

New Grow Gladewater Grant Program being offered

Groundhog predictions notwithstanding, an early Spring is in the works for Gladewater's economy.

A new initiative from Gladewater Economic Development Corporation aims to cultivate commerce from the ground up, investing public seed money in projects that will reap a broad benefit for the community, businesses and residents alike. The newlyunveiled Grow Gladewater Grant Program is carefully targeted to enhance the local economy by providing incentives for entrepreneurs who make long-term improvements to their businesses and properties and, consequently, to the city's appearance and its reputation as a tourist-friendly destination.

"I'm very excited," says GED-CO Executive Director Michelle Palmer. "I am enthusiastic about the economic stimulation this can promote. I'm also excited about the restoration this can encourage with re-development."

Officially launched in January, there are three primary components of the project: façade improvements, building improvements and property redevelopment/remediation. Between that trio, the organizers anticipate positive change for everything from robust businesses to historic properties and blighted structures – all of which have an impact on the community's vitality.

See details on Page 8

Man gets life in prison for sexual asault of a minor

By Phillip Williams

A judge in Gilmer sentenced Matthew Joseph Savary to life imprisonment last week after the defendant pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a minor male child, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Savary, 37, of Gilmer, was sentenced Jan. 31 by 115th District Judge Dean Fowler, Byrd announced in a news release.

Under his plea bargain with the prosecution, Savary must register as a sex offender for his entire lifetime if he is ever paroled, the prosecutor said. In exchange for the plea to one charge, "the state dismissed other counts involving the same child," Byrd added.

Savary must serve at least 30 years before becoming eligible for parole "and that does not guarantee he will make parole at that time," the district attorney said. "This plea means he has no right of appeal, and that the child will not have to testify.

"The offense date ranges from November 2021 until the spring of 2022," and the county's grand jury indicted Savary last June 30, the prosecutor added. The defendant has been confined to Upshur County Jail in Gilmer, however, since an arrest warrant was served on him April 19, 2022, Byrd noted.

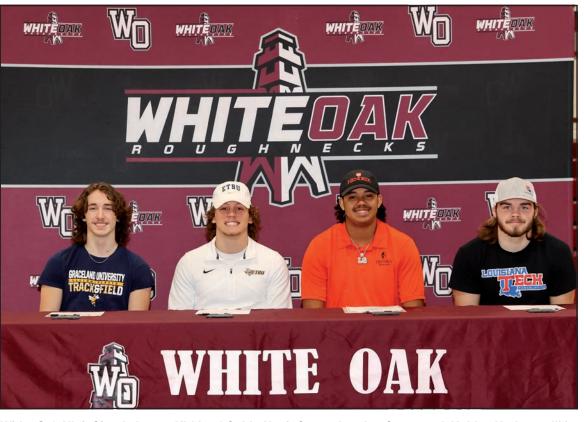
Gilmer police investigated the case. Byrd represented the state at sentencing, while Longview attorney David R. Hagan represented Savary.



FFA officials are investigating a private, single-engine plane crash that occurred near Glade-water Municipal Airport over the weekend. Officials said that the crash happened near Carter Road and Highway 271, south of the airport in a swampy area and heavy timber. The crash was called into local authorities at 1:23 p.m. Sunday.



Gladewater High School wide receiver Kollin Lewis signed a letter of intent with University of North Texas at a ceremony held Thursday in the high school gym. He was joined at the ceremony by his family, friends, coaches and teammates.



White Oak High Shool signers Kirkland Cobb, Noah Carter, Landyn Grant, and Holden Hodges will be taking their athletic endeavors to the Collegiate level of competition next year as they signed letters of intent on National Signing Day last week. Cobb signed with Graceland University to pole vault for the Yellow Jackets track team. Carter will play football for East Texas Baptist College next fall. Grant signed with Hendrix College to play football. Hodges will take his athletic talents to Louisana Tech to play football and power lift for the Bulldogs.

Photo by Mike Peery

Commissioners support Truman Smith Children's Care Center

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court last week passed a resolution supporting proposed state legislation intended to benefit the Truman W. Smith Children's Care Center in Gladewater.

The court's Jan. 31 meeting agenda described the resolution as favoring "the passing of a pediatric long-term care access assurance program for the benefit of the children and for the positive economic impact" which the center "provides for our local community."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin

Nicholson quoted the state government as saying the legislation would let the state pay the county to do the center's bookkeeping. County Judge Todd Tefteller said about half or more of the facility's approximately 190 employees live in Upshur County.

Tefteller said the office of State Rep. Jay Dean (R-Longview) requested the resolution. The center is located in the Upshur County section of Gladewater, and Dean represented that county in the legislature until redistricting moved Upshur into District 5 State Rep. Cole Hefner's district.

Dean, however, still represents the Gregg County portion of Gladewater

Photo by Jim Bardwell

The facility, located on U.S. 80, describes itself on its website as a "pediatric long-term care community uniquely suited for babies and kids who are medically fragile." Tefteller said it houses disabled youngsters and has 120 patients.

In other business at its Gilmer meeting last week, the court accepted, for recording, the internal audit report for the county jail's

Continued on Page 6

Weekend plane crash investigation underway

Federal Aviation Administration officials are investigating a private, single-engine plane crash that occurred near Gladewater Municipal Airport over the weekend, according to Texas DPS.

Officials said that the crash happened near Carter Road and Highway 271, south of the airport in a swampy area and heavy timber. The crash was called into local authorities at 1:23 p.m. Sunday.

All four people in the plane were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Officials said the Beechcraft F35 Bonanza aircraft, registered to Danny Downing, came to rest in a pond 0.5 mile short of the runway and the passengers were able to exit the plane and were on the wings of the plane when emergency crews arrived at the location.

A nearby resident said he heard the aircraft's engine sputter and then lose power as it passed overhead of his home and called police when he heard the plane crash in the woods.

At presstime, it is not known what caused the crash.

Upshur office relocation now 'complicated'

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Judge Todd Tefteller announced at a meeting of commissioners court last week that some courthouse offices may be temporarily moved to two different locations instead of the originally planned one while the building undergoes renovation.

Some employees may go to a building owned by Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative, while others will be housed as originally planned in the former Gilmer ISD Administration Building, Tefteller said at the Jan. 31 meeting.

Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur, who was named by the court to oversee the project after his own courthouse in Jefferson underwent such a historic renovation, said a seemingly "seamless" move of all the offices to the school building has proven to be "far more appropriated," instead.

complicated" instead.

