

Gladewater Mirror



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Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Vol. 93, No. 10

1 Section, 8 pages

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Carleigh Paige Judd of Union Grove was crowned as the 83rd Yam Queen this past weekend at the Gilmer Civic Center. Queen Judd represented the Gilmer Rotary Club. She is the daughter of Mike and Carrie Judd and is the granddaughter of Mrs. Sue Stebbins and the late Dick Stebbins, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Judd Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kilgore and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Feurt.

Carleigh is a proud Union Grove Lion where she is the captain of the championship varsity basketball and volleyball teams, class vice-president, FFA secretary, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and National Honor Society member. She attends First United Methodist Church in Gilmer. She plans to declare a college major that will enable her to pursue a career as a pharmacist.

Courtesy Photo

Gov. lifts mask mandate

What does that mean for you?

Starting today (March 10) Gov. Greg Abbott's executive order to lift the mask mandate and open Texas to 100 percent takes affect.

Abbott said the announcement "doesn't abandon safe practices that Texans have mastered over the past year. Instead, it's a reminder that each person has a role to play in their own personal safety and the safety of others."

"With this executive order, we are ensuring that all businesses and families in Texas have the freedom to determine their own destiny."

Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp shared the following concerning what Texas Gov. Abbott's recent lifting of the statewide mask mandate next Wednesday means for you here in Gladewater:

As most are aware, Gov. Abbott will be lifting the mask mandate effective March 10th and Texas will also be 100% open on this date.

What lifting the mask mandate means to us is:

Mayor Shipp said - "An individual may choose to continue to wear a mask or not while in public."

"A business owner may choose to require that its employees and patrons continue to wear a mask or not."

"A local government may choose to require that citizens entering public buildings need to continue to wear a mask or not."

"At this time, Gladewater City Hall will continue to ask citizens to wear masks while at City Hall."

"While the mask mandate is being lifted and vaccines are being administered, the City of Gladewater still encourages citizens to continue the practice of wearing masks until there is a larger national consensus among the medical community on lifting this practice. However, it is your choice. PLEASE be respectful of one another's choices. We are in this TOGETHER."

Gladewater ISD officials said they plan to continue with their current plan and require masks until the end of this school year. At that time they will review the situation and come up with a workable plan for the next school year.

The Texas Department of State Health Services late last week notified all vaccine providers that they should immediately include school and child care workers in vaccine administration.

The DSHS received a letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services directing states to expand eligibility to include people who work in school and child care operations. The federal directive defined the people eligible as "those who work in pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools, as well as Head Start and Early Head Start programs (including teachers, staff, and bus drivers) and those who work as or for licensed child care providers, including center-based and family care providers."



Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp and Gene Kennon of Republic Services joined other East Texans and East Texas Chambers of Commerce in Austin last week at the annual East Texas Coalition. It gave local leaders a chance to visit with local state legislators like Rep. Jay Dean and State Senator Byran Hughes to discuss discussing a wide range of challenges and opportunities facing our communities.

Gladewater, Texas
Chamber Of Commerce
WORKING TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
Annual banquet March 25

The Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet will be held March 25 at the Gladewater Former Students Building, 2509 Hendricks St., starting at 6 p.m.

Last year's banquet was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, so this year's event will feature awards - Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Business of the Year, and others - for both 2019 and 2020.

Tumbleweed Smith, creator and producer of "The Sound of Texas" one of the longest running syndicated radio programs in Texas, will be the feature speaker.

Seating is limited due to CDC guidelines - six people to a table instead of the usual eight - so call the chamber soon at 903 845-5501 to reserve your table.

Sen. Hughes files 'Freedom From Censorship Act'

Senator Bryan Hughes, along with Governor Greg Abbott, addressed a coalition in East Texas regarding his filing of Senate Bill 12 to protect Texans' right of free speech. Senator Hughes issued the following statement on the collusion by Big



HUGHES

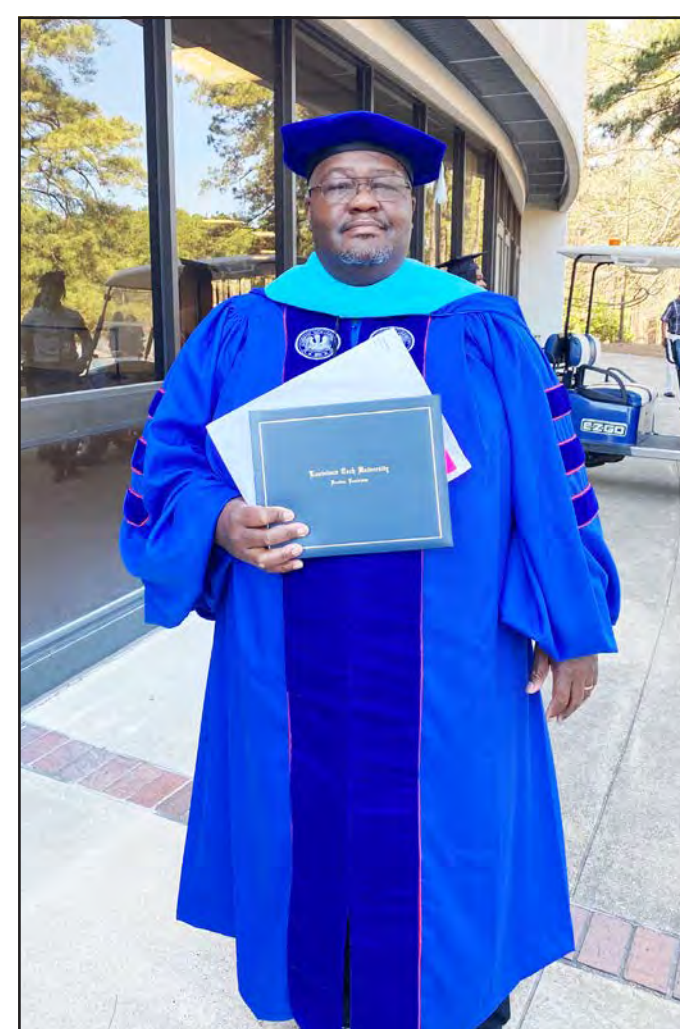
Technology companies to stifle free speech:

"Americans are seeing an explicit and increasingly intense attack on free speech by Big Tech giants such as Facebook and Twitter. These sites have become the modern public square, wielding unprecedented power over public discourse without being subject to traditional safeguards for individual voices. I filed SB12 to prevent social media companies from discriminating against users based on their social or political viewpoint, to allow Texans who are wrongly silenced

to quickly get back online, and to hold these enormously powerful companies accountable for their overt political favoritism.

