

January is > School board recognition month!



Being a School Board Member

GLADEWATER ISD

By Jon Keller
GISD School Board President

I was asked a few weeks ago to write an article for the *Mirror* – whatever I wanted to write about it was mine. I have thought about several topics – school finance, the challenges of COVID-19 on GISD, district happenings, our great teachers etc. There are so many things and not enough space in our great community paper nor enough words. Mostly good but we have our shortfalls and challenges as well; however, with January being School Board Appreciation Month I thought I would discuss what a school board member really does.

You may be surprised by the simple fact that as the Board of Trustees of The Gladewater County Line Independent School District we have very limited power. We have three basic roles (duties/powers): 1. We hire and fire the superintendent; 2. We set the budget for the district; and 3. We set the District policies. Seems big but everything hinges strongly on the first role with hiring and firing the Superintendent. All other hires within the district come from the campus level or higher. The board only approves contracts of employees that are eligible for contracts.

As Board members we do not run the day to day operations of the district. We don't tell teachers how to teach. Board Members are heavily dependent on Mr. Clark as Superintendent and his GISD Leadership Team for all of that. That's why that first role is so important. Sure, we have control over the budget and can watch

Continued on Page 3


UNION GROVE ISD

By Jody Day
UGISD Board President

2020 was a challenging time for all teachers, administrators and school boards across the state. Just like everyone during this time there was confusion, uncertainty and disappointments. At Union Grove we faced the same confusion, uncertainty and disappointments. But with that we also saw dedication, perseverance and a work ethic unmatched by our administration, teachers and staff along with our board of education.

We started in May having board meetings virtually every two weeks or even more frequently sometimes. There were times we did not know what the future would hold for local schools in our area. Many times we would make a decision with the information we were given by the state and then the very next day that information changed. We had to be flexible and vigilant in making sure we had the most up to date information from the state so we could make

Continued on Page 6



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

As we continue to face the unprecedented challenges presented by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the importance of ensuring a better tomorrow by securing our young peoples' bright and precious futures has never been greater.


This year has brought the indispensable value of education into sharp focus as school districts across Texas continue to dedicate time and resources to ensure Texas students receive the best education possible regardless of the circumstances. Though we have encountered many new trials, the fact remains that a rigorous and well-rounded education serves as the best foundation upon which young Texans can build successful lives out of their dreams.

School boards play a vital role in our efforts to improve education in the Lone Star State. Across Texas, dedicated school boards work with parents, educators, and community members to create successful learning environments. Our school boards have also been instrumental in our state's educational response to COVID-19 by leading their districts in implementing safety measures, coordinating and facilitating online learning, and providing support to administrative staff, teachers, parents, and students.

While school districts will always face new challenges as they serve the needs of students, Texans can count on their school board members, along with other dedicated school officials, to weather these trials, create opportunities to discuss important issues, develop innovative solutions, and empower educators while remaining focused on their students' futures.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to join in recognizing and celebrating the work and success of our many school board members across Texas, and to remember that the children we nurture today will become the leaders of our state and nation tomorrow.

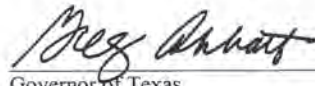
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim January 2021 to be



School Board Recognition Month

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 14th day of December, 2020.



Governor of Texas

City council, school board candidate filing underway

Deadline is Feb. 12

Anyone wanting to apply to run for the Gladewater City Council or Gladewater ISD School Board has until 5 p.m. on Feb. 12 to pick up an application.

On the city side of the upcoming elections, seats Place 4, Place 5, Place 6 and Place 7 are up for grabs.

Place 4 councilman Nick Foster has decided to not seek re-election and that has resulted in political newcomer Michael Webber tossing his hat into the Place 4 race. Place 6 councilman Rocky Hawkins has formally filed to run for the seat he was appointed to, as has Place 7 councilman Kevin Clark and Place 5 councilman Elijah "Sonny" Anderson, who also serves as mayor pro-tem.

The requirements/qualifications to serve on the Gladewater City Council are:

No person shall be eligible as a candidate for the Council unless he or she shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older on commencement of the term to be elected, a qualified voter, a citizen of the United States and a resident citizen of this State for a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the election.

The candidate for Mayor and Council must be a resident of the City, must have resided in the City for a period of six (6) months prior to the date of election, and must continuously reside within the City during his or her term of office.

On the school side of the local elections, Place 6 board member Jamie Robertson and Place 7 board member George Glenn are up for re-election.