He said removing asbestos from the Gilmer ISD facility had caused damage to walls, removal of radiators, and other problems that couldn't have been foreseen. Thus, the court will "probably have to reevaluate" the temporary relocating of offices, LaFleur said.

Though improving the school facility is probably the first option, the Marion judge added, he was eying "another possible location" offered by Upshur Rural.

Tefteller said the cooperative was "talking about offering us" two-thirds of a former locker plant facility on Texas 154 in Gilmer, near the intersection of Bradford Street. The building has been used for firms ranging from a cafe to a game room in the many years since the locker plant ceased business.

The court is leasing the former school administration building for \$1 annually for three years from Gilmer ISD. Tefteller said Upshur Rural was offering a lease for free, but LaFleur pointed out the cooperative was interested in knowing whether the county would help fund the cost of finishing renovation of its facility.

Tefteller said the court is awaiting more information from engineers before deciding what to do on the relocation. "I'm not for sending everybody home, working from the Internet," he added.



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.

... Stacks

Stacks of books surround me at home. I have a Nook and a Kindle but rarely turn them on. I like to hold the book that holds the words that transport, teach or entertains me.

The Friends of Lee Library love books. They hope that you love books too because they are holding their annual Gusher Days Book Sale April 16 and they need you to donate books you no longer want. Then you need to purchase books just because you love them, and Lee Library of course. The proceeds will be dedicated to the children's summer reading program.

A community is defined by what it values, and learning and access to learning is a mighty important thing to support and share with the next generation.

The Gladewater ISD librarians are all in with the donation of their discards so the sale should have a superior selection of children's and YA (young adult) literature. Those librarians are folks that have spent a

career valuing words and knowledge.

As I dug through an old stack at home to fill a box for donation I found a journal from 1978 that made me blush with my youthful gushing. But it also convicted me about the importance of a return to wonder and thirst for knowledge.

Books can do that, ratchet up that sense of wonder and desire to learn. They can take you anywhere and enable you to see through the eyes of other cultures, times, worlds.

There is a picture of me reading to our son when he was two weeks old. The reading didn't stop until early junior high when he banned me AFTER we finished the entire Hank the Cow Dog series read in melodramatic character voices. Which he has asked me to read to his kids (if he and daughter-in-heart ever get around to having any).

Reading to kids is one of the best ways to share a sense of wonder and a love of words. Every Wednesday

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



at 11 a.m. Lee Library hosts story time.

Last Wednesday I participated in the National Read-In with sixth graders at White Oak in the classroom of one of my former students. I did my best to transport those kids by reading "Sneetches" and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss, one of the greatest modern philosophers. I bet you though he just wrote children's books.

Maybe that's what we all need to take us away from the 24/7 politicking and more frightening aspects of the world we live in. Stories are not just an escape, often they are a mirror.

Pick up the "Hunger Games" or "Divergent" series and you immediately see the darkness reflected in young adult literature. But folks, it has always been this way. "1984", "Brave New World", "Animal Farm", "Fahrenheit 451", the Narnia Chronicles and the Ring Trilogy all were born from the cracking of 20th century history by fascism, communism and war.

The lessons are there for this shaky 21st century. They are to be found in great literature and in history. Lessons our society needs to survive and thrive.

Maybe we should all go dig through the books at the Gusher Days' Sale. It might do more than support the library and its summer reading program. It might help us address some of our society's problems or maybe even some of our own.

The power of the pen is surely more powerful than the sword. The proof is in the stacks.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Getting the gas ...

On December 23, the quantity of natural gas used in the United States set a new daily record.

Consumption in the lower 48 states that day was 141.0 billion cubic feet (Bcf), according to estimates reported by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). The previous record was 137.4 Bcf, set on January 1, 2018.



A winter storm swept across the United States from December 21 through December 26, 2022, with blizzards, high winds, and extreme cold. Increased demand for heat was largely met (directly or indirectly) by natural gas. During that time, residential and commercial sector natural gas consumption averaged 55% higher than the previous five-year average, and natural

gas consumption in the electric power sector was 45% higher than the five-year average. Although electric power generation from renewable energy has grown substantially of late, natural gas remains the primary fuel.

Even as demand increased, production fell. Weather-related issues led to a 16% drop in production, the worst decline since Winter Storm Uri in February 2021. Fortunately, a relatively mild September and October and production growth allowed for refilling of underground natural gas storage, which had been relatively low due to the hot summer. Withdrawals from storage met most of the increased demand, with pipeline imports from Canada comprising the rest. In fact, Canada supplied 10.4 Bcf of natural gas to the United States on December 24, the largest daily import level in nearly 16 years.

The EIA also recently reported that, on an annual basis, natural gas consumption, production, and exports broke records in 2022. Estimated average daily consumption in 2022 was 88.7 Bcf per day, up 8% over 2021. Production increases were led by the Permian Basin and Haynesville regions.

Another source of demand for natural gas is liquified natural gas (LNG) facilities (about 12.5 Bcf per day). Located primarily along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana, these plants convert natural gas into a form which can be shipped to foreign markets. LNG usage is developing rapidly, with many nations in Europe and elsewhere investing in the infrastructure needed to regassify it for use in their pipeline networks. The Russia-Ukraine war has made the need for natural gas supplies from allies such as the United States abundantly clear, and our ability to supply LNG helps stabilize global markets, economies, and politics.

The bottom line is that natural gas is an essential fuel and will remain so for the foreseeable future, as confirmed by every forecast from the EIA and many other sources. Developing natural

gas resources and delivery capacity in responsible ways can facilitate our efforts to maintain energy security and sufficiency while both pursuing climate-related objectives and enhancing geopolitical security. This is not rocket science. Stay safe!



Ice storm wreaks havoc in much of state

Residents in Central and Northeast Texas are still cleaning up after a winter storm last week snapped power lines and tree limbs, causing widespread power outages, canceled flights and damage to homes and vehicles.

At its peak, nearly 400,000 Texas households were without power, according to poweroutage.us. As of Sunday, that number had dropped to 62,456.

The outages were due to downed power lines, not by problems with the state's power grid. The Texas Railroad Commission said the state's natural gas supply also held steady, with natural gas utilities reporting no service issues during the storm.

Airports in the state's metropolitan areas reported several hundred flight cancellations because of icy conditions. Many schools in the Dallas area and around Austin were closed for the entire week.

The Texas Department of Insurance offered some advice to homeowners dealing with damage cause by fallen tree branches landing on vehicles and homes. That includes taking photos of the damage before moving the tree; making temporary repairs and contact your insurance agent as soon as possible; and saving all receipts for labor and repair materials to be reimbursed.