Online censorship by these companies has meant the throttling, banning, and in some cases the deletion of countless Texans who merely attempted to express their points of view online. Remarkably, these tech giants will reflexively bend the knee to woke-ism and even the Chinese Communist Party, yet they cannot muster the courage to tolerate online speech that questions their narrow and misguided world view.

Big Tech is about to learn that Texans are a free and independent people, and we are not accustomed to yielding to bullies."



GISD Supt. Sedic Clark received his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership degree Saturday from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. His dissertation concerned the impact of block scheduling on student achievement, graduation rate and attendance at the high school level. His research found there was no significant statistical difference between the performance of students on block schedules and those on a regular schedule.

Dr. Clark was named GISD Superintendent in 2017. At that time he had finished all of his post graduate work for the degree except his comprehensive exam and his dissertation.

"I completed comps in the fall quarter of 2017 and took the next two years off to focus on learning how to be GISD's superintendent," Dr. Clark said. "I resumed my studies during the fall quarter of 2019 and began work on my dissertation. I successfully defended it on Nov. 19, 2020. I would not have been able to do this without the guidance from my major professor Dr. Bryan L. McCoy, and support from my wife, family and friends."

Dr. Clark said that he pursued the advanced degree because he wanted to get the terminal degree in his field and to enhance his candidacy for the position of superintendent.

"The Gladewater Board of Trustees took a chance on me four years ago when I didn't have it," Clark said. "In an attempt not to betray the trust they put in me, I essentially took two years off from pursuing the degree to learn as much as I could as soon as I could about being superintendent. I believe in seeing things through and was consistently inspired by the faith that my wife, family, friends and the GISD Board that I would finish." Courtesy Photo

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Mask mandate ends March 10; many entities to continue requiring them

While Gov. Gregg Abbott has lifted the statewide mandate to wear a mask in public and allowed all businesses to operate at full capacity, many businesses, schools and other entities say they will continue to require that masks be worn. Abbott issued the order last week, effective March 10.

“With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus,” Abbott said. “We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent.” He urged Texans to take responsibility for themselves when it comes to wearing masks and following other health safety practices.

Political leaders in several of the state’s largest cities criticized the decision. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner tweeted, asking (and answering for himself) whether Abbott’s move was “an attempt to deflect from the winter storm system-wide state leadership failure. Yes.” San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg urged residents to join him in continuing to wear a mask, a sentiment echoed by Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

Meanwhile, the Texas Education Agency revised its health guidance policies, saying that “local school boards have full authority to determine their local mask policy.” Many of the state’s college campuses announced they would continue to require that masks be worn, including The University of Texas, the Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech, Southern Methodist University and others.

Several large retailers announced they would continue to require customers to wear masks, including Walmart, Target, Costco and Whole Foods. Grocery retailer H-E-B will not require masks for customers but will “strongly encourage” they be worn. Employees will continue to wear masks.

In the wake of Abbott’s announcement, the Texas Supreme Court removed requirements that most court proceedings in the state be held remotely and gave judges the authority to require masks and social distancing. It encouraged judges to hold trials remotely. Three justices dissented.

Texas getting more than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses this week

More than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses are shipping this week to providers across the state, a significant increase from previous weeks. That’s largely due to nearly a quarter-million doses of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine coming to Texas. The single-dose vaccine began shipping last week. As of Sunday, more than 4.2 million Texans had received at least one dose and 2.319 million were fully vaccinated. That means about 22 percent of the state’s population has gotten at least one dose. Teachers and school staff have been added to the list of those eligible for one of the three vaccines being offered.

COVID-19 cases drop, but deaths increase

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas in the past week dropped to 43,328, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. That’s down 22 percent from the previous week and down nearly 73 percent from the record high of 158,922 recorded the week of Jan. 10. However, recorded deaths in Texas rose to 1,730, up 17 percent from the previous week. Hospitalizations for lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients totaled 4,921, down from the record high of more than 14,000 during the week of Jan. 11.

Heads roll in wake of widespread blackouts

As state and federal investigations continue into the massive blackouts during the Valentine’s Day winter storm, leaders of both the Public Utility Commission and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas left their positions. DeAnn Walker, chairman of the PUC, resigned on March 1 and was replaced by fellow PUC member Arthur D’Andrea. Abbott will appoint someone to fill D’Andrea’s position. ERCOT’s CEO Bill Magness was fired a few days later by his board, which has lost nearly half its members to resignations. Magness, whose annual salary was at least \$800,000, soon said he would not seek or accept severance pay, which would have been equivalent to a year’s pay, according to the Texas Tribune.

