

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢

Gladewater Primary School receiving book vending machine

Greater Longview United Way is delighted to announce the 12th Book Vending Machine ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of their Read to Succeed program, a first for Gladewater ISD. This event is scheduled for December 12th at 2 p.m. at Gladewater Primary School at 100 W Gay Ave, Gladewater.

Read to Succeed is an education initiative of Greater Longview United Way dedicated to promoting literacy and a love for reading among children in the community. Through innovative initiatives like Read to Succeed, the organization aims to make books more accessible to children, fostering a lifelong passion for learning.

Dr. Evan M. Dolive, the Executive Director of Greater Longview United Way, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming ribbon-cutting event. "We are thrilled to celebrate this milestone with the community. The Read to Succeed program has significantly impacted children's lives, and adding the 12th Book Vending Machine underscores our commitment to nurturing a culture of literacy in the Gregg County area," said Dr. Dolive.

Gladewater Mirror publisher Jim Bardwell has agreed to pay to keep the vending machine full of books on behalf of his late wife Suzanne, who was a teacher and a passionate reader. Suzanne was instrumental in saving the Gladewater city library after an ice/snow storm nearly destroyed it. The library was renamed in her honor - Lee-Bardwell Public Library.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at Gladewater Primary School, and the event promises to be a joyous occasion filled with community leaders, educators, and supporters of the Read to Succeed program. Attendees will have the opportunity to witness firsthand the positive influence that these book vending machines have on encouraging a love for reading among children.

For those interested in learning more about the Read to Succeed program and Greater Longview United Way's commitment to community literacy initiatives, please visit longviewunitedway.org/readtosucceed.



Merry Christmas

White Oak kicked off the Christmas season in style Monday evening with the community's annual Christmas parade rolling along White Oak Road. From Santa to the Grinch and everyone in between, a caravan of floats brought Christmas cheer (and handfuls of candy) to launch the holidays. Photos by James Draper



"Joy to the Rails"

2023 GLADEWATER Christmas Parade Route

Line Up and Staging

Gladewater Christmas Parade Marshal Joe Lansdale

Citizens Bank, Gladewater, Texas Chamber of Commerce, City of Gladewater, GEDCO

Double homicide suspect extradited back to East Texas from California

By Phillip Williams

Alvin Charles McKnight Jr., charged with capital murder in the Nov. 4 apparent shooting deaths of two Gilmer women, was expected to be returned to Upshur County from California on Tuesday (Dec. 5) after waiving extradition, said Upshur sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel.

McKnight, 41, of Gilmer, was captured by police Nov. 15 at a San Bernardino, Calif., bus station, where he arrived after authorities electronically tracked his location.

He is charged with killing sisters Mandy Ray, 35, and Dermetrica Dashaunda Waters, 37, both of Gilmer, at Ray's home on U.S. 271 south of Gilmer, said Sheriff Larry Webb's office. Hazel has said the slayings are considered an act of domestic violence.

McKnight lived with Waters until recently, and fathered a child by one of the sisters, authorities said.

Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd said at a Nov. 16 press conference that he would wait until McKnight returned to Upshur County before announcing whether he would seek the death penalty in the case.

Capital murder is punishable in Texas only by lethal injection or life imprisonment without parole.

McKnight's truck was found by Gladewater police on Tenery Street shortly after the nighttime homicides, and he was arrested without resistance in California.

At the joint press conference with Webb, Byrd alluded to the Dec. 11 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.



Capping the city's 150th Celebration, the community is bringing 'Joy to the Rails' downtown Saturday as the annual Christmas parade rolls out at 4:30 p.m. Gladewater native and renowned author Joe Lansdale will serve as Grand Marshal while fellow GHS grad Tony McCullough lends his voice as 2023 parade announcer. Prizes will be awarded for the top three floats that best reflect the railroad theme during the sesquicentennial event. For more information, contact Gladewater Chamber of Commerce at 903-845-5501.

Local school districts discussing how chaplains can assist school

By James Draper

School districts across the state are weighing in on Senate Bill 763 - each has been required by the Texas Legislature to vote on policy outlining when and, if so, how the school employs chaplains or accepts them as volunteers to provide counseling to students.

At Gladewater ISD, board members adopted a basic volunteer option with no discussion Nov. 14 and a rare roll call vote (per the 88th Legislature's requirements) that passed 4-0 with three trustees absent.

The issue is undecided at White Oak ISD. The bill set a deadline of March 1, 2024, for some degree of action on the law, and the district's trustees followed Superintendent Dr. William Paul's Nov. 13 recommendation to consider their options further.

"Anybody that's ever worked in or been around a school, especially in a small town, knows that your clergy are always there for support, if you need them," Paul said. "Ours are no different. I think the ones we have in this town are pretty involved."

"There's really four options we have. First thing we can do is we can decline to adopt a policy. According to this information we have right here, it doesn't really change anything about where we are right now."

A second option is to keep current policy in place and affirm the district won't expand it further.

A third option is to not do anything, officially acknowledging "We want to study it a little further." Fourth, the district can adopt a new policy and put standards in place.

"What those standards are is really up to us," Paul said. "Keep in mind, anybody that's going to volunteer on our campus is going to have some kind of background check anyway."

There's no need for immediate action, he repeated.

"When I asked around as far as what other districts are doing, it's kind of all over the place," Paul added.

"You've got some that are saying, 'No, not at all.' You've got others that want chaplains to come in and play a more active role."

Maybe they don't have the staff that we have access to.

"As far as the majority, I couldn't tell you."

Gladewater's plans are still developing, Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark confirmed.

"We just adopted that we would use them as volunteers," he said.

"We have not laid out the way yet."

"Thankfully, we have pastors and ministers who have always been active at our schools. We'll just be making it formal now... saying exactly what they can and will not do."



OPINION/COMMENTARY

Pearl Harbored remembered...

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, a day that should “live in infamy” in perpetuity. Yet with the passing of the Greatest Generation acknowledgement of the event that spurred America from an isolationist regional power into a global superpower seems to be fading into the pages of history books.

As a former history teacher I could spend days explaining how Japan’s history led her to the point of self-defeat by awakening “the sleeping dragon” of the industrial might and will of Americans. There isn’t enough ink in our barrel for us to tackle that tiger in a column.