While the danger from last week's storm has largely passed, the Texas Department of State Health Services provided advice for future winter events, urging people to use extreme caution with electric generators and heaters that produce carbon monoxide.

Generators should only be used outdoors, at least 10 feet

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



away from buildings. Outdoor grills, camp stoves and other heaters that produced carbon monoxide should only be used outside. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause death.

Fentanyl test strips backed by lawmakers

Test strips that would determine whether pills, powders, or other forms of drugs are laced with deadly fentanyl might be legalized, if a bipartisan group of lawmakers have their way.

The percentage of overdose deaths tied to fentanyl has risen to 97%, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman. Gov. Gregg Abbott has ended his opposition to legalizing the strips, and several nearly identical bills have

been filed in both the House and Senate as a result.

"They deserve action, action that will save other innocent families from the devastation they have suffered," Abbott said in January. "And they will get that action this session."

Legislators are also considering measures to increase the penalty for manufacturing or delivering fentanyl even in small amounts to a third-degree felony. Right now, it is a

state jail felony.

Meanwhile, the state comptroller's office is being pushed to speed up distribution of more than \$1 billion in funds from the Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund, intended to mitigate the fentanyl crisis. The money comes from settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors.

"We've somewhat sacrificed expediency in getting dollars out the door," Hegar said. "We have to create a system that treats everybody fairly and everybody understands the process"

DSHS data indicates 1,569 Texans died of a fentanylrelated overdose last year, according to the Statesman report.

State parks continue centennial celebration

Texas state parks turn 100 years old in 2023 and are celebrating with a host of events. This month includes several celebrations in North Texas, East Texas, Huntsville and San Antonio, including a variety of events marking Black History Month.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is partnering with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and H-E-B for the celebrations, with the grocery chain donating \$1 million to help the parks system engage Texans to discover and enjoy their state parks.

For more information on the celebration, including community events, the history of Texas State Parks and how to make a day visit or overnight reservation, visit the Texas State Parks 100 Years website at TexasStateParks. org/100years.

Press Association Taggress Association

Periodicals Postage Paid Gladewater, TX USPS 575-140

ISSN Number 1045-5671

The Gladewater Mirror is published weekly by Bardwell Ink, LLC 211 N. Main Street Gladewater, TX

POSTMASTER: Send PS3579 to

The Gladewater Mirror P.O. Box 1549 Gladewater, TX 75647

The Gladewater Mirror

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday
Office Hours

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Telephone: 903-845-2235
Fax: 903-845-2237
Email: gladewatermirror@aol.com



Owners: Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

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

Subscriptions are \$35/year in Gregg, Smith & Upshur counties and payable in advance.

MEMORIALS

A memorial is "anything, as a monument, intended to preserve the memory of a person or event." There are many memorials, located in prominent places in many cities and towns. Countries have statues celebrating leaders and great men, and their various accomplishments. Memorials also take the form of special days, set aside to remember special events, like the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, etc., or special men, like Lincoln, Washington, Martin Luther King or Christopher Columbus. But the greatest of all memorials is the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus at the Passover Feast, just prior to His crucifixion. Its greatness is seen in what it represents: the broken body and the shed blood of Jesus. Jesus said in Matt. 26: 28: "Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it the disciples and said, take eat, this is my body. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink from it all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." The apostle Paul reiterated the same (1 Cor. 11: 23-26), showing its solemnity and purpose (vs. 27-33). Could there ever be a greater and more fitting memorial?

We can memorialize men, but we can never pay tribute to anyone who did more for mankind than did Jesus. We can pay tribute to many battles, but never one that had more significance than when Jesus overcame sin and death for fallen man. Each first day of the week, we are again reminded of His great sacrifice. Observing this great memorial helps us remember, until He comes again, what He has done for us. It is central to our faith and service to the One who died for us. What a great memorial, with great meaning, to be observed with great joy and reverence. Do you observe this great memorial every Sunday? 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

Police Activity Report

CALL DAT	E CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
/29/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230473	0:56		900 TYLER TYLER
	10-50 MINOR	20230474	1:21		2810 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	SEXUAL ASSAULT	20230475	1:24		
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20230476	2:08		COACH COOKSIE COACH COOKSIE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230477	2:10		704 MCNEESE MCNEESE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230478	2:52		400 MONEY MONEY
	EMS	20230479	5:25		1024 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20230480	7:06		2788 WILLOW OAK RD WILLOW OAK RD
	EMS	20230481	7:54		616 B JEANETTE JEANETTE
	EMS	20230482	8:25	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ABANDONED 911	20230483	8:28	EEGENB GIVE NO NO NO NO NO NO	100 N LEE LEE ST
	EMS	20230484	11:03	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230485	11:24	DENTINEE OAKBENS	SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	EMS	20230487	12:40	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
		20230487	12:44	TROWAN SWITH CHILDRENS CENTER	710 TENERY TENERY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER			TOURS OF STREET	
	EMS	20230489	14:37	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230490	14:41		GLADEWATER AREA GLADEWATER AREA
	EMS	20230491	15:51	0.11.100.1.05.11.710=::-	1210 PINE HILLS PINE HILLS LN
	ALARM/OTHER	20230492	15:59	CHURCH OF NAZARENE	401 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230494	16:58		1212 SANDERS SANDERS RD
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230495	17:15		NEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL NEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL
	ASSIST	20230496	17:25		11974 S US 271 US 271
	ABANDONED 911	20230497		BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONING A CHILD	20230498	20:26	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20230499	23:08		1002 NORTH NORTH ST
/30/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230500	0:21		201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20230501	0:51		538 NORTH NORTH ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20230502	1:31	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20230503	5:56		2809 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	20230504	10:34	AMERICAN REAL ESTATE	1400 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20230505	11:26	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20230507	13:38		22 GREENWAY GREENWAY VLG
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20230508	15:04		701 N GARY GARY ST
	EMS	20230509	15:05		4791 SWEETGUM SWEETGUM
	UNAUTHORIZED USE MOTOR VEH	20230510	15:22		2812 BERNICE BERNICE ST
	ABANDONED 911	20230511	15:50		518 N FERRY FERRY ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230513	17:05		SABINE RIVER BRIDGE SABINE RIVER BRIDGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230514	18:24		1211 N CULVER CULVER
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20230514	19:28		2805 BERNICE BERNICE
	EMS			LEGENID ONCONILIDEINO LIONE	
1/31/23		20230516	22:53 4:07	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685 VESTA VESTA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230518			
	EMS	20230519	6:51		276 SORROWS SORROWS RD
	ALARM/OTHER	20230520		AUSTIN BANK	1625 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230522	12:53		606 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230523	13:35		227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230524	14:15	CVS PHARMACY	1402 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20230525	18:58		504 NORTH NORTH ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20230526		GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230527	22:11		QUITMAN QUITMAN
2/1/23	THEFT	20230528	0:34	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20230529	3:44	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230530	5:52		900 N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	FIRE DEPT	20230531	8:49		UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
	ASSIST	20230533	9:27	GRANNY BS SHAVED ICE AND MORE	1603 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20230534	9:48		1501 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	ASSIST	20230536	9:53		1000 N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	FIRE DEPT	20230537	10:05		1400 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20230537	13:56	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20230539	17:10		802 COACH COOKSEY COACH COOKSEY
				1	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230540	18:16	1	2200 PINECREST PINECREST DR
	EMS	20230541	18:34		10980 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20230542	18:53		520 GAY GAY AVE

