

Gladewater Mirror



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50¢

City council seat, GEDCO election set for Saturday

Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall

When voters go to the polls this Saturday to decide between Dennis Robertson and Michael Webber for the Place 4 council seat, they also will be asked to cast their vote on a special election that could help change the course of the city's infrastructure and future development.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. at City Hall, located at 519 East Broadway Ave (US 80).

The City of Gladewater and the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation (GEDCO) are asking voters to approve five propositions that would allow existing sales tax revenue to be used on projects other than just industrial-related opportunities. This election is not a new tax. It is simply allowing GEDCO to use its 1/2-cent sales tax revenue on a wider variety of projects.

"These ballot items are not a request to raise taxes," Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp explained in an earlier interview. "They are a request to allow us to diversify our investment with existing tax dollars. Each item must be approved separately. We feel these ballot items represent the best opportunities for diversification for our EDC of today and tomorrow."

Continued on Page 6



Visit downtown Gladewater this Saturday between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and admire the many classic cars and trucks that will be on display at the Oilfield Special Car Show, sponsored by the Gladewater Mirror, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce and Booshay's Central Station Cafe. Better yet, bring your prize ride and compete for prizes.



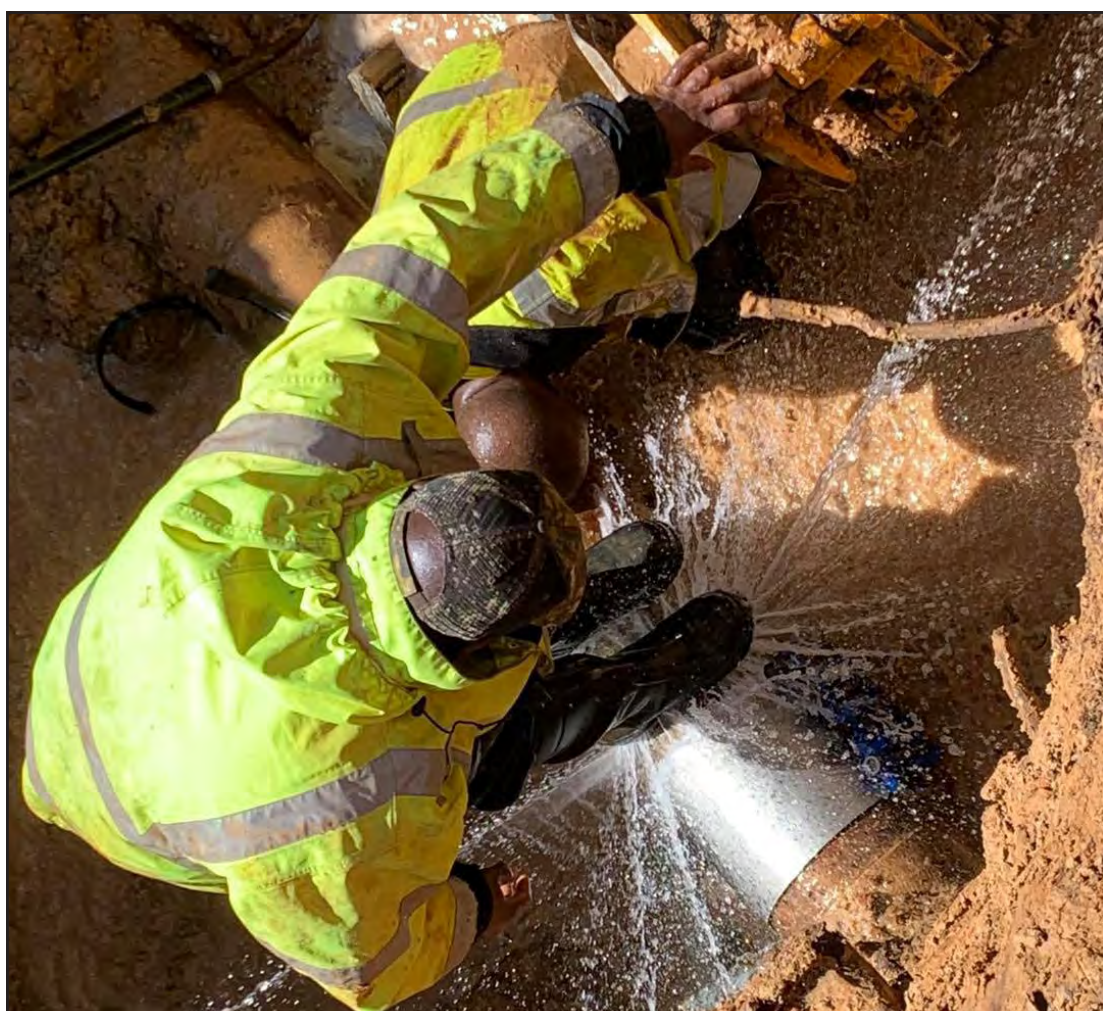
Photo by Sam Major

State Bound

The Gladewater Bears are state-bound. ABOVE - DJ Allen qualified for state in both the long jump and the 100M dash by finishing 1st in both. Allen set a Regional record with a jump of 22-8.25 and won the 100M in a time of 10.82, edging White-wright's Xavier Cox-Dunlap by .03 seconds. RIGHT - Gladewater's Kamryn Floyd won the 200M Dash in a time of 25.17 to advance to State as a sophomore.



Photo by Chris Jones



Gladewater Public Works crews worked all morning Sunday on an emergency repair to a 10" inch line on West Lake Drive. Water was restored to the neighborhood and crews monitored the repairs before reopening the street between Harold and Pecan.

Photo by Christian Allen

Man indicted on capital murder charges

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury has indicted a 20-year-old Gladewater man on a capital murder charge in connection with the Feb. 7 shooting deaths of a man and woman in East Mountain, said District Attorney Billy Byrd's office.

Nichlous Cole Williams was originally charged with two counts of murder, but the cases were combined and upgraded to one capital murder charge since there were multiple victims, said Byrd's office.

Under state law, capital murder is punishable only by lethal injection or life imprisonment without parole.

Williams, who was indicted April 15 and remained in county jail under \$1 million bond set by 115th District Judge Dean Fowler, is accused of killing East Mountain residents Leonard Faris Gibson, 66, and Denene Suzanne Mosley, 53, authorities said. Byrd's office announced the indictment on Tuesday of last week.

Gibson and Mosley, slain at night, were found dead at 154 Posey Road after sheriff's deputies and East Mountain police responded to the scene about 7:43 p.m., sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel said soon after the incident.

After receiving information on Williams' whereabouts, deputies went to a nearby home "within running distance" and arrested him within 20 minutes after responding to the call, said Hazel.

Adding that he wanted to avoid "contaminating the investigation," the chief deputy declined at the

time to reveal some specifics of the incident, such as motive or whether the bodies were found indoors or outdoors. He said, however, the slayings were not drug-related.

