

Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



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50¢

City council votes to fix city hall, ESC roofs

By Jim Bardwell

It was an expensive night for the Gladewater City Council on Thursday as they voted to spend almost \$250,000 for new accounting software and a wood chipper and also chose to repair the roofs at city hall and the police/fire department emergency services building.

Fortunately the city was the recipient of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (commonly known as "ARPA" or "ARP") which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, to provide additional financial relief in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. So local taxpayers won't have to foot the bill for these costly items. Gladewater had \$1,572,763 in ARPA funds to work with, city officials said.

In other less expensive business, the council:

- Approved an ordinance to order the city officer election to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, and approved a joint election agreement between Kilgore Junior College District and the City of Gladewater; and Joint Election Agreement between Gladewater Independent School District and the City of Gladewater.

- Approved a request, following a public hearing, regarding a Specific Use Permit request for Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On-Premise Permit at 1005 W. Upshur Avenue, home of Stockyard Steakhouse.

- Approved an ordinance providing for collection services fee on delinquent utility accounts. Previously the city had been absorbing the fees.

Continued on Page 8

Gov. Abbott, UT System break ground on UT Tyler Medical Ed. building

TYLER —Texas Governor Greg Abbott joined UT System leaders Monday to break ground on UT Tyler's new Medical Education Building, which will house the university's new School of Medicine and the 7th medical school within the UT System. Gov. Abbott, UT System Chairman Kevin Eltife, UT System Chancellor James Milliken and UT Tyler President Kirk Calhoun joined hundreds of community members to mark the start of the \$308 million project, expected to be completed in March 2025.

"As East Texas continues to grow, so does its need for more highly skilled and well-trained healthcare professionals," said Governor Ab-

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Thank you, Board Members!



Gladewater School Board members: (front row) Danielle Budro, Ross Morgan-President, Dr. Sedric Clark-Superintendent, David Floyd; (back row) Garth Cockerell-Secretary, Jeff Cook-Vice President, Chris Thompson, Rickie Blackmon.

Each January, we honor the community volunteers in Gladewater, White Oak and Union Grove who serve on their local school boards. The 2023 School Board Recognition theme is - Forward, Together.

As Texas public schools continue to deal with the challenges of the past few years, school boards will lead the way. However, schools and communities succeed when everyone works together for a brighter future — parents, teachers, students, and school leadership.

Texas Gov. Abbott proclaimed January School Board Recognition Month and said "To catch a glimpse of the Texas of tomorrow, we need only look into the classrooms of today." The proclamation also acknowledged the importance of locally-elected boards. "...Individual schools and districts are answerable to the people through elected school boards. These boards set a vision for their district based on students' needs and community values."



White Oak School Board members: (front row) Donna Stagner, Secretary; Dr. David Ummel, President; Jessica Hughes; (back row) Lance Noll, Vice-President; David Carr; and David Trest.



Union Grove School Board members: Michael Potter - assistant secretary, Brian Cox, Tim Bower, Tim Turner - secretary, Jody Day - president, Kary Barbee, Justin Smith - vice president

Texas Rangers probing man's hanging death

A Louisiana man, who had been arrested for alleged public intoxication earlier in the day, was found hanging in his Gladewater Police Department jail cell Friday, Jan. 20, evening.

The Texas Rangers are conducting the investigation, which is standard procedure. The victim has been identified as Sean Denison, 29.

Gladewater Police Chief Gordon Freeman told the *Mirror* an autopsy was ordered. He said Denison was arrested at 1:59 p.m. after police were called to investigate a suspicious subject. Paramedics were called to the jail at 6:45 p.m., a few hours after the man had been arrested and was found unresponsive.

Freeman said Monday Texas Ranger Josh Jenkins was conducting the investigation.

Freeman said officers reported Denison showed no signs of suicidal tendencies.

The hanging is the first such incident in the Gladewater jail since 2019 when a Gladewater woman being held on multiple charges from the Gladewater Municipal Court and a separate indictment on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.

Hughes chairman of powerful Committee on State Affairs

AUSTIN— On Monday, Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Tyler) was appointed Chairman of both the Committee on State Affairs and the Committee on Jurisprudence. Along with these chairmanships, Senator Hughes will serve on the Committees on Finance, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development, and Nominations.

"I am grateful to Lt. Governor Patrick for reappointing me as Chair of the Senate Committee on State Affairs and for giving me the additional honor of serving as Chair of the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence. I will use these positions of leadership to support the limited government and free market policies that have made Texas a beacon of hope in our nation and the world.

"It is an honor to serve on the Senate Committee on Finance with Chairwoman Joan Huffman as our state seeks to steward a \$33 billion surplus. Texans can rest assured that under her leadership, we will produce a balanced, conservative budget. I also am honored to serve as a member of the Committees on Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development, and Nominations. Each of these committees plays a vital role in our state."



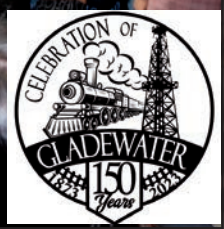
The Gladewater Beautification Board chose McDonald's restaurant for the "business of the quarter-beautification award." The award was presented to Chuck and Julie O'Reilly and Tara O'Reilly Gilbson and company representative Cruz Al' Mayahi, head of community engagement for the East Texas Region on January 19.



Volunteers served a special 150th Birthday cake to visitors at Saturday's 'Night at the Museum,' which kicked off the city's yearlong celebration.



Gladewater City Council members read a proclamation acknowledging Gladewater's 150th birthday the overflowing crowd of museum patrons who turned out for the special event.



Photos by Jim Bardwell

OPINION/COMMENTARY

...Larry King called me "Sugar"

...Larry King called me "Sugar"

Close encounters are a result of experiences 'alien' to our everyday lives. I can't claim to have had one with ET or harmonic chord playing aliens from outer space. But I have had my fair share with celebrities as a result of being Mrs. Jim Bardwell. I was reminded of one of my favorites a couple of days ago when iconic talk show host Larry King passed away from COVID complications.

It was 1990 and Walt Disney World's MGM Studio had closed to the public for premier celebrations of "Dick Tracy" starring Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino and Madonna. And my talented hubby was on the press list, with

his handy dandy sweetie sidekick in tow. Buffet lines were everywhere...so were hospitality 'watering holes' catering to the less disciplined among the thirsty press corps.

We had been gifted with dashing Dick Tracy fedoras. The streets of the MGM Studio theme park were filled with press, celebs, food and drink. As I went through the buffet line that looked like an upscale foodie dream, I realized I had forgotten my fork. I turned back to see Larry King behind me. "Mr. King, could you please pass me a fork?" And the legendary interviewer growled with a grin, "Sure, Sugar, here ya go."

After eating elbow to elbow with Mr. King, maybe



near is more accurate, this starstruck country kid with camera in tow, was shown to a cordoned area for photographers when the premier parade began. At that time of my life, I was a high school journalism teacher, as well as hubby's designated photographer. So I definitely had stars in my eyes, BIG ones. I was in a photo pen with guys from the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun, Orlando Sentinel, New York Times and on and on. Me with my affordable camera, them with equipment costing thousands.