The seven trustees are elected for rotating three-year terms. When a member's term has expired, elections are held in May annually. Although board members are elected to numbered positions, trustees represent the District as a whole, not specific geographic areas.

Those wishing to run must be 18 years of age and must have resided continuously in Texas for 12 months and in the school district for six months immediately preceding the election.

Applications may be obtained online or by contacting Tina Bigler, Secretary to Superintendent/Board at 903-845-6991.

Remember, filing for city and school board ends on Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.

City council hears department quarterly reports

The Gladewater City Council met last Thursday and discussed a number of items, including approving an agreement between the city and Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. for a Water Treatment Plant Evaluation and Report. The report will cost about \$42,000 and will be paid from leftover grant funds that are earmarked for water projects.

The council also added two members to the city's Beautification Board - former councilmen Dennis Robertson and Farrell Alexander.

In other business, the city approved the city's HOT (Hotel/Motel Tax) report for October - December 2020 which was \$192.51 in revenue, passed an ordinance ordering the city officer election to be held on Saturday,

May 1, 2021 and approved a joint election agreement between the city and Gladewater ISD for the May 1, 2021 elections and contracted for election services between city and the Gregg County Elections Administrator.

The council also approved a blanket permit request from Melba Gordon for a Craft & Trade Show to be held on February 13 at 303 W. Commerce.

The council also heard quarterly reports from the city's various department heads, who for the most part reported their expenses thus far in the fiscal year were within budget.

The Gladewater Economic Development Corp. (GEDCO) presented its quarterly reported and told the council it currently had \$1,476,767.76 in assets and

\$566,575.45 in cash. Jim Bardwell, GEDCO president, said 24 local businesses were helped through the distribution of \$500 utility grant checks for a total of \$12,000 and GEDCO had paid to get all the decorative downtown street lamps hooked up to power. Bardwell also said GEDCO recently agreed to pay for new sewer lines to be run to a new business at Loop 485 and US 271.

City manager Ricky Tow took the opportunity to tell the council just how hard the public works department had worked over the past year - 1,263 calls for service, 154 repairs, 394 sewer backups fixed, 128 water leaks, 110 lines located, 897 disconnects, 306 meter problems, just to name a few.

Bedair, Smith, Walbridge named All-State Musicians

On Jan. 17, members of the Gladewater High School Band earned the prestigious honor of being named Texas All-State Musicians.

Freshman Clarinet player Madisyn Bedair, sophomore Euphonium player Matt Smith, and sophomore trumpet player Sarah Walbridge were chosen for this honor through a competitive process that began last fall and included Region and Area levels.

Walbridge and Smith not only made the band but did so by placing first chair in the area on their respective instruments. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. The ATSSB (Association of Texas Small School Bands) sponsors the Texas All-State audition process to promote students' dedication

to their musical knowledge and skill and to encourage educators to support their students in this development.

Over 50,000 students from around the state initially entered the audition process, and 1,860 students have been selected for 2021. This competitive process begins throughout the state in auditions hosted by 33 ATSSB Regions. Individual musicians perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument.

From this ranking, a select group of musicians advances from their Region to compete against musicians from other areas in eight ATSSB Area competitions. The highest-ranking musicians judged at the ATSSB Area competitions

qualify to an ATSSB All-State music group. These students will come together with students from other schools across Texas in June to perform in the ATSSB Texas All-State Band Concert.

"Most students who try will never make the All-State Band. Those that do will mostly likely make it in their junior or senior year," GMS band director Rhett Pilcher said. "The fact that our three students made it so young in their high school tenure is very rare. These students have worked extraordinarily hard and will see the fruits of their labor when universities come calling their senior year."

Directors of the Gladewater High School Band are Jeff Smith, Rhett Pilcher, Mitchell Smith, and Donald Kitchell.



OPINION/EDITORIAL

Chris Cobler
Capital Highlights



Lawmakers start \$7 billion away from target

Texas House and Senate leaders appear to agree on their proposed budgets. Next, they just have to figure out how to cut \$7.2 billion.

Senate Finance Chair Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, worked with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to propose a state budget of \$119.7 billion in general funds. House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, proposed the same budget figure, indicating a collaborative spirit at the start of the 87th session.

That spirit will be tested as legislators try to meet Comptroller Glen Hegar's budgeted revenue forecast of \$112.5 billion.

"We have many tools available to balance this budget, which will require us to re-establish our priorities, stretch every dollar and find more efficient ways to deliver services," Nelson said in a statement.