Williams, who turned 20 on March 30, was originally jailed under \$500,000 bond set by Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter, but Fowler increased the bond after the indictment.

Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Anthony Betterton pronounced Gibson and Mosley dead at the scene and ordered autopsies.

Williams' indictment was among six returned by the grand jury, four of them sealed, on April 15 in Gilmer, said Byrd. Jurors also no-billed one case (the nature of which was not disclosed), he said.

In the only other open indictment, Adrian Ramirez, 34, of Gladewater, was charged with three counts of assault/family violence with previous conviction. Accused of committing the crimes last Oct. 3, he remained in county jail under \$50,000 bond.

Identity of anyone charged in the sealed indictments was not disclosed as Byrd said no arrest had been made in those cases.

They included, said his office:

- A single indictment for 11 counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child and two counts of sexual assault
- A single indictment for eight counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child and five counts of sexual assault.
- One indictment each for indecency with a child, and aggravated sexual assault of a child.

23-prior convictions earn life sentence for White Oak man

By Phillip Williams

A jury in Gilmer sentenced a White Oak man with 23 prior criminal convictions to life imprisonment on Wednesday of last week after convicting him of assault/family violence by occlusion, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Joshua David Verhoef, 38, was convicted of assaulting an unnamed woman last Aug. 20 at her home in the Union Grove area, Byrd said.

Verhoef, who acted as his own attorney with assistance from court-appointed Marshall lawyer Brandon Roth, had pleaded not guilty on grounds he was acting in self-defense and that his purported female victim was lying, said Byrd. The case, featuring two days of testimony, was tried in 115th District Court before 115th District Judge Dean

Fowler. Byrd wrote that Verhoef "was in a dating relationship with the victim, who he had known since grade school, and they had just recently reconnected. The relationship became very abusive and evidence showed that he had assaulted the victim multiple times."

Byrd add that last Aug. 20, sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call after Verhoef "struck his victim and strangled her multiple times inside her home. She was able to flee out the door and run" to the home of a neighbor, who called 911.

When deputies arrived, they met the victim, who "was clearly upset, crying, and had visible signs of multiple injuries." She told officers what Verhoef "had done and that he was combative and on methamphetamine." Afterward, an attempt was made to speak with

him, but "he had locked himself inside and refused to exit the house. After over an hour of trying to get him to comply, officers knocked the glass out of the back door," entered the home and arrested Verhoef.

"The defendant had previously been convicted of assault/family violence against his mother, as well as four felony offenses within the last four years," Byrd wrote. "He was currently on parole and had been arrested in Gregg County for possession of methamphetamine just a week prior to this offense."

Because of the 23 prior convictions, "including multiple felonies," the prosecution "filed notice to increase his punishment range to 25 (years) to life," Byrd wrote. The 7-man, 5-woman jury deliberated about 20 minutes to convict and about 30 to decide the sentence.

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Health-care expansion defeated in House

A bid to expand health coverage for low-income Texans failed in the Texas House last week, 80-68.

State leaders have long opposed expanding the Medicaid program, which is largely funded by the federal government. The measure that failed last week would have allowed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to negotiate a funding agreement with the feds, called a 1115 demonstration waiver, that would cover more uninsured Texans without technically expanding Medicaid, according to various media sources, including the Texas Tribune.

Just over a week ago, the Biden administration rescinded a federal 1115 waiver approved in the final days of the Trump administration, which would have provided the state billions of dollars over the next decade to cover emergency care for uninsured Texans. The state was exempted from the normal public notice process, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Gov. Greg Abbott blasted that decision, saying it “obstructed healthcare access for vulnerable Texans.”

Backers of health-care expansion are pinning their waning hopes on House Bill 3871, sponsored by Rep. Julie Johnson, D-Carrollton. Her bill also uses an 1115 waiver to attract federal funding to expand Medicaid eligibility as well as increased in Medicaid reimbursements to doctors, according to the Tribune. But time is running out with the bill still stuck in committee.

If that bill fails to pass, Texas officials will have to begin renegotiating with the Biden administration to restore the funding. More than 650,000 Texans lost their employer-sponsored insurance during the pandemic. Texas has the highest number and highest percentage of uninsured residents in the nation, according to the Texas Comptroller’s Office.

Mass transit loses even more ridership during pandemic

Mass transit in Texas has been experiencing a decline in ridership the last few years, according to a Fiscal Notes report by the comptroller’s office. The outlook has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, with steep drops in ridership, revenue and service.

According to census data, “in terms of population share, Blacks and Hispanics are overrepresented among public transit riders, as are those with relatively low incomes. Comparatively large shares of those with jobs in education, health care, recreation and food services — the workers most affected by the pandemic — use public transit to get to work,” the report noted.

However, the pandemic has taken its toll on mass service, particularly in urban areas. Houston Metro reported its total ridership in December 2020 was 53.6 percent lower than in December 2019. Research scientists, such as Michael Walk with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, say the use of multiple modes of transportation can make mass transit more appealing to riders.

With the state experiencing explosive population growth, transportation officials hope to keep public transit a viable option both in urban and rural areas, according to the comptroller’s report.

Media ad campaign to boost vaccines begins

A \$1.5 million television and radio ad campaign was launched last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services to encourage Texans to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The ads, in both English and Spanish, feature several doctors urging folks to get the vaccine, as the pace of shot administered has slowed.

“Our research shows that individual health care professionals are the most trusted voices for people deciding whether to get vaccinated,” said DSHS Commissioner Dr. John Hellerstedt. “Over the coming weeks we will continue to share messages encouraging various communities to get vaccinated. We are also relying on trusted voices within those communities to speak up and let their neighbors know that the available COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to end the pandemic and restore normalcy.”

Vaccine doses now over 10 million mark; COVID-19 cases steady

The number of Texans who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reached 10.56 million as of Sunday, according to DSHS. The number of folks who are fully vaccinated hit 7.11 million, which is about 24% of the state’s population.

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose slightly last week compared to the previous week, to 23,684, with new deaths dropping slightly at 359, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. Similarly, lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals was at 2,793 for the same period, down slightly from the previous week, according to DSHS.

And...

Really we shouldn’t have. Important meetings were missed. We often tell ourselves we can’t. But the last few days we did...and it was wonderful. Now, don’t get me wrong we worked every single day we were on our getaway. Some days required hours of work from our hotel room. Deadlines have to be met regardless of where we are when they hit.

On our last day away we grabbed a lakeside snack at the appropriately named Hanger just to hang out. One of my favorite vacay pics is of my hubby on a phone meeting oblivious to the hot air (how appropriate) balloon going up behind him. We finished off the chips and dip long before the phone meet was done. Despite the meetings, that leisurely day allowed us to handle the stress of the next day.