I can't remember who all the celebs were in the parade because Disney Pixie Power pulled as much as it could from the MGM stable of stars. But one of the 'less notable' celebrities was Morey Amsterdam whose claim to fame came with the '60s TV hit "The Dick Van Dyke Show". Amsterdam was very elderly, and obviously very excited to be there waving excitedly at the crowd.

The very drunk Chicago photographer next to me began to shout "Morey, you're dead. You just don't know it. Go home." And that is when I lost my feeling of professional intimidation. I lost my reticence. I lost my temper and I laid into that drunk hotshot photographer as if I were HIS high school journalism teacher.

And, you know what happened? All the press photogs around me cheered. You know why? I stood up to a bully. They also had my back. I don't know where the shouter went but he stumbled away. When my hubby and I reconnected I could not wait to tell him my story. Of course it may have gotten a little shinier. After all it was the night Larry King called me "Sugar", Dustin Hoffman waved for my camera (my opinion here) and I stood up to a hot shot national press corps guy.

Jim Bardwell wasn't surprised at all. (I don't know what that says, but I think he was proud of me.)

So, Mr. King, thanks for the fork, and the memory. Chicago hot shot, I hope you learned to be kinder. And Sweetheart thanks for opening the world to your church camp, country girl sweetheart. As soon as it's safe, it is time for another adventure. Sugar can't wait.

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.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Here We Go Again!

Congress should fix the debt ceiling once and for all—but it won't!

As the Treasury Department defines it, the "debt limit is the total amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations..." In the early years, Congress approved individual debt issues as they came up (the US government first went into debt in 1783, six years before the Constitution was adopted). That all changed during World War I, when a "temporary" limit was set to allow flexibility for emergencies. Let the games begin!!



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently notified Congress that the outstanding debt of the United States is projected to reach the limit this week. In response, the Treasury will begin to take "extraordinary measures" to prevent a default. These measures are essentially accounting maneuvers like suspending payments into federal employee pension funds (which will be made up later). These shenanigans will likely get us to about June. Something needs to be done long before that.

It's impossible to overstate the chaos that would ensue if the debt limit were breached. There would be catastrophic economic consequences. A global financial meltdown would occur, and recovery would be difficult. US government debt defines the "risk free" standard and underpins world markets; the implications of a default would be devastating. Economic and financial life would literally never be the same—like an economic pandemic!

Congress has always raised the debt limit—78 times since 1960 (most recently in December 2021). There are often inflammatory threats thrown around, but even a dysfunctional Congress ultimately realizes that the potential fallout is not to be trifled with, and a higher ceiling is implemented. The rhetoric is more heated this time, but the consequences remain the same.

One analogy echoing through the halls of Congress these days is that raising the debt ceiling is like increasing your kid's credit card limit and therefore never discouraging overspending. There are two problems with this comparison. First, it's not their kid—it's them! Congress is responsible for the outlays that have been authorized, not anyone else. Second, the debt covers PAST decisions, not FUTURE ones. Raising the ceiling simply allows the Treasury Department to pay CURRENT legal obligations.

Clearly, fiscal responsibility is desperately needed in Washington. The time for progress, however, is during the budget process. Careful analysis of both spending and revenue and meaningful efforts to bring the two in line is the only viable path to better outcomes. Once you have spent the money, you must pay the tab. For now, let's hope that the theater we are witnessing doesn't morph from mildly amusing comedy to tragedy of epic proportions. Stay safe!

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perryman-group.com), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.

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BIBLE CRITICS

Elton Trueblood once said: "There is no good reason to respect the judgment of an alleged music critic who has not listened to music." His point being that people who have not listened to music are not qualified to be music critics!

But Trueblood's real point in his speech was that there is no good reason to respect the judgment of skeptics, who say people shouldn't believe the Bible when they themselves know virtually nothing about Bible. There are exceptions, of course, but many people who say Christians are silly for believing the Bible, often know almost nothing about the Bible. They may have watched a few TV evangelists perverting the Scriptures. Or they may have heard a skeptic misrepresent the Bible. Or they may have read a few Bible verses picked at random. But, in many cases, critics of the Scriptures know practically nothing about the Scriptures. They are like music critics who have never listened to music.

As a young man's mother once said: "The reason people are down on the Bible is because they are not up on the Bible!" The next time you hear someone ridiculing the Scriptures. Listen closely to any evidence they have more than a mere casual acquaintance with the Bible. The chances are that one is down on the Bible because he is not up on the Bible! Think on these things.

Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454-White Oak, TX 75693-903-845-6139-preachab@suddenlink.net

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Editorial

School Trustees shape future...

How would you like to be responsible for the education, safety and success of, say, over 1,500 students every school year? How would you like to be held accountable by every taxpayer in your community, as well as bound by complicated state laws? What would you do if you knew that the students you were responsible for had to meet standards arbitrarily set 300 miles from home in an atmosphere of arrogance, by "We know what is best for you" bureaucrats? What would you do when faced with test scores that must be raised but finding innovative ways to do so are limited by the state. How would you feel knowing that you are responsible for the health of every student and employee in the middle of a pandemic?

What would you do? Seven of the most important publicly elected officials in our community are our school board trustees. Most of them have full time jobs and busy family lives, yet are committed to serving in an elected position that requires lengthy training, heavy responsibility, hundreds of hours of work, mountains of state regulations and documents to understand and NO pay. Then there is the knowledge that their decisions dramatically impact hundreds of lives and the future of every single student.

School board trustees deserve every bit of appreciation that has been directed their way for work that matters now and for generations to come. Everyday heroes are people with in-check egos and servant hearts. These community servants hold one of the most important positions in any community. They have to be accountable both to the public and to the state. They often find themselves being stopped at church, the grocery store, a sporting event, or at work to answer a question about school business. More often than not, they are stopped regularly to hear a complaint.

We want to thank our area school board members for having a heart for kids, a heart for teachers, and a commitment to the future. Thank you for making tough decisions for the right reasons. Thank you for fading the heat when the decisions are not popular but are right.

The work you do matters in ways most people can not begin to comprehend. It is work that requires the right combination of intellect, work ethic and vision. Never forget that you are writing the future with the decisions you make today.

And readers, the next time you see one of our school board members, thank them for the work they do.

They have earned it.

Man arrested in Jan. 16 shooting

By Phillip Williams

A Longview man faces multiple felony charges in connection with a Jan. 16 shooting at a Diana home which left a woman hospitalized, and in which shots were fired in the direction of four other persons during a family disturbance, said Upshur County sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel.

As the 28-year-old Center woman remained in stable condition at a Longview hospital, Reginald Perry, 43, was lodged in county jail at Gilmer on five charges, said Hazel.

