

Gladewater Mirror

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THREE DEATHS A DAY IN TEXAS DUE TO DRUNK DRIVING

TxDOT campaign aims to deter drunk driving this summer

AUSTIN – Drunk driving deaths increased again last year in Texas, and TxDOT is urging all Texans to save lives and reverse this trend by choosing a sober ride.

Monse Montoya's family was destroyed when a drunk driver ran through a stop sign and T-boned her parents' car. The crash instantly killed her father and her 15-year-old brother. Her mother survived, but she spent a week in the ICU.

The driver of the other car had been drinking with his coworkers before getting behind the wheel, instead of arranging a sober ride. He's now in prison, while Monse's family has been left broken because of his reckless choice.

It's a tragic but disturbingly common story — 1,162 people were killed in drunk driving crashes in Texas in 2022, a 2% increase from the year before.

That's equivalent to three people dying every day of the year. TxDOT is sharing stories like Monse's as a part of its Faces of Drunk Driving campaign. Through these stories, TxDOT hopes to remind Texans that behind every statistic is a person from our community—a brother or sister, a parent, a neighbor, a friend.

"Numbers can sometimes feel abstract," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "But these are real people whose lives were either lost or forever altered by someone's decision to drink and drive. We hope that the stories featured in our Faces of Drunk Driving campaign will inspire Texans to always arrange a sober ride home."

Last year, a staggering 26% of all traffic deaths in Texas involved a drunk driver. Those crashes led to one person dying every 7 hours and 32 minutes.

The Faces of Drunk Driving campaign reminds us that driving under the influence can have serious and often irreparable physical, emotional and financial consequences for survivors and offenders alike. Beyond the all-too-real possibility of taking a life, a DWI/DUI can be expensive and can lead to difficulty finding or keeping a job, loss of trust from loved ones, and a lifetime of regret.

This year's campaign will feature events around the state to share stories from Texans who deal every day with the consequences of a drunk driving crash. Events will include an exhibit of powerful video testimonials. Full video stories and other impaired driving information are available online, at <https://www.soberrides.org/>.

TxDOT's Faces of Drunk Driving campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. November 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

We'll get through this

East Texas recovers after hurricane-like storm

By James Draper

Last week's storm raged in, roared out and left damaged homes, block streets, oppressively hot days, muggy nights and dark screens in its wake.

Recovery began immediately across the region Friday as first responders from Gladewater and other communities deployed to help their communities. Thousands of linemen from Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative and SWEPCO gathered from multiple states to tackle downed lines, wrecked poles, fried equipment.

With about a quarter of a million SWEPCO customers in the dark and approximately 97 percent of URECC's network down, they had their work cut out for them, but the hours and days since the 'hurricane-like' incident saw block after block of power restored.

There's more work ahead, but at least the combined efforts of emergency workers, utility personnel, local public servants, friends and neighbors are working to lift the burden for others in need.

"We'll get through this," Jerry Howell told his friend, grabbing a belated cup of coffee and swapping storm stories on the phone in the bustling Gladewater Donut Shop the morning of June 16. "The power's starting to come back on in Gladewater."

Texas Governor Greg Abbott's initial disaster declaration included Upshur County in addition to Cass, Franklin, Harrison, Marion and Wood. The Governor's declaration later added Camp, Gregg, Hopkins, Panola, Smith, and Titus counties. Abbott's proclamation detailed the wide array of dangerous weather that stretched across this corner of Texas, beginning on June 14 and continuing through Friday morning, which brought the worst damage to Gladewater and the surrounding area: gusting winds, hail, lightning, pounding rain and flash flooding. In addition to a deadly tornado in Perryton, a second was confirmed to have touched down in Panola County.

Though multiple homes and other property in Gladewater sustained damage from water, wind and falling trees, Gladewater Fire Chief and Emergency Coordinator Mike Simmons said the community escaped the storm with no fatalities or injuries reported.

In an initial assessment, "We're looking at 2-3 days possibly before power's fully restored," Simmons said. "Talking to the Gregg County emergency manager, it's just a lot of trees down and power lines."

The estimate rang true for many local utility customers, but some were still in the dark as the next week began.

Gladewater City Hall was among the many spots without power, nevertheless deploying crews to tackle trees across many roads and main routes – Gay Avenue, for example, was unpassable in the 2100 block with a large tree covering the roadway after it pulled down multiple lines. It was just one of many, though, a scene repeated numerous times across town as locals woke up to the chaos left by the June 15-16 tempest.

As local drivers struggled to remember how to navigate flashing red lights and dark traffic signals, they also got



to clean-up.

Matt Kates set to cleaning up his property on Rodeo at Woodbine immediately. He said the storm roared through "like a freight train" and he wouldn't be surprised if the winds hit 90 mph – his back fence is a mess.

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Gregg County Sheriff's Office, along with Gladewater firefighters, assisted Truman Smith Children's Care Center in time of crisis following last week's storm. The Gregg County Sheriff's Office is sent a trustee crew to the center to lend a helping hand during the ongoing power outage and heat warning. They helped locals offloading a shipment of generators and air conditioners to help keep the facility cool and ensure the well-being of the children and staff. Power outages and heat warnings can be especially challenging for vulnerable individuals.



City stresses streets at packed town hall meeting

By James Draper

But for a bit of road rage, most of last week's Town Hall Meeting about 'Safe Streets and Roads' grant funds stayed on topic – How can Gladewater best use federal funds to make its pedestrian and driving routes safer?

It was, at times, a challenge for city officials to keep the focus on the future. The public dialogue drew a packed house at Gladewater City Hall, and multiple attendees came ready to unload their current concerns about common complaints – from

potholes to damaged driveways, subpar pavement, litter and more.

Gladewater officials listened and took notes on everything, but their key task was to collect suggestions from the community about how they might eventually use federal funds to improve roadway safety within the constraints of a governmental grant program.

"Right now, this is a planning grant," said Al Harrison, city inspector.

One relevant note came from Claudette Clay, who sug-

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

The Great Escape...

