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LONGVIEW NEWS-JOURNAL
Best of EAST TEXAS
2015
LEADERS OF OUR AREA



BACK IN ACTION

Ark-La-Tex Junior Golf Tour opens summer season with adult and youth event at Alpine in Longview. **SPORTS, PAGE 1B**

Longview News-Journal

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City considers employee pay plan

Addressing gaps in salary scales will cost \$2.2M, study says

BY JO LEE FERGUSON
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Preliminary results of a city employee pay study show it could cost Longview almost \$2.2 million to address issues identified within its civilian workforce salary scales.

Public Sector Personnel Consultants previously was hired to conduct a study of the city of Longview's pay plan and how it might need to be changed or adjusted in a comparison with similar cities and similar jobs.

Earlier this month, Matt Weatherly, president of Public Sector Personnel Consultants, provided information on the study's findings and recommendations. City Manager Rolin McPhee told the City Council that addressing the \$2.2 million pay plan could be implemented without a tax rate increase.

See PLAN Page 2A




City of Longview employees Tyler Waddell and Cory Flanagan work on a pothole in February 2021 on Clyde Street. The city is considering addressing issues with its employee pay scales. (Michael Cavazos/Longview News-Journal File Photo)

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Today's weather

Sunny and humid. 
High of 87.
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CBS 19



WHEELS OF PROGRESS

East Texas Speed, with its antiques and classic cars, is another piece in downtown Gladewater's revitalization



The lit-up exterior of East Texas Speed is seen May 29 on Main Street in downtown Gladewater. (Les Hassell/News-Journal Photo)

BY JORDAN GREEN

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GLADEWATER – The Antique Capital of East Texas has another downtown antique store – but this isn't just a curio shop.

Inside the newly restored Art Deco-style building are vintage and antique cars belonging to store owner Jerry Rice. The cars are for display, not sale, but everything else in the store can be had for the right price. That includes a litany of automotive-related antiques, ranging from car accessories and automotive advertising to clocks, toys and more.

East Texas Speed is the latest addition to Gladewater's booming downtown district, which has been undergoing a revival of sorts in the past few years.

"I'd like to see Gladewater grow," Rice said.

He moved from California to Gladewater.

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Jeremiah Rice and his father, Jerry, are seen at East Texas Speed in Gladewater. Everything except the classic cars are for sale inside the shop, although folks are welcome to come in and get an up-close view of the vehicles. (Jordan Green/Longview News-Journal Photo)

Baptist congregation evicted from Hallsville property

BY LIA PORTILLO

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LaGrone Chapel Baptist Church has been ordered to vacate its historical property in Hallsville. (Lia Portillo/Marshall News Messenger Photo)

MARSHALL – A Harrison County court has ruled a Baptist congregation must vacate an historical church property in Hallsville.

The ruling is a result of a lawsuit filed by The Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church – the regional governing body of the denomination – against LaGrone Chapel Baptist Church.

The conference contends LaGrone Chapel Baptist doesn't have a valid, legal reason to remain on the property, which it has occupied and held services at since 2021.

During a hearing Friday, Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace Nancy George ordered LaGrone Chapel Baptist to vacate the property within 30 days,

ruling that The Texas Annual Conference remains the legal owner.

"Well, it didn't go the way we hoped, of course," the Rev. Chris Crane, LaGrone Chapel Baptist Church pastor, said about the hearing. "We tried our best to present Texas law as well as holes in the Methodist policies. But that just wasn't enough to convince the judge that we had the right to remain on the property."

Background

LaGrone Chapel was built in 1866 on Jacob LaGrone's land in what is now Hallsville, according to documents at the Inez Hatley Hughes Historical Research Center in Marshall

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