

# Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



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50¢



Each year on the third Monday of January, America honors the birth, life, and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As this is a Federal holiday, not only will schools and libraries be closed, most federal and state offices will be closed and there will be no mail deliveries on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In 2019, a survey by Bloomberg Law showed that 45% of employers give all or most employees a paid day off for King Day. That percentage has doubled since 1990, according to the survey.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only national holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities, according to the corporation for National & Community Service.

It is a time to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought. A time to remember his fight for the freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and peoples through nonviolence.

## Texas Comptroller releases biennial revenue estimate

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar released the Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) Monday, showing the state is projected to have a record \$188.2 billion in revenue available for general-purpose spending during the 2024-25 biennium, a 26.3 percent increase from the 2022-23 biennium.

The increase is a direct result of vigorous economic growth since the end of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, spikes in energy prices and, unfortunately, the highest rate of general price inflation in 40 years.

As state lawmakers prepare for tomorrow's start of the Regular Session of the 88th Legislature, Hegar urged state policymakers to spend money wisely and prudently to benefit Texans now and in the future.

"We cannot, and we will not, lose sight of the fact that every tax dollar received by the state is coming out of Texans' pockets," Hegar said. "I know very well that the Legislature decides how to use all the money they have available, yet I must advise some caution as these decisions are made: Bluntly, don't count on me announcing another big revenue jump two years from now. The revenue increases that we've seen have been, in many ways, unprecedented, and we cannot reasonably expect a repeat. We are unlikely to have an opportunity like this again. This budgeting session is truly a once-in-a-lifetime session."

The \$188.2 billion available for general-purpose spending includes 2024-25 collections of \$165.9 billion in General Revenue-Related (GR-R) funds.

These collections are augmented by an expected 2022-23 ending GR-R balance of \$32.7 billion. Of the total, \$10.2 billion must be reserved from 2024-25 oil and natural gas tax collections for transfers to the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), also known as the state's Rainy Day Fund, and the State Highway Fund (SHF). These reserves would be \$4.5 billion higher but for the constitutional limit on the ESF balance, which will be met beginning in 2025.



A formal Gladewater Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting was held last week at the Gladewater Primary School for its new PreK modular building, which will house the full day Pre-K classes. School board members and officials, along with GPS teachers and community leaders attended the event. Photo by Jim Bardwell



The weather was perfect for hanging the various banners around historic Downtown Gladewater last week to help kick off the year-long sesquicentennial celebration. And a big thank you to Mark Robinson for having SWEPCO hang the large banners at the four entrances into town. The downtown lamp post banners will also greet visitors. The kickoff event will be held on Saturday, January 21 from 6-8 p.m. at the Gladewater Museum where local history will come to life. Hope to see you there as the 150th Celebration of Gladewater begins!

Photos by Jim Bardwell



Thank you to local BSA Gladewater Troop and life scout Liam Reagh along with the help of his brothers and father Tom Reagh for doing such a great job on the Gladewater basketball courts at the lake.

## Autopsy reveals Upshur man drowned in creek bed

By Phillip Williams

An autopsy determined that an Ore City man found dead Nov. 16 died of accidental drowning, Upshur County Chief Sheriff's Deputy David Hazel announced Friday.

William Chad Martin, 38, was reported Nov. 7 as missing since Nov. 5, Hazel said Monday. Martin's body was found in a pasture creek bed in Latch community near North Live Oak Road, the chief deputy said in November.

The autopsy at Forensic Medical Management Services outside Tyler showed Martin sustained injuries consistent with a fall and were contributing factors to his death, Hazel said in a press release Friday.

Owners of the property where the body was found discovered it about one-half mile from where Martin was last reported seen in the early hours of Nov. 5, Hazel said in November. He said the owners had cooperated with Martin's relatives and law enforcement officers over the past week in trying to find him.

In an earlier press release, issued just before the body was found, Hazel

said Martin's girlfriend "last saw him as they ran into some woods near Live Oak Road in southwest Upshur County, in the early morning hours of November 5 during the nighttime."

The girlfriend said she and Martin "believed they had been detected stealing tires from a nearby location, and fled in Martin's truck." When it ran out of gas, the couple fled into nearby woods, and were separated, Hazel said.

"She later emerged from the woods, but Martin did not, and has not been seen since," Hazel had written.

"The wooded area is over 500 acres large, surrounded by paved roads on all four sides," but "these woods are very difficult to traverse, with significant dropoffs, ravines, hills and light foliage." Sheriff's deputies searched the area several times, as did Martin's relatives. The sheriff's office received help Nov. 12 from the Big Sandy-based Emergency Response Team SDCC, which provided horseback, ATV and foot search of the area.

"The 500 acres is divided among multiple landowners," several of whom "have offered to search their property further," Hazel had noted.



The Lee-Bardwell Public Library's master calendar is done!

According to Brandy Winn, library director, "If you have not been to our 'new' website, you'll want to check it out because we have a Google Calendar where we will be posting events."

This month will be a little short because we are still hammering out details for Library-led events for the rest of the year, but there are four things that I want to make sure that I got out there before the week was out.

First, on Saturday, January 21st, to coordinate with the Gladewater Museum's 150th Anniversary kick-off event, the Library will be showing "Night at the Museum," starting at 10:10 a.m. and "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian," starting at 12:30 p.m. in the large meeting room.

We will have popcorn and drinks for both movies and will provide hot dogs and chips for lunch for the kiddos. The movies are both rated PG, so they may not be appropriate for small children. The Gladewater Museum's event is scheduled for that night from 6-8 PM.

You can find more details at <https://www.gladewater150.com/>.

Second, our volunteer applications will become available to fill out on January 24th. We will have information on volunteering at that time and provide all those who want to volunteer the opportunity to fill out an application. This application is a city-wide application, so you are welcome to fill out the application for other city departments, not just the Library! There is a great need for volunteers in all departments.

Third, storytime comes back to our community every Thursday at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. starting in February!

We will have reading selections for younger children (ages 0-7) at 10, and older children (ages 8-12) at 4. Of course any age is welcome to attend each of the readings!

Last, the library wishes to host several after-hours clubs and meetings. To start that, the Library's "official" book club will begin at the end of February on a date to be determined soon.