Jim and I are bona fide goat ropers. Yep, we hitched up our jeans and chased three goats last Wednesday morning in our flip flops. As soon as we would get them in the fence one would jump the wire.

Our son and daughter-in-heart sold their home at Caddo Lake, thanks in great part to their Real Estate Agent and our friend Farrell Alexander. They moved in with us last Tuesday night. They both have new jobs in Tyler and they are looking for a homestead with a few acres in this neck of the Piney Woods.

With them came two shetland pony-sized rescue dogs named Mort and Dozer who think they are lap puppies (they are extremely lovable and well trained), as well as three 'rescue' goats that are not in the least well trained but are highly intelligent and entertaining. Just ask my 88-year old Mom who is staying with us while recuperating from a heart attack. She has a lawn chair front and center of a newly built goat pen for her daily dose of entertainment.

I hadn't planned to be a goat roper last week. In fact I had had a 6 a.m. hair appointment to get beautified for the Texas Press Association Leadership Retreat at a Lake Conroe resort. With my tamed and trendy hairdo I came home to escaped, as our son laughingly calls them, our grand 'kids'. (Get it? Kids? That's another word for goat if you aren't familiar with farm culture.)

I pulled in the driveway feeling chic and together, and there those entertaining goats were chomping down on the magnolia tree on the wrong side of the fence. So, I grabbed a broom and my hiking stick and used all my old rancher's daughter skills to round those rowdy suckers up.

Except they weren't cows. They were willful and nimble. And perversely opposed to herding. I quickly wilted and shouted for Jimmy. My hair frizzed and the goats ran, but we persevered. There was no way we were going to let Betty Goat, Lloyd Lee or Sandy head to the road to be hit by a car, or to the woods for a coyote picnic. My son and daughter-in-heart love their goats and we weren't going to let the little escape artists get our goat or break their hearts.

Goat wrangler Jim came running and we managed to keep those rebellious kids corralled until our son could

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



make it from his job in Tyler to the 'goat ranch' to literally wrestle his troublesome pets back into the fence that had allowed the Great Escape. One cloven-hooved darlin' even had to be roped and pushed...thereby the earning of the 'goat roper' badge for wrangler Jim.

By this time my hair do that had been subjected to the heat and humidity looked more like Jimi Hendrix at his most electric than the sleek, professional cool I was going for.

My industrious son and hubby proceeded to string another wire or two in the 95 degree, 90 percent humidity heat and then off Josh went back to work. Meanwhile, my wily hubby cleverly used a wrench, bailing wire and a pickup truck to stretch and place a last line of prison wire to hold the Houdini-like critters. I eyeballed the goats who were testing the fence as fast as it was being improved. But there they stood at last, frustrated, behind the wire. Right where they belonged.

Jim, who by this time was drenched in sweat, breathlessly told me to cancel our hotel reservations; and frizzy, sweaty and sad I called up the resort to gleefully discover that they had a 72-hour cancellation policy. That nailed it. Mr. Fence Builder extraordinaire showered, packed and off we headed to the resort praying that the fence would hold after we left. And it did.

The further we got from the goats the funnier it got. By dinner at lakeside we were highly entertained by our goat-scapade adventure.

You know that this is going to be one of those priceless, legendary stories for the human grand-kids someday if I am fortunate enough to be so blessed. I think it will start something like this:

"Tell me if you've heard this one...what do you get when you put three 'rescue' goats, four dogs and five adults of three generations together in one home? The answer? Family."

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Happy birthday Dr. Smith ...

It's Adam Smith's 300th birthday (June 5th, 16th, or 18th, depending on the calendar that you choose)! He was one of history's most influential thinkers, basically articulating the framework of capitalism. It's a moment worthy of reflection.

A brilliant Scottish philosopher who lived with his mother and was notoriously absent-minded, Smith set forth many of his fundamental ideas in *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* in 1776. It is an incredibly laborious tome to absorb, but an instant best-seller when published. It conceptualized the market as an "Invisible Hand" guiding the decisions of producers, workers, and other economic actors based on self-interest yet producing optimal social outcomes.

There have been notable refinements to the framework over time, such as introducing the concept of comparative advantage in the early 1800s, identifying the importance of marginal decisions (those based on the last unit consumed or produced) in the 1870s, graphically depicting market phenomena in 1890, incorporating the actions of others through game theory in the 1950s, and an increasing focus of late on expectations and dynamics. Nonetheless, the core principles promulgated in 1776 remain profoundly impactful not only on the United States but other nations around the globe.

Smith's ideas were influenced by philosophers such as John Locke and the natural law sentiment of the day, as well as the belief in "natural rights" – life, liberty, and property – which prescribed a relatively restrained role for government. He applied such ideas to markets and the economy in a more systematic manner than his predecessors.

Thomas Jefferson spent much of the 1780s in Europe and became familiar with Smith's work, which had a profound role in the unique establishment of the United States as not only a democracy but also an economy based largely on capitalism. (I've been privileged to hold both of Jefferson's copies of *Wealth of Nations*.)

Smith is generally associated with "laissez faire" and the belief in very limited government (the Texas translation is "let the fur fly!"). In reality, he recognized that there were shortcomings in the capitalist approach and a legitimate and necessary role for the public sector. He essentially viewed a market-based economy as one that would work well (but not perfectly), and he was right on both fronts.

Though written at the dawn of the American Revolution (which he described as the "present disturbances"), Smith's framework has had an enormous and continuing impact. The US economy is the primary example, having generated more opportunities and innovations than any other. While we must constantly strive to make it better and more accessible for everyone, the system that he set forth is profoundly significant and an enduring legacy.

Happy Tricentennial, Dr. Smith!
Stay safe!

Abbott vetoes bills; feud with Patrick grows

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick claimed last week that Gov. Greg Abbott is sabotaging the Senate's work because of their ongoing feud over which approach to property tax reform is best. The Dallas Morning News reported. Abbott vetoed three bills by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, who has been Patrick's point senator on increasing homestead exemptions in order to provide tax cuts. As of Friday afternoon, he had vetoed 31 bills.

