefteller said he couldn't

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Salary gaps discussed at budget workshop

By James Draper

The first draft of the City of Gladewater's proposed \$7.7 million budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 initially cuts about 10 cents off the tax rate – with a broad increase in appraised values, though, City Hall will still pull in about \$50,000 more this year.

Even cutting a dime off the rate, "That does not necessarily mean that people's taxes are going down because the values went up," Mayor Scott Owens repeated Monday evening during the city council's second budget workshop of the year. Meanwhile, "We've got some changes with the legislature coming with the increase in the Homestead Exemption and the Over-65 exemption that may shift some of that.

"All in all, people's taxes should remain pretty close to the same."

If the 10-cent decrease remains in the proposed tax rate – \$0.626978 per \$100 valuation – City Hall will still take in a bit less than 2 percent

more (\$50,260) in property tax revenues on top of the budget for the current FY23.

Interim City Manager Charlie Smith, his department heads and staffers took council members on a page-by-page walkthrough of 'Version 1' of the coming year's budget. They lingered on salary increases for city employees, on streamlined procedures for Public Works and on a looming, as-yet-undetermined increase in fees for Fund 2, which covers water, sewer and other areas.

Still early in the budget process, it was a fairly standard annual discussion with few fireworks to speak of beyond a brief back-and-forth on employee compensation and retention – year after year, Gladewater's top police and fire chiefs request additional funds to make their departments' salaries more competitive against similar communities. There's

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Muggles manage mischief at library for Potter's birthday

HOGWARTS LIBRARIAN IRMA PINCE WOULD BE PROUD – Lee-Bardwell Public Library Clerk Dotti McCoy snaps a picture of Library Volunteer Nick Brewer holding a Harry Potter-themed 'Wanted' poster Monday afternoon during a birthday party for 'The Boy Who Lived.' McCoy and Library Director Brandy Winn whipped up a wide range of activities, snacks, crafts, games and other entertainment celebrating the 43rd birthday of Harry James Potter, the protagonist in author J.K. Rowling's internationally-acclaimed book series. (Right)

Dressed for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry, Regina Tilton leads daughters Anna and Lyndsay on the Horcrux Hunt Monday.



Photos by James Draper

Local restaurant health inspections limited

By James Draper

According to online data, the average annual pay for a registered Sanitarian in Texas is about \$41,500 – an 'environmental health officer' salary isn't in the budget for the City of Gladewater right now, so Al Harrison continues doing what he can to keep a watchful eye on local commercial kitchens.

Officially, Harrison is Gladewater's 'Chief Building Official,' but the nature of his post is such that myriad other duties become attached to the office – from public works to code enforcement to health inspections – even as the number of hours in a given week stays the same.

In Gladewater, "I inspect a restaurant when they open and when they get started," Harrison said. "When everything's clean and they hit all the requirements, I let them operate until someone complains,

then I go and inspect them again."

If there are no complaints, the eatery operates as-is.

Those aren't the only food safety inspections, of course.

"I do the schools once a semester, then I do the daycares once a year so they can meet the state requirements."

All things considered, Gladewater ISD is the prime example of a food prep operation that's doing everything right, Harrison praised.

"The school's great at it. The school's excellent. Their staff is excellent," he added. "Not saying anything about the other restaurants, but the school and their food dating process and the way they do stuff is top-notch for the kids – so they can

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YOUR SUPPORT SAVES LIVES!

Carter BloodCare of Tyler plans a blood drive in Gladewater, and two in Gilmer, this month.

A drive at CHRISTUS Gladewater is scheduled from 9 a.m.-12 noon Aug. 21. For more information, contact 903-315-5193.

The Gilmer Community Blood Drive is set at 110 Buffalo on the downtown square from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10. For more information call 903-680-8128. Another drive is scheduled at Tractor Supply on U.S. 271 in Gilmer from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20. For more information call 903-843-4444.

Upshur sheriff, constables get major raises

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Monday awarded Sheriff Larry Webb and all four county constables major pay raises—a requirement for the county to qualify for a possible state grant.

Webb's annual salary was increased by \$15,210 to a total \$75,000. The constables—Tim Barnett, Jason Weeks, Ronnie Mitchell, and John Thompson—received yearly hikes of \$11,409 to a total \$45,000.

Newly-enacted state Senate Bill 22 required the salary increases to make the county eligible for a Rural Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant.

The hikes were the minimum amounts required to receive the proposed grant. County Auditor Connie Williams told the court the grant was aimed at raising pay for rural counties' law officers in order to make those counties more competitive in hiring, so "this is really good for small counties."

She said the sheriff's and constables' raises would be covered by the grant if the county obtains it. If the county doesn't receive the funds, though, the court would adjust the higher salaries next year, Williams said.

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State sales tax free weekend set for Aug. 11-13

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend.

Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the

seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

This year's sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 11, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 13. Many local schools started classes ahead of the sales tax holiday.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund

available.

Qualifying items:

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy most footwear and clothing (sold for less than \$100) tax free. You do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate.

The exemption applies to each eligible item sold for less than \$100, and there is no limit to the number of qualifying items you can buy.

For example, if you buy two

shirts for \$80 each, each shirt qualifies for the exemption because each is less than \$100, even though the total purchase price is \$160.

Items That Do Not Qualify:

The following items do not qualify for exemption during the sales tax holiday:

- items sold for \$100 or more
- clothing subscription boxes
- specially-designed athletic activity or protective-use clothing or footwear

For example, golf cleats and football pads are usually worn only when people play golf or football, so they do not qualify for the exemption.

● Tennis shoes, jogging suits and swimwear, however, can be worn for other than athletic activity and qualify for the exemption.

● clothing or footwear rentals, alterations (including embroidery) and cleaning services

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Stroke of love ...

My daddy is my hero. He always will be. Dad was a man of faith who dearly loved his God, his family, his land and his animals. Just imagine John Wayne in the best of his western roles. A powerful presence, strong and absolutely confident in his convictions, as well as a man respected by everyone who knew him. That was my dad.

When Dad talked, people listened. His laugh was truly joyful. More a giggle than a laugh when he was really tickled. His eyes twinkled when he laughed. If he was angry you knew it and you backed up as far as you could. He held himself and his children to high standards. His work as a rancher was his life and his love. My mother was his heart.

And then one hot, hot summer, Dad plowed without the benefit of his air conditioned cab because his arthritis was bedeviling him ferociously. I am certain dehydration, overwork and stress led to his second stroke which was massive. He was still strong, still agile, dangerously so, but he could no longer process what others were saying. He could speak clearly but we might as well have been speaking Russian. The frustration was enormous. The anger large when he found we had hidden the keys to tractors and trucks. He still managed to mow the yard on the riding lawnmower. His only route to productivity and independence. For a man who lived to work it was more than he could bear.

If is a big word. One of the most heartbreaking in our vocabulary. IF Daddy had had his stroke during the week when better medical staffing would have been available. IF the young ER resident had ordered a CAT scan immediately. IF he had only given Dad the shot that would have prevented damage. If...indeed.

When I received the call from my aunt in the middle of the night I raced to Corsicana 20 miles over the speed limit the whole way. I didn't leave his hospital for days except to run to the house to shower. We eventually got him airlifted to Trinity Mother Francis but it was too late.

Too late to stop the damage. Too late in so many ways. In the course of the next few weeks my Dad insisted on going home. My Mom desperately wanted him home. So against the doctor's recommendation we skipped residential rehab. It was a mistake. A big one. Daddy's frustration and

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



anger grew to the point of explosion and I wasn't there to intervene. And then I was... because it was necessary.

Many heartbreaks have come my way, as they do to all of us, during the course of my life. I have done many hard, hard things that I didn't want to do, but the hardest I have ever done was to put my great big wonderful Daddy into a car with my Mom and his beloved sister and take him to the Waco Veterans Psychiatric Unit for commitment. My heart broke completely. So did my Mom's and Aunt's. There are no words to describe the devastation of the responsibility.