Among the priorities she set:

- ✓ Maintaining the education funding increases and teacher pay raises established in 2019, including \$3.1 billion to fund enrollment growth for public education and \$1 billion in additional state aid related to property tax compression in the 2022-23 biennium.
- ✓ \$5 billion for payroll growth and continued reforms to the Teacher Retirement System passed last session.
- ✓ \$8.1 billion to fund higher education institution formulas.
- ✓ Combined projected funding of \$8 billion for mental health across 24 state agencies, including an increase of \$19.5 million to maintain operations for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium; more than \$1 million in new funding to create a peer-to-peer counseling network and increase access to licensed mental health providers for Texas Law Enforcement Officers; and \$145 million to continue community mental health grant programs.
- ✓ \$352.6 million for women's health programs, including the continuation of the Healthy Texas Women program's enhanced postpartum care services implemented by the Legislature last session.
- ✓ \$57.6 million to continue fighting human trafficking through prevention, detection, victim services and the justice system.
- ✓ \$1.3 million to perform necessary maintenance on the Texas Election Administration Management System, which manages voter registration in Texas.
- ✓ \$39.1 million in new appropriations to fortify security at the Texas Capitol, including additional troopers and enhanced safety measures.
- ✓ \$30.4 billion to the Texas Department of Transportation to address the state's transportation needs, including \$26.4 billion dedicated for highway planning, design, construction and maintenance.

Phelan's statement indicated the same support for public education and also included an appropriation of \$74.2 billion for the Texas Medicaid program, including \$27.4 billion in general revenue. The House version includes an additional \$920 million to address projected caseload growth.

"The decisions we make during the 87th legislative session will have lasting effects on the future of our state, which is why the House will work to improve our business climate, foster economic prosperity, and do what's right for our students," Phelan said.

Strawberry fields forever

You don't find many strawberry fields in Texas, but that could change if a seed planted by the Texas Department of Agriculture takes root.

The department has awarded a second grant to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to research and test how the state's farmers can make more money growing strawberries.

Leading the project is AgriLife extension's Russ Wallace, a horticulturist in Lubbock. You might call him the John Lennon of Texas strawberries.

"We're extremely excited about what we've learned thus far to successfully grow strawberries in Texas and increase profitability," Wallace said in an AgriLife news release. "This is the next step in our ongoing research where we'll be doing more work with shading trials, fine-tuning fertilization and additional work with herbicides."

Strawberries have some juicy potential as a specialty crop because consumers have shown an increasing hunger for locally grown produce, ag experts say, although they don't often use bad puns.

One of the research sites is Atascosa County's Poteet, the self-proclaimed strawberry capital of Texas. Poteet Strawberry Festival organizers recently announced the event will go on April 9-11.

Some readers of the festival's Facebook page criticized the move as having the potential to spread COVID-19 faster than jam on toast.

Festival organizers responded that "we've been working and hoping for a blessing that we can continue, within allowable restrictions or capabilities, but still continuing as possible. We hope all goes well."

With your permission, gentle readers, we'll close here with this Beatles' opening stanza and try to leave you with a song in your heart:

Let me take you down
'Cause I'm going to Strawberry Fields
Nothing is real
And nothing to get hung about
Strawberry Fields forever

...Larry King called me "Sugar"

Close encounters are a result of experiences 'alien' to our everyday lives. I can't claim to have had one with ET or harmonic chord playing aliens from outer space. But I have had my fair share with celebrities as a result of being Mrs. Jim Bardwell. I was reminded of one of my favorites a couple of days ago when iconic talk show host Larry King passed away from COVID complications.

It was 1990 and Walt Disney World's MGM Studio had closed to the public for premier celebrations of "Dick Tracy" starring Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino and Madonna. And my talented hubby was on the press list, with his handy dandy sweetie sidekick in tow. Buffet lines were everywhere...so were hospitality 'watering holes' catering to the less disciplined among the thirsty press corps.

We had been gifted with dashing Dick Tracy fedoras. The streets of the MGM Studio theme park were filled with press, celebs, food and drink. As I went through the buffet line that looked like an upscale foodie dream, I realized I had forgotten my fork. I turned back to see Larry King behind me. "Mr. King, could you please pass me a fork?" And the legendary interviewer growled with a grin, "Sure, Sugar, here ya go."

After eating elbow to elbow with Mr. King, maybe near is more accurate, this starstruck country kid with camera in tow, was shown to a cordoned area for photographers when the premier parade began. At that time of my life, I was a high school journalism teacher, as well as hubby's designated photographer. So I definitely had stars in my eyes, BIG ones. I was in a photo pen with guys from the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun, Orlando Sentinel, New York Times and on and on. Me with my affordable camera, them with equipment costing thousands.