But I will expend enough ink to honor this day in our history. My Dad fought in the Pacific as a gunner in the Navy during World War II. He shaped my view of the world with his stories, with his example, and with his love. I am grateful for his service and for all that he taught me and all that he was.

To all of you who served in World War II, you have my utmost respect and gratitude for the world that I grew up in and the world we raised our son in. Because of you we have lived lives of freedom and abundance.

I salute veterans like Mr. Bill Terry of White Oak who was a gunner’s mate on the destroyer the U.S.S. Reid which was docked at Pearl Harbor on the sunny Sunday morning that turned into an inferno. I continue to admire the story he faithfully told to generations of children so that we would not forget.

We can never forget our stories of sacrifice, of bravery, of patriotism. We are an imperfect people with an imperfect history who strive to live up to our Founding Fathers’ gift of self-government and ideals of equality.

That gift has been protected with the blood of our military

Texas Supreme Court hears abortion ban challenge

The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a case that could decide whether medical exceptions to the state’s abortion ban are written clearly enough to protect pregnant women who face serious health risks, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The 22 plaintiffs include women who contracted sepsis while waiting to terminate a nonviable pregnancy, and women who traveled hundreds of miles for abortions of a nonviable twin in order to protect the healthy fetus. An attorney for the plaintiffs argued the vague language in the law has left doctors unable or unwilling to perform abortions.

An attorney for the state argued the law is clear and that doctors are responsible for denying abortions allowed during medical emergencies.

“Some of these women appear to have fallen within the exception but their doctors still said no. That’s not the fault of the law, that’s a decision of the doctor,” Beth Klusmann, assistant solicitor general, said.

An opinion in the case is likely to take several months.

Border car chases led to 74 deaths

At least 74 people have been killed and 189 injured during high-speed car chases near the U.S.-Mexico border since Gov. Greg Abbott launched Operation Lone Star, a multi-billion dollar border security initiative, according to a report published by Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit agency.

The group analyzed data obtained from the Texas Department of Public Safety from March 2021, when Operation Lone Star began, through July 2023. It indicates more than two-thirds of vehicle pursuits conducted in the state during that period occurred in the 60 counties involved in Operation Lone Star.

“Operation Lone Star puts undue pressure on law enforcement to chase cars, sometimes with very little basis, resulting in deaths of drivers, passengers, and even bystanders,” said Norma Herrera, a Texas-based consultant to Human Rights Watch. “Our review of the cases over 29 months identified at least 7 bystanders killed in these car crashes, including a 7-year-old girl out to get ice cream with her grandmother.”

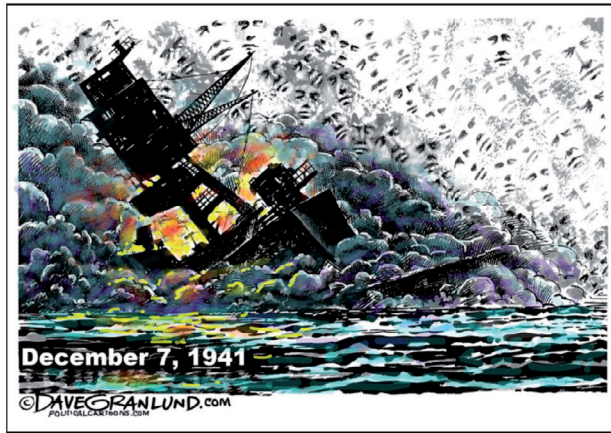
Col. Steve McCraw, DPS director, in an interview with The New York Times, said the department relies on its own troopers to decide when it is appropriate to give chase, and that a trooper who did not use appropriate caution would be held accountable.

Food banks under extreme pressure

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that 15.5% of Texas households are “food insecure,” meaning they lack consistent access to health and affordable food—the second-highest rate in the nation. Food banks across the state are warning those challenges could get worse, the Texas Tribune reported.

About 3.3 million Texans receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with the number of older Texans getting SNAP benefits rising. From January 2020 through October 2023, the number of Texans aged 65 and older

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



men and women. Remember that the next time the “Star Spangled Banner” is played. Honor that sacrifice and save your political protest gestures for a more appropriate time. Show your gratitude by showing your respect. That respect has been earned in ways we can not begin to imagine or repay.

So, on this the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor let us pay our respects and say thank you to our Greatest Generation.

And pray that we can learn to be just a little bit more like them.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



rose 28%, while the increase was 19% for those aged 60-64.

Operators of food banks, which are nonprofit organizations, blame rising housing costs during the pandemic for the increase in demand for its services.

“The rising cost of housing is the problem,” said Teresa Jackson, founder and CEO of Sharing Life, a Mesquite charity that offers food, clothing, medicine, and educational programs. Sharing Life distributes food to more than 100 food pantries around southeast Dallas.

Adding to the distress is that thousands of Texans are waiting for months to receive new food stamp benefits, according to the Statesman. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is supposed to process applications within 30 days but is only hitting that target about 75% of the time. That leaves about 138,000 unprocessed applicants who must wait longer for benefits.

Food stamp recipients are required to work unless they are elderly, disabled or caring for children. Nearly 80% of Texas food stamp recipients are in families with children.

Real Christmas trees boost state economy

More than four million real Christmas trees are sold in Texas each year, providing nearly \$400 million in direct contributions to the state’s economy, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Texas Christmas tree industry employs nearly 4,000 people with a payroll of more than \$97 million.

“The process of going as a family to pick out a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state,” Aaron Stottlemeyer, with the service, said.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, with the first recorded tree planting in Texas occurring in Jasper in 1935. Texas ranks second in the South in Christmas tree production.

First-ever sighting in Texas of rare bird
Bird watchers recently flocked to a state park in hopes of seeing a little bird only rarely seen in the United States and for the first time in Texas. The gray-collared becard is a tropical bird that lives in Central America. Texas State Parks posted a “Rare Bird Alert” that alerted bird watchers of the sighting at Resaca de la Palma State Park in Brownsville, The News reported.

The bird has only been seen in the United States twice before, both times in Arizona.