But one thing I learned from my Daddy was how to do the hard things in life. To do what had to be done. He would say, "pray and hope for a better tomorrow". And I did. For five months the doctors worked on creating a pharmacological cocktail that would allow my Daddy to live out his life on his beloved ranch with his lifelong sweetheart.

The 'cocktail' changed my Daddy too, but the essence of who and what he was was always there. He continued to pray the most beautiful prayers. He never failed to tell my Mom that he loved her and he spent his days being driven down the road to see his cattle, his land and what he had built with his life. We lost him in 2010.

I miss him every single day. I always will. That is the beauty of a life well lived and a person who loves well. Their legacy is generational.

Strokes are one of my greatest fears. For obvious reasons. But, I know how great the gift was of seeing my Dad and Mom go through those last years together. The hard things create the best lessons. And, the best lessons are nearly always built on love. Those lessons may hurt...and hurt deeply, but they nearly always show the value and depth, the meaning of life and love. Our reason for being. For that I am most grateful.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



passed in 2019 in response to Hurricane Harvey. Flood risks in Texas are increasing as the result of heavier precipitation due to climate change, stronger hurricanes and a rise in sea levels — even as the state's population continues to increase.

In a presentation in mid-July, TWDB staff said one-fifth of the state's land — about 56,000 square miles — falls within an area classified as being in a 100-year floodplain.

The state is likely to spend tens of billions of dollars in flood protection. One of the first projects is the "Ike Dike," a massive gate system planned for the mouth of Galveston Bay, the Tribune reported.

"Getting this program up and running is a really big deal," TWDB Chair Brooke Paup said before the board approved the 15 regional plans, a major step in creating the statewide flood plan. Each region is built around one of the state's major watersheds.

"I know it'll truly go so far to save lives and people's homes," Paup said.

Border concertina razor wire made by inmates

The miles of concertina razor wire strewn along the banks of the Rio Grande by Texas authorities — and the subject of a suit by the Department of Justice — is manufactured by inmates in an East Texas minimum-security prison unit, the Corpus Christi Caller Times reported.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice was authorized to purchase nearly \$1.1 million worth of equipment to make the wire, according to the Legislative Budget Board's contract database, the Caller Times reported. While the prison system has been making such wire for the state's 100-plus prison units for some time, the new machines are allowing expanded production for use on the Texas border.

The new unit was shipped to the Powledge Unit near Palestine in East Texas. That prison also has a metal manufacturing unit.

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 ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Heat wave ...

Texas has thus far endured a heat wave of historic proportions in the summer of 2023. The higher-than-normal temperatures have created health issues for many residents and impacted quality of life for millions of people. Not surprisingly, the effects do not stop there.

As with any extreme weather event, excessive heat affects the economy in dynamic and complex ways. Substantial losses occur as a result of lower agricultural yields and an overall decline in productivity across multiple industries. Even morbidity and mortality increase. These losses are partially offset by gains in other sectors, such as increases in utility consumption.

In order to provide a perspective on the economic impact of this summer's heat wave as well as the potential consequences of a long-term trend toward hotter summers, our firm started with detailed baseline forecasts from our US Multi-Regional Econometric Model (which I developed over 40 years ago and have consistently updated, refined, and otherwise lived with since that time). We then merged in an extensive analysis of economic responses to temperature changes over several decades in all 50 states. This process allowed for detailed assessments over several hundred industries. Enough of that!

Assuming the current pattern generally persists through August, with average daily temperatures approximately 2.6 degrees above the long-term average in the state, the net loss to the Texas economy will be an estimated \$9.55 billion in real gross product (a reduction in growth of about 0.47%). The greatest relative losses are found in agriculture (more than 5.7%); the largest absolute losses among major sectors include financial industries (\$3.91 billion), due to losses such as crop insurance, and services (\$2.11 billion), largely because of lethargic performance in professional and business services.

Though dwarfed by overall patterns, some industries actually see gains during extreme heat, such as electric and water providers. The demand for some manufactured goods made in Texas also rises. The primary cause of losses is ultimately attributable to declines in productivity. The higher utility costs lead to some corresponding losses in consumer spending (retail sales is negatively affected by about \$646 million). Long-term impacts assuming average summer temperatures one degree above the historical average through 2050 were also estimated. In such a scenario, the effects compound over time, with losses to the Texas economy of almost \$400 billion in real gross product in 2050 or about 9.24% below the baseline scenario. Once again, the effects vary greatly across various industries, with agricultural output suffering substantial and sustained declines.

Extreme weather events such as heat waves cost the economy billions. Over a long period of time, persistent temperature increases will have even larger and more profound economic consequences. This stuff matters! In the meantime, stay safe (and cool)!

Extreme weather events such as heat waves cost the economy billions. Over a long period of time, persistent temperature increases will have even larger and more profound economic consequences. This stuff matters! In the meantime, stay safe (and cool)!

Bookstores sue over law rating books in schools

Texas bookstores have joined with national organizations to sue in federal court over a new Texas law that requires a rating system for books in schools and seeks to ban sexually explicit books from public school libraries.

The American Booksellers Association and other national groups were joined by BookPeople in Austin, Blue Willow Bookshop in Houston and others in filing the suit, saying the law, due to take effect on Sept. 1, "is unrealistic, limits students' reading options and narrows libraries' book selections," according to the Statesman.

Named as defendants in the suit are several state agencies, including the Texas Education Agency, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the State Board of Education, all of which will be responsible for

implementing the law. "This law is bad for small businesses, like independent bookstores," Charley Rejsek, CEO of BookPeople, said. "The workload, and the monetary aspect that goes along with the workload, is just impossible to meet."

In a tweet responding to the lawsuit, Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, who authored HB 900, said "bring it."

One in five Texans live in flood plain

About 20% of the state's population — nearly 6 million Texans — live in an area susceptible to flooding, according to new data gathered by the Texas Water Development Board and reported by the Texas Tribune.

The analysis by TWDB is part of its first statewide flood plan, required by a law

101 YEAR-OLD PASTOR JACK HETZEL LEADS

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AND LEARN WITH US



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Office Hours - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Telephone: 903-845-2235

Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

Owners:

Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell
Reporting: James Draper
Advertising: Darla Ferguson
Office Manager: Tiffany Hobbs

ARE YOU PREPARED?

*"Now evil prospers, falsehood reigns
And darkness dims the light;
But we rejoice to know that Christ
Will one day set things right."*

It is true that we are living in a time when evil seems to prosper, and falsehood seems to prevail. Criminals seem to get away with so much today. Even when they are apprehended, they often seem to escape justice from our justice system and courts. We are no longer surprised, when evil and wicked people commit crimes, and even admit that they committed them, to see, by some clever legal defenses, they are released to commit new crimes. We are fast becoming a lawless society, reaching a point where instead of having the criminals locked up behind bars, law-abiding people are prisoners in their own homes behind locked doors. Even in religion, God's law is twisted and perverted, and outright ignored by some.

Will things get better? I surely hope so, but I don't see any convincing evidence that things are going to change much in the foreseeable future. But I know this: there is a great Day coming when ungodly and lawless people will stand before the Judge that cannot be deceived, bribed, or overruled. On that day our great God will pass sentence upon all who have thumbed their noses at Him. There will be no clever defense, and there will be no appeal. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption" (Gal 6: 7-8). On that Day the righteous Judge will "declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me; you who practice lawlessness" (Matt. 7: 23). Yes, the day is coming when Jesus will set things right! That last great Day when "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5: 10). The chorus of a hymn we sing is appropriate here:

*"Careless soul, O heed the warning,
For your life will soon be gone;
O how sad to face the judgment,
Unprepared to meet thy God."*

Friend, are you prepared for that Day? Have you obeyed the saving gospel of Christ? (Rom. 1: 16). I implore you to please think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

City recruits help to clear storm debris

By James Draper

Both Gladewater residents and city personnel spent a good part of the summer dealing with a record-setting amount of green debris following the mid-June storm.

