

Gladewater Mirror

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Thursday, June 15, 2023

Vol. 95, No. 24

1 Section, 10 pages

50¢

Dam'd ... if they don't

Lake stakeholders launch 'critical' conversations about safety issues

By James Draper

Lake Gladewater is the community's only water source. It's a 'critical asset,' first on the list for the city, and that makes its dam critical infrastructure.

Local officials are focused on protecting, maintaining and enhancing the lake, but aspects of the dam have been allowed to deteriorate across years and decades. Changing administrations, staff turnover, evolving priorities, mixed messaging, incomplete information – there are a variety of causes, but at least a consensus is rising to the surface.

Some elements of the dam are now approaching critical condition. Some, perhaps, are already at that point or past it. Considering the whole, there's a growing sense of urgency driving a fresh dialogue among the community's leadership.

There was recently a joint meeting of the Gladewater City Council, the Lake Board, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation and other stakeholders and residents. Their focus shifted quickly, and relatively smoothly, from developing a vision for the lake's future to immediately crafting a strategy that addresses present issues.

"I love Lake Gladewater. I love this city. I love this town," Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons told the various officials and residents assembled in Gladewater City Hall June 1. "I am just as passionate about that lake as anybody in here, and I am tasked with protecting that lake.

"It's a bigger picture thing that we have to think about. That's our primary and only water source for the City of Gladewater."

In most cities, people don't routinely access that kind of critical asset on a regular basis, he added, underscoring the need to enforce safety regulations for users of the lake alongside maintenance that keeps it in the best condition possible.

Meanwhile, the dam that's responsible for the existence of the lake needs work – immediately and daily, monthly, quarterly, annually. It's a hybrid of an earthen dam, a concrete spillway and a nearby emergency spillway that comes into play when the water's level exceeds 302 feet above sea-level.

What's the rating for the dam? Gladewater Council Member Rocky Hawkins asked the fire chief.

Officially-rated as a 'High' hazard dam, according to Simmons the front side is in 'Fair' condition so long as it's maintained. The back side of the earthen dam is in 'Poor' condition – see separate story on Page 1.

In general, "It's in decline," Simmons said, from voids in the concrete spillway to leaks to slough off the earthen dam to a litany of other needs, large and small, that must be tended – some immediately. He's loathe to be an alarmist but insistent on working on problems without delay, getting things back up to speed that have been neglected. "The focus has been on the fun part of the lake instead of understanding that we also have to protect this critical infrastructure. It needs a good long-term thought-and-vision process.

"Step one, we've got to get back to the basics. We've got to protect our critical infrastructure."

Retiree Dustin Minton is already making his living out on the lake and says he's eager to become a private investor in developing the local amenity.

However, that prospect's a bit further down the road, he added during

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'We're hoping to make it better'

Dam demands proactive approach for long-term safety

By James Draper

Lake Gladewater and its dam are on Mike Simmons' mind.

A lot.

As Gladewater Fire Chief and the community's emergency coordinator, Simmons and his team are tasked with keeping relevant crisis management plans up-to-date. They'll be among the first responders implementing those strategies if the need arises.

They're the kind of plans a person never wants to pull off the shelf, but they'd better be up-to-date and on-hand, regardless. So, Simmons and other staff members are in the midst of updating the 3-ring binder tied to the city's most critical asset, its water source.

Meanwhile, the fire chief's been making the rounds of the city's elected and appointed officials as well as city staffers, contractors and residents, gathering information and getting everyone on the same page: This is the reality of the dam. These are the facts at Lake Gladewater. This is what the law, physics, best practices and common sense dictate needs to be done and when.

All that said, Simmons doesn't want to be an "alarmist," and he's working with city leaders, employees and contractors to ensure the alarm never has to be sounded.

"It happens. It happens all over the country," Simmons told a joint

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Gladewater riding 20 months of growth

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced last week he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.03 billion in local sales tax allocations for June, 2 percent more than in June 2022.

Gladewater continues to ride a positive wave - 20 months in-a-row - posting a 23.57% increase over last year's sales tax revenue, and White Oak's numbers posted a 13.30% rise over 2022.

County	City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gregg	Clarksville City	1.000%	\$8,944.28	\$6,391.01	39.95%	\$57,458.74	\$43,891.04	30.91%
Gregg	Easton	1.000%	\$4,903.74	\$5,436.47	-9.79%	\$29,114.51	\$28,605.30	1.78%
Gregg	Gladewater	1.500%	\$137,164.28	\$111,000.44	23.57%	\$836,816.43	\$669,017.23	25.08%
Gregg	Kilgore	1.500%	\$722,977.48	\$703,967.74	2.70%	\$4,954,239.28	\$4,376,326.16	13.20%
Gregg	Lakeport	1.500%	\$21,390.16	\$22,877.47	-6.50%	\$149,504.18	\$137,056.17	9.08%
Gregg	Longview	1.500%	\$3,396,258.65	\$3,347,365.10	1.46%	\$23,408,431.84	\$21,541,520.02	8.66%
Gregg	Warren City	1.000%	\$2,560.51	\$1,270.38	101.55%	\$10,079.32	\$8,719.30	15.59%
Gregg	White Oak	1.500%	\$127,396.89	\$112,439.66	13.30%	\$811,504.69	\$768,873.70	5.54%
Upshur	Big Sandy	1.250%	\$19,131.16	\$22,154.60	-13.64%	\$143,992.47	\$148,399.24	-2.96%
Upshur	East Mountain	1.000%	\$3,541.00	\$3,316.90	6.75%	\$27,257.62	\$20,551.47	32.63%
Upshur	Gilmer	1.500%	\$208,938.88	\$225,867.89	-7.49%	\$1,353,065.53	\$1,268,138.74	6.69%
Upshur	Ore City	1.250%	\$15,373.48	\$19,361.21	-20.59%	\$100,787.97	\$112,819.50	-10.66%
Upshur	Union Grove	1.000%	\$426.31	\$303.25	40.58%	\$2,738.64	\$2,492.87	9.85%



Meagan Hodge was named Rodeo Queen of the 86th Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo. She was crowned by 2022 Queen Kallie Rogers.



Scout Speed was named "Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo Little Miss" at this year's rodeo.

Round-Up Rodeo beats rain, posts successful 86th event

By Jim Bardwell

Four great nights of rodeo action wrapped up Saturday at the 86th Annual Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo and Round-Up Presidnet Kyle Moore said this was one of the best attended rodeos in years - even with the threat of stormy weather.

Moore said ticket sales exceeded prior years and the two queen pagents - Round-Up Queen and Round-Up Little Miss - brought in thousands of dollars which will help the rodeo association continue to award scholarships to deserving graduating seniors in the East Texas area.

Meagan Hodge was crowned 2023 Queen of the Round-Up Rodeo, while Scout Speed took home the crown for the first-ever "Little Miss" contest.

Heavy rains might have made the arena muddy and caused the calf scramble to be canceled - much to the delight of parents who would have had to tote the mud-covered kiddos home - and it made it tough to wrestle the steers to the water-soaked ground - but it didn't stop the "greatest show on dirt" (or in this case - mud).

Jeff Askey was presented with the coveted "Silver Spurs" award, joining rodeo legends like Jim Shoulders, Don Gay, John Quintana, Freckles Brown, Joe Beaver, Neal Gay and Deb Mohonto name just a few.

The other big winners from the week were the fans, who got to watch some of the best cowboys and cowgirls in the PRCA and WPRA compete each night for big money - a total purse of \$62,532 - and points for a trip to the nationals in Las Vegas later this year.

Here are the results:

Bareback riding: 1. Bodee Lamers, 88.5 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Ankle Biter, \$1,525; 2. Ben Kramer, 83.5, \$1,155; 3. Lane McGehee, 83, \$832; 4. Yance Day, 81.5, \$554; 5. Kade Berry, 79, \$323; 6. A.J. Ruth,



Marla Moore was presented the coveted "Director of the Year" award at Saturday's 86th Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo. Photo by Jim Bardwell



Jeff Askey was presented the "Silver Spurs" award at this year's 86th Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo. Rodeo President Kyle Moore made the presentation. Photo by Jim Bardwell

73, \$231.
Steer wrestling: 1. Walt Arnold, 3.4 seconds, \$2,202; 2. Rowdy Parrott, 3.7, \$1,915; 3. Jace Land, 3.9, \$1,628; 4. Boyd Sawyer, 4.0, \$1,340;

5. (tie) Slammer Powers and Tyler Waguespack, 4.1, \$910 each; 7. Matt Reeves, 4.3, \$479; 8. Termaine Debose, 4.6, \$191.

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Newspapers matter...

This has been an exciting week for the Gladewater Mirror. We have won some 'major awards'. Sadly, none came with a leg lamp. (Watch the movie "A Christmas Story" if you don't get that reference. You will laugh until you cry.)

Jim and I attended the Texas Press Association's Leadership Retreat to fellowship with folks who care about public information, transparency and the future of their communities. Some are at large daily newspapers, some at papers much smaller than ours. Some are from far West Texas with sand in their hair, some are from the border and fluently bilingual.

Some are from the blown away coast and working their hearts out to rebuild. A lot of laughing, lamenting and exchanging of ideas happened in the course of those three days.

For most of the retreat I was just a tad nervous because I had agreed to lead a session entitled "High Time for Full Immersion". I told the group of journalists that my translated title was: "Time to Go to the River Journalism and Get Washed".

Baptized.
Not sprinkled. Not doused. Dunked!

