

# Heard About Town

By Vic Parker

English professors love to catch the errors students make in their term papers, and they love nothing better than to catch mixed metaphors. The “friends and survivors” of Calvin College English department collected this list of mixed metaphors and posted them on their web site. “He swept the rug under the carpet.” “She’s burning the midnight oil at both ends.” “It was so cold last night I had to throw another blanket on the fire.” “It’s time to step up to the plate and cut the mustard.” “She’s robbing Peter to pay the piper.” “He’s up a tree without a paddle.” “Beware my friend...you are skating on hot water.” “Keep your ear to the grindstone.” “Sometimes you’ve gotta stick your neck out on a limb.” “Some people sail through life on a bed of roses like a knife slicing through butter.”

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Tommy had reached school age. His mother managed with a blast of propaganda to make him enthusiastic about the idea. She bought him lots of new clothes, told him of the new friends he’d meet, and so on. When the first day came, Tommy eagerly went off and came back home with a lot of glowing reports about school. The next morning when his mother woke him up, he asked, “What for?” She told him it was time to get ready for school. “What?” he asked. “Again?”

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A woman’s husband dies. He had left \$30,000 to be used for an elaborate funeral. After everything is done at the funeral home and cemetery, she tells her closest friend that, “there is absolutely nothing left from the \$30,000.” The friend asks, “How can that be?” The widow says, “Well, the funeral cost was \$6,500. And, of course, I made a donation to the church -- that was \$500, and I spent another \$500 for the wake, food and drinks -- you know. The rest went for the memorial stone.” The friend says, “\$22,500 for the memorial stone? My God, how big is it?” The widow says, “Four and a half carats.”

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Overheard at the Continental Congress ... “Gentlemen, gentlemen! I still believe ‘shall not be infringed’ is quite clear. I mean, we won’t be handing this nation over to morons, will we?”

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Fair? You tell me. Medals for soldiers in two wars gets you \$1,200 per month. Middle East refugees get \$1,700 month.

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With a nod to The Babylon Bee, it was announced this week that California Gov. Gavin Newsom has been named by U-Haul it Salesperson of the Year for the third straight year. In their second quarter earnings statement, U-Haul revealed that sales on the West Coast had increased by more than 37,000 percent. “We are grateful” to Gavin for our success in 2021,” said Frank Buffstein, U-Haul’s western regional director. The only problem now is we’re out of trucks, and no one is willing to drive one back from Texas. So, I guess this it. Bye everyone.” Buggstein then jumped into the last U-Haul with his family and took off for Texas.

## Fishing tourney benefit raises thousands for Rider family

By Phillip Williams

A Sept. 4 fishing tournament to benefit the family of the late Upshur County Sheriff’s Investigator Marc Rider raised thousands of dollars at Lake O’ The Pines.

Rider, 46, died unexpectedly early the night of July 1 at a Longview hospital after getting off work earlier in the day and driving his patrol car home to the Diana area. The tourney, sponsored by Skeeter Boats in coordination with the sheriff’s office and Bettie Fire Chief Michael Kuza, was to benefit Rider’s widow, Aimee, and the couple’s two young children, Jake and Ava.

The top three finishing teams in the total stringer weight division all donated their winnings in that category back to the family, said Kuza, a personal friend of the late investigator. He gave these details:

The four-member first-place team of Casey Reynolds, his son Stoney Reynolds, Casey Wightman and his son, Hudson Wightman, donated its \$1,000. The second place team of Andy Rhodes, Carson Rhodes and Matt Pierce returned \$500 while the third place team of Jeb Underhill and Michael Rich gave back \$250.

The Reynolds-Wightman quartet’s winning weight was 21.70 pounds. The Rhodes-Pierce team’s was 11.54, while the Underhill-Rich pair’s was 11.17.

Casey Wightman won the big bass overall prize of \$150 with a 9.73-pound catch, while Stoney Reynolds won the junior angler big bass prize of \$100 with a 6.56-lb. catch.

The tourney drew 39 boats with a collective total of more than 65 entrants. All caught fish were released alive back into the lake as a group called Cast provided a live release trailer. Team Bass provided the weigh-in trailer.

Kuza thanked the sheriff’s office, Gilmer police and others “who helped make the event a success.”

## All Service Club Luncheon tickets available at chamber of commerce

This year’s All Service Club Luncheon will be Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Yamboree Event Center located at 181 Bob Glaze Rd in Gilmer.

Doors open at 11:15 a.m., serving will begin at 11:45 a.m., with the program starting at 12:15.