The uncommon volume strained city resources for clearing it all. There has been progress, though, and City Hall's working to finish the clean-up.

"I know we still have a lot of debris around," Gladewater Mayor Scott Owens said during city council members' regularly-scheduled meeting July 20. With pickups underway, "We appreciate all of y'all's patience as we do that."

As severe as the storm was, City Manager Charlie Smith noted, it left plenty of debris around Lake Gladewater in addition to private property and public land throughout town.

At such an extraordinary volume, "I don't know if my Public Works Department would be able to get to all of that in the next year," Smith added. Rather than wait, the city opted to bring in a contractor to haul off as much as possible as quickly as possible: "We're going to bring them in and get all that out of the way. It's just so much."

A controlled burn approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will be performed as soon as possible.

"That's coming about, it's just taking a while to get to it today."

On a similar note, Smith said the city's previously contracted mower stopped work and increased the bid for the service by \$6,000 a month: "We've been working to find a new contractor to come in and take care of that situation."

Notably, the presence of Gladewater Police at Lake Gladewater has been increased at the council's direction.

On weekends, "We have off-duty officers that are coming in and patrolling the lake," Smith noted. "It's a heavy police patrol. Hopefully we'll see some difference in the debris and the trash that's thrown around that lake. We're trying to work it and be positive with that."

As far as good news, during his monthly city manager's report Smith said electrical repairs at Bumblebee Park have led to some obvious improvements.

"All the lights are on," he said, with new LED lighting on the basketball court, restrooms and pavilion in addition to a new lit sign for the recreation area on Coach Cooksey street.

In the mayor's July update, Owens reminded drivers to slow down this month as students return to school Thursday, Aug. 10. He also urged locals to mark their calendars for noon Aug. 17 as State Rep. Jay Dean visits Gladewater for a town hall meeting in First Methodist's Jeter Hall.

Local restaurant health inspections limited

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feel good about how they're clean and healthy and never serving anything bad."

For Darla Allen, director of food services and custodial for Gladewater ISD, it's very important to her and other cafeteria system staffers that they're at peak efficiency when it comes to food safety.

"We just want to make sure that the kids get good, quality food and we keep them safe," she said. "Especially with the kids that have allergies at our Primary campus."

"We make sure nobody gets sick, and we take care of business."

Allen's been with the district 28 years and has spent about a decade as food services director. She's thankful for her custodial background and believes it was good experience to prepare her for food safety.

"With food, you have to be so careful with it. We have to make sure we keep temperatures and everything clean."

Allen has 21 employees across four cafeterias at the district. They spent Aug. 1-2 in another round of food safety continuing education.

"We do a lot of training at Region VII and Region VIII to make sure we're on top of our processes and procedures. Every summer we do," she noted. "It's required by the state, but my group's really good: they want to learn anything they can learn and to do better. They want to make sure our kiddoes get the best of what we can give 'em."

Addressing commercial setups on a complaint basis is the happy medium for Gladewater's current capabilities.

"The proper health inspector is a Sanitarian, a person with a degree in health safety. That's not in our budget right now," Harrison noted. That said, any complaint of any kind is taken seriously: "They saw a roach; they didn't like the food; they saw something they didn't like when they were being served. I will respond to that complaint and go do a complete inspection."

Are the employees wearing food prep gloves? Hairnets? Are they washing their hands? Are they, in general, following the rules that ensure the health and safety of their customers? Harrison

Manna House needs donations

The local Manna House is always in need of food so they can help our neighbors. So please continue your weekly donations of jelly and cereal, along with bread, canned fruit. So, when 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 at the *Gladewater Mirror* at 211 N. Main. Got questions, call (903) 845-3128.

Keller joins KC board

Gladewater's Jon Keller was sworn in as a Kilgore College Board member in June, taking over the unexpired term of Joe Carrington who resigned because he moved to Austin.

Keller represents White Oak, Voting Unit #2, Place 8, North Zone. His term will expire in May of 2025.

Also, newly elected board members Lon Ford, Gina DeHoyos and Travis Martin were sworn in at the meeting.

Lee-Bardwell Library crocheting

The Lee-Bardwell Library hosts "Cozy Crochet" every Saturday at 1 p.m.. Everyone is invited! Call 903-845-2640 for information.



Museum hosting Dick Burnett exhibit

The Gladewater Museum is featuring a new exhibit honoring Dick Burnett and his semi-professional baseball team, the Gladewater Bears – this team became the Dallas Eagles. The Texas Rangers are honoring their origin that includes the Dallas Eagles and the Fort Worth Panthers. Admission is free. Visit the museum at 116 W. Pacific Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday to learn the rest of the story.

Summer Shoe drive underway

The Darla's Angels charity outreach is kicking off a Christmas in July effort this weekend – the 2023 Summertime Shoe Drive is looking for locals who are ready to step up for students.

Throughout July, four businesses in Gladewater will be collecting donations of new pairs of shoes and socks for boys and girls in a variety of sizes. The four donation locations include Citizens Bank, the Gladewater Mirror, Penny's Food & Fuel and City National Bank.

Shoes sizes range from toddler through youth and adult. Socks will be greatly appreciated, says organizer Darla Ferguson.

For more information, contact Darla at the *Mirror* at 903-845-2235.

School safety bill mandating armed security begins Sept. 1

House Bill 3 takes effect Sept. 1, mandating school districts to have armed security on every campus. There are more than 9,000 campuses in the state of Texas. The officers could either be Texas Certified Peace Officers, or school districts could also have the option to commission their own employees to carry a firearm.

Those schools could arm a school district employee, who would be required to undergo training from a handgun instructor certified in school safety. It's a minimum of 15 hours of training.

The bill strengthens the Texas School Safety Center, which disseminates safety information to all schools. It requires annual audits of school protocol and for staff members to get mental health training.

The state also provided funding for districts to enforce the requirements in the amount of \$15,000 per school campus and \$10 per student. The bill also includes school safety grants. The Texas Association of School Boards estimates that the cost to place an armed officer at one campus is \$80,000.

Texas Prepaid Tuition Plan Newborn enrollment nears

Texas families have through July 31 to enroll

their newborns at 2022-23 prices in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund®, the state's prepaid college tuition plan. Newborns are children younger than 1 year of age at the time of enrollment.*

"I know what it's like to be the parent of newborns, and paying for college was not always at the top of my mind," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "That's why we're reminding new parents to take advantage of the opportunity to lock in this year's rates and lay the foundation for their children's future educational opportunities."

Complete plan information, including the plan description and agreement, current sales prices, enrollment forms and more, is available at TuitionPromise.org or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

County library features storytime

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Aug. 3.

To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. events are "Frog and Fly" by Jeff Mack, and "I Don't Want to Be a Frog" by Dev Petty.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154), said library spokeswoman Kari Dunn. For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001.



UPSHUR COUNTY 4-H members who took part in records book competition were recognized Monday by the Upshur County Commissioners Court in Gilmer. Front row, left to right, are Selah Poorman, Lilly Poorman, Kaitlyn Mathews, Aleighna Tuttle, Jayden Taylor, Maggie Mayes, Olivia Volm and Alicia Volm. Back row, l to r, are County Extension Agent Julie York, who works with 4-H; County Commissioners Dustin Nicholson, Gene Dolle, County Judge Todd Tefteller, and County Commissioners Michael Ashley and Jay W. Miller. Courtesy Photo by Christy Volm

Salary gaps discussed at budget workshop

Continued from Page 1

been progress over time, but it's an ongoing conversation as elected officials and City Hall leaders balance one need against another.