I have already chosen the first book, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson. This book is not available at the Library yet, but we should be getting a copy in soon. I also have a personal copy of it that will be donated to the Library next week so that it can be checked out by anyone who wants to attend the book club meeting (I need to read it myself first!). We will have snacks during our discussion.

Brandy Winn



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

**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.

## ...It happens

Have you stopped long enough to make any New Year's resolutions? I know that most of us hope for a fresh start on health and self-discipline right about the time the Christmas goodies run out. Some of us even hang in there until Valentine's Day and the chocolates arrive.

My personal Kryptonite is Coca-Cola. I am trying hard to stick to unsweetened tea but it just doesn't have that kick I am partial (read addicted) to. When I was a high school teacher one of the ways the kids on the journalism staff would butter me up was to hit Happy Hour at the Sonic or DQ and bring me a big old coke. Well so far, Jim Bardwell isn't jumping up to run to Happy Hour and bring on the cool punch of Coke's caffeine when this little buttercup is fading.

I must confess I did have a coke on the way to Corsicana late Friday afternoon. We finally had 'Christmas' at the Ranch with my Mom so I guess the new year starts this week for me. Mr. Newspaper had to stay and cover the hiring of the new city manager Theo Melancon. Welcome Theo!

Jimmy and our son Josh did hot foot it to MiMi's on Saturday morning to join my brother's family for a day of lip-smacking food and a host of presents. My baby brother Phil is a whopping five years younger than me but he creaks. He says it is the miles. Heck, he lives in West Texas. It is probably the fact that humidity is so low his joints don't ever get lubricated. Have I ever told you how much I love East Texas?

Strange that such a tight knit family is on either side of the state with Mom east of middle. I have some very nice presents to show for my weekend jaunt. And I must say my baby brother Phil is very good at picking out his bossy older sister a gift.

We couldn't be more different but blood does tell in that we are both workaholics. In my book, productivity has a kick better than Coca-Cola. Baby Bro must believe that too.

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



He rides herd on Texas Tech's Agronomy research and agriculture programs. He is one smart cookie who has presented papers as far flung as Australia. Pretty good for a good old boy from the Blackland Prairie.

The work he is involved in has included crop production that is drought and pest resistant; water conservation to provide for the future of agriculture and a host of other world changing research.

Me, well I am partnering a newspaper, planting shrubs, picking up trash and pushing books to children to read. Or, I am trying to squeeze just a few more minutes out of every day to do a little something extra...maybe a little UIL tutoring at the area high schools; visiting with former students; or walking our new family member Jack the Sheltie rescue dog around town.

Whether we are impacting the future of the world or just our corner of it we can all do something. Let your new year's resolution be a 'something' that improves things just a smidge.

I guess I don't have patience after a period of sympathy, advice and offered guidance with the "poor me's" of the world. I am a firm believer that if you work hard enough eventually good things will come to you. In the meantime have the eyes to see and the ears to hear, and the WILL to push to be a better you in your tiny corner of this great big old world. When there are enough of us working hard to make the world a better place it happens in large and small ways. Miraculously, it happens.

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

2023

As we ease into a new year, uncertainty is high and there are challenges aplenty. Everywhere you look, somebody else is predicting a recession. Nonetheless, there are signals of improvement in key factors shaping potential economic growth. Let's look at a few to keep an eye on in 2023.



Inflation just keeps sticking around. The Federal Reserve has indicated willingness to stay the course, pushing up interest rates and tightening policy. There are signs that the rate

of price increases is diminishing but remains well above the current target level of 2%. Part of the problem now is that secondary effects such as wage increases are also contributing, and, though much of the pandemic largesse has been dissipated, trillions are still being spent by the federal government. The coming year will likely bring some ongoing relief, but a few more interest rate hikes are inevitable.

Other effects of higher interest rates are rippling through the housing and equities markets. Housing starts are dropping, and prices are falling significantly in some areas. Another contributing factor is changes in remote work patterns, with a number of companies asking employees to return to the office (thereby shifting location patterns and the resultant housing demand). Higher mortgage rates piled on to other shifts will cause notable declines in a few regions. In addition, last year was the worst for the stock market since the Great Recession (though the drop was notably larger in 2008).

The possibility of a recession is looming, though overblown. At this point, I think we'll see slower growth and possibly some brief retrenching, but I don't expect a major or protracted downturn. The Federal Reserve faces a delicate balance in trying to do enough yet not too much; I believe that it is up to the task.

Worker shortages will linger through 2023 and well beyond, though slowing economic expansion will temporarily reduce the need for workers in some industries. The underlying demographic factors behind tight labor markets, however, are not going anywhere.

Reshoring and nearshoring will continue to drive corporate decisions and investments. Supply chain and other pandemic-related issues (including shutdowns) are causing a change in thinking by many corporations, and we will likely see firms invest in manufacturing facilities in North America to insulate themselves from future problems. Rising geopolitical tensions are also contributing to this trend. Relatedly, inventory balances are edging more toward "just in case" rather than "just in time," thus stimulating additional production.

On balance, I expect the economy to do okay, but not spectacular, in 2023, with the latter part of the year being more robust. Best wishes for the new year – may it bring you peace, happiness, health, and prosperity!

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group ([www.perrymangroup.com](http://www.perrymangroup.com)), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.



I HAVE A DREAM

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Telephone: **903-845-2235**

Fax: **903-845-2237**

Email: [gladewatermirror@aol.com](mailto:gladewatermirror@aol.com)

**Owners:**  
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

**Publisher/Editor:** Jim Bardwell  
**Advertising:** Darla Ferguson  
**Office Manager:** Tiffany Harroff

### IS BAPTISM ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?

Baptism, and its relation to salvation is a much discussed and hotly debated question. Is baptism essential to salvation? Will God save a person without that person being baptized? Sincere people can be found on both sides of the issue, but a person can be sincerely wrong. For example, before he was saved, Saul of Tarsus sincerely thought he must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus (Acts 26: 9), which he did "in all good conscience" (v. 1), but he was wrong as could be.