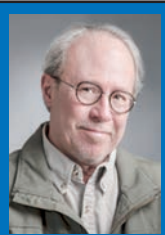
Abbott has threatened a string of vetoes if the House and Senate can't agree on a compromise on property tax relief. In each veto proclamation, Abbott has issued the following statement: "This bill can be reconsidered at a future special session only after property tax relief is passed."

Patrick took issue with that. "The governor's suggested threat today to veto a large number of Senate bills is an affront to the legislative process and the people of Texas," he said.

Will the state's electric grid hold

Much of Texas is in the throes of a sweltering heat wave, prompting concern

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



that the electric grid will be strained as Texans try to keep cool. However, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the grid, predicts it will be able to handle forecast peaks in energy usage, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The biggest factor is demand for air conditioning of homes and businesses, according to Robert Hebner, director of the University of Texas Center for Electromechanics.

"Any rapid change in temperature causes great difficulty. If you have a gradual change, (companies) usually adjust to it fairly well," Hebner said. "This summer, there's a good chance they've anticipated well enough that we'll be able to get through."

The first official day of summer is Wednesday, June 21.

New law bans paper license plates

Temporary paper "dealer

tags" will soon be a thing of the past after Abbott signed House Bill 718. The new law phases out the tags and requires dealers to issue \$10 metal plates to buyers purchasing vehicles, the Houston Chronicle reported. Paper Texas tags have been criticized by law enforcement officials for years, since they are easy to fake and often used on vehicles used to commit crimes. A report by KXAN in 2021 found that selling of fake Texas tags had become a \$200 million illicit business.

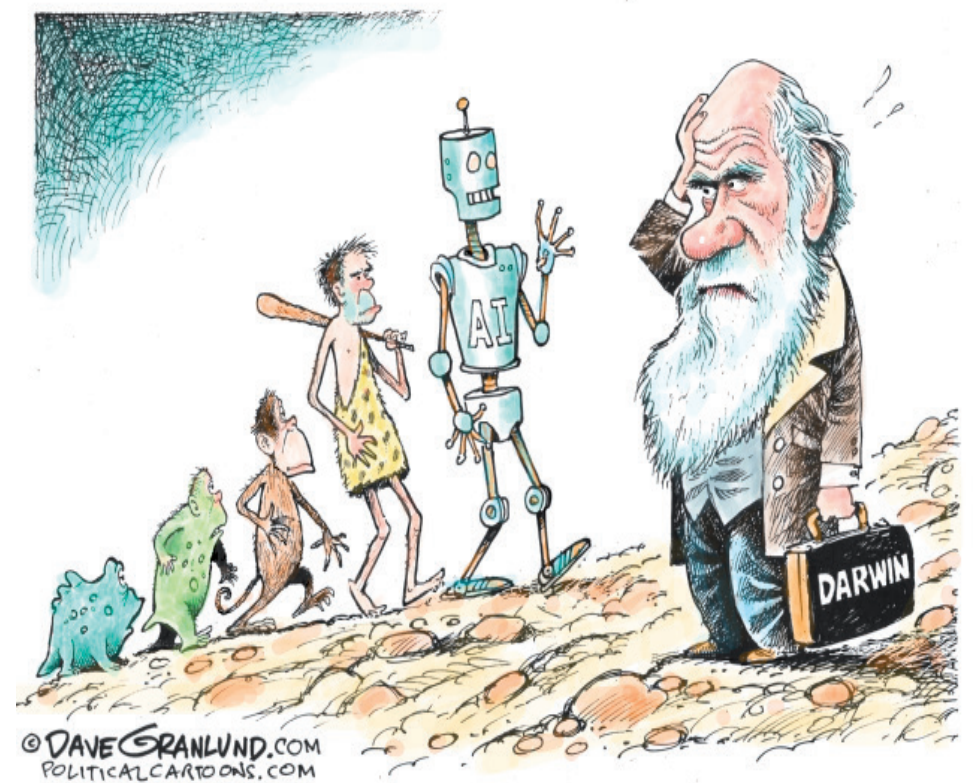
The Department of Motor Vehicles has until December of next year to come up with a plan for creating and distributing metal plates to dealerships. The law itself goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

Bill restricting local control signed

Cities and counties will be further restricted from implementing ordinances or regulations on issues nor-

mally addressed by the state after Abbott signed House Bill 2127, the Statesman reported. According to the bill's language, it is a means to "provide statewide consistency by returning sovereign regulatory powers to the state where those powers belong."

Previously, regulations put into place by cities were unenforceable if found to be in violation of a state code..





LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS

For a moment, think about what's been called "*Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*." You have probably seen the TV program by that name which gives viewers an inside look at the lavish lifestyles of high society. Well, we may think such riches and fame automatically bring lasting happiness, but that's not the full story. For example, Howard Hughes, one of the world's wealthiest men, died a weird recluse. Marilyn Monroe, achieved great fame and fortune, but was often miserable, and apparently died by her own hand. But the list goes on and on, and on. Janis Joplin, Elvis Presley, Rock Hudson, Liberace, professional sports stars, those who have reached political greatness, wealthy and famous business men, religious leaders, and yes, some well-known Bible characters, etc. The sad end of their lives is a reminder that all that glitters is not gold, and being famous does not bring happiness.

Yes, it's true that material wealth and fame can be a great advantage, but the truth is, there are some things money cannot buy, and fame cannot accomplish. For example, it cannot buy and bring about real contentment, love, true friends, a good marriage, peace, genuine respect and a clear conscience. It cannot buy inner beauty, or character, and most important of all, it cannot assure one a place in Heaven. Luke 12: 15 says: "*Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses.*" Jesus asked: "*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*" (Matt. 16: 26).

It is so important to remember that salvation you can have through Jesus Christ is worth more than all of the wealth and fame one may possess. Salvation does not require material possessions, education, and fame, but it does require the desire to please God and to honestly admit one's own need, and the willingness to do what God demands. So, my friend, you may not be rich and famous, possessing, all this world has to offer, but you can, even though you are poor, be "*rich toward God*" (Lk. 12: 21). You can be "*rich in faith*" and love God by obeying Him. Think on these things.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.

