



Shutdown could halt SNAP for 3.5M

The continuing federal shutdown means food benefits provided to 3.5 million Texans could be cut off in November, The Texas Tribune reported. Of those affected, nearly half are children.

“SNAP has funding available for benefits and operations through the month of October,” according to a letter written by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service to state agencies. “However, if the current lapse in appropriations continues, there will be insufficient funds to pay full November SNAP benefits for approximately 42 million individuals across the nation.”

Nearly one fourth of traffic deaths in oil and gas region areas

The Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to be extra cautious when driving in one of the state’s five main energy regions — the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale, Anadarko Basin and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale. One in four of the state’s 1,023 traffic fatalities in 2024 occurred in those areas.

“Oil and gas production activity means large trucks and heavy machinery share the road with local traffic on rural roads and highways,” according to the news release. “Increased truck traffic can mean limited visibility for drivers and wear and tear on road surfaces, potentially creating hazards that are difficult to navigate and maneuver around.”

WOISD anticipates no tax increase if ‘refunding bond’ gets voter OK

By James Draper

In addition to the proposed amendments to the state constitution, White Oak ISD voters will be casting their ballots on a bookkeeping-bond for the school.

According to the district, there’s no projected tax increase if the measure passes, but that’s not a certainty.

As Superintendent Jack Parker explains, “It’s roughly a \$1 million refunding bond,” he said. “We’re asking the voters to re-fund from the M&O side to I&S side.”

Basically, moving a \$200,000 annual payment from operations to debt service.

“That accomplishes freeing up a little over \$200,000 a year in Maintenance & Operations for the next five years. That’s roughly how many years are left on the note.”

It’s not funding anything new, just changing the source of funds. Hence, no anticipated impact to local taxes.

“Our financial group, Live Oak Financial, are projecting zero tax impact,” Parker said. “We have the capacity to cover it there already,” from the Interest & Sinking fund. “We’re just asking the taxpayers to help us out and free up that \$200,000 a year.”

Per state rules, any school bond must carry certain language on the ballot.

“It will say ‘This is a property tax increase.’ What we are anticipating is there will be no impact to your taxes,” Parker said. “Every town hall or booster club meeting I’ve gone to I’ve tried to say that.

“We can’t tell you 100 percent there will be no impact, but we’re projecting there will be no tax increase.”

Early voting continues 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 30-31 at the Gregg County Elections Office then multiple polling stations are open (including the White Oak Community Center) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4.



Foul weather forced organizers to reschedule the 2025 Emergency Services Fall Fest to Halloween night, set for 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 Oct. 31 and relocated downtown to the derrick. It'll coincide with the third annual Trunk or Treat hosted by Living Water Church on Commerce Street. (Photo from 2024 EMS Fall Fest)

It's Double, double the candy with EMS Fest, Trunk or Treat on Friday

Last week’s stormclouds had a silver lining for local treat-or-treaters: their rain check for the 2025 Emergency Services Fall Fest has earned some interest ahead of Friday night’s fun.

Now set for 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 Halloween night, the event’s relocating downtown to Gladewater’s oil derrick and, in addition to the annual fare, it’ll coincide with the Trunk or Treat event hosted by Living Water Church nearby on Commerce Street.

After a rowdy forecast delayed the original plans last weekend, “We streamlined,” according to Gladewater Chamber Executive Director Lois Reed, tipping her hat to the church, which had already secured a blanket permit to temporarily close Commerce Street for its third annual family fun-and-candy event. “We’re not really partnering, but we’re going to be right there by Living Water. Kids can just have fun.”

Six bicycle prizes will be in the mix Oct. 31 thanks to local donors.

“The kids will sign up for them and at the end of our event we will award those bikes,” Reed added. Also, just recently, “I met in-person the real Spider-Man. He is going to come for photo ops and whatever,” she quipped.

Friday is an away game for the Gladewater (Go Bears!), Reed conceded, but she expects there will still be plenty of ‘littles’ around town ready to don their costumes and come out for free candy.

“It’s just a fun time.”

For more information or to contribute to the bike/candy pool, call Reed at 903-845-5501.



Bear Band supporters turn out with signs, cheers and cowbells to cheer on the Gladewater High School musicians as they depart for Tuesday’s state marching competition in Waco. Photos by James Draper



The White Oak High School Regiment of Roughnecks heads to state marching competition after receiving a hearty send-off Monday afternoon.

Early polling continues Oct. 30-31 on Texas Nov. 4 amendments

Early voting wraps up Friday before Election Day in the Nov. 4 Constitutional Amendment & Special Election.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has published another comprehensive, nonpartisan voters guide as Texans head to the polls. It’s available for download now from GladewaterMirror.com.

Last week marked the first stretch of early voting, and voters continued to hit the polls from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 27-29 at the Gregg County Elections Office at 100 E. Methvin St. in Longview.

For the final Thursday and Friday, Oct. 30-3. The elections office is welcoming voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Come Election Day, there will be nine polling centers in Gregg County, open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 4. The closest for local readers is the White Oak Community Center at 1103 S. White Oak Rd.

It’s similar early voting hours for Upshur County residents, directed to the Gilmer Civic Center at 1218 US HWY 271 N. After last week’s polling and more voting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 27-29, early votes can still be cast 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and Friday.