In the publication, *Good News*, March 2, 1972, we read the following: "Is baptism necessary for salvation...a plain definite NO! No, baptism doesn't save, doesn't help save...it doesn't have anything in this world to do with the saving of a soul." Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mk. 1: 16). Peter said: "...eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..." (1 Pet. 3: 20-21). You decide!

In *A New Manual for Baptist Churches*, p. 44-45, we read: "... We say Acts 2: 38 does not teach that baptism is, in any sense, essential to the salvation of a soul." Acts 2: 38 says, "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." You decide!

The Watchtower publication *The Truth that leads to Eternal Life*, p. 183-184, says: "What, then, does Christian baptism signify? It is not washing away of one's sins, because cleansing from sin comes only through faith in Jesus Christ." Revelation 1: 5 says, "...Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" Rev. 1: 5. Acts 22: 16 says, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." You decide! Think on these things.

**Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ**  
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### What to expect in legislative session

The 2023 Texas legislative session opened Jan. 10, with property taxes, gun control and the power grid expected to be among the top issues on the agenda.

The Texas Standard talked to political journalists Niki Griswold of the Austin American-Statesman and James Barragan of the Texas Tribune to see what might be upcoming.

Griswold predicts the “so-called culture war issue” could take center stage, with a number of bills already filed regarding the rights of transgender children and their parents, as well as battles over what books should be made available to children in the classroom and libraries.

Barragan said the state’s predicted \$27 billion surplus will attract a number of factions wanting a piece of that action. Gov. Greg Abbott has called for about half the surplus to be spent on property tax relief, while House Speaker Dade Phelan is pushing for more spending on infrastructure.

Griswold pointed out that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick wields considerable power in the Legislature and is keenly interested in more fixes to the state’s electric grid.

The regular session will last 140 days, as set by the state constitution.

### Ag agency: Climate change threatens food supply

A new report released last week by the Texas Department of Agriculture concluded climate change is a potential threat to the state’s food supply and could produce food insecurity. The report comes after a historic drought decimated crops and forced ranchers to sell the highest number of livestock in more than a decade.

The Texas Tribune reported the food access study, published by TDA and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, noted that “climate instability is strongly associated with water quality, soil degradation, droughts, fires, floods and other environmental disasters.”

The report was submitted to the Legislature on Dec. 31 and points to other factors that make it harder for Texans to



access and afford food, such as wages not keeping up with inflation and lack of access to food in rural areas.

“The important takeaway here is that there are significant gaps that need to be addressed between what researchers calculate to be a living wage in Texas, the wages that Texans are actually receiving, and many of the poverty thresholds that determine eligibility for assistance programs,” the report says.

### Abbott calls for action on ankle monitor violations

Abbott last week sent a letter to legislative leaders calling for legislation to create criminal penalties for parolees who cut off their ankle monitors.

That action comes in the wake of an October incident in which parolee Nestor Hernandez was charged with pulling a handgun and killing two hospital employees while visiting his girlfriend and their newborn child at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. He was shot by a Methodist Hospital police officer but survived and is now being held without bond on capital murder charges.

A few weeks later another parolee, Zeric Jackson, was accused of fatally shooting a man at his former girlfriend’s Dallas apartment.

“It is clear that the ankle monitors, a condition of their parole, were not effective in deterring or otherwise preventing these individuals from going on to commit violent crimes, resulting in three innocent lives being lost,” Abbott wrote.

Currently, there are no criminal penalties for a parolee cutting off an ankle monitor.

### Beware of online phone scams

The Texas Department of Insurance is urging Texans, especially older adults, to beware of both phone and online scams. In 2021, more than 6,700 Texans over age 60 reported losing more than \$159 million to fraudsters, TDI reports.

- Some common scams:
- A caller offers to fix a non-existent computer problem or to renew a software or security subscription that does not actually exist.
  - A caller purports to be a grandchild calling from another country and needing hundreds of dollars quickly.
  - A call or email that says you have won a sweepstakes or lottery but requires you to pay thousands of dollars in bogus fees in order to claim the larger prize.
  - Someone adopts a fake identity to gain affection and confidence, in hopes of eventually building a relationship that enable the scammer to steal money.

### Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has again provided the state with more than \$344.1 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits for the month of January, benefitting about 1.6 million Texas households

The funds are distributed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Each SNAP household will receive at least \$95 in emergency allotments in addition to its regular allotment.

Since April 2020, the federal government has provided more than \$9.3 billion in benefits to Texans through SNAP.

“We know these benefits will help families start 2023 with healthy and nutritious foods,” said Texas HHS Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter.

### RRC unveils interactive map of orphaned wells

Using federal infrastructure funding, the Texas Railroad Commission has launched an interactive map of orphan wells that have been plugged or are scheduled to be plugged.

The RRC received a \$25 million initial grant in 2022 from the U.S. Department of the Interior as part of the federal infrastructure act. So far, 128 orphan wells have been plugged, with plans to plug about 800 more abandoned wells by the end of the fiscal year.

Another \$318 million in federal funding may be available to plug orphaned wells, according to the RRC. You can view the interactive map at <https://tinyurl.com/38tjm4wy>.

### COVID-19 cases rise in past week

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the past week in Texas rose to 39,019, with 131 deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized in the state also rose to 3,445, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: [gborders@texaspress.com](mailto:gborders@texaspress.com).