Journalism, as a profession, and sometimes with good reason, is taking a beating right now. But folks, the one thing that represents and protects the interests of citizens, taxpayers and individuals from the federal level to the local level is the press. Transparency, open government and where tax money is going is a 'right to know' privilege that is usually only ensured by the press.

Today, there are groups, many associated with government, many with BIG business or special interests that are chipping away at journalist rights. That means YOUR access to information. Sometimes it means a powerful interest group, lobby or piece of legislation is going to wipe out the little guy if somebody doesn't investigate. So, whose job is that?

Our Founding Fathers had that answer down pat. Thomas Jefferson once said, and I paraphrase, 'given a choice between government and no newspapers; or newspapers and no government; I'll take the newspapers'.

No kidding! The author of the Declaration of Independence wanted American citizens to understand the

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



importance of the press in our form of government.

The Founding Fathers even wrote it into the Constitution of

the United States. It is right there in the First Amendment which holds our most sacred protections and are grouped together of equal importance...for a reason...to protect YOUR rights.

Take a breath and absorb these words:
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances".

One of the columns we won first place with at the state press contest was the Sept. 20 one which addressed Facebook opinions versus credible reporting of information in the local paper.

Our City Council at that time was being accused of holding 'secret meetings' which were written about in our paper, often on the front page, posted on our website, Facebook and e-edition. You see, dear readers, and well-informed citizens, sources matter. As does reading the newspaper.

Part of being an informed citizen, voter and taxpayer is reading the local paper. Heck, part of being a grownup is reading newspapers.

Journalism just happens to be our calling, and it is our joy to get that information to you so that your opinions are informed and together we can work toward having the very best community possible.

Man, this is a heavy job. One of great importance.

So my friends, here is one lasting lesson from this old journalism/history teacher: never forget that journalism is the ONLY privately owned business specifically protected in the Constitution of the United States of America for a reason. And that reason is the protection of YOUR rights.

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.

James Draper



It's dam-jà vu, all over again

'Back in the day...' has been a conversational cornerstone for a while at this point.

It's good to be back, and Gladewater's not the same town as it was back in the day in Fall 2010. For someone returning after a 13-year hiatus (on the news beats in Kilgore then, for a few years, in the Mad Men marketing mix of Tyler) it's pretty clear – Gladewater has been moving forward, and there's plenty of opportunities to keep growing and evolving in the months, years and decades ahead.

For a simple start, back in the day The *Gladewater Mirror* was on Dean Street. It's been a little bit of an adjustment for this reporter to be situated on Main, definitely for the better, though. At 211, it's easy to keep an eye on downtown activity with great neighbors in Gladewater Economic Development Corporation and Gladewater Chamber of Commerce. Great retail's in easy walking distance and, of course, it's been a happy challenge to hit all the local eateries – some old favorites and new options, too.

The Gladewater Museum added its annex a while back, and those new exhibits are calling. Likewise, the Lee-Bardwell Public Library has an even more robust array of activities and audiences – librarians are always ready for more visitors, so don't miss out on the Summer reading program and its events.

Of course, back in the day, there was a (mostly) different set of politicos, pundits and public figures out and about. From someone who steers clear of the state and national fray (tries, anyway) it's good to plug in with local people who seem to truly care about their community and its people.

That goes for Gladewater's public servants, too. It's great to find familiar faces among the ranks at city hall, the school district, Rotary Club, Gladewater Rodeo and elsewhere. They worked hard back in the day and continue to keep things rolling now; there are new names on the roster in 2023, and it's going to be a privilege working with them, too.

Back in the day, there were hot-button headlines that have long since faded into obscurity. In the past few weeks, new ones have already cropped up, of course, but the more things change, the more they stay the same, and it's been interesting to re-tread some old copy: the dam at Lake Gladewater was at the center of many conversations 15 years ago, and it's back on the front page today.

Granted, back in the day there was some pearl-clutching about one dam headline in particular. With the clock ticking on necessary repairs out at Lake Gladewater, "It's about dam time" was a natural choice that nevertheless netted an angry call from someone who got the joke but, fair enough, didn't appreciate it.

Lesson learned, kind of – dam puns are a dime a dozen, and since there's a surplus to spare on the story, strap in...

Central figure in Paxton case charged

The Austin real estate developer who is at the heart of Attorney General Ken Paxton's impeachment was arraigned on eight federal charges Friday, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Nate Paul was arrested by the FBI on Thursday.

Paul, 36, has been accused of providing financial benefits to the attorney general, who in exchange intervened in several legal issues involving Paul. That connection led in part to the Texas House impeaching Paxton on May 27. He now awaits a trial sometime this summer in the Senate.

The federal charges allege Paul made false statements to financial institutions in Texas, Connecticut, New York and Ireland that underreported his total liabilities and overreported his cash, influencing lenders' decisions to loan him money to buy commercial properties.

Meanwhile, Tony Buzbee, the Houston attorney hired to represent Paxton, said his client was the victim of a "kangaroo court," according to the Texas Tribune. Buzbee, who is leading Paxton's legal team, predicted Paxton "will never be convicted by the Senate. Not on this evidence. Not with this record. The fact is these allegations are completely untrue."

Paxton has been temporarily removed from office, with former Texas secretary of state John Scott appointed as interim attorney general.

State fights to seize former state park land

Commissioners with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department voted unanimously Saturday to pursue eminent domain claims to acquire property that once was Fairfield Lake State Park.

The move came amid increasing acrimony between state officials and Todd Interests, the new owners of the land in Freestone County. Todd Interests recently purchased the land that had been leased to the state for the past half-century.

Shawn Todd, the company's founder and CEO, told The Dallas Morning News the state had engaged in "intimidation" in an attempt to block his family's company from acquiring the 5,000-acre tract from energy company Vistra. The state made a \$25 million offer to buy Todd Interests out of its contract in mid-May, according to The News.

Arch "Beaver" Aplin III, chair of the nine-member com-

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



mission, said the legal maneuver is an effort to save and expand a "beloved state park."

At least three measures concerning condemning the park land in order to acquire it failed to pass in the last legislative session. The park averaged 80,000 visitors annually, according to TPWD.

Jackson named interim chair of PUC

Kathleen Jackson, recently confirmed to the Public Utility Commission by the Texas Senate, has been named interim chair by Abbott. That follows the resignation of chair Peter Lake, who will remain on the PUC until July 1. He joined the PUC in April 2021 in the wake of the major failure of the electric service after Winter Storm Uri the previous February.

"I'm honored and humbled by Governor Abbott's trust and confidence in me to lead the Public Utility Commission at this very important time for the agency and for Texas," Jackson said.

Drought conditions ease across state

Abundant rain in the Panhandle and much of Central Texas has eased drought conditions for much of those areas, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. The end of May saw the ninth consecutive weekly decrease in areas of the state affected by the drought. Less than 1 percent of the state is now listed as suffering from severe drought. That's the least since March 2022.

A total of 34% of the state is listed in any type of drought condition, compared to 78% a year ago. The arrival of an El Niño weather pattern should bring a cooler, wetter autumn and winter, forecasters say.

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—Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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Design by Metro Creative Graphics, Inc.

The Gladewater Mirror

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

Subscriptions are \$29/year in Gregg, Smith & Upshur counties and payable in advance.

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

Office Hours - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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SCRIPTURE-TWISTING

I've heard it said that "Politicians use statistics the way drunks use lamp posts—more for support than illumination." Whether that is true of all politicians and statistics, it's definitely true of how many religious people use the Bible. Instead of going to the Bible to learn God's will, many go to the Bible to support doctrines they previously accepted without consulting the Bible. Of course, it's good when religious people realize they need a Biblical basis for their religious beliefs. We all do! In fact, the Bible teaches Christians to give answers to, anyone who asks about their faith. 1 Pet. 3: 15 says: "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer (defense) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." So yes, the Bible teaches us to have defensible reasons for what we believe. But the Bible also warns against "Scripture-twisting!"

For example, Peter said some things Paul wrote were hard or difficult to be understood. But there were those who were unlearned, and unstable, who "twisted, wrested, distorted" what he wrote (2 Pet. 3: 16). You will notice that Peter did not say what Paul wrote could not be understood, and he also said the unlearned and unstable also twisted "the other Scriptures" not just what Paul wrote.

For example, what Paul wrote concerning grace, was in fact twisted into an excuse and justification for sin (Rom. 6: 1; see also Jude 4). What he taught concerning liberty, was in fact twisted into freedom or license to indulge in the flesh (Gal. 5: 13; see also 2 Pet. 2: 19). Also, what Paul taught concerning faith is distorted and twisted into an argument that works are not important to salvation because it is by faith only (Jas. 2: 14-26).

Such Scripture-twisting often occurs when someone tries to prove preconceived religious ideas that the Bible really doesn't teach. As a result of accepting doctrines without consulting the Scriptures, with their minds already made up, they go to the Bible to support their preconceived beliefs and ideas. Such a person ends up reading their ideas INTO the Bible, instead of getting God's message OUT of the Bible! Instead, we must display the moral courage and intellectual honesty required to reexamine our beliefs and give up those beliefs not actually taught in the Scriptures. As much as we are tempted to do "That which is right in our own eyes" (Jud. 21: 25), and "direct our own steps" (Jer. 10: 23), we must refrain. Friends, think on these things.

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Dam'd ... if they don't

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the meeting, something that has to wait until other issues are taken care of.

"I think you need to concentrate on safety, on the boat ramp, on the roads going out there to the lake," he said. Minton barely escaped a collision with another boat on Memorial Day, an incident he puts on lax enforcement of the rules and no consistent authority figure on or near the water. "I think you need to get somebody out there to run that lake and patrol that lake and get the safety under control before you concentrate on anything else. If not, you're going to have an accident, no ifs, ands or buts."