Nov 4 Election Ballot Language

According to the ballot language for the Nov. 4 Constitutional Amendment & Special Election:

- Proposition 1 - SJR 59 “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.”
- Proposition 2 - SJR 18 “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.”
- Proposition 3 - SJR 5 “The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.”
- Proposition 4 - HJR 7 “The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.”
- Proposition 5 - HJR 99 “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.”
- Proposition 6 - HJR 4 “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions.”
- Proposition 7 - HJR 133 “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected.”
- Proposition 8 - HJR 2 “The constitutional amendment to prohibit

Continued on Page 6

OPINION/COMMENTARY

...hands

There are so many things we want to hold onto as we grow older. Sentimental, with deepening meaning, a trinket from the past can bring smiles and tears. As I dusted, I picked up the little ceramic box with a pink-cheeked cherub on top that had been my grandmother’s. For decades of my life it sat on a white dresser that was my Mom’s when she was a little girl. As I picked it up I longed for the security and possibilities of youth. The scent of lemon Pledge furniture polish reminded me of Mam’ maw just as much as the sweet cherub that is at least 85 years old.

That pink-cheeked cherub reminded me of sacrifices made in love. My 5 foot nothing Mom and her sister-in-heart, my tall, laughing Aunt Gwen would take their children trick or treating around to neighbors and relatives when we were kids. That took some doing as we lived in the country 16 miles from the nearest town. I still have a scar on my cheek where my Casper the Friendly Ghost mask snapped its rubber band. Our neighbor Mary, who made popcorn balls that dazzled our little tastebuds gave me an extra one that year. The injury was well worth the treat. That Halloween homemade sweet dried my tears right up.

Although many of the people I have loved the most have left this world for a much better one, I still have the memories. And with age comes a deep longing for simpler, joyful times. We can only revisit those days in our memories, sweet and distant as they may be. Hopefully those memories enable us to build happy memories for others. After all, shared joy is one of the great gifts of our far too short lives.

The best part of my current long days is when my sweetheart holds my hand before we finally give in to sleep. With the schedule we often have, it is more a skidding to a stop at long last. The hands of those I have loved most in this world hold a special place in my heart. I can see my mother’s hands as she cooked, as she studied her Bible, as she worked tirelessly...the hands of my Mam’ maw who would rock me in a chair that squeaked as she sang “Up on the Rooftop” regardless

Suzanne Bardwell



of the time of year...the hands of my Nanny who was a nurse and always focused on a task...the roughened hands of my father broken by ranch work, accidents and hard labor.

Many years ago I was blessed to attend the Walk to Emmaus religious retreat. It was there that “becoming the hands and feet of Christ” became very real to me. My own hands, that have been tenderly held by my parents, my sweetheart, and my only child, looked different to me after that ‘walk’. Hands, that I pray will be remembered long after I am gone for their loving touch and the work they produced.

As another Halloween rolls around remember that All Saint’s Eve is the very next day. A day to remember those we have lost. But we haven’t really lost them have we? We have our memories and their love lives in our hearts.

We have much to be thankful for, much to be joyful for with the love we have known. May our hands do great work and bring love and light into our tiny corner of this great big wonderful world. May we bless others with the service of our hands and hearts. As we stand on the foundation of those who have gone before, let us recall what their hands struggled with...deprivation, worldwide war, financial adversity, hard work, illness and loss. Those hands also knew great accomplishment and great love. Why would we be hopeless or helpless? If their hands survived to love and touch others as they did, how can we do any less?

I love the now faded scar on my cheek. It reminds me of the hands that cared enough to take rambunctious kids trick or treating after an exhausting day of hard work and far too little rest...hands that gentled and soothed...hands that built my world...hands that looked like mine.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Gary Borders
Capital Highlights



Oil prices at lowest level since pandemic

Oil prices have dropped to their lowest level since early 2021, the Texas Standard reported. In an interview with Matt Smith, lead energy analyst at Kpler, he said strong supply is driving the drop per barrel to about \$57.

Average gasoline prices in Texas stood at \$2.79 a gallon in September, down 67 cents from two years ago, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Smith said U.S. oil production in July, the latest monthly statistic available, was at a record high. He predicted the low oil prices could slow domestic production by next year.

Fall enrollment sets record at Texas colleges and universities

More than 1.6 million students enrolled this fall at Texas colleges and universities — an all-time high, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reported. The preliminary numbers cover all levels of higher education, both public and private, and represent a 4.7% increase from last fall.

“The record enrollment numbers will help the state’s continuing efforts to build a talent-strong Texas and an increasingly educated workforce,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Wynn Rosser.

For the first time since the pandemic, enrollment numbers surpassed pre-pandemic numbers in each sector of higher education.

Judge tosses Texas book rating law

A Waco federal judge last week threw out a 2023 Texas law that required booksellers and publisher to rate their books based on sexual content and reference, kut.org reported. The ruling makes permanent a lower court’s temporary injunction that was later upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The firm representing the coalition of bookstores and publishers hailed the ruling as a “major First Amendment victory.”

“The READER Act would have imposed impossible obligations on booksellers and limited access to literature, including classic works, for students across Texas,” attorney Laura Lee Prather said in a statement.

HB 900 sought to restrict which books are available in school libraries. It also required booksellers to rate their own books. The bill’s author, state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, posted on X that he was “deeply disappointed” by the judge’s decision. However, he said SB 412 passed in the last legislative session holds school personnel “accountable” for exposing a child to what he termed “harmful materials.”

Proposition would fund dementia prevention research

As early voting continues through Oct. 31, the Texas Medical Association is backing Proposition 14, which would provide \$3 billion in funding over a 10-year period for research into preventing dementia. The proposal, if approved, would create the Dementia Prevention Research Institute of Texas.

Houston neurologist Reeta Achari, MD, who testified in favor of DPRIT’s creation on behalf of TMA, said Proposition 14 has the potential to make Texas a leader in dementia research, and thus “attract much-needed physicians and subject matter experts and innovators from across the world.”