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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

- 1 this Lawrence moved Exxon headquarters to Texas
- 5 Billy Ray Cyrus hit: “\_\_\_ Breaky Heart”
- 6 TXism: “you can write \_\_\_ ink” (positive)
- 7 “Acton State Historical \_\_\_”
- 8 Adam’s mate
- 9 this Zaprunder filmed the JFK assassination
- 16 sprinter Lendore who ran for ACU and A&M
- 18 TX Mahomes won S. \_\_\_ Belt in 2020
- 21 Junction High class
- 22 antique autos
- 23 Amarillo’s “\_\_\_ State Fair & Rodeo”
- 24 “\_\_\_ way” (sick or unhappy)
- 30 Texas-based 1943 film: “\_\_\_ Cowboys”
- 34 this Davis was a Ranger pitcher from 1999 to 2003 (init.)
- 35 bean or pea, e.g.
- 36 De \_\_\_\_, TX
- 37 an undocumented one might cross the Rio Grande into Texas
- 39 TXism: “weak as a two-\_\_\_”
- 43 aquarium fish
- 44 TXism: “\_\_\_ the towel” (give up)

**DOWN**

- 1 TXism: “\_\_\_ on concrete” (city boy)
- 2 energetic
- 3 name of 3 Texas towns including one in Titus County (2 wds.)
- 4 TX Phil who was all-around cowboy in 1971 & 1972
- 9 state where Jerry Jones & Jimmy Johnson played college ball (abbr.)
- 10 wife of a baron (but not a cattle baron)
- 11 “Flower Gardens Banks,” 100 miles off Galveston
- 12 Texas is \_\_\_ state (climate)
- 13 a cowboy always has \_\_\_ with him
- 14 heat relief (abbr.)
- 15 “The Katy” back in the day: “\_\_\_ Railway”
- 17 TXism: “he couldn’t drive a \_\_\_ a snowbank” (inept)
- 19 have pizza delivered home (2 wds.)
- 20 abducts someone
- 24 birth state of TX Goodnight (abbr.)
- 25 Beatty of 1990 film “Big Bad John” with TX Jimmy Dean
- 26 59-across to a mobster (2 wds.)
- 27 TXism: “he couldn’t \_\_\_ for a nightmare” (poor)
- 28 Samuel developed \_\_\_ code
- 29 old Texas mission: “San Francisco \_\_\_ Tejas”
- 31 modern pastime: “surfing the \_\_\_”
- 32 TXism: “\_\_\_ half a mind to” (inclined)
- 33 Waggoner heiress
- 38 TXism: “if \_\_\_ been a snake, it would have bit you”
- 40 intox. offense in TX
- 41 TXism: “swap spit”
- 42 Texas school policy: “\_\_\_ Play”
- 48 work hard
- 50 young male (2 wds.)
- 51 “get \_\_\_ of it”
- 56 TX-born Joshua who co-wrote “South Pacific”
- 57 uncooked bread

P-1619

**See Answers Below**

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# Obituary

## RHONDA LEIGH CALHOUN

Rhonda Leigh Calhoun was born on October 31, 1961 to parents Jack and Gwendoline Rider in Tulsa, Oklahoma. And passed away at home on January 3, 2022. She graduated from Stillwell High School in 1979 as the class Valedictorian. She attended Northeastern State University earning her Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1983, and was a member of the Deltz Zeta Sorority while attending from 1979 - 1983. She married her husband Richard T. Calhoun on March 7, 1992 in Tahlequah, OK. They moved to Henderson in 1997 where she resided until her passing. She worked at Vera Bank, formally CNB for 25 years.

Rhonda was preceded in death by her parents, Jack Edward Rider and Gwendoline Laughlin Rider.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Calhoun of Henderson. Her sister, Jacqueline M. Kabrick and husband, Edward of Edmond, OK and their daughter, Megan Marie Duvall and husband Riley, as well as their children, Chaney Marie and Cruze James Duvall. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Ann Scogin and husband Vernon of Claremore, OK and their children, Nicole Scogin of Denver, CO and Andrew Scogin and wife Amanda of Plano, TX. And her brother-in-law, Ron Calhoun of St. Louis, MO and his children, Sarah Calhoun of San Francisco, CA and Sam Calhoun and wife Kaitlyn of Denver, CO.

Rhonda also left behind many special friends including, Marj and Waylon Wagner of Henderson, Becky Tanner of Henderson, Waylon Wiggins of Stuttgart, AR, her Vera Bank family of 25 years and her fur baby of the home, Zoe.

Funeral services for Rhonda Calhoun were held on Saturday, January 7 at 11am at Gladewater Methodist Church. A visitation was held the night before on Friday between 6 and 8 pm at Rader Funeral Home in Henderson. A family burial will take place on Monday, January 9 at 11am at Stillwell City Cemetery in Stillwell, OK

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Manna House needs your help

The local Manna House is always in need of food so they can help our neighbors. So please continue your weekly donations of bread, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter and mac-n-cheese. When you are grocery shopping, consider picking up a few extra items for Manna House, so they can keep helping others. Drop off the non-perishable items at 519 E Broadway Ave. or at the *Gladewater Mirror* at 211 N. Main. Got questions, call (903) 845-3128.

## GW Garden Club

The Gladewater Garden Club, established 1949, meets the fourth Monday of each month at the Gardens of Gladewater Clubhouse, 108 N. Lee Street, at 1 p.m.. They have monthly programs by gardening experts and refreshments. If you are interested in joinign contact a garden club member.

## County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children at each of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions Thursday, Jan. 12.

"Winter Lullaby" by Dianne White, and "All Right, Already - A Snowy Story" by Jory John and Benji Davies will be presented at 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., said the library's children's coordinator, Kari Dunn. A craft will follow each Storytime.

The library is at 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas Hwy. 154.) Although the events are free to the public, children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at [www.youseemore.com/upshur](http://www.youseemore.com/upshur).

## KC English Honor Society inducts 34

Upsilon Delta, the Kilgore College chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta – the national English honor society for two-year colleges – inducted 34 students who qualified for



Gladewater Middle School conducted a canned food drive which the 8th Grade winning. Over 300 cans were donated to Manna House which will help local families. What a great service project for these students. Photo by Lois Reed

membership for the Fall 2022 semester.

Local SKD inductees for Fall 2022 include: Sable Arreola – Big Sandy, Christina Berry – Gladewater, Antoinette Jaramillo – Gladewater, Heather Loper – Gladewater, and Kayla Ross – Hawkins, .



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Morning Service	11 a.m.	
Evening Service	6:30 p.m.	<b>903-845-6440</b>

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- First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
- Northside Pentecostal
- Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
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- Love of God Church • 903-845-2623



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White Oak 4th Grader Hank Bartlett displays his "Ugly Drum BBQ Smoker" that was one of many items auctioned off during the Gregg County Youth EXPO FFA Sale of Champions held at the White Oak Secondary Cafeteria.

Photos by Mike Peery



White Oak Senior Triston Blair shows off his "Vertical Smoker/Grill" that he spent 3 months designing and constructing for the Gregg County Youth EXPO FFA Auction.