Schools not penalized for high absences

The Texas Education Agency announced last week that it will “hold harmless” school districts that have seen attendance declines because of the pandemic, as long as they at least maintain current levels of in-school learning. Districts will be funded on attendance projections made before the pandemic, allowing them to retain teachers who might have faced layoffs because of lower enrollment. The state’s top leaders announced their support for the hold-harmless provision in a March 4 press release.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

Tough, tired...and masks, probably still a good idea

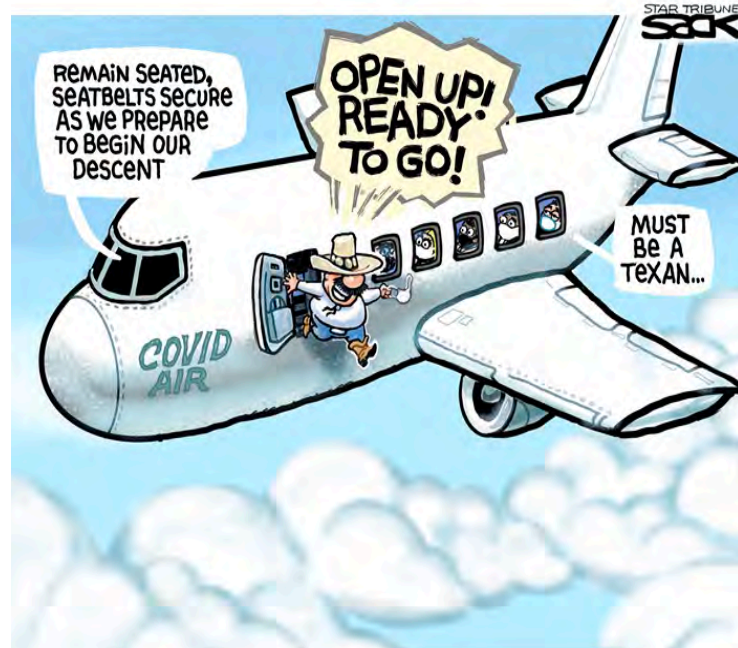
Late last Monday night my brother called me from the ER in Lubbock. My Mom was hemorrhaging uncontrollably and I needed to come. And so started another family medical crisis, but this one was far from home without all of my familiar and bottomless resources. My amazing sweetheart booked me out of the Gregg County Airport at 6:15 a.m. and a connecting flight got me to my Mom within just a few hours. I spent the next week in the hospital with her, most of it in the ICU.

We didn’t think we would make it out. But once again, despite my mother’s insistence she is ready to see Jesus and my Daddy, she miraculously turned the corner after a harrowing and exhausting four days. Our plans are not God’s plans and He often surprises us. We have to look for the purpose when he slides us the unexpected and we also need to look for the lessons.

The experience was one for the record books. The ICU had been part of a COVID unit that occupied several floors of the hospital. All of the furniture except the beds and a straight backed chair had been removed during the height of the COVID crisis. I slept sitting up the first night, the second night I got creative with the meal table and by the third I decided the floor would do. That was the day that Super Nurse Cindy walked in and saw this old chick curled up in a corner. Within a few hours all the warehoused furniture was being brought back to the ICU. I think I took one for the ICU families and they will never know. Really the floor wasn’t that bad.

Because Mom had severe ICU delirium I spent a lot of time wrangling, pacifying and working with nurses and CNAs to calm her. I learned a great deal from them over those nights and a lot of what I learned was about them. Some shared absolutely horrifying stories of what they had lived and worked through. After posting Gov. Abbott’s relaxation of the mask rules on our newspapers’ Facebook pages and some responses by folks who have politicized mask wearing I felt led to post the following response:

As citizens we have both rights and responsibilities. It is important that we respect one another and take care of each other. I am in an



Suzanne Bardwell



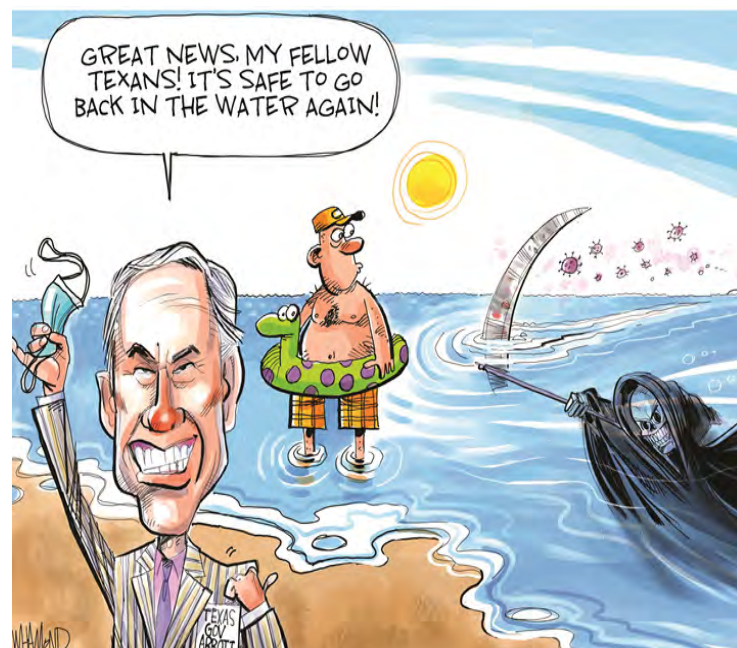
ICU in Lubbock with my 93-year old mother as I type this. I have visited with nurses here who have lost over 300 patients to COVID in this ICU unit alone.

Some of the nurses are still dealing with their personal trauma of losing so many patients in such a limited period. One told me, with tears running over her mask, that she simply can’t stop thinking about those who lost their lives in such large numbers to this disease...and the hands she held as people died without their families. Another said that many of the deaths were younger people from a super spreader and that their tragic loss had been unnecessary.

Masks have been proven to help prevent the spread of COVID. I don’t like wearing mine, and I sometimes forget to put it on when I should be wearing it. I didn’t see the mask mandate as an infringement on my rights but as a request to do my part as a citizen to protect others, especially the medically fragile.