Alzheimer’s disease comprises 60-80% of dementia cases and is becoming a public health crisis, according to a report from the Texas Department of State Health Services. More than 450,000 Texans over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer’s, the report states. Opponents of the measure, according to a nonpartisan analysis by the Texas Legislative Council, fear it would create a new state bureaucracy without sufficient accountability and an open-ended financial risk for taxpayers.

ACA enrollment program’s budget slashed

With open enrollment set to begin for the Affordable Care Act, funding for a navigator program that helped 65,000 Texans enroll for health insurance has been slashed by 90%, The Tribune reported. As a result, nonprofits are seeking other ways to fund their efforts to help uninsured Texans find health care.

The state received \$17 million in navigator grants last year. Most of the nearly 4 million Texans covered by an ACA plan find coverage on their own. However, navigators enrolled about 26,533 Texans and helped nearly 39,000 others obtain Medicaid.



Gold Rush!

The price of gold has skyrocketed, up 60% this year and more than 130% since late 2023. On October 20, prices topped \$4,350 per ounce, though they are volatile and a correction of over 5% occurred the next day. Here’s a brief look at some aspects of this phenomenon.

Geopolitical and economic uncertainty and the resulting demand for gold as a safe haven are clearly playing a role in the rise in prices. Gold serves as a hedge against risks we are currently seeing, including trade tensions, fiscal uncertainty, high public debt, labor force shifts, and significant global conflicts. Some believe fear of a possible AI stock bubble has led investors to use gold as a hedge, though other indicators rebut that theory.

In addition to uncertainty, there are other potential reasons for the strong rally in gold. One factor is that low real interest rates (the nominal rate minus inflation) and the expectation of future interest rate cuts are enhancing gold’s appeal relative to cash or bonds. Another reason is that a weaker US dollar supports the price. Gold is valued and traded in dollars, and less robust greenbacks makes it cheaper (and more attractive) to holders of other currencies.

There is also evidence of central banks, especially in emerging economies, increasing their gold reserves. It appears that China has been buying large volumes of gold (enough to push up prices) to provide insulation against a trade war. Institutional investors including exchange traded funds (ETFs) are also building reserves. These sources of

Dr. Ray Perryman
THE ECONOMIST



demand are contributing further to higher prices.

All of these factors (high uncertainty, lower yields, weaker dollar, and increased demand both officially from governments/central banks and privately) are contributing to higher gold prices. In addition, as with many markets, demand can generate further demand. While gold is no meme stock, there are some aspects of the current situation that are similar. In fact, there is a mystique surrounding gold as a “solid” or “real” commodity that stretches back millennia to ancient times. In that sense, its historical aura mimics that of model viral excesses.

From a policy perspective, high gold prices reinforce the idea that inflationary and monetary dynamics are important. If prices remain stubbornly sticky and policy is loose, gold remains attractive. Uncertainty is also a clear contributor to demand. Gold’s rise is a barometer of stress in the global financial system, and responses will affect future prices.

In summary, a variety of factors are coalescing to support the recent surge in prices, and have created this Midas moment. Barring a major shock, however, the most likely outcome is that the price will eventually return at least partly back to earth. It always does. Stay safe!

PRESUMPTION AND WORSHIP

We read in Leviticus 10: 1-2: “*And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offer strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.*”

Now Nadab and Abihu were two sons of Aaron, nephews of Moses, and had been elevated to the priesthood. But they died by a fire sent from the very God they sought to worship.

The question might be asked, “why were these men, Nadab and Abihu, priests of God, killed by God?” The answer is given in verse 1 of the Scriptures we just cited—they “*offered strange fire before the Lord, WHICH HE COMMANDED THEM NOT.*” God had specified the incense to be used and where they were to get the fire to burn the incense (*Lev. 16: 12; Exo. 30: 34-38*). Perhaps they got the fire from some other place and offered their own incense that differed from that specified by God (*Exo. 30: 34-38*), making the fire profane. Perhaps with good intentions, they offered what God had not commanded i.e., what God had not authorized. Perhaps they reasoned “*fire is fire, and incense is incense; what difference does it make?*” But it made a big difference—a tremendous difference. The difference between obeying God and disobeying God—a life and death difference!

From this event we can learn about the sin of presumption, in particular, the tragedy of man choosing his own method of worshipping God! In the New Testament, in Colossians 2: 23, it is called “*will, self-imposed, self-inspired worship,*” hence, worship based on the will and word of men.

We must realize the necessity of obedience in divine worship. In fact, this was taught by Jesus Himself in John 4: 24 where He said: “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*” My friend, if you haven’t realized how important it is to worship God precisely according to His instructions in His Word, seriously think about Nadab and Abihu. Think on these things. (Continued next week).

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Sports roundup

‘Necks fall to Leopards, UG gets win

By Tyler Sutton

The White Oak Roughneck’s still had a shot at sneaking into the playoffs but need a win on the road as they headed to Liberty Eylau to take on the Leopards and those hopes took a hit as they fell 27-14.

Jaxson Ludlow was 9-15 for 124 yards and 1 touchdown with 1 interception. Ludlow also had 20 carries for 95 yards and a touchdown. Kenny Poul had 35 yards on 6 carries. Through the air, Logan Ladwig had 4 catches for 50 yards and a touchdown. The loss drops the Roughnecks to 5-3 and 1-3 in district play. White Oak will more then likely need

to win both of their remaining games to make the playoffs. Up next will be a Halloween night clash at home with Tatum. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

The Union Grove Lions needed a win to keep their drive for a district championship alive as they hosted the Harleton Wildcats and that is exactly what they got in a defensive battle as they came away with a hard fought 10-6 win on Pink Out night.