The wounded woman's name and name of the hospital where she was taken were not immediately released for her security, the deputy said. Perry, arrested in Longview soon after the shooting, was charged with one first-degree felony count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon--family violence, Hazel said. The suspect was also charged with four second-degree felony counts of the same offense, the chief deputy said. Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter set bonds totaling \$400,000--\$100,000 on the first-degree charge, and \$75,000 each on the other charges.



Gladewater Fire was dispatched to a structure fire off Post St early this morning. Crews from CWC and West Mountain also assisted in operation. The fire had extended into the attic prior to arrival But crews were able to contain damage to living room and attic space above living room.

Courtesy Photos



Gov. Abbott, UT System break ground on Medical Ed. building

Continued from Page 1

bott. "I am proud to be here today at UT Tyler Medical School's historic groundbreaking as we celebrate the achievements and progress Texas has made to expand healthcare access and educational opportunities across our state. Creating this school was a priority in the 87th Legislative Session, and I thank members of the legislature, President Calhoun, and Chairman Eltife for their hard work to ensure this important legislation reached my desk. Together, we are fostering greater health outcomes for the people of East Texas and empowering the next generation of doctors, nurses, and medical staff to serve all Texans."

The Medical Education Building, a planned five-story, nearly 248,000-square-foot facility, will be constructed on roughly five acres in the heart of Tyler's medical district in Midtown. It will support interdisciplinary education for graduate medical students, resident training, and nursing as part of a medical education program expansion throughout the UT Health East Texas Health System. It will include classrooms, simulation labs, clinical and operating room training spaces, and multipurpose event and lecture spaces for the UT Tyler School of Medicine and graduate medical education programs.

"Today is another great day for East Texas as we see tangible steps forward in our longtime efforts to enhance health care access and quality in the region by training new professionals," said Kevin P. Eltife, chairman of the UT Board of Regents. "This building will launch UT's first medical school in East Texas, which stands to serve and care for this community for generations to come."

With a planned skybridge connection to the UT Health East Texas Hospital, the new medical school will enable hands-on learning of residents in the adjacent hospitals. It will provide outpatient and specialty clinical services with exam rooms, specimen collection and processing, and imaging facilities as well as blended programming and clinical spaces for patient care. Other medical disciplines and services will include women's imaging, women's health, diagnostics, orthopedics, sports medicine, pulmonary care, and a surgery center to support medical residents in the graduate medical education programs.

"It's no secret that as Texas and especially East Texas continue to grow and thrive, we will need many more doctors and other health care professionals," said James B. Milliken, chancellor of the UT System. "We're grateful that our state and university leaders are taking the steps necessary to address this need. As a result of their commitment, the UT System and UT Tyler will deliver the outstanding education and patient care that all East Texans deserve."

OBITUARY

BETTIE JOE COFFEY

Bettie Joe Coffey, 95, of Gladewater, passed away on January 18, 2023 in Longview. Bettie was born in Pampa, Texas to Carl and Molly Nolen.



Bettie was a true lady full of grace and southern charm. She was known for her friendliness and respect she gave to anyone she encountered.

Bettie was a master florist who owned Bettie's Flowers in Malvern, AR and then Glade Florist in Gladewater. The floral arrangements that she created brought joy to those that

ordered them. Bettie cherished spending time with her family and friends. When she wasn't creating floral arrangements

she enjoyed crafts of all types. Bettie's memories of her sweet nature and southern charm will remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

Bettie is survived by her daughters, Jacqui Olien and husband Joe, Debra Robertson and husband Rob, Darrel Blackwell and husband Rodney; son-in-law, Ivan Nicks; sister, Martha Lee Jonas and husband Don; nieces and nephews, Sharon Papadopoulos and husband John, Danny James and wife Linda, Bill James and wife Sharon; grandchildren, Shannon Thomas, Tiffney Beckloff and wife Renee, Misty Kane and husband Jeff, Kevin Blackwell, Kimberly Emge and Husband Clay; as well as 11 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Bettie is preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Molly Nolen and daughter Judy Nicks (wife of Ivan).

Services for Bettie were held Sunday, January 22, 2023.

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School Board

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Citizen Police Academy being offered

Applications from the general public to attend are now being accepted for the fourth annual Citizen Police Academy, sponsored by the Upshur County Sheriff's Office.

The academy, designed to familiarize Upshur County citizens with law enforcement and services available to them, is scheduled two nights weekly in Gilmer from Feb. 9-March 21.

The sessions are set for 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Stanley Jenkins Training Center, located in the parking lot just south of the Upshur County Justice Center. Participants will be offered the chance to ride with a sheriff's deputy on patrol. Deadline for applying is Feb. 3. Applications can be picked up at the sheriff's office in the justice center or downloaded from the county government's website at www.countyofupshur.com.

For more information, contact the sheriff's office at 903-843-2541.

CNB ribbon cutting, open house Thursday

City National Bank is hosting a ribbon cutting and open

house on Thursday, January 26 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at its new building located on Hwy 80 in Gladewater.

The ribbon cutting will be held by the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce at 10 a.m.

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, mac-n-cheese., and more to go with all the peanut butter they have been getting. So, 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.

WOISD board seeks community involvement for superintendent process

The White Oak Independent School District (ISD) Board of Trustees has employed Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Executive Search Services to assist with the search for a new superintendent to replace Brian Gray

who retired over the holidays.

The Board has requested that school personnel and the public be involved in developing a profile of the leadership qualities desired of the person the Board should seek to become the new superintendent.

See the survey at: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/2069797/Leadership-Survey-White-Oak-ISD-2023>

GFD Bucket Brigade meeting slated

The Gladewater Fire Department will be having a Bucket Brigade meeting at the station on Saturday, January 28, from 10:30 a.m. - Noon. Firefighters will be doing training and still want to invite anyone who is interested in joining. They will also serve lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

Descendants of slaves sought

Upshur County descendants of Lottie Christian, whose sons were reportedly brought as slaves to Gilmer in 1850, are being sought for a family reunion scheduled in Tyler.

Debra Christian, a descendant, said Lottie was born a slave in 1810 and that her six sons were brought to Gilmer from Midway, Ala., by a slavemaster.