I can't remember who all the celebs were in the parade because Disney Pixie Power pulled as much as it could from the MGM stable

Suzanne Bardwell



of stars. But one of the 'less notable' celebrities was Morey Amsterdam whose claim to fame came with the '60s TV hit "The Dick Van Dyke Show". Amsterdam was very elderly, and obviously very excited to be there waving excitedly at the crowd.

The very drunk Chicago photographer next to me began to shout "Morey, you're dead. You just don't know it. Go home." And that is when I lost my feeling of professional intimidation. I lost my reticence. I lost my temper and I laid into that drunk hotshot photographer as if I were HIS high school journalism teacher.

And, you know what happened? All the press photogs around me cheered. You know why? I stood up to a bully. They also had my back. I don't know where the shouter went but he stumbled away. When my hubby and I reconnected I could not wait to tell him my story. Of course it may have gotten a little shinier. After all it was the night Larry King called me "Sugar", Dustin Hoffman waved for my camera (my opinion here) and I stood up to a hot shot national press corps guy.

Jim Bardwell wasn't surprised at all. (I don't know what that says, but I think he was proud of me.)

So, Mr. King, thanks for the fork, and the memory. Chicago hot shot, I hope you learned to be kinder. And Sweetheart thanks for opening the world to your church camp, country girl sweetheart. As soon as it's safe, it is time for another adventure. Sugar can't wait.

EDITORIAL

School Trustees shape future...

How would you like to be responsible for the education, safety and success of, say, over 1,500 students every school year? How would you like to be held accountable by every taxpayer in your community, as well as bound by complicated state laws? What would you do if you knew that the students you were responsible for had to meet standards arbitrarily set 300 miles from home in an atmosphere of arrogance, by "We know what is best for you" bureaucrats? What would you do when faced with test scores that must be raised but finding innovative ways to do so are limited by the state. How would you feel knowing that you are responsible for the health of every student and employee in the middle of a pandemic?

What would you do?

Seven of the most important publicly elected officials in our community are our school board trustees. Most of them have full time jobs and busy family lives, yet are committed to serving in an elected position that requires lengthy training, heavy responsibility, hundreds of hours of work, mountains of state regulations and documents to understand and NO pay. Then there is the knowledge that their decisions dramatically impact hundreds of lives and the future of every single student.

School board trustees deserve every bit of appreciation that has been directed their way for work that matters now and for generations to come. Everyday heroes are people with in-check egos and servant hearts. These community servants hold one of the most important positions in any community. They have to be accountable both to the public and to the state. They often find themselves being stopped at church, the grocery store, a sporting event, or at work to answer a question about school business. More often than not, they are stopped regularly to hear a complaint.

We want to thank our area school board members for having a heart for kids, a heart for teachers, and a commitment to the future. Thank you for making tough decisions for the right reasons. Thank you for fading the heat when the decisions are not popular but are right.

The work you do matters in ways most people can not begin to comprehend. It is work that requires the right combination of intellect, work ethic and vision. Never forget that you are writing the future with the decisions you make today.

And readers, the next time you see one of our school board members, thank them for the work they do.

They have earned it.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Friendlier Skies ...

One of the industries hardest hit by the pandemic has been airlines. The sharp decrease in demand for air travel due to shutdowns and safety concerns has severely

crimped revenues and profits. Companies are struggling to maintain service and, in some cases, to survive intact.

According to Airlines for America, 2020 US airline passenger volume was down 56% domestically and 66% internationally compared to 2019. Airlines responded by decreasing the numbers of flights; domestic departures fell 38% and international dropped 45%. Through the third quarter,

US passenger airline operating revenue had experienced pre-tax losses of \$36 billion.

Maintaining air travel infrastructure is essential to both long-term economic sustainability and quality of life. Relief was provided by the CARES Act, which included \$25 billion for airline payrolls as long as layoffs were not implemented through September 1. However, as the pandemic dragged one, airlines were forced to lay off personnel following the end of the stimulus.

The latest bill included \$15 billion for passenger air carriers and \$1 billion for contractors for direct payroll support to protect the jobs of pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, gate attendants, and other personnel. To qualify for funds, airlines must agree to not reduce pay or benefits or furlough any employees through March

31 as well as recall employees that were furloughed following the end of the earlier stimulus. This aid could have a significant impact in maintaining airline employment going forward.