Meanwhile, scorpions are in strong supply

Texans are reporting an invasion of scorpions in their homes, according to numerous online reports. Wizzie Brown with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service told the Houston Chronicle that these distant cousins to spiders often move indoors with changing weather conditions, such as rainfall or dropping temperatures.

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

Literacy and the Workforce

Literacy is defined as “the ability to understand, evaluate, use and engage with written texts to participate in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential” by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC—part of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)). Through my economist



lens, another aspect of literacy is that it greatly enhances job opportunities for individuals and provides some near-term relief to the workforce shortage.

Below Level 1 literacy describes adults who can read brief texts on familiar topics and locate a single piece of specific information. Only basic vocabulary knowledge is required, and the adult is not required to understand the structure of sentences or paragraphs.

Level 3 involves reading and navigating dense, lengthy, or complex texts. Literacy Level 3 (roughly eighth grade according to the National Literacy Trust) and above are generally consistent with the ability to perform some type of technical or professional labor, yet many adults lack this capacity. Literacy is a crucial step in achieving a bachelor’s or higher degree, but there are many occupations requiring Level 3 literacy that are oriented to on-the-job or relatively shorter training programs. Adults reaching this threshold can become skilled workers in short order.

Texas lags the national literacy rate by a significant margin, with many areas being particularly low. An estimated 28% of the state’s population is below Level 1, compared to 22% across the nation. Only 40% of Texas adults have literacy of Level 3 or higher, with the US rate being 46%.

The PIAAC assesses adults in the official language or languages of each participating country. One aspect of the reason for low literacy rates in Texas is the large proportion of emerging English learners. According to the NCES, Texas has a significantly higher proportion of public-school students classified as “English Learners” than any other state. The Texas level of 20.1% is almost twice the national rate (10.3%). Improving literacy rates in Texas is thus a two-pronged issue involving both enhancing reading levels and overcoming language barriers, which often inhibit employment opportunities.

The Texas economy is enjoying substantial growth, and a natural outcome of that and current demographic patterns is a need for workers. Our projections indicate that about 38% of the demand for workers (from economic growth and replacements) over the next 10 years will be in jobs requiring Level 3 literacy. The fastest-growing occupations requiring Level 3 literacy include General and Operations Managers, Registered Nurses, Truck Drivers, and Software Developers.

Improving literacy rates should be a crucial aspect of workforce preparedness, enhancing the state’s prospects for future prosperity. From an individual perspective, higher literacy improves both quality of life and earning potential. Stay safe!

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

“The newspaper ties a region together, helps make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square whose boundaries transcend Facebook’s filter bubble.”

—Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

Relevance Project



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TRUST BUT VERIFY

In 1987, after signing the IMF treaty with Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev, President Ronald Reagan made the now famous quote, “Trust but Verify.” Such caution is certainly needed in religion. Are we to trust blindly what some church or some preacher says? I don’t see anywhere in Scripture that tells us to accept the words of finite man as the final arbiter of truth. In fact, the apostle Paul said, “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God...” (1 Thess. 2: 13). “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Ps. 118: 8).

Our attitude should be that of the Bereans in Acts 17: 11, “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Thus, the Bereans were “open to the evidence” they ascertained, by searching and thoroughly scrutinizing the Scriptures. They had an unprejudiced openness in their study. You see, they wanted to know if what Paul was preaching was “so,” because they readily recognized that not all preaching was “so.” They didn’t look to some creed or scholar, or some other preacher. Their conviction was drawn from their own independent and impartial study of the Scriptures.

We live in an age where falsehoods and false teachers abound. What are we to do? “Prove (test) all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thess. 5: 21). Trust (hold fast) but verify (prove or test)! Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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OBITUARIES

LOYD MARION BRESHEARS

Lloyd Marion Breshears, 85, of Gladewater passed away on November 19, 2023. Loyd was born on July 2, 1938 to Loyd Breshears and Fairy Weaver Breshears in Harper, Missouri. Loyd was a hardworking and brave man.



He served in the Airforce for 20 years before his retirement. Loyd even served as security for President Bush. After retirement he enjoyed traveling, going to casinos and took great pride in his yard. Loyd cherished his family and loved spending time with them. The memories he leaves behind will forever remain in the hearts of all that knew him.

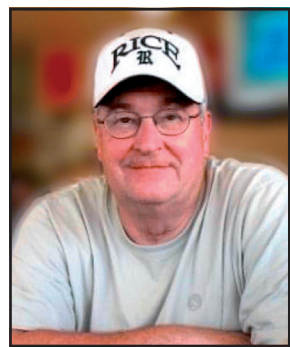
Loyd is survived by his wife Sally Breshears; sons, Danny Loyd Breshears, Troy Ferguson and wife Rhonda, Dale Ferguson and wife Tracy, Shane Ferguson and wife Vicki; daughter, Debbie Lynn Saboda; son-in-law, Mike Byrd; grandchildren, Keith, Nick, Chris, Carolyn, Keri, Tessa, Tristan, Tyler, Tagger, Kristan, Kimberly, Kaleb, Lacy, Heather, Allen, James, Jennifer and Jodi as well as 19 great-grandchildren.

Loyd is preceded in death by his parents; daughters, Janice Louise Spellman and Angie Byrd and sister Neoma Briggs.

A graveside service was held on December 3, 2023 under the direction of Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater, Texas.

RANDY BRINT

Randy Brint, 76, passed away November 23, 2023, in Longview. Randy was the son of Sylvia Marjorie Landreth and Ruel Wood Brint, the baby brother to Ben Brint, and big brother-by-love to his wife Dee's baby brother, Don Gatlin.



In 1968, he tied the knot with his high school love, Dee Gatlin. For 55 years of marriage and 59 years as sweethearts, Randy and Dee's love and devotion has served as an inspiration to everyone who knew them. He adored his sons and daughters-in-law, Jeff and Mandy Brint of The Colony, Texas, Jason Brint and Sheri Jennings of Portland, Oregon, and his beloved "little

buddy", his grandson Sebastian 17 of Portland, Oregon. Randy graduated from Rice University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and entered the world of banking where he enjoyed great success for the next 24 years. From Dallas to San Antonio and back again, and finally Longview, Randy climbed the banking ladder. He achieved the role of bank president before later switching careers to become a Financial Advisor, concluding with a 26-year career at Edward Jones. All but 24 of his 76 years of life were spent in the White Oak community that he loved dearly.