Thank You
School Board
Recognition Month

Gregg County Sheriff
Maxey Cerliano
101 E Methvin, Ste. 559,
Longview, TX 75601
(903) 236-8400
www.greggcountytxsheriff.org

Thank You to Our School Board Members

Lois Reed, chamber president

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- New Life Church • 903-845-8108
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- Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425
- METHODIST**
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 - McCrary's Chapel United Methodist
 - New Mountain CME Church • 903-845-1175
 - Starrville Methodist • 903-877-4040

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Morning Service 11 a.m.	
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.	903-845-6440

Pastor Jim Withers
www.gbcladewater.org

- Union Temple CME Methodist • 903-845-1050
- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
- New Life Fellowship Church • 903-261-4227
 - Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234
 - Grace Tabernacle Church • 903-309-8801
- PENTECOSTAL**
- First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
 - Northside Pentecostal
 - Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
 - Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)
- PRESBYTERIAN**
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 - Full Gospel Fellowship
 - Gladewater Revival Church
 - Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
 - Love of God Church • 903-845-2623

Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050

OTHER

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- Friendship Community Church
- Full Faith Holiness • 903-845-8195

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401 N. Center St. (off Main St., Hwy 271)
Mail: P.O. Box 706 • Gladewater, TX 75647

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Commercial Suite #1- 404 W Upshur Ave Gladewater, TX 75647
\$950 a month or sign a 3 year lease and ONLY \$850 a month
 1000 Sq Ft
 Two Bathroom
 Kitchen Area
 Front Parking
 Front Entry Door & Back Entry Door
 Very Spacious and Clean
 Tenant Pays for Electric, Internet, water, and gas.
 Contact Shahid Latif at 903-305-2123 for more information

Commercial Suite #2- 408 W Upshur Ave Gladewater, TX 75647
\$950 a month or sign a 3 year lease and ONLY \$850 a month
 1000 Sq Ft
 Two Bathroom
 Kitchen Area
 Front Parking
 Front Entry Door & Back Entry Door
 Very Spacious and Clean
 Tenant Pays for Electric, Internet, water, and gas.
 Contact Shahid Latif at 903-305-2123 for more information

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gladewater City Council adopted the following ordinance January 19, 2023;

Ordinance #O-23-02 providing for a collection fee for delinquent utility bills and establishing an effective date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after publication as required by law.

Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from Judy Van Houten, City Clerk, Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, Texas.

Divide & Conquer Estate Sale
for Laura Lee (Mrs. Phillip) Taylor
600 Green Lane (at Pecan) ~ Tyler, TX 75701
Thurs., Jan. 26 ~ 7:00-5:30 | Fri., Jan. 27 ~ 8:00-5:30
Sat., Jan. 28 ~ 8:00-2:00

Inside S. Loop 323 and off S. Broadway, turn west onto Fair Lane. Travel 4 blocks and turn right onto Pecan. The house is on the corner of Green Lane and Pecan.

This 3358 sq. ft. home, listed by Realtor Shannon Cross, is for sale; contents and consignments include: Old Master sterling dinnerware; 4 sofas; needlepoint chairs & pillows; game table & 4 chairs; breakfast table & 5 chairs; blue & white selections; custom upholstered chairs; 2 coffee tables; end tables; silverplate selections; full length mink coat; other fur jackets; china; crystal; lovely punch bowl; beautiful vintg. twin bed, vanity, nightstand, & chifforobe; full bed, vanity, and night stand; Portieux Vallerysthal French blue opaline milk glass; copper selections; china cabinet; lovely display cabinet; exceptional custom bedding; linens; lamps; Meilink safe; TV's; electronics; Pioneer speakers; 1941 & 1944 Univ. of TX yearbooks; 1943 & 1944 Tulane Univ. yearbooks; Singer sew. mach.; nice L-shape desk & matching lateral file cabinet; 4 drawer file cabinet; vintage trays; 33 albums; cost. jewelry; clothes; rugs; kitch. selections; glassware; sm.appliances; barware; TV trays; doll house; children toys; highchair; stroller; vintg. Emerson fan; books; Christmas decorations; medical supplies; black Whirlpool refrig.; Hotpoint wash. & dry.; patio fun.; decorative bird cage; birdbath; log rack; yard art; planters; lawncare supplies; ladder; gardening tools; SOOOOO much more!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 ("ESD No. 2" or "ESD") is requesting qualifications information ("RFQ") for Design-Build services related to the construction of a new fire station on a site located at 4589 FM 1252 W, Kilgore, TX 75662. The complete RFQ is available upon request from Attorney Matthew Harris at Matt@HarrisandHarrisTX.com or (903) 757-7500. RFQs should be submitted by one (1) electronic copy via email to Attorney Matthew Harris at Matt@HarrisandHarrisTX.com and three (3) hard copies via first-class mail or hand-delivery to Harris and Harris, Attorneys at Law, 1100 Judson Rd., Suite 720, Longview, Texas 75601. Please identify the electronic and hard-copy submission as "Design-Build RFQ".

RFQs, both electronic and hard-copy, may be submitted starting Monday, February 13, 2023. The deadline for all RFQ's, both electronic and hard-copy, is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2023. RFQs will be opened any time after the deadline by a building committee consisting of two (2) ESD commissioners and the Fire Chief at 736 Wilkins Rd., Gladewater, Texas 75647. The building committee will review, score and evaluate the RFQs and may request additional information and schedule interviews with a short list of finalists. The building committee will then give its recommendation of the most qualified firm to the Board of Commissioners for ESD No. 2 at a public meeting. The Board of Commissioners may vote to take action on the recommendation if it is determined to be in the best interest of the ESD to engage in negotiations with the most qualified firm. The building committee and Board of Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all RFQs, to postpone selection of the most qualified firm, and expressly reserves the right to not award a contract related to this RFQ to any firm. To the extent of any conflict between this published notice and the complete RFQ, the complete RFQ will control. Please direct all questions about the RFQs and project scope to Matthew Harris in writing at Matt@HarrisandHarrisTX.com.

Project Description: The desired project delivery method is Design-Build as described in chapter 2269, subchapter G., of the Texas Government Code. The project is for the construction of a new fire station in ESD No. 2 that would be financed in whole or in part, including the possible incorporation of an existing building on the site. The following are preliminary requirements for the project, which are subject to change as the design process progresses: The new fire station shall consist of 3 drive thru bays, 2 back in bays, 6 bunk rooms, a training area, meeting area, Command staff offices, kitchen, dining, day room, and various storage rooms for bunker gear and medical records. It will also include a Dispatch Communications Center for two dispatchers that will include a bunk room and facilities. The new facility will also include a rated storm shelter. The project is estimated to be between 11,000 - 12,000 SF.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of CLEODIS TILLMAN, Deceased, were issued on December 1, 2020, in Cause No. 2018-0264-E, pending in the County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County, Texas, to ROBIN EDMOND.

The address for the Independent Administrator is:
 c/o: LEIGH HUNT GOODSON
 The Goodson Firm, P.C.
 115 W. Ferguson Street
 Tyler, Texas 75702

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Date: January 17, 2023.
 THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
 Attorney for Lora Hughes

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of DAVID HAROLD KELLEY, Deceased, were issued on November 7, 2022, in Cause No. 2021-0182-E, pending in the County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County, Texas, to LORA HUGHES.

The address for the Independent Administrator is:
 c/o: LEIGH HUNT GOODSON
 The Goodson Firm, P.C.
 115 W. Ferguson Street
 Tyler, Texas 75702

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Date: January 17, 2023.
 THE GOODSON FIRM, P.C.
 Attorney for Lora Hughes

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the **ESTATE OF HUGH WILLIAM HASLEY**, were issued on January 11, 2023, in Cause No.2022-0422-E, pending in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Gregg County, Texas, to: **Joy Hollenshead Hasley**.