"We've got to do retention of our employees. We all know that," Smith reminded council members. Years of good decision-making by the department heads and council members have led to some improvements, he added, but there's still a lot of ground to cover: "Unless we take that step forward to retain these people, we're going to be stepping stone, and that step's getting pretty small."

"I'm not saying we have to do all that at once, but we've got to do something."

Glad for added overtime pay, Fire Chief Mike Simmons aims to work step increases into his department's compensation, incentivizing firefighters to stay.

"We can't underpay people and expect them to overperform and stay here and be happy," he said. "It feels like we're just spinning our wheels in the mud."

It's an important consideration for Owens, but it's also one of many.

"I understand where y'all are coming from, but salaries aren't the only thing we have to worry about in this bud-

get," he said. "If we don't do anything about streets..."

It's a problem all the city's leaders have inherited, Police Chief Gordon Freeman agreed.

"We've all seen worse days for Gladewater, but now we're on an upswing. I just kind of want to keep some momentum," he said. "I don't want to have to fight to keep employees."

The current draft budget includes a 5 percent increase to the city's salary pool to be allocated to various employees.

"It can't be all about one department," City Clerk Judy Van Houten said, "it's got to be about the whole city."

City Treasurer Meghan Davis said the issue is about more than pay: "It's about the work morale and attitudes in each department."

Stepping into the con-

versation, council member Brandy Flanagan thanked Freeman for developing a matrix that shows the pay disparity between Gladewater and other similar operations in the area. For example, patrol officers (\$40,950) in the community are the lowest paid across the board from Upshur County to Hawkins, Carthage, Hallsville, Gilmer, Rusk County, Gregg County, White Oak and Whitehouse. Sergeants and Investigators make more than their counterparts in Upshur County, less than all their other peers.

That said, whatever the department they work in at the City of Gladewater, "I don't think anybody's overpaid," Flanagan said. "If we just keep going with across the board increases and we don't fill in those gaps, we're just going to keep having that discrepancy."

Upshur sheriff, constables get major raises

Continued from Page 1

Mitchell, the only constable at Monday's meeting, said the county couldn't apply for the grant till Jan. 1 (which is after the forthcoming new 2023-24 county fiscal year begins). He asked when the raises would thus begin, and Williams replied they would be effective at the fiscal year's start this Oct. 1.

Said County Judge Todd Tefteller, "At least, this is a funded mandate for a change"--a reference to county officials' complaints over the years that the state requires the county to perform certain functions, but doesn't help pay for them.

The pay raises were among several major actions the court took Monday (see separate story.) Some of the lesser matters commission-

ers handled included:

- Hearing acting County Road Administrator Phil Stegall report that the county has cleaned up all but about 20% of the debris from a major June wind storm. Stegall also said his department has recently built two miles of road and is in the process of constructing a third.

- Approving interlocal agreements with six taxing entities for the county to assess and collect their property taxes. They include five cities--Big Sandy, East Mountain, Warren City (which has its city hall in Gregg County), Ore City, Gilmer--and Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 1.

- Appointing Ric Lively, who oversees the food bank in downtown Gilmer, to a two-year term on the Com-

munity Healthcare Board of Trustees. In the motion, the court expressed its thanks to his predecessor who chose to retire, Bridget Fowler.

- Approving and accepting for recording a re-plat of two blocks of the Hillcrest Addition and re-naming it Abigail's Subdivision.

- Accepting Ozarka Water's donation of pallets of water for the Road and Bridge Department and Maintenance Department.

- Approving County Extension Agent Julie York's request to attend the National 4-H Volunteer Conference in Eatonton, Ga., Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

- Recognizing several youngsters from the county's 4-H Clubs who entered competition involving their record books. York introduced the contestants to the court.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Gladewater City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2024, and a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway Avenue, Gladewater, Texas.

This proposed budget will raise more total taxes than last year's budget by \$50,260 (1.78%), and of that amount \$23,577 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in these public hearings.

City, property owners raze condemned buildings

By James Draper

With eight structures slated for demolition, just one drew a property owner to the Gladewater City Council chambers at City Hall July 20, and he offered no reservations about the coming clear-out and clean-up of his family's property.

No, Joe Kruse said he understands the concerns about the deteriorating home, and his aim is to take care of everything by early Fall so it's not necessary for the City of Gladewater to step in.

Granted, "It's not cheap to do this project," Kruse told council members, standing alongside City Inspector Al Harrison at the podium in mid-July. That said, "I've got the financing now. That was the only thing holding it up."

According to Harrison, he and Kruse have been in regular communication to mitigate a variety of issues at 1709 E. Lake Drive, ranging from collapsed woodwork on the back of the home to a tree through the roof, trash and out of control weeds.

"It's worse looking now that it was," Kruse allowed. Workers have been removing siding and hauling it off to the scrap yard ahead of the full demolition and clean-up. He aims to have both completed in 90 days: "I'd rather do it than y'all do it. It's going to be taken care of."

"It will be demolished, and it will be going up for sale. It's prime lake lot."

With Kruse handling the various issues voluntarily, council members unanimously granted his requested extension to Oct. 20.

No property owners spoke July 20 regarding either 322 Ragsdale or 803 E. Pacific Ave., and both properties were unanimously-approved for demolition by the city.

Harrison went through a laundry list of problems at the condemned structures.

"Bids cannot go out until after y'all order the demolition," he noted. Notably, "There were five demolitions done by voluntary compliance."

In other business July 20, council members discussed replacing the air conditioning system at City Hall, where personnel have been sweltering this summer.

"We have worked repeatedly over the last year just to patch and get by," Mayor Scott Owens said. "It is time, I believe, to replace these units."

The discussion soon re-focused on the future of the building and how to get things working while staying fiscally responsible for the future.

"If we're going to fix something, let's go with the low bid so we've got a little bit less invested in the building," City Manager Charlie Smith recommended, "in case somewhere down the road we find we want to do something different."

"We've got the roof fixed recently, too. Knock on wood, we haven't had any issues with that."

Council member Teddy Sorrells underscored the council's focus on years ahead.

"As we think about our city and our city growing and what we're doing and the things we want people to see who are coming into

our city," he said, "I think that it's imperative that we come up with a plan about City Hall."

On their consent agenda, items typically considered and approved with no discussion, the council members unanimously approved the minutes from meetings on June 15, July 6 and July 10 in addition to the city's 2nd quarter investment report.

Council members took no specific action on a Lake Board recommendation to move forward with a new vendor and security plan at Lake Gladewater – the elected officials previously tasked Smith to move forward on those and other related issues. The group generally agreed with the Lake Board's advocacy for grants to repair or replace playground equipment at the lake park.

Grant applications are in progress, Smith said, with key deadlines in October then May 2024 (and other dates along the way).

"I also, in the meantime, have consulted about getting some mulch to put under some of that equipment out there," he said. "There's nothing but hard dirt on the ground, roots and rocks."

Playground equipment is extremely expensive, Owens agreed.

"Going after this grant is extremely important."

On a similar note, Gladewater will be at the head of the developing Sabine River Paddle Trail, council member Brandy Flanagan said.

"I think we're starting to see some momentum around Gladewater with some really interesting possibilities."

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SPORTS

UG Lions - New season, better outcome

By Tyler Sutton

2022 was a tale of two seasons for Union Grove football. What started out great with a 3-1 mark in non-district play, fell apart in district as the Lions went 0-6 to finish with a 3-7 record and missing the playoffs.

Coach Bobby Chadwick is back once again as head coach and is poised to have a bounce back season in 2023. "I think we got a lot of junior and senior leadership coming back that can lead us to a bounce back season. We started out hot in the non-district schedule but really hit a road block in district play. I got to coach better and get them ready for the long district season," Chadwick said.