We left our hotel at 10:30 a.m. for the Orlando airport. Our plane was delayed for takeoff because of weather. We received a text that our connecting flight at DFW to Shreveport was canceled. Our luggage location was somewhere in the ‘Twilight Zone’. As we detoured to San Antonio and back up to Dallas our flight time increased and Jim began to look for gremlins on the airplane wing. When we got to DFW the weather worsened and so did the temperature of the hundreds of passengers who were missing their flights. The experience was a revelation.

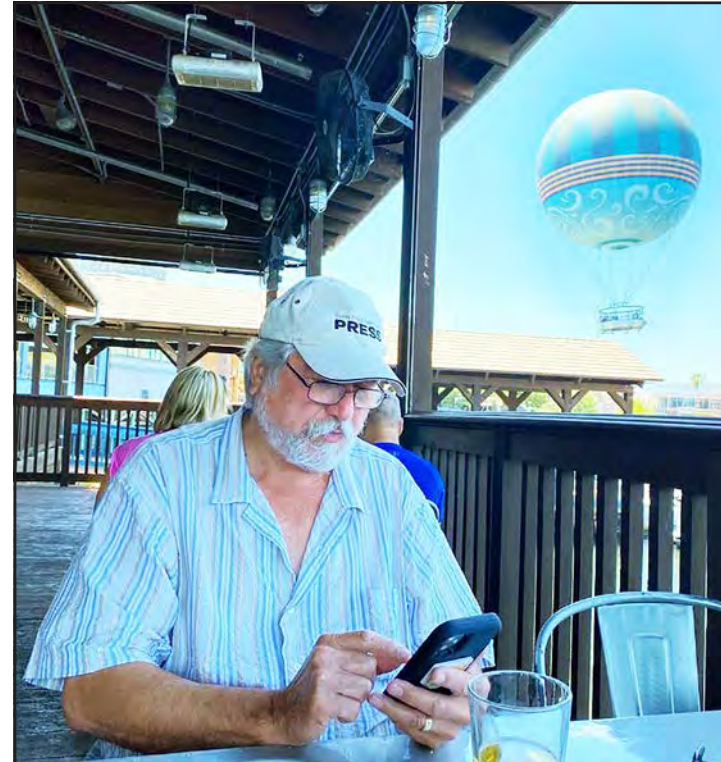
We watched as meltdowns occurred by infants and infantile adults. We ran from terminal to terminal as our flight was changed, canceled and moved until we finally managed to get one to Gregg County Airport which was added as a connecting leg for about 20 desperate people. We saw one guy beat on the skyway door as he watched his plane for Tyler leave. It really was kind of funny. I am sorry. I usually don’t enjoy laughing at someone else’s expense but dang, Longview is not that far away and there were plenty of seats on that flying cigar tube for that ranting and raving flyer.

Complicating the entire, and I mean the entire last week of our vacation, as well as the airport trekking about, was the fact that I had walked HUGE blisters onto the balls of my feet. I hobbled. I walked on the sides of my feet. I groaned. It was pitiful, but worth the pain and the effort.

On our next to last day we managed to get reservations for “Star Wars Ride of the Resistance”. BUT, we were on late standby and my pessimist honey was convinced we would never be called. So, we left Hollywood Studios and rode the skyliners around the (Disney) World and limped back to our room where I peeled off my sticky socks while I cried sticky tears. And then the text came. 45 minutes before the park closed. Our standby group was called. We threw on our shoes...sticky socks and tears again...and I hobbled as fast as my poor old blistered feet could go to the boat transportation which took FOREVER to get rolling. We got to the park at closing and the very kind and grinning gate attendants told us to go to the ride anyway and said that we might get lucky. Of course, it was at the opposite end of the park.

I hobbled as fast as I could go and when we got there the ride was

Suzanne Bardwell



broken down...with an interminably long line. And the park was CLOSED. And they let us get in line. And, we met a wonderful young woman from California pushing her father’s wheelchair. He was from Ohio and had met his precious daughter there. He was old school “Star Wars” and so were we. We all hung in there and made the ‘ride’ that wasn’t a ride. It was an experience that was worth the excruciatingly painful feet, the effort, the time, and the trip.

Our true blue dependable son, Josh, picked us up at the Longview airport after midnight and dropped us home on his way to fight fire caused by a lightning strike.

The next day we continued our comedy of errors by driving our un-inspected truck a mile and a half to pick up Jimmy’s SUV at the mechanic and then it was on to Shreveport airport to pick up my lonely little Buick. And, at long last, our getaway was over. Now, if these dad blasted blisters will just go away all will be back to our usual ‘ab’ normal work routine. You know, everyone needs a break before they break. This was ours. AND it was wonderful.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Outlook for the US Economy

The forecast for US economic recovery is improving. In March, 916,000 net new jobs were added across the nation, led by leisure and hospitality, education, and construction. The unemployment rate fell to 6.0%, and the number of unemployed dropped to 9.7 million. Overall, activity is in a much better place than the lows experienced in April 2020, though it has not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

As I’ve discussed previously, one positive sign is that initial claims for state unemployment benefits have dropped to levels seen in past downturns prior to the pandemic. Initial claims are a barometer for the numbers of jobs that are disappearing, and it’s good news that they have fallen (they recently plummeted to less than 600,000). While claims remain well above pre-COVID levels, they are no longer unprecedented.

Other positive signals include the gradual opening up of

more businesses as states are able to relax social distancing requirements. As long as hospitalizations remain under control and the vaccine rollout continues, a return to activities such as travel and dining out will boost the recovery. On the other hand, if variants and caseloads trend upward too far (as is occurring in some parts of the country), we could see increased uncertainty and other problems.

Additional federal spending will enhance growth potential, whether through stimulus checks or spending of other types. The Federal Reserve remains committed to keeping low interest rates until the economy reaches pre-pandemic performance, which will spur near-term expansion.

Supply chain issues continue to disrupt some industries. The pandemic caused closures of manufacturing facilities, and shortages of specific items (such as semiconductors) persist. In addition, interruptions such as the blockage of the Suez Canal and weather challenges have exacerbated the problem. Time will be required to restore full efficiency, but this phenomenon is

unlikely to dramatically constrict growth.

While obstacles remain, the US economy is expected to recover and see significant progress during the next five years. The Perryman Group projects that over the 2020 to 2025 period, real gross product will expand from the current level of an estimated \$18.4 trillion to \$22.9 trillion, a 4.41% annual rate of growth. Employment is forecast to grow by 17.4 million to reach 160.4 million in 2025 (a 2.33% annual pace). Expansion

is expected to be most robust over the next year or two as past losses are recouped (with gross product likely expanding by 7% or more in 2021), returning to more normal levels through the end of the forecast horizon.

From the outset, I have emphasized that the economy could surge forward once we reached a sustainable situation with the virus. We are now seeing the beginnings of the next “Roaring ‘20s.” Stay safe!!