All claims to be filed and served upon said Estate shall be served in the following manner, at the following address:

Joy Hollenshead Hasley
 c/o Kyle Kutch, Attorney
 211 E Tyler St, Ste. 600-G
 Longview, TX 75601
 903/ 236-8788

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

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Bid Request Gladewater ISD

Gladewater ISD is accepting bids for a Truck with the following specs:

Truck specs for Gladewater ISD Ag Dept:
 1 Ton
 Dual rear wheel with 8-foot box
 Diesel Engine
 4-wheel drive
 B&W turnover gooseneck hitch
 Crew cab 4 door
 Trailer brake controller
 Blue tooth with apple car play
 Power windows
 Power door locks
 Power mirrors
 Cruise control

Bids will be accepted at the GISD Superintendent's office at 200 E. Broadway, Gladewater, TX 75647 until 3 pm on February 9, 2023.

Bids will be opened immediately following the bid closing at 3 pm, Thursday, February 9, 2023. The successful bidder will be notified by phone, so it is necessary to include a phone number with the bid

Bid Request Gladewater ISD

Gladewater ISD is accepting bids for a Trailer with the following specs:

Trailer specs for Gladewater ISD Ag Dept:
 Aluminum construction
 10 or 12 pen
 50/50 pens
 8 ft. wide
 6 ft. tack
 Werm flooring
 Rear ramps
 1 side ramp
 Fans inside
 Mister system
 Low vent gap with fold down doors
 Drop down windows
 Roof vents
 Insulated
 Load lights

Bids will be accepted at the GISD Superintendent's office at 200 E. Broadway, Gladewater, TX 75647 until 3 pm on February 9, 2023.

Bids will be opened immediately following the bid closing at 3 pm, Thursday, February 9, 2023. The successful bidder will be notified by phone, so it is necessary to include a phone number with the bid.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LAKE STORE / BAIT SHOP

The City of Gladewater is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or businesses to operate a Lake Store/Bait Shop at Lake Gladewater. The services provided will be in accordance with a Request for Proposal which is available at www.cityofgladewater.com or at Gladewater City Hall.

Submit sealed proposals to Judy Van Houten, City Clerk, City of Gladewater, 519 E. Broadway, P.O. Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647 by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Police Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
1/19/23	FIRE DEPT	20230204	2:31		10960 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20230204	3:30	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20230204	6:26		1100 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230204	7:00		801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	THEFT	20230204	8:37		201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20230204	8:46		1842 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20230204	8:50		S LOOP LOOP
	FIRE DEPT	20230204	9:10		127 WOODLAND WOODLAND
	EMS	20230204	10:14	CVS PHARMACY	1402 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20230204	11:45		1000 N LOOP N LOOP AVE
	EMS	20230205	11:51		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230205	11:59		511 GLADEWATER LAKE GLADEWATER LAKE RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230205	12:21		690 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	ABANDONED 911	20230205	13:27		310 W GODFREY GODFREY ST
	ASSIST	20230205	14:06		801 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230205	15:52		CENTER CENTER
	DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID	20230205	16:54		500 MAPLE MAPLE
	EMS	20230205	17:05	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230205	18:03	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230205	18:08		45 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20230205	18:12	POST OFFICE	101 N DEAN DEAN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230205	18:33		701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20230205	18:37	ZIPS LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20230206	22:07		10805 UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
	THEFT	20230207	23:28		507 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20230208	23:36		1104 W HAMPTON HAMPTON
1/18/23	FIRE DEPT	20230209	0:08		519 MELBA MELBA
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230210	0:57		604 E LAKE LAKE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230211	1:30		222 GAY GAY
	ALARM/OTHER	20230212	7:44		723 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA DR
	ABANDONED 911	20230213	8:47		819 N MAIN MAIN ST
	BURGLARY/INHABITATION	20230214	10:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20230215	15:37		1208 OLIVE OLIVE N
	EMS	20230217	16:10		2210 WOODBINE WOODBINE ST
	EMS	20230217	17:11	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	17:31	MIKES MINI MART	1304 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20230219	17:35		2808 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
1/17/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20230218	0:52		HWY 135 HWY 135
	CRIM TRESPASS	20230218	9:14		511 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	ASSIST	20230218	9:36	GLADEWATER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	1302 S HWY 271 HWY 271
	ASSIST	20230218	10:00		406 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK ST
	ASSIST	20230218	11:41	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20230218	12:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20230218	14:24		708 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230218	14:59		708 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20230218	16:42		1012 KAY KAY DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	19:03		404 S MAIN MAIN
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230219	19:14	ZIPS LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	21:08		218 MCNEESE MCNEESE
1/18/23	EMS	20230219	0:34	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20230219	1:34		802 POST POST
	EMS	20230219	2:06		304 TENERY TENERY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	4:57	LEE BUILDING	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	5:28	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	ASSIST	20230219	9:33		1021 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20230219	11:48	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	16:30		1520 SHEPARD SHEPARD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	17:26		1520 SHEPARD SHEPARD
	EMS	20230219	18:21		1050 BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	18:22		207 MILLS MILLS S
	10-50 MINOR	20230219	18:31	CHICKEN EXPRESS	1101 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	18:57		308 W WALTON WALTON ST
	EMS	20230219	19:05		208 E ELEANOR ELEANOR ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	19:18		103 VILLAGE NORTH VILLAGE NORTH ST
	EMS	20230219	20:11		2312 GAY GAY W
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	21:55		1520 SHEPARD SHEPARD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	22:42		
1/19/23	EMS	20230219	6:13		10960 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20230219	8:25	GAY AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
	ASSIST	20230219	8:25		810 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ASSIST	20230219	9:34	PUBLIC RESTROOMS	98 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20230219	9:43	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20230219	11:05		2406 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20230219	12:30		1617 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	ALARM/OTHER	20230219	12:46		1617 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	FIRE DEPT	20230219	13:47		605 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD
	EMS	20230219	14:21		201 WALTON WALTON
	TERROR THREAT	20230219	15:12	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	TERROR THREAT	20230219	18:11	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20230219	18:19		4465 W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	20:03		1520 E SHEPARD SHEPARD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	20:27		1520 E SHEPARD SHEPARD
	10-50 MAJOR	20230219	21:12	DECORATE ORNATE	202 S MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	23:46		809 NORTH NORTH ST
1/20/23	EMS	20230219	9:27		3045 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	EMS	20230219	9:56		1406 SPRUCE SPRUCE
	CRIM MIS	20230219	11:12		101 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	ALARM/OTHER	20230219	11:53	TEXAS DIE CAST	600 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230219	13:45	LAMBERTS LIQUOR	1975 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20230219	13:52		1102 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	EMS	20230219	14:04		806 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	14:21		1000 S RIVER RIVER RD
	EMS	20230219	14:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	15:01		532 NORTH NORTH ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	15:14	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	16:12	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	17:32		658 PYEATTE PYEATTE DR
	SUICIDE	20230219	18:40		511 TYLER TYLER
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230219	21:19		702 MARTHA MARTHA
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230219	22:43		1520 E SHEPARD SHEPARD