I remember as a child being required to take the polio and small pox vaccines. As a result those diseases are now eradicated in this country. The requirement was not politicized. We did it for the good of our people. Now our children and grandchildren are required to take vaccines for mumps, measles and rubella, as well as whooping cough to attend public school. As a result those diseases are dramatically limited in our population along with the birth defects, deaths and side effects like blindness and deafness that were common when those diseases were rampant.

I consider myself relatively conservative AND I choose not to politicize my mask wearing as a right because of my concern for others who may suffer from my choices. With that said, I think we are (hopefully) moving out of this horrific health crisis but we still need to take care of each other. Life is too precious and too short not to care for one another.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

What went wrong

What went wrong with the Texas power grid during the recent extreme weather event? Everything – but it’s complicated.

One key issue is that Texas homes, buildings, and power infrastructures are geared toward dealing with the issue that we most often face – heat! Whether for an individual homeowner or a society, the decision regarding how much to spend on protecting from cold involves an assessment of the costs, benefits, and likelihood of extreme weather.

As the recent historic freeze blanketed Texas, about 40% of generation capacity went offline as demand surged. Wind turbines

froze and stopped working. Natural gas-fired generation initially increased (as did coal), but weather ultimately caused issues with these facilities as well. Some gas wells and pipelines were affected, and generators, which often purchase gas through “interruptible” contracts, were competing for supply with the natural gas directly used to warm about 35% of Texas homes. Given the vast resources in the state, a natural gas shortage is particularly difficult to stomach. Moreover, turbines, conventional power plants, gas wells, and pipelines routinely function under frigid conditions elsewhere, but winterization practices in Texas were clearly insufficient.

Another issue is that much of Texas is an “island” when it comes to its power grid, not connected to other parts of the

country. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas is tasked with ensuring peak demand can be met, yet the grid was apparently minutes away from catastrophic failure. The state certainly has the energy resources to meet its needs many times over but choosing to go it alone brings a responsibility to set up and assure a secure power system.

Placing all blame on wind energy ignores the benefits in the form of both zero emissions and lower electricity prices for Texans during much of the year. Hydrocarbon-fueled generation plants are also not the culprit, and they will remain essential to ensuring adequate capacity until at least the point when the power supply storage limitations are fully resolved. When the wind isn’t blowing and the sun isn’t shining, renewables are not producing

power, and conventionally fueled generation must be sufficient to meet demands.

Texas’ relatively more competitive power market has fostered lower prices than would otherwise have been in place and more choices for Texas consumers (we have studied this issue several times). However, the recent problems have clearly illustrated some shortcomings with the structure that must be addressed.

When the historic freeze led to an all-time peak winter power demand, the grid was not up to the task, and millions of Texans suffered. Pointing fingers isn’t helpful, but better oversight and thoughtful tweaks to the current market platform can help to prevent another cataclysmic failure (more on that later). Stay safe!



The Gladewater Mirror

Periodicals Postage Paid
Gladewater, TX
USPS 575-140
ISSN Number 1045-5671

The Gladewater Mirror is published weekly by Bardwell Ink, LLC
211 N. Main Street
Gladewater, TX

POSTMASTER:
Send PS3579 to
The Gladewater Mirror
P.O. Box 1549
Gladewater, TX 75647

Subscriptions are \$35/year in Gregg, Smith & Upshur counties and payable in advance.

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday
Office Hours
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Telephone: 903-845-2235
Fax: 903-845-2237
Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com



Owners:
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell
Advertising: Suzanne Bardwell
Office Manager: Tiffany Harroff

WHY STOP THE CHARIOT?

Acts 8: 26-39 is the record of the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. This man was the treasurer of Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, and a man of great authority. He was returning from Jerusalem where he had gone to worship, and he was riding in his chariot, reading from the prophet Isaiah, specifically from chapter 53. Philip the evangelist came in contact with him and asked him if he understood what he was reading. He invited Philip to ride along with him and explain if Isaiah was talking about himself or some other man. Verse 35 says, “Then Philip opened his mouth and beginning at the same Scripture, preached Jesus to him.” In preaching Jesus, the subject of baptism was broached, and as they came to some water, the eunuch asked Philip, “See, here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?” (v. 36). Upon the Eunuch’s confession of his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God “he commanded the chariot to stand still” (v. 38), and he and Philip went down into the water and Philip baptized him. After the eunuch was baptized, he and Philip parted ways, with the eunuch going “on his way rejoicing” (v. 39), and Philip continuing his preaching tour.

Has it occurred to you, that if what many today say about baptism not being essential to salvation is true, it would have been entirely unnecessary for the eunuch to even stop the chariot? But since the Bible teaches that baptism is essential to one being saved, it is understandable why the eunuch saw the urgency of being baptized as soon as he understood that baptism was essential to his sins being washed away. (Acts 22: 16). Think on these things.

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Union Grove High School Band has competed for 31 consecutive years as a Sweepstakes Band. Last week they earned straight 1's at the concert and sight reading contest. Great job Mr. Garmon, Mr. Thompson, and all band members!



The Union Grove High School One Act Play will advance to bi-district competition. District honors include All Star cast Emily Melton, Davy Branscom and Mireya Evans. Preston Woodall received honorable mention and Bailey Clowers received a tech award. The play is directed by Sandy Spears.

Courtesy Photo



The Union Grove Lion powerlifting team competed at regional competition placing third overall with Lane Turner placing second, Isaiah O'Neal placing fifth, Vincent Miller placing first, Nathan Huckabay fifth, Davy Branscom third and Tyler Rodgers fourth. Lion lifters Lane Turner and Vincent Miller will both advance to state competition.

