

Gladewater Mirror



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50¢

Simmons hired to lead GFD

New Fire Chief to begin Jan. 1

By Jim Bardwell

Mike Simmons, currently the director of the Kilgore College Fire Academy, was introduced Monday at Gladewater City Hall as this next Gladewater Fire Chief.



SIMMONS

City Manager Ricky Tow, addressing council members as well as Gladewater firefighters and police officers, said Simmons was selected out of a field of 22 applicants. Tow thanked the review committee which consisted of the Sabine and White Oak fire chiefs and several Gladewater officials for helping in the recruitment process.

Simmons said he was "excited by the opportunity" and looked forward to working with current firefighters and building on the department's accomplishments. The new fire chief will make \$63,000/year.

Simmons said he plans to continue his relationship with the Kilgore Fire Academy, moving into an adjunct teaching role. That will also allow him access to new recruits when a position in Gladewater needs filling.

Before taking over the director's position at the Kilgore College Fire Academy Simmons served as assistant chief of operations at the Kilgore Fire Department. He also served as coordinator of the Kilgore emergency management and is on the board of directors of the Texas Association of Fire Educators.

Simmons served as a firefighter/paramedic for Garland from 1997-2010 and a training specialist there from 2010-12. Simmons also has served since 2002 as training captain for the North Texas Fire Academy/EMT School and is on the board of directors for the Sabine Volunteer Fire Department.

Gladewater Police Chief Gordon Freeman has been pulling double duty since February, when former GFD Chief Cory Crowell resigned, heading up both the police and fire departments.

Lewis leads Lady Bears to success

By Chris Jones

Fans may have noticed the Lady Bears winning more lately. A lot more. To put it in perspective, Gladewater finished the 2018-19 season at 4-14 near the bottom of district 16-3A. Last season the Lady Bears went undefeated in 15-3A as district champions, going 17-7 on the season. The 2020-21 Coach of the Year Jermaine Lewis may have played a pivotal role in that turnaround.

Hired by Gladewater ISD in 2008, Lewis originally coached the boys basketball team. He led them to a district championship in the 2015/16 (a first since 2001/02) season as well as earning himself the first of his two Coach of the Year awards.

Lewis began a notable basketball career playing at Wheatley High School in Houston. He continued showcasing his talent to score at Kilgore College before finishing his higher learning at University of Nevada Las Vegas. Lewis went on to play at the professional level joining the Euro League where he played in Saudi Arabia, China, Amsterdam, and Damascus, Syria for a combined six years. Lewis was recognized for his contributions to the Ranger program and was inducted into the Kilgore College Hall of Fame in 2019.

Whether it is the faster pace of the boys' game or the more fundamentally sound girls' game, Lewis has shown he can coach as well as play the game of basketball. He instills his will to win early working with the Savage Storm Little League teams and the Lady Bears on the middle school level.

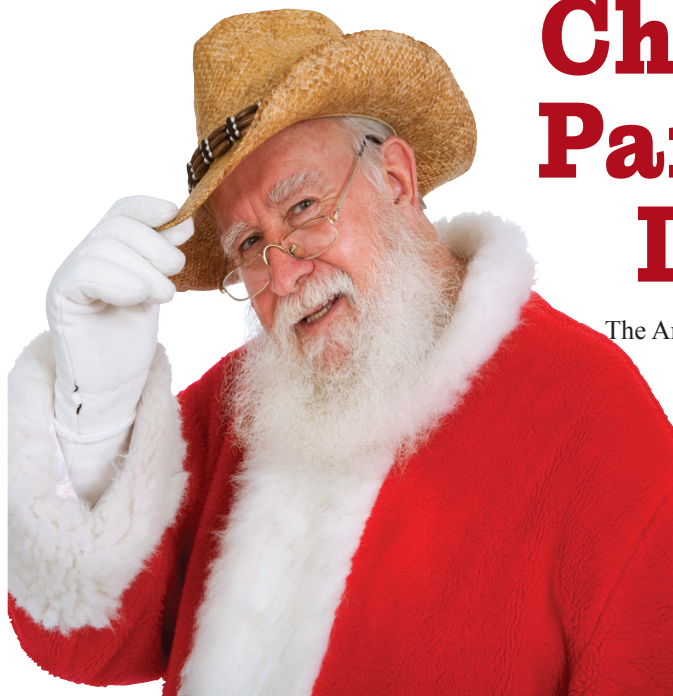


Coach Lewis's goal is to have Gladewater listed among the best in the state on the varsity level. According to Lewis, his plan is to use speed and depth to wear opponents down. Lewis expects Mount Vernon and Winnboro amongst other top tier teams to test the Lady Bears this season. Helping him get the team prepared to face their opponents are assistant coaches Quinton Thomas and Shelby Burns.



