

Gladewater Mirror

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TxDOT urges you to find a sober ride during holidays

AUSTIN – The holiday season gets its official start next week as many Texans gather around the table for Thanksgiving dinner. But for the families of the 1,246 people killed last year in Texas by drunk drivers, holiday seasons will never be the same.

Starting Dec. 1, 2022, there were 108 people killed and 229 people seriously injured in just 32 days in DUI-alcohol related crashes across the state. All of these families suffered painful memories that will last a lifetime.

"Don't turn your holiday event into a life-changing tragedy by drinking and driving," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "A safe and sober ride should be at the top of your list when making plans with family and friends. If not, you risk your job, your life and the lives of others. It's just not worth it."

Drunk driving crashes are completely preventable, yet they can cause physical, emotional and financial consequences that last for years. If you drink any amount of alcohol this holiday season, never get behind the wheel. Instead, designate a sober driver, use a rideshare service or taxi, stay put, call a friend or family member, or use public transportation to ensure you get home safely.

To remind Texans about the serious consequences of drunk driving and to always find a sober ride, TxDOT is bringing a mobile video exhibit across the state in a series of holiday-themed outreach events. Each interactive stop will feature powerful video testimonials from people who have dealt firsthand with the consequences of drunk driving, either as an offender or survivor. These video stories and tips on finding a sober ride can be found at <https://www.soberrides.org/media-center/>

To encourage everyone to enjoy the holidays without drinking and driving, TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign will include PSAs on TV, radio, billboards and online, and at bars, restaurants and convenience stores statewide. The campaign runs in support of a heightened law enforcement period from Dec. 16 through Jan. 1, when more officers are on the road looking for drunk drivers.

Happy Thanksgiving

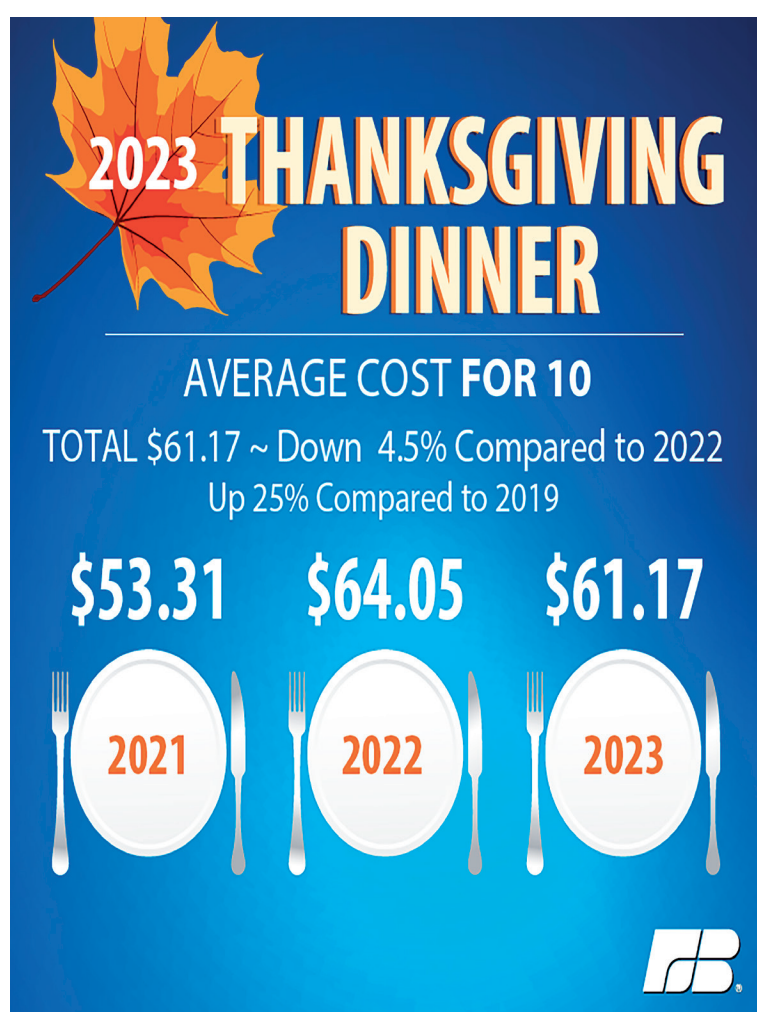
Thanksgiving is so close that we can practically smell it: that perfect roasted turkey, all those delectable sides, and at least a slice or two of pumpkin pie. But of course with a big meal comes a lot of preparation. There's so much to do leading up to the big day, so if you haven't started planning your Thanksgiving menu, you probably should soon - real soon.

Before you start to get stressed out though, we've got a few pieces of good news for you. First, you've still got time and we have a handy dandy Thanksgiving cooking timeline to ensure mealtime success. Second, your Thanksgiving dinner cost should actually cost less in 2023. With nationwide concerns about inflation and rising food costs, this is news we can all certainly be thankful for.

According to CNN and the Wells Fargo Agri-Food Institute, the cost of a 10-to-15-pound turkey dropped 13% in October versus the price of a year ago and fresh cranberries are about 20% cheaper than last year. However, before you add to that Thanksgiving shopping list, it is worth noting that canned goods like cranberry sauce (up 7%), pumpkin puree (up 30%), and green beans (up 9%) are all more expensive in 2023.

With that mixed grocery bag of news, it might still seem a little hard to tell if you personally will spend more at the store. Well, that's where Walmart comes in! The company announced that from November 1 to December 26, they are rolling back prices on the most popular holiday food items to ease the pressure of holiday spending. Even better? They have a Convenient Holiday Meal Calculator to help you budget for Thanksgiving.

The process is as simple as can be. First go to their "Holiday Food" page, choose "Quick & Easy" for packaged items like boxed stuffing or "From Scratch" for fresh items like cranberries. Then select the number of servings and add all the grocery items to your cart. (There's even a recipe section in case you need some menu inspiration!) It will give you the total cost and the cost per person, so you know exactly what you're spending before you spend it.



Double homicide suspect caught in California

By Phillip Williams

Capital murder suspect Alvin Charles McKnight Jr. was captured by police in San Bernardino, Calif., Wednesday night, 11 days after the double homicide that led to him being charged, Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb announced at a Thursday morning press conference in Gilmer.

McKnight, 41, is charged with the Nov. 4 apparent shooting deaths of sisters Pamela Ray, 35, and Dermetrica Dashaunda Waters, 37, both of Gilmer, Webb's office has said. They were slain at Ray's home on U.S. 271 south of Gilmer in what sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel has said is considered an act of domestic violence.

Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd said at Thursday's press conference that extradition proceedings to bring McKnight to Upshur County "will take several weeks," but vowed that "justice will be served."

McKnight, whose truck was found by Gladewater police on Tenery Street shortly after the nighttime homicides, is being held in the San Bernardino County Jail without bond.

He was arrested by a "takedown team" without resistance at a bus station when he exited a bus about 11:30 p.m. Texas time, which was about 9:30 p.m. California time, Webb said.

Authorities had received information Tuesday that McKnight was "possibly getting on a bus" and heading west, the sheriff said. Authorities pinpointed that the vehicle was going from Abilene, Texas, to San Bernardino, he added.

"Last night, we were able to track him" and, for the passengers' safety, the bus was allowed to go all the way to San Bernardino before he was arrested, Webb added. Upshur authorities had passed information on to

city police there, the sheriff noted.

He also said authorities had found a new phone number allowing McKnight to be tracked, but that he couldn't discuss why the suspect headed to California, nor where he had been while a fugitive.

Byrd alluded to the Saturday arrest of McKnight's sister, Laquesha Monique McKnight, on a charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution of her brother, and said authorities believe others helped him avoid arrest. "I will prosecute each and every one of these people," he pledged.

Asked if he would consider seeking the death penalty for McKnight, Byrd said he had decided that, but "ethically" needed to wait until the suspect is returned to Gilmer before announcing his decision. In Texas, capital murder is punishable only by lethal injection or life imprisonment without parole.

Byrd also said McKnight won't be getting out of jail. The suspect was arrested in a southern California city of reportedly more than 220,000 population.

Webb had announced at a Tuesday press conference that McKnight had been placed on the Texas Department of Public Safety's 10 most wanted fugitives list, and that rewards of up to \$17,500 were being offered for information leading to his arrest.

After Thursday's press conference, he said he couldn't comment on whether anyone had received any of the reward money.