- | | |
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ON THE WAY TO THE BARN

The story is told about a farmer, who one morning decided to plow the south forty acres. His tractor needed oil, so he started for the barn to get it, but on the way, he noticed the pigs hadn’t been fed. Near the corncrib was a pile of sacks, reminding him the potatoes were sprouting. But on his way to the potato pit, he passed the woodpile and remembered the kitchen stove was burning low. While picking up wood he saw one of his chickens was ailing, so he dropped the wood to doctor the chicken; and so it went till the end of the day, and he still hadn’t oiled the tractor or plowed the south forty acres!

Is your life like this trip to the barn? Do you have grand visions of great service that never gets done? Have you found too many “other things” to do that interfere with your being a productive citizen in God’s kingdom?

The only way we will ever “get to the barn” of service for the Lord is to get our priorities in order. The farmer in our story didn’t have any priorities. He just got caught up in the events around him and flowed along with the tide. Our life contains plenty of “pigs to feed,” “wood to cut,” and “chickens to doctor.” But we can’t allow them to get in our way of serving God. We must be careful that the urgent doesn’t crowd out the important!

Obedience to the gospel of Christ, and faithful service in His kingdom is of the highest importance. (2 Thess. 1: 7-10; 1 Cor. 15: 58; Matt. 6: 33; Col. 3: 1-2). It is easy to get sidetracked and derailed by the many bypaths along the way of life. Life is filled with them, and if our priorities are not in order, they will keep us from ever reaching the barn to get the oil for the tractor so we can plow the south forty acres! Don’t allow all of these “urgent” duties to get in the way of the most important duty of all—FAITHFULLY SERVING GOD! Think on these things.

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Guest Column:

Analysis: Texas lawmakers working on incomplete budget

By Ross Ramsey, The Texas Tribune

A lot of the money available to the Texas Legislature for programs and services isn't part of the state budget yet. It's not even part of the debate.

As the Texas House begins debate on its version of the quarter-trillion-dollar spending blueprint for the next two years, billions of dollars of federal Medicaid money are in limbo, and Washington D.C., is waiting to see what Austin plans to do with programs that are jointly financed by the state and the feds.

At the same time, the state government hasn't decided how to use the \$38.6 billion in federal COVID-19 relief money sent our way by the Trump and Biden administrations.

The budgets under consideration by the Legislature are in the \$250 billion range — about as high as they've ever been. But they don't include billions that are likely to be spent here, one way or another, over the next two years.

Texas is one of a dozen states that has not expanded its Medicaid program since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, back when Rick Perry was governor and Barack Obama was president. The federal incentives have been sweetened on a program that already offered about \$9 in federal money for every \$1 spent by the state. One big current incentive would give Texas a more generous federal match on its current Medicaid spending if the state opts for Medicaid expansion.

Texas conservatives have held their ground, resisting an expansion they say would eventually raise taxes, create new entitlements and comes with federal requirements they can't abide. Bills have been filed every session, including some by Republicans, without any change. There's a new effort bubbling in the House this session. Expansion supporters say their legislation, still awaiting a committee hearing, has the support of more than half of the 150 members of the House — most of the Democrats and enough of the Republicans to have a majority. Expect that stalled legislation to appear in the form of an amendment to the state budget when it comes up.

If it passes, it could add more than \$5 billion to state health care programs and services every year.

Another Medicaid program is in doubt. Last week, the Biden administration rescinded changes to the state's "1115 waiver" — a federal funding agreement that would have extended the safety net for some of the state's uninsured residents. That program covers uncompensated care in hospitals in Texas.

That funding won't stop until the end of September 2022, so there's time for the state to negotiate. But the administration's move raised the stakes in a running back-and-forth between the state, which has pushed for compensation for hospitals while resisting Medicaid expansion, and a federal government that is trying to get Texas and other holdouts to cover more of their uninsured residents with expansion.

One way to analyze it: The Trump administration granted a 10-year 1115 waiver at the end of Donald Trump's term; the Biden administration included those "sweeteners" in their COVID-19 relief bills that would improve the federal match in existing Medicaid plans. And when that didn't work, they rescinded the waiver.

The 1115 waiver extension gave the state some room to work, removing pressure to expand Medicaid. Without that, talk of expansion has increased. It started coming from some new voices, too: A huge chunk of the Medicaid money coming into Texas — money in that 1115 waiver — comes in as supplemental payments to compensate hospitals around Texas without first making a stop in Austin. It's not on the state's books, but it's critical to the state's health care economy.

Now it's time for the state to finish up work on the two-year budget that runs through August 2023, and Medicaid funding is up in the air.

But that's not the only thing fluttering around. The federal aid coming out of various pandemic relief bills includes \$16.7 billion for the state, \$11 billion for local city and county governments, and \$17.9 billion for public and higher education, according to the state comptroller. Most of that, and other money in the relief bills, would flow through the state government — a total of \$38.6 billion.

Like the Medicaid money, that's not folded into the state budget yet, either. That's especially true of that \$16.7 billion intended for state use. If it's not in the budget, the Legislature might be leaving it for the governor to spend, without their advice and consent.

Research center trains COVID vaccine manufacturers

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION — Finding effective COVID-19 vaccine formulas alone is not enough to put the global pandemic behind us.

That's why The Texas A&M University System is collaborating with FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies Texas to train the workforce that is mass-producing two COVID-19 vaccine candidates for the federal government.

For the past nine months, a dedicated team of Texas A&M University scientists at the National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing (NCTM) has been training workers on the biomanufacturing basics needed to produce the COVID-19 vaccine candidates. The NCTM is a research center of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station and Texas A&M.

With just four instructors and a handful of support staff, the team has trained more than 200 new employees of FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies Texas. The company is the Texas A&M System's biomanufacturing subcontracting partner in the national emergency manufacturing program.

"Texas A&M is doing a great public service," said John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M System. "By collaborating with FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies Texas to increase the vaccine supply, our team is helping save a bunch of lives."

Chancellor Sharp recently visited the NCTM to learn more about its success.

The NCTM employee training is arranged through the Center for Innovation and Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM) in College Station, a Texas A&M System program established in 2012 by the federal government for just this kind of national emergency.

"To meet FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies Texas' aggressive hiring pace in recent months, our team has delivered nearly nonstop training," said Dr. Zivko Nikolov, Director of NCTM and a Professor of Bioprocess Engineering at Texas A&M. "I'm so honored to lead such a dedicated team."

The training is a customized, intensive, seven-day, hands-on curricula of various aspects of cell culture and basic molecular biology, aseptic processes and microbiology, and upstream and downstream processing of biological materials.

The team worked quickly to build the program within weeks of the federal request last July. The training began almost immediately and has continued ever since.

OBITUARIES

JERRY LEE WATSON

Jerry Lee Watson, 75 of Gladewater, met his final call triumphantly to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, April 24, 2021 in Longview, Texas. He was born in Gladewater, on February 4, 1946 to the late Leon and Nannie Loyd Watson.