It was a scoreless first half but the Lions finally broke the tie in the 3rd quarter with a FG to make it 3-0. The Lions

would add to their lead when Bryce Porter found Wrigley Roberts for a TD and it was 10-0 with 7 mins left in the game. Hareltion got on the board late in the 4th but the Lions recovered the onside kick and were able to run out the clock. Porter was 3-6 through the air for 77 yards and that TD. On the ground Hudson Wightman had a huge night 90 yards on 19 carries. Kohl Sirmans had 49 yards on 10 carries. Through the air, Roberts had 2 catches for 68 yards and a TD.

The win improves the Lions to 6-2 and 3-2 in district play. Next up is a Halloween night battle with another top team in the district as they travel to Beckville. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

Volleyball, X-country

By Tyler Sutton

Gladewater Lady Bears Volleyball wrapped up their 2025 season with a game with rival White Oak and fell 3-0. The Lady Bears finish 12-24 and 1-11 in district play.

The White Oak Ladynecks needed to win both of their final to games to clinch a playoff spot and they did just that. Starting off with a 3-0 sweep on the road over Arp (25-13, 25-18, 25-20).

Londyn Baker added five kills and six receptions for the Ladynecks. Carrington Watson had six kills and three blocks, Kyleigh Flores nine assists and Kyndal Jones 14 assists. That was followed up by a trip to rival Gladewater where the Ladynecks swept it 3-0 (25-10, 25-16, 25-23). White Oak finishes the regular season at 19-18 and 6-6 in district and will be the 4 seed. They will begin post season play against Eustace at TJC’s basketball gym in Tyler.

The Union Grove Lady Lions finished up their regular season as they got ready for postseason play with a pair of games, falling to Paul Pewitt 3-0 (25-10, 25-19, 25-23). They were able to pick up a victory over Ore City in their regular season finale 3-1. The Lady Lions finish the regular season at 16-14 and 7-2 in district play. They will be the 2 seed out of the district and will begin their playoff run taking on Detroit in Redwater.

It was cross country regional time and all three local schools were well represented. Gladewater’s Yalexian Martinez came home 51st out of all 3A. For Union Grove’s Lady’s Cross Country, they were runner up in 2A and qualified for State. Led by Landry Harris who came home 10th individually. Shaniya Rolland was 35th individually. The state finals will be held on October 31st and November 1st at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

Think safety, then candy

Halloween is the time of year for tricks, treats and good-humored frights.

But, sadly, research shows a scary statistic: Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Oct. 31 as on any other day of the year.

Here are easy and effective behaviors that can help reduce a child’s risk of injury:

Walk Safely:

Always walk on well-lit sidewalks or paths. Keep to direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

Cross the street at corners. Obey traffic signals and use crosswalks.

Look left, right and left again when crossing, and keep looking in both directions as you cross.

Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.

Walk, don’t run, across the street.

Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.

Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Don’t text and walk! Keep electronic devices (cell phone, portable game, etc.) safely stowed in a bag until you reach your destination.

Keep Costumes Creative AND Safe:

Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child’s vision.

Carry glow sticks or flashlights – this helps children to see and be seen by drivers.

When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers to make children extra visible.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is the time of year for tricks, treats and good-humored frights, but Safe Kids research shows its also a time for some pretty scary scenarios.

ON AVERAGE, TWICE AS MANY CHILDREN ARE HIT AND KILLED WHILE WALKING ON OCT. 31 THAN ON ANY OTHER DAY OF THE YEAR.

SOME OTHER SCARY STATISTICS SHOW THAT:

18% OF PARENTS USE REFLECTIVE TAPE ON THEIR KID'S COSTUMES

12% OF CHILDREN AGES 5 & YOUNGER ARE ALLOWED TO TRICK-OR-TREAT WITHOUT AN ADULT

CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN AGE 12 SHOULD ALWAYS BE WITH AN ADULT. BELOW ARE MORE TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN.

Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers to make children extra visible.

Make sure costumes are the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Trick-or-treat in groups.

Walk, don't run, when crossing the street. Obey traffic signals and use crosswalks.

Be alert! Popular trick-or-treating hours are from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Use extra caution during this time.

FOR MORE HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS, VISIT HEALTHERHAWAII.ORG.

HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

QB Jaxsen Ludlow scampers 2 yards for a touchdown During the Roughnecks’ 27-13 loss to the Liberty-Eylau Leopards on Friday in Texarkana. Ludlow finished the game with 95 rushing yards on 14 carries and also threw for one touchdown.

Photo by Mike Peery

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1763

ACROSS

1 UT’s Jean-____
Bouju won a Pulitzer prize in 1995 and 1999

5 Hill Country State Natural ____

6 commander abbr.

7 Texas’ ____ Pepper

8 Amarillo hosts the “____-State Fair and Rodeo”

9 scary Gulf fishes

15 Alvarado, Texas is named for Alvarado, Vera ____, Mexico

16 song: “____ heart of Texas”

19 update a structure

21 relating to the nose

22 young male table clearers

27 TXism: “she could ____ ice cubes to Eskimos”

28 in 1930s, East Texas Oil Field produced ____ of oil

29 TXism: “greasy ____” (cafes)

30 “____ Pete” is Fort Stockton’s roadrunner

32 Rangers never have had a ____ Young winner

34 seat of Sherman County

37 TXism: “checking my eye ____ for leaks” (napping)

38 TX Paula Prentiss film: “He and ____”

39 Quanah Parker’s medicine man

DOWN

1 Fred ____ Murray starred in 1936 film: “The Texas Rangers”

2 TXism: “got misery up to my ____ pits”

3 highly sought Texas coast game fish

4 Dimmit County seat (2 wds.)

8 “three” in Mexico

9 TXism: “____ dogs at the State Fair”

10 TXism: “____ don’t give didly squat”

11 news wrangler (abbr.)