Police Activity Report

				,		
2/2/23	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230545	5:41	FREDS	601 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230547	6:11	SONIC DRIVE IN	1103 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	UNAUTHORIZED USE MOTOR VEH	20230548	7:19	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485	
	TERROR THREAT	20230550	11:03	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230551	13:15	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	ASSIST	20230552	13:17		10980 FM 2685 FM 2685	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230553	17:07		EAST LAKE EAST LAKE	
	THEFT	20230554	17:10		1520 E SHEPHARD SHEPHARD	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230555 17:55			SABINE RIVER BRIDGE SABINE RIVER BRIDGE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230556	20:36		900 VESTA VESTA DR	
	ALARM/OTHER	20230557	21:05	POST OFFICE	101 N DEAN DEAN ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230558	21:15	LONGHORN LIQUOR	1702 N MAIN MAIN ST	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230559	21:25	SONIC DRIVE IN	1103 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
2/3/23	10-50 MINOR	20230560	6:54		1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	ASSIST	20230561	8:30		120 PR 3039 PR 3039	
	EMS	20230562	10:42		1102 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR	
	EMS	20230563	10:51	WELDON HOMES	EDDY EDDY ST	
	ALARM/OTHER	20230564	12:52		1102 NORTH NORTH	
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20230565	14:00		HWY 135 HWY 135	
	ABANDONED 911	20230566	14:07	JO WILLIAMS	419 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	EMS	20230567	16:09		10722 LOCUST LOCUST RD	
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230568	17:23	SEYMORE'S WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230569	18:29		3013 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR	
	ASSIST	20230570	19:55		106 JUNIPER JUNIPER	
	ABANDONED 911	20230571	21:54		611 MAIN MAIN N	
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20230572	22:02	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230573	22:08		512 NORTH NORTH ST	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230574	22:14		301 COMMERCE COMMERCE	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230575	22:15		N MAIN MAIN ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230576	22:54	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST	
2/4/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230578	5:06		1110 E BROADWAY BROADWAY	
	EMS	20230579	10:35		410 W GAY GAY AVE	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230580	15:25		DEAN DEAN	
	ABANDONED 911	20230581	15:28		1406 SPRUCE SPRUCE ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230582	16:07	BUMBLE BEE PARK	637 COACH COOKSEY ST COACH COOKSEY ST	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230584	16:46		701 W CLAIR CLAIR ST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230585	16:49		68 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES	
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20230586	17:14		S LOOP TO SB 271 S LOOP TO SB 271	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230587	17:46	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR	
	WARRANT	20230590	23:17	EVERETT PARK	901 N LEE LEE ST	
2/5/23	EMS	20230591	5:28	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230592	6:32		MAIN MAIN	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230593	9:19		105 VILLAGE NORTH VILLAGE NORTH CIR	
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20230594	9:46	ABUNDANT LIFE TEMPLE	407 N MONEY MONEY ST	
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20230595	9:51		103 VILLAGE NORTH VILLAGE NORTH CIR	
	EMS	20230596	12:27	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR	
	EMS	20230597	12:35	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST	
	10-50 MAJOR	20230598	13:22			
	MISCELLANEOUS	20230599	14:45		507 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE	
	EMS	20230603	15:29		42 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS	

GPD Police Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
2/4/23	2/4/23	3:20	POWE, DARION MONTRELL	В	М	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	110 AV PACIFIC W
	2/4/23	23:43	TOLIVER, TYREKE DEMARCUS	В	М	WARRANT (LOCAL)	LEE
	2/4/23	23:43	TOLIVER, TYREKE DEMARCUS	В	М	WARRANT (LOCAL)	LEE
	2/4/23	23:43	TOLIVER, TYREKE DEMARCUS	В	М	WARRANT (LOCAL)	LEE
	2/4/23	23:43	SONIER, ROSE MARIE	W	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	911 N LEE ST
	2/4/23	23:43	SONIER, ROSE MARIE	W	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	911 N LEE ST

WOPD Police

For the reporting period of January 30th through February 5th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 146 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglar Alarms, Traffic Problems, Animal Complaints, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

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

Two arrests were made by White Oak Police during the reporting period:

Ashley Kay Dodson, 37, of White Oak for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and an outstanding White Oak warrant for Animal at Large; and

Albert Eugene Jones, 63, transient for Driving While Intoxicated w/ an Open Alcohol Container, an Upshur County Bond Forfeiture warrant for Driving While Intoxicated w/a BAC > 0.15, and another Upshur County Bond Forfeiture warrant for Criminal Trespass.

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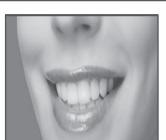
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Retired teachers set meeting

The next meeting of the Oil Patch Chapter of the Texas Retired Teachers Association will be Thursday, February 23 at, 1:30 p.m., in Jeter Hall of the Gladewater Methodist Church. The program will be a "Show and Tell." Members are encouraged to bring an item that represents something they collect or make, travel souvenirs, or something that represents their interests or personality.

All retired school personnel are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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 nonperishable items at 519 E Broadway Ave. or at the *Gladewater Mirror* at 211 N. Main. Got questions, call (903) 845-3128.

Decendents 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.

Debra Christian is the great-great granddaughter of one of the sons, whose first name was Butcher. The others, she said, were named Hall, Adam, Jeff, Teamer and Abe.

The reunion is scheduled at the Marriott courtyard on Broadway in Tyler, Debra Christian said.

Descendants may contact her for more information at 903-372-2652 or email her at debrachristian 5554@sbcglobal.net.

Hannah House banquet set

Tickets are on sale for the Hannah House maternity home's 5th annual "Cherish Celebration" banquet, scheduled Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Holiday Inn North in Longview.