Michael Hines, co-owner of Scrubby Love, was honored as the Clarksville/Warren City Volunteer Firefighter of the Year at their annual banquet.

Courtesy Photo



Christmas Parade set Dec. 14th

The Annual Christmas Parade will be held next Tuesday - Dec. 14 - at 6 p.m. on Historic Downtown brick streets. The event is sponsored by the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce and Citizens Bank. The bank will also be handing out hot chocolate and cookies downtown. This year's theme is "A Texas Christmas," so expect to see a lot of boots and hats along with a while lot of Christmas cheer. Floats will be competing for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize money.

And as always - that jolly old elf Santa Claus will be making his traditional appearance a Fire Truck.

Marine's Toys for Tots

The annual Marine Toys for Tots toy drive is now accepting donations at McKaig Chevrolet, Edward Jones and Long Insurance until Dec. 15 during business hours. Thank you for your support of new TOYS for under privilege children.

Man sentenced to 400 years

By Phillip Williams

A judge sentenced Gladewater resident Joseph Paul Price to a total of 400 years in prison Monday after he pleaded guilty to eight counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

115th District Judge Dean Fowler sentenced Price, 48, to 50 years per count on charges of assaulting a girl shortly before her eighth birthday, Byrd said. Under current state law, the defendant, sentenced in Gilmer, would be ineligible for parole until he is in his eighties, the prosecutor added.

The offenses, investigated by the Upshur County Sheriff's Office, occurred between March and May in 2020, Byrd said in a news release. The county's grand jury indicted Price last March 26, he said.

What is the value of real Christmas trees in Texas

Christmas trees have been a tradition in the United States for over a century and today, when most families begin searching for the perfect Christmas tree, it comes down to one question - real or artificial? While there are many pros and cons to having a real or artificial tree during the holiday season, one thing is certain - real Christmas trees add great value to both the national and state economies.

"There's just something special about having a real Christmas tree around during the holidays," said Aaron Stottlemeyer, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Resource Analyst. "Not only are they beloved for the authenticity they bring to celebrations, but they add so much value to our economy and benefit the environment."

When it comes to Christmas tree farms, many might think of northern states, covered in white, glistening snow. Actually, Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, almost 350 million Christmas trees are currently growing on 15,000 tree farms across the country, covering 350,000 acres.

For the Lone Star State, Dr. R. R. Childers was the first on record to plant Christmas trees in 1935 in Jasper, Texas. And since the 1970s, entities such as Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M University and Stephen F. Austin University have been working on growing optimal species in the state to increase production and sales for Christmas tree growers. The most commonly



grown trees in Texas are Virginia pine, Afghan pine, eastern redcedar, shortleaf pine, Arizona cypress and Leyland cypress.

These species thrive in Texas soils and tend to be hardy, fast-growing trees. They also contribute to the state's economy, by providing jobs and income to Texans.

Artificial trees made of PVC plastic became fashionable in the 1980s, but even as they have grown in

popularity over the last 40 years, real Christmas tree sales remain higher across the nation. On average, Texas sells over four million real Christmas trees per year, about 12% of the U.S. total. And while you can purchase trees from large retail stores, many tree sales come from local growers.

"Texans can take pride when purchasing real Christmas trees," said Stottlemeyer. "By purchasing real Christmas trees, they are supporting local growers and benefiting rural Texas economies."

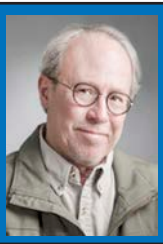
Texas A&M Forest Service recently conducted an economic study showing just how much value the real Christmas tree industry adds to the state. Including total direct impacts and all other ancillary industry activities, in 2020 the Christmas tree industry generated over \$800 million and supported nearly 7,000 jobs with a payroll of \$260 million.

When contrasted with artificial Christmas trees, the nation and state do not see nearly the economic benefits as provided by real trees, as they are largely manufactured in foreign countries.