It's been too long since there was a constant, dedicated enforcement official at the lake, he added. At one point, it was a task assigned to Gladewater PD. Later, the person that ran the lake store was also certified as a warden.

That's not the case at the moment, and various attendees at the June 1 joint meeting agreed things are getting out of hand – too much alcohol on or near the water, people smoking weed, unsupervised youths and children putting themselves in dangerous situations, boats ignoring speed limits and more.

"We're new to the lake," said resident Rhonda Peek. "We moved here last summer. Frankly, I've been struggling. Knowing what I know now, probably I wouldn't have moved here."

Buoys aren't where they should be, Peek added. She's been warned about skiing. She's concerned about the water quality. She's getting a poor picture of the community from it all.

"I see the dam, and I think that's a big problem. If the dam breaks, nobody's going to build a store; the city's not going to be here. Something needs to be done, because the city's going downhill, from my opinion."

As fire chief, prior to the June 1 meeting Simmons' name had already been floated as a candidate for Lake Warden.

"Just a presence is what's needed," he said, someone housed on-site with a split-focus between simultaneously enforcing the laws and safety guidelines while keeping a watchful eye on the dam and spearheading maintenance and repairs. "I want to see it get back to that place that it was. I want to get it back to where it looks beautiful, it looks awesome and it's a cool place to be.

"I love that place. I've also got to protect the public, protect that dam, make sure it's all being discussed – the big picture."

That big picture can certainly be alarming.

Lake Board member Shari Midler said she was shaken by Simmons' fact-based assessment of the dam and, by extension, the lake.

"It's scary what could really happen," she said.

Lake Board President Sam Chenoweth is grateful for the detailed information Simmons presented to his organization as well as the combined groups.

In summary, "I think the place we're at now is we're behind, and we're trying to catch up. In the meantime, all the stuff we can't see continues to snowball and get worse," Chenoweth said. There's been work performed on the spillway, for example, injecting material to fill voids, but there's plenty more that needs to be addressed. "All that needs to be done hasn't been done. It all hasn't been done on a timely basis, as needed."

Gladewater City Councilman Teddy Sorrells learned how to swim at Lake Gladewater.

"The old school way, where my dad threw me out in the lake and said, 'Learn how to swim,'" Sorrells quipped. "The number one priority of that lake is for citizens in our city to

have water. We have to protect that priority at all costs."

From Sorrells' perspective, Simmons is willing and as emergency coordinator he's already liaising with other authorities. He's already on payroll and not seeking any more salary or adjusted hours to act as Lake Warden, the next logical step in hindering criminal activity at the lake and caring for the dam.

"That's our lake, it belongs to the city," he added. "We've got to do city stuff to make sure we take care of that lake, not only for our citizens in the city who have that as water but also for the people who live on the lake."

Sorrells apologized to the Lake Board members for jumping the gun in recent weeks, kick-starting a strategy for Lake Gladewater's issues without taking it to the oversight group first.

"I regret not doing that. But, I still feel the same," he said, agreeing with the Lake Board's leadership "that we have to do something different out there. We need to get it back to where people feel safe about being out there, where we're maintaining it in a way that's going to benefit our city."

The city has already had to pass on applying for key grant funds after not qualifying for base level criteria – at a bare minimum, critical maintenance must be performed and followed with regular upkeep.

"We missed it, and we can't get it right now," Simmons said, "until we get back to the basics of taking care of it. They're not going to come in and fix what we didn't do."

Once the community has established a pattern of essential maintenance, more funding opportunities will become available – initial, basic, low-cost efforts now can later spur funding of bigger ticket repairs, upgrades and, eventually, enhancements covered in whole or in part by grants.

"We protect it first. Then, it's amazing when that stuff happens, all the other stuff is the fruits of that labor."

For Lake Board Member Crystal Carroum, the immediate need is to slow down and take a phased approach that addresses all the looming issues at the lake in turn, focusing on safety for the immediate future. The board's top priority is definitely the well-being and structure of the lake itself.

Phase One, Carroum said, has to be maintaining the structure and safety of the dam.

"Some of us live on the lake and have seen the things that



have happened over time as they do with any structure – with erosion and other things, including what's going on with our dam right now," she said. Meanwhile, the lake is steadily filling in with sediment, losing more and more depth over time. "The busier the lake gets, the shallower the lake is and the more erosion there is. It's a negative cycle we have out there."

Bringing back an authority on the lake is very important, she added. In the short-term, a simple convenience store or bait shop can provide some immediate amenities for users until the city can embrace other developments without the shadow of a derelict dam encroaching on the vision for improvement.

"To me, it's a situation of wants and needs," GEDCO's Mark Carpenter said. "We don't have enough money to do everything we want. What we need to do is make sure the dam is safe and the lake is safe, and anything beyond that is dreaming."

For Chenoweth, everyone will come to agree the dam and infrastructure is the top priority – addressing the 'Needs' and putting off the 'Wants' at the lake until priorities are addressed.

"I think we all sometimes get in a hurry to do good," he said. "But, we all have the same priorities for our lake and our city. We do have to have safety of all aspects of our lake."

There are three immediate issues at-hand for John Paul Tallent, former mayor and a current GEDCO board member: Hire a lake warden. Address safety issues at the lake. Do something about the dam.

"That has got to be a top priority."

Importantly, council member Kevin Clark said, some of the state-level concern about the dam seems bureaucratic – "The dam didn't change. The specifications on the rating changed." That said, he does feel the urgency of addressing the dam's ongoing issues.

"Breaking tomorrow when we have a rainstorm isn't in the future," Clark emphasized. Rather, long-term solutions are in the works: "This isn't Gladewater going to hell in a hand basket. This is us righting the ship. Hold on."

The various issues will undoubtedly be listed on a variety of upcoming agendas.

"We've got some work to do as council," Mayor Scott Owens agreed, "and some decisions to make."



Enthusiastic plans for lake's future hold while officials address present concerns

By James Draper

"I think we're all passionate about this," Mayor Scott Owens told Lake Gladewater stakeholders June 1. "One of the biggest assets is our lake, and it's the reason we're here."

During a combined meeting of council members, lake leaders and economic developers, initial discussion at City Hall focused on Owens' hopes for the future of the lake. The end-goal is to serve shoreline residents and the rest of the community as well by elevating the lake's profile as a tourist destination and recreational space.

To succeed will take strategic investments from a myriad of sources and the planned development of new amenities across years. All that, though, comes after existing concerns about safety and security are mitigated.

While those issues are being addressed, city leaders and stakeholders will be refining their ideas for later development – and figuring out how to fund it.

"It would be something we would have to commit to as a community and as a city council," Owens said. "I'm thinking it would probably be more of a 10-year project."

Today, Owens lives in a 1949 home built by Carl Bruce, a mid-century Gladewater mayor and councilman who became the "driving force" behind the construction of the lake in 1951 and '52.

"It was at that time a monumental task to undertake the acquisition of all that property that was out there," the current mayor said. "The dream was, one, let's get a water source for Gladewater. Two, let's have some housing, and we've got to get some recreation."

Owens walked the June 1 audience through a lake 'Master Plan' developed years back with the city's engineering firm, Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. The vision sketches out a variety of projects to enhance the lake, likely to be paid for by a hybrid of public and private funding, including regional, state and federal grants from outside the community in addition to contributions from long-term profit-oriented investors.

Longtime Lake Gladewater resident and user Kent Abernathy is gung-ho to revitalize the spot.

"A lot of you are going to have to think outside the box," he told the assembled Lake Gladewater stakeholders. "You've got to begin with the end in mind – What do you want to see happen? What do you think needs to be done? – and then start there. Until that decision's made you're spinning

your wheels."

There are some immediate needs that have to be addressed, Abernathy added.

"We need somebody in there that's gonna run the store, help control the lake and do the other things that need to be done," he said. "This is something that somebody needs to approach Upshur County and see if we can't get some help. Every house on that lake pays Upshur County taxes."

Any plan to enhance the lake would be a large-scale, multi-phase project, Gladewater Council Member Brandy Flanagan said, clarifying what would be a fairly complex funding process if the enhancements move forward X number of years in the future.

"You have to have major buy-in by your private sector. Very little of city funds go into projects like this," she added, and it's nothing the City of Gladewater can afford going solo. "Nothing like this can happen on your city funds and grant funds alone. We need something three-phase, possibly more."

Justin Harvey, owner of Boxcar Bar-B-Que in Longview, was keen to get behind a revitalization strategy – he was quick to inquire about how to establish a retail operation at the lake and whether an ice machine could be profitable.

"I'm very interested in everything up there."

There was enthusiasm for the vision, but the focus of the meeting quickly shifted to other issues at the lake – general safety and security, ongoing problems and, in particular, upkeep of the dam. (See Page 1)

While she, too, wants to see the lake developed for the better, "I'm just going to kinda throw this out there," Lake Board Member Shari Midler said: "I think there's other things that need to be addressed. More safety issues than opening a kitchen. There's other issues that we all as a community need to think about on this lake."

Lake rules and local laws are being broken without oversight, Midler added. The roads serving the lake need to be repaired. There's a need for a variety of infrastructure improvements.

"I'm all for growth," she said, "but right now I think other things need to be thought of."



Property at 1025 E. Commerce Ave. (the former site of Southwest Plastics, which burned in 2011) is among the developable sites owned by GEDCO that will be listed on its available inventory.

GEDCO crafts new property inventory for development

PRESS RELEASE

There are six key goals in Gladewater Economic Development Corporation's mission to fuel the local economy for both its businesses and residents – first up, to craft a go-to inventory of developable buildings and sites.