Hannah House, located in the rural Glenwood community area of Upshur County, describes itself on its website as a "faith-based maternity home for young women who choose life" over abortion, including those who plan to have their child adopted.

The banquet will feature dinner, testimonies, silent and live auctions and live music. Musical headliner will be Jason Waldon and The Alibis. Doors open at 5 p.m. with dinner set for 6 p.m. and the program scheduled at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Hannah House at (903) 238-5351.

Upshur Storytime on Thursdays

A Valentine's party will be held, and two books will be read to small children, at each of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer Thursday, Feb. 9.

Storytime is set for 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154.)

At the party, children can exchange treats and candies with their friends, said Kari Dunn, the library's children's coordinator.

"Bad Kitty Does NOT Like Valentine's Day" by Nick Bruel, and "Mr. Goat's Valentine" by Eve Bunting, will be read, and a craft will follow each Storytime.

The events are free to the public, but children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www. youseemore.com/upshur.

Black History Month Hike

In honor of the historic contributions of black Americans, Caddo Lake State Park is hosting a history hike concerning the Buffalo Soldiers, and black conservationists, scientists, and environmentalists.

Participants will hike a moderate 0.7-mile hike with moderate hills- including sections of stairs. This hike will be centered around the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, black conservationists, scientists, and environmentalists.

It will begin promptly at 1 p.m. and end at approximately 2 p.m.. at the Caddo Forest Trailhead (located near the turn into the boat ramp parking lot).

Please wear losed-toe shoes, weather appropriate clothing, and bring water. The program is included in park entry fees-\$4 per person ages 13 and older, 12 and under are free. No need to register, just show up! Programs are subject to cancellation in the event of inclement weather.

Cancellations will be announced on Caddo Lake State Park Facebook page, or you can call park headquarters

Upshur Expo set for Feb. 25

The 40th annual Upshur County Community Expo, formerly known as the county health fair, is set Feb. 25 at the East Texas Yamboree Event Center in Gilmer.

The event, hosted by the Upshur County Health Coalition, will feature vendors who will "educate the public on living healthy lifestyles," said Julie York, a county extension agent who oversees the coalition.

The expo, free to the public, is set from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the center at 181 Bob Glaze Drive (behind Walmart.) It will be "focusing on health and wellness for all ages," York said Monday.

For more infomation, contact Amorette Burch at (903) 227-1749.

Brain Injury Support Group to meet

The Brain Injury Survivor Support Group for the Northeast Texas area will meet on Tuesday, February 14, at 6 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 3901 Bill Owens Parkway, Longview.

This group is for anyone who has experienced a brain injury caused by a stroke, aneurysm, accident, etc. Family, caregivers and health-care professionals are also welcome. For information, call Carolyn at 903-234-8877.

Move for St. Jude event slated

Kilgore's Cub Scout Pack 251 will be holding their annual Move for St. Jude and Pack Bike Rodeo benefitting St. Jude's Hospital on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Dudley Road Trailhead on The Creekside Trail in Kilgore, Texas.

All kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to participate. Everyone is invited to attend.

Kilgore Police will on hand doing Safe Kid Fingerprinting. Come out and Ride, Walk, Run, Skate or Scooter.

Get your registration online at https://fundraising.stjude.org/pack251 or sign up that day.

OBITUARY

GERALDEAN "GERRY" SLADE RIVERS

Geraldean "Gerry" Slade Rivers passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 29, 2023 in Belton, TX. Gerry was born September 30, 1928 in Norphlet, AR to Samual and Francis Slade.



Gerry graduated from Gladewater High School, attended Texas Christian University and received an MBA from Pan American University (UTPA).

Gerry is survived by her sister, Shirley Marshall; son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Brenda Rivers; three granddaughters: Melissa (Brennan) Speakes, Amanda (Darren) Riley and Jessica (Justin)

Roland. Seven great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Gerry will be missed by a host of friends from her church and her many social and volunteer activities. A devoted friend to all who knew her, always extending courtesy to everyone she met.

State Sales Tax Revenue Totaled Record \$4.11 Billion in January

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$4.11 billion in January, 6.6 percent more than in January 2022. The majority of January sales tax revenue is based on sales made in December and remitted to the agency in January.

"While state sales tax collections reached another all-time high, it is important to note that the rate of growth from the previous year was the lowest in the 22 months since the end of pandemic restrictions," Hegar said. "This reflects slowing in the rate of inflation and slowing growth in real economic activity as well. Unfortunately, inflation continues to erode the purchasing power of Texas consumers as the consumer price index rate for December was 6.5 percent.

"Gains in tax receipts from sectors driven by business spending continued to lead the growth, with the largest gains coming from the mining sector compared with a year ago. Receipts from the manufacturing, construction and wholesale trade sectors continued to grow robustly year over year, but at lower rates than in recent months as inflation subsides for items such as construction materials.

"Overall, retail trade receipts grew only slightly and at less than the rate of inflation for consumer goods. Within the retail sector, remittances from the electronic shopping segment led the way as people celebrated the holidays. Receipts from big box retailers and department stores declined, while receipts from dollar stores were up sharply from a year ago — with consumers choosing lower-cost retail options over other outlets during the peak of the Christmas shopping season.

"Receipts from restaurants were once again about in line with inflation in food away from home."



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SPORTS ROUNDUP



Lady Bears headed to the playoffs

By Tyler Sutton

On a week where icy weather wrecked havoc on East Texas, the Gladewater Basketball teams we able to get in their 2 games albeit in a condensed schedule.

Both games that were planned for Tuesday, January 31st had to be pushed back to Thursday, February 2^{nd} that caused a rare back to back games.

Firstly on Thursday, the Gladewater Lady Bears continued their red hot streak as they blewout the Dangerfield Lady Tigers 84-32 in Dangerfield. Gladewater was lead by huge nights from both MaKayla Police and Calice Henderson. Police dropped in 20 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals. Henderson chipped in 18 points, 7 rebounds, 7 steals and 5 assists. Ava Langford also had a nice game off the bench with 9 points.

"We came out hot and kept it going all night, I feel we are playing are best basketball at the time we needed it heading into the playoffs," said coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Lady Bears were back at it one night later for senior night and their final home game of the regular season. And Gladewater was able to send their seniors out with a 54-42 win over the Sabine Lady Cardinals.

Most of the scoring came from a trio of those seniors as Kiyona Parker had 15 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists. Sidney Keller had 14 points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists and MaKayla Police had 11 points, 5 assists and 3 steals. But the one bad portion of the night was late in the 4th quarter when Police injured her knee and had to be helped off the court and to the bench.