Courtesy Photo

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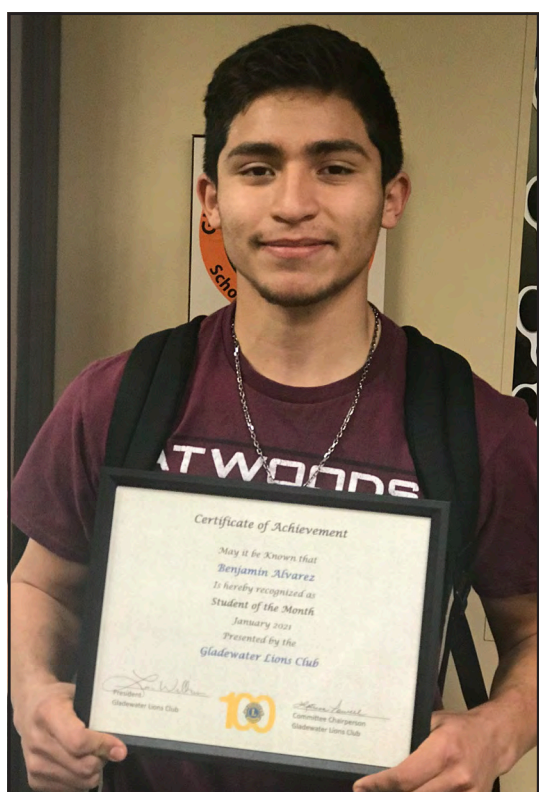
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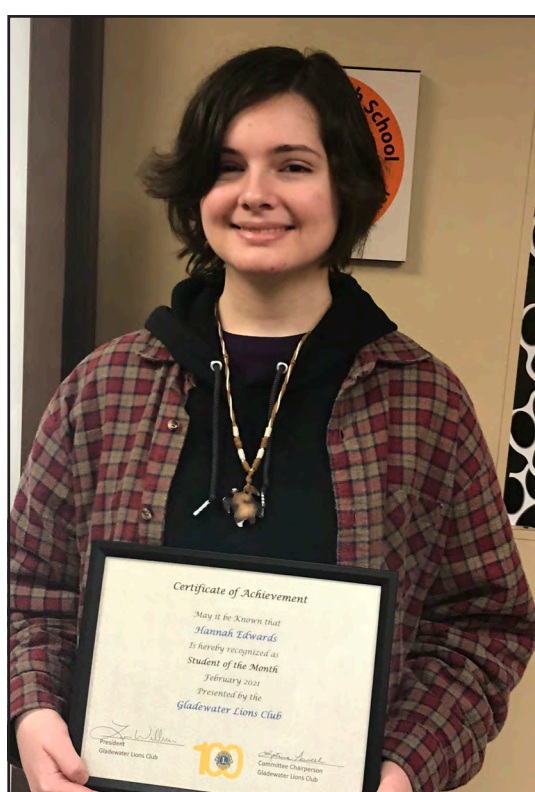
GHS junior Ryleigh Hightower is a Lion's Club student of the month. Ryleigh is a 4-year member of the HoneyBear drill team and earned freshman HoneyBear of the Week honors. As a freshman she also placed second in the GHS Black History celebration and talent show and as a sophomore was selected as a HoneyBear Lieutenant. This year she earned the position of HoneyBear 1st Lieutenant. The talented HoneyBear choreographed four different dance routines. Throughout high school she has performed with the HoneyBears for Spotlight on GHS and other special performances. Her parents are Candice and Zachary Turnbow.

Courtesy Photo



Lion Club Student of the Month Benjamin Alvarez is a proud 3-year member of the award winning Bear Band. He has held the position of second chair saxophone all three years of high school. He is a 3-year varsity baseball letterman and a member of this year's varsity football team. Ben is also involved in FFA and participates in livestock judging and is on the livestock show team. After graduation Ben plans to attend Tyler Junior college to become a veterinarian technician. His parents are Israel and Lupe Alvarez.

Courtesy Photo



Hannah Edwards is Lion's Club Student of the Month for February. The standout musician is a proud member of the GHS Marching Band. As a freshman she earned a first division on a Class 1 solo in UIL Solo & Ensemble competition. She has earned first chair flute honors in the GHS Band as well as first chair in the All Region Symphonic Band her sophomore year and third chair flute in the All Region Symphonic Band this year qualifying her for area tryouts. Hannah also earned first division honors on Class 1 flute quartet in UIL Solo & Ensemble her sophomore year qualifying for state tryouts which were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also was recognized in last year's Spotlight on GHS as earning top 10 percent honors for the Class of 2022. After graduation she plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Her parents are Sam and Brandi Edwards.

Courtesy Photo



GHS junior Michael Lewis is a February Lion's Club Student of the Month. The standout athlete is a 2-year member of the varsity cross country team and varsity tennis team. As a freshman he won the gold medal in the JV Men's singles division at tennis district competition. He was also chosen as an Outstanding Student nominee in Spotlight on GHS. As a sophomore he served as a HoneyBear Escort, was inducted into the National Honor Society, was a member of the JV Basketball team and was named 2020 Best Preps Boys Cross Country Student-Athlete of the Year nominee. Michael was also Spotlight Sophomore Outstanding Student nominee. The scholar-athlete currently has a GPA of 3.9 and was ranked fifth in his class last year. Upon graduation he plans to attend LeTourneau University to pursue an Engineering degree or Kilgore College to complete the Process Technology program for Eastman Chemical Company. His parents are Mike and Tiffany Lewis.

Courtesy Photo

M. Katherine Banks, dean of the college of engineering at Texas A&M University, has been named the sole finalist for president of the flagship university based in College Station after a national search.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved Chancellor John Sharp's recommendation at a board meeting Wednesday after four finalists were interviewed. Under state law, the board must wait 21 days before taking a final vote on the finalist. If approved, Banks will become the second woman president in Texas A&M history after Elsa Murano, who served in the role from 2008 to 2009.