Randy is survived by his brother Ben Brint and Dee's brother and brother-in-law Don Gatlin and Terry Caplan, Dee's sisters and brother-in-law Patti Snyder Harwell and David Harwell and Jeannie Dollahite, his niece Kimberley Brint Williams and her son Cole, his nephews and their wives: Todd and Laura Howell, Corey Howell, and Chuck and Lori Robinson and numerous grandnephews and a grandniece and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law Greta VanDyk Brint.

Randy's heart recognized no boundaries, respecting every soul regardless of race, sexual orientation, or religion. His legacy is one of love and acceptance. He has multiple enduring friendships across the country including those in the TBH Forum. His loyalty, wit, and love will forever echo in our hearts.

Private graveside services for the family and a Celebration-of-Life will be held on December 17, 2023 - lakeviewfh.com.

Chipped in funds help launch new green debris program

The City of Gladewater has a new wood chipper, and officials are ready to put it to work for residents.

"It took about a year to get in," Mayor Scott Owens told council members and locals Nov. 16 at City Hall, noting Gladewater Code Enforcement Officer Maria Tidwell worked with East Texas Council of Governments to secure \$15,000 for the chipper, covering about a third of the total cost.

Beginning in December, Owens said, the city will make the rounds of the community once a month to chip limbs and brush from individual references.

Homeowners will have to call City Hall to get their house on the rotation, he added, then they'll need to pile their green debris at the curb so it's in easy reach of city personnel.

"We can't go into your yard to get this, but we're going to come out once a month and chip that up for you and haul it off. I'm volunteering to do that. Hopefully, we'll have one other person from Public Works."

Part of the city's focus on the wood chipper program is to give residents another option for mitigating their green waste instead of burning it (see story on Page 3). Currently, anyone with a City of Gladewater water bill can visit the landfill once a month to drop off a load of garbage, yard debris and other permitted trash.



City aims to get regulated brush burns back in play

By James Draper

During the Gladewater City Council's regular meeting Nov. 16, interim City Manager Charlie Smith provided a brief update on the current moratorium on burn permits within the city limits.

In mid-October, officials finally lifted their weather-related burn ban after conditions finally returned to a safe state. Two weeks later, Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons put a pause on all permits for controlled burns after a series of illegal fires – with potential state jail charges.

Simmons has since been overhauling the City of Gladewater's outdoor burning rules to best-align with state guidelines. The short version: outside of a specific set of cooking, ceremonial or recreational fires, the only burns that can be permitted (for a fee) will be for green debris from an individual's home. Those rules are in limbo until considered by Gladewater council members.

According to Smith, Simmons has also put time into training with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency to get the latest guidance on what cities can allow in terms of burning while still complying with state and federal regulations.

"There's a lot of laws

that have come into play to discourage that," Smith confirmed. "We want to try to put in some type of program so that we can move forward and that everybody will be satisfied with, and we can get rid of a lot of debris."

The city's new wood chipper will be a big part of that, too, Smith added – see separate story on Page 3.

A key reason for the moratorium was the amount of garbage and specific trash like shingles and tires that were being illegally-burned. Simmons has four active cases that will be state jail felonies without compliance from the suspects.

"We want to discourage that," Smith said, "but we do want to be able to get rid of the brush and debris that's throughout the city, too."

Downtown visitors inspect the wares at Gladewater businesses Saturday as the Christmas shopping season picks up steam. The coming weekend is sure to be hopping as well as residents and visitors descend on downtown for the annual Gladewater Christmas Parade – the 'Joy to the Rails' event begins at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 9 following West Pacific Avenue to Ferry and turning back on West Quitman Avenue to East Broadway and North Mill Street. Photos by James Draper



Small businesses hope for the best, work for success beyond holidays

PRESS RELEASE

Gladewater Economic Development Corporation pours energy into enhancing and expanding the community's commercial foundation – at the holidays, that means throwing a spotlight on the small business owners who are engaging with resident-shoppers while also drawing outside dollars into the local well.

There are thriving small businesses in the city's downtown core and throughout the city limits, hard at work throughout the year but especially in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Saturday, they hosted shoppers from not just Gladewater but cities throughout East Texas, Louisiana and further – far beyond, in fact, thanks to online storefronts tied to local brick-and-mortars.

The final weeks of the year are pivotal for many a small business, welcoming Christmas shopping customers with open arms and grateful for their patronage. According to a recent Constant Contact report, projections for 2023 indicate consumers' holiday spending will return to pre-pandemic levels, and it's a great opportunity for small business owners and operators to end 2023 with a bang and enter the New Year with gusto.

Becky Lawson's grateful – "We've got bills, too," the owner of The Turquoise Leopard joked recently by phone, greeting customers at Canton while simultaneously pulling in sales at her Gladewater Main Street hub. Seriously, though, "These 'Mom & Pop' businesses get harder to harder," and Lawson has a warm welcome for anyone who comes browsing her wares.

"I have been told by my vendors that I have the largest selection of Consuela in East Texas. I order a big variety," responding to cus-



Becky Lawson cultivates the broadest selection of Consuela products possible through The Turquoise Leopard at 201 S. Main St. The holidays are a pivotal time for many small businesses, but owner/operators like Lawson invest in customer relationships year-round for their greatest success.

tomers feedback and putting prep-time in before the holiday rush.

In a poll of 500 small businesses (SMBs) and 500 shoppers across the United States, Constant Contact determined 75 percent of the retailers are relying heavily on holiday sales to meet their annual revenue goals. Conversely, only about one-third of consumers prioritize patronizing small businesses at the holidays.

"The top goals for SMBs heading into the holiday season are finding new customers (63 percent), retaining current customers (52 percent), and planning for next year (45 percent)," according to Constant Contact.

Among the shoppers who opt to visit small businesses during the holiday season, 84 percent say they're likely to visit one they've never purchased from before. Among them, 87 percent say they're more likely to patronize that small business again in the future after making first contact at Christmastime.