Webb stressed the work that not only his own office, but other law enforcement agencies did in seeking to capture McKnight. The sheriff said "Upshur County has really been turned upside down" with concern for citizens' safety during the time the suspect was on the run.

Faith-based education outreach meets students 'where they are'

By James Draper

A new faith-based youth development center is at work on FM 1252 near Kilgore – Restoration of the Spectrum Ministries currently serves select students from Gladewater and White Oak along with a handful of other nearby communities.

"Our mission is to provide education and support to underserved individuals," Josh Hunt said, specifically "special needs children and at-risk youth in the area."

While the number of available spots is limited for the nonprofit outreach, when there's an opening "We won't turn anybody down as long as they're willing."

A Coast Guard veteran and former officer for the New Orleans Police Department, Hunt has 21 years' experience as a certified chef and previously put those skills toward education, teaching culinary arts at Kilgore College and Longview High School. He's since turned his focus toward Biblical studies and ministry.

According to Hunt, decades back he dropped out of his all-boys Catholic school in Louisiana two weeks before graduation. He made his way forward, embraced second chances and wants to help others

do the same.

"Life happens and things happen. We have one student who's on probation. We have another who had a child at 16. Regardless of circumstances, we believe that they deserve second chances," Hunt said. Some students are on the autism spectrum or dealing with ADHD, anger issues and other challenges that make a public school education a particular challenge. Helping each navigate their hurdles, "We want to provide a community and be able to educate those in our community who have been passed over in the public school environment. We try to keep them geared in the direction of success instead of falling off the grid."

"We want to give them a well-rounded spiritual and academic foundation for their life, to be successful and go forward. The program focuses on the individual students and their aptitude and abilities. We meet them where they are."

The nonprofit's Tuesday through Friday school is free-of-charge to the students, covered by grants from corporate sponsors like ABC Auto, with public funds from organizations like Texas Workforce Commission and via contributions from the private sector.



Josh Hunt and other Restoration of the Spectrum instructors teach culinary arts to the youth development center's young charges.

"Everything is from donors," Hunt said. "Everything is paid for. None of this costs the parents anything."

With an all-volunteer staff, the program does have a limited capacity.

"None of us get paid. We want to do it, and we love the kids," Hunt said. "With the current volunteers we have and the amount of space we have, we can take up to 20 now in the current location we're in."

"We're working on writing grants

and working with partners to fund-raise. Eventually, we'd like to have our own building. We are looking to grow and expand."

Restoration of the Spectrum is the umbrella organization for a broad

Continued on Page 3



OPINION/COMMENTARY

...table of my heart

What do incessant meetings, cattle brands, taxes, poinsettias, Pepcid, Kenya, broken medical appointments and broken hips have in common? Oh, and bad hair? Well that would be me, of course. I don't have a broken hip, but my poor mother-in-law does, and I am staying with her in the hospital because that is what I do.

She says I am a cross between a Border Collie and a pit bull. I herd, I nurture, I protect and I fight for my pack when it is needed. I just know from years of experience with my family that things just go better when someone is watching out for you, asking questions, finding tissues, ice water and pain meds...and making sure that everything goes as well as it possibly can under really bad circumstances.

I have a turkey breast in the freezer, a ham in the fridge and my Mom's dressing recipe which I have finally mastered ready for...Christmas I hope. Between family illness and our adventurous son and daughter-in-heart flying back from Nairobi, Kenya the day before Thanksgiving, which is theoretical considering overbooked, understaffed airlines... along with three newspapers to get to press early, my mind is boggled and my marbles are rolling chaotically around my under slept, overworked mind.

This Border Collie tries to juggle taking care of my family's ranch business from a distance of oh, about 150 miles. I made a second flying trip to Navarro County to try and register renewal of our cattle brand last week. It took a probated will, a notarized statement from my Mom, a call to the Texas Southwestern Cattleman's Association's legal department, my durable power of attorney, AND the gift of my whimsical Minnie Mouse purse to the clerk who helped me to get the deed done. I actually walked out of the courthouse with the contents of my former purse in a Wal-Mart bag...and I was glad to do it.

I spent more time on that brand than I did my Mom's complicated ranch taxes. If you count my son, niece and nephew, the Working B Ranch is fifth generation. I ain't givin' up that brand no way, no how, to nobody... after all, my son has a small East Texas ag operation going that he named the Working B Ranch, Too. Makes this country Momma proud.

Bill allows undocumented migrants arrests

A sweeping border security bill that allows state and local police to arrest undocumented migrants is headed to Gov. Greg Abbot's desk, The Dallas Morning News reported. The bill also allows state district judges to order those migrants be returned to Mexico.

In addition, a separate bill that provides billions in funding for expansion of a border wall is headed back to the Senate for final approval.

Abbott has indicated he will sign both bills. Legal experts and Democratic legislators say the bill allowing law enforcement to arrest undocumented migrants is unconstitutional.

"Texas Republicans proudly passed legislation that will allow Greg Abbott's Department of Public Safety to imprison Black and Brown migrants for simply existing in our state," Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa said.

The bill's sponsor, state Rep. David Spiller, R-Jacksboro, defended the measure.

"We still know that the Biden administration has failed and refused to enforce federal immigration laws and secure the border," Spiller said.

60th anniversary of JFK's assassination

The 60th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is Nov. 22, with a number of events taking place in Dallas, where Kennedy was killed in 1963. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas is marking the event with a "Two Days in Texas" exhibition that revisits Kennedy's visit to Texas through eyewitness accounts of his time in Texas before the assassination.

The sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, now a museum, was the primary crime scene. An all-day remembrance is also taking place at the Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff, which is where Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested after killing Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit.

LNG plant's plans put on hold

A liquefied natural gas terminal planned for Port Arthur has been halted, at least temporarily, after the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled consistent emission standards were not applied, the Texas Standard reported.

The complaint was brought by an environmental group which claimed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality was going to allow the plant to have higher emissions than similar plants in Texas.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



I have a great deal to be proud of in my son and daughter-in-heart. By the time you read this they will hopefully be safely back in the Piney Woods.

They, along with 18 other fire experts from across the nation spent over two weeks in Kenya training firefighters and taking donations of firefighting suits and equipment to under equipped, poorly trained, often physically attacked, dedicated Kenyan firefighters. Our brave son is the wildland firefighting expert and our compassionate nurse practitioner daughter-in-heart is the medical officer for the group, as well as trainer in basic emergency care. Those two adventurous souls make a difference wherever they go.

Thursday after fighting the livestock brand wars, meeting with Mom's CPA, her banker and checking on the ranch, I spent about an hour at the family cemetery putting Christmas flowers out on the graves of most of the people who made me who I am. The wind blows down across the Blackland Prairie and that cemetery. It is beautiful, and quiet, and sacred.

There is a concrete bench by my Daddy's and brother's graves which was for my Mom to sit, rest and meditate. Now it is for me. As I put flowers out there, and on the graves of my grandparents, great-grandparents, aunt and great aunt I gave thanks for all the love I have known and all the love I was taught to hold in my heart. I gave thanks for the people who taught me to herd, to nurture and to fight through the hard times and heartbreaks. Without a doubt I am one of the most blessed of people walking this earth. Between the love of my life, and the love in my life, the joys of living always outweigh the challenges.

Whether the turkey and dressing end up on the table at Thanksgiving or Christmas it really doesn't matter because the table of my heart will always be filled with the people who taught me to love.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Amy Dinn, with Lone Star Legal Aid, which brought the lawsuit, said in an interview that "We were very concerned that this additional pollution from this facility, if allowed to go forward at the permitted limits TCEQ had approved, would cause potential health impacts for the community that lives there because they're already forced to have a lot of air pollution."

Once the court releases its final decision, the plant's permit application will go back to TCEQ.

TikTok ban challenged in court

An Austin federal judge will decide whether a ban of TikTok on state-owned and issued devices will stand. A lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Coalition of Independent Technology Research, kut.org reported. Arguments were heard in the case last week.

The coalition represents university faculty who wish to continue using the social media platform for research and teaching purposes at state institutions. Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the ban on TikTok, which is owned by a Chinese company, last December.

Jameel Jaffer of the Knight First Amendment Institute said plaintiffs are seeking an injunction to lift the ban.

"Their work is about the social media platforms," Jaffer said. "They study the social media platforms, write about the social media platforms, propose regulatory reform relating to the social media platforms. And the ban is impeding them from doing that work."