"Unlike artificial Christmas trees, the real Christmas tree industry has a continuous cycle of economic benefit for our state," said Stottlemeyer. "There is a significant domestic economic impact from real Christmas trees considering that they are planted, managed, harvested, processed, transported and sold only to start the entire cycle again by planting new seedlings each year."

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



State lowers price cap for power providers

The state's Public Utility Commission last week lowered the maximum allowable wholesale price for electricity by almost half, from \$9,000 per megawatt hour to \$5,000.

The move came after prices soared to the maximum during last February's deadly freeze, causing financial havoc along with the widespread power outages. A number of electric providers declared bankruptcy after being faced with enormous bills, including Brazos Electric Power Cooperative and Griddy Energy.

As the Austin American-Statesman reported, the state's largely deregulated electricity market provides financial incentives to prompt power generators to deliver more electricity to the grid during peak demand. But those incentives came with steep prices, and some Griddy customers received electric bills of nearly \$10,000. Those bills were ultimately forgiven under an agreement negotiated by the attorney general's office.

Peter Lake, chairman of the PUC, said lowering the price ceiling will "make sure the people of Texas are not exposed to those extraordinary high prices" again, the Statesman reported.

However, the CEO of the state's largest power generator worries the state has not done enough to insulate itself against another deadly freeze. Curt Morgan of Vistra Corp. said that while his company has spent \$50 million this year weatherizing more than a dozen plants, the state still hasn't ensured a reliable supply of natural gas. The Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the natural gas industry, is still working to finalize rules that would set weatherization mandates. However, those rules would not go into effect until early 2023, the Texas Tribune reported.

Morgan told legislators that Vistra's plants couldn't get enough natural gas to run anywhere near full capacity during the freeze.

"Why couldn't we get it?" Morgan said. "Because the gas system was not weatherized. And so we had natural gas producers that weren't producing."

State to get \$35 billion in infrastructure funds

In the next five years Texas will get more than \$35 billion in federal funding for roads, public transportation and water system improvements, The Dallas Morning News reported. The funding is part of the massive infrastructure bill Congress passed in November to provide \$548 billion in new investments across the country over five years.

The state's road system got a "D+" in a 2021 report card from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

"Current funding levels and resources from the state's gas tax are inadequate to keep up with Texas' projected growth, leaving a \$15 billion annual gap through 2040," the engineering report said.

The federal funding also includes \$1.2 billion for Texas airports, \$537 million to replace and repair bridges and at least \$100 million for broadband expansion, according to The Morning News.

Webinars explain tuition fund

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund is offering a series of webinars to provide an overview of the state's prepaid college tuition plan. In addition, the webinars will explain scholarship opportunities that are available.

Anyone interested can sign up for a webinar at www.texastuitionpromisefund.com/events/.

New COVID-19 cases, deaths increase

While the appearance of the omicron variant of COVID-19 dominates the news, no cases of the variant had been reported in Texas as of Sunday. Health officials say it's a matter of time, but they don't yet know how severe and how contagious it will be.

What is known is that the number of new cases of COVID-19 in Texas in the past week rose to 30,201, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University — the highest level since late October. A total of 564 deaths were reported. The delta variant continues to be the dominant strain, infecting mostly unvaccinated Texans.

Lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state was largely unchanged, with 2,886 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services as of Sunday. The state crossed the 16 million mark of fully vaccinated people, with 3.175 million people also receiving an additional dose, according to DSHS. To date, 55% of the state's total population is fully vaccinated.

OBITUARY

MR. JOHN E. LOWE

Lifetime resident John E. Lowe of Gladewater, passed away on November 21, 2021.

Mr. Lowe is preceded in death by a daughter, Alisa Gaye Abbott, 1 brother and 2 sisters. He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Patricia Lowe; survived by 1 son James Lowe; 1 daughter Teresa Wright and numerous Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

He was much loved and will be missed.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Life is filled with decisions every day, because man is a free moral agent, i.e., he has the power of choice. We all make decisions all of the time. For example, we decide what we will eat, what we will wear. We decide where we will go to college, and for how long. We decide who we will marry, what doctor to go to, what car we drive, and what church we are a part of, and attend. On and on we could go ad infinitum i.e., the list is endless. Please remember that decisions we make bring responsibilities and have consequences.