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.

Area fireworks shows set for July 3

Gladewater and Gilmer's annual Independence Day fireworks are set for Monday night, July 3, at Lake Gladewater and the Yamboree Event Center.

Lake Gladewater event runs from 5-9:30 p.m., with the annual patriotic boat parade set for 8 p.m.. Admission is free.

The Gilmer 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.

Food vendors will be at both events.

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.

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 Melissa 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.

Murder rap now possible for fentanyl distribution deaths

Several bills were signed into law last week to fight fentanyl overdoses by classifying those deaths as poisonings, allowing universities to use opioid reversal drug Narcan, and implementing felony charges for producing and distributing fentanyl.

"This law makes clear that any person who causes a death by unlawfully manufacturing or delivering fentanyl can be prosecuted for murder in the state of Texas," Abbott said. Nearly 2,000 Texans died last year after taking fentanyl, sometimes unknowingly because it was mixed with other drugs.

Despite the passage of these bills, some family members of overdose victims expressed disappointment that a bill that would no longer classify fentanyl test strips as drug paraphernalia did not make it out of the Senate.

County library hosts storytime

The Summer Reading Program for children and adults is underway at the Upshur



County Library in Gilmer.

The free program is simply designed to encourage reading, and participants can receive prizes, said library Director Cynthia King.

The activity is even for children who are too young to read, but whose parents or siblings can read to them, King said.

The event, which started June 1, continues through July 21. For every two hours a participant reads at home or elsewhere, he or she gets to select a prize from a case, King noted.

Participants keep a log of how many minutes they read, she explained.

Besides reading, the program includes various activities. On Tuesdays, a children's movie and a teen movie are shown simultaneously, but in different locations in the library, King

said.

On Wednesdays, performances ranging from puppets to animals and a magic show will be featured, she added.

The library will also continue its year-round two weekly "Storytime" book readings to small children on Thursdays. In addition, programs for teens will be held that day, thus letting parents bring all their children to the library at once instead of separately.

Since the entire reading program is free, anyone wishing to participate need only come to the library (702 W. Tyler, which is also Texas 154) and sign up to be eligible for prizes.

For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001 or see its Facebook page, which is "Upshur County Library--Gilmer, Texas."

New Oil and Gas Monitoring and Enforcement Plan Approved

RRC commissioners have approved the agency's Oil and Gas Monitoring Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 which continues to build on the agency's strong record of stewardship of protecting the environment and residents.

The new plan includes goals to accurately demonstrate the Commission's oil and gas monitoring and enforcement activities and to strategically use the oil and gas monitoring and enforcement resources. It focuses on developing a framework to describe the totality of oil and gas monitoring and enforcement efforts, beyond inspections and remediation work the agency does, which would include the extensive work that is done involving technical permit monitoring

and administrative compliance enforcement.

The RRC's well plugging program, which has exceeded goals set by the Legislature for six straight years, will continue its prioritization system to extend its successful work plugging orphaned oil and gas wells throughout the state with state funds. This fiscal year the RRC utilized federal grants to add to the number of wells that were plugged. The agency has submitted comments on draft federal guidance on another set of grants that could be utilized next fiscal year.

"Our oil and gas regulatory work is nationally recognized because of our staff's tireless work and the way we have leveraged technology to improve our efficiency over the years," said Wei Wang, RRC Executive Director. "The new plan for next fiscal year keeps building on that as we regulate more than 430,000 wells in the state. Texas is the largest oil and gas producer in the nation, and we will continue to help that economic vitality."

Staff training has been very important for the agency as it regulates a cutting-edge oil and gas industry. Inspectors will continue to receive in-house and external training to learn about the technologies employed in conventional and shale oil and gas field operations.

Part of the Commission's most recent goals are to use data from inspections, enforcement, and compliance to improve our information management systems so that they are more user-friendly for operators. That work will continue in the next fiscal year to help efficiency for both RRC staff and oil and gas operators.

OBITUARIES

MARTHA ANN HOLLEY (STANSELL)

Martha Ann Holley (Stansell), 84, of Dallas peacefully completed her earthly journey May 29, 2023 with sunlight dancing in the room surrounded by those who loved her.



Martha was born on June 26, 1938 to Addreanne and Weldon Stansell in Cisco.

Martha spent her childhood in Gladewater. While attending Gladewater High School, Martha shined as a National Honor student, a cheerleader and a Sunday school teacher at the Methodist Church. She went on to represent Gladewater as Gladewater's Queen on East Texas Day at the State Fair of Texas. After graduation in 1956, she attended Texas

Christian University where she was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity. After graduating in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, she started her first job at Fort Worth ISD as a 3rd grade teacher, kick starting a 14 year teaching career. After retiring from teaching, Martha spent years traveling with Dallas Fan Fares, an event planning company. From Super Bowls, Final Fours to The Masters, Martha's infectious personality made her known and loved by all.

In 1964, Martha met the love of her life, Ron Holley at the Cimarron Dance at the Dallas Country Club. They married July 31, 1965 and went on to have two children, Brad and Kara. Their love endured for 57 years. Martha loved shopping - whether it be a trip overseas to secure the best antiques, a day spent scouring Estate Sales, or the many hours she spent rummaging through the racks at TJ Maxx. Martha also spent a lot of time and found immense joy volunteering, playing cards and spending time with friends. Martha embodied kindness, grace, loyalty, selflessness and a love for the Lord. She was a symbol of strength and stability. They say beauty is as beauty does, and Martha surely did. She showed up in every moment that counted for each and all of her family and close friends. She cheered on her grandchildren through countless sporting events, celebrated her friends and family through engagements, weddings, and babies; loving and visiting friends through hard times and in sickness. Martha lived her life and loved her family and friends with fierceness and devotion.

Martha was reunited with her parents, brother, George, sister, Brenda and numerous lifelong friends.