The Lions will be trying to end a 6 year playoff drought. Having not made the postseason since the 2017 season

Key offensive players returning: Matthew Gipson, Carter Cooper, Rylan Roberts, Jace

Roberts, Jaden Shavers, Peyton Laake, Jesse Fulmer, Colton Cowan, Alston Mullins, Josh Baker, Landon Ferguson, Vance Aaron

Key defensive returning players: Gipson, Cooper, R. Roberts, J. Roberts, Chavers, Fulmer, Mullins, Kayden Day, Josh Baker, Mason Byers, Aaron

Union Grove 2023 schedule:
August 24th: Bishop Gorman
August 31st : @ Cumby
September 7th : Cushing
September 14th: @ Linden-Kildare
September 22nd: Ore City
September 29th : @ Frankston
October 6th: Harleton
October 13th: Bye
October 19th : @ Big Sandy
October 27th : Hawkins (Sr night)
November 3rd: @ Beckville

Lady Lions - on top of the hill again

By Tyler Sutton

One word summed up the 2022 volleyball season for Union Grove. And that word was rough.

The Lady Lions struggled to a 8-24 record and winning just 1 district game going 1-10 in district play. Change was then made and it was a big one. As Union Grove hired longtime White Oak coach Carolee Musick to be their head coach.

Musick had over 800 wins (648 coming at White Oak) and won a state championship with the LadyNecks from 1994 to 2013 and again from 2019 till retiring after the 2021 season .

She also spent 6 seasons at Pine Tree racking up 131 wins with the Pirates and helping them make the playoffs every season. "This was just a great opportunity that came up," Musick said of her return to the sidelines. "I heard a coach they hired had gone to another school, and they needed someone. It's just going to be part-time for me. I'll just be doing volleyball, but it's a great opportunity for me to help out an area program."

Key returning players: Taylor Campbell, Gracie Lawrence, Keira Turner, Hannah Coulter, Paige Parman, Sarah Prince, Daytona Vaughn

Union Grove 2023 schedule:
August 7th: Garrison

August 10th-12th : Big Sandy Tourney
August 15th : Linden-Kildare
August 17th- August 19th : West Rusk Tournament (at West Rusk)
August 22nd : @ Arp
August 24th- August 26th: : Hawkins Tournament (@ Hawkins)
August 29th: Winona
September 1st: @ West Rusk
September 5th: @ Cumberland
September 8th : Union Hill
September 15th: Jefferson
September 19th : Leverret's Chapel
September 22nd : Hawkins
September 26th : @ Carlisle
September 29th : Overton
October 3rd : Big Sandy
October 6th : @ Beckville
October 10th : @ Hawkins
October 13th : Carlisle (Sr night)
October 17th : @ Overton
October 19th : @ Big Sandy
October 24th : Beckville

"One Man's Opinion by Coot Putley"

Where things stand at the break

Major League Baseball paused recently for the All-Star game, the traditional midway mark in the schedule. Let's take a look at where things stand at the break.

The Atlanta Braves have lived up to their expectations, and are the best team in baseball, with 60 wins. Once again, the AL East is easily the strongest division – every team has at least 48 wins. In fact, the last place team in the East, the Boston Red Sox, would lead the mediocre AL Central by 2 ½ games over the first place Cleveland Guardians.

Who are the first half surprises? If you predicted that the Texas Rangers and Cincinnati Reds would be leading their divisions at the break, I would like to get some stock tips from you. If you had mentioned in the Spring that the Arizona Diamondbacks would be tied for the lead in the NL West with the Los Angeles Dodgers, or that the Baltimore Orioles would be only 2 games out of first place in the AL East, no-one would have believed you! In maybe the biggest shocker of all, the perennial contenders from St. Louis are in last place in the NL Central. The Cardinals are 38 – 53, which is the fifth worst record in the game.

New York Mets multi-billionaire owner Steve Cohen has vowed to spend whatever it takes to win. Despite a payroll of \$364 million, the Mets have 42 wins and 48 losses. And the trendy pick in the NL West, San Diego Padres, sit at 43 and 47 with their \$251 million in salaries.

No awards are given out at mid-year, but if they were, here are my choices:

MVP –	AL Shohei Ohtani	NL Ronald Acuna Jr.
Cy-Young –	AL Nate Eovaldi	NL Zac Gallen
Rookie of the Year –	AL Josh Jung	NL Corbin Carroll

So there you have it. Where will these teams be three months from now? Will these potential award winners continue to perform at the same level? Who will be traded? What managers will be looking for a new job? Enjoy the second half of America's favorite pastime!

Upshur jail passes 'limited compliance review'

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Jail recently passed a "limited compliance review" by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards after the sheriff's office sent jail records to the commission, announced Sheriff Larry Webb.

Such a review is an option when a jail has passed an "on-site compliance inspection" by the commission, the sheriff said. The Upshur jail in Gilmer had been found some time ago to be "a compliant jail already with no issues found," he said.

Earlier in July, Webb said the latest limited review was conducted by phone and transmitting records by e-mail.

Webb spoke July 25 by telephone from Fort

Worth, where he was attending a conference of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. On July 13, he had revealed the commission's finding, but gave more details while at the conference.

In the latest review, the commission requested such documents as inmate records, inmate medical records, restraint logs, cell check records, and records of regular maintenance requirements, such as for the jail generator, the sheriff said July 25.

The commission is limited on on-site inspectors, uses them for county jails needing help, "and we're not one of those jails," Webb added. The local jail passed on-site inspection "with flying colors" and is in a "low-risk state," he explained.



Union Grove football and volleyball players took to the fields and hardwood last week as sports camps continued to prepare them for the upcoming seasons. Photos by Kim Hill



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County taxes may cut property taxes

Continued from Page 1

believe it. He noted the county's share of matching funds could change.

Even if it does, LaFleur told the court, the additional grant funding will help the county.

The court recently chose JC Stoddard Construction Company of San Antonio as "construction manager as contractor" for the project.

Teffeller told commissioners the firm's proposed contract is "probably gonna be hitting my desk this week." The court discussed it in closed session before voting to let Teffeller sign it when he and LaFleur approve it, and, in Teffeller's words, "after all four of you (commissioners) tell me I can."

He indicated he didn't want to wait till the court's next meeting to sign the contract for financial reasons. Stoddard's construction schedule is 620 days.

The Upshur project is designed to restore the courthouse interior largely to its original appearance when it opened in 1937. The court recently named JC Stoddard Construction Company of San Antonio as "construction manager as contractor" for the project.

Under current plans, courthouse offices will be temporarily housed in at least three places during the construction: leased modular buildings on the courthouse square, a rented nearby office building on Titus Street, and the old Gilmer ISD administration building.

The court leased the school building from GISD for three years at \$1 annually.

In other business Monday, the court voted to file the proposed 2023-24 fiscal year budget with County Clerk Terri Ross, and post it on the county website, by Aug. 11.

Williams said the court would hold a public hearing on it Aug. 31, and approve the budget in September.

Commissioners also voted to post public notices, which are normally posted in the courthouse, at the nearby Upshur County Justice Center during the renovation.

In other business Monday, the court approved a budget amendment to grant special pay adjustments (raises) to two employees in county Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell's office, and one worker in County Treasurer Brandy Vick's office. No reasons were given for the pay hikes.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TX George W. Baird High School class (2 wds.)

6 St. Marks in Dallas is a _____ school

7 29th and 32nd governor: "____" Ferguson

8 TXism: "living high on the _____" (rich)

9 in Eastland County on highway 6

15 TX Ryan Palmer is on PGA _____

16 in Cameron County on highway 107

19 soft fruit that is not commercially grown in Texas

21 hollow unleavened breads

22 Galveston's "Bishop Palace" (2 wds.)

27 TX Gramm, U.S. senator (1985-2002), and representative (1979-83)

28 kin to the llama

29 mockery, ridicule

30 TXism for "leave it alone" (3 wds.)

32 late TX Helmond of TV show "Who's the Boss?" (init.)