We cannot avoid making decisions, because, when we decide we will not choose or make a decision, we are in fact choosing or making a decision. Think on that for a moment! One of the greatest decisions we will ever make in life, is whether we will serve God, or whether we will serve the devil. Believe me, that decision has great responsibilities and eternal consequences. That decision will come easier when our will to please and serve God outweighs our will to love and please the world and the devil.

In Joshua 24: 14-15 we read: "Fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods (idols) and serve the Lord. And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." The people were given the alternative, serve God or their idols. It was decision time, and only they could make it!

In Matt., 16: 24, 26, Jesus said: "If anyone desires to come after Me let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or, what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Do you see the alternative: "deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Jesus" or "try and gain the whole world and lose your soul?" My friend, it's your choice. It's decision time! Remember, you will live with your decision throughout eternity! Think on these things.

Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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...lessons on losing a friend

"Time is what we want most, but what we use worst..."

William Penn

Sometimes life stabs you in the heart when you least expect it. Last Friday I drove to Corsicana to attend the funeral of one of my best 'kid' friends. Daphne always packed a powerful laugh and a load of enthusiasm for life into her 5' nothing body. The blonde with the ice blue eyes was often my sidekick, if not leading the way in a long list of high jinks during our teen years.

The far too young minister who preached her funeral marveled that she had recently zip lined at her 'advanced' age. I wanted to throw a hymnal at him...and not just for Daphne. He sure didn't know her very well, if at all. She had just returned from a trip to Bahrain when she shockingly had a stroke. She was in shape, active and healthy, living life to the hilt.

She was always a risk taker. She liked fast cars, flying, dancing and travel. Her former husband, another friend from our high school years, told me that she once found a letter from her mother to a relative, which was never mailed, in the glove compartment of a family car. The letter called Daph "our little rebel". She was never really a rebel, but she definitely was strong-willed.

If not for her I probably wouldn't be writing this column or married for 46 and a half years to my church camp sweetheart. I would have gone to SFA single and not to East Texas State University married. The story goes like this:

Daphne had read in our church denomination's regional newsletter that my sweetheart's cousin, on whom she had a crush, was going to be speaking at Longview's First Christian Church. She decided we would sneak off on Sunday morning and drive two and a half hours (two for us...still two for me now) to Longview. I told my grandmother, with whom I lived at the time that I was going to church with a friend... which was true...sort of...

First, I had to throw my Corsicana Daily Sun paper route. I was a sophomore in college with three part-time jobs and getting that paper on the lawns at the crack of dawn was one of them. The press had a problem. I was late and always impatient Daphne, along with her sister, left without me. I had never driven outside of Navarro County

Suzanne Bardwell



but I felt compelled to point my little blue Capri east on Highway 31 and hit the accelerator. When I finally got to Longview's Spur 63, I asked a man in a red shirt driving a white Cadillac how to get to First Christian Church. He asked me if I was from Longview to which I replied, "No Sir." He said, "you will never find it, follow me." And so I did...he waved me off as I turned into the church's parking lot. I've often wondered about that serendipitous moment. This was well before GPS and smartphones ensured we arrived where we wanted to end up.

I made my way to the church's balcony where my friends were. And there he was...a tall, good looking skinny kid, all hair and gorgeous eyes. The same kid I had fallen in love with at church camp. He was beyond excited to see me, running up the steps and wrapping me up in a great big hug. To this day I can describe my sweetheart's suit and the wide '70s tie he had on that long ago Sunday morning.

We all went out for pizza after church. As my church camp sweetheart took me back to my car, we stopped at the stop sign between First Christian Church and Trinity Episcopal. I looked at him and told him to "kiss me". He did and I knew I was going to marry him. And we did just that, a little less than six months later, with Daphne as one of my bridesmaids.

I had not talked to my friend in years and that is a shame...my heart-breaking shame. Daphne, thank you for all the fun we had growing up. Thanks for the laughter, the adventures and the tears that came from our friendship. My world is a little smaller and a little less shiny with knowing you are no longer in it.

And to you, my dear readers, friends and neighbors, if there is someone out there who made a difference in your life with their friendship and love, maybe, just maybe, you should let them know today how much it meant. Time never stands still and the clock stops for no one.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Coming Back ...