That looming roster of land and facilities will include a handful owned by GEDCO as well as a wide variety of other privately-owned spots that may be ideal for new businesses, for expanding companies or for prospects eyeing the community for a new development.

Among GEDCO's existing options, "We have two properties that are raw land and two properties that have structures on them. Those structures are not necessarily commercial," says Executive Director Michelle Palmer. At the same time, "The inventory is not limited to GEDCO's holdings. Rather, the goal is to create an inventory of viable properties within the city limits that could be re-developed as options for prospects."

The city limits also delineate GEDCO's service

area. Working within the community-at-large, there's a lot of possibilities that will need to be incorporated into the property inventory. It's a large undertaking, a broad categorization of properties that are both available and may become available, including details about those properties ranging from acreage to existing structures, utilities, zoning and other factors.

Considering the size of the project, "I have recently gotten in touch with a university-level professor, and we're talking about this being a capstone project for one of their students," Palmer noted, "utilizing the resource available to me through the college. It's more efficient – you have the student that needs the capstone project, it gets them the experience they need for their degree program, and it maximizes my time for boots on the ground in the community."

Once completed, as a GEDCO resource the data will be available to potential prospects, streamlining their assessment of the community and adding value to their

interactions and future endeavors with the economic development organization.

"Upon first contact, after they have defined their needs for a site," Palmer said, "this inventory will offer us an immediate, visible resource to compare their needs to what we have available."

It's the beginning of a frictionless relationship in working with Gladewater, she added, the kind of reputation GEDCO wants to keep building in the local, regional, state, national and international business community.

"It sets everything off with a good tone, to begin with. It shows preparedness in the organization, which reflects well on the community," Palmer concluded. "The hope is that it leads to actual physical development by companies looking to relocate or expand into Gladewater as well as start-ups who are getting their feet under them and building a foundation in our city limits."

"Honestly, Gladewater is a great place for brand new businesses. It's a friendly community with supportive staff and great word-of-mouth."

Heed warning signs of heat exhaustion, stroke

Ah, summer time when the living is easy. The problem is the season can also be dangerous if you don't take precautions against heat related illnesses as you spend more time outdoors. This extended time spent outside can lead to a higher risk of a heat-related illness, such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke. The American College of Emergency Physicians reports that each year there are hundreds of fatalities and countless emergency department visits due to heat-related illnesses. Older adults, babies and young children, as well as those with medical conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease or obesity, are particularly susceptible to the heat. "We recommend everyone, especially if they are at a high-risk for heat-related illness, to be aware of the symptoms of heat stress, especially heat exhaustion and heat stroke," said Mike Lopez, DrPH, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service health program specialist in the agency's Family and Community Health Unit. "However, anyone can succumb to heat, especially in humid conditions and in combination with outdoor activity," Lopez said. "Plus, you have to consider other factors that may be at play such as drinking alcohol, inadequate hydration and possible reactions from medication." AgriLife Extension specialist Debra Kellstedt, DrPH, said the body naturally heats up during physical activity but normally keeps itself cool by sweating. "However, in cases of extreme heat and high humidity, the

body heats up faster than it can sufficiently sweat in order to maintain a temperature in the normal range," she said. Heat exhaustion is the result of an excessive loss of water and/or salt, usually as a result of excessive sweating, Kellstedt said. Some heat exhaustion symptoms can include:

- Tiredness or weakness.
- Agitation.
- Headache.
- Dizziness.
- Cold, pale and clammy skin.
- Tingling skin.
- Fast, weak pulse.
- Fast, shallow breathing.
- Heavy sweating.
- Nausea.
- Muscle cramps.

 "In more serious instances, heat exhaustion can also cause vomiting or fainting," she said. To address heat exhaustion, Lopez said it is best to sip cool water, relocate to a cooler area, loosen your clothing and put a wet cloth or cool compress on key areas of the body, such as the forehead, neck and armpits. "If there is vomiting, extreme weakness or the symptoms get worse and last more than an hour, you should seek medical help," he said. Heat stroke is the most severe heat-related illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It can occur when a person's body temperature rises above 103 degrees and seemingly loses the ability to properly regulate its temperature. Kellstedt said a particularly notable symptom of heat stroke



is that the body actually stops sweating. Additional heat stroke symptoms can include:

- Headache.
- Weakness.
- Confusion.
- Dizziness.
- Agitation.
- Slurred speech.
- Hot, red, skin.
- Fast, strong pulse.
- Nausea.
- Vomiting.
- Loss of consciousness.

 If a person has these symptoms, Lopez said it should be regarded as a medical emergency and to immediately call 911.

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Lee-Bardwell Public Library Director Brandy Winn hands a special Summer Reading Program gift to Ryder Bohanon June 6 during the kick-off for the 2023 activities. The Bohanon family's readers joined dozens of others signing up for the program last week – sign-ups continue throughout the summer. Photo by James Draper

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Rocky Church of Christ
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New Life Church • 903-845-8108
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Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019
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Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
903-845-6440
Pastor Steven Zanjter
www.gbcgladewater.org

- Union Temple CME Methodist • 903-845-1050
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New Life Fellowship Church • 903-261-4227
Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234
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First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
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'We're hoping to make it better'

Dam demands proactive approach for long-term safety

Continued from Page 1

meeting of Lake Gladewater stakeholders June 1. The key is prevention. "There's still an active plan of protection in place and being monitored. It's an ongoing, actively-monitored situation that we're hoping to make better."

It's not a difficult trek to see the bulk of Lake Gladewater's concrete spillway, and the surrounding land could be ideal for nature trails.

Reaching the earthen dam is another matter – the most accessible approaches are secured by the same limited access fencing that surrounds the water treatment plant. A rare tour of the 70-year-old dam starts with permission from interim city manager Charlie Smith, and Simmons is well-prepped to fill in as a dam guide.

"If this dam didn't exist, a lot of Gladewater would be undevelopable," Simmons noted, serving not only as a water source and recreational amenity but also as flood management.

From current stats, Lake Gladewater has a surface area of 481 acres and a maximum depth of 30 feet. It maintains a normal pool of 6,950 acre-feet of water with a maximum pool capacity of 12,095 acre-feet. The dam, built from October 1951 to August 1952 is 48 feet tall with a drainage area of 35 square miles. The rolled-earth embankment is approximately 1,200 feet long.

Typically, the water level in the lake averages about 300 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

"It over-tops the dam at 310 (AMSL)," Simmons noted. "That's why we start the evacuation process at 308 (AMSL)."

Has it ever reached that high?

"I'm not going to say 'Never.' These numbers exist for a reason," Simmons replied, but the figures are incomplete. There's no current log of long-term maintenance. "Things have been done, but I don't have enough information to put together a timeline."

Two key dam authorities are the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. It's TCEQ that determines the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Guidelines for Dams in Texas that classifies the structures based on hazard potential.

There are three risk categories: low, significant and high.

"We are a 'high hazard.' It's the highest risk category you can be in," Simmons underscored. "If it did fail, that would not be a little event. That would be a big event. Four lives lost, billions of dollars of infrastructure" based on TCEQ's parameters.

Importantly, and it's a beat Simmons repeats regularly: This is not a time to become alarmed.

On a long enough timeline, yes, any man-made structure will fail. At Lake Gladewater, there's no imminent risk of failure, but it is a possibility in specific, unfortunate circumstances, and that's not a possibility that sits well.

Rather, now's the opportunity and the challenge to do what's necessary to prevent anything like that from every

happening, Simmons said, to accomplish not just the bare minimum but the appropriate precautions to protect life and property.

"We're re-writing the emergency plan," updating the current version that was largely crafted in 2011. Naturally, a good portion is out of date – floodplains evolve over time, evacuation routes have to be shifted, emergency supplies vendors go out of business and other elements change. "Now we're waiting on the inundation maps to be done," updating the plotting of where water will flow in the event of a failure and what's in its path.

The current plan notes there are approximately 40 houses in the inundation area as well as a portion of the Gladewater High School campus, one child care center, three commercial buildings, one industrial building, Gladewater Airport, a railroad track crossing at Hwy. 80 and a major fiber optics communication cable.

"The plan we have now," Simmons said, "is to work with engineers, TDEM and TCEQ to get the dam back to normal, to make sure it's functioning properly."

On the task list for June: Transport heavy equipment to the earthen dam, and get to work.

The front side is in 'Fair' condition, but there's room for improvement. The back, downstream side, is in poor shape, with trees well-within what should be a margin of clear, open slope.

"All of those roots and things are penetration points of concern that need to be addressed."

Once the equipment is on site, it'll first be put to use removing trees and other vegetation from both slopes of the dam, particularly the downstream side. Workers will fill in the resulting holes and gaps. They'll re-form the trench at the crest of the dam that's been gradually sinking over the years, eight inches or more now, rutted with tire tracks that should not show up on a healthy, stout structure.

Once that's done, the earthen portion will be ready for re-sodding with Bermuda grass or similar. In due time and effort, the slope will have a smooth and uniform, mowable surface of the sort that resists erosion.

Also among the To-Dos: Clear out the green debris crowding the lake's relief valve and, very carefully, test it out.

"We're going to be out here the last two weeks of June to get as much of this cleared out and mowed and to expose that valve," Simmons noted. A test will require attaching a backup valve to control flow, just in case. At this point, it's been years since the valve was opened – it was necessary to lower the lake's level when the city injected filler into voids in the concrete spillway. "The question is, when was it last turned? It's supposed to be turned and operated on a monthly basis.