Police Activity Report

1/21/23	EMS	20230219	2:43	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	7:33		1211 N CULVER CULVER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	9:01		100 N PAUL PAUL ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20230219	9:46		301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20230219	11:49		703 MELBA MELBA AVE
	EMS	20230219	12:57		119 PYEATTE PYEATTE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	15:52		MARY MARY
	FIRE DEPT	20230219	20:14		504 TENERY TENERY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	23:17		WOOD WOOD
1/22/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	9:30		527 MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	10:40		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	11:04		55 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230219	11:35		212 CENTER CENTER ST
	EMS	20230219	11:48		10980 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20230219	12:10	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR

GPD Police Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
1/18/23	1/18/23	21:57	BAIRD CURTISS, ANGELA RENEE	W	F	ASSAULT: (CLASS C) FAMILY VIOLENCE	1520 E SHEPARD
1/20/23	1/20/23	13:58	DENISON, SEAN CALEB	W	M	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	1975 S TYLER ST

WOPD Police Arrest Report

For the reporting period of January 16th through the 22nd, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 147 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglary Alarms, Investigative Follow-ups, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Two traffic collisions were investigated resulting in two injuries and no continuing criminal investigations.

One arrest was made by White Oak Police during the reporting period: Brandon Chad Phillips, 38, of Longview on an outstanding Smith County warrant for Theft of Property Valued at more than \$750 but less than \$2500.

Gilmer man killed in wreck

By Phillip Williams

A man was killed in a two-vehicle crash on foggy U.S. 271 inside Gilmer city limits early Tuesday of last week, police said.

Canaan Smallwood, 32, of Gilmer, was pronounced dead at the scene of the broadside collision by Upshur County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes, said police. He would have turned 33 the following Sunday.

Smallwood had just left his driveway in his auto to go to work when he pulled in front of a northbound 18-wheeler truck-trailer driven by Carl Holiman, 76, of Overton, said police Captain Jason Murray. Holiman was uninjured when the 2015 Volvo truck struck the driver's door of the 2010 Hyundai Elantra four-door sedan, Murray said.

The driveway was on the east side of north 271 and Smallwood was attempting to cross

the highway to travel south, he added.

Police were dispatched to the scene in the 1300 block of 271 about 5:41 a.m., the officer said the next day. Conditions were "extremely foggy" with "low light" when the collision occurred, Murray added.

No charges were filed nor citations issued in connection with the crash, which police officer Mariah LaGrone investigated, Murray added.

Holiman was pulling a trailer loaded with oil field waste, being hauled for McBride Operating LLC of Longview, Murray said. Smallwood, who was wearing a safety belt, was apparently killed instantly, said the officer. The crash occurred only 17 days after the end of 2022, a year when Texas led the nation in traffic deaths with well more than 3,000 killed.

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West Mountain VFD donates engines to Gray VFD

West Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (Upshur County) donated two Type II fire engines to Gray Volunteer Fire Department (Marion County) in a direct donation through the Texas A&M Forest Service's Helping Hands program.

Winter Storm Uri in 2021 caused catastrophic freeze damage to Gray Volunteer Fire Department's fire engines. Because of an annual operating budget of only \$6,000 from Marion County, Fire Chief Don Grant and Gray VFD members have been trying to restore the department's emergency response capabilities.

West Mountain VFD weathered Uri well and recently developed a long-term plan to upgrade its firefighting fleet, making the donation a good fit for both.

The two engines served the Henderson Fire Department (Rusk County) through the 1980s and eventually made their way to West Mountain where they served as that department's primary engines until a newer pumper and pumper-tender were obtained within the past decade through county ESD funding and a Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (HB 2604) grant.

"Henderson Fire Department helped our volunteer fire department out many years ago, so we wanted to pay it forward to another volunteer fire department in need," said West Mountain Fire Chief Josh Bardwell. "Chief Grant and his department have historically served their citizens selflessly with minimal funding, so there was no question that this donation was the right thing to do."

"We have always done the best we can with what we've got" Grant said. "These trucks may be older, but they are a big upgrade over what we had, and we are very grateful for West Mountain."

Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator

Matt Burnett worked with both volunteer fire departments over several months to get the engines transferred to their new home. "This is what the Helping Hands program is all about, fire departments helping fire departments. It is also a fine example of how our various capacity building programs complement each other. One department can purchase a new truck with a grant while another department receives a well-maintained and equipped pre-owned engine to put back into service," Burnett said.

Since 1997, the Helping Hands program has been providing volunteer fire departments with much needed equipment through generous donations made by fire departments, businesses, cities, local governments and individuals. The success wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Texas

Legislature through passage of HB 680 during the 75th legislative session, that provides liability relief for donors.

City council votes to fix city hall, ESC roofs

Continued from Page 1

- Named JD Shipp, Sedric Clark, Sam Cloud and Leon Word to a Charter Review Committee. The group will review the current city charter, which has not been revised since 1986, and will suggest needed changes to the council who will then out the measure before the voters at a future date.

- Decided to request business proposals on the city's lake store and house. The lake store is again vacant after the latest operator closed up shop. The lake store has not been profitable for many years since sales tend to be seasonal. (See the legal notice concerning the lake store proposal on Page 6 of this week's Mirror.)

- Ratified a contract amendment to a contract between Gladewater Economic Development Corporation and JNL Machine.

Texas State Parks Starts 100-Year Birthday Celebration


AUSTIN— Nearly 8,000 participants shattered the previous attendance record New Year's Day by ringing in Texas State Parks' 100th birthday with a First Day Hike. Texans across the state traveled to one of the 83 participating parks and hiked, biked and paddled a combined 17,190 miles.

"What an exciting way to kick off the 100-year anniversary of Texas State Parks," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "This year, more Texans than ever before participated in First Day Hikes. I am thrilled that I could be a part of the effort that saw Texas lead the nation in the number of hikes, participants and miles hiked. However, the number of miles hiked pales in comparison to the number of smiles created by First Day Hikes in Texas this year. Thank you all for joining us — please come back soon with a friend."



Manna House President David Clark recently named Darla Ferguson Secretary of Manna House. Courtesy Photo

School Board Appreciation



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School Board Recognition Month



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Upshur county storytime set

Two books will be read to youngsters Thursday (Jan. 26) at each of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer.

"Wacky Winter Birds" by K.A. Ellison, and "Love Birds" by Jane Yolen and Anna Wilson, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library at 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154.)

While the events are free, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the library at 903-843-5001 or visit www.youseemore.com/upshur.

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USDA announces additional assistance for dairy farmers

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the details of additional assistance for dairy producers, including a second round of payments through the Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP) and a new Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP). The update to PMVAP and the new ODMAP will enable USDA to better support small- and medium-sized dairy operations who weathered the pandemic and now face other challenges.