Jerry was a devoted public servant and he served faithfully until his retirement as the first firefighter to retire from the Gladewater Fire Department. As much as he had a servant's heart, his family was the vital focus of his life. He was a strong man who loved his family deeply; each and every one, and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends that he leaves behind.

He is survived by his children, Amy Hill and husband, David of Big Sandy; Angela Thomas and husband, Cody of Lodi, Texas; Scott Watson and wife, Jennifer of Longview; Mark Watson and wife, Stephanie of McKinney; brothers, Leon Watson and wife, Patricia; James Watson and wife Alecia; sisters, Druann "Sister" Gottschalck; and Patricia Farmer; grandchildren Shayna Garland and husband Jake, Tucker Hill, Kinzlee Hill, Peyton Watson, Karsyn Watson, Chloe Crouch, Nick Crouch, Toby Thomas, Jolie Thomas, Sawyer Watson, Savannah Ditonto, Noah Ditonto, and Hunter Spencer, and great grandchildren, Harper Garland and Everlee Garland and soon to be born, Jensen Jed Garland. He is also survived by special extended family members, Mary Spencer and Billy Spencer, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Pam Dillon.

Funeral services for Jerry will be held 2 p.m., Saturday, May 1, 2021 at the Abundant Life Church in Gladewater with interment to follow at Gladewater Memorial Park under the direction of Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.

Jerry's children and their families would like to acknowledge Brookdale Assisted Living and Texas Home Health & Hospice for their love and dedication you expressed to our Daddy.



KENNETH R. JORDAN

Kenneth R. Jordan, age 83, passed away March 16, 2021. He was born October 2, 1937 in Gladewater to Herschel and Mary Jordan. Ken grew up in Gladewater. He attended Kilgore Junior College and then transferred to the University of Texas at Austin. He graduated with a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering in 1961. It was at the University of Texas where he met his future wife, Barbara Ann Scott. Ken and Barbara married in 1960 and went on to have four sons.

Ken started his career with Shell Oil Company in 1961 in Odessa. While working for Shell, the family lived in Midland, Houston, Denver, New Orleans, and finally settling in Kingwood. After eighteen years with Shell, Ken went to work for Damson Oil. Ken was then a partner with Minerex Energy for over twenty-five years. He did consulting work for Collarini Associates after retirement. Ken maintained his professional engineering certification until his death.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Barbara. Ken is survived by his son John, his wife Christie, and their daughter

Stephanie; his son Mark, his wife Brenda, and their children Brandon and Briley; his son Scott, his wife Denise, and their children Spencer, Nathan and Sarah; his son Todd, his wife Kathleen and their son Luke. He is also survived by his sister Rosemary and her husband Milton Taylor.

Ken was a caring, loving, and generous father and grandfather. He took delight and particular pride in his grandchildren. He was a fan of all Houston sports teams, but he had a special place in his heart for his Texas Longhorns.

A celebration of Ken's life was held at Rosewood Funeral Home on April 24, 2021.

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GISD Calendar

- 4/28, Wednesday
TSI Testing
- 5/1, Saturday
8 a.m.-Noon HoneyBear Officer Mini Dance Camp
- 5/3, Monday
4-9 p.m. HoneyBear Rehearsal-Aud.
- 5/4, Tuesday
STAAR EOC Biology
TSI Testing
4-9 p.m. HoneyBear Rehearsal-Aud.
- 5/5, Wednesday
School Nurse Day
STAAR, EOC US History
TSI Testing
4-9 p.m. HoneyBear Rehearsal-Aud.
- 5/6, Thursday
STAAR, EOC Alg.1
4-9 p.m. HoneyBear Rehearsal-Aud.
- 5/7, Friday
STAAR EAOC Make Up Test Day
State Track Meet@Austin
6:30 p.m. HoneyBear Spring Show

UGISD Calendar

- 4/29, Thursday
7:50 a.m. Send Off for FFA Forage Team to State@Huntsville
State UIL Academic Contest@ Tyler Virtual
Systems Go Rocketry@ Fredricksburg
5:30 p.m. Softball Playoff@Cayuga
- 4/30, Friday
6 p.m. V Baseball vs. Union Hill-H Senior Night
7 p.m. Softball playoff vs. Cayuga Game 2 Playoffs
- 5/1, Saturday
1 p.m. Softball playoff vs. Cayuga (if needed)

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Hai'leigh Oliver (front row, 3rd from left) is moving on to the next level to play basketball. Family, teammates, and the coaches from Dallas College-Mountain View Campus joined her in her signing ceremony this morning at Gladewater High School last week.



L-R Gladewater's MaKayla Police, Kamryn Floyd, Deja Martin, and Neriah Jackson finished 3rd in the 4x400 Relay to 2nd place Daingerfield by only .09 seconds

Sports Round-Up

Lady Bears softball season ends

The Lady Bears' season came to an end with a 13-2 loss to the district winning Lady Mustangs of Hughes Springs.

The Lady Mustangs used 4 innings to take a 7-0 lead before garnering 6 more in the top of the 5th. Gladewater avoided the shutout when Katelyn Mosses scored on a ground out by Livia Prince. Breanna Newman scored on the next play when Trinity Mooney hit a grounder.

Gladewater played a fairly clean game, committing only 2 errors. With only 2 seniors on the roster, the Lady Bears can return most of their experienced players with a shot at turning the tables on their district adversaries.

Lady Lions headed to playoffs

The Union Grove Lady Lions finished off an undefeated District Championship, knocking off Carlisle 16-6.

Lainey Ledbetter got the win with 9 strikeouts and 4 hits over 5 innings. After giving up 3 runs in the first inning, Katelyn Vaughn stepped off the mound and went to work at the plate garnering 4 hits with 5 at bats for 5 RBI's. Sydney Chamberlain led the scoring with 4 runs.

Union Grove moves into the playoffs with a best-of-three series against Cayuga beginning Thursday in Cayuga. Game 2 will move back to the Grove on Friday.