In early 2020, COVID-19 plunged the economy into freefall, abruptly reversing a historic expansion. Although the sharp declines only persisted for about two months, almost 1.5 million jobs disappeared across Texas. The loss of income and financial security for millions of families and small businesses added to the immeasurable human costs and tragic loss of life associated with the pandemic and measures required to slow its spread.

Some 21 months later, we are finally reaching the point where many geographic areas are back to their pre-pandemic levels of employment. However, the recovery has been uneven (as expected), and some places still have far to go. Let's look at how Texas and its metropolitan areas are faring based on the most recent (October) estimates.

In February 2020, Texas employment was nearly 13.0 million. By April 2020, it had fallen to 11.5 million.

Recovery began fairly quickly, as the economy was relatively healthy going into the pandemic and no major structural problems were prevalent. As businesses reopened through the summer, jobs began to be restored; the state has added jobs in 17 of the past 18 months. The pace has been variable, largely tracking the ebb and flow of the severity of the virus. In October, the seasonally adjusted Texas unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% as the economy added 56,600 jobs. The latest total of 12.9 million is only slightly below the pre-pandemic level.

Several metropolitan areas have exceeded their February 2020 employment. Abilene, Amarillo, Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Dallas-Plano-Irving, Killeen-Temple,

Lubbock, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Sherman-Denison, Tyler, and Waco now enjoy jobs numbers which are at or above those observed before the pandemic. Beaumont-Port Arthur, Brownsville-Harlingen, College Station-Bryan, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Fort Worth-Arlington, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Laredo, Longview, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, San Antonio-New Braunfels, Texarkana, Victoria, and Wichita Falls remain below February 2020.

One common denominator among most of the places slower to recover is the greater importance of oil and gas activity (upstream and downstream). In fact, some of the most energy dependent markets are further below prior peaks than the worst days of

the pandemic for the state as a whole. This pattern will be reversed in the coming years. Tourism destinations are also suffering disproportionately. Conversely, improvement has occurred more rapidly where economies are either particularly diverse or closely tied to industries (such as technology-oriented sectors, logistics, and professional services) amenable to remote work or subject to less harm (or even benefitted from the calamity).

Things are clearly moving in the right direction, with many parts of Texas topping pre-COVID-19 employment levels. While the growth we should have seen during this period has largely been foregone or at least deferred, we are now proceeding along an upward trajectory. Stay safe!!



The festively decorated home of Eileen and A.J. Meals at 314 N. Main Street is the December Yard of the Month. The period trellis is covered in greenery for the holidays with perennial and seasonal flowers and native grasses. The multilevel shrubs and trees cradle this beautifully maintained home which welcomes thousands of visitors driving through Gladewater daily. Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

Yard of the Month

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

GISD Calendar
12/8, Wednesday
 GHS EOC Testing

12/9, Thursday
 GHS EOC Testing
 Bear BB@Frankston Tourney
 6:30 p.m. Band Concert—
 GHS Aud.

12/10, Friday
 GHS EOC Testing
 Bear BB@Frankston Tourney
 5 p.m. Lady Bear BB vs.
 West Rusk-H

12/11, Saturday
 Bear BB@Frankston Tourney
 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday
 School
 Band All Region Tryouts@
 New Boston
 4:30-8:30 p.m. HoneyBear
 Parents Night Out

12/13, Monday
 Choir Christmas Tour
 4-8 p.m. Santa's Workshop
 GHS Cafe
 5 p.m. Bear Soccer vs.
 Brownsboro-H
 6 p.m. Band Booster Meeting

12/14, Tuesday
6 p.m. Christmas Parade

12/15, Wednesday
 Sources of Strength Training
 GHS

12/16, Thursday
12:55 Early Release
 Bear BB@Union Grove
 Tourney

12/17, Friday
**Student Holiday/Teacher
 Workday**
 Bear BB@Union Grove
 Tourney
 5 p.m. JV/V Lady Bear BB@
 Sabine

12/18, Saturday
 11 a.m. Darren Richardson
 Piano Recital GHS Cafe
 Bear BB@Union Grove
 Tourney

New Owner - New Look, Jackson's Theatre Opening Soon

What was once the Gladwater Opry House (originally the Cozy Theatre) is now JACKSON'S THEATRE. Built in 1933, the Cozy Theatre saw the likes of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Tina Turner to name a few.

"This theatre has so much history and I believe it is up to me to put Gladwater on the map as the Music Capital of East Texas if not Texas all together!" Foltyn said. "We have changed the stage to make it bigger to put on bigger shows. I want to create shows for all ages so that everyone has a show in mind they want to see."