Of greater significance, the pandemic will likely have long-term effects on the industry. Business travel has been particularly hard hit and has been slower to rebound, as companies have scaled back travel and moved many meetings and conferences to virtual settings. Estimates of the permanent reduction in business travel are as high as 36% (although we project it to be less dramatic). Business travel is a key component of airline revenue (typically around 30%), and higher-priced corporate trips tend to subsidize cheaper leisure fares that fill marginal seats. Less business travel could lead

to pricier leisure fares or fewer available seats and flight options. Airlines will also have to continue to seek opportunities to manage costs. In addition to reducing flights, some have retired older aircraft, increased cargo business, and taken other steps designed to enhance efficiency. Companies have taken on unprecedented amounts of debt, and credit ratings have been negatively affected.

With vaccination deployment and enhanced therapeutics and safety measures, demand should begin to increase later this year, though a surge is not expected. Pent up desire among leisure travelers will likely be the primary initial source of stimulus.

Airlines are essential to global efficiency and will be ultimately restored to strength. The path will likely be rocky, but navigable.



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EVOLVING STANDARDS OF DECENCY

Back in 1958, Justice Earl Warren spoke of the "evolving standards of decency." And so, the implication was, that when it comes to morality, change is progress. But progress in the wrong direction is not something to celebrate.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan coined the phrase "defining deviancy down." His thesis was that, as a society America has been "re-defining deviancy" so as to exempt conduct previously stigmatized, and quietly raising the "normal" level for behavior that was abnormal by earlier standards.

Who can deny that we are seeing evolving standards of decency, and the reason is, we are defining deviancy down? First, it was same-sex marriage, but now it is the transgender phenomenon. Today we are being told that you are whatever you feel you are. Young people are being confused as we move further along the ever-changing gender-neutral road. Biology, science, and decency are ignored as the very concepts of masculinity and femininity are being destroyed in young children. Mattel, the manufacturer of Barbie dolls is coming out with a transgender doll, and a Times Magazine article says "It Can Be A Boy, A Girl, Neither, Or Both." In our schools, girls are required to compete in sports with biological males who identify as females. We are fast normalizing the bizarre, leading to chaos, irrationality, and absurdity.

We can know how God views such thinking and conduct by reading His Word. I quote Erwin W. Lutzer: "We must return to the creation account to remind ourselves that God created only two genders: male and female. Without a belief in God as Creator, there is little hope in making sense of our lives and the roles we are intended to have in marriage, the family, and sexuality." *We Will Not Be Silenced* p.171. Think on these things.

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Being a School Board Member

GLADEWATER ISD

Continued from Page 1

the spending but even that is driven by needs assessed by our leadership. We have great campus leadership with plans should changes come. For the first time in my many years on the Board, I feel we have the best people in place for our kids with a line of our own staff hoping for the chance to be the next Principal, Assistant Principal, Counselor, Assistant Superintendent in our District. Mr. Clark has instituted a Leadership Academy to identify our staff with the certifications and aspirations to join the GISD Leadership. As a person in the business world, it is great to see a succession plan that has the potential to promote from within. Our staff invests a lot into our kids and GISD invests a lot into our staff. Keeping our investment and quality staff here is truly a win.

When it comes to our second role of setting the budget, the board has been fortunate to adopt balanced budgets for the past several years. We have been through some challenging budget years but with our District Leadership, we have managed to maintain healthy finances. We may not have the best of everything but GISD has great, safe facilities for our students. We are implementing a 5-year spending plan to guide us with regard to capital expenditures for things like bus purchases, major equipment replacement and other facility upgrades. At the end of 2020 GISD was able to refinance the bonds that were issued when the taxpayers approved the

Weldon and Gladewater Middle School projects. The refinance will save our taxpayers close to \$5 million in interest over the remaining life of the bonds.

The least of our roles is setting policy. So much of that is dictated by TEA or the State Legislature. We have to adopt it whether we agree with it or not. Yes, there are some policies specific to our District but it is limited in nature.

Most of that is boring. Hopefully I didn't lose readers in the second paragraph. For those still with me, you are probably wondering "why do you want to be a school board member"? Well, that is simple - I want to do whatever I can to help our kids achieve at the highest level. I want to give every kid the chance they need to succeed. I'll never be a teacher - unlike my parents and my wife, it's not my calling. But hopefully, I can be there when the right person is hired to lead our District to take the next step. It's not for the money - board members make a whopping \$0.00

per year for serving.