That goes back to a key point: Ongoing maintenance is recommended, it's lapsed and it's required if the city wants to qualify for grant funds to defray costs of taking repairs further.

"I think everybody agrees, and have for many years, something's gotta be done. The unfair part is a lot of these

city council members weren't here for it, but they catch flack for it."

Currently, there's no complete, accurate assessment of what voids remain within the concrete spillway, but the evidence remains: large patches of grass growing from the joists, obvious divots and spouts of water that indicate something more within the concrete.

Where the water flows smoothly, Simmons said, there's no obvious reason for concern. White water says "Something ain't right;" it's a symptom something's gone awry beneath the surface.

The recreational green space adjacent to the concrete spillway doubles as the site's emergency spillway as the water level rises and crests the shorelines. In those not-infrequent instances, it means Lake Gladewater has collected a significant amount of excess volume from all its feeders; the body of water's increased surface area increases pressure on the earthen dam and spillway even as the excess escapes downstream around them.

Structures in the recreational area can potentially create a problem as debris-catchers in the midst of flooding, but to date there have been no significant effects.

"Theoretically, we should never hit 308 (AMSL) because the spillway kicks in," Simmons noted. Walking downstream from the spillway, "You can see all the erosion," cleaving small cliffs and carving out hollows under trees. "And why does that erosion take place? Because the water gets up that high at some point."

By a rough estimate, it's been about a decade since regular data was collected at the lake and dam.

"For the quarterly inspection, I haven't been able to find reports for the past 10 years. For the annual inspection, I don't have reports for the past four years."

The plan is to begin active monthly reporting soonest, collecting data daily. Additional information will be gathered on a monthly basis. Measurements will be taken before and after weather events. Quarterly inspections will be back in the rotation again as well as annual assessments.

"If a storm comes through, we should come out, and it should be visually-checked," Simmons said. "We just entered El Niño, that's the rainy season. So for the next 10-12 years, we're going to be inundated."

Currently, there's one monitoring point for the lake level; ideally, there will be three, and installation plans are in the works.

Drawing information from all the various sources, "The National Weather Service will be able to create models, all based off historical data," Simmons said. Those models can be applied in other analyses, all the different data points working together to provide a more complete picture of upstream, downstream and everything in-between.

It's all focused on doing what's necessary to ensure safety first.

"We've gotten lost in the mix of this thing," Simmons said. "We've got to get back to doing the little things of just taking care of the place. From there, that frees us up to start thinking about what we can do with this place."

GPD Police Activity

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CF5#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
6/4/23	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20233117	2:49		801 COACH COOSKEY COACH COOSKEY
	EMS	20233118	2:58		201 WALTON WALTON
	EMS	20233119	4:51		10722 LOCUST LOCUST RD
	ALARM/OTHER	20233120	5:32	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233121	7:49		613 N POST POST ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20233122	9:47		1912 FM2685 FM 2685
	10-50 MINOR	20233123	10:17	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ASSIST	20233124	10:39		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233125	13:57		801 COACH COOSKEY COACH COOSKEY
	THEFT	20233126	14:58		1003 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233128	15:37		207 LAFFAYETTE LAFFAYETTE ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20233129	15:44	GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL	414 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20233130	16:12	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233131	17:32	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233132	18:02		212 W GAY GAY AVE
	CRIM TRESPASS	20233133	19:05		700 MELBA MELBA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233134	19:57		810 E PACIFIC PACIFIC
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233135	20:43		777 RICK RICK CIR
	ALARM/OTHER	20233136	21:04		413 RODEN RODEN LN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233137	22:14		57 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233138	22:36		704 HOLLY HOLLY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20233139	22:47	ABC AUTO PARTS	705 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20233140	23:41		1203 MARY MARY ST
	EMS	20233141	23:43	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
6/5/23	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20233142	3:12		1406 SPRUCE SPRUCE ST
	10-50 MINOR	20233143	8:28		W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20233144	8:45		704 WOOD WOOD
	EMS	20233145	9:40	HUGMAN KENT CLINIC	307 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ESCORT	20233146	9:41	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	EMS	20233148	12:59	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20233149	13:13		1809 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP
	ABANDONED 911	20233150	16:15	SASQUATCH TRADING POST	701 W UPSHUR UPSHUR ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233151	16:40	TEXAS TRADITIONS	807 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233152	16:45	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20233153	17:33		2212 PINECREST PINECREST DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233154	18:30	BUMBLE BEE PARK	637 COACH COOSKEY ST COACH COOSKEY ST
	EMS	20233155	18:31		2064 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20233156	21:39		16358 COUNTY ROAD 373 COUNTY ROAD 373
	EMS	20233157	22:52		415 S CENTER CENTER
6/6/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20233158	1:03	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20233159	5:18		138 TEXAS TEXAS ST
	EMS	20233160	6:52		11038 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20233161	9:44		1117 RICKS RICKS CIR
	THEFT	20233162	13:14		1404 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20233163	16:04	CITY NATIONAL BANK	895 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20233164	18:11	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20233165	18:28	NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	413 RODEN RODEN LN
	MINOR IN POSSESSION/ALCOHOL	20233166	19:08	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233167	19:44		127 VILLAGE NORTH VILLAGE NORTH CIR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233168	19:51	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ABANDONED 911	20233169	21:04		600 N POST POST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233170	21:13		777 RICK RICK CIR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233171	21:39	WASH TUB LAUNDRY MAT	201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233172	22:16		NORTH NORTH ST
6/7/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20233173	0:19	J & J TRANSMISSION	302 US- 80 US- 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233174	1:38		1800 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233175	3:57		100 N PAUL PAUL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233176	4:34		321 EDDY EDDY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233177	5:03	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233178	5:22		HWY 80 HWY 80
	EMS	20233179	7:22	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	SIMPLE ASSAULT "C"	20233180	10:59	WELDON HOMES	59 EDDY EDDY ST
	ASSIST	20233181	13:12		24311 HWY 271 HWY 271
	10-50 MINOR	20233182	17:16		S TYLER TYLER ST

WOPD Police Report

For the reporting period of June 5th through the 11th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 151 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglar Alarms, Traffic Issues, Investigative Follow-ups, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Two traffic collisions were investigated resulting in one injury and no continuing criminal investigations.

One arrest was made by White Oak Police during the reporting period:

Kelly Edwin Key, 51, of Hallsville on an outstanding Harrison County Bond Forfeiture warrant for Possession of Between 1 and 4 grams of a Penalty Group 1 Controlled Substance.

GPD Police Activity

	ASSIST	20233183	17:17	UPSHUR COUNTY SO	405 N TITUS TITUS ST
	ASSIST	20233184	18:05		503 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	EMS	20233185	18:23		204 MAPLE MAPLE AVE
	EMS	20233186	18:50		54 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20233187	19:20		CLAIR CLAIR ST
	EMS	20233188	19:21		215 EMPIRE EMPIRE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20233189	19:46		1511 VE LEA VE LEA ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233190	20:44		204 EDDY EDDY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20233191	22:45	RODEO GROUNDS	2502 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20233192	23:45		1801 S TYLER S TYLER ST
6/8/23	EMS	20233193	1:54		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL ST
	EMS	20233194	5:08		201 WALTON WALTON ST
	10-50 MINOR	20233195	6:51		QUITMAN QUITMAN
	EMS	20233196	7:27	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	THEFT	20233197	11:15	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20233198	11:36	NELSON PROPANE STORAGE	2115 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20233199	11:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	RUNAWAY	20233200	14:15		2620 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20233201	15:18	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20233202	15:37		212 CENTER CENTER ST
	ASSIST	20233203	16:04		300 GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	ASSIST	20233204	16:08		COMMERCE COMMERCE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20233206	18:05		804 WILLOW WILLOW BLVD
	ASSIST	20233207	18:29	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	20233208	18:32		321 E EDDY EDDY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20233210	19:09		405 N RODEO RODEO DR
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20233211	21:23	CITY NATIONAL BANK	895 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20233213	22:13		1061 FAIRVIEW FAIRVIEW
	ASSIST	20233214	22:19		UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
6/9/23	EMS	20233217	6:35	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	10-50 MAJOR	20233218	8:51	J O WILLIAMS FORD	419 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20233219	9:26	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ASSIST	20233220	12:22	GLADEWATER MIRROR	211 N MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20233221	13:10		407 LIVE OAK LIVE OAK
	ASSIST	20233222	14:44		500 VESTA VESTA AVE
	ASSIST	20233223	16:54		805 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20233224	18:01		528 NORTH NORTH
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20233225	18:10	THE BAR	26237 COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB RD
	EMS	20233226	19:50		331 SANDY LANE SANDY LANE FM
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233227	20:19		HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	EMS	20233228	21:12		508 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233231	22:14	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	20233232	23:11	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233233	23:55		1808 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
6/10/23	EMS	20233234	1:09		324 MELBA MELBA AVE
	EMS	20233235	1:15		1512 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20233237	2:36	CVS PHARMACY	1402 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20233238	3:10	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233239	6:11		1117 RICK RICK RICK CIRCLE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233240	8:53		1404 SPRUCE SPRUCE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20233241	11:59		E END OF BRIARWOOD END OF BRIARWOOD
	FIRE DEPT	20233242	12:53		