Like her small business neighbors throughout Gladewater, Lawson prizes face-to-face opportunities with her patrons, building relationships that transcend holiday shopping.

"I try to learn my customers, and I have a lot of repeat business," Lawson

said. "I know a lot of them by name – I try to do that one-on-one with them."

Unsurprisingly in the digital age, for 52 percent of the small businesses polled, personalized emails and texts are a cornerstone of their outreach to existing customers. Among the pool, 42 percent say social media ads are essential in growing their customer base during the holidays while slightly fewer (40 percent) rely on sales or discounts to reach new shoppers.

Customer retention from the holidays in the new year is necessary for the vast majority of small businesses (93 percent according to Constant Contact's data) and 81 percent of customers say they're open to receiving communications from a business they've touched base with during the holidays. That said, 27 percent report never hearing back from spots where they made a seasonal purchase.

That won't be the case at The Turquoise Leopard – Lawson invests in her customers throughout the year.

"I like that personalization," she said. Even though, at 68, Lawson jokes she occasionally forgets the names, she still remembers them and their preferences. "I like knowing my customers. They say to me, 'You remember me!' I say, 'You're important to me!'"



GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

Table with columns: CALL DATE, CALL DESC, CP5#, CALL TIME, BUSINESS NAME, ADDRESS. Lists police incidents from 11/26/23 to 12/23/23.

WOPD POLICE ACTIVITY

For the reporting period of November 20th through the 26th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 163 calls for service and assistance.

Two traffic collisions were investigated which resulted in no injuries and one continuing criminal investigation.

One person was arrested by White Oak Police during the reporting period: Stetson Dane Voluntine, 31, of White Oak for Assault - Family Violence causing Bodily Injury.

For the reporting period of November 27th through December 3rd, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 209 calls for service and assistance.

Five traffic collisions were investigated which resulted in one injury and no continuing criminal investigations.

One person was arrested by White Oak Police during the reporting period: Aysia Lee Carpenter, 28, of White Oak for Assault - Family Violence, Harassment of a Public Servant, and Resisting Arrest.

GPD POLICE ARRESTS

Table with columns: ARREST DATE, ARREST TIME, TIME, FULL NAME, RACE, SEX, OFFENSE, LOCATION ADDRESS. Lists arrests from 11/27/23.

Gilmer FD posts monthly activity report

By Phillip Williams

The Gilmer Fire Department responded to 51 calls in November, said Fire Chief Jerry Taylor, who issued some holiday fire safety tips in his department's monthly activity report.

"Keep live Christmas trees watered," he warned. "Plug lights into wall sockets. Don't overload extension cords."

He additionally reminded that outdoor burning in Gilmer city limits requires a permit from the department. Call 903-843-3225 to request one.

Of November's calls, 12 involved vehicle accidents and 11 were grass fires.

Other categories of calls, and the number of each Taylor reported, included medically assisting ambulance crews, 9; hazardous material spills/gas leaks, 7; structure fires, 4;

"Jaws call/rescue" (referring to the "Jaws of Life" extrication tool), 2; false alarms, 2; electrical wiring, 2; fire alarms activating, 1; and canceled en route, 1.

The department also worked a collective 521.05 man-hours in November, compared to 533.77 in October.

Gladewater FD handles 96 calls

GFD responded to a total of 96 calls for service in the month of November. Those calls were: Medical 63, Public Service 16, Canceled 8, HazMat 3, Fire 2, Accident 2, Alarm 1, Other 1.



Sunday Services banner with decorative crosses on either side.

Large advertisement containing multiple local business and church listings: Bailey's ACE hardware, J.O. Williams, SONIC Drive-In, BAPTIST churches, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FACEBOOK - FBCGLADEWATER, SUNDAY - 10:15 Morning Worship, Get your message out for just \$12/week, GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, CATHOLIC churches, CHARISMATIC churches, LUTHERAN churches, CHURCH OF GOD, NAZARENE churches, METHODIST churches, Pray for our Nation, and St. James Missionary Baptist Church.

Croley FUNERAL HOME advertisement with logo and contact information for Gilmer, Gladewater, Hawkins, and Diana.

St. James Missionary Baptist Church advertisement: Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 pm for ABF/SBF and 7:15 pm for Bible Study and each Sunday at 9 am.

Read Local advertisement: Local company. Local journalists. Local stories.

SPORTS

Gladewater, White Oak in tournament action

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater boys and girl's basketball teams were both in action this past week as they were involved in tournaments during the week.

The Gladewater Bears started the week with road trip to Paul Pewitt on Tuesday, November 28th where the Bears fell 65-44. Then on Thursday, November 30th, Gladewater began play in the Grand Saline tournament with a pair of games. Falling 72-33 to Chapel Hill and then falling to Grand Saline later that afternoon 83-36.

Then on Friday, December 1st, the Bears fell 90-28 to the Brownsboro Bears. Then finally on Saturday, December 2nd, Gladewater fell to the New Boston Lions. The Bears record falls to 0-7 on the season. They will be back on the court on Tuesday, December 5th with a home contest with Cumberland Academy of Tyler. Then on Thursday, December 7th, the Bears will be heading to Chapel Hill for a tournament.

On the other side, the Gladewater Lady Bears had a action packed week as well which began with victory over Central Heights on the road on Tuesday, November 28th. Then the Lady Bears made the short trip to Longview to compete in the Regan Stiles tournament at Pine Tree. Gladewater started off play on Thursday,

November 28th with a pair of wins - a 60-24 win over Arp and a 50-42 victory over host Pine Tree.

Following that up on Friday afternoon with a 47-38 victory over Brook Hill. Against Arp, Calice Henderson filled the stat sheet with 20 points, six rebounds, five assists, eight steals and two blocks. Kyla Lincoln had 13 points, four assists and five steals, Ava Langford six points and Paytin Thompson nine points and two assists. In the matchup against Pine Tree, Henderson had a double-double with 22 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists and three steals. Kyla Lincoln added eight points, four assists and two steals, Khera Lincoln seven points, two assists and four steals and Karlee Moses six points and four rebounds.