33 "North _____ & Rodeo" in Denton

36 "_____ and void"

37 Del _____, Texas

38 former Cowboys tight end, Jay

39 using electronic sounds to substitute for expletives

41 fish appendage

42 married woman, south of the border

45 TXism: "easy as falling off _____"

46 this Sarah made the first "lone star" flag (init.)

47 natural hair style worn by some Texas black folks

48 TXism: "the _____ is in the fire" (trouble)

49 most graceful

52 state where "Zeke" Elliott went to college

53 most light bulbs today

54 poetic "before"

55 dir. to Lufkin from Mineola

DOWN

1 TX Wills, "Western swing" musician

2 "one" in Mexico

3 seat of Baylor County

4 TXism: "_____ snappin' turtle"

8 "_____ for the best"

9 "All the Gold in California," Texas group (2 wds.)

10 TXism: "dab it _____"

11 late Texas actor, Rip (init.)

12 Jason Spezza went from the Dallas Stars to this Toronto team (2 wds.)

13 got _____ in my shirt (tear)

14 TXism: "_____ lick of" (none)

15 TX Shelley Duval's "Tall _____ Legends"

16 TX Ellerbee book: "And _____ Goes"

17 tackling Dak for a loss

18 TXism: "happy _____ in slop"

20 actress in Texas-filmed "Silkwood"

22 TXism: "old _____ dirt"

23 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse _____"

24 a cowboy might wear _____ gallon hat

25 TXism: "_____ half a dozen of the other" (same either way)

26 singer Randy who has a ranch outside Tioga, Texas

28 "ready, willing, and _____"

31 TX Cyd Charisse birth name

34 this Fred won TX Byron Nelson Golf Classic, 1987 (init.)

35 this Stilwell started Port Arthur (init.)

37 "One _____, one Ranger"


40 map or plan for a piece of land

43 org. of the Texans and the Cowboys, although the teams are in different conferences

44 Palmeiro left the Rangers for this Baltimore team

50 TXism for "hello"

51 "_____ Siecke State Forest" near Kirbyville, Texas



P-1648

See Answers On This Page

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7/29/23	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20234212	0:08	FOREST HILL FOREST HILL	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234213	0:43	EZ MART	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234214	1:53	LAKE GLADEWATER	101 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234215	2:12	TELES MEXICAN RESTAURANT	401 S TYLER TYLER RD
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234216	2:29	TELES MEXICAN RESTAURANT	1 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20234217	7:19	1032 COMMERCE COMMERCE E	1032 E COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234218	7:33	901 CULVER CULVER ST	901 CULVER CULVER ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234219	8:04	PMM PRODUCTS	690 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	FIRE DEPT	20234220	8:26	GLADEVIEW BAPTIST	4411 COMMERCE COMMERCE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234221	9:24	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234222	9:41	300 MONEY MONEY ST	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234223	10:20	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234224	10:37	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234225	11:45	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234227	12:17	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20234228	12:45	3412 W HWY 80 HWY 80	3412 W HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234229	13:16	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234230	14:00	GAY AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20234231	14:32	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234232	14:42	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	10-50 MINOR	20234234	15:51	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20234235	17:20	601 WOOD WOOD ST	601 WOOD WOOD ST
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	20234236	17:46	908 S TYLER TYLER ST	908 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234238	18:41	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	EMS	20234239	18:52	500 E EDDY EDDY	500 E EDDY EDDY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234240	19:02	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234241	19:43	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234242	19:50	QUITMAN QUITMAN	800 E GLADE GLADE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234243	20:23	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	20234244	21:51	FAMILY DOLLAR	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
7/24/23	EMS	20234245	0:05	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20234246	1:08	199 SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST	199 SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	EMS	20234247	1:41	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	20234248	10:05	ZIPPS LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20234249	11:14	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20234250	12:06	216 OAK OAK DR	216 OAK OAK DR
	THEFT	20234251	12:40	107 N COTTON COTTON ST	107 N COTTON COTTON ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234252	13:21	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	SMIPLE ASSAULT "C"	20234253	14:02	912 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR	912 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	EMS	20234254	14:27	213 MOHAGANY MOHAGANY	213 MOHAGANY MOHAGANY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234256	16:46	2810 OLIVE OLIVE ST	2810 OLIVE OLIVE ST
	THEFT	20234257	17:47	416 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL	416 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234258	18:22	2447 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD	2447 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	FIRE DEPT	20234260	19:53	523 NORTH NORTH ST	523 NORTH NORTH ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234261	22:23	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20234262	22:51	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234263	23:46	GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE	GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
7/25/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234264	1:05	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234265	2:03	LAUNDRY KING	803 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20234266	2:58	711 W PACIFIC PACIFIC	711 W PACIFIC PACIFIC
	EMS	20234267	6:55	200 W GAY GAY AVE	200 W GAY GAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20234268	7:21	1821 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS	1821 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS
	THEFT	20234269	8:40	2908 W GAY GAY AVE	2908 W GAY GAY AVE
	CRIM MIS	20234270	8:44	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ASSIST	20234271	10:28	1406 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE	1406 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234272	11:02	400 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	400 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20234273	11:26	SWAMP RAT TOWING	1829 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234274	12:13	2814 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK	2814 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	EMS	20234275	12:29	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20234276	13:50	GREGG GREGG	912 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20234278	14:59	912 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR	912 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	EMS	20234279	15:51	511 S TYLER TYLER RD	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234280	16:44	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234282	17:26	200 MELBA MELBA	200 MELBA MELBA
	ALARM/OTHER	20234284	18:29	TIRE ROAD	807 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234285	20:04	CENTER CENTER	CENTER CENTER
	EMS	20234287	20:45	1110 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD	1110 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	EMS	20234288	20:59	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234289	23:42	GLADEWATER KNIFE	121 S MAIN MAIN
7/26/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234290	0:25	RBS LIQUOR	1801 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20234291	3:06	801 COACH COCKSEY COACH COCKSEY	801 COACH COCKSEY COACH COCKSEY
	EMS	20234292	4:16	511 S TYLER TYLER	511 S TYLER TYLER
	ALARM/OTHER	20234293	8:36	2322 W GAY GAY AVE	2322 W GAY GAY AVE
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20234294	10:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20234295	13:55	912 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE	912 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234296	16:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	10-50 MINOR	20234297	17:14	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234298	17:31	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234299	18:03	UPSHUR COUNTY SO	405 N TITUS TITUS ST
	MURDER	20234300	18:19	1637 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD	1637 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234301	22:46	46 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE	46 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ABANDONED 911	20234302	22:59	904 COTTON COTTON	904 COTTON COTTON
7/27/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234303	0:59	303 N LEE LEE	303 N LEE LEE
	UNAUTHORIZED USE MOTOR VEH	20234304	2:30	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20234305	6:00	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20234306	10:04	522 MELBA MELBA	522 MELBA MELBA
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20234307	10:05	501 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL	501 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	10-50 MINOR	20234309	11:20	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20234310	12:09	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234311	12:35	2604 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS	2604 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	EMS	20234312	13:33	407 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK	407 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK
	FIRE DEPT	20234313	13:46	1000 UPSHUR UPSHUR	1000 UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20234315	14:12	208 ELEANOR ELEANOR	208 ELEANOR ELEANOR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234316	16:55	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234317	17:26	LOOP 271 LOOP 271	LOOP 271 LOOP 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234318	18:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234319	19:03	2105 PINECREST PINECREST	2105 PINECREST PINECREST
	EMS	20234320	20:53	802 COACH COCKSEY COACH COCKSEY ST	802 COACH COCKSEY COACH COCKSEY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234321	22:00	LOOP 486 LOOP 486	LOOP 486 LOOP 486
	EMS	20234322	22:50	900 NORTH NORTH ST	900 NORTH NORTH ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234323	22:54	700 W MELBA MELBA AVE	700 W MELBA MELBA AVE
7/28/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234324	3:17	GAY GAY	GAY GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234325	6:25	1785 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD	1785 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	EMS	20234326	7:29	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	THEFT	20234327	7:53	2108 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP	2108 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP
	EMS	20234328	12:43	1014 N LYNN LYNN ST	1014 N LYNN LYNN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234329	12:47	501 N AMES AMES ST	501 N AMES AMES ST
	ESCORT	20234331	15:39	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234332	16:29	2885 2885	2885 2885
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234334	17:41	HWY 80 HWY 80	HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234336	22:28	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234337	23:00	1879 N WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK RD	1879 N WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234338	23:48	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
7/29/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234339	0:44	1508 N LYNN LYNN ST	1508 N LYNN LYNN ST
	THEFT	20234340	7:11	1202 NELWYN NELWYN	1202 NELWYN NELWYN
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234341	7:30	S TYLER TYLER ST	S TYLER TYLER ST
	CRIM MIS	20234342	7:39	2108 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY	2108 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20234343	11:30	OLIVE OLIVE ST	OLIVE OLIVE ST
	EMS	20234344	13:01	1822 SHELL SHELL CIR	1822 SHELL SHELL CIR
	ALARM/OTHER	20234345	14:20	1304 N EDWARDS EDWARDS ST	1304 N EDWARDS EDWARDS ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234346	15:49	111 S MAIN MAIN ST	111 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234347	15:56	1402 W GAY GAY AVE	1402 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20234348	16:01	1406 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE	1406 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	ASSIST	20234349	17:03	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	10-50 MINOR	20234350	20:06	271 271	271 271
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234361	20:23	716 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST	716 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234362	21:03	SWAMP CITY RD SWAMP CITY RD	SWAMP CITY RD SWAMP CITY RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234363	21:57	512 W JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE	512 W JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	EMS	20234364	22:30	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234365	23:48	507 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE	507 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
7/30/23	ABANDONED 911	20234366	1:04	1300 MARY MARY ST	1300 MARY MARY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234367	4:49	2328 US 271 US 271	2328 US 271 US 271
	EMS	20234368	7:11	408 W GAY GAY	408 W GAY GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234369	7:14	MCKEES MCKEES	1965 W LAKE LAKE DRIV
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234360	9:47	1965 W LAKE LAKE DRIV	1965 W LAKE LAKE DRIV
	EMS	20234361	10:13	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20234362	10:54	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234365	15:18	1000 NELWYN NELWYN AVE	1000 NELWYN NELWYN AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234366	16:04	VITAL EARTH RESOURCES	706 E BROADWAY BROADWAY