Foltyn adds, "Yes! Everyone is in love with the history of the theatre, but I'm in love with the possibilities within the community. I envision bringing in tourists for a fabulous weekend of shopping and a show."

Foltyn's season will be revealed on December 17 at 7:30 at Jackson's Theatre, located at 108 E. Commerce. This will be a free event to come and visit the theatre and see what Jackson's Theatre has in store for the 2022 season. A first for the community as there will be a variety of shows with more than one type of genre.

Auditions are Dec. 11th and 12th at the theatre. If you are a musician, actor, dancer and/or singer, they want you to come out and audition. "I can't really tell you how excited I am to REVEAL what we are doing next year! It will be pretty fantastic!" Foltyn said.

For more information contact Jackson's Theatre at: jacksondance@icloud.com or call 936-661-7658.

COVID-19 vaccination clinic set for Dec. 13 in Parks Fitness Center

Kilgore College will host a COVID-19 vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13.

The clinic will be held in the carpeted gym of Parks Fitness Center, 701 Laird St., on the Kilgore campus.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the Northeast Texas Public Health District to provide services designed to foster the health and safety of the college and our community," said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna third-dose vaccines (Immunocompromised population) will be available. Pfizer boosters will also be available.

Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Face coverings are required to be worn inside the vaccination clinic. No appointment is needed as walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call (903) 617-6404.



Gladwater Bear Kollin Lewis catches air on his way to the basket soaring over his Queen City Bulldog opponents. Lewis scored 30 points in the Bear 73-62 win which was this past weekend in White Oak.
 Photo By Mike Peery

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Telephone: 903-845-2235
Fax: 903-845-2237
Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

Owners:
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell
Advertising: Suzanne Bardwell
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GHS Boys JV & Varsity Schedule

December 9-11	@ Frankston Tournament	TBD
December 14	Open	
December 16-18	@Union Grove Tournament	TBD
December 21	@ Daingerfield	5:00 & 6:20
December 28	@ Harmony	12:00 & 1:15
January 4	New Diana	5:00 & 6:20
January 7	@ Hughes Springs	5:00 & 6:20
January 11	White Oak	5:00 & 6:20
January 14	@ Ore City	5:00 & 6:20
January 18	Open	
January 21	@ Sabine	5:00 & 6:20
January 25	Daingerfield	5:00 & 6:20
January 28	@ New Diana	5:00 & 6:20
February 1	Hughes Springs	5:00 & 6:20
February 4	White Oak	5:00 & 6:20
February 8	Ore City	5:00 & 6:20
February 11	Open	
February 15	Sabine	5:00 & 6:20
February 19	District Certification	
February 21-22	Bi-District	
February 24-26	Area	
February 28- March 1	Quarterfinal	
March 4-5	Regional	
March 10-12	State	



Gladewater Lady Bears - L-R Ebony Pipkin, Teya Grooms, Sydney Keller, JaKiyah Bell, Ramya Ransom, Coach Jermaine Lewis, MaKayla Police, Kamryn Floyd, Kiyona Parker, Alexis Boyd, Cariesma Colbert, Kyla Lincoln, Calice Henderson. Photo by Chris Jones

UGHS Lady Lions Schedule

Nov. 9	Hughes Springs	UG JVG/VG	5 PM
Nov. 13	Gladewater	UG JVG/VG	12 PM
Nov. 16	White Oak	UG JVG/VG	5 PM
Nov. 18, 19, 20	UG Tournament	UG VG	TBA
Nov. 22	Harmony	UG JVG/VG	12 PM
Dec. 2, 3, 4	McLeod Tournament	McLeod VG	TBA
Dec. 6	White Oak WO	JVG/VG	5 PM
Dec. 9, 10, 11	Gary Tournament	Gary VG	TBA
Dec. 17	Tyler Heat	UG JVG/VG	5 PM
Dec. 28	Queen City	UG JVG/VG	12 PM
Dec. 30	Longview Heat	UG VG 11 AM	
Dec. 31	Spring Hill	UG JVG/VG 1	1 AM
Jan. 7	Carlisle Carlisle	VG	6 PM
Jan. 11	Big Sandy Big Sandy	JVG/VG	5 PM
Jan. 14	Overton	UG JVG/VG	4 PM
Jan. 18	Beckville Beckville	JVG/VG	4 PM
Jan. 21	Hawkins	UG JVG/VG	4 PM
Jan. 25	Carlisle	UG VG	6 PM
Jan. 28	Big Sandy Sr Night	UG JVG/VG	4 PM
Feb. 1	Overton Overton	JVG/VG	4 PM
Feb. 4	Beckville	UG JVG/VG	4 PM
Feb. 8	Hawkins Hawkins	JVG/VG	4 PM
Feb. 14th - Mar 5th		STATE PLAYOFFS	

