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Marriage announced

Tina and Michael Maness of Gilmer were united in marriage, in a private ceremony, held Sept. 12 on the pier at the Lake Gilmer Park. The couple was joined by a few family members and they are planning a reception for family and friends at a later date.

Recent Deaths

Eva Rae Yates 1930 - 2021

Funeral service for Eva Rae Yates, 91, of Gilmer, was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, at Pine Acres Baptist Church with Bro. James Jackson officiating, interment followed at Gilmer City Cemetery. The family received friends Sunday, Sept. 19, at Croley Funeral Home in Gilmer.

She was born Feb. 14, 1930, in Kirbyville, Texas to James and Verbie Everage Jones and died on Thursday, Sept. 16.

She worked as an administrative assistant for ETex Telephone until her retirement and was a faithful member of Pine Acres Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 33 years, Raymond Leo Davis and her second husband of 18 years, James Yates and her children, Tina Davis, Allen Davis, Phyllis Breazeal and Tommy Davis.

She is survived by her daughter, Ramona Davis, of Addison, Texas; two brothers of 13 brothers and sister, Charles Jones and Johnny Jones, both of Kirbyville, Texas; ten grandchildren; 23 great-children; six great-great-children and a host of nieces and nephews.



Open Door to host fundraising event

The Open Door Pregnancy Center in Gilmer will host a combination fundraising one-mile walk and 5-kilometer run Saturday morning at the Yamboree Park off U.S. 271 in Gilmer.

Registration is at 8 a.m. with the events set for 8:30 a.m.

Entry fee is \$25 and participants are urged to get pledges/support from sponsors for how much they walk, said Teresa Owen, director of the center.

For more information, call her at 903-797-0774.

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has two bond series which currently average 3.1547% interest. The bonds from 2012 and 2013 are Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds which replaced callable 2003 and 2004 bonds.

Martin recommended issuing new bonds which will be 2021 Refunding Bonds and might be sold at a True Interest Cost of 1.266% for a savings of more than \$1 million. The maximum amount of the bonds may not exceed \$9,875,000. The bonds will have a final maturity date of Feb. 15, 2023. The board voted 5-0 to approve the sale.

Brice Davis, representing the newly organized firm of TD Architects, presented to the board possible ideas for a building which will house Early Childhood classes of 3 and 4 year olds in pre-K classes. Davis recommended the board consider a plan which will allow for up to three wings of six classrooms each with a state-mandated multipurpose room which will serve as a shelter at emergencies such as a tornado.

Davis also recommended returning to the site of the old elementary school building which has since been developed, rather than added to the congestion at the site of the current elementary and intermediate schools.

The two options were calculated at current building costs which would range from \$260/sq. ft. for option A or \$265/sq. ft. for option B. The new high school was completed at \$200/sq. ft. but construction costs have been one of the areas with increased cost due to COVID-19 demands.

In remarks to the board, Albritton pointed that the Gilmer school population was 2,300-2,350 when he came to the district 20 years ago. Four years ago the student numbers had increase to 2,400, but since the new high school opened, there have been increases.

This week, Gilmer Elemen-

Budget From Page 1

raise \$34,000 more in tax revenue than the current one.

In other business last week, the council approved a contract for the fire department to provide dispatching services for the newly formed Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2, which encompasses the Diana and Ore City areas.

The council also approved two amendments to the current budget. One was to record insurance proceeds, and replacement expenses, for a light pole on Texas 154 which was damaged in a traffic accident.

The other was approving about \$10,000 for buying a trailer and other heavy items.

tary had 1,115 students in attendance and the high school has jumped from 711 to 794 this year, Albritton noted. While Gilmer used to graduate 160 students each year, the past two years have had 200 graduates and there are 240 in the ninth grade.

Kathryn Potter, the Culinary Arts teacher, made the next presentation. After a PowerPoint presentation showing the students preparing food including press box food on Friday nights, the first project for

sophomores, to the "take and bake" dinners which staff and administration can purchase, she presented each board member with a treat of six cookies baked by her students. The program presented certificates to 72 students last year and 104 are in this year's senior class. Two of last year's graduates are now assistant managers at their restaurants because they have been certified.

Dr. Dawn Harris made the fifth presentation of the eve-

ning, a discussion of the results of her program "Invest." Invest supports new teachers for three years as they make their transition to become useful teachers for the district. Starting in 2014 with 10 new teachers, Gilmer retains nine of those teachers.

Of 79 teachers who have entered since 2014, 61 are still on staff with 11 in their first year. Of the new hires this year, 53% are alternative certification candidates.

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Upshur County Devotional

The Eternal Now

It is tempting to think of eternity and eternal life as something which happens after our deaths. But if we consider that eternity is simply the boundless infinity of time, then it follows that now (the present moment, and indeed every moment, past, present, and future) is an integral part of eternity. We are all living in eternity right now and need not wait for our deaths to have eternal life. If you are not living eternally now, that is, living a life focused on the eternal values of love, justice, and spirituality, what makes you think that things will change after your death? None of us really knows what it will be like after our deaths, and perhaps the experience of death will be transformational in a way that we cannot imagine, but nonetheless now is the time to start living eternally. One way to do that is to live fully in the present moment. The philosopher Wittgenstein said that "If we take eternity to mean not infinite temporal duration but timelessness, then eternal life belongs to those who live in the present. Our life has no end in just the way in which our visual field has no limits." Living in the present, being mindful of the endless succession of present moments, without worrying about the future or regretting the past is a difficult thing to do, but it can make a huge difference in the quality of our lives. Start living eternally now, thanking God for your life and where you are right now.



"Look to this day, for it is life, the very life of life." —Ancient Sanskrit Poem

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