### Texas Drilling Permit/Completion Statistics for December 2022

AUSTIN – The Railroad Commission of Texas issued a total of 869 original drilling permits in December 2022 compared to 842 in December 2021. The December 2022 total includes 797 permits to drill new oil or gas wells, four to re-enter plugged wellbores and 45 for re-completions of existing wellbores.

The breakdown of well types for original drilling permits in December 2022 is 161 oil, 71 gas, 598 oil or gas, 27 injection and 12 other permits.

In December 2022, Commission staff processed 815 oil, 167 gas and 231 injection completions for new drills, re-entries and re-completions, compared to 605 oil, 99 gas and 211 injection completions in December 2021.

Total well completions processed for 2022 for new drills, re-entries and re-completions are 13,415 compared to 9,269 recorded in 2021.

Detailed data on drilling permits and well completions for the month can be found at this link:

<https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/research-and-statistics/drilling-information/monthly-drilling-completion-and-plugging-summaries/>

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# Lady Bears beat New Diana Lady Eagles

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Lady Bears opened up district play on Friday, January 6 at home taking on the New Diana Lady Eagles. Gladewater in a back-and-forth game pulled away late to score a 42-28 win at home.

Both teams came out hot in the first quarter which ended tied a 8-8. The Lady Bears were able to get their defense going in the second quarter as they held New Diana to just 5 points in the quarter to take 26-13 into halftime.

But the Lady Eagles turned the tables and out scored the Lady Bears 13-4 in the third quarter to get back into the game after three quarters with the score 30-26 heading to the fourth. But the Bears put the game away with scoring and defense as they held New Diana to just 2 points in the fourth quarter to take home the victory.

"I feel we played one of our best games all season. Love how we played defensively in the fourth quarter to put the game away. Always important to start district play off on the right foot," said Gladewater head coach Jermaine Lewis.

The win improves the Lady Bears record to 9-11 on the season and 1-0 in district play. They will be on the road on Tuesday, January 11 in White Oak to play the Lady Roughnecks. Tip off is at 6 p.m.

The Gladewater boys team will be back in action on Friday, January 13 at home when they open up district play vs the Dangerfield Tigers at 7:30 p.m..

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### WHITE OAK ACTION

In other District 15-3A action, The White Oak Ladynecks beat Hughes Springs, 52-13 thanks to Elyse Paiz's 16 points and Whitney Rayson adding 15 points on Friday.

Emma Nix, hours after signing a national letter-of-intent for track at Texas A&M-Commerce, added nine points, nine rebounds and three blocks for the Ladynecks. Lexi Palmer had four points, Anna Iske and Bella Baker three apiece and Graycen Sipes two. Rayson added 10 rebounds and Kalyn Hepler five. Paiz led with three assists, Karlyn Jones had 10 steals and Iske blocked seven shots.

### SABINE ACTION

And Sabine beat Daingerfield 47-19 as Ashlynn Davis tossed in 19 points and Loren Colquitt added 14 points for the a Lady Cardinals opener in district play.

Tayla Calico added four points for the Lady Cardinals. Ashleigh McCormack finished with three, Kylee Longhofer, Breanna Evans and Caitlyn Stewart two apiece and Silvia Bosoni one.

### UNION GROVE ACTION

In 2-A action, Union Grove defeated Big Sandy by a score of 65-53 as Jax Daniels led the way with 23 points. Colton Cowan had 20 points and Jace Roberts 15 for the Lions.

The Union Grove Lions are now 9-10 overall and 2-1 in district play.



Senior Zac Jacyno zero in on a three point shot with the WOHS ESPN crew of Collin Wheat, Lucas Frazier, and Drake Kneff in the background. Jacyno led the Necks with 21 points in the blowout 63-18 win over Kings Academy. Photo by Mike Peery

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WHITE OAK HONOR ROLLS

Table with columns: STUDENT NAME, GRADE, SCHOLASTIC/HONOR ROLL. Lists student names and their academic standing across various grades from Seniors to Juniors.

Table with columns: STUDENT NAME, GRADE, SCHOLASTIC/HONOR ROLL. Lists student names and their academic standing for Sophomores, 8th Grade, Freshman, and FRESHMAN SCHOLASTIC ROLL.

Table with columns: STUDENT NAME, GRADE, SCHOLASTIC/HONOR ROLL. Lists student names and their academic standing for FRESHMAN SCHOLASTIC ROLL, 6TH GRADE, and 5TH GRADE.

Table with columns: STUDENT NAME, GRADE, SCHOLASTIC/HONOR ROLL. Lists student names and their academic standing for 6TH GRADE, 5TH GRADE, and 4TH GRADE.

Table with columns: STUDENT NAME, GRADE, SCHOLASTIC/HONOR ROLL. Lists student names and their academic standing for 4TH GRADE, 3RD GRADE, 2ND GRADE, and 1ST GRADE.



2022-23 Middle School Honor Roll Term 2 Based on GPA and NO Failing Grades

Large table listing the 2022-23 Middle School Honor Roll Term 2 students, organized by grade level from 8th to 1st, with columns for Student Name and Honor Roll status.

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**GPS Honor Roll 22/23  
2nd Nine Weeks  
First Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Ava Aldredge, Athena Allen, Correy Armstrong, Rey Barnett, Abigail Beaver, Sebastian Bonilla, Rhenley Capps, Laykn Cates, Amir Celestine, A'Niyah Claiborne, Gavin Copeland, Kianna Davis, Victoria Dominguez, Bartz Dunn, Rae-Lynn Edwards, Cayden Fletcher, Harper Garland, Holly Gillespie, Kaitlyn Hadaway, Nathan Hurlstone, Charlee Jackson, Koleson Kegarise, Harleigh King, Kenneth Leerstang, Lawrence Leerstang, Ava Lumpkins, Kenleigh Mathews, Eunessa Matteson, Camila Maya, Evelyn Meals, Zy Rialle Miller, Kelsen Mills, Shealynn Murrell, Kimberly Nunez Santibanez, McKenzie Olbrey, Camari Price, Dylan Reynolds, Annaleigha Rivera, Royal Rivera, Vivienne Robinson, Landon Schill, Trevor Taylor, Evalynn Valle, Aiden Wade, Tamara Washington, Liliana Welch, Rebeca Wright