As a board member we may have to be critical of programs or decisions made within the District, but I also hope we are the biggest cheerleaders and supporters for our staff. I am and have been honored to work with some of the best people in our community to do just that. To a person, they have never served for anything other than to do what is best for kids. Sure, there are Boards out there that have agendas that aren't what's best for their District. But at GISD, I hope our community can look at this group and say they do what's best for kids while being good stewards of our money.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all of the GISD Board of Trustees I have served with in my 13 years - for all they do, all they give up and all they deal with by serving. My fellow current members - Ricky Blackmon, George Glenn, David Floyd, Garth Cockerell, Ross Morgan and Jamie Robertson - Thank



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Weldon Elementary

AMANDA LANGFORD, PRINCIPAL

School Board Appreciation



Gladewater Primary School
Principal Kerry Hradecky

Through your dedication, collaboration, governance and advocacy, each of you are building the future of education in

Happy School Board Recognition Month!

Gladewater Middle School

Derrick Floyd, Interim Principal

SCHOOL BOARDS
STAND UP
4 UNION GROVE ISD
SCHOOLS

Gladewater High School

Chris Langford, Interim Principal and Staff & Faculty

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO



Union Grove ISD School Trustees Tim Bower, Justin Smith, Michael Potter, Tim Turner, Bennie Norris and Jody Day.



Union Grove ISD
Kelly Moore, Superintendent and Staff & Faculty
1220 Union Grove Rd,
Gladewater
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JIMMY PAUL STRICKLAND

Jimmy Paul Strickland, 76, of Gladewater went to be with the Lord on January 14, 2021 after a brief illness. Jimmy was born July 16, 1944 in Henderson, to Paul and Lela Strickland.

Jimmy was the eldest of four children and grew up in Henderson where he played football and ran track in high school. He was a member of the Henderson High School class of 1962 and a lifetime resident of East Texas, residing in Henderson until graduating from high school. Jimmy proudly served his country in the Army National Guard from 1962 - 1969 and attended Kilgore College where he met the love of his life, Evelyn Krumm. They were married on February 5, 1965 and made their home for the next fifty-five years in Gladewater.

Jimmy worked for Texas Utilities Mining Company, acquiring multiple lifetime safety awards while maintaining locomotive train engines with expertise in welding for thirty-one years until retiring in 2006.

He faithfully attended the First Baptist Church of Gladewater where he served as a deacon and sang in the choir. He loved attending Sunday School and visiting with others about Jesus.

School was an avid sports fan and a PROUD Gladewater Bear, always eager to discuss the latest sporting event with anyone he encountered. Evenings he could be found parked on the top of the hill at Jack V. Murphy Stadium watching football practice, formulating plays, and reviewing stats on new players that he was sure to share with the coach if he ran into him.

Jimmy loved spending time with his grandchildren, never missing performances, games, or competitions. He was a jokester that loved to sing and dance. He enjoyed fishing in his flat bottom boat and went at any opportunity. He was the perfect example of kindness, selflessness, and never failed to lend a helping hand to friends and those in need.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Evelyn, two daughters and their spouses, Angela and Keith Denman of Bullard, Laura and Donnie Golden of Redwater; 7 grandchildren, Caitlin Denman, Abigail Denman, Cooper Golden, Hannah Golden, Jordan O'Rand, Samantha Golden, and Amanda Lawrence; 3 great-grandchildren, Dallis, Reese, Parker, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Lela Strickland.

Place of interment were at Gray Cemetery in Gray, Texas. Visitation was held Sunday afternoon, January 17th, at McWhorter Funeral Home in Gilmer. Graveside services were Monday, January 18th at 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the First Baptist Church of Gladewater Building Fund.

Please visit Jimmy's on-line registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.



OBITUARIES

DARRIEL WAYNE HANCOCK

Darriell Wayne Hancock, 59 years old, passed away on Jan 13, 2021 at UT Health Center after a lengthy illness. Darriell was born September 15, 1961 and was a longtime resident of Gladewater and a mechanic. Darriell loved being in the river bottoms and the outdoors.

He is preceded in death by his parents Darriell and Joyce Hancock, brothers Jerry Hancock and David Hancock, and sister Gloria Mills Hancock. He is survived by sisters Pamela Latus of Forney, Tx; Debra Livingston of Antioch, Ca; and brother Ronald Hancock of Hemet, Ca.



Graveside services are pending. Burial will be at Rock Springs Cemetery in Gladewater.

MARY BRADLEY

On January 7th, 2021, Mary Bradley, loving wife and mother, passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's at age 82.



Mary was born on October 25, 1938 in Yorktown, TX to Claude J. and Floye Oneida Phillips. Mary grew up in Dallas, after graduation she married and had her only child. She married again in 1970 to Gene Bradley, last March they celebrated 50 years of marriage. They moved to Gladewater in 1981 and opened Bradley's Plumbing. A few years later Mary went on to open a resale shop called Bradley's Place, where she loved to help customers find treasures.