Cinnamon applesauce pouches recalled

Elevated levels of lead have been found in several cinnamon applesauce products, prompting a recall and a warning from the Texas Department of Health Services that children who consumed those products should be tested for lead exposure.

The recalled products include:

- WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree pouches
- Schnucks brand cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches and variety pack
- Weis brand cinnamon applesauce pouches

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

Progress ...

About 2.5 million Texas voters recently approved 13 Constitutional Amendments. Several of the propositions involve notable and much-needed investments, while others relate to tax relief and other topics. On the same night, scores of local elections saw the passage of substantial bond packages providing billions of dollars to build and upgrade public school facilities.

The Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund is now a reality, which will help finance high-speed access to people across the state. Voters also adopted the Texas Water Fund, which will be used to finance much-needed projects. A third major infrastructure investment relates to funding electric power generation investments, which are essential to stabilizing the grid and helping to ensure there is sufficient power during extreme conditions.

An "all of the above" strategy is essential to assuring adequate power generation.

Funding for higher education through the Texas University Fund was also established, with ongoing revenues from accrued interest on the state's Rainy Day Fund. The economic benefits of investing in and increasing the number of nationally recognized research universities in the state range from more grant funding to greater opportunities for discovery and commercialization to attracting additional top research faculty and students.

The Centennial Parks Conservation Fund will be used to increase the numbers of state parks and upgrade existing locations. Parks enhance quality of life for residents and generate tourism spending. Such amenities can also be a factor in location decisions, helping attract and retain the workers needed in the future.

On the fiscal front, property tax relief was provided in several forms, including both increased homestead exemptions and compression of school tax rates. These measures will decrease property taxes to millions of homeowners and businesses, but obviously also reduce funds to local entities (primarily schools). The property tax is the least efficient and equitable of all major levies. Reducing its relative importance is a positive development, but not without its drawbacks. In particular, while the State is using record high surplus funds to make up the difference at present, challenges could occur later if such resources are unavailable.

A tax exemption on equipment and inventory manufactured by medical or biomedical companies will enhance Texas' competitiveness for this sector. Biosciences offer major potential for expansion in the state, with a variety of major initiatives moving forward.

Childcare facilities can now be exempt from property taxes, which will hopefully result in increased availability of these critical services. Retired teachers will receive cost-of-living adjustments to their annuities, thus enhancing the attractiveness of the essential teaching profession.

Texans overwhelmingly chose to invest in programs that will enhance economic competitiveness as well as our quality of life, with benefits that will persist for generations. It was a good night.

Stay safe!

North & East Texas Press Association



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THE AGE IN WHICH WE LIVE

It's sad but true that we are living in an age of escalating secularism, humanism and materialism. Is it any wonder some people think it is difficult believing in God? Every effort is being made to rid people's thinking of God. Godless evolution encroaches into every aspect of our educational system.

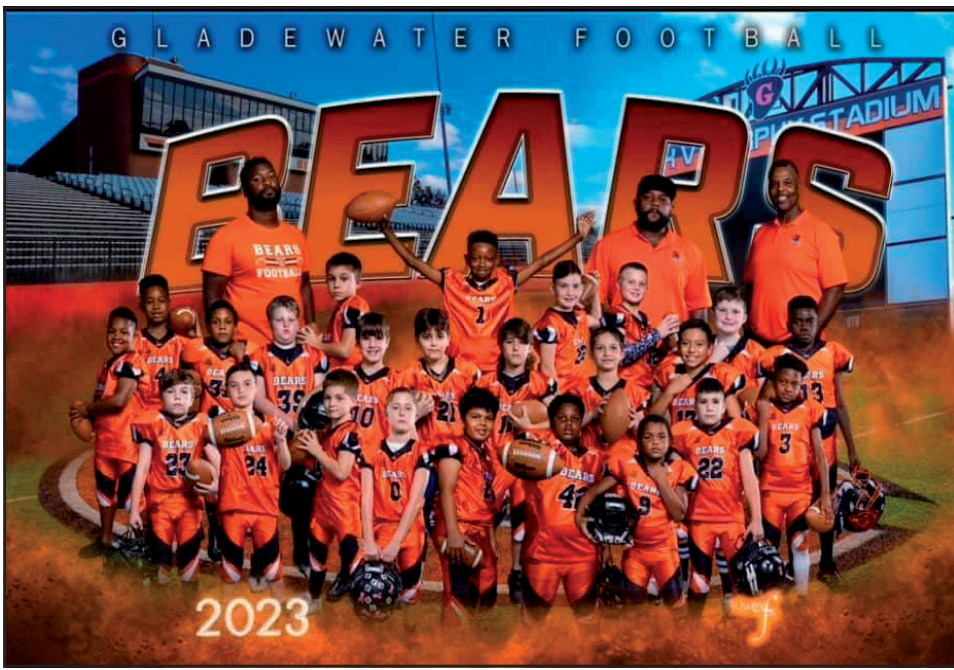
But the truth is, there is enough evidence of God's existence to convince intellectually honest people there is a Creator, and God will definitely hold atheists accountable for denying Him. Psalms 14: 1 says, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God." Thus, atheism is a matter of the heart, not of the head and not a conclusion formed because of evidence. It is not belief reached by research or honest investigation. As Rom. 1: 20 says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-His eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Yes, what God created is evidence of God's creative power and wisdom-and it is inexcusable for people to refuse to see God in that evidence.

Think about it! If you were walking through a desert and came upon an automobile with the engine idling, you would certainly see in it such obvious evidence of design that you would never theorize it might have been produced by an accidental explosion in a distant junk yard.

But, my friends, imagining an automobile resulting from an accidental explosion in a junkyard is easy compared to trying to explain the universe and life without God. "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God" (Heb.3: 4). To advocate that there is no evidence for God in the visible universe is neither intellectual nor honest. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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Gladewater Youth Football 3/4 won the Super Bowl championship Saturday, 56-12, over Hawkins Hawks.

Taxing entities cast votes for appraisal board reps

By James Draper

Taxing entities across the area are steadily putting their ballots behind nominees to local appraisal district review boards in Gregg County and Upshur County.

The districts are responsible for appraising all real and business personal property within their respective counties. Their Appraisal Review Boards are comprised of county residents as an independent body to hear and resolve disputes over appraisals.

For the City of Gladewater, that meant two council votes Nov. 16, one for a resolution supporting candidates to the Gregg County Appraisal Review Board of Directors for 2024 and 2025, one behind Upshur County nominees.

In Gregg County, the City of Gladewater had 39 entitlement votes to cast, calculated from the tax rolls, either for one candidate or distributed between multiple nominees.

"I don't see any benefit in splitting them up," councilman Kevin Clark said.

Ultimately, the council's resolution – a motion by councilwoman Brandy Flanagan, seconded by Rocky Hawkins – put all the city's votes behind local Farrell Alexander.

In Upshur County, the city had 110 entitlement votes.

"We have, locally, two people on the ballot," Mayor Scott Owens said, including Tracy McKnight and John Ussery. "There are five that will be elected on this county-wide."

"Strategically, if we want to get someone from Gladewater, we're going to have to put all of them for one," Flanagan noted.

According to Hawkins, "John's been doing a good job, I think."

Council member Teddy Sorrells suggested putting all votes behind the local, longest-serving candidate, Ussery. His motion, seconded by Clark, was unanimously approved with council member Michael Webber absent.

At Gladewater ISD on Monday, Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark noted, "Based on the number of landowners, taxpayers in Upshur County, GISD gets a number of votes (230). We can cast all for one or split it," he said. "The question I would ask is 'Who has worked with our district?' That would be John Ussery, to me... I'll go with anyone else."

At board president Ross Morgan's suggestion, trustee Cori Arevalo's motion to split the 230 votes between the two local candidates, McKnight and Ussery, was seconded by Jeff Cook and unanimously approved by the four board members in attendance with three trustees absent (Danielle Budro, Garth Cockerell and Chris Thompson).

The White Oak School Board cast votes Nov. 14 for the Gregg County Appraisal Review Board.

"There are seven candidates to choose from," Superintendent Dr. William Paul noted. "I did talk to the City of White Oak. I don't know what they're going to do, but I did put in a plug," and spoke with GISD as well.

The White Oak trustees put all the district's 105 votes behind school board member and realtor Stephanie McKinney with a unanimous 6-1 vote (McKinney abstaining).