12 this drummer was in “Caveman” with TX Dennis Quaid

13 Port Lavaca FM

14 San Marcos college before it became Texas State (abbr.)

15 once a Mineral Wells product: “Dismuke’s Famous Mineral ____”

16 supermarket area with cold cuts

17 fish breeding site

18 ____ Camino del Rio (Big Bend road)

20 TXism: “____ solid perfect”

22 A&M degree (abbr.)

23 “____ and downs”

24 drunkard

25 George H.W. signed a dis- armament treaty with this Yeltsin

26 TXism: “useless as a saddle ____ - ____”

28 TX-born Rivas was in 1956 film: “The King ____ - ____”

31 points a gun

33 “si,” in Mexico

35 ____ Worth (abbr.)

36 Live ____, TX

38 stake or stump

41 “Famous ____” cookies

44 early ISP (abbr.)

45 East Texas lake fish

51 in Johnson County on U.S. 67

52 actress of Texas-based “Giant” (init.)

See Answers On Page 4A

GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFMR	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
10/20/25	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20252916	1:24		1007 WALNUT WALNUT ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20252921	1:45	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FIRE DEPT	20252921	6:16		1008 WAY WAY DR
	FIRE DEPT	20252922	8:33		2328 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20252923	9:17		2300 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	FIRE DEPT	20252924	11:32		554 FR FR RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252925	11:57	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20252926	13:16	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	THEFT	20252927	14:08		416 S TYLER TYLER
	FIRE DEPT	20252928	15:24	TEXAS CAFE	114 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20252929	16:32		36 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	20252930	17:01		52 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	EMS	20252931	19:42		801 VESTA VESTA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252934	20:55		2604 W HAMPTON HAMPTON ST
	EMS	20252935	21:42		204 EDDY EDDY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20252936	3:40		407 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252937	3:57	CHICKEN EXPRESS	1101 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20252938	4:58		214 SAUNDERS SAUNDERS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252939	5:07		HWY 80 EB HWY 80 EB
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20252940	9:26		1568 PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
10/21/25	EMS	20252941	11:00	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2865 FM 2865
	ALARM/OTHER	20252942	11:55		4915 W LAKE LAKE
	10-50 MINOR	20252943	12:14	GLADEWATER PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE	416 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20252945	13:24		1508 N DASHY DASHY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20252947	16:30	CAVENDERS	800 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20252948	19:02		911 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252949	19:57		2024 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	FIRE DEPT	20252950	20:57		1202 SANDERS SANDERS
	FIRE DEPT	20252951	0:47		1054 FARVIEW FARVIEW
	FIRE DEPT	20252952	5:35		1608 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	ASSIST	20252957	11:55	JULIAWOOD HOMES	20 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20252958	12:05	GREENWAY VILLAGE	31 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20252959	12:45	PENNY'S FOOD & FUEL	407 S TYLER TYLER ST
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20252960	14:50	GLADEWATER CITY HALL	516 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20252961	16:22		1462 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252962	16:25		800 TENERY TENERY
	CRIM TRESPASS	20252963	21:37	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	20252964	22:45	DOLLAR GENERAL	2670 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252965	23:25	PECAN PECAN	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252966	0:15	GLADEWATER PRIMARY SCHOOL	160 W GAY GAY AVE
10/22/25	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20252967	0:25		416 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20252968	11:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20252969	12:05		216 S DEAN DEAN ST
	EMS	20252970	12:22		711 CLARK CLARK
	EMS	20252971	12:53		532 NORTH NORTH
	ALARM/OTHER	20252972	13:01		561 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	EMS	20252973	14:35	AUSTIN BANK	1626 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20252974	14:35	AUSTIN BANK	1626 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20252975	15:34		8268 PIGEON PIGEON RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20252976	16:37		MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20252977	17:02		218 PEGATT PEGATT
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20252978	17:05	CEE MART	227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20252979	17:16		315 N TAYLOR TAYLOR ST
	EMS	20252980	18:16		165 N TENERY TENERY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20252981	19:16		1102 NORTH NORTH ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252983	21:46		E PACIFIC E PACIFIC
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252985	1:45	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	FIRE DEPT	20252986	7:03		1504 N ALICE ALICE
	ALARM/OTHER	20252987	9:40	NORTH LOOP CHURCH OF CHRIST	1000 N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252989	11:08	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1460 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
10/24/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20252990	11:46		326 MELBA MELBA
	THEFT	20252991	13:13		511 S TYLER TYLER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252994	16:13		315 N TAYLOR TAYLOR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252995	16:46		SABINE RIVER SABINE RIVER