And against Brook Hill, Calice Henderson had 13 points, 12 rebounds, two assists and two steals. Ava Langford finished with nine points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals, Paytin Thompson 11 points, eight rebounds and five assists and Karlee Moses seven points, 10 rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

The Lady Bears finished up play falling to Jacksonville. The Lady Bears now sit at 6-4 on the season. They will be back in action on Tuesday, December 5th with a road trip to Brownsboro

before heading back there for the Brownsboro tournament December 7th-9th.

Moving over to White Oak, the White Oak Roughnecks were in action as well on Thursday, November 30th as they began play in their own tournament going 1-1. Defeating Quitman 37-31 and falling in a heartbreaker to Queen City 32-31. In the win over Quitman, Scotty Breitenberg scored 14 points to lead the way for White Oak in a 37-31 win over Quitman at the White Oak Tournament.

Kaleb Sorgee added eight points, Tysen McClain six, Gavin Sipes five and Kanaan Moore and Jacob Sorgee two apiece. Against Queen City, Breitenberg had 17 points, Moore four, Campbell Sutton three and Sipes and McClain two apiece.

The Roughnecks are now 1-5 on the season and will be back on Tuesday, December 5th with a trip to Tatum. The White Oak Ladynecks were also in action as they took down Linden-Kildare on Tuesday, November 28th 52-45.

Then they hosted their own tournament going 1-1. Falling to West Rusk 51-43 and knocking off Linden-Kildare again 43-37. White Oak sits now at 6-7 on the season.

They will be back on the court on Tuesday, December 5th when they host East Texas Home Schools.



James Hinsley (11) and Jacob Sorgee (20) of the Roughnecks trip up Lion point guard Jaxson Daniels (00) on his way to the basket as Kayden Day (32) and Tysen McClain (21) react to the loose ball. White Oak defeated Union Grove 57-47 in the White Oak Basketball Tournament.

Photo by Mike Peery



Ladyneck Kayln Hepler goes up high over a Linden-Kildare defender for two points in the Ladynecks 43-37 victory over the Lady Tigers at the White Oak Basketball Tournament last week.

Photo by Mike Peery

“Coot’s Corner”

By Coot Putley

Baseball’s Hot Stove

We have entered the time of year known as the Hot Stove Season. In the early days of baseball, players would continue to play games during the off season to stay in shape, keeping warm with actual hot stoves. The image spread to fans gathered around a stove in the winter to discuss their favorite teams. Gradually it began to apply to baseball executives working on ways to improve their teams.

The day after the World Series, general managers and other personnel from twenty-nine teams enter the Hot Stove Season. One team – the Texas Rangers - took a couple of days to celebrate their championship, then began to work on next year’s roster. There are a lot of things to consider as teams look to improve. Players who qualify for free agency can sign with any team. Decisions must be made on which minor leaguers need to be added to the extended roster to protect them from being drafted by other teams. And potential trades are deliberated. For baseball junkies, such as myself, it is an interesting and exciting time.

This year the big free agent prize is Shohei Ohtani. The two-way superstar has been MVP two out of the last three years and will undoubtedly set a record for the biggest contract ever. Many teams seem to be waiting to see what Ohtani does before they make any moves. There haven’t been any big trades yet, but as baseball personnel gather in Nashville for the winter meetings, talks might heat up around the hot stoves.

What decisions do the Texas Rangers have to make? Although many commentators considered them as favorites in the Shohei sweepstakes, they have apparently taken themselves out of the running to work on other issues. As far as the everyday lineup is concerned, eight players are under contract for next year. Only designated hitter (and backup catcher) Mitch Garver is a free agent. He will probably go to another team who can give him the opportunity to play catcher more often. How will Texas fill this slot? It is not likely they will go the free agent route for a DH but will look to cover it from within the organization. Ezequiel Duran, Josh Smith, top prospects Wyatt Langford, Sam Huff and minor leaguers Justin Foscoe and Dustin Harris have all been mentioned as candidates, but the Rangers may have something else up their sleeves.

There are ample reasons to expect another outstanding lineup next season. GM Chris Young has said many times that you can never have too much pitching. Next week we’ll talk about the decisions facing the team in this area.

It has always been fun to keep up with the Hot Stove Season. This year my perspective is different. In the past, I’ve wondered what my team could possibly do to win a World Series. This year I’m wondering what my team can do to repeat – and watching what 29 other teams are trying to do to prevent it!

That’s my opinion – what’s yours?

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes more than one in every five of the fires.

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 soreness pain

5 former name for Fort Cavazos near Killeen

6 TXism: "split _____" (laughed hard)

7 TXism: "_____ tight he squeaks when he walks" (miser)

8 O.J.'s judge

9 chili flavorers

15 fishing method: "_____ line"

16 environment scientist

19 Italian artist POW who painted mural in Castro County

21 TXism: "risky as _____ a sailor"

22 first U.S. military flight took place at Fort Sam Houston by Lt. Benjamin _____

27 _____ Star State

28 TXism: "_____ a hen, she'll cluck"

29 TXism: "running around like a chicken with its head _____"

30 Texas pink granite with interspersed sky blue quartz

32 _____ Pleasant, TX (abbr.)

33 Texas state flower in Mexico (2 wds.)

36 Texas Blue Bell ice cream holder

37 Irving is the headquarters of this nat'l scouting org.

38 in Victoria County on U.S. 87

39 immensity

41 stat. for Astro Verlander or Ranger Eovaldi

42 gets whiffs of

45 LBJ took _____ of office on Air Force One on November 22, 1963

46 _____ Rio, TX

47 Jesus' saying on the cross (Aramaic)

48 S-shaped curve

49 derision

52 TXism: "so many you couldn't _____ 'em with a stick"

53 TXism: "burn the midnight _____" (work late)

54 big Texas case: "_____ v. Wade"

55 TXism: "heavy as the front _____ of a John Deere"

DOWN

1 shout of triumph

2 gear tooth

3 home of the NFL Texans and the MLB Astros

4 this Cowboy was 6' 9" (4 wds.)

8 colored eye part

9 genre of TX Gene Roddenberry's "Star Trek" (2 wds.)

10 mail place where you can rent a box (abbr.)

