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TAKING HIS OWN PATH

Stephen F. Austin State University cornerback Charles Demmings could be Day 2 NFL Draft selection. **SPORTS, PAGE 1B**

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Early voting set to begin Monday

Here's what's on Gregg County ballots for city, school races

BY JORDAN GREEN
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Early voting begins Monday for the May 2 municipal and school elections, and Gregg County voters will decide several contests.

Here's a rundown of what will be on the ballot for voters in cities and school districts.

Longview City Council

In Longview, voters in City Council District 3 will choose who will represent them on the City Council.

Candidates will appear on the ballot as follows: Darrin "Rudy" Rudolph G Floyd

Brandon Smith
Marlena Cooper
Brenda J. Woolridge

Candidates have spoken at public forums hosted by the NAACP and the Longview Chamber of Commerce.

Spring Hill ISD

Spring Hill ISD voters will vote whether to approve roughly \$20 million in bonds to fund school

repairs and transportation needs.

The new bond measures would not raise property taxes if approved, school officials said. Although school leaders said the bonds won't result in a tax increase, state law requires all bond measures to be described as tax increases on election ballots.

Proposition A, totaling \$17,222,744, would fund

renovations to the junior high school, HVAC equipment replacements across the district, replacement of school buses and upgrades to the baseball and softball complex.

Proposition B, totaling \$1.975 million, would fund upgrades to Panther Stadium, including turf replacement and lighting upgrades.

See **VOTING, Page 5A**

PROTECTING RESOURCES

East Texas leaders, state officials form advisory board to find solutions to regional water problems



Water advisory board member Brandee Brown listens as state Rep. Jay Dean speaks Monday during the inaugural meeting of the East Texas Water Advisory Board at the East Texas Council of Governments in Kilgore. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal Photo)

BY JORDAN GREEN
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KILGORE – County judges, commissioners and state lawmakers will hold regular meetings to discuss regional water problems and solutions as part of a newly formed committee.

The East Texas Water Advisory Board will bring together elected officials to discuss ways to protect the region's water resources and find safe, sustainable ways to use or sell water, among other objectives.

Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur was appointed chairman of the board, and Longview businesswoman Brandee Brown was appointed vice chair during the board's first meeting Monday at the East Texas Council of Governments office in Kilgore.

The council serves 14 East Texas counties and helps its leaders apply for grants and coordinate large-scale projects, such as broadband internet expansion and transportation programs.

The board's formation comes as Texas lawmakers and regional leaders reckon with the reality

See **WATER, Page 3A**



Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur was named chairman during Monday's inaugural meeting of the East Texas Water Advisory Board at the East Texas Council of Governments in Kilgore. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal Photo)

Floyd hopes to boost economic growth in District 3

Editor's note: This is part of an occasional series of stories about candidates for the District 3 seat on the Longview City Council.

BY JORDAN GREEN
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G. Floyd has attended Longview City Council meetings regularly for several years so he can learn more about his city.

He hopes District 3 voters on May 2 will send him back to City Hall for a few years to serve them and

improve the place they call home.

Floyd, 61, is one of five candidates vying for the District 3 seat. Incumbent Wray Wade did not seek reelection, leaving the district up for grabs.

The other candidates in the race are Marlena Cooper, Darrin "Rudy" Rudolph, Brandon Smith and Brenda Woolridge.

Early voting for the May 2 election begins Monday. A council member's term of office lasts three years, and a member can be elect-

ed three times.

If elected, Floyd said he wants to see continued infrastructure improvements and economic growth in his district. And he wants to highlight the positive work that has been done.

"You need to talk about the good things that happen in Longview, the great things that happen in Longview, the facilities, the people, the programs," Floyd said.

See **FLOYD, Page 5A**



G. Floyd, a candidate for District 3 on the Longview City Council, is seen Thursday at Friendship Baptist Church. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal Photo)

What's inside

Advice5B
Comics6A
Leisure5B-6B
Obituaries3A
Opinion4A
Sports1B-3B

Today's weather

Overcast, a shower and t-storm. High of 71.

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