UG speech and debate excels

The Union Grove UIL speech and debate teams had the following national speech and debate qualifiers: District winners in DUO interpretation were John Caviness and Daytona Vaughn. First Alternate team was Sarah Clowers and Mireya Evans and second alternate team was Emily Melton and Hope Rogers. The national tournament will be in virtual format in June. The teams are coached by Sandy Spears.



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Public input sought on Texas Hunting Regulation Proposals for 2021-22

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is now taking public comment on the following proposed changes to the 2021-2022 Statewide Hunting and Migratory Game Bird Proclamations:

- * Add crossbow to the definition of lawful archery equipment
- * Modify the muzzleloader definition to clarify only the bullet or projectile must be loaded through the muzzle
- * Remove the prohibition on trailing wounded deer with dogs in Angelina, Hardin, Nacogdoches, Orange, Shelby, and Tyler counties; In addition, allow the trailing of wounded deer to no more than two dogs on a leash in Jasper, Newton, Sabine, and San Augustine counties
- * Eliminate the experimental pronghorn season in the northern Panhandle and expand the general pronghorn season from 9 to 16 days statewide
- * Modify opening day for chachalacas to be concurrent with quail season
- * Close Panola County to hunting Eastern turkey season during the spring
- * Implement mandatory reporting for spring turkey hunting (April

- 1–30) in the “Western 1 Gobbler” counties in southcentral Texas
- * Align spring and fall wild turkey hunting seasons with consistent North and South Zone boundaries along Highway 90
- * Allow a statewide squirrel hunting season by opening the remaining closed counties to a year-round hunting season
- * Add two days of hunting opportunity in the Special White-winged Dove Area (SWWDA) within the South Dove Zone
- * Establish season dates and daily bag limits for all migratory game bird hunting seasons

The public is encouraged to provide comment on the proposed regulation changes, and input will be considered before any action is taken by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March 25 public hearing. Opportunities to provide comments for or against these proposals include:

Zoom Webinar: TPWD Wildlife staff will present proposed hunting regulation changes and answer questions in an online webinar at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16. The webinar will also be posted on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Online: Comments on each of the changes can be provided on the TPWD public comment page until March 24.

For Migratory Game Bird Proclamation comments, or comments regarding upland game birds or squirrels, please contact Shaun Oldenburger, shaun.oldenburger@tpwd.texas.gov

For Statewide Hunting Proclamation comments concerning pronghorn, please contact Shawn Gray, shawn.gray@tpwd.texas.gov

For methods of take, please contact Alan Cain, alan.cain@tpwd.texas.gov

Teams Commission Meeting: The TPW Commission will take public comment on the proposed changes at their meeting on Thursday, March 25 in Austin. Those wishing to provide public testimony are required to pre-register in order to speak. Public testimony is normally limited to three minutes per person.

Looking back at Lady Lions’ great season

By Christina Wightman

The Union Grove varsity girls’ season enjoyed another deep playoff run losing out in the Regional Semi-Finals in Region III 2A to perennial power and sixth state ranked Martin’s Mill 47-35.

Union Grove was trailing 13-12 at the end of the first quarter. The Lady Lions took a two point lead early in the second quarter on a Makena Littlejohn three point basket. With 2:45 remaining in the first half the Lady Mustangs ended the half on a 7-0 run to take a 24-16 lead.

Opening up in the third quarter the Lady Lions went 0-5 from the field and saw Martin’s Mill lead increase to 14, which became enough separation for the Mustangs to close out Union Grove and advance to their 16th regional finals in a row. The Lady Lions were led in scoring by Makena Littlejohn with nine, Carleigh Judd with nine, Gracie Winn had eight and Macey Alston with seven.

Union Grove began their playoff run with a warm-up game against 15AAA undefeated district champion Gladewater where the Lady Lions handled the Lady Bears 80-44. Union Grove then faced Cushing in the bi-district round defeating the Lady Bearkats 56-18 with Carleigh Judd leading the way with 20 big points followed by Robert’s 13 and Ava Wightman off the bench with seven. Following the win Union Grove, like most East Texas schools, had to endure a Winter Storm for the history books, and endure both play and practices being suspended for seven days. Once able to resume playoff basketball, Union Grove took on Broadus in the Area round after just having one practice in 10 days and found themselves down 37-32 heading into the fourth quarter. But behind the efforts of Macey Alston’s 18 points and Carleigh Judd’s 15, the



Union Grove Girls Basketball Team: Gracie Stanford, Gracie Winn, Makena Littlejohn, Tyler Littlejohn, Sumeet Mattu, Ava Wightman, Brady Colby, Bailey Clowers, Carleigh Judd, Macey Alston and Macey Roberts.

Lady Lions flipped the script in the fourth taking a 10 pt lead with 30 seconds to go before closing out the win 50-44. Union Grove’s defense held Broadus to only one point over a five minute period in the fourth quarter and Gracie Stanford came off the bench to score five much needed points in the quarter.

Because of the weather disrupting playoff scheduling, teams who continued to advance would be required to play potentially three games in a week therefore Union Grove had to face Timpson on just one day’s rest. Union Grove defeated Timpson in the Regional Quarterfinals 43-41. Timpson missed a last second shot to tie the game at the buzzer as it went in and out. Union Grove held Timpson scoreless over the last 3:21 of the game to secure a narrow two point win. The Lady Lions were led by Macey Alston’s 21 points and Carleigh Judd’s eight

with Ava Wightman going four for four at the free throw line. With 2:39 left in a tie contest the Lady Lions took a timeout and proceeded to execute an inbound play to perfection as Carleigh Judd found Gracie Winn on a backdoor cut layup to take the lead, in what would be the winning basket. The win propelled the Lady Lions to their third Regional Tournament in six years. Union Grove finishes the season 26-5 marking the sixth consecutive season of 25 or more wins.

“You always are looking to play your best basketball of the year as you enter the playoffs, but considering how the weather interrupted the play of games and impacted the lives of our players/families it definitely makes how this group performed in the playoffs truly remarkable,” Coach Littlejohn said. “I can’t be more proud of our girls and the senior leadership.”



