

Gladewater Mirror

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1 Section, 10 pages

50¢

White Oak seeking water rate increase

By James Draper

Water treatment costs are "skyrocketing," the pipeline that provides White Oak's water isn't getting any younger and regular repairs aren't getting any cheaper.

City officials are grappling with their second water rate increase this year, and there was an air of gloom in City Hall as council members faced a packed house July 7. However, city Coordinator Jimmy Purcell's blunt description of the challenges ahead for White Oak's water service soon led to a healthy back-and-forth with community members.

There's no definite solution yet, and no action was taken at Friday's meeting – the dialogue will continue as council members, city employees and residents wrangle the best solution they can muster given the circumstances.

"The city has never been there to increase rates on anything. Period. That's not what we really are here for," Purcell insisted. "That is something that has to be done, and that is the bad part of this job."

"We have to see where we are at and then look at our future of where we want to be."

For years, he added, elected officials have kept rates as low as possible. Costs everywhere are rising from inflation, however, and even an expert's proposed water rate increase only puts the city at a break-even point.

"We all want to make sure that we hear what you have to say, your concerns, but also look at what we're presenting to know this is why we're doing this, this is why we have to raise the rates."

Since 1936, White Oak's water has come from Big Sandy Creek 16 miles away, piggybacking on a line that serves Longview. The smaller town compensates its neighbor to

Continued on Page 10



Area residents shared their patriotism with their neighbors at Lake Gladewater last week (July 3rd) for the annual chamber fireworks display sponsored by Equipment Share and boat parade. See more photos at the *Gladewater Mirror* Facebook Page.

Fireworks mishap leaves 1 dead, 4 hurt

By Phillip Williams

A popular retired veteran East Texas fireman was killed, and four persons injured, in an accidental explosion of fireworks and blaze at his rural Upshur County event center on Independence Day Tuesday, July 4.

Killed was Jared Scott (Mutley) Maddox, 58, of Gilmer, who began his career as a Gilmer volunteer firefighter before a 28-year stint with the Longview Fire Department. He had attended Union Grove High School.

Maddox was pronounced dead at the scene by Upshur County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes, who ordered an autopsy.

Upshur County Sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel said Friday he couldn't release names of the injured due to the federal HIPPA medical privacy law, but that nobody suffered life-threatening injuries "to my knowledge."

Maddox and all the injured were preparing at his business, Firehouse 9 Farm and Event Center, for a professional fireworks display that night in Kilgore. The city canceled the show after the accident, Taylor said.

Numerous area fire departments battled the blaze, reported that morning.

Dozens of firefighters from numerous area fire departments gathered at the First Baptist Church in Gilmer for Maddox's funeral Saturday morning. Fire engines filled the downtown area and the body was loaded onto a Gilmer fire truck as part of a funeral procession that included the area fire vehicles.

A medical helicopter also flew overhead in tribute. Maddox's obituary said he served with the Gilmer Fire Department after his 2016 retirement from the Longview FD, and that he and his family had begun the Firehouse 9 firm in 2012.

The state fire marshal's office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated the accident. In a press release, Hazel quoted ATF Agent Kevin Mack as saying the five persons killed or injured had nearly completed approximately 300 three-inch firework shells when the incident occurred.

"Evidence and witness statements indicate that the electric match that feeds a shell caused

Continued on Page 3

City Hall lays groundwork for FY-2024

By James Draper

First things first: Gladewater's city manager doesn't anticipate an increase in the city's tax rate for the coming fiscal year.

A year into the job here (after 24 years in similar civic roles) Charlie Smith gave council members a bird's-eye view of the community's financial forecast July 6 in the first budget workshop for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. There's a lot to do and not enough funding for everything; city staffers aim to do the best they can with what they have.

"I think that everybody has gotten their taxes already from the county. I know there was quite an increase there," Smith said later. "We don't have any hard numbers yet for me to take a look at."

That said, "I don't think they're going to see any major change from us." After summertime prep, budget adoption for the city usually comes in

September. Fiscal years here run Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

"This is going to be different from the way you've done it before," Smith told the council. He gave them a heads-up around the time he started on the job as city manager July 11 last year: "When we come into the new budget, we're going to start doing some new line item stuff. I want it broken down."

Having departmental details early helps position the council for decision-making once accurate revenue projections arrive.

For council member Brandy Flanagan, "The cry of the city is, can we please get everything that we already have running its best and then take care and move forward with other things? We can't sit here and build for all this stuff coming if we can't take care of what we already have."

Smith isn't anticipating a significant amount of expenditures in the com-

Continued on Page 10

Former Lion roars down the track

By Kimberly Smith

Jacob McNeal grew up watching his family drag race: his mother and father, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles.

He wanted nothing more than to become a race car driver, like his entire family before him.

But he didn't just want to drive.

He wanted to win.

"I always wanted to be the fastest there ever was," McNeal said. "I'd race anyone at anything, whether it was a foot race or driving my dad's lawn mower."

Instead of watching cartoons like other children, McNeal watched drag racing. His whole life centered on racing.

"All I had to talk about was racing," McNeal said. "That Ricky Bobby movie 'Talladega Nights' was basically me but in drag racing. I didn't steal my mom's car, but, if I could have, I probably would have to go race it somewhere."