Council seeks citizen support for downtown fencing

By James Draper

There's an estimated \$150,000 pricetag on downtown fencing at along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and the City of Gladewater hoping residents will help foot the bill for the chance to put their stamp on the project.

The fence is a requirement of the city's agreement with UP to acquire right-of-way in the core of the community, and council members agree they want to avoid cheap materials and focus on an aesthetically-pleasing build.

That'll cost about \$150 per linear foot for a fabricated iron/metal flat-topped fence, covering four blocks, putting a single donor's buy-in at an estimated \$1,500 for an eight-foot long, five-foot tall fencing panel with a cutout metalwork sign bearing their name.

"Those blocks run about 250 feet," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith told the council. "It's for security so people will have to cross at a designated area."

"The idea was to sell these for donations for people throughout the community."

Working with Fidelity Metalworks in White Oak, the fencing will be built in a minimum of

seven sections at a time.

It'll be necessary to get pledges up-front, councilman Rocky Hawkins said.

"I think we can go ahead and put it out there," councilwoman Brandy Flanagan said. "As soon as we have the first seven, we can move forward with it."

The city already had two committed donors in-hand and launched a sign-up form for the project Nov. 17: find the form at cityofgladewater.com via tinyurl.com/downtownfence.

"We can go out there now and ask people if they want to put their name on this," according to council member Kevin Clark, who put the concept before council members at a previous meeting.

Clark's motion set the approximate cost for each panel at \$1,500 and directed city staff to offer sign-up availability to determine the number of possible donors who would fund a personalized eight-foot panel. Seconded by Flanagan, the motion passed unanimously with one absence (Michael Webber).

"We'll try to presale," Mayor Scott Owens said, "before we decided what we're going to do."

Faith-based education outreach meets students 'where they are'

Continued from Page 1

outreach that, in addition to daytime education, includes a Monday night dinner and youth ministry plus offshoots like the 'Restoration Radio' podcast and the ministry's '5 Loaves and 2 Fish' catering operation that contributes a bit more funding the overall effort.

"The kids actually help us prepare the food and put stuff together," Hunt says, drawing on his culinary background for vocational and life skills lessons for the students. "That's just three-ingredient meals, something they can go home and cook on their own."

The Monday night ministry highlights life skills even more while incorporating anti-bullying and other practical lessons, "All the things we feel would make them be more successful in the world. We have about 25 who come on Monday night. It doesn't matter where you're at in life, what you're situation is."

The group's board includes teachers with Masters level degrees, a psychologist with experience working with children who have experienced trauma, a childcare advocate and Hunt, with his background in the culinary arts, divinity training and law enforcement.

"All of us came together," he said. "We're dedicated to educating, guiding and leading using reading and writing, science, phys ed, math – all the basics."

The program uses the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum for pre-K through 12th grade. Established in February, the ministry's first academic year began in August with students from Gladewater, White Oak, Kilgore, Longview, Tyler, Henderson, Troup and Arp – the youngest is in first grade, the oldest is

a senior.

"They'll only advance after they master each academic concept. They go at their own pace with us. It's education, it's faith-based, it's also mentorship," integrating post-graduation work opportunities from program supporters and advocates. "The eventual goal is to be able to grow it into a public/private school, but not a

private school where they would have to pay."

The center will be hosting a 'Sensitive Santa' event for children with special needs Dec. 9. Learn more through 'Restoration of the Spectrum Ministries' on Facebook.

"Another part of the goal long-term is to have the ability in our building to offer free or sliding-scale mental health services for them as well."

White Oak Police Dept.
Terry Roach, Chief of Police
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Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Happy Thanksgiving

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

White Oak Xmas parade is Dec. 4

Mark your calendars and stay on the 'Nice' list – White Oak's annual Christmas Parade is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4.

As the event's planners get a jump-start on this year's organizing, they've announced lineup is set for 6:30 p.m. That evening on West Old Highway 80 before the parade begins on South White Oak Road and City Hall and heads toward its end at White Oak ISD.

"We encourage all interested groups and individuals to take part in the parade," the organizers announced.

For questions or more information, contact Maureen Carrigan at 903-759-3936.

Gladewater Xmas parade is Dec. 9

Gladewater kicked off its end-of-year revelries with the Holiday Open House on Nov. 11, but it's the annual downtown Christmas Parade that really ushers in the sea-

son's festivities.

This year, the event's sponsors have a new carol for the community, leading locals in a round of "Joy to the Rails" in honor of the city's 150th celebration.

Parade entries who best reflect that theme Dec. 9 will be in the running for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place prizes. Entry in the parade is free.

Importantly, there will be a spot on the square at Pacific and Main to mail letters to Santa.

This year's parade is sponsored by Citizens Bank, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, the City of Gladewater and Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

For more information, contact Lois Reed at the chamber at 903-845-5501.

County library hosts craft fair

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer will hold a Dec. 2 "Holiday Craft Fair" with free admission for the general public, said library



Union Grove Students of the Month for Gladewater's Rotary, were (left to right) Sydney Pritchett, Sarah Clowers and Jeremiah McGee. Rotarian Al Harrison was the program.



spokeswoman Victoria Antonmarchi.

Set from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., it will feature craft vendors, a food truck, a photographer taking "holiday pictures," and hourly raffles, she said.

For more information, contact it at 903-843-5001.

Jingle Jog set for December 22

Grab some sporty sleepwear this season – a Jammie Jingle Jog is racing toward downtown Gladewater next month. Set for 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, the kid-friendly event is centered on 109 N. Main Street, headquarters of a newly-minted open-air venue, The Labrador.

Organized by Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, participants of all ages are encouraged to "Wear your jammies and join in the fun" for a short sprint during the hour-long event. Hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting for runners at the finish line that night.

For more information, contact Lois Reed at the chamber at 903-845-5501.

UG earns THSCA Academic All State XCountry honors

Union Grove's senior Jenna Scott was named to the 1st Team. She was joined by: Sr. Sophie Pyle Honorable Mention, Sr. Ava Wightman Honorable Mention. Pyle also earned a spot on the 2A ALL-REGION TEAM.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

JAY DEAN
State Representative
House District 7

Paid for by Jay Dean

Gregg County Sheriff
Maxey Cerliano

Happy THANKSGIVING

101 E Methvin St., Ste 559, Longview
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Morning Service	11 a.m.	
Evening Service	6 p.m.	903-845-6440

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SPORTS

Gladewater, White Oak basketball action begins

By Tyler Sutton

The 2023 East Texas high school basketball season continued for the girls and began for the guys this week as both Gladewater and White Oak were in action.

The Gladewater Bears opened up their season on Friday afternoon, November 17th as they hosted The Jefferson Bulldogs as new head coach Paul Balcorta made his debut and Gladewater fell to Jefferson 77-29.

Jefferson lead 38-15 at the half and 57-22 after 3 quarters. The Bears drop to 0-1 and will be back in action on Monday, November 20th with another home game vs Pittsburgh, followed on Tuesday the 22nd with a trip to Palestine Westwood.

The Gladewater Lady Bears continued their start to the season with a trip to Chapel Hill on Tuesday, November 14th and Chapel Hill earned a 54-34 win. Calice Henderson finished with 14 points, three rebounds, three blocks and six steals in the

loss for Gladewater. Khera Lincoln chipped in with six points and three rebounds, Ava Langford five points and three rebounds, Paytin Thompson four points, eight rebounds and two steals, Karlee Moses three points and four rebounds and Kyla Lincoln three rebounds, eight assists and two steals.

The loss drops the Lady Bears to 2-1 on the season and they are off until November 20th-21st when they will head to Longview to participate in the Aldridge classic hosted by the Lady Lobos.

Moving over to White Oak, the RoughNecks opened up their season on Friday, November 17th with a home game against the Brownsboro Bears and the Bears came away with a 47-37 win.

Brownsboro trailed 9-6 after one, but outscored the Roughnecks 18-8 in the second and 12-8 in the third. Scotty Breitenberg scored 11 points in the loss for White Oak.

Gavin Sipes had seven

points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals. Tyson McClain and Braydon Bratcher finished with six points apiece, Kaleb Sorgee three and Jacob Sorgee two.

The RoughNecks drop to 0-1 and will be back in action on Tuesday, November 21st when they host the Spring Hill Panthers.

The LadyNecks continued their season as they were in action multiple times this week starting on Tuesday, November 14th falling to the Hawkins Lady Hawks 73-30. Taetum Smith scored 22 points, Alaya Scoggins added 21. Smith added seven steals and four assists, and Scoggins finished with six rebounds.