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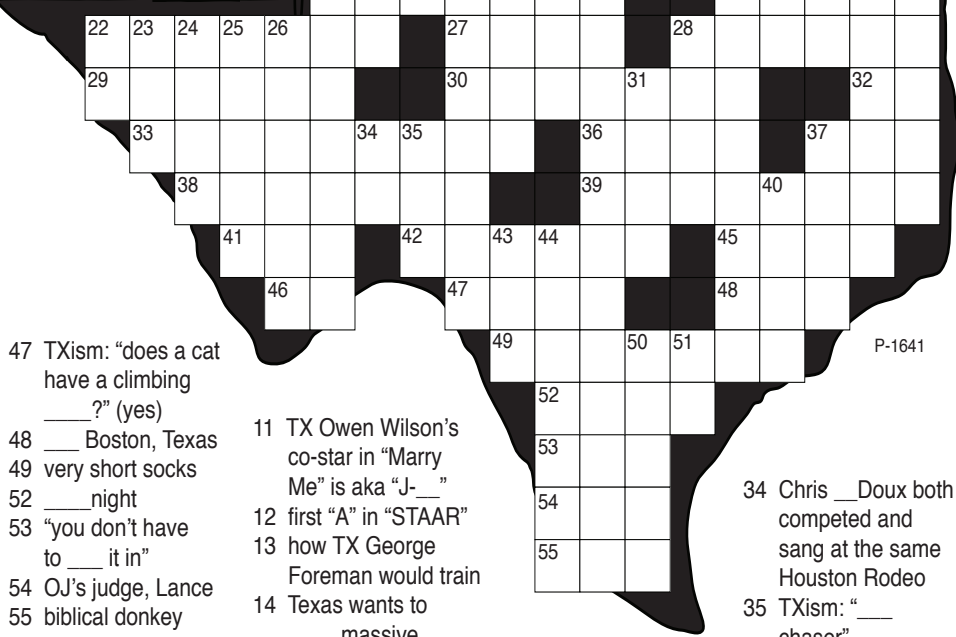
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- ACROSS**
- 1 ooze
 - 5 in Hays County on I-35
 - 6 Cowboys' Tom Landry was 1966 "Coach of the _____"
 - 7 TX Forrest of "North Dallas Forty" (init.)
 - 8 early name for TAMUCT (abbr.)
 - 9 in Canton: "_____ Kingdom Paradise Island" (waterpark)
 - 15 TXism: "there are two chances, _____ and none" (unlikely)
 - 16 business of the Johnson Space Center in Houston
 - 19 Astros former spring training site: "_____ County Stadium" in Florida
 - 21 Caesar or taco, e.g.
 - 22 across the river from Rio Grande City
 - 27 Washington bills
 - 28 Longhorn Band drum: "Big _____"
 - 29 kids start with _____ (IPV) shot at two months
 - 30 Cage of 2017 film "Mom and Dad" with TX Anne Winters
 - 32 17th governor: _____ Roberts
 - 33 TX Chesnut's "_____ Home"
 - 36 "Azle _____" (newspaper)
 - 37 female deer

- 38 1977 film of UT grad Eli Wallach (2 wds.)
- 39 stores all over Texas
- 41 style of many Fair Park buildings: _____ Deco
- 42 Floresville is the seat of this county
- 45 they're "upon you" in Texas
- 46 "_____ long" (goodbye)



TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- DOWN**
- 1 TXism: "_____ pilot" (preacher)
 - 2 _____ of the storm
 - 3 stretchable
 - 4 TXism: "useless as _____"
 - 8 additionally
 - 9 in May and June, Cowboys have off _____
 - 10 TX-born Rashad who was "Clair Huxtable" (init.)

- 11 TX Owen Wilson's co-star in "Marry Me" is aka "J-_____"
- 12 first "A" in "STAAR"
- 13 how TX George Foreman would train
- 14 Texas wants to _____ massive immigration at the its border
- 15 after traveling, it's _____ be back in Texas
- 16 Baldwin of 2001 film "Pearl Harbor" with TX-born Jennifer Garner
- 17 TXism: "in _____ with" (associated)
- 18 he was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel Boone" (2 wds.)

- 20 TXism: "chew _____ awhile" (ponder)
- 22 21st governor: _____ Culberson
- 23 rented residence (abbr.)
- 24 "it's a _____ point"
- 25 Hawaiian "howdy"
- 26 car imported from an oriental country
- 28 cry noisily
- 31 Mc _____, Texas in the Panhandle

- 34 Chris _____Doux both competed and sang at the same Houston Rodeo
- 35 TXism: "_____ chaser" (early riser)
- 37 Cowboy Hall of Fame WR, Pearson
- 40 "the _____ have it" (passed)
- 43 Sam Houston's 3rd wife, Margaret _____
- 44 a Spanish wine mascot of Sul Ross State University
- 51 Harris of "The Right Stuff" with TX Dennis Quaid

See Answers On This Page



Saturday's Mutton Bustin' winner at the 86th Annual Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo was Le'anna Galvan. She joined other weekly winners - Wednesday - Layton Hardage, Thursday - Katherine Edmondson and Friday - Camish Drennan. See more photos on the Mirror Facebook page. Photo by Jim Bardwell

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125 year sentence upheld

By Phillip Williams

A state appeals court last week upheld an Upshur County jury's convictions of a man who jurors sentenced to a combined total of 125 years in prison on eight counts of indecency with a child under the age of 14.

The Sixth Court of Appeals in Texarkana denied the appeal of Matthew Callie McCoy, who was convicted and sentenced in 115th District Court in Gilmer on Aug. 10, 2022.

McCoy, now 49, of Gilmer, had pleaded not guilty to the charges of having sexual contact with a male relative. The child wasn't identified by name for his protection, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd, who prosecuted in the trial.

The trial judge, 115th District Judge Dean Fowler, "stacked the sentences in the first four counts," meaning McCoy won't be eligible for parole until he is in his early eighties, Byrd said shortly after the trial.

That resulted from the crimes being "an aggravated offense under the law," the prosecutor added. The Texarkana court denied McCoy's appeal, which he made on three grounds, June 7.

The child, who had just turned 10 years old, "made an outcry of abuse" to his mother Sept. 12, 2018, and the offenses were alleged to have occurred on different dates, Byrd said.

The victim testified at trial that he had been "physically abused, and threatened to be killed if they told," the prosecutor wrote in a news release.

The youngster had told his mother he was "afraid of the family member because he had been abusing them by touching their private area," Byrd added. The mother went to Gilmer police, who investigated.

She, a counselor, and other witnesses who "helped to corroborate the child's statement" testified for the prosecution at trial, said Byrd. McCoy, represented at trial by Longview attorney Brandt Thorson, testified and denied the allegations.

Jurors deliberated an hour and a half on the verdict and an hour on the sentence, said Byrd, who said he requested the maximum sentence while the defense sought the minimum term, two years. McCoy had moved to Gilmer from Sulphur, La., Byrd added.

In its opinion written by Justice Charles Van Cleef, the appellate court said jurors sentenced McCoy to 20 years on one charge, and 15 years each on the others.



Gladewater Fire Department's Aaron Brandt and Shane Barnes assist CenterPoint Energy's Clayton Myers in re-plugging an exposed gas line in the 2100 block of E. Broadway Ave. shortly after noon June 8. The quick re-seal took just minutes after the valve was bumped by a construction crew. Photo by James Draper

Wine and beer permits, lake store and warden on agenda

The Gladewater City Council is scheduled to vote on two specific use permits for a wine and beer retailer's off-premise permit at 1708 N. Main Street and at 807 S. Tyler St. Suite 101, following public hearings Thursday at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Also on the council agenda:

- CONSIDERATION of audit for fiscal year 2022
- CONSIDERATION of application and Planning & Zoning Commission recommendation to fill vacant alternate board member position
- CONSIDERATION of Second Amendment to the Performance Agreement between GEDCO and Imperial Industries dba PMM Products
- CONSIDERATION of establishing a city position of Lake Warden to work in the area of Gladewater Lake safety and emergency management under the supervision of the City Manager
- CONSIDERATION of separation of use for lake store and lake house at Lake Gladewater
- CONSIDERATION of lake house rehab
- CONSIDERATION of ground space lease between the City of Gladewater and Scott E. Palmer (PineWay Farm)
- In executive session, the council is expected to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss an economic development negotiations concerning GEDCO's Project 227. Any formal action on items discussed in executive session must be done in open session.

Texas Comptroller certifies 2024-25 State Budget

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar last week announced his certification of House Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act that was approved by both houses during the recently gaveled Regular Session of the 88th Texas Legislature. The bill now heads to the desk of Gov. Greg Abbott.

HB 1 appropriates \$321.3 billion in total spending for the state's budget during the 2024-25 biennium. It is certified based on the 2024-25 Biennial Revenue Estimate,

published in January.

Combined with Senate Bill 30, the total appropriations for both bills are under the state's constitutional pay-as-you-go limit.

Per Hegar, Texas voters will decide important constitutional amendments in November that ultimately will determine how much the state has in its coffers heading into the 2026-27 biennium.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

Gladewater ISD will hold a public meeting at **6:00 PM, June 26, 2023** in the GISD Administration Building, located on 200 East Broadway, Gladewater, TX 75647.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and Operation	0.0694 increase
Debt Service	0.0033 decrease
Total expenditures	0.0661 increase

A public meeting to discuss proposed tax rate will be held after certified property values have been received.

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AUCTION

Farm/Retirement Auction, Thurs., June 22, 2023. Auction starts 9:31 a.m. Online bidding on Lots 1-60 starts 11:01 a.m. 34470 S. 4400 Rd., Big Cabin, OK 74322. Running 2 rings all day: guns, vehicles, jeeps, tractors, hay equip., trailers, boat, side by side, lawnmowers, loaders, horse tack, overhead feed bin, cattle feeders, cattle panels, fencing supplies, welders, welding supplies, air compressors, tires & rims, tire machine, hunting/fishing gear, tool boxes & more. www.chuppsauction.com.