11 birth state of TX Charles Goodnight (abbr.)

12 Starbucks, e.g. (2 wds.)

13 these are big on some Texans

14 weary exhale

15 triple strong eyewear

16 seat of Jackson County

17 Buchanan Dam _____ flow of the Colorado River

18 "I told you _____ out of it!"

20 storytelling King Ranch cowboy, "_____ " Trevino

22 this Couples won 1987 Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)

23 UT foe for "Red River Shootout"

24 El Paso univer. (abbr.)

25 lazed about

26 Texans look for quality _____ in a nursing home

28 TXism: "pay _____ never mind"

31 charged atoms dir. to Gonzales from Pleasanton (abbr.)

35 TX Ross Perot founded this co. in 1962

37 TXism: "wouldn't _____ a biscuit" (harmless dog)

40 sporty _____ wheels

43 this Loetscher was South Padre Island "Turtle Lady"

44 TXism: "a sight _____ eyes" (great seeing you)

50 TXism: "took sick"

51 TX George H.W. to TX George W.



P-1666

See Answers On This Page

Public input sought on statewide plan expanding access to high-speed broadband internet

AUSTIN—The Texas Broadband Development Office, operated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, is soliciting input from the public on the new Texas Digital Opportunity Plan. The plan outlines how these entities will connect the Lone Star State for a brighter future by making it easier for all Texans to access and use the internet. From today through Jan. 5, 2024, Texans can give their opinions on the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan by visiting broadbandfortexas.com/tdop.

Almost 2.8 million households and 7 million people in our state lack access to broadband, or high-speed internet, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. The Digital Opportunity Plan will provide these Texans with the technology and knowledge they need to fully participate in an increasingly digital world.

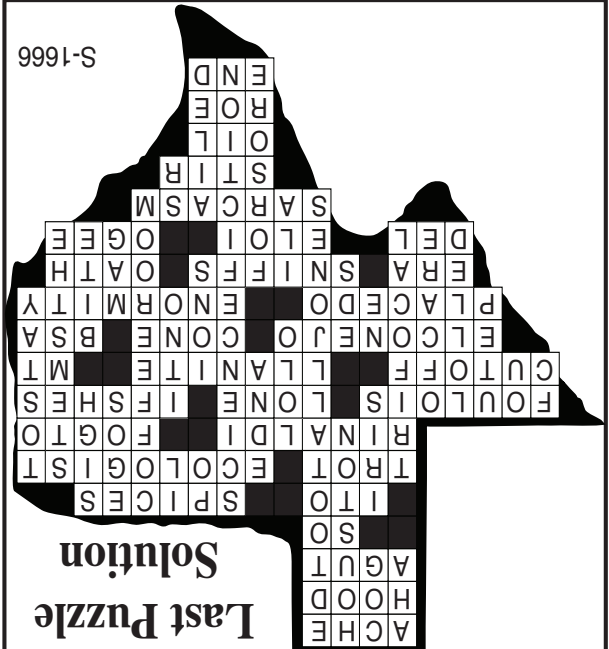
"Access to reliable, high-speed internet as a means of advancing education, training, employment opportunities, healthcare, and delivery of essential services is critical to the future of our state," said Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. "But we know that we can't do this without partners in the regions and the communities that need this service the most. Your input, passion and local knowledge will help us ensure the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan establishes a clear roadmap to bridge the digital divide and promote digital opportunities for all Texans."

"The Texas Digital Opportunity Plan will allow more Texans to access technology and thrive," said Greg Conte, Director of the Texas Broadband Development Office. "We know that starts with improving broadband (or high-speed internet) adoption, device access and digital skills training, but we want to hear more from community members most in need."

Historically, the digital divide in Texas has disproportionately left out rural communities, communities of color and low-income families, according to a 2016 Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas report. Because the internet and technology touch so many aspects of life today, bridging this divide is essential to ensure all Texans can participate and succeed.

The Broadband Development Office is partnering with organizations like the Texas Workforce Commission, chambers of commerce, industry associations, educational institutions and elected officials to highlight how high-speed internet and digital skills training can help Texans realize their economic potential.

9991-S



Last Puzzle Solution

SHOP LOCAL ... SHOP LOCAL ... SHOP LOCAL

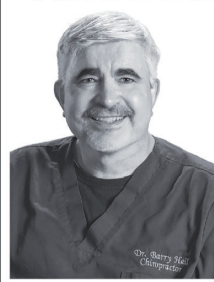



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Dec. 7).

"Dinosaur Versus Santa" by Bob Shea, and "Pete the Cat Saves Christmas" by James Dean, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154).

The events are free to the public, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www.youseemore.com/upshur.

com/upshur.

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.

Thompson named GASC president

Kimberly Thompson was elected president of the Gilmer Area Senior Center organization in Gilmer on Friday.

Other officers elected for 2024, to join Thompson in taking office Jan. 5, included First Vice-President Andy Gibson, Second Vice-President Hodge Holman, Secretary Nicki Slater, Treasurer Sandy Ashcraft and Member-At-Large June Cotten.

All were elected without opposition by acclamation. Thompson succeeds Gibson.

The senior group is open to anyone age 50 or older, even those living outside Upshur County.

It meets at noon Fridays for potluck meals at the

old Gilmer fire station on Harrison Street. Several of the meetings feature guest speakers, and the group also takes field trips.

Appraisal district names get split vote

Upshur County Commissioners Court last week authorized County Judge Todd Tefteller to sign an agreement accepting certain subcontractors for the forthcoming major renovation of the 86-year-old county courthouse in Gilmer.

The court approved inking the contract at low bids on subcontractors approved by JC Stoddard Construction, the San Antonio firm which was chosen to be construction manager as contractor on the project.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson said the

document should be signed within a week, and Tefteller said he hoped to do so before the court's next meeting Dec. 15.

In another matter, the court voted 3-2 to split its 1,570 votes for the Upshur County Appraisal District's board of directors between four nominees - David Fonteno, Richard Gage, John Paul Ussery and Jackie Oliver.

County Judge Todd Tefteller, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller and Nicholson voted for the quartet. Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle and Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley voted against the motion.