	FIRE DEPT	20252996	17:09	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2865 FM 2865
	FIRE DEPT	20252998	18:21		85 JULIAWOOD JULIAWOOD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20252999	18:26		208 EDDY EDDY
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20253000	21:08	MIKE'S MINI MART	1316 EAST UPSHUR AVE EAST UPSHUR AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20253001	23:31		210 EDDY EDDY ST
10/25/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20253005	1:05		168 HWY 271 NB HWY 271
	ALARM/OTHER	20253006	6:16		314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20253007	8:13		526 MELBA MELBA
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253008	13:27		4705 N LYNN LYNN
	EMS	20253010	15:56		2107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253013	19:36		910 AMES AMES ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253015	23:31	GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253017	7:34		511 S TYLER TYLER
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20253018	8:33		414 W SHEPHERD SHEPHERD
	FIRE DEPT	20253019	10:30		288 PR 016 PR 016
10/26/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20253020	11:26		220 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253021	12:02		200 E LAKE LAKE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20253022	13:51		326 MELBA MELBA
	FIRE DEPT	20253024	15:31		4711 US HWY 90 W US HWY 90 W
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253025	16:26		511 S TYLER TYLER
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253026	16:45	THE BAR	2627 COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB RD
	FIRE DEPT	20253028	16:43		
	MISCELLANEOUS-OTHER	20253029	20:34		704 1ST 1ST N
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253031	21:23	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253032	1:53	BUMBLE BEE PARK	705 S MAIN MAIN ST

White Oak Police Activity Report

For the reporting period of October 20th through October 26th, 2025, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 211 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Suspicious Activity, Advice Calls, Scam Phone Calls, Animal Complaints, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Five traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period, one with reported injuries.

White Oak Officers made two arrests during this reporting period:

Dbravian Black, 27, of Longview, for Driving While Intoxicated 2nd.

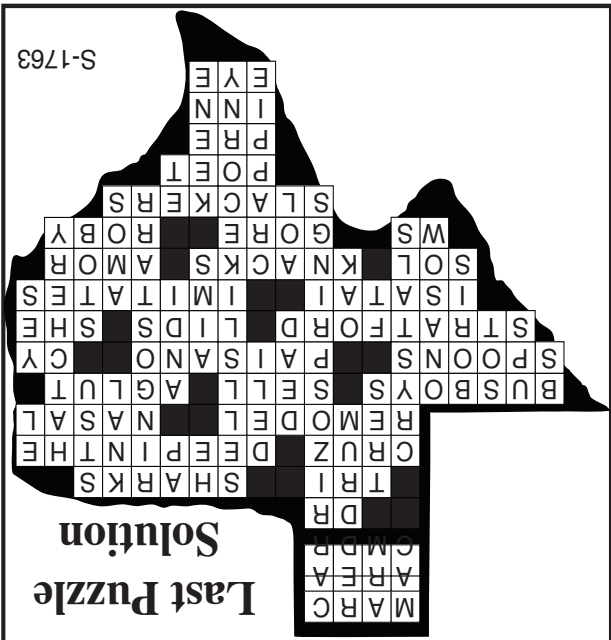
Jesse Dominguez, 26, of White Oak, for 3 warrants- #1 Theft \$100-\$750, #2 Theft <\$2500 with 2 or more previous convictions, #3 Violations of Bond/Violation of Protective order.

No cases were presented to the Gregg County District Attorney during this reporting period.

GPD Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
10/22/25	10/22/25	19:30	SKINNER, WILLIE LEE JR	B	M	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON	800 TENERY ST
	10/22/25	19:30	SKINNER, WILLIE LEE JR	B	M	POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	800 TENERY ST
10/23/25	10/23/25	18:08	HARRIS, QUINCY TYRELL	B	M	ASSAULT-CAUSING BODILY INJURY (FAMILY VIOLENCE)	515 TAYLOR

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First Baptist Church • 903-845-2171
Friendship Baptist Church • 903-845-4603
Gladewater Baptist • 903-845-3842
Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174
Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440
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
Olde Tyme Baptist Church • 903-806-2411

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East Mountain Church of Christ • 903-285-1871
North Loop Church of Christ • 903-845-2531
North Main Church of Christ • 903-845-2816
Rocky Church of Christ

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St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306

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Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)

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District judge seeks not to run for re-election

By Phillip Williams

115th District Judge Dean Fowler announced Saturday afternoon he won't seek re-election to a third term, nor election to any other office, in 2026.

Fowler, a Republican whose office is elected by voters in Upshur and Marion counties, said he planned to serve through the end of his current term (Dec. 31, 2026), then become a visiting senior district judge.

The state assigns former district judges as "visiting judges" to hear cases in courts when the normally presiding judge has disqualified himself/herself from handling a matter.

In a written statement to The Mirror, Fowler indicated that his age and length of service as Upshur County judge, then district judge, were factors in his decision. No candidates have announced for his current office.

"At the end of my current term (Dec. 31, 2026), I will be 65 years old and will have had the honor" of being county judge 16 years and district judge for eight, Fowler noted. "This decision has not been easy, but after 24 years of public service, it is time," he added.

He had begun the half-page typed statement by saying, "At this time, I wish to formally announce I will not be seeking re-election. This decision has come after a great deal of prayer and several weeks of discussion with my wonderful and encouraging wife, Nan, and many other close friends and supporters," Fowler said.

Later in the statement, he added, "I will be eternally grateful to all those who have supported me through thick and thin, those who have offered heartfelt advice, and those who have given encouraging words. I will continue to work hard through the end of (my) current term. After that, I look forward to continuing to serve the great state of Texas as a visiting senior district judge."

Fowler, a former longtime Gilmer attorney, was first elected county judge in 2002 and re-elected thrice before being elected district judge in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. He was unopposed in the district judge elections.

Upshur County Judge Todd Tefteller, who succeeded Fowler in that position and isn't running for re-election in 2026, denied speculation last week he might run for district judge, as he unsuccessfully did more than 30 years ago.