She is survived by her husband, Gene Bradley of Glenrose, TX, daughter, Laura Sennott of Lewisville, TX, siblings, Pat Herman, Alice Williams, Linda James, Bill Phillips, grandchildren, Brad and Jason Redick, Michael and Rachel Sennott and 3 great grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Ann Fry. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

VENITA SUE KINNEY-GREEN

Celebration of Life services for Venita Sue Kinney-Green, 75, of Gladewater were held. Sunday, January 24, 2021, at The Reserve located at 7725 Hwy 259 North, Longview, TX 75605. Venita passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at her home surrounded by family.



Venita was born October 8, 1945 in Gladewater to the late Patsy Charles Kinney and Marguerite Dillard Kinney. She married Billie Lee Green, Sr. in Dallas on July 24, 1965. Venita enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She will be forever remembered as a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and homemaker.

Venita is survived by her husband Billie Lee Green, Sr.; daughter Deborah Johnston and husband Kelly; son Patrick Green and wife Elena; three sisters Patricia, Margie and Kathy; grandson Kade Nicholas Johnston; granddaughter Kayla Suellen Johnston as well as many other loving family and friends.

Preceding Venita in death are her parents; son Billie Lee Green, Jr.; two sisters Frances and Valda and three brothers David, Patrick and George Allen.

A special thank you to the staff of Traditions Hospice for the compassion and care they gave Venita in her final days.

Online tributes and condolences can be made at www.croleyfh.net



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Evening Service 6:30 p.m.	903-845-6440

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OBITUARIES

DANNY PAUL STRICKLAND

Danny Paul Strickland earned his golden cowboy hat on Monday, January 18th after complications from leukemia. Danny was born on March 11, 1947 in Longview, Texas to Ben and Tommie Strickland. He graduated from Gladewater High School in 1965 where he lived most of his life, and has remained close to his many friends over the years. A Vietnam Veteran, he was a staff sergeant in the army and received a Bronze Star. After his service, he finished his college education with the GI bill at Stephen F. Austin State University, at times carpooling with his mother who was also pursuing her education. He earned a degree in Education, teaching at Arp ISD for three days. Danny worked in the oil and gas and heavy equipment industries for most of his life and retired from Darr Equipment. He lived his remaining years in Longview with his wife, Charla Rolph-Strickland enjoying time "as he pleased." He worked HARD all his life and was ready for a break. Good times traveling abroad and a quiet life at the Ridge were most important. They made a great team, opposites do attract.



Danny is survived by his wife Charla, his 96 year old mother Tommie Strickland, daughter Mandy Strickland Kizer, son-in-law Kris and granddaughters Lauren and Kate, daughter Erin Strickland Johnston, son-in-law Jeff, grandson Noble and granddaughter Pike, brother Leon Strickland and wife Lynn, sister-in-law Sally Knox, niece Leslie Knox, nephews Charles Herrington and Richard (Trebor) McKee, brother-in-law Jim Leonard and wife Linda.

Danny will be remembered as a good friend to many. He was a man who honored his commitments. His word and hand shake were as good as gold. He had a heart and compassion as big as Texas and always made time to help others. He loved his daughters and grandchildren with all his heart and was so proud of their accomplishments. Over the years he enjoyed spending time with the "campfire girls," past and present (too many to name). He always cooked for three as they shared many a Western and dinner with Wife #2 Terry Rhame.

Honorary Pall Bearers are: John Mears, James (Bubba) Mohon, Rex Copeland, Ed Kendall, Doug Kendall, Richard (ReRe) Causey, Sid Gooden, Jim Leonard, J. D. Bishop, Mike Tucker, John Zeigler and Henry Wilson. Life time friends and the best "brothers" a man could ask for. It always got "deep" when any combination of those cowboys friends gathered.

Danny and I would also like to thank Karen Moss for setting them up on a blind date in 1997. The rest is a love story. Charla loved her Lizard Brain and Danny loved his Butter Bean.

A Celebration of Danny's Life will be held at "The Ridge," 427 Cox Lane, Longview, Texas 75605 at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 30th. In lieu of flowers, The Danny Strickland Scholarship Fund has been established at Austin Bank, 1625 E. Broadway Ave, Gladewater, Texas 75647. Checks should be made payable to Mandy Kizer with the notation of The Danny Strickland Scholarship Fund. Education and helping kids were very important in Danny's life. The scholarship will benefit students at Gladewater High School.