That came after Dolle's motion to split the votes between four candidates and an additional nominee, Stacy McMahan, died for lack of a second. Ashley then

proposed splitting the vote to include McMahan, but Nicholson said he wanted to stick with the four who were eventually nominated.

Tefteller said he would be for Dolle's motion, but that he as county judge doesn't second motions.

In other business, the court certified receiving a \$10,000 donation which Halliburton gave to the sheriff's office.

After an hour-long closed session, the court approved authorizing County Road Administrator Phil Stegall to consult with a Castroville firm, Machinery Auctioneers of Texas, about auctioning off four tractors and a boom mower.

Tefteller termed the items "non-conforming equipment that has not served" the county's needs.

SELL IT IN THE Classifieds

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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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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- AUCTIONS**
Ranch Dispersal Auction, Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53± acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, C3-AUCTIONS.COM.
- BASEBALL**
BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS – August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!
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Come enjoy this true account of Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller, in one of the most amazing, miraculous stories to have ever graced the stage. It will warm your heart, and inspire you in a way that live theatre was meant to. And it’s the perfect story, as we enter this most miraculous time of year.

Come see the story that is THE reason that we know who Helen Keller is...and what a noble profession teaching can truly be!”

Avoid holiday scam tips

Take care this holiday – it’s not the Grinch folks need to worry about but the seasonal swindlers and scammers trying to make a quick buck on others’ gullibility.

Gladewater Police Department has received enough complaints and concerns about telephone scammers’ attempts to sandbag residents that the agency posted a Federal Trade Commission warning about the problem last week via social media.

The solution is to hang up on gift card scams, officials say, and it starts with recognizing the warning signs in the midst of a situation designed to be stressful.

“The ones we’re dealing with right now, that we’re hearing about the most,” GPD Chief Gordon Freeman said last week, “they say ‘We have an arrest warrant for you.’”

The scammer purports to be an authority figure, usually masquerading as law enforcement from Gladewater, Gregg County or Upshur. The caller tells the receiver they can clear off the charge by following instructions that include some form of payment. Recently, Freeman said, that’s Bitcoin – the intended victim is told to call a specific number and provide a barcode to clear the alleged warrant.

“We had one just three days ago,” he added. According to the caller, “Your name came up in a drug bust in West Texas, but if you go down and get the Bitcoins and send it to us, we’ll take your name off the list.”

Simply put: “That’s not the way we work.”

Law enforcement isn’t going to try to squeeze a payment out of a person over the phone, Freeman said. Government agencies don’t accept payments in gift cards, cryptocurrency, CashApp or similar methods. “We don’t take Bitcoins. We don’t take all that other stuff.”

As the scammers are usually preying on a person’s fear, a key step when receiving that kind of suspicious call is to take a breath and think clearly.

“I suggest that if anybody gets a call from anyone that says they’re from a police agency, just tell them that you’ll handle it, get the name of the agency, then call that agency” after looking up the number elsewhere. “If they call you and they say that they’re from a department in East Texas and they do not have an East Texas accent, that would be a clue.”

If someone on the phone claims they’re calling on behalf of a loved one who’s been jailed or hospitalized, make them state the name of the jail or hospital then look up the number independently and make a separate call.

If it actually turns out to be true, “If you call that agency, they will give you all that information you need to get that individual out.” And it won’t be with a gift card.

Don’t get fooled by someone claiming fines are owed to the City of Gladewater or some other agency, Freeman added.

It’s a lot simpler than the scammers want their intended victims to think.

“If you’ve got fines in Gladewater, come in to City Hall. Go see Ms. Cindy. She’ll set you up on payment. It’s face-to-face,” Freeman insisted, not an under the table deal. “It’s not ‘Send me some money right now.’ It’s not ‘Pay me directly.’ Anytime you hear, ‘You’ve got to go get the money and call me,’ you know it’s a scam.”

The scammers do it because with enough attempts, it works. Don’t be that victim.

“Even myself, I have had phone calls where they say there’s a warrant out for my arrest,” Freeman said. “You can’t track ‘em, that’s the bad thing, but I always just kind of mess with them a little bit, and usually within a few minutes they’re hanging up.”

Check in with elderly relatives, he added, as they’re common prey for swindlers.

“These scams are getting so bad. They are scamming these old people out of money, money, money.”

Upshur commissioner draws challenger, filing deadline

By Phillip Williams

With Monday’s deadline for filing to run in the 2024 party primaries approaching, another contested race for an Upshur County office has developed.

Lucrecia Davidson filed notice Monday with the county election administrator’s office she will run for the post held by Precinct 1 commissioner Gene Dolle, who has filed for re-election in the Republican primary.

Davidson filed notice of appointing a campaign treasurer, which does not require her to disclose her party affiliation, if any.

Dolle is at least the third incumbent county official to face opposition for re-election.

Filing deadline for the county’s March 5 primaries

is 6 p.m. Monday. Those wanting to file in the Republican election may contact county GOP Chairman Carl Byers at 903-316-7922, while anyone wishing to file in the Democratic primary may contact county Democratic Chairman Winifred Jackson at 903-238-3779.

All current county officials are Republicans.

In the GOP primary, Sheriff Larry Webb faces opposition for re-election from former Gilmer Police Chief Mark Case, while incumbent County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell is opposed for re-election by her chief deputy, Samantha Caffey.

Another candidate for sheriff, former reserve Deputy Brandon Williams, filed notice of his campaign treasurer with County Election Administrator Lory Harle’s office, and Jackson indicated recently that he is expected to run in the Democratic primary.

Unopposed as of Monday night in the GOP contest were four incumbents seeking re-election--Precinct 3 County Commissioner Michael Ashley, Precinct 1 Constable Tim Barnett, Precinct 2 Constable Jason Weeks and Precinct 4 Constable David Thompson.

James Casey, a Gilmer police officer, was unopposed for retiring Precinct 3 Constable Ronnie Mitchell’s post.

Former county Republican Chairman Cynthia Ridgeway announced she filed Monday night to oppose Byers in his bid for re-election. Some precinct chair races in that primary are also contested.

In the Democratic race, Jackson and one precinct chairman, Carlyn Short, have filed for re-election.

Clarksville City Baptist Church

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