\$15M Upshur courthouse restoration delayed, county judge reports

By Phillip Williams

The expected completion date for the \$15 million historic restoration of the 88-year-old Upshur County Courthouse has been delayed from late February to mid-April, County Judge Todd Tefteller told a Republican women's organization in Gilmer last week.

Tefteller told the Cherokee Rose Republican Women's Club of Upshur County (PAC) Oct. 20 he had received word that day from Rick Sacy of Fort Worth-based Komatsu Architecture of the delay. The judge said it resulted from "all of the water damage inside" the 5-story building.

The project is 54% complete, "but it's gonna go really fast" toward the end, Tefteller added.

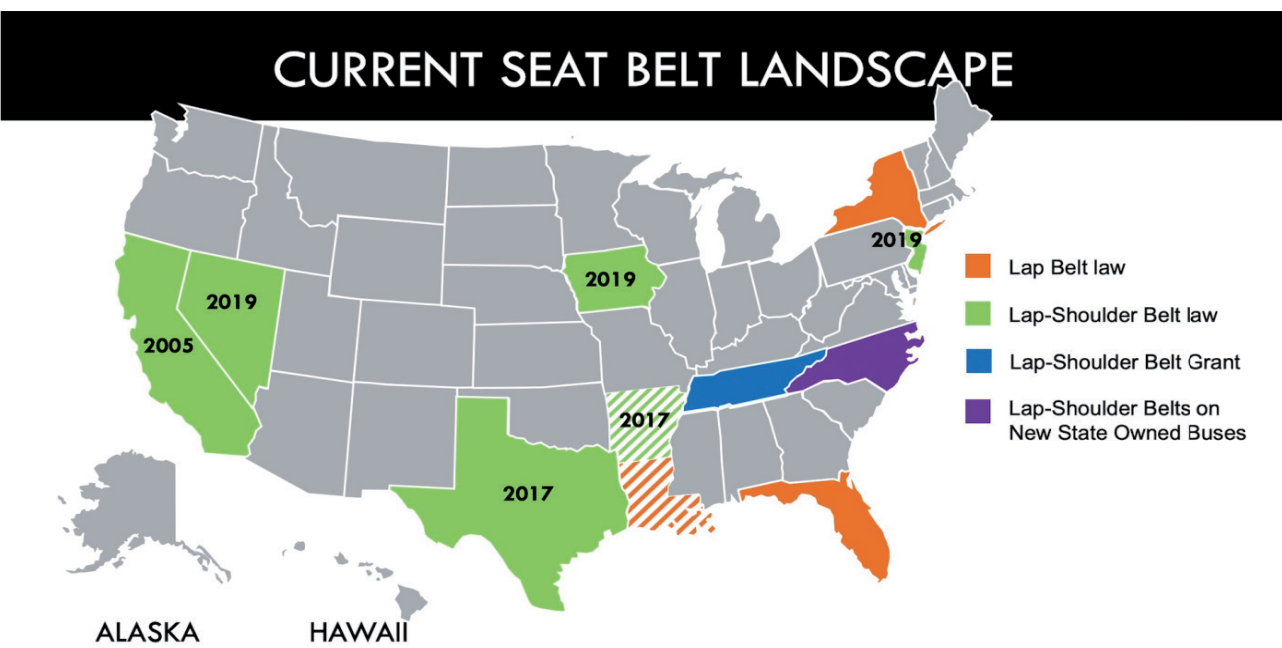


Image via SafeGuard.

The seat belts on the bus go up in price as school districts wrangle with new law

It's going to take time and no small amount of cash to equip local districts' school bus fleets with seat belts according to new state law, and the project's getting rolling now to be in compliance by Fall 2029.

"I was just looking at that and diving into it," White Oak Superintendent Jack Parker confirmed Monday. After initial consultation with the district's director of transportation, "We're going to have discussions on that coming up in the near future."

"We did go ahead this summer and got some tentative prices from our bus companies. Without a firm price, it's estimated between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per bus."

Gladewater ISD's a bit further down the road as far as the seat belt discussion. The district's prepping for a total investment of about \$2.6 million across the next several years to become fully compliant with Senate Bill 546.

Adopted this legislative session, the law requires every school district in Texas to equip each bus in their fleet (regardless of production year) with a three-point seat belt for every passenger and driver no later than Sept. 1, 2029. (An exception can be made for two-point if three is not feasible.)

As of right now, it's another unfunded mandate for the schools; legislators are suggesting the general public foot the bill: "To assist with costs for implementation, school districts are allowed to accept gifts, grants, and donations

from public or private sources."

Needless to say, it's going to be a bit expensive, Patty told her board, but hopefully there will be some additional funds injected by the state.

"We have another legislative session coming between now and then," she said Oct. 20. "Who knows if this will totally go to fruition?"

Initial discussions at GISD are focusing on which buses to retrofit with seatbelts and which might be skipped considering the individual vehicles' lifespans.

"The total proposed investment if we retrofit the seven buses is \$286,000-plus dollars. 16 new buses would be \$2.4 million," Patty said. "You can see it's going to be kind of expensive to do this."

"We have chosen not to include some buses because the retrofitting with seatbelts would cost more than the bus is worth. We think by the time we need to do this... these buses will be out of our fleet."

Fortunately, she added, GISD doesn't have as many buses as other districts across the state.

"I just don't know where the money for this will come from. We're putting the plan in place," Patty concluded, then will wait-and-see. "I have no idea what will happen, but we've completed the part that we're required to complete by January 2026."

funding for it after Hunt County turned down state aid and "put us back in the running," he said.

Had Upshur not accepted the state's aid, he said, he would have been criticized for "letting \$7 million (in potential aid) go."