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Thursday, June 22, 2023 • STARTS @ 9:31 AM
34470 S. 4400 Rd. • Big Cabin, OK 74322

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Lee-Bardwell

Library crocheting

The Lee-Bardwell Library hosts "Cozy Crochet" every Saturday at 1 p.m.. Everyone is invited! Call 903-845-2640 for information.

Hefner to speak at town hall meeting

District 5 Texas State Rep. Cole Hefner will host an Upshur County Town Hall in Gilmer later this month. The event is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Gilmer Civic Center at 1218 U.S. Hwy. 271 N. According to Hefner staffer Melody Thompson, "He's just going to speak, and there will be a question-and-answer at the end. It's specifically about the legislative session we just finished," she said. "If the governor calls another special session at the end of June, we'll have to reschedule, but for now we're going to go ahead and have the Town Hall."

Manna House needs donations

The local Manna House is always in need of food so they can help our neighbors. So please continue your weekly donations of jelly and cereal, along with bread, canned fruit. 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.

County library offers storytime

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (June 15.)

To be presented at the 10

a.m. and 4:15 p.m. events are "Dad and the Dinosaur" by Jennifer Choldenko and Dan Santat, and "I Love Dad" by Joanna Walsh and Judi Abbot, said a library spokeswoman.

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

The events are free to the public, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www.youseemore.com/upshur.

Upshur Dems to meet June 26

The Upshur County Democratic Party will hold its monthly meeting Monday, June 26, announced county Democratic Chairman Winifred Jackson.

The gathering is set for 6:30 p.m. at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6715 on VFW Road at the outskirts of Gilmer.

Upshur Democrats meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

Teen Game Night

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer is offering a monthly "Teen Game Night" for those ages 12-19, and a monthly "Book Club" meeting for adults at least age 18.

The events are free of charge at the library at 702 W. Tyler in Gilmer.

The teens' night, held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a month's third Saturday, offers card, board and video games, and usually food like pizza. Those interested in attending should RSVP the library either on its Facebook page (Upshur County Library), or by email at upshurcountylibrary@yahoo.com, said library spokeswoman Molissa Edwards.

The book club meets the

second Tuesday monthly from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. to discuss a book one of the approximately 30 members has recommended they all read.

Gilmer fireworks show set for July 3

Gilmer's annual Independence Day fireworks and air show is set Monday night, July 3, at the Yamboree Event Center.

The air show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. with the fireworks show following at 9:15, and admission is free. The center is at the end of Bob Glaze Drive, off U.S. 271 and next to Walmart.

The East Texas Yamboree Association is presenting the fireworks show, sponsored by the Gilmer and Longview law firm of Goudarzi and Young.

Randy Hill and Michael Blanks of Road Kill Hill and Blanks Productions will put on the fireworks program.

The Flight of the Phoenix museum will present the air show.

Food vendors will be in front of the nearby Gilmer Civic Center.

Local student named to ACU Dean's Honor Roll

ABILENE - Abilene Christian University congratulates Dean's Honor Roll students for the Spring 2023 semester. Mattie Simpson of White Oak, a junior majoring in Communication Disorders, was among the students earning Dean's Honor Roll recognition by achieving a 3.6 or higher GPA while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.

KC names locals to dean's lists

Kilgore College has named 583 students to its Fall 2022 president's and dean's lists.

Students earning a per-

fect 4.0 grade point average enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, excluding developmental classes, have been named to the President's List.

Dean's List honorees achieved at least a 3.5 GPA and were enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, excluding developmental classes.

Those named to the President's list include:

Gladewater - Joseph Gentry, Ezekiel Joy, Mathew Maguire, Trinity Mooney, Emily Reynolds, Jennifer Rivera, Emily Roach, Zachary Shipp and Alexandria West.

White Oak - Megan Beamer, Nineveh Blankenship, Morgan Hammer, Natalie Ingram, Amber Nix, Richard Pittman, Brooklynn Schroeder and Patricia Titus.

Those named to the Dean's list include:

Gladewater - Mercedes Brown, Denise Byrd, Melvalena Decco, Savannah Evans, Madelyn, Furrh Kolletta Galvan, Taylor Garlow, Garrett Glenn, Landon Griffith, Payton Haley, Ashley Harkey, Ethan Holloway, Patricia Johnson, Jackie Mathews, Lucas Miles, Gabriella Montelongo, Timothy Pugliese, Sahir Rashid, Aida Renfro, Sydney Roebuck, Logan Rust, Jackson Strait, Kile Stripland, Cinthia Vicente and Alitha Wheat.

White Oak - Tifanie Barham, Brianna Beamer, Cade Carter, Ginger Crumpton, Caleb Dang, Jonathon Garza, Madison Hunt, Mark Koehler, Kelsy Leeman, Simuel Millwood, Brantley Russo, Ramsie Russo and Kelly Webb.

Texas Oil and Gas Production Stats for March 2023

June 12, 2023

Crude oil and natural gas production as reported to the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) for March

2023 came from 160,742 oil wells and 87,487 gas wells.

Crude oil production reported by the RRC is limited to oil produced from oil leases and does not include condensate, which is reported separately by the RRC. For full oil and gas production statistics, you can visit the links below.

Statewide totals: <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/research-and-statistics/production-data/texas-monthly-oil-gas-production/>

County rankings: <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/research-and-statistics/production-data/texas-monthly-oil-gas-production-by-county-ranking/>

GOP to hear about vaccine freedom

The Republican Party of Upshur County Executive Committee will hear a presentation by an official of Texans for Vaccine Freedom in Gladewater on Monday night.

Jackie Schlegel, chief executive officer of the non-profit organization, will speak at the committee's 6:30 p.m. quarterly meeting at The BlueByrd Room. She will discuss "medical freedom" legislation she has attempted to have the Texas Legislature approve.

Free food will be served at the event at 208 S. Main (U.S. 80), and the public is invited, said county Republican Party Chairman Carl Byers. Admission is free.

While the meeting site is in the Gregg County portion of Gladewater instead of the Upshur County section, Byers said no party rule bans the committee from meeting there.

According to her biography, Schlegel favors a parent's right to "informed consent" about vaccines which could be given their children, including the right whether to refuse it.

She also favors "medical privacy, and vaccine freedom of choice," the biography says.

For more information on Monday's meeting, contact Byers at (903) 316-7922 or committee Vice-Chairman John Melvin Dodd at (903) 790-9598.

Juneteenth events slated locally

The fourth annual Upshur County Juneteenth Celebration, sponsored by the Upshur County Juneteenth Organization, is scheduled in downtown Gilmer on Saturday.

The event, set from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will feature live music, a parade, speakers, children's activities, a soul food contest, car show and tractor show, said organization President Iesha Fluellen.

Anyone wanting to make a last-minute entry in the 9:30 a.m. parade is welcome to by arriving at the Upshur County Justice Center, 405 Titus, by 9 a.m.

The musical program includes, in part, Gilmer High School students Gabby Jackson singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and Caitlin Drennan singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In Gladewater, the annual Juneteenth event will be held Saturday, June 17, starting outside Walker Manor on Commerce Street.

Organizers anticipate cars, motorcycles and other vehicles to participate in the parade. This celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Weldon Bumble Bee Park in Gladewater on June 17. The cost of attendance is FREE for all.

The event will feature a variety of different food vendors, live music, and fun activities for children.

This year's event is part of the city's year long celebration of Gladewater's 150th Anniversary.

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Gladewater ISD Retirees: Nellie Turner 29 years, Debra Pierce 24 years, Curtis Armstrong 23 years, Julie Bothman 17 years, Lydia Robinson 15 years, Jeff Davis 5 years, Candy Rae 11 years, Jennifer Ritchey 10 years, Terri Mills 4 years. Photos by Darla Ferguson



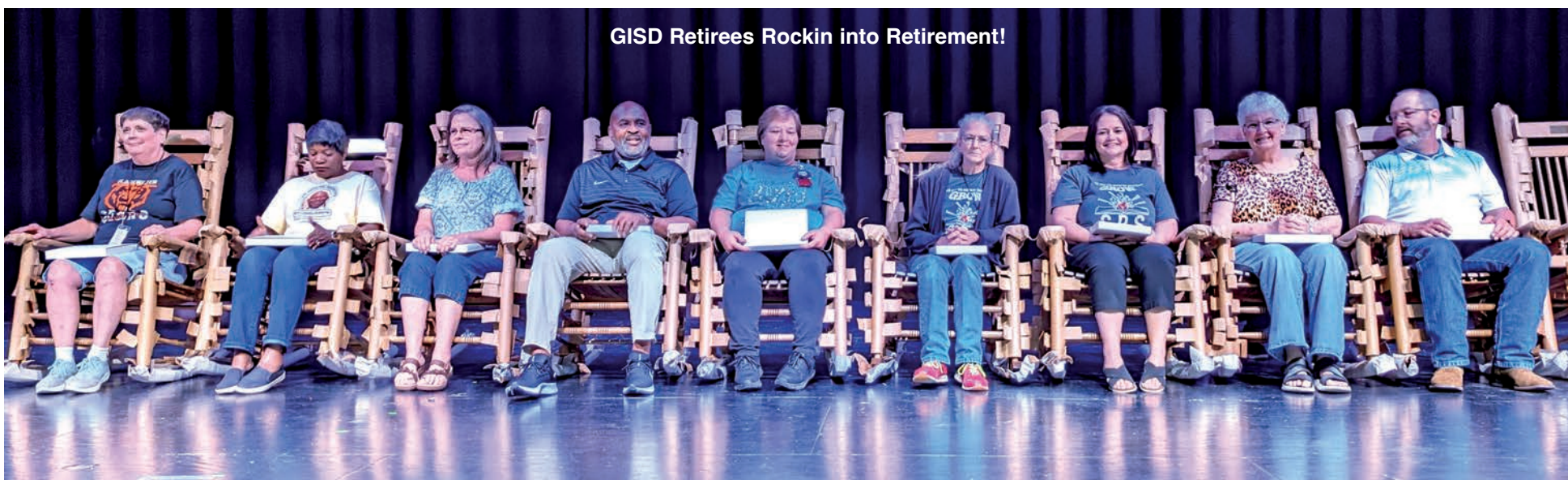
Gladewater High School Service Awards: Back Row: Vickie Aguilar 5 years @ TWS, Kevin Clark 20 years, Diane Clark 30 years, Teresa Guthrie 15 years, Betsy Thompson 10 years, Wendy Day 10 years, Jeffery Davis 5 years, Samantha King 5 years, Back Row: Principal Derrick Floyd, Jessica Smith 10 years, Brandy Humphreys 5 years.