Tickets are now available at the chamber of commerce. The cost will be \$18 if purchased in advance and \$20 at the door.

Each table will seat eight, so a table may be reserved for \$144.

Please let the chamber know how many tables to reserve for your organization as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support of this great Yamboree tradition.

## Yamboree Tater Trot scheduled for Oct. 16 at Gilmer High School

The Yamboree Tater Trot (Family 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run) will be held Oct. 16 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Gilmer High School, located at 850 Buffalo St. in Gilmer.

Pre-registration deadline is Sept. 30 and cost is \$20 per person and \$60 per family (maximum of 5). For those registering past the deadline of Sept. 30, late registration fee at the event is \$25 per person and \$75 per family (maximum of 5).

Age divisions include: Men and women - 0-9; 10-14; 15-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69 and 70 plus.

A trophy will be awarded for the overall best male and female runner in the 5K. Ribbons will be given to the 1st and 2nd place winners in each age group, men and women.

For more information contact event chairman, Racheal Roberts, at 903-841-0445.



**BRUCE JUNIOR HIGH** five years ago announced its Duke Scholars. These students had qualifying STAAR scores that afford them the opportunity to take the ACT or SAT test as a seventh grader, along with the chance for higher honors and access to challenging educational programs. Shown were, front row from right, Jake Pilcher, Jordan Kennedy, Evan Arterberry, David Wright, Angela Moreno, Emma Warden and Lela Hamilton; middle row, Parker Gilow, Micaela Cerda, Kaitlyn Wright, Abigail Bradshaw, Matthew Massingill, Clayton Moore, Michael Hendrix, Jackson Leslie and JaVonnie Rutherford; and back row, Kollin Hathcock, Kirsten Waller, Brayden Clinton and Taylor Nealy. This photo was on the front page of The Mirror on Sept. 22, 2016.

(Courtesy photo)

## It Doesn’t Feel Like Autumn!

By Jim “Pappy” Moore

Today is the first day of autumn. Remember that as the sun beats down and



the temperature remains above 90. As you fight off heat stroke, sunburn, and the blast furnace of hot wind, recall

that today is the first day of autumn.

We get autumn late in East Texas. If we are lucky, it rolls in sometime in late October. We may have a cool Halloween. If we are not lucky, it might be Thanksgiving before we really experience autumn as it is meant to be. We might see Turkey Day before the weather really breaks.

Can it really be autumn before the leaves on the hardwood trees turn color and begin to fall off their limbs?

Can it really be autumn before the night is a crisp cool, and the morning is chilly to the point we need a coat or

windbreaker?

I love the colors of autumn, the cool of autumn, and the tingle in the air as heat falls away and the temperatures drop to something far more comfortable.

In a month or so, we will have those shorter autumn days. The skies will fill with blankets of low lying, moisture laden clouds with their gray, shadowy countenance. When those days arrive, I welcome them. I welcome their coziness, as they foretell the coming of our mild winters.

Most of us do not enjoy raking leaves, but who among us doesn’t enjoy seeing the panoply of colors as fall truly falls upon us? Oranges, browns, yellows, and reds - we are surrounded by nature’s reminder that this year’s growth cycle has ended and a colder, starker season is around the corner. We know that in a few short months, the winter weather will subside, and green sprouts will appear on trees and bushes, to harken the return of spring.

I’ve never been one to rake

leaves. They serve a purpose on the ground. Their decomposition helps provide for the growth which will follow. And I like looking at them. I have many pine trees out my front door. They’re everywhere. I love their subtle orange brown color, contrasted with the rich green the needles on the trees retain. Ah, this is my East Texas.

It’s still essentially summer here, even though the calendar says it is autumn. But fall weather will come soon, the trees will turn, the monarch butterflies will pass through, and the migratory birds will land, feed, and return to the skies. The skies will turn gloomy. The cold in the air will bite. We will see the fog of our breath when we breathe out the night air.

I can’t wait to see it all again this autumn!

© 2016, Jim “Pappy” Moore, All Rights Reserved. Jim “Pappy” Moore is a native son of East Texas who still makes the piney woods his home.

## Buckeyes in SA From Page 1

were 2-0 on the season. They began the year by upsetting favored Illinois just a week after the Fighting Illini had beaten Nebraska on the road. It was the first time UTSA had beaten a Big 10 team.

The Runners built on that big win and defeated Lamar University a week later at home with a shutout 54-0 win over the Cardinals. Their third game this past Saturday had them hosting Middle Tennessee State in the Alamodome.