She is survived by her loving husband, Ron, their son Brad Holley and his

wife Julie, their daughter Kara Baergen and her husband John, and those lucky enough to call her Nana; Taylor Holley and his fiancé, K'lee Schwartz, Gracie Baergen, Brenna Holley, Johnny Baergen, Bradford Holley, Audrey Baergen and her two great grandchildren, Noah and Tristan Holley and many other extended family members. A

A celebration of Life will be held on Friday, June 30 th at 2 pm at Slate at II Creeks, 2701 Custer Parkway, Richardson, Texas 75080. In lieu of flowers, in true Martha fashion, go forth and brighten the day for someone in need of a smile and a visit.

LILLIAN LAFERN MITCHELL ARTERBURN

Lillian LaFern Mitchell Arterburn of Justin, Texas passed away on June 15, 2023 surrounded by her family. She was born on August 13, 1930, in Gladewater to William Huel "Bill" Mitchell and Emma (Vice) Mitchell. Lillian was a graduate of Gladewater High School in 1948.



In 1949, she moved to St. Louis, Missouri where she worked as an experienced varitype operator. She later moved to Grand Prairie, where she went to work for Tempco Aerospace (later Chance Vought). She was actively involved in the community theater and was an excellent thespian. She thoroughly enjoyed acting and live theater.

Lillian met and fell in love with Leach Arterburn while working at LTV. They were married on March 19, 1960.

Leach and Lillian lived and raised their three sons in Arlington from 1961-1984. In the late 1970's Lillian worked as an assistant to the Dean of the University of Texas at Arlington in the Electrical Engineering Department. In 1984, they retired and moved back to her home place in Gladewater. While in Gladewater she was an Upshur county election judge for several years. She also was a water therapy instructor at the physical therapy center in Kilgore Texas for 17 years.

In 2011 Lillian moved to Justin to live near her youngest son Kyle and his family.

Lillian was always a caretaker of others. She performed volunteer work in her community. She was a founding member of Project BEAT, blood type identification for school children. She transported patients for the Red Cross. She also volunteered at a Crisis Hotline call center by answering incoming phone calls from people in psychological need. Lillian was a hard worker with a lot of grit and determination. She was a unique and resourceful woman who was very intelligent and self-educated. She cared for her family and provided care for others when needed. Lillian loved spending time with her family and especially her two grandchildren Lauren and Hudson. Most recently, she was very proud of her great grandson, Monty Austin Smith, born to Lauren and Patrick in September of 2022.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert Leach Arterburn; parents, Bill & Emma Mitchell; one sister and four brothers: Evelyn Camp, Lloyd, John (Jackie), Ardis (Bo) and Bill Mitchell Sr. all of Gladewater.

She is survived by her three sons, Keith Lee Arterburn of Arlington, Kevin Louis Arterburn and wife Dee of Midlothian, TX and Kyle Len Arterburn and wife Kim of Justin, TX; two grandchildren, Lauren Arterburn Smith and Hudson Arterburn; one great grandson, Monty Smith. As well as several nieces and nephews, grand and great nieces, and nephews.

The family will have visitation on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Croley Funeral Home - Gladewater. Funeral services will follow beginning at 1 p.m.. The interment will be at Gladewater Memorial Park.



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Judge LaFleur to head up CEO-RTPO board

ETCOG recently announced new leadership for its Chief Elected Officials—Rural Transportation Planning Organization (CEO-RTPO) Board. At a recent meeting, the CEO-RTPO Board voted Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur as Chair, re-elected Camp County Judge AJ Mason as Vice Chair, and designated Judge Chad Sims to its Executive Committee.

The CEO-RTPO Board consists of the county judges from each of the 14 counties served by ETCOG, the Mayors of Longview and Tyler, and the three Texas Department of Transportation District Engineers that serve the ETCOG region. The Board serves a dual function of shared oversight of the region's workforce programs with the Workforce Solutions East Texas Board and working directly with TXDOT to ensure that transportation priorities are developed and solutions implemented for the region's rural communities.

"With deep admiration and respect for my colleagues, I express my sincere appreciation for their confidence in calling me to serve as Chairman of the Chief Elected Officials—Rural Transportation Planning Organization Board. I have such esteem for these county judicial and city leaders, who sacrificially serve the needs and interests of our East Texas. Together, as servants of the public's trust, we will continue to confront the challenges and seize the opportunities for the future of the 14 counties and cities within our region. With rich natural resources, the beauty of our lands, coupled with the values and strong work ethic of our people, East Texas sits in a strategic position to grow economically while maintaining the quality of life we all enjoy. As a son of Gregg County, God called me back to my East Texas roots after my service to our country through the U.S. Navy. Upon returning home to the piney woods, I had a burden in my heart to invest my life in serving my fellow East Texans. As I do that, I ask for the prayers of my colleagues and the people of East Texas," said Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur.

Judge LaFleur joined the board in 2018 and has served on its Executive Committee since 2021.

"I have worked with Judge LaFleur for many years and am looking forward to what he will bring to ETCOG," said Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt. "Our counties will only benefit from this next generation of leadership, direction, and integrity as he moves into this new position."

"I was honored to nominate Judge LaFleur to lead the CEO-RTPO Board," said Harrison County Judge Chad Sims. "Since he grew up in Gregg County and now lives and works in Marion County, he will be a thoughtful and supportive leader for all the counties represented by the Board."

"More than ever, we need leaders in East Texas that will work to benefit all areas. Growth together is much more important than a singular focus. Judge LaFleur will make a great chairman for our CEO-RTPO Board."

Dolle's request for more dollars fails to gain second

By Phillip Williams

A motion that would have been a step toward potentially increasing Upshur County elected officials' salaries died for lack of a second Thursday at a meeting of the county commissioners court.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle's motion was, in effect, to "publish any proposed salary or other allowance increases for elected officials and precinct officers."

Only a year after the court voted itself a \$5,000 pay raise proposed by County Judge Todd Tefteller, Dolle had proposed at a recent commissioners' meeting that the court give itself another raise. Last Thursday, his unsuccessful

motion was that elected officials would be included in any raises for persons on the county payroll because "they work hard for this county."

Commissioners have been discussing raising county employees' salaries in the forthcoming 2023-24 fiscal year budget.