GHS Lady Bears Schedule

December 14	@ West Rusk	5:00 & 6:30
December 17	@ Sabine	5:00 & 6:30
December 21	Daingerfield	1:00 & 2:30
December 28-30	@ Hawkins Tournament	TBD
January 4	@ New Diana	5:00 & 6:30
January 7	Hughes Springs	5:00 & 6:30
January 11	@ White Oak	5:00 & 6:30
January 14	Ore City	5:00 & 6:30
January 18	Open	
January 21	Sabine	5:00 & 6:30
January 25	@ Daingerfield	5:00 & 6:30
January 28	New Diana	5:00 & 6:30
February 1	@ Hughes Springs	5:00 & 6:30
February 4	White Oak	5:00 & 6:30
February 8	@ Ore City	5:00 & 6:30
February 10-12	Tie-Breaker Warm Up	
February 14-15	Bi-District	
February 17-19	Area	
February 21-22	Regional Quarterfinal	
February 24-25	Regional Semifinals	
February 28- March 1	Regional Finals	
March 10-11	State Tournament	



Union Grove Lady Lions - L-R Gracie Stanford, Gracie Winn, Tyler Littlejohn, Esmeralda Escobedo, Brady Colby, Analeice Jones, Ava Wightman, Bailey Clowers, Sumeet Mattu, Macey Roberts. Photo by Chris Jones

UGHS Boys JV & Varsity Schedule

Dec. 10	Quitman Quitman	JVB/VB	5/ 6:30 PM
Dec. 14	Queen City Home	JVB/VB	5/ 6:30 PM
Dec. 16-18	Union Grove Tournament	Home JVB/VB	TBA
Dec. 28	Edgewood Home	JVB/VB	1/ 3:00 PM
Dec. 31	Spring Hill Home	JVB/VB	1/ 3:00 PM
Jan. 4	Martins Mill Martins Mill	JVB/VB	5/ 8:00 PM
Jan. 7	Broadus Home	JVB/VB	5/ 7:30 PM
	***DISTRICT 21AA *** REGION III ***		
Jan. 14	Overton UG	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Jan. 18	Beckville Beckville	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Jan. 21	Hawkins UG	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Jan. 25	Carlisle UG	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Jan. 28	Big Sandy UG	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Feb. 1	Overton Overton	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Feb. 4	Beckville *SR Night*	UG JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Feb. 8	Hawkins Hawkins	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Feb. 11	Carlisle Carlisle	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Feb. 15	Big Sandy Big Sandy	JVB/VB	5/7:30 PM
Feb. 18	Warmup game	TBA VB	TBA
Feb. 21- Mar 12		STATE PLAYOFFS	

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Lady Bears beat Athens

Gladewater's JaKiyah Bell and Kiyona Parker combined for 37 of Gladewater's 49-44 win over the Athens Tournament host. Bell added 7 rebs, 3 asst, 2 stand a block while Parker grabbed 4 stl, 5 asst, 3 rebs. Kamryn Floyd helped the Lady Bears edge the Lady Hornets with 6 pts, 2 asst, along with a steal and a block. The win put Gladewater at 3-2 in the tournament after a slow start had them begin 0-2. Falling to LaPoynor and last year's State Finalist Martins Mill 76-56 and 70-20 respectively. Gladewater rebounded the following day beating Texas City 54-39 and Ennis 43-36. The Lady Bears sit at 8-3 on the season as of the Athens Tournament.



Lady Bear Calice Henderson makes a fast break against Martin's Mill.

Photo by Chris Jones



Gladewater's MaKayla Police makes a layup over Martin's Mill defenders.