**A/B Honor Roll**

Genevieve Allen, Olive Baggett, Ian Bird, Kinzlee Bobo, Kynnedi Carter, Evelyn Chavarria, Lydia Cloud, Emory Copeland, Aurora Coronado, Peighton Croley, Shariah Escobedo, Isaac Espinoza, Elliot Garcia, Maddex Glover, Grayson Harris, Korbin Jackson, Story Jenkins, Majestee Johnson, Ellie Jones, Jersey Linton, Aubree Love, Darius Love, Trina Mach, Lillianna Mendoza, Jamal Miner, Knox Reed, Luke Regalado, Kyleigh Renfro, Montavian Rogers, Sarah Schlaefer, Daniel Schwartz, Chase Smith, Natalee Smith, Nikolas Snow, Talon Teel, Adelyn Warren, Tajayzeion Williams, Emma Wilson, Suri Zarate

**Weldon Elementary  
2nd Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A" Honor Roll**

Hunter Allen, Cayson Armstrong, Bailey Babbitt, Brylen Bailey, Henry Ballou, Adam Belcher, Hunter Bahanon, Reagan Bradshaw, Lily Brooks, LilyAnn Budro, Ava Chandarliis, Natalia Chavarria, Juddson Cook, Eulollie Dartez, Anthony Diaz Hernandez, Kinsleigh Gordon, River Helpenstine, Kayden Henderson, Miguel Hernandez, Josephine Hilgren, Kynlei Jackson, Michael LaCoe, Samuel Langford, Sophie Langford, Knox Laws, Robert Louvier, Trinh Mach, Karlee Mahoney, Teagan Medlin, Katelyn Mireles, Maddox Moore, Camila Mumphy, Tazaevion Osborn, Yazayra Perez, Aleighana Phillips, Wyatt Richardson, Zoe Richardson, Emma Rose, Keray Sanders, Kennedy Smith, Maddison Smith, Journey Stephenson, Madilyn Villalpando, Brooklyn Williams

**2nd Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Lillian Bamburg, Walker Barnhill, Kinsley Beadles, Brilynn Bell, Paxton Bell, Cassidy Bellew, Addison Bigler, Ava Blalock, Mycah Bonner, Elizabeth Brown, Maria Calderon Cardenas, Cotton Chisnall, Jesus Diaz, Michael Edwards, Kamryn Gillespie, Jayda Griffith, Jackson Grimes, Gerral Hawthorne, Greyson Herman, Adalynn Hilton, Serenity Johnson, Michael Lancaster, Aziyah Madden, Joan Martinez, Collyn McCollum, Phoenix McCollum, Elizabeth McCoy, Jayden Mireles, Heidi Neal, Caliah O'Rourke, Nyla Orange, Damian Parks, Jafet Perez Olvera, Payton Pettiette, Ezrah Pittman, Karsyn Reese, Brooklyn Regalado, Ulises Reyes, Joshua Robinson, Memphis Robinson, Travis Sepulvado, Jack, Zander Shuler, Alayna Smith, Braxton Thomas, Tavaris Thomas, Brenden Townsend, Jordan Trevino, Kranston Turner, Gunner Tyner, Hope Villarreal, Presley Watts, Maximo Williams, Ke'Morian Young

**3rd Grade update  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A" Honor Roll**

Leland Bamburg, MasyN Dandoy, Carter Ellis, Grayson Fletcher, Emmaleigh Harris, Brilee Lennon, Milana McDowell, James Meals, Holly Perry, Atticus Reynolds, Parker Webber

**3rd Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Landen Anderson, Joaquin Arreguin, Natalie Bateman, Easton Baxter, Kendyl Bell, Kingsley Bell, Bentley Blalock, Brantley Blalock, Jaden Bohanon, Lila Brown, Braelynn Burton, Remi Capps, Wesley Carroll, Makayla Causey, Elijah Childress, Skylar Davis, Franchesca Dominguez, Stefano Dominguez, Arabella Fleet, Raegan Glarborg, Deillah Hawley, Audrey Heaney, Drelin Henderson, Liam Herman, Amiyah Jones, Kacen Jones, Brooklyn Jordan, Arianna Kelley, Caylan Latham, Irelynn Lee, Daniel Leerstang, Sandra Lopez, Samantha Loutsenhizer, Caleigh Lowery, Alex Mayeux, Piper Miller, Jordan Moore, Derrick Nash, Jayson Nino-Eufracio, Joseangel Perez, McKenzie Perez, Stefanie Perez, Meryl Reazin, Adelyn Ritter, Boston Robinson, Susana Sanchez, Paisley Simmons, Isabelle Smith, Amelia Thomas, Cesar Trejo, Bayleigh Wady, I'Yana



Ward-Cloudy, Parker Webber, Tessa White

**4th Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A" Honor Roll**

Makenzy Causey, Isabella Polanco, Chevelle Sisson

**4th Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Roberto Arreguin, Drew Brookshire, John Brown, Zahon Brown, InaSue Budro, William Carney, William Cerda, Nehemiah Cole, Talan Crenshaw, Liam Dabbagh, Brooklyn Dangel, Litzy Delgado, Victor Espinoza, Korbin Evans, Kar'Dae Ford, Leah Haley, Maverick Hamby, John Jackson, Colsen Manley, Rucker Murry, Kinsley Nielsen, Ahmiya Pemble, Prince Rivera, Jayden Rojas, Lily Rose, Sadie Shackelford, Aliyah Thomas, Landry Townsend, Layla Trotter, Emily Youngblood-Smith

**5th Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A" Honor Roll**

Brady Aldredge, Colt Moore, Brentlee Morris, Cullen Reynolds, Anna Tilton

**5th Grade  
2nd Nine Weeks  
"A-B" Honor Roll**

Kolbi Alverson, Peyton Bell, Killian Boyles, Fernanda Coronado, Lydia Crane, Dexter Dickinson, Rylee Farley, McKaylie Ferrell, McKenzie Ferrell, Emma Harroff, Kanai Hicks, Heath Hightower, Lyla Leblanc, Mariyah LeBlanc, Dawson Long, June Macklin, Bella Mason, Robert Meals, Hannah Nash, Cortland NyKamp, Brayden Thomas, Rakayla Turner, Brantley Voss, Gregory Watkins, Garrett Watson, Courtney White, Bradley Wilson

**GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
6th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Tinsley Aldredge, Kylie Beall, Colin Bird, Icker Ceballos, Everlie Costello, Ma'Kenzie Floyd, William Hardy, Ashton King, Rylie Murry, Baylei Noble, Ian Perez, David Ventura, Brooklyn Villalpando, Bentley Webber, Aaron Wilkins.