Law requires the court publish proposed raises for certain officials—including commissioners—before the court can approve them.

Neither Tefteller, nor Commissioners Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Dustin Nicholson, would second Dolle's motion.

Grant funds may fund brownfields assessment of old laundromat

A Gladewater 'brownfields' property may eventually get new life after some much-needed TLC.

A chance meeting last year for Gladewater Economic Development Corporation's Michelle Palmer created a new link with the East Texas Council of Governments and, by extension, the Environmental Protection Agency and some grant funds it's working to distribute.

The EPA recently announced it has selected ETCOG to lead a Brownfields Assessment Coalition for funding that through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Up to \$1 million in grant funding is on the table for the coalition. They'll be used to conduct environmental site assessments and community outreach activities to continue development of a brownfields site inventory.

According to a program overview, "A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."

Assessments are being discussed throughout ETCOG's 14-county region, focusing on census tracts in Longview, Marshall, Kilgore and Gladewater.

"EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites."

Gladewater's involvement in the effort began at a related workshop in Nacogdoches in Fall 2022.

"One of the greatest things about going to workshops is the network connections," Palmer said. "Through going to the workshop, I met somebody that connected me with a person at ETCOG who was applying for this EPA grant."

"I got an exclusive meeting because of that network connection. I also got information that I didn't have before to be able to get involved in this grant."

Priority sites in consideration range from the former Stroh's Brewery to a gas station, convenience store and an old school. The Kilgore College Quads complex is on the list along with the former Texas and Pacific Hospital and an 8.3-acre oil extraction site.

"Gladewater, like many cities in Texas, has multiple sites that may be considered brownfield," Palmer noted. "For the grant, they're looking for specific types of sites that may show the need for an award—one they wanted to show the need of is an old dry cleaner, which is something that Gladewater has."

The local property in the spotlight is a former laundromat at

705 W. Upshur Ave. The expectation is the site will be designated brownfield due to past contamination from the chemicals necessary for the operation.

According to public records, the 0.24-acre site at the corner of West Upshur Avenue and Wood Street is approximately 10,500 square feet including almost 3,600 under-roof.

"This is all just for the assessment of these places," Palmer added. "There's no remediation available through the grant at this point. It goes in stages—this is a Stage 1 grant."

"Once we get this done, there will be an option to apply for grants for remediation. It is a lengthy process, as most grants are."

More information will be coming in the weeks ahead once the various parties have an opportunity to coordinate their efforts.

"They're looking to get all of the stakeholders together sometime in August. That meeting has yet to be set," Palmer said. "We will know at that point how much of the \$1 million award we have actually received as a coalition."



TYLER – TxDOT is planning to conduct the following construction and maintenance work in the district during the coming week. Work schedules are subject to change due to weather conditions, equipment failure, or other unforeseen issues.

US 80 - Gladewater

Limits: SH 300 east to Locker Plant Road in Gladewater
Contractor: East Texas Bridge/Cost: \$12.6 million
Anticipated Completion Date: November 2023

This project consists of milling and inlaying main lanes of travel, as well as striping. There will be daytime lane closures. Motorists should expect delays.

FM 2206/Harrison Road

Limits: Fisher Rd. to SH 42
Contractor: East Texas Bridge, Inc./Cost: \$14.15 million
Anticipated Completion Date: August 2023

This project consists of widening a two-lane road to four lanes with a center turn lane. This includes drainage structures, new bridge, flexible base, hot mix, and pavement markings. Contractor will be extending culverts and constructing detours. There will be daytime lane closures. Expect delays.

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 - 6 out on the Gulf 7 mailed a letter
 - 8 network of old soap opera "Dallas"
 - 9 gun rights grp.
 - 12 TXism: "drawing _____ on it"
 - 17 "Texas" is an _____ drama in Palo Duro Canyon
 - 19 whooping _____ migrate to Texas in November
 - 21 church tower, spire
 - 22 TXism: "gone _____" (deteriorated)
 - 23 1952 "Viva _____!" was filmed in Texas
 - 28 rod and _____
 - 29 NPR FM station in Commerce
 - 30 wheeler-dealer
 - 31 TX Charley's "All _____ to Offer You (Is Me)"
 - 35 late Texas "Lemon Tree" singer, Lopez
 - 36 TXism: "nervous as _____ cat in a room full of rocking chairs"
 - 42 TX Roy Orbison group: "_____ Wilburys"
 - 44 apple drink, e.g.
 - 46 old AstroWorld ride: "Batman _____"

- 48 airplane garage
- 49 state to the NE
- 50 Midland news/talk AM station
- 51 TXism: "a day late _____ dollar short"
- 52 horse morsel
- 53 Texas flag has a lone _____
- 54 Sam Houston's 2nd wife, Rogers
- 56 stat for a Ranger or Astro hitter
- 57 this Desmond represented the Rangers at the 2016 All-Star Game dir. from Grapeland to Nacogdoches

- DOWN**
- 1 tributary of the Frio, a tributary of the Nueces (2 wds.)
 - 2 "it's not whether you win or _____ how you play the game"
 - 3 in Cooke County on U.S. 82
 - 4 "I smell _____"
 - 9 TXism for "no"
 - 10 Coleman was founded on one (2 wds.)

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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See Answers On This Page

Literacy program seeks funding

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court last Thursday heard the director of the Upshur County Literacy Program request that the county resume helping fund the agency.

Carolyn Williams detailed the Gilmer-based program's activities, which include adult basic education and helping individuals who didn't graduate from high school obtain a GED (high school equivalency diploma.)

The program can also contact school districts for help with dyslexic students, she noted. All services are free of charge.

County Judge Todd Tefteller said the court hasn't provided funding to the program since 2014, and Williams said she was requesting no specific amount, but that \$1,500 would be good.

The court took no immediate action on her request although Tefteller told Williams, "We all support what you're doing." Commissioners are in the process of formulating the county budget for the coming 2023-24 fiscal year.

The literacy program serves persons who are at least age 16, and in the last two years, has served more "underage" (below age 25) students than before, Williams said. "The trend is... more and more of these underage students," she added.