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Blood drives set

Carter BloodCare of Tyler has set several mobile blood drives in the Gilmer and Longview areas this month, announced Carter spokeswoman Donna Wagner Russell.

The Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce, which said that “recent snow storms have caused a critical blood shortage in East Texas” and “all types of blood are needed,” will host a drive in downtown Gilmer on Wednesday, March 17.

The mobile unit will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of Hilltex Insurance Group at 100 E. Jefferson, just down the street from the chamber on the courthouse square. Antibody testing is available for all blood donors.

All donors must meet certain guidelines, including being symptom-free of COVID-19 for 14 days. To schedule an appointment to donate, or for more information, contact the chamber at 903-843-2413 or email it at gilmerareachamber@gmail.com.

Union Hill High School in rural Upshur County will host a drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 18. The school is located in the Bettie community at 2197 FM 2088 near Gilmer.

For more information on that event, contact Roeann Logan at 903-762-2138 or 903-452-8426.

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Varsity Lady Bears claim team bronze in BB Relays

The Lady Bear varsity track team won the team bronze in last week's Bobby Bernard Relays with the following individual results: 100m dash-Aalatih Turner second place and Makayla Police third place. Kamryn Floyd took the gold medal in the 200m dash with a time of 26.34 and Neriah Jackson won third place. Samya Lewis Frierson placed third in the 400m dash while Megan Perez placed third.

The 4x100m relay team of Aalatih Turner, Deja Martin, Ebony Pipkin and Neriah Jackson won the gold in the 4x100m relay with a time of 52.11. Earning team silver in the 4x200m relay was the team of Alise Sanders, Kamryn Floyd, Kiyonna Parker and Makayla Police. Earning the bronze medal in the 4x400 relay was the team of Alise Sanders, Ebony Pipkin, Megan Perez and Samya Lewis Frierson.

Aalatih Turner told the silver in the long jump while teammate Makayla Police won the bronze. Police also snagged the silver in the triple jump with Megan Perez taking fifth place honors.

Sabine took first place team honors with 291 points, Pitt Girls the silver with 114 points, Gladewater won team bronze with 109 and Spring Hill came in fourth with 56 points.



The Lady Bear and Bear varsity track teams won the team bronze in last week's Bobby Bernard Relays, while the JV boys team won silver and the JV girls won bronze. See more photos and complete results at www.Gladewatermirror.com and at the [Gladewater Mirror Facebook Page](#).

Photo by Chris Jones

Varsity Bears earn team bronze in meet

The varsity Bear track team individual results from the Bobby Bernard Relays hosted by Gladewater High School on March 4 include Jameal Hawk winning silver in the 100m dash and sixth place in the 400m dash. In the 1600m run John Reynolds earned fifth place honors while in the 3200m run he placed fourth.

The 4x100m relay team of DJ Allen, Khaki Reese, Kollin Lewis and Tristan Holmes earned the gold medal with a time of 45.15. Gold was struck again in the 4x200 relay with the team of DJ Allen, Khavia Reese, Kollin Lewis and Nick Lincoln with a time of 1:34.50.

Tyler Smith won the silver in shot put competition and Chase Wise took fifth place. Tyler Smith won fifth place in discus and Darion Simmons won sixth. Nick Lincoln took the gold in the triple jump with a distance of 38'10" and he also earned the bronze medal in the high jump.

Sabine took team honors in the meet with 252 points, Spring Hill second with 170 and Gladewater third with 83 points.



GHS tennis standouts Gage Mitchell and Blake Holder won first place in men's doubles in the Longview High School Tennis Tourney held last Thursday. They are coached by Kelly Berry. Courtesy Photo

JV Bears take silver

The GHS JV track team results from last week's Bobby Bernard Relays hosted by GHS include: 100m dash-third place Avery Mays, fifth place Ladatrin Smith and sixth place Kendall Williams. In the 200m dash JT Maddox took the gold medal with a time of 25.03. In the 400m dash Xavier Woods won the silver medal and Tristan Collins took fifth place.

Francisco Coronado won first place in the 800m run with a time of 2:25, Caleb Kimbrell won second place with 2:34 and Chance Throgmorton took fifth place. Coronado also won the gold in the 1600m run with a time of 6.12, Chance Throgmorton took third place and Kyle Martin came in fourth. Martin also placed third in the 3200m run.

In the 110m hurdles Blake Crane won third place. The 4x100m relay saw the team of Frank Sierra, JT Maddox, Kyron Wilson and Tyrone Maddox win first place with a time of 47.72. The team of Israel Cerda, Jackson Williams, Trevor Hollins and Tyrone Maddox also struck gold in the 4x200m relay with a time of 1:41.68. In the 4x400m Relay the team of JT Maddox, Jackson Williams, Xavier Woods and Xavier Woods earned the silver in 4:17.00.

In long jump competition Jackson Williams took the silver medal and Trevor Hollins earned fifth place honors. In discus Jobey Shico won fourth and Tristan Collins in sixth place in discus. Tyrone Maddox won the gold medal in the triple jump with a 37'5" effort, while teammate Billy Campbell won fourth place. In high jump Maddox took the silver and Trevor Hollins the bronze.

Spring Hill took the team gold in the meet with 185.5 points and the Bears in a close second at 180 points won team silver. Sabine came in third place with 168.5 points.

Bears sweep tourney

By Suzanne Bardwell

Under Coach Jeff Hodges the Bear baseball team tore up the diamond this past weekend in the Tim Crowder Invitational Baseball Tournament. In Thursday's matchup with Quinlan Ford the Bears took the win big with a 10-1 score. Eli Kates went two for three with an RBI and Ben Alvarez tripled in the first game of the tournament for the Bears. Alvarez also went the distance on the mound striking out six and giving up only one earned run.