London Wilson chipped in with nine points, four rebounds and two steals, Jentri Evans seven points and five assists, Haylie Warrick five points, six rebounds and two assists, Alana Gipson and Abby McQueen four points apiece and Karsyn Johnson one point.

Then on Thursday, November 16th White Oak defeated Ore City 41-19 and finally they fell to Union Grove 45-21 on Friday, November 17th.

The LadyNecks record now sets at 3-4 on the season. They will be back in action twice this coming week. First on Monday, November 20th hosting Beckville and then the following day November 21st, hosting Spring Hill

UNION GROVE LIONS

2023

FOOTBALL ALL-DISTRICT AWARDS

DEFENSIVE NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR: CARTER COOPER

1ST TEAM

OFF. LINEMAN: CADE SULLIVAN

SAFETY: JACE ROBERTS

UTILITY: WILL WILSON

2ND TEAM

WIDE RECEIVER: JUDSON GEORGE

H BACK: JACOB GRIFFIN

KICKER: LUIS FERNANDEZ

TIGHT END: MORGAN MAYHAN

OUTSIDE LB: MORGAN MAYHAN

HONORABLE MENTION

CORNER: JUDSON GEORGE

OUTSIDE LB: JACOB GRIFFIN

WIDE RECEIVER: RYLAN ROBERTS

QUARTERBACK: JACE ROBERTS

LINEBACKER: CASON COWAN

CORNER: WRIGLY ROBERTS

WIDE RECEIVER: WILL WILSON

LINEBACKER: KAYDEN DAY

DEF. LINE: ALSTON MULLINS

DEF. LINE: DALTON HAWKINS

OFF. LINE: CALAB DAY



The UG Lady Lions won the Diamond Bracket Championship of the Union Grove Tournament beating West Rusk 50-26. Ava Wightman and Taylor Campbell were named to the All Tournament team.

“Coot’s Corner”

By Coot Putley

Championship Lineup

Remember back in August when we said the Texas Rangers lineup was one of their best ever? Turns out I sold them short – it was definitely their best ever! After all, they won the World Series, but there are some other points to back up this statement. We are now in the middle of the awards season, when Major League Baseball announces the results of individual honors earned during the year. The first selections released are the Golden Glove Awards, given to the best fielder at each position. The Rangers had three winners: Catcher Jonah Heim, First Baseman Nathaniel Lowe, and Right Fielder Adolis Garcia. In addition, Corey Seager and Marcus Semien each finished in the top three at their positions. Lowe’s recognition was noteworthy. Before this season he was considered an average defender. He improved this year to a level where he led the league in putouts and only committed three errors the entire season. Although he was not listed in the top three, Third Baseman Josh Jung played outstanding defense this year, leading the league with a .988 fielding percentage.

The next selections were the Silver Sluggers – the best hitters at each position. Seager and Semien were clear winners at Shortstop and Second Base. This year a team Silver Slugger was awarded. The winner – your Texas Rangers.

Individual awards are released next: Rookies of the Year, Cy Young Award and Most Valuable Player. Josh Jung was leading all rookies in offensive categories and playing excellent defense until he broke his thumb. The month that he missed as a result probably cost him the Rookie of the Year Award – he finished fourth in the voting. In a year when the Angels’ Shohei Ohtani was the leading home-run hitter and a dominant pitcher, he is the obvious MVP, but teammates Seager and Semien are second and third.

So if you’re keeping count – the eight man lineup has three of the best fielders and two of the best hitters at their positions. The other three positions? Standout rookie Jung, Center Fielder Leodis Taveras, a plus defender who hit .266 with 67 RBI’s from the nine slot in the batting order, and the amazing Evan Carter, a 21 year old who was promoted to the majors in mid-September and played like an All Star. Carter was a vital contributor for the team in their championship run and is already considered the betting favorite to be named 2024 Rookie of the Year.

There is no doubt this group is the best Texas Ranger lineup ever!

That’s my opinion – what’s yours?



The White Oak Fishing Team competed on Caddo Lake Saturday, November 11th. 164 teams competed and the team of Shawn Stevens and Mason Riley (first picture) finished 16th. In the Angler of the Year race, Stevens and Riley moved into 10th place after 3 events. White Oak anglers Brayden Elliott and Gavin Burch (second photo) are in 30th in the AOY race after three events as well. The team fishes Lake Bob Sandlin, February 3rd for their next tournament.

Pictures provided by April Laughlin Photography

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NOVEMBER 17, 2023

BID DEADLINE: December 15, 2023

INVITATION

White Oak Independent School District is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide and install a comprehensive, districtwide intercom system, located at 200 South White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693. The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit competitive proposals from reputable companies with experience in designing, supplying, and installing school intercom systems.

BIDS

All bids must be electronically filed no later than 12:00 P.M., Friday, December 15, 2023. Bids must be emailed submissions only. Details can be found on the Business Department page under Bids on the White Oak ISO website at www.woisd.net.

Bids received by the date and time specified will be reviewed. We will conduct a formal bid opening on Friday, December 15th at 1:00 p.m. at the White Oak ISO Administration Building. (You do not need to be present, but are welcome to come if you would like.) NO LATE BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The Board of Trustees will make an award to the successful bidder(s) at the next scheduled board meeting after the committee has had time to review all submissions.

White Oak ISO reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to make awards for individual items as they may appear to be advantageous to the District. All bids shall be final, conclusive, and irrevocable, and no bid shall be subject to correction or amendment for errors or miscalculations by the bidder. Any special conditions or qualifications concerning price, delivery, etc., of bid items must be noted on bid sheets by the bidder.

It is not the policy of White Oak ISO to purchase on the basis of low bids alone; quality and suitability to purchase being controlling factors. It is understood that the District, through its Board of Trustees, reserves the right to use all means at their disposal to determine these factors.

Each successful bidder shall be responsible for the delivery of materials of such quality and in such quantity as specified to the designated location within the White Oak School District. If there is a minimum shipment on any item, it must be stated on the bid.

White Oak ISO is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for the supply, delivery, and installation of 140 units of 75" interactive touchscreen displays. The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain competitive offers from qualified suppliers who can meet our minimum requirements and specifications. Vendors are invited to submit their proposals in response to this RFP.

BID DEADLINE: December 15, 2023

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- ACROSS**
- 1 seat of Oldham County
 - 5 TXism: "easy as falling off _ _ _"
 - 6 TXism: "a day _ _ _ and a dollar short"
 - 7 at Six Flags Fiesta: "Lone Star _ _ _ Amphitheater"
 - 8 dir. to La Grange from New Braunfels
 - 9 TXism: "hard pill to _ _ _" (difficult to accept)
 - 16 TX Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why" was the "Song of the _ _ _" in 2003
 - 18 TX Larry Henley co-wrote "Wind _ _ _ _ Wings"
 - 21 today, a disfavored group: _ Klux Klan
 - 22 _ _ _ beans (in the pod)
 - 23 "si" in Mexico
 - 24 TXism for "gadget": "thing _ _ _"
 - 30 El Paso tribe: " _ _ _ _ Sur Pueblo"
 - 34 Astros leag.
 - 35 space program before Apollo
 - 36 "wear to a frazzle"
 - 37 this Greene was TX Dan Blocker's dad on "Bonanza"
 - 39 "Big Bend _ _ _" in West Texas
 - 43 what golfers do in the Texas heat

- 44 El Paso has a statue of conquistador Juan _ _ _
- 45 Nolte of film "North Dallas Forty" (init.)
- 46 in Hidalgo County on highway 107
- 47 military marksmen
- 49 kids cereal, e.g.
- 52 state where William Travis was born (abbr.)
- 53 "yes" in Mexico
- 54 tasty holder for Texas Blue Bell ice cream
- 55 sitcom for Texas-born Jay Thomas: " _ _ _ _ Mindy"
- 58 quote by Alamo Travis in 52-across: "I _ _ _ never surrender or retreat"
- 59 Muhammad _ _ _
- 60 "Fanthorp _ _ _ State Historic Site"
- 61 TXism: "limp as a dish _ _ _"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- 1 newspaper published in Quitaque: " _ _ _ _ Tribune"
- 2 Texas wife of John Steinbeck
- 3 TXism: "he's _ _ _ _ morals" (unethical)
- 4 91 for TX Willie and 54 for TX McConaughy
- 9 Texas outlaw, Bass (init.)
- 10 cowboy movies
- 11 Santa _ _ _ , Texas
- 12 TXism: "get the _ _ _ out" (hurry up)
- 13 where you stick pins on suit jackets
- 14 extended playing time for the Cowboys (abbr.)
- 15 TX Kristofferson's " _ _ _ Me (Lord)"
- 17 cattle thieves
- 19 TXism: " _ _ _ a caged cougar"

See Answers On This Page



Congratulations to Roger Smith, winner of the museum's annual Quilt for a Veteran. We would like to thank all veterans for their service and especially the ones who stopped by the museum to enter the drawing. The beautiful quilt was donated by the Gusher Gals of First Baptist Church.