He also said the renovated courthouse, designed to look much as it did when originally completed in 1937, will have room for a county court-at-law if Upshur County establishes one.

"That county court (which he presides over) can't keep going like it is" with its current case load, Tefteller said.

During the rest of his presentation at the Credit Union of Texas' "Gilmer Gathers" room, Tefteller detailed the history of the county, which was organized in April 1846.



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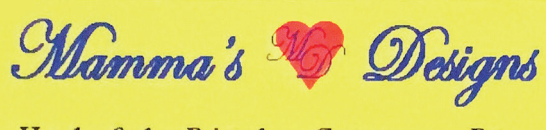
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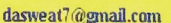
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Young East Texas bull rider sets his eye on PBR future

By James Draper

Eight seconds isn't much of a run on a dirt bike, but it's victory on the back of a bull. Caisen Sims enjoys both, but it's riding the steer that really gets the 13-year-old's adrenaline pumping.

The Kilgore 8th grader and Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo fan is ready to ride again after participating in the Texas vs Oklahoma Chute Out in Decatur, hosted by the Cowboy Youth Bull Riders Association Oct. 25. It's been barely a year since Caisen's first ride on a Senior Steer, and he's already among the top contenders for the Youth Bull Riding World Finals.

Mom, Britnee, is always in the stands and, of course, white-knuckled. Saturday's ride didn't quite make the target time after the steer threw Caisen into the wall, but after a just-in-case EMS check, the teen dusted himself off and started counting down to the next go. He'll be riding Friday in a Halloween Rodeo at Pale Horse Ranch then in competition again Nov. 15.

Caisen's got the skills and the confidence, no worries since he got the first dozen rides under his belt 10 months back; so, mom does double-duty when it comes to the jitters.

"The practices are not as bad," she says. "I know a lot of the bulls he's getting on, so I don't have as much worry. But when it's a competition, I'm really anxious, because we don't know the bulls.

"Usually you can tell with a bull; you know what they're going to do. They're going to come out, buck straight ahead or they're gonna cut back and start spinning. When you go to competition, you don't know. So, you're just drawing a bull, you're getting on and hanging on."

After months and months of lessons and training runs and hours on his home practice barrel, Caisen jumped into competitions with gusto for the first time this fall. He's hanging on in the sport, literally, notching the requisite eight seconds on the majority of his competition rides.

"If they're mean in the chute, and they start bucking in the chute, it'll tell me what they're going to do out there in the pen," Caisen says. That's par for the course – he'd rather the steer act a bit ornery and give him a heads-up. "If they're gentle in the pen, I really don't know what's coming."

Naturally, Caisen's already collected a coveted autograph from bull riding legend Don Gay. After taking up the sport



Young East Texas bull rider (and Gladewater Round-up Rodeo fan) Caisen Sims rides out on a senior steer. (Courtesy photo by Joe Duty)

last year, the Kilgore Middle schooler is getting about 30 rides a month between weekly practice events at Pale Horse Ranch in Big Sandy, biweekly outings at Cross Brand Arena in Tyler and a couple of trips each month to Saginaw for Texas Youth Bull Riders activities.

That's what it takes to get on the board with TYBR events in Abilene come January and, beyond, to reach Caisen's goal of riding with PBR (Professional Bull Riders) by 18. They're crowd-funding training costs, entry fees and travel expenses along the way – supporters can reach out to britnee_g_2004@yahoo.com to contribute.

"These kids are amazing. They really support each other. Even if they didn't do well themselves, they're so excited for their friend. They want to watch their competition do well," she says. Granted, "The odds are not in your favor to make it."

Caisen's been thrown by his fair share of bulls, taken the falls and the knocks. Notably, out of six breaks the past six months, only one came from bull riding, the rest from skating and other hobbies.

"We've had more injuries on the dirt bike," Britnee quips. So, is she getting past the worry at this point? "No."

Caisen's not taking anything for granted either. He doesn't dwell on the injuries, doesn't worry about getting thrown. He just focuses on the next round. The point's to stay on. That's the plan. That's the challenge.

Eight seconds to go.

Nov 4 Election Ballot Language

Continued from Page 1

the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."

- Proposition 9 - HJR 1 "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income."

- Proposition 10 - SJR 84 "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire."

- Proposition 11 - SJR 85 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."

- Proposition 12 - SJR 27 "The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct."

- Proposition 13 - SJR 2 "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000."

- Proposition 14 - SJR 3 "The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue."

- Proposition 15 - SJR 34 "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

- Proposition 16 - SJR 37 "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

- Proposition 17 - HJR 34 "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."

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All claims to be filed and served upon said Estate shall be served in the following manner, at the following address:

Rhonda Sue Orms
c/o Kyle Kutch, Attorney
211 E Tyler St, Ste. 600-G
Longview, TX 75601
903/236-8788

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER
★
WYLIE, TEXAS

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2, 2025
Founders Park, 851 Hensley Lane, Wylie, Texas

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES VISIT
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Meet & Eat on tap

For more information on the Nov. 8 benefit or the organization, contact Wilson at 903-803-7330.

"We hope you will join us in a safe place for children to have fun on Halloween."

Next on the chamber's calendar will be the quarterly luncheon at noon Monday, Nov. 17, then a double-header



Photo by James Draper

Fundraisers planned in Gilmer

The senior group's event, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is set for Saturday, Nov. 1, at 1604 Lakeshore Dr. at Lake Gladewater. Day-of registration opens at 8 a.m. and the walk itself begins at 8:15 a.m. Participation costs just \$5 per person. All proceeds benefit Longview's Texas Oncology.



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