Pupils include school dropouts, but nine of 17 current students seeking a GED are under court order to do so, the director added. Truancy is one reason for such an order, she noted.

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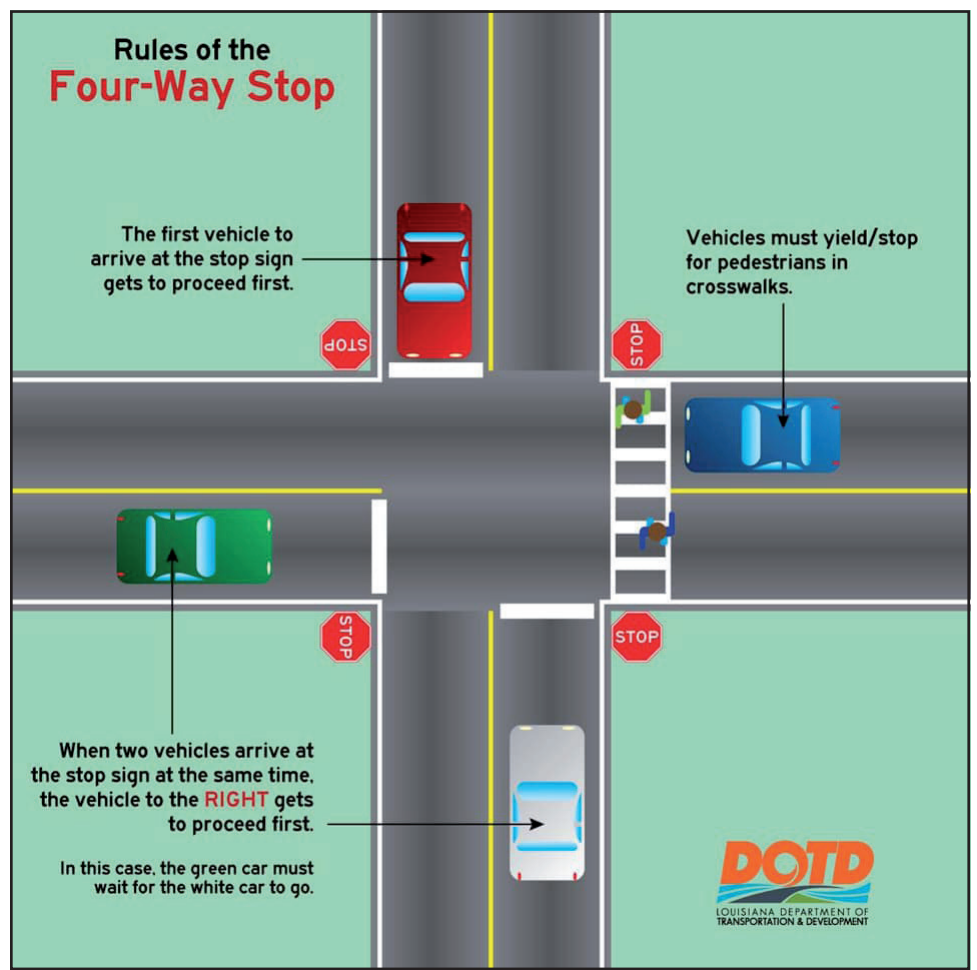
We'll get through this...

East Texas recovers after hurricane-like storm

Continued from Page 1
 "It took out the whole thing. It's a total loss."
 Kates' estimate may not be far off – the National Weather Service on Saturday confirmed top recorded winds of 80 mph at East Texas Regional Airport. Gladewater's were strong enough to uproot a Stop sign from its concrete anchor.
 "It's a mess, huh?" Rena Lincoln said Friday morning, hands on her hips as she took in a partially fallen tree hanging over N. Ferry St.
 A loose branch bumping against a power line caused sparks, smoke and a bit of fire on Ferry. It drew a pair of GFD firefighters who blocked the road as a gaggle of neighborhood kids gawked at the scene.
 "Man, it was terrible,"

Shandra Godlock said, keeping an eye on the line. "I heard the wind roaring. The rain was coming down hard."
 Clean-up efforts quickly evolved into focusing on ways to keep cool without power for air conditioning. The Lee-Bardwell Public Library was one of numerous facilities throughout East Texas that opened its doors as a cooling station for locals.
 Likewise, in Clarksville City, "We are opening our fire station to the community during the power outages to come by and charge their phones, relax in the A/C, and take a shower."
 URECC expressed gratitude to locals for their support of linemen and staffers.
 "It has always been humbling and inspiring to see

the number of East Texans that open their hearts to help others in extreme situations. This post storm devastating outage has been no exception."
 Meanwhile, Gladewater Firefighters and Gregg County Trustees pitched in to help distribute A/C units to Truman W. Smith Center, just one example of people lending a hand in the midst of the crisis.
 "We are also grateful to all our customers for their continued patience and support," SWEPCO noted in a Father's Day shoutout to its workers via social media. "We know a power outage is never part of your plans. Rest assured our crews are on the job, working to safely clear hazards, rebuild infrastructure, and restore power."



Remember the rules of the four-way stop. When traffic signals are out, treat the intersection as a four-way stop. When all signals are flashing red, treat the intersection as a four-way stop. When signals on one one road are flashing yellow and the signals on the other are flashing red, yellow may proceed with caution while red stops and gives yellow the right of way.

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ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of White Oak, Texas will receive bids for George Richey Road TxDOT Utility Relocations. Bids will be received until 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at White Oak City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Road; White Oak, TX 75693. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at White Oak City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693. Bids received after 10:00 AM will be returned, unopened.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702, and at City of White Oak, 906 S. White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693.

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS may be examined without charge at White Oak City Hall. Bid forms and plans may be examined or obtained at the office of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S. Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, Texas 75702. One copy of each set of documents may be obtained from Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., upon payment of \$80.00. No refunds will be made. Plans can also be found online at www.isqft.com or www.civcastusa.com.

A Bidder's Bond, Certified or Cashier's Check in an amount not less than (5%) of the total bid shall accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into contract with the City of White Oak, Texas.