Chronic Wasting Disease detected in Cherokee County deer breeding facility

AUSTIN — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received confirmation of a case of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Cherokee County, marking the first detection in a deer breeding facility in the county.

A four-year-old buck tested positive using postmortem testing conducted to meet annual CWD surveillance requirements for the facility.

CWD has an incubation period that can span years, so the first indication of the disease in a herd is often found through surveillance testing rather than observed clinical signs. Early detection and proactive monitoring improve the state's response time to the detection of CWD and can greatly reduce the risk of further disease spread.

Any person interested in having their harvest tested for CWD should contact a local biologist, found on the TPWD website.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO:

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ALMA LEE CHRISTIAN, OSCAR CHRISTIAN, JOSEPH L. CHRISTIAN, WILLIE MAY CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, JR., RUBY RUTH CHRISTIAN, GLASCOW CHRISTIAN, RUBEN CHRISTIAN, BILLY LEE CHRISTIAN, ODIE D. CHRISTIAN, PATRICIA ANN CHRISTIAN, YORK CHRISTIAN, JR., CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN, DOLLIE B. CHRISTIAN, GWENDOLYN CHRISTIAN-ALLEN, MADELINE MASON, YOULANDA CHRISTIAN, WESLEY CHRISTIAN, JR., RODNEY CHRISTIAN, SR., and VINCENT CHRISTIAN

Defendant's Greeting:
"Plaintiffs' Original Petition was filed on October 10, 2023. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m., on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable 124th District Court of Gregg County Courthouse at 101 E. Methvin Suite 447, Longview, Texas 75601 by filing a written answer at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m., on the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the day of the issuance of this Citation, the same being 12/18/2023 then and there to answer the Plaintiff's Original Petition filed by Riley Branch, 10300 N. Central Expressway, Suite 480, Dallas, Texas 75231, in said Court, in this cause numbered 2023-1773-B on the docket of said Court and Styled:

CHARLES CHRISTIAN, JR., FLEANORL CHRISTIAN; EVIE KEELING AND NEDRA GATT-PIPKINS v. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ALMA LEE CHRISTIAN, OSCAR CHRISTIAN, JOSEPH L. CHRISTIAN, WILLIE MAY CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, JR., RUBY RUTH CHRISTIAN, GLASCOW CHRISTIAN, RUBEN CHRISTIAN, BILLY LEE CHRISTIAN, ODIE D. CHRISTIAN, PATRICIA ANN CHRISTIAN, YORK CHRISTIAN, JR., CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN, DOLLIE B. CHRISTIAN, GWENDOLYN CHRISTIAN-ALLEN, MADELINE MASON, YOULANDA CHRISTIAN, WESLEY CHRISTIAN, JR., RODNEY CHRISTIAN, SR., and VINCENT CHRISTIAN

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:
An action to quiet title by adverse possession on real property covering any interest of ownership claimed by Defendants to the land described to-wit:
ALL THAT CERTAIN 8.333 ACRES OF LAND SITUATED IN THE g. w. Hooper Survey, Gregg County, Texas, and being a part of a called 59 acre tract of land conveyed to James M. Salter, Jr. and Paul B. Griffith by deed dated September 14, 1978 and recorded in Volume 1144, Page 597, Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, and being more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING at a 5/8" iron rod with aluminum cap found in the North R.O.W. line of Farm to Market Road 2275 and White Oak Road bears South 73 deg. 22 min. 09 sec. West, 99.32 feet, said iron rod also lying and being North 00 deg. 20 min. 35 sec. West, 500.93 feet from the Southwest corner of said called 59 acre tract;
THENCE South 82 deg. 53 min. 06 sec. East, 319.20 feet with and along said North R.O.W. of said Farm to Market Road;
THENCE North 12 deg. 50 min. 41 sec. East, 1107.61 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set for the northeast corner of the tract described herein;
THENCE North 85 deg. 46 min. 18 sec. West, 331.84 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road; -
THENCE South 05 deg. 14 min. 07 sec. West, 93.02 feet with and along the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at an angle point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;
THENCE South 14 deg. 25 min. 05 sec. West, 388.85 feet with and along the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at an angle point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;
THENCE South 18 deg. 44 min. 13 sec. West, 189.58 feet with and long the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at an angle point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;
THENCE 11 deg. 00 min. 15 sec. West, 347.22 feet with and along the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at a point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;
THENCE South 00 deg. 20 min. 35 sec. East, 75.32 feet with and along the West boundary line of said called 59 acre tract to the POINT OF BEGINNING and contain 8.333 acres of land, more or less.
LESS AND EXCEPT
That portion taken by the judgement recorded in Volume 1792, Page 639, Real Property Records, Gregg County, Texas.
If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.
The officer executing this process shall promptly execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WHITE OAK ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating
White Oak ISO will hold a public meeting. At 5:45 p.m., December 11, 2023 White Oak ISO Board Room
200 S. White Oak Rd., White Oak, TX
The purpose of this meeting is to discuss White Oak ISD's Rating on the State's financial Accountability System.

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42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale. Sat. Dec. 2nd - 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75. 806-790-2535, www.lawrencefamilylimousin.com.

Farm, Ranch, Construction Equip. Auction, 9 a.m., Dec. 2, 1036 S. FM 331, Sealy, TX. Onsite and online. Accepting consignments through 11/25. Switzer Land & Auction Services. 979-885-2400.

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A food safety guide to Thanksgiving leftovers

The minute your Thanksgiving feast hits your table, the clock starts ticking. No, not the countdown to when the doors swing open for Black Friday shopping — the food safety countdown has begun.

Leftovers from that elaborate meal you may have spent days planning and preparing need to be refrigerated within two hours. And although that may sound like not enough time for your fourth cousin twice removed to go back for a second helping, much less a third, it is a rule that should be followed.

A Thanksgiving turkey on a table as viewed from above. The food safety countdown begins the minute the Thanksgiving feast hits your table.

Recipes that call for chicken can be interchanged with turkey when working with leftovers. No matter what type of bird you serve at Thanksgiving, all poultry leftovers need to follow the same safety guidelines. (Shutterstock photo)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts shared safety guidelines and a timeline to help Texans safely enjoy their leftovers. “Every minute food

passes through the danger zone food quality breaks down,” said Rebecca Dittmar, AgriLife Extension program specialist for the agency’s food safety education program.

“The danger zone is between 40-140 degrees, which is the range where bacteria can multiply quickly and cause the food to become unsafe,” Dittmar said.

Dittmar said to keep these key things in mind on Thanksgiving and the days that follow:

Remember the two-hour rule

All perishable items should be refrigerated within two hours of coming out of the oven or refrigerator. After two hours, perishable food enters the danger zone. If food has been left out for more than two hours, discard items to prevent foodborne illness.

Day four? Leftovers no more

The Monday after Thanksgiving means anything still in the refrigerator needs to go. This is your last chance to eat it, freeze it or dump what’s left of the leftovers.

Freeze it for 2-6 months. Frozen food stays safe indefinitely, though the qual-

ity may decrease over time. If you store leftovers in the freezer, they will taste best if used within two to six months.

Bacteria can't thrive over 165

No matter what method you use to reheat leftovers, from refrigerated or frozen, the food needs to reach at least 165 degrees before being consumed. Invest in a food thermometer if you don’t already have one.

Use it or lose it

As long as you follow proper safety protocols to thaw, reheat and refreeze food, you can pretty much keep it in your freezer indefinitely, Dittmar said. The texture and taste will start to go downhill after a few months and you probably won’t want to eat it, but it isn’t unsafe.

Get creative with leftovers

If you cooked too much or your guests ate too little, you may want to get creative with leftovers.