"Was happy we got to send the seniors out with a win in their last home game. Just hope MaKayla is ok" said coach

The two wins runs the Lady Bears record to 16-12 and 8-1 in district play. Gladewater closed out the regular season on Tuesday, February 7th with a trip to Hughes Springs. The Playoffs await after that.

On the other side it was another rough week for the Gladewater Bears as they dropped both of their games. They, much like the ladies, had to also play a back to back on both Thursday, February 2nd and Friday February 3rd because of the icy weather all week.

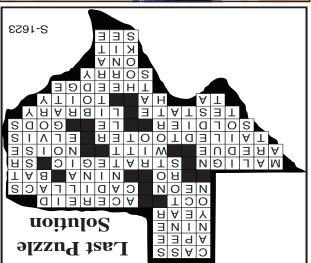
They made the trip up to Dangerfield on the 2nd and fell to the Tigers 84-54. It was a rough night all around as this game wasn't really ever close. North Texas commit Kollin Lewis lead the way with 18 points.

The following night was not much better as the Bears fell 86-53 to the Sabine Cardinals. Kollin Lewis once again led they way with 22 points.

"Just another rough week. We are trying everything we can to compete. Just hope that we can get a win to get some payoff, "said coach Curtis Armstrong.

The 2 losses drop the Bears record to 4-11 and 1-6 in





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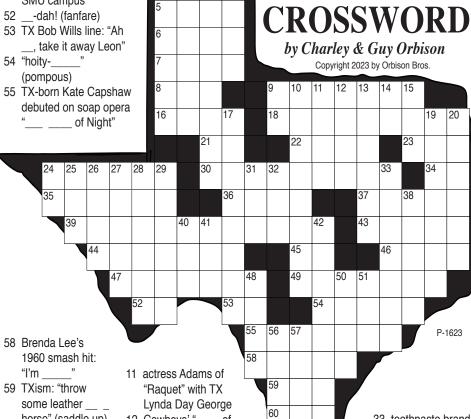
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ACROSS

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See Answers Below

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Honor" can be seen

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Texas widow

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Goodnight (abbr.)

Cobb wins **WO** meet

By Clay Hodges

The White Oak boys team finished in 4th place at the weekend. The results were:

Kirkland Cobb - 1st place 132lb Weight Class 1060lbs

Jayce Parker - 5th place 132lb Weight Class 695lbs total

Nick Johnson - 5th place 148lb Weight Class 910lbs total

Adam Caldwell - 4th place 165lb Weight Class 960lbs

Holden Hodges - 1st place 181lb Weight Class 1400bs

Dakota Greene - 5th place 198lb Weight Class 1000lbs

Jackson Thorp - 5th place 242lb Weight Class 1100lbs

Others competing and improving on all lifts were Gage Davison and Kaleb Morales. Holden's lift of 1400 lbs would be enough to automatically qualify for the State Meet. 1350+lbs is the automatic total that must be performed at the Regional Meet to auto-qualify for the State Meet.

The girls team finished 5th place overall. Results follow:

Lizzy Still - 3rd place 114lb Weight Class 435lbs

Gracye Horn - 2nd place 123lb Weight Class 535lbs Preslee Twomey - 5th

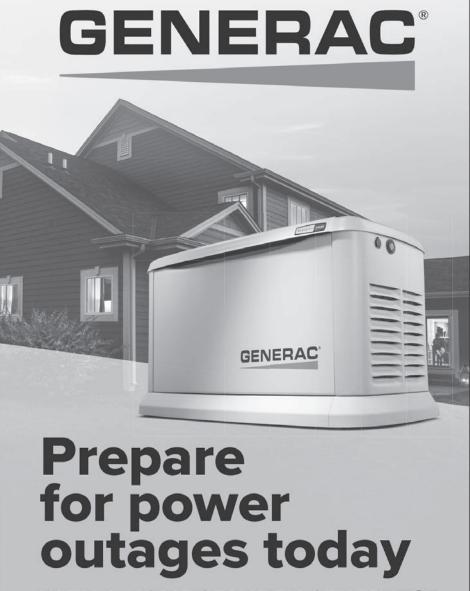
place 132lb Weight Class 485lbs total Kyndal Langley - 3rd

place 148lb Weight Class

610lbs total Bree Gonzales - 3rd place 181lb Weight Class 525lbs

Danica Vaughn - 4th place 198lb Weight Class 475lbs

Others competing and improving on all totals were Aubrey Still, Ashley Eich, Alyssa Spurger, Erin Lawson and Alex Roach



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Champions crowned at FWSSR ProRodeo Tournament

Ry Susan Kanode

FORT WORTH—The \$1.2 million FWSSR ProRodeo Tournament came to a rousing close on Saturday, February 4, in Dickies Arena.

No one was more excited to win their first championships at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo than bareback rider Rocker Steiner and barrel racer Jackie Ganter. Steiner, who calls nearby Weatherford home, made a 90-point ride on Calgary Stampede's Yipee Kibitz. This was the second matchup for Steiner and the bucking horse. The last time the two met, Steiner won the Calgary Stampede in Alberta last July riding, so the 19-year-old was super excited to get on the horse again.

The ride on Saturday added \$20,000 to Steiner's earnings. Prior to Fort Worth's rodeo, he was 13th in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings. With his success in the brackets and the semifinals as well as the championship round, he added \$27,080 which will give him a big boost on his way to his second consecutive Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (NFR) qualification.

"This win is really special," Steiner said. "It's close to home, the fans are great, and I just love that horse."

An emotional Jackie Ganter, from Abilene, Texas, got the win in the barrel racing. Riding her great gelding Howes a Tycoon, she stopped the clock in 16.30 seconds, the same time that she had when she won the wildcard round. Ganter and Tycoon made four trips around the barrels to have the opportunity to run on Saturday. They watched as two-time FWSSR champion Hailey Kinsel stopped the clock in 16.35

Ganter and Tycoon earned \$25,260 here. They were seventh in the world standings before and with their earnings here they will be very close to the number one spot. She has qualified for the NFR twice in 2015 and 2016. With her success here and her blazing fast horse, the former hunter-jumper equestrian is on track to make a third trip to Las Vegas this year.

Will Lummus, a college rodeo coach from Byhalia, Mississippi, punched his ticket in the steer wrestling with a 4.1-second run. The horse he rode was Be Dun By Three, nicknamed "Benz", owned by Clayton Hass. While this was a great rodeo for Lummus, who earned a total of \$27,080 here, it was even better for Benz. Ty Erickson, from Helena, Montana also rode Benz and finished second for the championship. Benz earned \$32,000 for his riders on Saturday night.