We had planned on covering a UTSA game last year, but COVID-19 had other plans. We had texted earlier this year and I told Jeff The Mirror would be down to cover a game this season. When we noticed the Roadrunners were playing Middle Tennessee State last weekend it was obviously the perfect game to cover.

For those who are not aware, Gilmer Buckeye star Tra Fluellen transferred there after playing his first two seasons after graduating from Gilmer at Houston Baptist University. He is still classified as a sophomore due to COVID.

We got in touch with Kyle Stephens, Associate Athletic Director for UTSA and secured a press credential for the game. As it turned out, Kyle is the nephew of former Gilmer Buckeye Arlyn Stephens and he said since his dad grew up in Gilmer he had spent time here when he was growing up visiting his dad’s family. His dad is Arlyn’s older brother Alex.

We had the opportunity to not only cover the game and attend Coach Traylor’s presser following his team’s 27-13 win; we had a chance to talk with Tra to get his thoughts about blocking a UTSA field goal in the game. We talked with former Buckeye Head Coach Matt Turner and former Offensive Line Coach Kurt Traylor on the sidelines during pregame warm-ups.

Additionally, former GISD Superintendent Larry Bennett and his wife have season tickets for the games and we talked with him a bit about recommending Jeff in 2000 to become the head coach of the Buckeyes.

When we talked with Coach Turner we asked his thoughts on being on the Roadrunner coaching staff and reuniting with Jeff and Kurt once again.

“That’s pretty hard to put into words, quite honestly. It’s

just the relationships. Obviously, I loved the relationship I had with both Jeff and Kurt, and it’s just neat to be part of the team and part of this coaching staff and these players. I did it for 38 years so it’s something I enjoy, obviously.”

Coach Turner’s title with the Roadrunners is Football Chief of Staff. We asked if that meant he watched and coached the coaches on the team, and he responded, “That’s a standing joke around here, yeah. Who knows what the Chief of Staff is? I get to be around great coaches, great players. When I can, I ask questions. I’m learning a lot more than any of them are from me, trust me. It’s just I get to be a part of this and it’s really special.”

When we talked with Kurt we asked what it meant to him to be coaching in San Antonio at UTSA with his brother and Coach Turner.

“Obviously, it’s great to be here, but more importantly, I think it’s great for us just getting to be together again. You know how much we enjoy being around each other. It’s always special to end up working with guys that you ended up working for, with them being my mentors. That’s a blast being with them again. I’ve always said I wasn’t going to go work for anybody else unless it was my brother and Coach Turner. I worked for him for several years. I’ve really enjoyed it. What we’ve done here is the same thing that we’ve always done in Gilmer and the same thing that we put in in Tyler. It’s fun, it’s a blast. I love being with these guys. Jeff does a great job of hiring people that suit our culture.”

When we talked with Dr. Bennett we asked him to tell us a little about the process that led to him recommending to the GISD board in 2000 that they hire Jeff Traylor as coach of the Buckeyes.

“Well Jeff came by my office in 2000 and he said he just wanted to drop off an application. We sat and visited and four hours later he left my office and in those four hours he convinced me that he loved kids. I also interviewed two guys who won state championships. They didn’t talk about loving kids. Jeff Traylor did, over and over and over. That’s why I recommended. He did have a

1-year probationary contract. He beat Gladewater though, so that’s probably what took care of that! His excitement about being home and coaching kids and loving kids” (was why he recommended him).

The game itself played out as expected. Middle Tennessee came in at 1-1 and fought hard but they were no match for the Roadrunners, due in part to the UTSA defense. UTSA was in control from the beginning of the game until late in the game when Middle Tennessee scored a couple of TDs.

During the postgame presser, we mentioned to Coach Traylor that former Gilmer players were everywhere and asked his thought about Tra Fluellen blocking the Duplessis field goal attempt.

“He’s a great kid, comes from a great program. They don’t ever quit. Everybody likes all those points we scored back then (in Gilmer), but we had a few games like this. It was bad for us, but we got some good reps in. I was happy for him. That’s the first time our field goal team hasn’t been solid. Those guys just stuck it to us. We’ve got to be better, but I was happy for him, though. I’m always happy for the Buckeyes!”

When we talked with Tra, we asked him how big it was for him to block a field goal against the former Buckeye coach’s team.