GISD Administration Service Awards: CAO/Ex. Master Teacher Kim Dolese, Trecia Turner 30 years, Melissa Dennis 30 years, Avon Bateman 20 years, Amanda Langford 10 years, Kerry Hradecky 10 years, Amanda Brown 10 years.



Custodial/Food Service Awards: Brittney Epps 5 years, Director Darla Allen, Rita Clark 5 years, Belinda Holmes 10 years, Brett Street 5 years.



Maintenance Service Awards: COO Kim Chatman, Justin Little 10 years



Transportation Service Awards: Director Paul Allen, Charles Gordon 40 Years, Donald Greenwood 10 years, Jack Davis 10



Teacher's of the year 2022-2023 from Masonic Lodge: Andy Reynolds, Bill Manley with the Masonic Lodge and Shona Gage.



Gladewater Primary Service Awards: Shannon Shipp 30 years, Jennifer Ritchey 10 years, Tina Omdahl 10 years, Emily Brown 10 years, Principal Kerry Hradecky.



Weldon Elementary Service Awards: Amanda Carney 10 years, Kathryn Smith 5 years, Miguel Reyes 5 years, Principal Amanda Langford, Kamisha Floyd 5 years, Lydia Robinson 15 years.

McKinney joins WOISD school board

By Garrett Cook

Stephanie McKinney took the oath of office, making her the newest school board member, while Lance Noll became the new board president during the June 12 school board meeting. Along with McKinney, incumbent members Noll and David Trest were administered their oaths.

Kilgore College is partnering with the high school to extend the dual-credit program and to establish a miniature campus within WOHS. Courses would include music/art/theater appreciation, algebra/statistics, nursing, the fire program, etc. This partnership would allow White Oak students and three other districts to take Kilgore courses in a renovated wing of the high school.

Superintendent Dr. William Paul proposed a compensation plan for a 3% district-wide salary increase for faculty members, averaging \$2,500 per teacher. Along with the salary raise, Paul suggested achievement-based stipends for UIL coaches and \$3,000 stipends for guardians.

The board approved a new contract with Verkada security systems to ensure a safer and more advanced, cloud-based system that is human-monitored and less susceptible to hacking.

Due to an ongoing real property tax issue, the board is considering bidding for a new tax attorney to not lose a potential \$700,000-\$1.5 million in the upcoming years.

UIL state competitors, Alli Sims and Chloe Bates, and state champions, Bailey Brondum and Kate Dusek, were represented by their sponsors to be recognized for their accomplishments in Austin. In other business, considerations for band hall renovations, an updated public address system and district manuals are underway.



Gladewater Middle School Service Award: Trish Jones 25 years, Dustin Neal 10 years, Victoria Sutherland 15 years, Principal Becky Lanham, Katonya Clark 5 years, Shona Gage 5 years, Andy Reynolds 5 years.



Kyle Moore and Paige Winters presented the Gladewater Round-Up 'Wrangler of the Year' award to Laurie Swayer.



Paige Winters and Kyle Moore presented the Gladewater Round-Up 'Wrangler of the Year' award to Tanner Smith.



Maria Moore presents the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Month Award to Jon Keller.



Bardwell honored at Texas Emergency 2023 Management Conference

FORT WORTH – This year's Texas Emergency Management "Spouse of the Year" recipient is Jennifer Bardwell of Upshur County.

This award recognizes a spouse who not only contributes to emergency management by supporting their spouse, but also makes their own contributions to emergency management community.

Jennifer, a Family Nurse Practitioner, Acute Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner at Longview's Christus Good Shepherd, is a volunteer at the West Mountain VFD.

She and her husband Josh, West Mountain VFD fire chief, have served various East Texas communities for many years with their fire and medical expertise.

During its awards luncheon ceremony on Thursday, TDEM announced the winners of the Texas Emergency Management Awards, recognizing the accomplishments of those in the emergency management field in Texas during the past year.

Approximately 4,000 attendees from over 35 states and 4 countries registered to attend The Conference, which brought together first



responders, emergency managers from local jurisdictions, elected officials, state and federal agencies, tribal communities, private sector partners, and other decision-makers from across the country. This four day event, the largest of its kind in the nation, provided an unparalleled opportunity for access to latest technology, exchange of ideas, and research in the field of emergency management.

"TDEM is proud to host this first-rate event that showcases excellence in emergency management and opportunities for growth in our field," said Texas Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd. "Through our expansive exhibit hall, nearly 200 interactive workshops, and awards recognitions, we continue to highlight the many ways all levels of government and industry work to protect life and property across the state."



John Farris and his late wife Mildred were honored at this year's rodeo by joining Neal Gay in the Gladewater Round-Up Ring of Honor. Mr. and Mrs. Farris have been longtime supporters of the Gladewater rodeo and were instrumental in getting Gladewater's rodeo named one of the top rodeos in the country. The couple were inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2004, and they became the first husband-and-wife team inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2006. John Farris participated in rodeo as a saddle-bronc, bareback-bronc and bull rider (and sometime calf roper) during the latter 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. From 1967 on, he also worked every National Finals Rodeo as the timed-event chute boss and as staker of the barrel-racing pattern. He was named Texas Circuit Man of the Year in 1997. Mildred Farris began barrel racing in 1955. She won the Texas Barrel Racing Association Championship in 1955, 1956 and 1957, and qualified for the NFR 12 times. After arena competition, Mildred served as a rodeo secretary, winning the PRCA Secretary of the Year title nine times and the WPRA Secretary of the Year twice. She was named WPRA Woman of the Year in 1996, and Texas Circuit Person of the Year in 2001.

- See more rodeo photos on the Gladewater Mirror Facebook Page -



Miss Gladewater Round Up Rodeo award winners included: Top seller- Madi Weight , Horsemanship- Meagan Hodge, Miss congeniality- Kelsey Kimbrough, Photogenic- Meagan Hodge, First runner up-Madi wright, Miss Gladewater Rodeo Queen 2023 Meagan Hodge

Round-Up Rodeo beats rain, posts successful 86th event

Continued from Page 1

Team roping: 1. Cyle Denison/Boogie Ray, 4.0 seconds, \$1,705 each; 2. Chace Thompson/Chad Williams, 4.2, \$1,483; 3. Brock Hanson/Seth Jones, 4.4, \$1,260; 4. Tanner Green/Caleb Green, 4.5, \$1,038; 5. (tie) Cory Clark/Blaine Vick and Reno Stoebner/Whit Kitchens, 4.6, \$704 each; 7. Cody Russell/Cole Rogers, 4.8, \$371; 8. Brye Crites/Rance Doyal, 5.3, \$148.

Saddle bronc riding: 1. (tie) Logan Cook, on Rafter G Rodeo's Black Betty, and Ryder Sanford, on Rafter G Rodeo's Snidely Whiplash, 84.5 points, \$1,588 each; 3. Parker Fleet, 83, \$986; 4. (tie) Traylin Martin and Kody Rinehart, 81, \$520 each; 6. Talon Elshere, 79, \$274.

Tie-down roping: 1. Cole Clemons, 7.8 seconds, \$2,710;

2. Glenn Jackson, 9.0, \$2,357; 3. (tie) John Douch and Tatum Miller, 9.5, \$1,826 each; 5. Mesquite Mahaffey, 10.2, \$1,296; 6. West Smith, 10.3, \$943; 7. Cole Matheson, 10.6, \$589; 8. Joe Keating, 10.7, \$236.

Barrel racing: 1. Abby Pursifull, 17.08 seconds, \$2,054; 2. Courtney Durrum, 17.25, \$1,761; 3. (tie) Makala Pierce and Kristin Shoppa, 17.28, \$1,369 each; 5. Abby Phillips, 17.29, \$978; 6. LaTricia Duke, 17.30, \$782; 7. Sissy Winn, 17.40, \$587; 8. Erin Wetzell, 17.46, \$391; 9. Ashley Parks, 17.53, \$293; 10. (tie) Jamie Olsen and Jimmie Smith-Tew, 17.55, \$98 each.

Bull riding: * 1. Jace Trosclair, 87 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Bumpstock, \$3,041; 2. Jake Roddy, 86, \$2,591; no other qualified rides. *(all totals include ground money).

Total payoff: \$62,532.



Jace Trosclair won the top prize in the Cavender's Gladewater Round-Up Xtreme Bulls John Quintana Memorial competition. Photo by Jim Bardwell

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