This project will include approximately 7,540 LF of 18" AWWA C-905 DR 18 PC 235 Water Main, 7 EA 18" Butterfly Valves, 15 Fire Hydrants, 5,036 LF of 10" ASTM D2241 PR 160 SDR 26 PVC sewer line, 18 man-holes, and other miscellaneous items of construction.

The project is to be substantially complete within 150 calendar days from the notice to proceed and shall be fully complete within 180 calendar days from the notice to proceed. Liquidated damages of \$300.00 per day shall be assessed for any days in which contract time is exceeded.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The City of White Oak reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Notice of Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit

East Texas Salt Water Disposal Company, 1209 Industrial Blvd., Kilgore, Texas 75662 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Woodbine, Wilson-Abney Lease, Well Number 2. The proposed injection well is located 4.4 miles north of White Oak, in the East Texas Field, in Upshur County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3635 to 3802 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

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Bankruptcy Sale – Bid Deadline July 18. Entitled 49± AC Multifamily Development Site, potential for 595 units with retail, 1001 FM 969, Bastrop, TX. Potential for either 426 duplex units or 214 duplex units & 380-unit apt complex. Entitlements completed & partial infrastructure in place. Hilco Real Estate Sales, 855-755-2300.

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EVENTS

Bluegrass on Ballad, Wylie, TX, Sat., June 24, Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard Ave. Free event. Car Show 4-9 p.m., Arts & Crafts 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Music 1-9 p.m. Pre-register for car show at DiscoverWylie.com. More info for arts and crafts vendors at WylieTexas.gov.

NARO – National Association of Royalty Owners Convention, July 26-29, San Antonio, Learn How To Better Manage Your Minerals. Over 19 sessions: 'Mineral Law 101', 'How To Read Surveys & Plats', 'Property Transfers & Estate Planning', 'Operators: Friends or Enemies?' Register online: WWW.NARO-US.ORG/EVENT-5151387. Call to register: (918) 794-1660.

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Dozens of Gladewater community members parade down Main Street to gather at Bumblebee Park June 17 to celebrate the annual Juneteenth holiday, June 19, the day in 1866 that Major General Gordon Granger ordered slaves be finally freed in Texas, two-and-a-half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. In addition to the annual parade, Saturday's festivities included a free meal for all comers and proclamations by local and state officials as well as remembrances about the meaning of the holiday. Read more at GladewaterMirror.com



Photos by James Draper

City stresses streets at packed town hall meeting

Continued from Page 1

gested safety improvements at the Red Rock community onto Rodeo.

"We need a crosswalk," she insisted. "That's a dangerous little spot right there, those kids trying to go to the high school."

Helmed by Code Enforcement Officer Maria Tidwell, the City of Gladewater effort will begin with an application for funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to cover the development of a safe streets strategy. There's \$1 billion being allocated annually nationwide for five years with four more ahead.

"We're going to ask for \$250,000 just for our action plan," Tidwell told the audience June 13. Acting as host for the town hall, she noted in-kind contributions (i.e. by tracking how much of paid city employees' time goes into the project) will be earmarked for the city's 20 percent portion of the matching grant. "When we do the implementation, more than likely we'll ask for \$1 million-plus.

"Last year, they awarded \$800 million. They didn't get to the \$1 billion because they didn't have enough applications."

An integral part of the grant application is to collect input from the community, Mayor Scott Owens told the crowd early on.

Tidwell's draft plan already details ideas for the installation of sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks and improved signage. Target areas include:

- 0.8 miles of sidewalks from the ball park to Main Street and E. Pacific Drive
- 0.7 sidewalk-miles from E. Pacific to Weldon Elementary

tary

- Sidewalks from Gladewater Middle School to S. Main Street and Tyler Street (0.6 miles)
- 1.7 miles of sidewalks from Gay Avenue Primary School to Gladewater High School
- Connecting Everett Park to Gay and Broadway Avenue with 0.8 sidewalk-miles.
- Improving Main Street sidewalks, including new overhead lighting and the addition of various flashing LED beacons
- Adding bike lanes where appropriate, especially downtown
- Installing LED Stop and warning signs at various intersections
- Integrating more flashing beacons, enhanced signage and radar speed signs at school zones

Sidewalks tied to schools top Tidwell's priority list along with improvements to downtown crosswalks. Both hit the bullseye of the federal funds' target, directly improving pedestrian safety on public streets.

"I think that's our main focus, is for our children, our kids, to make sure all our schools have good crosswalks," she said. In time, "We would like to link everything together."

Naturally, comments from the 40-plus attendees ran the gamut.

"Does that money include street lights? We really need some street lights," Gail Cockerell suggested.

A number of suggestions would have to be passed on to the Texas Department of Transportation, which has authority over main routes like Hwy. 80 and 271.

It was a frustrating reality for Wayne Scott.

"If you have a real issue with the state, file that issue with the state, but don't make people suffer in the meantime," he said. "The city has the power to put pressure on that. Fix the pothole and we'll all sue the state if we have to. The state doesn't care whether you fix that pothole or not. I don't want to hear that story anymore. I'm sick of it."

Stacy Price suggested investing the federal funds in sensors and signage that would alert drivers about other vehicles coming around blind corners.

For Michelle Price, sidewalks are a necessity for the Red Rock area.

"I take pride in my community," she said. "We want sidewalks in our community because it is a community where we are family, and we walk the streets.

"We pick up the trash. We do the potholes. We want sidewalks."

Regarding Phillip Springs Road, several speakers suggested a speed limit change, the addition of speed bumps, trimming vegetation for visibility, adding signage and other fixers.

"We'll definitely look and see," Tidwell replied. "That might be something we can just do ourselves."

The public meeting, at times standing room-only, was a full-hour of commentary, too much to reprint here. In the end, some suggestions will end up informing the grant application process and ensuing Action Plan while others will be better placed on ongoing task lists at city hall.

If the city is successful in its application, Tidwell said, the key suggestions will determine what happens in years ahead.

First, though, "This money will pay for a consultant – we want to tell him what we think."

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