**A/B Honor Roll**

Brandon Alvarez Martinez, Kara Bellanger, Jax Bradford, Daelyn Bradshaw, Hannah Braandt, Paxton Casson, Isabella Dangel, Landon Deason, Victoria Flanagan, Eliza Garrett, Makenzie Gatlin, Jordynn Harris, Aydan Holmes, Jordan Holmgren, Cashtyn Lehman, Kaydance Love, Samantha Luna, Jayden Miller, Beatrice Nasados, Abigail Nino, Cameron Parker, Jayse Pennington, Dylan Perez, Noah Reazin, Khloey Rendon, Aleah Rosas, Dodge Sisson, Connor Thompson, Ashlynn Tolbert, Santiago Trejo Uballe, Brynlee Underwood, Brody Vickery, Britney Vite.

**7th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Lux Baumgartner-Prew, Eli Brisby, Bailey Childress, Samuel Corona, Madison Cusatis, Alayla Grooms, Titus Macklin, Cooper Manley, Theresa Neslony, Ariel Robinson, Alexander Villalpando, Jesse Wheeler, Kaylee Wortham.

**A/B Honor Roll**

Mariah Barksdale, Lily Childress, Damian Correa, Juliet Dalton, Emily Dickinson, James Felts, Ja'aleeyah Ford, Shamore Franklin, Jax Glarborg, Malik Hatten, Emily Head, Isabelle Inocencio, Anthony Juarez, Landen King, Kenzi Love, Zachary McAlister, Madison Parks, Lainey Reynolds, Draven Rodriguez, Jakeilynn Rollins, Isaias Sierra, Chevy Sisson, James Solley, Anna Thomas, Bryce Thomas, Gauge Trossbach, Ty Trout, Kamila Turner, Karen VerSteege, Connor White, Landon Wright.

**8th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Coby Bellanger, Hydye Collins, Garrett Grandgeorge, Byron Hast, Mason Knoll, Lillian McKnight, Olivia Miller, Kendal Yount.

**A/B Honor Roll**

Leila Allen, Ethan Alvarez, Riley Ashworth, CalebBalcorta, Kayla Brown, Abigail Carney, Aliyah Criss, Adyson Evans, Elshady Getachew, Daymun Guerrero, Reid Hass, Summer Hernandez, Landon Hogue, Nobellee Humphrey, Christian Jackson, Aiden Jansen, Khera Lincoln, Audryanna Lorenzo, Grace Mooney, William Morgan, Hayden Mumphy, Brad Nino, Barrett Owens, Nikhil Patel, Chase Porter, Katelyn Puliese, Laython Reddock, Thalia Renfro, Talon Robinson, Ka'Vyron Sheppard, Claire Townsend, Jace Ward, Teagan Watkins-Brack, Matthew Westbrook, Couri Willeby, Jeremy Williams.

**GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL  
2nd Nine Weeks  
9th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Harper Bittick, Mason Budro, Alayah Gordon, Calex Hibler, Shayla Lara, Tucker Macklin, Aleigha McGuyer, Kevin Mireles, Edwin Nino Eufrazio, Madison Rector

**A/B Honor Roll**

Anay Aguillon, Eloy Barajas, Elizabeth Brown, Luke Brown, Samantha Brown, Jhaden Carroll, Aaron Chavarria, Brittany Clark, Emily Delgado, Elizabeth Dennis, Hayli Edwards, Jeremiah Flanagan, Aubry Floyd, Pierce Garcia, Olivia Gill, Karyme Gomez, Callie Harris, Isabelle Hilgren, Peyton Hunter, Breianna Johnson, Caydence Martin, Kyera Orange, Azucena Perez, Cian Ray, Brady Rios, Christian Rojas, Esmeralda Rojas, Gavin Summer, Ivan Thomas, Garrett Throgmorton, Donovan Tolbert, Dasia Turner, John Watson, Kadence Whitmire, Ella Williams, Carson Wood, Brayson Woods

**10th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Astrith Alvarez, Zoe Bowling, Hallie Clinnard, Jaxxon Cook, Joshua Diaz Mucio, Erika Evey, Jasmine Fisher, Illyssa Hawley, Ciara Henderson, Keenan Jalomo, Jada Kinsey, Ava Langford, Lilyana Lorenzo, Gabriel Navarro, Jessica Perez, Rachel Shepard, Noah Smith, Gracie Summer, Hayden Wittig, Brayden Wood

**A/B Honor Roll**

Nicholas Allen, Fatima Arteaga Cervantes, Alyssa Bailey, Rebecca Blackmon, Emily Brown, Landon Brown, Samoria Daniels, Jancee Davis, Ethan Evey, Nathan Fortenberry, Ulises Gama, Trentley Gamel, Autumn Gehrke, Carissa Graves, Tatiana Gunder, Cynthia Gutierrez, Violet Hast, Olivia Hawley, Destiny Hughes, Ashton Jones, Braxton Lindsey, Jimena Martinez, Torron Means, Isabella Mize, Karlee Moses, Corey Nelms, Chris Paredes, Joshua Perry, Garrick Rogers, Nathan Smith, Toby Starkey, Jacoby Taylor, Mason Thompson, Randi Vasquez, Shiann Washington, Chloe Westbrook, Brianna Wheeler, Cameron White, Samyra Williams, Ashley Wilson, Taylor Wright