Next up was Alba Golden who fared a bit better against the Bears who still took the win 7-4. Garrett Glenn, Tanner Gothard and Eli Kates all went two for three for the Bears in this matchup. Gothard also had three RBIs. Dennis Allen had two RBIs and Austin Verner pitched a complete game striking out seven while walking three and giving up four earned runs.

On Friday Chapel Hill fared no better with the Bears beating them 7-4. The Bears put together their third win in a row with the help of Zach Polanco who went two for three at the plate with a triple and an RBI. Eli Kates also tripled and had an RBI. Tanner Gothard had two RBIs as well and he took the win on the mound going the distance and striking out five and walking two.

Saturday saw the Bears power down on Chapel Hill again beating them 11-5 taking the game in hand early by scoring seven big runs in the top of the first inning. Tanner Gothard and Dennis Allen both had two hits each. Wyatt Webb had a triple that plated three runs. Zach Polanco had a double and two RBIs along with K'Havia Reese. Wyatt Webb took the win on the mound leaving after three innings pitched with two strike outs.

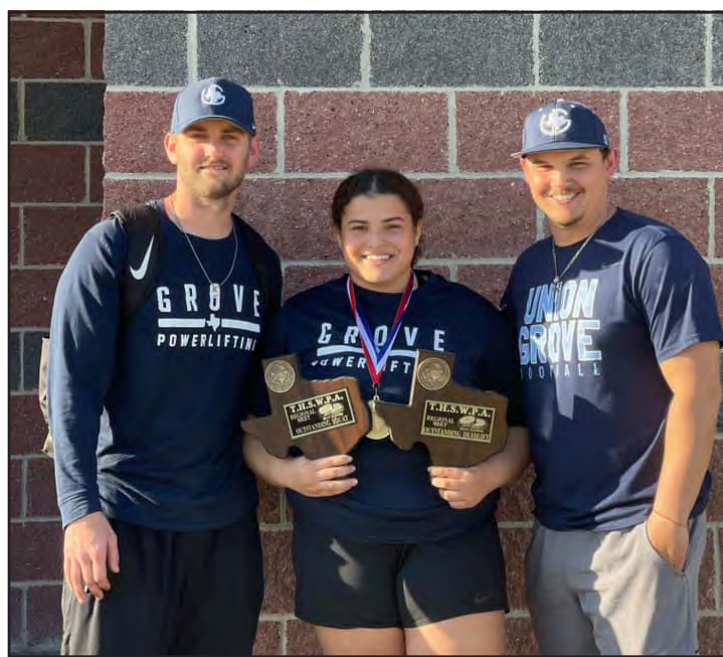
The tourney was capped off with a huge 18-0 hammering of All Saints by the Bears. Garrett Glenn went two for three with four runs scored and three RBIs. Tanner Gothard went two for three with four RBIs. Several Bears had hits in this contest including Eli Kates with two, Austin Verner with two, Dennis Allen and Zach Polanco with one each. Eli Kates earned the pitching win by pitching three innings, giving up no hits and striking out four. Dennis Allen pitched the last inning striking out the side. Three pitchers combined to throw this no hitter with K'Havia Reese facing down two batters.

Lady Bear softball hits Lear Park tourney

The Lady Bear softball team competed in the Texas 2 Step Tournament at Longview's Lear Park last week matching up with Prairiland, Hooks, Mt. Vernon, Queen City and Longview. Kilgore took the win 2-5, Prairiland won 0-9, there was a tight game with Hooks with the Lady Bears taking the loss 9-12 and Mt. Vernon took the win 4-11. The Lady Bears found their stride in the match up with Queen City taking the win 4-1. Longview's Lady Lobos defeated the Lady Bears 1-6 in tournament play.

Tourney stats include: Avery Glarborg, pitcher, recorded 31 strikeouts while hitting two singles and two RBIs; Livia Prince, center fielder, with a batting average of .355, with six runs and eight singles; Sydney Sprulock, third base, had three runs, three singles, two doubles and two RBIs;

Trinity Mooney, catcher, had a batting average of .333 with one home run, three runs, six singles and two RBIs; Lexi Betts, short stop, had one run, three singles, two doubles and three RBIs; and Katelynn Moses, left field, had a slugging percentage of .515, with three runs, two singles, one double one triple and three RBIs. The team is coached by Chase Manley.



Union Grove Lady Lion Maya Huffman won first place, most outstanding deadlift and three time regional record deadlift and state qualifier. Lady Lion Mireya Evans placed fourth qualifying her for state competition as well. Courtesy Photo

JV Lady Bears win track team bronze in BB Relays

The JV Lady Bears took the team bronze in last week's Bobby Bernard Relays. Individual results include in the 200m dash Caiya Harris taking fourth place and Madisyn McGuire sixth place. In the 400m dash Haddasah Balcorta took the gold in a decisive 1:10.66 while teammates Sunni Wade took fourth place and Madisyn McGuire took sixth. In the 800m run Sunni Wade took third place and Kylie Jalomo earned sixth place honors. Savannah Kegarise placed fourth in the 1600m run and third in the 3200m run.

The JV Lady Bear team of Calice Henderson, Jerrica Gilmore, Kyla Lincoln and Ramya Ransom earned gold medals in the 4x100

with a time of 53.62. Gold was struck again by the same team in the 4x200m relay with a 2:00.00 time.

Calice Henderson earned first place in the long jump, Kyla Lincoln second place and Jerrica Gilmore won third place honors. In the triple jump Jerrica Gilmore won first place, Calice Henderson second place and Kyla Lincoln won third place. Henderson earned the gold in the high jump with a height of 4'.

The Pitt Girls took first team honors with 192 points, Sabine the silver with 137 just edging out the Lady Bears at 135 while Spring Hill came in fourth place.



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