GPD POLICE ARRESTS

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
7/24/23	7/24/23	14:14	WILSON, MICHAEL RAY	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	912 DR SHEPPARD E
	7/24/23	14:14	WILSON, MICHAEL RAY	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	912 DR SHEPPARD E
	7/24/23	14:14	WILSON, MICHAEL RAY	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	912 DR SHEPPARD E
7/26/23	7/26/23	18:00	BOLTON, BARRY ALFONZO JR	B	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY	511 S S TYLER
	7/26/23	18:00	BOLTON, BARRY ALFONZO JR	B	M	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	511 S S TYLER
	7/26/23	22:57	NICHOLSON, STUART	W	M	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	45 MCKEES ST
	7/26/23	10:4	TACKER, WHITTEN SMITH	W	M	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON	1600 S TYLER

WOPD POLICE ACTIVITY

For the reporting period of July 17th through the 23rd, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 147 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglar Alarms, Traffic Issues (collisions, traffic direction, road hazards, etc.), Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Five traffic collisions were investigated resulting in three injuries and no continuing criminal investigations.

One arrest was made by White Oak Police during the reporting period: Patrick Lynn Peoples, 39, of Marshall for Possession of Less than 28 Grams of a Penalty Group 3 Controlled Substance.

Lake Devernia man dies in tractor rollover

A 73-year-old man died Wednesday after he was reportedly crushed to death when the tractor he was driving apparently fell off a retaining wall on the eastern side of Lake Devernia.

According to Gregg County Pct. 2 Justice of the Peace Tim Bryan, David Cates was taking care of his yard in the 900 block of E. Lake Devernia Rd.

"They had just built a house in the last few months. He was out in the front yard," Bryan reported. Cates had borrowed a friend's

older model tractor. "Something happened where the tractor got too close to the retaining wall. He got close

State sales tax free weekend set for Aug. 11-13

Continued from Page 1

- items used to make or repair clothing, such as fabric, thread, yarn, buttons, snaps, hooks and zippers
- jewelry, handbags, purses, briefcases, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches and other accessories
- computers
- software
- textbooks
- certain baggage items
- unspecified school supplies
- Face Masks

● Cloth and disposable fabric face masks meet the definition of an article of clothing and are exempt from sales tax during the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday.

The statute specifically excludes special clothing or footwear that is primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and that is not normally worn except when used for the activity. Industrial or medical grade masks (e.g. N95 or other masks designed as personal protective equipment) or other similar personal protection equipment are not exempt during the sales tax holiday.

If a cloth or disposable fabric face mask is sold with a filter, the mask is exempt during the holiday; however, replacement filters are taxable.

Backpacks

During the sales tax holiday, student backpacks sold for less than \$100 are exempt from tax.

The exemption includes backpacks with wheels and messenger bags. You can buy up to 10 backpacks tax free at one time without giving an exemption certificate to the seller.

Baggage Items That Do Not Qualify

The following items do not qualify for this exemption:

- framed backpacks
- luggage
- briefcases
- athletic, duffle or gym bags
- computer bags
- purses



Sales Tax Holiday/Tax-Free Weekend

Clothing, Footwear and Other Items – Qualifying and Nonqualifying Items
The items on this list that qualify for exemption from tax during the sales tax holiday must be priced under \$100. Items that do not qualify for exemption are also included.