**11th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Hadassah Balcorta, Madysin Bedair, Katelyn Biddle, Israel Cerda, Tristan Collins, Blake Crane, Bayleigh Edwards, Samuel Edwards, Jordan Fowler, Caiya Harris, Hailey Head, Timothy Heashe, Christopher Hernandez, Allayah Jackson, Katelynn Lewis, Kye Martin, Katie Menjivar, Brent Owens, Ryan Silva, Lily Smith, Vanessa Trejo, Sunni Wade, Layne Warburton, Katlin White, Brianna Wilson, Grayson Wynn

**A/B Honor Roll**


Kelin Allen, Alexis Bleckley, Clayton Chandarliis, Seth Cross, Jaiden Eeds, Kire Guerrero, Johnnay Hawley, Trenton Jackson, Savannah Kegarise, Kyla Lincoln, Reagan Loftis, Joselyn Mendoza, Adam Miles, Chloe Mumphy, Erik Omdahl, Ruston Padgett, Eddie Patino, Sixto Rojas, Khalil Sheffield, Francisco Sierra, Logan Stehno, Cameron Taylor, Leslie Vargas, Rachael Vaughn, Savannah Warren

**12th Grade  
A Honor Roll**

Austin Allen, Ryan Bailey, Douglas Blackbear, Royce Clay, Beau Cryer, Kamryn Floyd, Gracie George, A'daja Gregory, Celeste Harris, Kylie Jalomo, Christian Joliff, Hanna Judkins, Charles Marsh, Kate Merrill, Tyler Milestead, Taylor Pickett, G'braylon Polley, Adriana Rojas, Matthew Smith, Jocelyn Taylor, Sarah Wallbridge, Alexandria White


**A/B Honor**

Castalia Barron, Lexi Betts, Alex Boyd, Rigo Castaneda, Cameron Coby, Braedon Costello, Emily Deishler, Tyler Fried, Blake Goodes, Aminah Gordon, Noah Hambrick, Evette Henderson, Ji'maury Hull, Emma Keeland, Joya Keys, Jerri LeBeff, Kollin Lewis, Tyrone Maddox, Avery Mays, Chance Mendez, Breanna Newman, Abigayle Nunez, Kiy'ona Parker, Megan Perez, William Perry, MaKayla Police, Eduardo Rojas, Edgar Rojas Cardenas, Trazeion Sanders, Debria Snoddy, Alexander Stanley, Matthew Tant, Princess Zandrea Tyeskie, Austin Verner, Jenna Watson



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Dwayne Barnhill & Eddie Goode!**



**Dwayne Barnhill & Eddie Goode, R.Ph.**



**STATE BOUND!** The Gladewater High School Band is pleased to announce the selection of Bear Band members into the ATSSB Texas All-State Band. More than 10,000 high school band students from across Texas auditioned in twenty-two different regions for a place in their respective all-region bands. The top chairs in each region advanced to one of the five area auditions held this past weekend across the state, and only 286 of these students were selected for All-State honors.

From left to right, Senior Matt Smith (Euphonium), Junior Madisyn Bedair (Clarinet), and Senior Sarah Walbridge (Trumpet) were selected as members of this band in competitive auditions held this year across the state at region and area levels. Matt Smith even placed first at Area auditions! This is all three student's third consecutive selection to this prestigious ensemble. Most high school band students never earn placement into the Texas All-State Band. Our students have earned their place for three consecutive years! This is extremely rare and shows how driven these students are.

The ATSSB Texas All-State Bands will meet in rehearsals in San Antonio, Texas, February 8-11, 2023, and will present a concert beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, in the Lila Cockrell Theatre of the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in downtown San Antonio.



**TRADES DAYS THIS WEEKEND**

Longview Trade Days will be held Jan. 14-15 at the Longview Fairgrounds 1123 Jaycee Drive Longview Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Future Dates are: Feb. 11-12 March 11-12 April 8-9 May 13-14 June 10-11 July 8-9 August 12-13 For Booth Rental Call **903-753-4478** www.greggcountyfair.com



Austin Bank recently honored employees for their outstanding work and years of service with the company. They were recognized at the bank's 2022 Service Award Luncheon held December 15 at Willow Brook Country Club in Tyler. **Fifteen Year Service Award** - Samuel Cloud, Vice President and Relationship Manager at the Bank's Gladewater office, has spent his entire banking career with Austin Bank. He has also worked as a teller and a loan assistant before moving to his current role. A lifelong resident of Gladewater, Cloud graduated from Gladewater High School and the University of Texas at Tyler with both a BBA and MBA. He has also completed Austin Bank's Lending School and Leadership program. Cloud and his wife, Amanda, have four children - James, Logan, Connor, and Katie. He currently serves as Treasurer for both the Gladewater Rotary Club and Friends for the Lee-Bardwell Library, as well as a volunteer speaker for Junior Achievement. **Five Year Service Award** - Jennifer Beck is a Loan Assistant for the Gladewater location. Since beginning her career as a scanner in the bank's central loan department, Beck has held several positions including universal banker and loan document specialist before assuming her current role. A resident of Overton, Beck

Kameron Townsend, son of Dee Townsend has been selected to the prestigious 2023 ATSSB All-State Band. Kameron is currently a junior at Union Grove High School. More than 10,000 high school band students from across Texas auditioned in twenty-two different regions for a place in their respective all-region bands. Top chairs in each region advanced to one of the five area auditions held this past weekend across the state and only 286 of these students were selected for all-state honors. Union Grove High School Band Director, Andy Thompson, said, "I am super proud of Kameron. This makes it two years in a row for Kameron. Not only did he make the all-region band, but he advanced to area, and now has earned a trip to San Antonio to perform with other musicians at the highest level." Thompson added, "It takes serious dedication and many hours of practice on the students' part to prepare for these vigorous auditions. Kameron was committed to achieving his goal, and impressed many people along the way." The ATSSB All-State Bands will meet in rehearsals in San Antonio, Texas, February 8-11 and will present a concert beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 11, 2023, in the Lila Cockrell Theatre of the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in downtown San Antonio. The ATSSB All-State Concert Band clinician will be Dr. BJ Brooks from West Texas A&M University. They will be performing a piece commissioned by ATSSB from Carol Brittin Chambers for this performance.



graduated from Bullard High School and Texas College of Cosmetology. She has two children - Brinleigh and Jayce.

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