“Playing the game we needed a big momentum drive and that was a big momentum drive for us, or a big momentum stop. We needed to turn the ball over for our offense but unfortunately it didn’t work out for our offense, but we needed it and that was big. Anytime we can keep points off the board that’s a big thing for us and we’re doing our job and that’s what we’re looking for. I’m always looking to better. I’m always looking to be better and the opportunities I’m getting I’m trying to take advantage of those. We just want to win, so whatever we have to do to win is all I’m looking for.”

We concluded by asking Tra what message he would like to send back to the 2021 Gilmer Buckeyes. He replied, “When you get in college, you’re on your own. Take advantage when you get your opportunity. Take advantage and just be focused and never change in what you want. Be yourself and chase your dream!”

## Rear Vision Mirror TEN YEARS AGO

Wildfire started by a power line break which caused a transformer to blow west of FM 1002 jumped both FM 1002 and Hwy. 154, racing into Raintree Lakes Estates driven by the wind, where it destroyed 15 structures, including nine homes . . . Chief Appraiser Sarah Curtis said appraisers would be visiting every burned-over area in the county to view structure and property damage . . . In a series of 3-2 votes, commissioners rejected County Judge Jim Bowling’s proposals to reverse budget cuts he had originally proposed . . . Gilmer council adopted a tax rate of \$0.6314 per \$100 assessed valuation to help fund a city budget of \$7,535,153 . . . Judge Lauren Parish and Jimmy Bedard were pictured rehearsing for the upcoming dinner theater *Murder at 30,000 Feet* . . . New Diana ISD held special program honoring area fire fighters . . . Northeast Texas Fire Complex of 52,951 acres in six counties; Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Marion, Rusk and Upshur, was 100 percent contained . . . Baylor Univ. President Kenneth Starr spoke at Davidson Foundation annual fall meeting near Ashland.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

Gilmer ISD was one of 61 entities to share in \$25 million technology grant . . . Supt. Larry Bennett and GISD board president Mike Waller discussed where to cut \$900,000 more from the budget should Nov. 6 rollback election lower tax rate from \$1.44 to \$1.40 . . . Matador Operating brought dual-zone gas well on line in the Cedar Springs Field . . . Mrs. Nellie Helms, 100, died . . . NTCC fall enrollment was 2,203, near a record high . . . Gilmer sales tax receipts were up nearly 20 percent . . . Winnboro edged Gilmer there, 19-14 . . . Gilmer adopted a \$6.83 million budget with a 9-cent per \$100 valuation tax hike; Councilman Joe Woodson cast the lone dissenting vote . . . About 500 attended 9-11 memorial service at Buckeye Stadium . . . County was set to receive \$350,000 from state disaster relief fund to replace flood-damaged infrastructure . . . State Farm and Farmers Insurance withdrew from homeowners’ insurance market in Texas because of black mold liability issues.

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

“Have a Heart” benefit concert was held at American Music Hayride auditorium for transplant recipient Michael Reeves, 14 . . . Steve Dean was one of six East Texas businessmen selected to go to Metz, France, sister city of Tyler, to explore business opportunities . . . County employees received \$50-a-month, across-the-board raise . . . Gilmer native Bill Youngkin was president of Texas A&M Former Students Assn. . . . Deaths included Mrs. Verna Finch, 101; Mrs. Florence Herring, 89; Albert Hiles, 61; Mrs. Ella Mae Brison, 76 . . . LaDonna Fox and Tiffany Dodd were commended for scoring in the top five percent on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test . . . Tammy Houck was crowned New Diana homecoming queen . . . Gilmer firemen Bob Roberts and Kyle Moore rescued 65-lb. dog from abandoned well near Lafayette . . . Buckeyes beat Daingerfield for first time in 16 years, 16-6; Red Jones scored both TDs.

## FORTY YEARS AGO

James O. Dismukes, 35, was named executive director of Upshur Memorial Center and Ford Memorial Hospital . . . Steve Sanson was pictured piloting his WEEDHOPPER flying machine made of aluminum tubing and powered by a 30-HP engine . . . West Texans were once again looking east to obtain water, editorial advised voters to say no to amendment creating new water fund . . . Deaths included Latricia Ann Reeves, 32; Walter (Nix) Douglass, 92; and Robert Lee Morgan, 41 . . . A Glenwood grocery store owner was appealing the new route of Hwy. 300 before a hearing of the highway commission in Austin . . . Marty Hodges, GHS senior, won Rotary’s Youth Merit Award . . . Gilmer beat Gladewater, 10-8,

(See **Rear Vision**, Page 5)