“The fresher the food the better anything you make with it will taste,” said Odessa Keenan, AgriLife Extension specialist with the Dinner Tonight program. “Being prepared with reci-



pes and ideas in advance of how to get more meals out of your Thanksgiving feast means less waste. Just keep in mind that all food safety rules still apply.”

From a curry turkey salad to a southwest turkey bake to turkey tacos, the Dinner Tonight website offers recipes and leftover inspiration.

“People should also keep in mind that pretty much anything you can use chicken in, turkey can be substituted,” Keenan said.

For those families who celebrate Thanksgiving potluck style, additional food safety guidelines are also available on the website. If your feast is served buffet style, keep food hot in chafing dishes, slow cookers or warming trays. Keep cold-

served food cold with nesting dishes in bowls of ice.

Keenan said another idea to avoid too many leftovers is to cook what you think your family and guests will actually eat. Just because a certain side is a “tradition” doesn’t mean you can’t trade it out for a new recipe.

More food safety tips to keep in mind year-round

The safest way to store food is to use small and shallow containers. Whether in the fridge or freezer, smaller containers help cool leftovers more quickly than storing them in large containers. It also allows to reheat just the amount you’ll need.

When reheating in a microwave, first arrange food items evenly in a covered

microwave safe glass or ceramic dish. Add some liquid if needed. If your microwave doesn’t have a carousel, rotate the food during reheating to ensure even heating.

Since microwaves have cold spots, use a food thermometer to check the internal temperature of the food in several places with a food thermometer after allowing a brief resting period. Cooking continues for a longer time in dense foods such as a whole turkey or beef roast than in less dense foods like breads, small vegetables and fruits.

Keep your refrigerator at or below 40 degrees. Your freezer should be set to 0 degrees. Check temperatures periodically using an appliance thermometer.

Notice! REPUBLIC SERVICES
will not be providing garbage pickup on Thanksgiving Day. All garbage scheduled for Thursday will be picked up on Friday. All garbage scheduled for Friday will be picked up on Saturday. After Saturday, service will resume its regular schedule.



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No Xmas decorations at courthouse

By Phillip Williams

A bare quorum of Upshur County Commissioners Court voted 3-0 last week not to have Christmas decorations on the courthouse or courthouse lawn this year because the facility is undergoing a major renovation.

The court, however, discussed with citizens the possibility of trying to place the decorations at other Gilmer locations instead, such as the city-owned Gilmer Civic Center.

In addition, decorations will be allowed to be attached to lamp posts on the downtown courthouse square.

The discussion concluded with Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson saying he and Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gloria McLuckie would attempt to visit City Manager Greg Hutson about displaying the items at the civic center.

Filings underway for county seats

By Phillip Williams

Several candidates had filed by Sunday to run for either public or party offices in Upshur County’s respective March 5 Republican and Democratic primaries.

Nine candidates for public office, one for county Republican chairman, and several for precinct chairmanships on the county’s Republican executive committee had filed, said county GOP Chairman Carl Byers. In the Democratic primary, only county Democratic Chairman Winifred Jackson and a precinct chairman, Carlyn Short, had filed for re-election.

Five petitions from candidates for various public and party offices, including one for sheriff, are gathering signatures, however, Jackson said. In the Republican primary, contested races thus far include Sheriff Larry Webb seeking re-election against ex-Gilmer Police Chief Mark Case, and County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell seeking re-election against her chief deputy, Samantha Caffey.

A former Upshur County reserve sheriff’s deputy, Brandon Williams, has filed notice with the county election administrator’s office of plans to run for sheriff, but hasn’t filed yet.

In the GOP primary, Precinct 1 County Commissioner Gene Dolle, Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley, Precinct 1 Constable Tim Barnett and Precinct 4 Constable David Thompson have filed for re-election. Gilmer police officer James Casey has filed for the Precinct 3 constable post held by the retiring Ronnie Mitchell, while Byers has also filed for re-election.

Deadline for filing in both primaries is 6 p.m. Dec. 11. For information on running in the GOP primary, call Byers at 903-316-7922. For information on filing in the Democratic election, contact Jackson at 903-238-3779.

Gladewater's Manna House is so thankful for the wonderful collection of canned goods delivered Friday. Dr. Sedric Clark challenged the four GISD campuses to see which could donate the most cans. The winner was Weldon Elementary with 863 cans. A grand total of 1,738 cans will certainly help fill the Manna House shelves. Many thanks to GHS National Honor Society members and sponsors, Jamie Cook and Betsy Thompson for coordinating this event. A cash donation was also provided to



purchase additional items that are needed. What a great partnership between GISD, GFD, GPD, City of Gladewater, and the Chamber to benefit Manna House.



Manna House was blessed with additional donated food last week thanks to Cub Scout Pack 196 and Boy Scout Troop 198. Gladewater is fortunate to have dedicated leadership to help our young boys learn the true meaning of 'service to others.'