The saddle bronc riding ended in a tie, and it was a big one. Stetson Wright of Milford, Utah and Dawson Hay from Wildwood, Alberta, each had 90.5 point rides to win \$16,000. They both rode horses from the Calgary Stampede. Wright got on Xena Warrior and Hay rode Tokyo Bubbles.

In the breakaway roping, Cheyanne Guillory caught the win with a 1.9-second run. The National Finals Breakaway Roping qualifier earned a total of \$26,193 to take back home to Kingston, Oklahoma.

A Texan took the top spot in tie-down roping. Weston Hughes from Cameron stopped the clock in 7.4 seconds for the win. He earned a total of \$25,200 here and said, "It couldn't have happened at a better time."



had the fastest team roping run of the night at 3.9 seconds. This is the second time Hawkins has won this rodeo. He also won it in 2014 roping with Drew Horner. Ward and Hawkins have roped together twice at the NFR and are looking good for another trip to Las Vegas this year.

The best two bull riders in the PRCA in 2022 took the top two places in bull riding. Reigning world champion Stetson Wright made the night's first successful ride on 4L & Diamond S Rodeo's bull Dances With Monsters to earn a score of 87.5 points. After a few other riders hit the dirt, 2022 reserve world champ Josh Frost tried his luck on Rafter G Rodeo's High Brow Cat. Frost's 90.5-point score gave him the FWSSR signature square trophy buckle. He took home \$23,787. Wright added \$18,347 in bull riding money to his winnings, boosting his total from Fort Worth to nearly \$41,500.





The Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo is the biggest rodeo so far in the 2023 season. It is one of the big indoor rodeos that can jump start a contestant's year. Plans are underway for the 127th Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo which will start on January 12 of 2024.

2023 FWSSR ProRodeo Tournament Champions money

Bareback Riding: Rocker Steiner, Weatherford, Texas, \$27,080 Steer Wrestling: Will Lummus, Byhalia, Mississippi, \$27,080 Breakaway Roping: Cheyanne Guillory, Kingston, Okla., \$26,193 Saddle Bronc Riding: (tie) Stetson Wright, Milford, Utah, \$23,080 Dawson Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, Canada, \$21,080 Tie-Down Roping: Weston Hughes, Cameron, Texas, \$25,200 Team Roping: Andrew Ward, Edmond, Okla., and Buddy Hawkins II, Stephenville, Texas, \$26,200 each Barrel Racing: Jackie Ganter, Abilene, Texas, \$25,260

Bull Riding: Josh Frost, Randlett, Utah, \$23,787





Miss Gladewater Rodeo Kallie Rogers represented Gladewater Round Up Rodeo very well at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo this past weekend. She even made the news while she was out there. "From little kids to interviews and extended time to ride my boy Dillon Fort Worth was a memorize I'll never forget. I would also like to thank many of the staff members of the FWSSR, everyone was so welcoming and helped so much while being stuck there for multiple days due to the weather" -Kallie Rogers



Commissioners support Truman Smith Children's Care Center

Continued from Page 1 commissary.

County Auditor Connie Williams said the commissary, operated under a contract with a firm, generated \$213,000 in county revenue last fiscal year--funding which was used to "purchase some pretty important

things."
They included repairs and monitoring equipment, among other items, Williams said.

She also noted that the commissary's wares include e-cigarettes and nicotine patches, and that the audit "found no issues" of concern.

In other business last week, the court also approved applying to the governor's office to renew two federal kgrants for District Attorney Billy Byrd's office. The two applications were approved in separate votes.

The first is for the Upshur County (crime) Victim Services Project, which includes Yecenia Hernandez as crime victims coordinator.

The other, for the Upshur County Family Violence Intervention Program Project, involves prosecutions by Assistant District Attorney Michael Northcutt.



Grant funding available to eligible volunteer fire departments for recruitment

Texas A&M Forest Service is offering new Volunteer Recruitment Resources grants designed to help Texas volunteer fire departments strengthen their workforce and enhance community fire protection.

Available through the Rural VFD Assistance Program, eligible volunteer fire departments can apply for reimbursement of 100 percent of the actual cost for recruitment resources up to \$3,000. Resources such as banners, mailouts, billboards and other promotional items qualify for reimbursement but must convey a call to action for the recruitment of volunteers.

Up to \$300,000 of federal Volunteer Fire Assistance Funds are available for this pilot project, and grants are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Funding is available to volunteer fire departments that meet the following federal eligibility requirements:

The department must serve a rural area or rural community with a population of 10,000 people or less.

The department must be certified by the Texas Division of Emergency Management as having adopted the National

Incident Management System (NIMS). The department must not be debarred, suspended or declared ineligible by any federal department or agency.

The department must be comprised of at least 80 percent volunteer personnel.

A duty to protect is included in the mission of the Texas A&M Forest Service, and fire departments across the state are an essential partner in realizing that mission.

"Volunteer fire departments provide essential frontline emergency services that directly protect Texans and the state's natural resources every day," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "We are excited

to continue investing in fire departments, building their capacity to offer lifesaving services and better serve their communities."

Texas A&M Forest Service has a long history of supporting fire departments across the state and is committed

to helping enhance their emergency response capabilities. To apply for Volunteer Recruitment Resources grant fund-

ing, visit http://TexasFD.com/RuralVFDAssistanceProgram. Information of adopting NIMS can be found on our website, https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/NIMSAdoption/.



903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladewatermirror.com

Public Notice

TAPR

A public meeting to present the 2021-2022 Tex s Academic Performance Report for Gladewater ISD will be held in the Board Room of the Administration office located at 200 E. Broadway. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6 pm. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Sedric Clark at 903-845-6991.

OLG Seeks Dynamic Leader!

Established in 1996, in Port Lavaca, Texas, Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School, with a current enrollment of 105 students, in grades PK-8, is actively **seeking a dynamic** principal leader for the 2023-2024 school **term.** OLG is fully accredited.

For more details and requirements, visit: www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities

White Oak ISD is accepting proposals for security equipment and related installation. The RFP document can be accessed on the WOISD website at: https://www.woisd. net/page/business-office in the Bid Information section. The Q&A period ends at 12:00 PM Thursday, March 2, 2023. Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 PM Thursday, March 9, 2023.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF G/T REFERRAL PERIOD

White Oak Primary, Intermediate, Middle School and High School are now accepting referrals for students who may need Gifted/Talented Services for this school year. The program is designed for students who exhibit intellectual and creative thinking abilities at an extraordinary level not normally served in the regular classroom. Services are provided only upon identification of educational needs of the student. Anyone wishing to refer a student attending White Oak ISD may use the referral form found at www.woisd.net on each campus page or go by the appropriate campus office and request a copy of the referral form. Those unable to go by the school or to access and print out the document should call Ashley McClanahan (Primary/ Intermediate) at 903- 291-2182, Debby Deck (Middle School) 903-291-2030 or Lesa Wright (High School) 903-291-2004, to request a form to be sent to them. If a child has already tested this school year, they may retest next school year. Forms are due to each campus office by Friday, February 17th, 2023.