What's Happening

GHS FFA results

The Gladewater FFA cattle team competed at the Black and Red Oil Belt Classic this past Saturday. In heifer competition Ben Alvarez took first in class Reserve Breed Champion, Tristan Hogue won second in class and Nathan Keller won second in class. Keller also won third in class for his steer.

UGHS FFA results

The Union Grove FFA performed well at the Ft. Worth Heifer Show with Vance Aaron earning Reserve Division Champion with his Beefmaster, Josh Baker took third place

for his Angus and his Polled Hereford, Charlotte Wright won third place with her Beefmaster, Avery Brooks won second place ARB, Chloe Brooks Division Champion ARB and Maddie Byers won seventh place Hereford. Showmanship honors went to Avery Brooks who made the finals in the senior division and Vance, Aaron, Josh Baker and Maddie Byers made the semifinals in the intermediate division.

GISD Calendar

1/27, Wednesday
Progress Reports
1/28, Thursday
V/JV Round Robin Tennis-H

1/29, Friday
5/6:30 p.m. G BB vs. Hughes Springs-H
5/7:15 p.m. B BB vs. Hughes Springs-H
2/3, Wednesday
World Read Aloud Day
2/5, Friday
GPS 100 Days of School
Dress like you were 100 years old
V Tennis vs. Kilgore
2/9, Tuesday
JV Tennis vs. Kilgore
2/12, Friday
Student Holiday/Teacher Dev.

UGISD Calendar

1/27, Wednesday
UIL CX Debate@WOHS
1/28, Thursday
Boys Powerlifting@Tatum
1/29, Friday
ASVAB Testing
FFA@Ft. Worth Heifer Show
5 p.m. JVV G BB vs. Hawkins-H
5 p.m. JVV Boys BB@Hawkins
1/30, Saturday
Noon JH Boys@SH
FFA@FT. Worth Livestock Show
1/31, Sunday
Noon JH G BB vs. SH

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Being a School Board Member

UNION GROVE ISD

Continued from Page 1

informative decisions for our district. Our superintendent Kelly Moore and her administration have done an outstanding job to ensure information was validated and presented so these decisions could be made.

Our teachers also had to make major changes in the way they interacted and prepared to adequately teach our students. Our teachers' dedication to educating our students at Union Grove during this difficult time has been phenomenal!

Even though 2020 was challenging I feel we at Union Grove have excelled and grown through this pandemic. We have excelled because we have overcome disappointments. We have grown because we have taken the uncertainties and developed a bright future. Our future is strong because of the dedication and work ethic shown by our teachers, staff, administration and School Board.

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TAPR

A public meeting to present the 2019-2020 Texas Academic Performance Report for Gladewater ISD will be held in the Board Room of the Administration office located at 200 E. Broadway. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6 pm. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Jimmy Lightfoot at 903-845-6991.

Public Announcement for G/T Referral

Gladewater ISD is beginning the referral process for Gifted and Talented (G/T) services for the 2021-2022 school year. We are committed to providing challenging learning experiences for students with exceptional intellectual and creative thinking abilities. Anyone wishing to refer a student attending Gladewater ISD in kindergarten through 12th grade can pick up or request a copy of the referral form at their school office after January 20, 2021. This form must be returned to the school by February 20, 2021. Those unable to go by the school office should call and request a form to be sent to them.

Thank You!

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36th Annual DeWitt County All Breeds Bull & Female Sale Sat., Jan. 30, Cuero Livestock Commission Co. Bulls sell at 11 a.m., females sell immediately following. Approx. 30 bulls and 250 females. Sponsored by the DeWitt County Purebred Breeders Assoc. and the DeWitt County Beef and Forage Committee. For more information: Anthony Netardus, 115 N. Gonzales, Suite E, Cuero, TX 77954, 361-275-0816. If unable to attend the sale in person, cattle sale viewing and bidding can be done on Cattle In Motion, cattleinmotion.com.

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43 deaths attributed to COVID-19

By Phillip Williams
 Upshur County had 43 state-confirmed COVID-19 deaths as of mid-afternoon Sunday, the latest figure available as of Monday afternoon, said County Extension Agent Julie York.

The Texas Department of State Health Services also listed 1,075 confirmed cases in the county, 1,630 "probable" cases, an estimated 747 active cases, and 1,915 estimated recoveries from the illness, she said.

York said the number of probable cases is based on rapid response tests (which give results in minutes, while other type of COVID testing's results take longer to process). The rapid response tests are not analyzed in a laboratory recognized by the department, she said.

County Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols, who said Monday that residents should remain vigilant in guarding against the virus, adding "I wouldn't say that it was terrible," but Upshur is "getting new cases every day."

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