GPD Police Activity

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
11/12/23	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236286	3:39	710 TENERY TENERY	
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236290	4:08	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236291	4:15	508 N FERRY FERRY	
	ALARMOTHER	20236292	4:51	309 N COTTON COTTON	
	SEXUAL ASSAULT	20236293	6:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236296	10:42	902 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236297	11:23	111 JEANNETTE JEANNETTE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236298	13:30	1092 N RODEO RODEO	
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20236299	14:17	416 W MARSHALL MARSHALL	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236300	14:30	2612 BERNICE BERNICE	301 N LEE LEE ST
	ABANDONED 911	20236301	16:18	8 GARDEN GARDEN LN	
	BMS	20236302	16:38	113 LEE LEE ST	
	FIRE DEPT	20236303	17:01	328 S TYLER TYLER ST	
	BMS	20236304	18:48	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236305	19:03	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	ABANDONED 911	20236306	20:53	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR	
11/13/23	BMS	20236308	6:48	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	1707 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	ASSIST	20236309	8:01	203 EMPIRE EMPIRE	
	FIRE DEPT	20236310	9:38	500 W OUTFMAN OUTFMAN AVE	
	ALARMOTHER	20236311	9:50	1400 N MAIN MAIN ST	
	HARASSMENT	20236312	11:14	AMERICAN REAL ESTATE	
	BMS	20236313	13:37	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20236314	13:57	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	BMS	20236315	14:14	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	BMS	20236316	16:10	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	BMS	20236317	16:19	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236318	16:35	104 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA DR	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236319	18:08	403 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK	
	BMS	20236320	10:17	803 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE	
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20236320	11:09	1625 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	10-50 MINOR	20236330	11:54	AUSTIN BANK	
	BMS	20236331	12:52	2815 BERNICE BERNICE	
	FIRE DEPT	20236332	14:03	W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE	
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20236333	14:15	EVERETT PARK	801 N LEE LEE ST
	THEFT	20236334	14:17	AMERICAN CANOPIES	1710 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20236335	14:44	216 S DEAN DEAN ST	
	10-50 MINOR	20236336	15:31	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20236337	15:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236338	16:12	271 271	
	ASSIST	20236339	18:17	10740 FM 2685 FM 2685	
	ABANDONED 911	20236340	18:50	102 E ALLISON ALLISON ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236341	20:44	1420 N MAIN MAIN ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236342	21:14	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	ALARMOTHER	20236343	22:25	700 W MELBA MELBA AVE	
	BMS	20236344	23:57	801 COACH COACH COACH COOKSEY	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236345	23:57	112 CENTER CENTER N	
11/15/23	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20236346	1:17	907 E BROADWAY BROADWAY	
	THEFT	20236348	6:11	83 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES	
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20236349	7:57	516 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE	
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20236350	10:05	HAPPY CABBAGE	
	ASSIST	20236351	13:05	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	
	BMS	20236352	13:08	SENTINEL GARDENS	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20236353	13:43	S MILK MILK ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236354	15:16	WOODBINE WOODBINE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236356	18:23	216 OAK OAK DR	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236357	18:25	109 E UPSHUR UPSHUR	
	BMS	20236358	18:32	1712 COUNTY LINE ROAD COUNTY LINE ROAD	
	BMS	20236359	18:54	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236361	19:15	BILL DICKASON CHEVROLET	1110 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	THEFT	20236362	21:20	400 AVALON AVALON DR	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236363	21:36	1207 CANNON CANNON ST	
11/16/23	BMS	20236364	1:32	328 S TYLER S TYLER	
	BMS	20236365	2:16	300 MONEY MONEY ST	
	BMS	20236366	5:06	1428 CANNON CANNON ST	
	BMS	20236367	9:21	516 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE	
	BMS	20236368	10:33	110 N CENTER CENTER ST	
	SIMPLE ASSAULT "C"	20236370	11:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	CRIM MIS	20236371	11:39	403 SPENCER SPENCER	
	ALARMOTHER	20236372	13:00	SCHOOL BUS BARN	721 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA ST
	BMS	20236373	13:51	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236374	14:30	103 S WHITE OAK WHITE OAK RD	
	ABANDONED 911	20236375	15:42	HWY 80 HWY 80	
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20236376	16:09	NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	413 RODEN RODEN LN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236377	16:21	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236378	16:43	521 MELBA MELBA AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236379	17:24	BEAUTIFUL TRIBE	211 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20236380	18:27	214 E GLADE GLADE ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236381	19:41	1398 W GAY GAY AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236382	20:16	216 OAK OAK DR	
11/17/23	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20236383	0:52	403 SPENCER SPENCER	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236384	7:10	CITY NATIONAL BANK	895 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236385	7:20	GLADEWATER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	1302 S HWY 271 HWY 271
	ALARMOTHER	20236386	7:49	2105 PINECREST DR PINECREST DR	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236387	8:48	517 MELBA MELBA	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236388	11:18	HAPPY CABBAGE	113 MAIN MAIN N
	FIRE DEPT	20236389	12:38	ABC AUTO PARTS	705 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20236390	12:40	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236391	13:07	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	BMS	20236392	14:04	109 COMMERCE COMMERCE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236393	15:08	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236394	15:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236395	16:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	BMS	20236396	16:38	2308 SOUTH 14TH SOUTH 14TH	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236397	18:43	CR 374 CR 374	
	CRIM MIS	20236398	19:54	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236399	20:48	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236400	20:50	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3501 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236401	21:02	SWAMP RAT TOWING	1629 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20236402	21:25	LINKNOWN LINKNOWN	
	ABANDONED 911	20236403	21:28	802 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR	
	ABANDONED 911	20236404	21:45	LINKNOWN LINKNOWN	
	ASSIST	20236405	22:08	SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP	
	BMS	20236406	22:19	216 OAK OAK ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236407	22:47	2809 GUY GUY AVE	
11/18/23	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236408	0:39	515 W MARSHALL MARSHALL	
	HARASSMENT	20236409	8:54	517 MELBA MELBA AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236410	11:09	520 MELBA MELBA AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236411	11:16	303 MUSTANG MUSTANG DR	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236412	12:30	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236413	12:54	1014 KAY KAY DR	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236414	13:49	CLASSIC STITCH	210 N MAIN MAIN ST
	10-50 MINOR	20236415	14:07	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	10-50 MAJOR	20236416	14:10	TW LEE BUILDING	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20236417	16:15	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236418	17:55	500 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236419	18:27	63 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236420	18:30	103 S DEAN DEAN ST	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236421	18:38	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	10-50 MAJOR	20236422	18:58	1000 GAY GAY	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236423	20:04	N HWY 271 HWY 271	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236424	20:15	MARRY MARRY	
	ALARMOTHER	20236425	21:12	LAMBERTS LIQUOR	1975 S TYLER TYLER RD
11/19/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20236426	1:40	1109 E BROADWAY E BROADWAY	
	BMS	20236428	2:17	328 S TYLER S TYLER	
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236429	3:28	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	BMS	20236430	6:48	328 S TYLER S TYLER	
	FIRE DEPT	20236432	8:49	328 S TYLER TYLER ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236433	10:08	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236434	10:27	519 1/2 W MARSHALL AVE MARSHALL AVE	
	ABANDONED 911	20236436	14:50	215 SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST	
	ABANDONED 911	20236437	17:01	101 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST	

GPD Police Arrests

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
11/12/23	11/12/23	4:26	MURCHISON, BRUCE WADE	W	M	ASSAULT: ON PEACE OFFICER	508 FERRY ST
	11/12/23	4:26	MURCHISON, BRUCE WADE	W	M	RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT	508 FERRY ST
11/17/23	11/17/23	1:23	MURRAY, DAVID DEAN	W	M	ASSAULT: CAUSING BODILY INJURY (FAMILY VIOLENCE)	403 SPENCER
11/18/23	11/18/23	18:18	FRUITT, CADEN ERIC	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	700 E BROADWAY
11/19/23	11/19/23	11:41	ALEXANDER, JOURDYN DESHAUN	B	M	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT: (FAMILY VIOLENCE)	519 W MARSHALL AVE

WOISD reports success among biligual students

There's a healthy array of languages represented in the student body at White Oak ISD, with 19 'Emergent Bilingual Students' included in the school's annual report on data surrounding English as a Second Language (ESL).

"Interestingly enough, we have Spanish, Japanese, Cambodian," Superintendent Dr. William Paul reported to board members, along with Cebuano, one of the key languages of the Philippines. "It's good that we've got that kind of diversity in terms of our students."

"As these students continue to master the English language and speak their home language, it's going to make our district better."

At WOISD, 20 teachers across K-12 have

their ESL Supplemental Certification. The district follows the Pull-Out ESL Program of instruction, gathering Emergent Bilingual Students from other classes at regularly scheduled times for ESL instruction.

Those students are given lessons ahead of testing for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).

"It's mastery of English in listening, writing, reading and speaking," Paul noted Nov. 13. Importantly, during the last school year, "All students did get promoted to the next grade level."

"They're getting the support they need to do well in school."

Upshur County indictments handed down

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury returned nine indictments, three of them sealed, on Nov. 9. Defendants, charges, and bond information in the open indictments were as follows, Byrd's office reported:

Quinton Antoine Branch, 41, of Helena, Montana, charged in a single indictment with three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child and two counts of indecency with a child on June 8. He was freed on a \$75,000 surety bond.

Robby Keith Hawkins, 41, of Gilmer, possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine)--repeat offender on Sept. 7. He remained in county jail in Gilmer under a \$70,000 surety bond.

Frank Maben Keathley Jr., 76, of Gilmer,

injury to elderly or disabled individual on Nov. 9, 2022. He was released on a \$150,000 surety bond.

Jacob Andrew Wade, 34, of Gilmer, impersonating public servant on Aug. 30. He remained in county jail under a \$10,000 surety bond.

Jon Randy Goodson, 34, of Hawkins, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) in a drug-free zone on Sept. 6. He also remained in county jail under a \$10,000 surety bond.

Jarrod Neal Brown, 36, of Spring, possession of controlled substance (Monoacetylmorphine) on Sept. 28. He remained in county jail under a \$10,000 surety bond.

Identity of anyone named in the sealed indictments wasn't disclosed.

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CUTLINE: Once the wall of the 'Thanks Giving Turkey Project' was full of feathers at White Oak Intermediate School thanks to students' well-wishes, it was time to pluck the big bird and distribute students' messages of gratitude to staff members before the Thanksgiving break. *Courtesy photo*

Friends of a feather give thanks together

Bigger is better when it comes to a Thanksgiving turkey, and White Oak Intermediate School's students fed their plenty of gratitude to bulk it up this month.

Each of the turkey's brightly-colored feathers – hundreds by the time it was all said and done – bore a 'Thank You' to one of the campus' staffers whether they serve the students in the classroom, in the office, in the cafeteria or by straightening up the school after the kids go home for the day.

"It's really just a simple thing that we tried to do to show thankfulness for our staff," White Oak Intermediate School Principal Shanna McKelvey said.

It's kind of a tough time of year for faculty and staff members, she added, handling the holiday rush at school while juggling their own Thanksgiving preparations at home before sprinting headlong into December, Christmas, and more seasonal stress.

The Thanks Giving Turkey Project offered a little extra boost before the Thanksgiving break. The feathers went home with faculty and staff with plenty to go around.

"Really and truly, we have over 400," McKelvey said, in her first year as intermediate principal. "I hope everyone gets one – I won't know until we take them all down."

According to one student, "I'm thankful for..." a teacher because "She really help me with math and how to do stuff." For another child, it was "For teaching me and helping me through 3rd grade." Another was thankful for a cafeteria worker: "I'm thankful for you because we need lunch food to stay and alive and you make food for us..."

The intermediate school shares staff with the primary campus downstairs.

"I have 18 teachers, three interventionists, three special education and probably five paraprofessionals," in addition to the team of maintenance, cafeteria and custodians," McElvey said. "Our kids really do love and appreciate them."

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