DJ Allen qualified for state in long jump with a jump of 22-8.25

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 Greater New Hope Baptist
 Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
 Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768
 New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
 St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
 Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894
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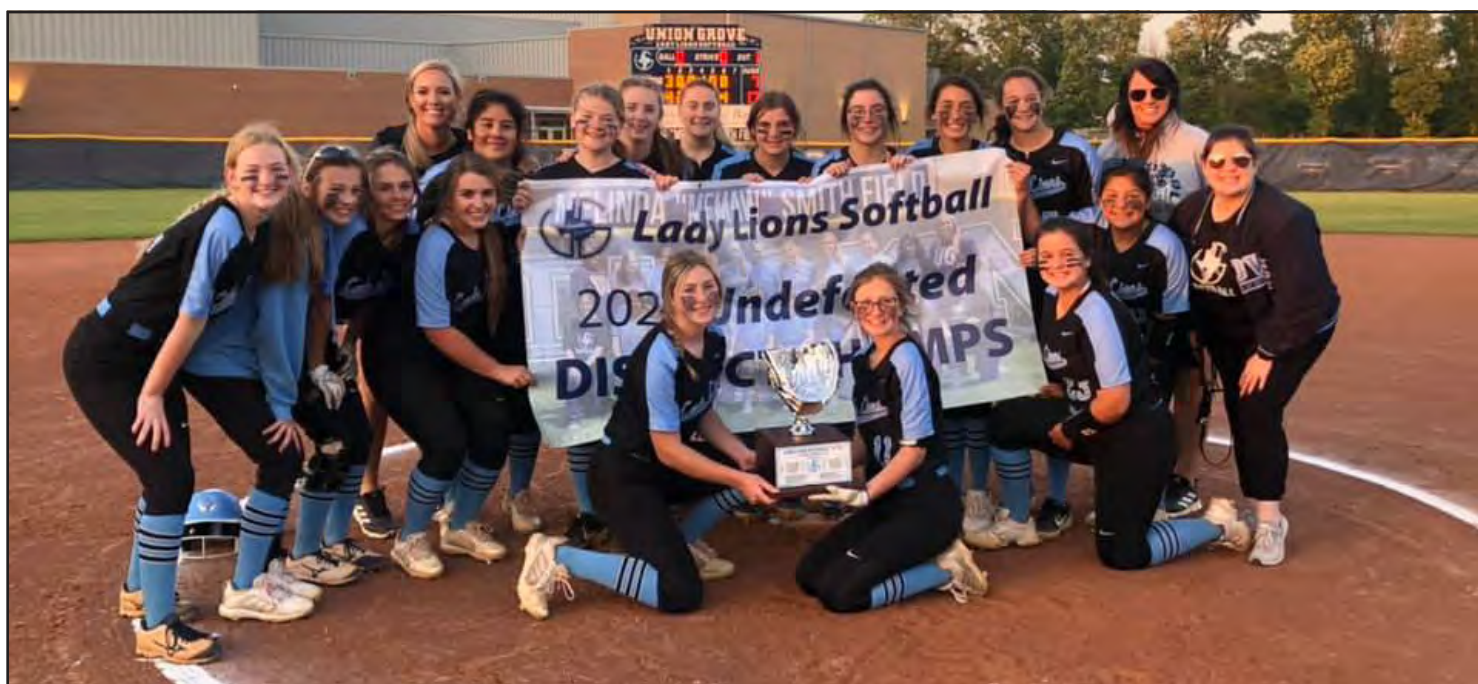
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WHAT'S HAPPENING



On Mother's Day weekend, take a look at the history of the apron from the necessity to accessory, and honor those who wore them. The Gladewater Downtown Antique District will be lined with fabulous vintage aprons which undoubtedly bring back memories and are sure to warm hearts. The event is Friday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and it is free.



The Union Grove Lady Lions made school history last week! They finished district 12-0 and earned the title of UNDEFEATED District Champs!

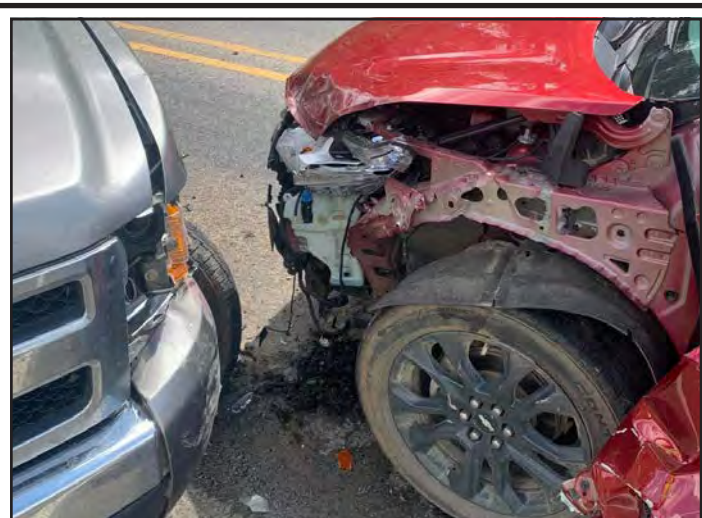


Nate Dean captured first place in the 2021 East Texas Gusher Days Bass Tournament held Saturday, April 24, at Lake Gladewater. Dean's winning catch weighed in at 7.36 pounds and netted him \$500. Bud Mahaffey placed second with a bass weighing 5.30 pounds, good for \$250, and Glenn "Bubba" Sabler took third place with a 4.15-pounder, good for \$150. The annual Gusher Days Festival will be held July 9-10 in downtown Gladewater. It was moved from the traditional third week of April due to COVID-19 social distancing policies.



Last week was filled with wrecks in Gladewater from one in front of Shipp's Marine on US 80 to another that ran through the Cash Store parking lot at US 271 and US 80, then crossing US 71 before hitting the awning at the nearby Sturkie Realtor office and coming to an abrupt stop when it hit a concrete wall. Several people were injured in the accidents, but their conditions have not been released.

Courtesy Photos



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ELECT WEBBER FOR PLACE 4 CITY COUNCIL

Hello Gladewater, My name is Michael Webber. I am running for Gladewater City Council Place 4 and I am requesting your consideration to vote for me. Early voting is underway with **May 1st being the election day.** Every voice deserves to be heard and I am asking you to not only let your voice be heard, but to also consider me to be your representative on City Council. Even though I am a newcomer to the political scene, I am an extremely qualified candidate to serve on council. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Management with Industrial Management Concentration and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from LeTourneau University. I spent the last 20 years applying my education in the business place while working for J-W Power Company. I have been specializing in developing programs, procedures, and processes that not only put my company in a prime position to be extremely successful, but I also have worked hard to keep cost low while achieving high results. The City of Gladewater is a business, and the council serves as the board of directors for this business. We need strong business leaders serving on the council and therefore I am asking for your vote.



I have extensive knowledge developing plans, setting budgets, digging for the best outcomes, and working with others to accomplish the end results. I have been extremely successful in my job. My success comes from the hard work and dedication that I apply towards the task but also because I work extremely well with others. I believe that we all work together better as a team. Working together makes us stronger, it allows us to make better decisions and helps us to do the best possible.

During this entire political season, I have been sharing two major statements that I think should resonate extremely loud with everyone.

* **The first is that we should "Live Within Our Means".** This is critical for us as a city. There are several things that we as a city would love to have, or fixed, or improved. This list is long, but our funds are not. We must take a responsible, realistic look at our budget and make the right decisions to move this city forward.