(T) = Taxable; (E) = Exempt

- Accessories (generally) (T)
- Barrettes (T)
- Belt buckles (sold separately) (T)
- Bobby pins (T)
- Briefcases (T)
- Elastic ponytail holders (T)
- Hair bows (T)
- Hair clips (T)
- Handbags (T)
- Handkerchiefs (T)
- Headbands (T)
- Jewelry (T)
- Key cases (T)
- Purses (T)
- Wallets (T)
- Watch bands (T)
- Watches (T)
- Adult diapers (E)
- Alterations (T)
- Aprons (household) (E)
- Aprons (welders) (T)
- Athletic socks (E)
- Baby bibs (E)
- Baby clothes (E)
- Baby diapers (cloth or disposable) (E)
- Backpacks (unless for use by elementary/secondary students) (T)
- Baseball accessories
- Baseball caps (E)
- Baseball cleats (T)
- Baseball gloves (T)
- Baseball jerseys (E)
- Baseball pants (T)
- Balthing caps (T)
- Belt buckles (T)
- Belts with attached buckles (E)
- Belts for weight lifting (T)
- Bicycle shoes (cleated) (T)
- Blouses (E)
- Boots (general purpose) (E)
- Climbing (cleated or spiked) (T)
- Cowboy (E)
- Fishing (waders) (T)
- Hiking (E)
- Overshoes and galoshes (T)
- Rubber work boots (T)
- Ski (T)
- Waders (T)
- Bow ties (E)
- Bowling shirts (E)
- Bowling shoes (rented and sold) (T)
- Bras (E)
- Buttons and zippers (T)
- Camp clothes (E)
- Caps (baseball, fishing, golf) (E)
- Chef uniforms (E)
- Children's novelty costumes (E)
- Chest protectors (T)
- Clerical vestments (E)
- Cloth and lace, knitting yarns, and other fabrics (T)
- Clothing repair items, such as thread, buttons, tapes, and iron-on patches (T)
- Coats and wraps (E)
- Corsages and boutonnières (T)
- Coveralls (E)
- Diapers (cloth and disposable) (E)
- Dresses (E)
- Dry cleaning services (T)
- Earmuffs
- Cold weather (E)
- Noise cancellation or noise cancelling (T)
- Elbow pads (T)
- Embroidery (T)
- Employee uniforms (unless rented) (E)
- Fabrics, thread, buttons, lace, patterns, knitting yarns (T)
- Fins (swim) (T)
- Fishing boots (waders) (T)
- Fishing caps (E)
- Fishing vests (non-flotation) (E)
- Football accessories
- Football jerseys (E)
- Football pads (T)
- Football pants (T)
- Gloves (generally) (E)
- Baseball (T)
- Batting (T)
- Bicycle (T)
- Dress (unless rented) (E)
- Garden (T)
- Golf (T)
- Hockey (T)
- Leather (E)
- Rubber (T)
- Surgical (T)
- Tennis (T)
- Work (T)
- Goggles (T)
- Golf accessories
- Golf caps (E)
- Golf dresses (E)
- Golf gloves (T)
- Golf jackets and windbreakers (E)
- Golf shirts (E)
- Golf skirts (E)
- Golf purses (T)
- Golf shoes (T)
- Graduation caps and gowns (E)
- Gym suits and uniforms (E)
- Hair nets, bows, clips, and barrettes (T)
- Handbags and purses (T)
- Handkerchiefs (T)
- Hard hats (T)
- Hats (E)
- Headbands (T)
- Helmets (bike, baseball, football, hockey, motorcycle, sports) (T)
- Hockey gloves (T)
- Hooded shirts and hooded sweatshirts (E)
- Hosiery, including support hosiery (E)
- Hunting vests (E)
- Ice skates (T)
- Insoles (T)
- Jackets (E)
- Jeans (E)
- Jewelry (T)
- Jogging apparel (E)
- Knee pads (T)
- Knitted caps or hats (E)
- Laundry services (T)
- Leg warmers (E)
- Leotards and tights (E)
- Life jackets and vests (T)
- Luggage (T)
- Mask, costume (E)
- Mask, cloth and disposable fabric face masks (E)
- Mask, protective – N95, welder, umpire, swim or other similar personal protection equipment (T)
- Monogramming services (T)
- Neckwear and ties (E)
- Nightgowns and nightshirts (E)
- Overshoes and rubber shoes (T)
- Pads (football, hockey, soccer, elbow, knee, shoulder) (T)
- Paint or dust respirators and incidental supplies (T)
- Painter pants (E)
- Pajamas (E)
- Pants (E)
- Panty hose (E)
- Patterns (T)
- Personal flotation devices (T)
- Pocket squares (T)
- Protective gloves (T)
- Protective masks (T)
- Raincoats and ponchos (E)
- Rain hats (E)
- Religious clothing (E)
- Rented clothing (including uniforms, formal wear, and costumes) (T)
- Repair of clothing or footwear (T)
- Ribbons (T)
- Robes (E)
- Roller blades (T)
- Roller skates (T)
- Safety accessories
- Safety clothing (normally worn in hazardous occupations) (T)
- Safety glasses (except prescription) (T)
- Safety shoes (adaptable for street wear) (E)
- Safety shoes (not adaptable for street wear) (T)
- Scarves (E)
- Scout uniforms (E)
- Sewing patterns (T)
- Shawls and wraps (E)
- Shin guards and padding (T)
- Shirts (E)
- Shirts (hooded) (E)
- Shoe inserts (T)
- Shoelaces (T)
- Shoes (generally) (E)
- Ballet (T)
- Baseball cleats (T)
- Bicycle (cleated) (T)
- Boat (E)
- Bowling (T)
- Cleated or spiked (T)
- Cross trainers (E)
- Dress (E)
- Fishing boots (waders) (T)
- Flip-flops (rubber thongs) (E)
- Football (T)
- Golf (T)
- Jazz and dance (T)
- Jellies (E)
- Overshoes (T)
- Running (without cleats) (E)
- Safety (suitable for everyday use) (E)
- Sandals (E)
- Slippers (E)
- Sneakers and tennis (E)
- Soccer (cleated) (T)
- Spiked or cleated (T)
- Tap dance (T)
- Tennis (E)
- Track and cleats (T)
- Wading/water sport (T)
- Walking (E)
- Shoe shines (T)
- Shoe repairs (T)
- Shoulder pads (for dresses, jackets, etc.) (T)
- Shoulder pads (football, hockey, sports) (T)
- Shorts (E)
- Shower caps (T)
- Skates (ice and roller) (T)
- Ski boots (snow) (T)
- Ski suits (snow) (T)
- Ski vests (water) (T)
- Skirts (E)
- Sleepwear, nightgowns, pajamas (E)
- Slippers (E)
- Slips (E)
- Soccer socks (E)
- Socks (E)
- Sports helmets (T)
- Sports pads (football, hockey, soccer, knee, elbow, shoulder) (T)
- Suits, slacks, and jackets (E)
- Sunglasses (except prescription) (T)
- Support hosiery (E)
- Suspenders (E)
- Sweatbands (arm, wrist, head) (T)
- Sweatshirts (E)
- Sweat suits (E)
- Sweaters (E)
- Swimming masks and goggles (T)
- Swimsuits (E)
- Tennis accessories
- Tennis dresses (E)
- Tennis shorts (E)
- Tennis shoes (E)
- Tennis skirts (E)
- Ties (neckties - all) (E)
- Tights (E)
- Track shoes and cleats (T)
- Trousers (E)
- Umbrellas (T)
- Underclothes (E)
- Underpants (E)
- Undershirts (E)
- Uniforms (school, work, nurse, waitress, military, postal, police, fire) (E)
- Veils (E)
- Vests (generally) (E)
- Bulletproof (T)
- Fishing (non-flotation) (E)
- Flotation (T)
- Hunting (E)
- Scuba (T)
- Water-ski (T)
- Wallets (T)
- Watch bands (T)
- Watches (T)
- Water ski vests (T)
- Weight lifting belts (T)
- Wet and dry suits (T)
- Work clothes (E)
- Work uniforms (E)
- Workout clothes (E)
- Wrist bands (T)

School Supplies

Only the school supplies on this list priced under \$100 qualify for exemption from tax during the sales tax holiday.

- Binders
- Blackboard chalk
- Book bags
- Calculators
- Cellophane tape
- Compasses
- Composition books
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Folders – expandable, pocket, plastic, and manila
- Glue, paste and paste sticks
- Highlighters
- Index cards
- Index card boxes
- Kits*
- Legal pads
- Lunch boxes
- Markers (including dry erase markers)
- Notebooks
- Paper – loose leaf ruled notebook paper, copy paper, graph paper, tracing paper, manila paper, colored paper, poster board, and construction paper
- Pencil boxes and other school supply boxes
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pencils
- Pens
- Protractors
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Writing tablets

* For kits of school supplies that contain exempt items, as well as taxable ones, the taxability depends on the value of exempt or taxable items in it. There is no limit on the quantity of school supplies in a kit, but if the value of the exempt items is more than the taxable ones, the kit is exempt. If the value of the taxable items is more than the exempt ones, then the kit is taxable.

Online Purchases and Telephone Orders

During the holiday you can buy qualifying items in-store, online, by telephone, mail, custom order, or any other means. The sale of the item must take place during the specific period. The purchase date is easy to determine when the purchase is made in-store but becomes more complicated with remote purchases.

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