Photo by Chris Jones

Sabine runs by Lady Bears

Sabine outscored the Lady Bears JV squad 25-0 in the first period in route to a 58-16 win in their final game of the White Oak Tournament. Claudia Simmons had 16 pts while Maddie Furh added 12. The win for Sabine made them 1-2 on the tournament after falling to Tatum and Tyler HEAT 41-50 and 34-39 respectively. The Lady Cards host Gladewater on Dec 17.

Lady Lion coach claims 400th win

Union Grove's Sumeet Mattu put up 14, helping JB Littlejohn get his 400th career win. The Lady Lions beat Alba Golden 46-33 in the McLeod Tournament. Also scoring for Union Grove were Gracie Winn and Brady Colby with 7 apiece. Tyler Littlejohn added 5, Mac-ey Roberts 3, Taylor Campbell 3, Analeice Jones 2, Scott 2, Taylor 2, Ava Wightman 1. In the same tournament, the Lady Lions fell to Redwater 25-33. Winn led the Grove in that game with 10 points, followed by Littlejohn with 4.

TRADES DAYS THIS WEEKEND

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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Cause No. 2017-0137-E

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PHYLLIS MCKEE, Deceased, were issued to SHELLEY ROSE WESTRICH on May 8, 2017, in Cause No. 2017-0137-E, as Independent Executor. Said case is currently pending in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Gregg County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present their claims against this Estate within 120 days after the date of this notice or the claim is barred, if the claim is not otherwise barred by the general statute of limitations.

c/o: Darryl V. Pratt, Esq., CPA
PRATT LAW GROUP, PLLC
2591 Dallas Parkway, Suite 505 Frisco, Texas 75034
DATED the 29th day of October, 2021.
PRATT LAW GROUP, PLLC
/s/ Darryl V. Pratt Texas State Bar No. 24002789
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Union Grove's forward Aubrey Woodard keeps his laser focus and avoids a flying Wildcat in the matchup with Winona at the tournament held in White Oak this past weekend. Teammate Michael Hammett gets ready to deflect flying Wildcats. The Lions took the win 57-32
Photo By Mike Peery



The Kilgore College softball team last week signed nine high school players for the 2022-23 season, including Union Grove's Jocy Suarez (OF) and Sabine's Koletta Galvan (C/UT). KC will begin its 10th softball season in school history in January. Head softball coach is Trish Robinson and assistant coach is Kendyl Dockter.

Bob's **BASEBALL** Tours

Field of Dreams Tour ▶ Home games for Chicago (Cubs/White Sox), Brewers and Twins. Also a visit to the Field of Dreams movie site. Tour begins/ends in Minnesota.
Aug. 15-21, 2022

New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour ▶ Home games for New York (Yankees/Mets) and Red Sox. Guided Tour of NYC, free time in Boston, Trolley Tour in Maine, travel through White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire & scenic train ride in Vermont. Tour begins/ends in Newark, NJ.
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Upshur SO special unit make multiple arrests

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested four persons on various charges in November, Sheriff Larry Webb said Monday.

Details, based on a report from sheriff's Lt. Gary Shirley, were as follows, and all suspects were lodged in the county jail at Gilmer, said Webb:

Stephanie Denton, 47, of Gilmer, was arrested Nov. 15 on a charge of possession of controlled substance--more than one, but less than four, grams of methamphetamine.

The unit was conducting a narcotics investigation in the Harmony community area when it stopped her vehicle at Four Corners Store at the intersection of Texas 154 and FM 1002. With K-9 dog Marco's help, the SIU found and seized about 3.1 grams of methamphetamine.

Larry Dean Stucky, 45, of Hawkins, was arrested Nov. 2 on outstanding warrants from Upshur and

Wood Counties.

He was charged with misdemeanor assault/family violence in Upshur, felony possession of controlled substance in Wood. The SIU was conducting a drug investigation in the West Mountain community area when it stopped his vehicle at the intersection of U.S. 271 and Pacal Road and learned of the warrants.

The unit was investigating suspicious activity at the Lucky 7 game room in West Mountain Nov. 3 when it observed and arrested Rickey Townsend, 39, of Gilmer, who was known to have an outstanding Upshur County warrant charging him with felony credit card abuse.

While investigating suspicious activity at the same game room Nov. 9, the unit arrested Wesley Propps, 34, of Broken Bow, Okla., on an Upshur warrant charging him with felony possession of controlled substance.

The unit had stopped Propps' vehicle at Silk Tree Road and 271.

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