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Groundhog predictions notwithstanding, an early Spring is in the works for Gladewater's economy.

A new initiative from Gladewater Economic Development Corporation aims to cultivate commerce from the ground up, investing public seed money in projects that will reap a broad benefit for the community, businesses and residents alike. The newly-unveiled Grow Gladewater Grant Program is carefully targeted to enhance the local economy by providing incentives for entrepreneurs who make long-term improvements to their businesses and properties and, consequently, to the city's appearance and its reputation as a tourist-friendly destination.

"I'm very excited," says GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer. "I am enthusiastic about the economic stimulation this can promote. I'm also excited about the restoration this can encourage with re-development."

Officially launched in January, there are three primary components of the project: façade improvements, building improvements and property redevelopment/remediation. Between that trio, the organizers anticipate positive change for everything from robust businesses to historic properties and blighted structures – all of which have an impact on the community's vitality.

The matching grants are available to applicants who are either property owners or tenants who own a business that's been at a location for at least six months. New businesses (i.e. ones that began operations within the past year) will be asked to provide a business plan along with their application.

With limited funds to allocate, a strong application will have a strategic vision for future growth.

Simply put, "Our audience is existing businesses or companies looking to build a new business," Palmer said. "Our target investment zone is going to be the Highway 80 corridor and the downtown."

The more visible the project – the more it helps create a positive impression of a vibrant, destination community – the more likely it will be to receive funding following consideration by and necessary coordination with GEDCO personnel. A guiding question for the board will be how well the proposed project advances Grow Gladewater's goals.

For example, revitalizing a commercial building's façade could be matched up to 50 percent of a \$10,000 total project cost, covering a wide range of itemized expenses.

Building improvements (whether labor, design, permit fees, etc.) could receive matching funds of 15 percent (capped at \$15,000). For property redevelopment, successful applicants could receive reimbursement of as much as 50 percent of the cost of demolition (up to \$5,000) of a blighted structure on a developing property. They might collect up to half of \$25,000 in total costs for environmental remediation of a structure or property contaminated by asbestos or other hazardous materials. Even legal fees tied to the projects may be eligible for reimbursement.

While improvements, enhancements, and refurbishment of properties on 80 or downtown are ideal, Palmer emphasized the grant isn't strictly limited to those areas.

"As long as you're in the city limits of Gladewater, you can go ahead and apply," she noted. "It's to the discretion of the board whether or not they feel that area is well enough aligned with the target for us to go ahead and approve it. The expenditures are going to be qualified by their permanency."

Grow Gladewater's capital comes in funds collected through GEDCO's half-cent sales tax. Consequently, the matching grants will be reimbursement-based; successful applicants pre-approved by the economic development corporation's board will be cut a check once they complete their individual project milestones and satisfy the application requirements.

Full details about the three component areas, guidelines, terms, conditions and other elements of the grant program are available for download in a 5-page application online at GladewaterEDC.com. Find the PDF via tinyurl.com/growgladewater.

Palmer signed on with the economic development outfit about one year ago, eager to hit the ground running alongside the corporation's volunteer board. With her anniversary approaching at the end of February, her enthusiasm hasn't waned, it's jump-started again with Grow Gladewater – the brand new grant initiative is a key step forward and others are on the drawing board.

In the past year, "I did what I knew how to do, and that's to go out in the community and build relationships," Palmer said.

It's taken time to spread the word about GEDCO and to get residents and businesses up to speed on the opportunities available for economic growth here. For example, more businesses took root in the community in the past year, but not all of them have hit everyone's radar.

"There's been a lot of growth here, they know that, but they also don't know how much," she added. "The EDC does a lot of things behind the scenes in promoting economic development, in stimulating economic growth."

That's exactly the intent of Grow Gladewater – to shine a light on what's possible, to spark new ideas and to encourage them by taking key steps forward alongside the business owners and developers who are investing their revenues to entice visitors and locals to 'Shop, Eat, Stay, and Play in Gladewater.'

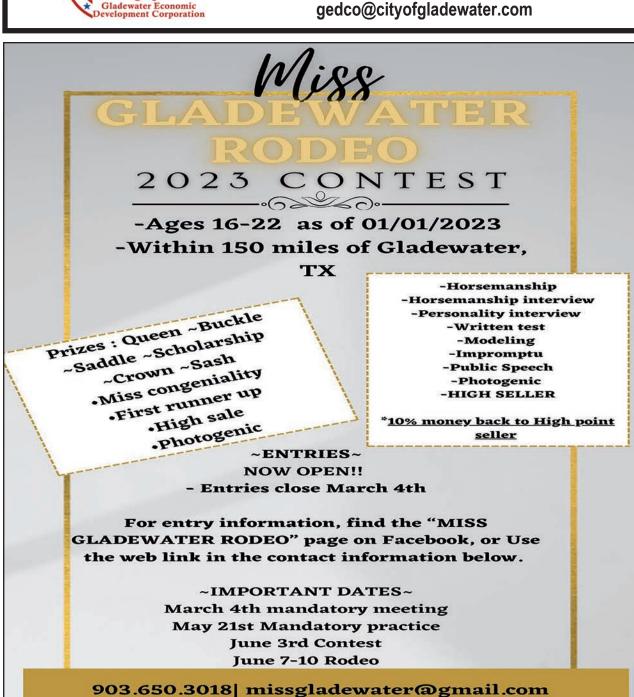
That kind of practical progress takes time, Palmer said. It's not instantaneous with new, visible results every week, but it can be achieved in strides, large and small, by the individuals and businesses on the ground in Gladewater.

"I believe that cities are organic, they're people," she added. "If you don't invest in them, sow seed into them to be able to grow up, you really don't get any kind of harvest or return on it. We're doing good things, and good things take time."

Learn more about Gladewater Economic Development Corporation and its activities at gladewaterEDC.com



Gladewater Economic Development Corp. 213 N Main St., Gladewater, TX 75647 (903) 932-8550 (preferred) or (903) 902-5441 gedco@citvofgladewater.com



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