“The Biden-Harris administration continues to fulfill its commitments to fill gaps in pandemic assistance for producers. USDA is announcing a second set of payments of nearly \$100 million to close-out the \$350 million commitment under PMVAP through partnerships with dairy handlers and cooperatives to deliver the payments,” said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. “USDA is also announcing new assistance targeted to small to medium size organic dairy farmers to help with anticipated marketing costs as they face a variety of challenges from weather to supply-chain challenges.”

Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program

PMVAP assists producers who received a lower value due to market abnormalities caused by the pandemic and ensuing Federal policies. As a result of the production cap increase, USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will make PMVAP payments to eligible dairy farmers for fluid milk sales between 5 million and 9 million pounds from July through December 2020. This level of production was not eligible for payment under the first round of the PMVAP. Payment rates will be identical to the first round of payments, 80 percent of the revenue difference per month, on fluid milk sales from 5 million to 9 million pounds from July through December 2020. USDA will again distribute monies through agreements with independent handlers and cooperatives, with reimbursement to handlers for allowed administrative costs. USDA will contact handlers with eligible producers to notify them of the opportunity to participate.

As part of the first round, PMVAP paid eligible dairy farmers on up to 5 million pounds of fluid milk sales from July through December 2020. The first round of payments distributed over \$250 million in payments to over 25,000 eligible dairy farmers. These dairy farmers received the full allowable reimbursement on fluid milk sales up to 5 million pounds.

More information about the PMVAP production cap increase is available at www.ams.usda.gov/pmvap.

Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program

The new ODMAP, to be administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), is intended to help smaller organic dairy farms that have faced a unique set of challenges and higher costs over the past several years that have been compounded by the ongoing pandemic and drought conditions across the country. Many small organic dairy operations are now struggling to stay in business and FSA plans to provide payments to cover a portion of their estimated marketing costs for 2023. Final spending will depend on enrollment and each producers projected production, but ODMAP has been allocated up to \$100 million.

Border security, tax relief and raises top list

For the Texas House and Senate, there is not much daylight between each chamber’s priorities in this year’s legislative session. Leaders say the focus will be on property tax relief, border security and employee raises. Preliminary budgets from both chambers were released last week, the Austin American-Statesman reported, with a record \$288.7 billion budget for the next two years. The money in the budget is made up of \$93.7 billion in federal funds, \$130.1 billion in state general revenue funds, and \$64.9 billion in other funds.

The tussle likely comes when lawmakers start spending a whopping \$32.7 billion budget surplus sitting in the state’s coffers from the previous biennium.

Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick want to provide property tax relief to homeowners, with Patrick proposing raising the homestead exemption to \$70,000 from \$40,000. Both draft budget bills set aside \$15 billion – almost half the surplus – for property tax relief.

Increased funding for border security, public education and for raises for state employees are also in the draft budgets, which are likely to change several times before session’s end.

The Texas Tribune reported the preliminary budgets still leave more than \$50 billion in state funds up for grabs. One of the biggest challenges is that state law and the Texas Constitution set limits on how much tax spending can increase between sessions.

Possible end to Confederate Heroes Day?

A 50-year-old state holiday honoring soldiers who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War is again the target of a lawmaker who wants to end the holiday. State Rep. Jarvis Johnson filed the bill, telling the American-Statesman, “This is not the look we want for our state anymore.”

Johnson has filed this measure before without success. Confederate monuments on public grounds have drawn complaints across the state, including the Texas Capitol.

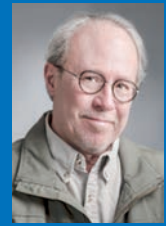
The day is observed on Jan. 19, the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee. On occasion, the holiday celebrating slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, which is held on the third Monday in January, and Confederate Heroes Day fall on the same day.

“While (the King holiday) is a reminder that we are all created equal, how do we simultaneously celebrate an ideology that has been linked with oppression and supremacy?” Johnson asked.

Natural gas supplies held up during winter storm

The bout of sub-freezing temperatures blanketing much of the state a few days before Christmas sparked concern for the state’s electric grid, which reached its highest peak for the entire year. But the grid held, and natural gas supplies to power

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



plants were ample, state officials said.

The Texas Railroad Commission issued a press release saying, “There was ample natural gas supply to help the state’s electricity supply chain and keep Texans safe.”

The agency said it would continue to inspect natural gas facilities throughout the winter to ensure “infrastructure is hardened against extreme weather conditions.”

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in October said the grid is still at risk of failure during extreme winter conditions, such as what happened in February 2021 with Winter Storm Uri.

Overhaul plan for power market gets initial approval

The Public Utility Commission last week approved a potential overhaul of the Texas electricity market in hopes of attracting private investment in new power plants, the Statesman reported. However, the Texas Legislature has ultimate approval. Critics say the plan is untested and could increase electric bills for consumers.

Abbott has already backed the plan, which is an effort to make the power grid, managed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, more reliable. It is intended to encourage more private investment in “plants that can turn on and off quickly depending on need.”

If approved by legislators, the plan could take up to four years to implement.

Lawmakers highlight state’s fragile water infrastructure

A bipartisan group of 38 state legislators have banded together to educate fellow lawmakers about water security issues, the Texas Tribune reported. Aging infrastructure and lack of funding have created water-supply problems across the state, particularly in rural areas.

Last year there were more than 3,000 boil-water notices issued across the state because water quality was in doubt. Seven of the 10 water systems that issued the most notices were in rural parts of East Texas, the Tribune reported after analyzing data from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. There have already been 79 boil-water notices in January.

The group is not advocating for any specific bills.



The first Legacy Class Lunker of the 2023 season has been caught at O.H. Ivie by Tom Nilssen. ShareLunker 633 weighed in at 13.52 pounds.



The second ShareLunker of the 2023 season was caught at Lake Nacogdoches by Jack York. This Legacy Class ShareLunker weighed in at 13.51 pounds.

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Bears fall to Sabine, Lady Bears beat Lady Cards

By Tyler Sutton

Both of the Gladewater Basketball teams had a busy week as 2 games each were played with one on the road and one at home. The week started with a trip to Sabine for a double header on Tuesday, January 17.

The Lady Bears continued their hot streak by going on the road and beating the Sabine Lady Cardinals 50-49. Gladewater was lead by the 19 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals. Kiyona Parker had 12 points, seven rebounds, four steals, two assists and two blocks for Gladewater. MaKayla Police finished with 10 points, five rebounds, four steals, two blocks and two assists, Kyla Lincoln two points and two assists, Kamryn Floyd and Ava Langford two points apiece, Karlee Moses two points and six rebounds and Sydney Keller one point, two blocks and two steals.

"I feel we are peaking at the best time on both sides of the ball. Hitting shots and getting the stops we need," said coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Lady Bears then returned home on Friday, January 20th to pick up a victory over the Hughes Springs Lady Mustangs. The two wins this past week improved their record to 12-12 on the season and 4-1 in district play.