* **The second is that we should "Be The Gladewater You Want Gladewater To Be – Be Gladewater".** This is a powerful statement and a powerful proposal. The driving force for this is to encourage everyone to become involved in your community. Help each other, be there for one another. We are stronger together and we should become the Gladewater we want Gladewater to be. I have been highly involved in our community since I moved to Gladewater over 9 years ago. From helping the Chamber of Commerce through cooking briskets, to putting up and taking down the stage for Gusher Days, to being a mentor to student or just another kid at school while serving as a Watch Dog at Gladewater Primary and Weldon, to serving as a coach for kid's basketball, baseball, and football, to serving on the Baseball board to help provide an avenue for the kids to play, to helping my wife establish a successful business based in Gladewater. I have been and will continue to be plugged into my community. I cherish the opportunity to continue to serve my community in other ways by serving on City Council.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote. Whether you vote for me or my opponent, please vote. It is very importance to **let your voice be heard.** Thank you, Michael Webber

POL. AD PAID FOR BY MICHAEL WEBBER

City council seat, GEDCO election set for Saturday

Continued from Page 1

Currently GEDCO operates under "Type A" rules. Type A sales tax funding is primarily intended for manufacturing and industrial development. EDCs may use Type A revenue to fund land, buildings, equipment, facilities expenditures, targeted infrastructure and improvements for projects.

The Type B sales tax which the city and GEDCO wish to tap into may be used for any project eligible under Type A rules and several other project types, including quality of life improvements such as professional and amateur sports and athletic facilities, tourism and entertainment facilities, convention facilities and public parks; related store, restaurant, concession, parking and transportation facilities; related street, water and sewer facilities; and affordable housing.

Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 1 on the following propositions for the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation:

Proposition A: The use of a portion of the existing one-half cent sales and use tax for land,

buildings, equipment, facilities, and improvements found by the board of directors to be required or suitable for use for professional and amateur sports, including children's sports, athletic, entertainment, tourist, convention, and public park purposes and events, authorized by Section 505.152 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended.

Proposition B: The use of a portion of the existing one-half cent sales and use tax for land, buildings, equipment, facilities, and improvements found by the board of directors to be required or suitable for the development or expansion of airport or railport facilities, including hangars, maintenance and repair facilities, cargo facilities, and related infrastructure located on or adjacent to an airport or railport facility, authorized by Section 505.1561 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended.

Proposition C: The use of a portion of the existing one-half cent sales and use tax for land, buildings, equipment, facilities, expenditures, targeted infrastructure, and improvements found by the corporation's board of directors to promote new or

expanded business development, authorized by Section 505.158 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended.

Proposition D: The use of sales and use tax proceeds for infrastructure relating to water supply facilities.

Proposition E: The use of sales and use tax proceeds for infrastructure relating to water conservation programs.

Early voting ended on April 27. The use of the sales tax for economic development purposes has been one of the most popular and effective tools used by cities to promote economic development.

Since the authorization for the local option tax took effect in 1989, more than 586 cities have levied an economic development sales tax.

These cities have cumulatively raised in excess of \$573 million annually in additional sales tax revenue dedicated to the promotion of local economic development.

Of these cities, 101 have adopted a Type A economic development sales tax, 367 cities have adopted a Type B economic development sales tax, and 118 cities have adopted both a Type A and a Type B sales tax.

Workforce Solutions East Texas to host virtual hiring event April 29

Workforce Solutions East Texas (WSET) is pleased to announce its next virtual job fair connecting job seekers to employers looking to hire. With traditional events restricted due to COVID-19, WSET uses a new virtual platform to protect attendees' health and safety. The East Texas Virtual Job Fair will take place on Thursday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WSET has had success with hosting hiring events virtually. Last month, our Spring Expo virtual event resulted in over 120 job seekers in attendance and 234 chats with employers.

"As we leave COVID behind, we can carry our hard-won



lessons with us. Virtual work and meetings have become a regular part of our national working landscape. Jump in with us and experience how productive you can be, simply by logging in!" said WSET Executive Director Doug Shryock.

"Workforce Solutions East Texas has spent a significant amount of time and resources to create a virtual platform for our customers. We are excited to

be hosting this hiring event and encourage job seekers to use the services through our job centers to prepare for their next job or career move," said WSET Center Director Mary Ann Rojas.

Approximately 30 employers are signed up looking to connect with potential candidates for Thursday's event. See the participating employers and register to attend by visiting www.easttexasworkforce.org/virtual-job-fairs. Our virtual event software is simple and easy to use, connecting individuals with employers through 1-on-1 text-based chats from the comfort of their home, office, smartphone, or tablet.

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AUCTION

Female Offering Sale, Sat., May 1 @ noon, 200+, 1918 Hwy 80, Karnes City, TX. Regular Saturday sale to follow. For pictures visit www.karnescityauction.com, call Josh 830-623-2855, 830-780-3382.

EVENTS

New Braunfels Area Car Club Swap Meet & Sunday Car Show, April 30-May 2, Comal County Fairgrounds, 801 E. Common St., New Braunfels. www.newbraunfelsareacarclub.com. Face Masks Required!

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Thurs., April 29 ~ 7:00-5:30 Fri., April 30 ~ 8:00-5:30
Sat., May 1 ~ 8:00-2:00

1421 Hollytree Pl. ~ Tyler TX 75703

Outside SSW Loop 323 & off S. Broadway turn west onto Grande and left onto Hollytree Dr. Pass the clubhouse and tennis courts to Hollytree Pl. on the right; you will need to park on Hollytree Dr.

This Hollytree garden home is for sale; the following contents must go: lovely din. table & 6 chairs; cream-colored sectional sofa; another sofa; green leather sofa; glass top coffee table; round wood coffee table; glass display cabinet; 2 black leather club chairs; Vase & Sons piano; misc. side tables; Asian sofa table & stools; plant stands; chests; nightstands; twin beds; queen headboard; bamboo style king headboard & e-tagere; fireplace tools; TV trays; brass candlesticks & planters; holiday items; NIKKO Christmas dishes & glasses; books; linens; men and women's clothes & shoes (some size 4-4 1/2 shoes); purses; hats; mink jackets; kitchen items; crosses; stemware; floor & table lamps; Asian framed silks; framed art; breakfast table & 4 chairs; table/ 2 chairs; silverplate serv. pcs.; Singer sew. mach.; entertainment cabinet; vanity stools; ottomans; frames; Haas Jordan golf umbrella/ seat; golf bags/clubs; golf caps; ice skates; luggage stand; briefcases; mirrors; SkyScan atomic clock; other clocks; CD's; DVD's; vacuum; dryer; patio sets of couches, chairs, & tables; pet carrier; stadium seats, tree trimmer; planters; yard art; gazing balls; tools; TV; ice chests; ladders; electronics; soooo much more!!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOffEastTexas.com

LEGAL

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A BG PERMIT. NEAMAN CAIN DBA ELECTRIK SMOKE LLC, TO BE LOCATED AT 100 E UPSHUR, GLADEWATER, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS. OFFICER OF SAID CORPORATION IS NEAMAN CAIN, MANAGING MEMBER.

PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before Planning & Zoning Commission of Gladewater, Texas Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, Texas to consider:

a) a request for a variance to City of Gladewater Code of Ordinance §5.05.120(B) – Connection to City System Required at ABS A8 AUGUSTINE, HENRY W, TRACT 169 – 3.363 ACRES, more commonly known as 2179 W. Lake Drive.

A second public hearing will be conducted by the Gladewater City Council on May 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend these public hearings or send written comments to City of Gladewater, Judy Van Houten, City Clerk, PO Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647.

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Lightning sparks tank battery

By Phillip Williams

Lightning caused a "huge" fire, visible for miles, which destroyed at least two fiberglass tanks and a steel tank on U.S. 271 a short distance south of Gilmer Saturday night, said Gilmer Fire Chief Jerry Taylor.

The lightning struck a tank battery, owned by TGNR Gulf Coast Resources, near Duoline Technologies, said Taylor.

Firefighters received the call at 10:19 p.m. and joined a TGNR official at the scene in concluding it was best to let the scene cool down and burn down some until the next morning, Taylor said. Firefighters returned to the station at 1:17 a.m., then to the fire scene at 7 a.m. and remained till 9:15 a.m., the chief said.

The fire department put 60 gallons of foam concentrate on the blaze to extinguish it, Taylor said Monday. East Mountain, Bettie and West Mountain volunteer firefighters also responded to the scene Saturday night, he said.

TGNR brings in a by-product of natural gas, which separates out in the tanks and then is transported back out, Taylor said.



Photos by Cory Davis



Transparency bills on the move in Texas Legislature

By Kelley Shannon

Transparency bills are moving forward in the Texas Legislature with bipartisan support to promote open government and correct public information access problems that arose amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

With about five weeks left in the legislative session, here's a status report on bills backed by the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, the Texas Press Association, the Texas Association of Broadcasters and other members of the Transparent and Accountable Government Coalition:

Texas Open Meeting Act improvements

House Bill 2683 by Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburg, won unanimous approval in the Texas House of Representatives. It addresses online meetings allowed under the Texas Open Meetings Act. Though the virtual meetings provision of the law worked well for many governments during the pandemic, in some cases rules for public comment were unfairly imposed and telephone call-in lines were not provided to accommodate those without Internet. HB 2683 corrects those

problems. It now moves to the Senate.

Texas Public Information Act compliance

House Bill 1416 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, received approval in the House State Affairs Committee. The legislation defines business days under the Public Information Act to ensure timely responses to public records requests. Throughout the pandemic, many government offices have not responded to requestors, citing the physical closure of their offices or because they were operating on a "skeleton crew" with staffers working remotely. However, many records today are available electronically, meaning they likely can be accessed remotely. The bill next moves to the full House.

House Bill 3627 by Rep. Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, clarifies existing law pertaining to "catastrophe notices" that governments can file to briefly suspend TPIA responses during a disaster. This legislation adds specifics to the law to prevent abuse. It was approved by the House State Affairs Committee and is now moving to the full House. Senate Bill 1225 by Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, is the identical bill in the Senate and recently had a public hearing in the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.

House Bill 3015 by Rep. Ana Hernandez, D-Houston, won approval in the House State Affairs Committee and is heading to the full House. Enforcement measures in the bill require governments to respond to public records requestors even if no responsive documents are found so that requestors remain informed. It also calls for additional training if public officials aren't following the public information law.

Nursing home pandemic transparency

Senate Bill 930 by Sen. Judith

Zaffirini, D-Laredo, won passage in the Senate and is now in a House committee. Zaffirini's bill, including a key provision added from similar legislation by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, ensures nursing home residents and their loved ones can get the information they need about communicable disease outbreaks such as COVID-19. A House version of the bill, HB 3306, by Rep. Mayes Middleton, R-Wallisville, was approved in committee and is headed to the full House.

Other information access measures

House Bill 3535 by Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, which won approval in the House State Affairs Committee and now heads to the full House, reopens access to dates of birth in public records. Birthdates help ensure accuracy and aid citizens vetting a candidate for office; journalists identifying a person in a crime report; and banks, car loan companies, credit report firms and employers relying on public record background checks to conduct business.

House Bill 1810 by Capriglione was approved by the House State Affairs Committee and is headed to the full House. It provides access to searchable-sortable records, meaning that when government information is stored in spreadsheets or other electronic formats that can be searched and sorted a requestor has the right to ask for and obtain the records in that format.

A little more than a month remains for lawmakers to act, so it's time for open government supporters across Texas to let legislators know they support these proposals. Let's remind our elected officials how crucial transparency is to government accountability, and that's important to us all.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. For more information go to www.foift.org.

GISD get TEA \$A+

By Suzanne Bardwell

GISD got an A+ from the Texas Education Agency on the state's annual Financial Integrity Rating System. Passing is rated 60-79. Chief Financial Officer Glenda Hickey reported that GISD earned a 98.

"This good rating is representative of the oversight of Mrs. Hickey and the whole leadership team we have in place at GISD," Supt. Dr. Sedic Clark said.

Chief Operating Officer Kim Chatman reported on the district climate survey. She said the administration of the survey allows employee respondents to do so anonymously. The goal of the survey is to assess internal morale, look for patterns that need attention to improve the workplace climate and to retain teachers and other employees.

The survey showed that about 89% of employees ranked themselves 6 or higher on a 1-10 scale for "happiness at work" with 30.1% choosing 10 (extremely happy), 25.6% ranked 9, 19.2% ranked 8, 12.2% ranked 7 and 1.9% ranked 6. Of 156 respondents 76.3% said they would refer someone to work at Gladewater ISD. 93.6% of respondents said that they felt respected at work. Respondents also reported that students, colleagues and the family atmosphere was what they liked most about working at GISD.

Asst. Supt. Of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Cliff Lightfoot reported that state testing was being conducted as usual but that school districts would not be held accountable this year due to the pandemic effects. He said that the campuses would be using the information to determine which students would benefit from attending summer school.

Attorney Elizabeth Vaughn of McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen PC reported on delinquent tax collections for 2016-2019 with the span of cumulative percent collected running from 100.71% to 103.60%.

Trustees approved the auditing firm of Wilf & Henderson and the Powell Law Group in separate 6-0 votes with George Glenn absent.

Trustees also approved the expenditure of \$75,660 for the purchase of interactive flat panels to replace the aged out smart boards at Gladewater Primary School and Weldon Elementary School. The project was previously budgeted but delayed because of the purchase of additional Chrome books during the requirements for virtual learning. The district was reimbursed for the bulk of the Chrome books with CARES monies.

In other business board members approved contracts for fifth grade teacher Connie Pritchett and PE/Coach Philip Castles. Resignations were accepted from Vivian Garza, Lauren Carr, Jerry Barry, Karen Cunningham, LaKelia Williams and Rachel Taylor

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