The Gladewater Bears were also in action this past week with a road game loss on Tuesday, January 17th falling 72-49 to the Sabine Cardinals. It was a tough night offensively for Gladewater but they were lead by 16 points from Kollin Lewis. Tristan Linwood chipped in 13 points and 5 rebounds. The Bears were able to bounce back on Friday, January 20th to pick up a 60-49 win over Hughes Springs. Tristan Linwood had a huge game for Gladewater dropping in 19 points and 8 rebounds. Kollin Lewis had a nice night as well with 16

Sports Roundup

points. Kyron Wilson was the third Bear in double figures with 11 points.

"I thought we bounced back very well from a tough night in Sabine on Tuesday and played one of our best games tonight," said coach Curtis Armstrong.

The 1-1 week puts the Bears at 4-7 on the season and 1-2 in district play. Gladewater was back on the road Tuesday, January 24 traveling to New Diana.

Lions down Linden-Kildare

Union Grove's Jax Daniels pumped in 21 points to help

lift the Union Grove Lions to 5-1 in District 21-2A action (13-10 overall) with a 61-23 win over Linden-Kildare.

Daniels added five rebounds, and two assists and two steals for the Lions. Colton Cowan had 14 points, three rebounds, two assists and three blocks, Peyton Laake seven points, Jace Roberts six points and 12 rebounds, Kayden Day five points and 11 rebounds, Jesse Fulmer five points and six rebounds, Lane Turner two points and Will Willson one point.

Union Grove defeats Harleton, 73-37

By Daytona Vaughn

Union Grove's varsity Lions defeated the Harleton Wildcats 73-37 in their Jan. 17 home game.

Colton Cowan led the Lions in points scored with 35 and made 12 of 12 free throws. Cowan also tallied six rebounds, three assists, and four steals. Jaxson Daniels scored 15 points, making five three-pointers and adding three assists and four steals. Jace Roberts pitched in 12 points, 10 rebounds, and two assists.

ShareLunker Program enjoys landmark year in 2022

ATHENS – The 2022 Toyota ShareLunker season proved to be monumental, thanks to 350 anglers across the nation who entered 512 Lunker largemouth bass into the program throughout the year. The total included 357 in the Lunker Class (weighing between eight to 9.99 pounds or at least 24 inches), 121 Elite Class (weighing 10 to 12.99 pounds), 24 Legacy Class (weighing 13 pounds or more and caught between Jan. 1 and March 31) and 10 Legend Class Lunkers that were 13 pounds or more caught outside the spawning season.

In addition to helping produce bigger, better bass for Texas lakes, anglers who enter their big bass catches in the program receive special recognition and prizes, including an entry into a year-end drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

"The 2022 ShareLunker season was one filled with multiple milestones, and we are glad we can close out the season with the year-end Grand Prize drawing," said Natalie Goldstrohm Toyota ShareLunker coordinator. "We are pleased to announce that angler Bryan Allen was randomly selected from all the qualifying 2022 entries, winning the \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree. Be sure to enter your Lunker bass into the ShareLunker app or website for your chance to be included in the drawing for the 2023 season."

Allen reeled in his 24.5-inch Lunker Class fish March 19 on Fairfield Lake to become eligible for the drawing.

"Fairfield is one of my favorite lakes to fish," said Allen. "I grew up in Florida fishing a lot of grass lakes and Fairfield is a good grass lake as well. I had caught some good fish there a couple of weeks before and made the trip out to Fairfield again that day. I have a small boat and usually go by myself, so I went and fished like I normally do. I was throwing a swim jig around and while fishing in some grassy points, I landed the fish."

Allen headed out to Lake Nacogdoches May 28 and netted a 10.45-pound Elite Class Lunker, which he also entered into the program using the ShareLunker app.

Allen discovered the ShareLunker app two years ago and began submitting his catches. He was thrilled to win the \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

"I was overjoyed and really excited to get the call from Natalie [Goldstrohm]," Allen said. "I'm not a person who gets lucky and wins a lot of stuff, so this is pretty awesome. A big thank you is in order for everything the ShareLunker program does for these lakes in the state of Texas."

Allen said he spreads the word to everyone about the program and the app.

"The prize for me is the opportunity to catch these big quality fish all the time," he said. "These lakes have amazing genetics — any given day you can go out and catch a good quality bass."

Anglers Deric Miller of Southlake and Brady Stanford of New Braunfels boasted the most individual entries

for the season with 14 and 11, respectively. A total of 93 reservoirs produced at least one Lunker in 2022, led by O.H. Ivie with 121. Lake Fork (48), Fairfield (38), Conroe (26) and Sam Rayburn (23) were among the other top producers of the season, which wrapped up Dec. 31. The 512 total fish entered is a new single season record, up from 460 that were caught in 2021.

"Anglers that provide their Lunker data to TPWD play a critical role in big bass management in Texas," Goldstrohm said. "Fisheries biologist use the anglers catch data along with other research and sampling information to make informed management decisions for Lunker bass in Texas' fisheries."

During the first three months of the season (January through March), anglers who reel in a 13-plus pound bass can loan it to TPWD for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 through March 31.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13-plus pound lunkers earn Legacy Class status, a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13-plus pound Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica mount of their Lunker fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate contests — a Legacy Class drawing and the year-end Grand Prize drawing. First place in either wins a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual Texas fresh and saltwater fishing license.

The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over eight pounds or 24 inches in Texas.

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app — available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play — or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

Anglers who enter data for any Lunker they catch (greater than eight pounds or 24 inches) during the calendar year 2023 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license.

A new procedure is in effect for the 2023 season. Legend Class ShareLunkers no longer need to be weighed on a certified scale for entry. Anglers must include a photo of their Lunker on a digital scale to qualify for Legend Class.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and TPWD, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.



Union Grove's Gary Dacus squats 245 pounds at the Lions' Jan. 19 quad meet against Leveretts Chapel, Overton, and Union Hill.

Photo by Kimber Smith

Lions win powerlifting meet

By Lucky Woodard

On Friday, Jan. 19, the Union Grove Lions hosted and won a four-team meet with an overall team score of 51 points.

Four Lions won their weight classes: Isaiah O'Neal with a total of 760 lbs, James Evans with 915 lbs, Jacob Griffin with 1090 lbs, and Reed Cooper with 1190 lbs.

Preston Woodall placed second in his weight class with 725lbs, Jacob Humphreys second with 990lbs, Gary Dacus third with 620lbs, Joey Adams third with 670lbs, Tommy Branscom third with 940lbs, and Dalton Hawkins third with 900lbs. Carter Cooper placed fifth with 715 lbs, and Calab Day placed sixth with 665 lbs.

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- Entries close March 4th

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March 4th mandatory meeting
May 21st Mandatory practice
June 3rd Contest
June 7-10 Rodeo

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•Participation trophies

~ENTRIES~
NOW OPEN!!
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