He drove his first drag race in a one-cylinder junior dragster at nine years old. And he won. As a teen, he moved into a full-scale rear-engine dragster and won a Race of Champions Wally, drag racing's most

Continued on Page 8





OPINION/COMMENTARY

Not a garden party...

When you break your fairly new computer it sure ain't a garden party. More like "Dumb and Dumber"...I could play both parts in that ridiculous movie I have never seen. One thing I know for sure is that stupidity, at least my brand of it, is expensive. As in flat-pocket expensive.

Ever the multi-tasker I was working on my computer and answering an office phone call when I knocked over a glass of tea that short circuited my one year and four month old MacAir laptop computer ending its young and productive life.

That \$2,000 glass of tea is one mistake I will NOT be repeating. AND, this go round the \$260 Apple Care insurance for my new laptop looks like an excellent bargain.

Now here is the rub...we can't set the new computer up because I can't remember my Apple ID which is locked and inaccessible for several days before I can reset it. Have I told you lately how much I HATE technology?...at least when it comes to expense in money, time and my darlin' hubby's limited patience in the delay to activate the new computer.

I am paying to have my old hard drive salvaged. Please put that on your prayer list because naturally I hadn't backed up all that important info in, oh, say, a year. Plus the stuff I needed for this week's papers resides somewhere within the corroded circuits.

Indeed, dumb and dumber.

And fellow mid-lifers don't you just hate going to Best Buy, the Apple store or to buy a smartphone and those smart aleck, millennial geeks who work there are smirking at your attempts to purchase the right computer or phone for poor, old decrepit you?

Maybe AARP needs to come up with a dedicated computer model for Baby Boomers as they did with the geriatric cell phone which we smirkingly bought for our parents in their 80s and 90s. Dang, now that I recall my own smirk, I owe that Geek Squad kid at Best Buy an apology.

House Democrats' tax plan would help renters

Texas House Democrats unveiled a \$20.9 billion plan for property tax relief that drops tax rates, increases the homestead exemption, gives annual rebates to renters, and includes pay raises for teachers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The newest proposal comes as the Legislature continues wrangling over the issue in the second special session this year.

The bill, proposed by Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, is a combination of previous proposals with the added wrinkle of providing benefits for renters, who do not directly pay property taxes. The proposal also would raise the state's per-student funding to public schools by \$1,000 and give a permanent annual raise of \$4,300 for teachers.

"Our effort is one that recognizes that you can't talk about property taxes without talking about public education," Bryant said of his proposal to raise the state's basic allotment for school funding by \$1,000.

The Senate has already passed a proposal to increase the homestead exemption to \$100,000 and give a \$2,000 pay hike for teachers in urban districts and a \$6,000 increase to teachers in rural districts over the next two years.

Paxton won't testify at impeachment trial

Attorney General Ken Paxton won't testify at his upcoming impeachment trial in the Senate, according to his lead defense attorney, Tony Buzbee.

"We will not bow to their evil, illegal, and unprecedented weaponization of state power in the Senate chamber," Buzbee said. The Senate could still try to force Paxton to testify, but Buzbee's statement makes it apparent the defense would fight those efforts, the Statesman reported.

The House impeached Paxton in late May on 20 counts of misusing his office and other alleged crimes. He was immediately suspended from office pending the trial, which is set for Sept. 5. The rules adopted by the Senate give Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick as presiding officer the "power to compel the attendance of witnesses."

Paxton was indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015. In 2020, several whistleblowers in his office claimed he had abused his powers to assist Austin developer Nate Paul, who was charged in June with eight felony counts of making false statements to lenders.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



The AARP computer would have a screen the size of an old drive-in movie theater and process at the speed of light. And while they are at it 'they' need to create a Help Desk that speaks impatient Baby Boomer. Yeah, yeah, Mac says it does, but if I can't figure out the solution in two minutes or less I am done. I need someone to TALK me through it NOT a long list of 'Help Desk' instructions that Dumb and Dumber here can't decipher...which actually translates to: I don't have the patience to wade through to completion. Just give me a great big red SOLUTION button for me to push NOW. (MY typical 'solution button' is named Jim Bardwell and when working on computers he does sometimes turn red.)

The laptop I am typing on is my worn out teacher model with a short which requires me to hold the screen and my mouth just right to type. Serves me right. Repentance occurred with my MacAir's death certificate, penance is occurring as I type this on my ancient, by computer standards, MacPro. When I am not repenting from cursing my laptop, I am praying to find solutions. I don't know if that means this situation is good for my spiritual growth or not.

The moral of this tale is: ALWAYS keep a lid on drinks, keep them well away from your computer, ALWAYS buy the computer protection plan AND appreciate the fact that your boss/hubby says patiently "these things happen" when you kill a \$1,700 computer and then overlook his meltdown when you can't remember your Apple ID to access your new computer for the newspaper deadline.

Apple...hmmmm...wasn't that the first problem in the Garden of Eden?

That sounds about right.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



TxDOT seeks input on \$100 billion plan

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking public input on a proposed 10-year, \$100 billion transportation plan. The Unified Transportation Plan for 2024 is the agency's road map to developing projects across the state.

"It's important to work with our transportation partners and hear from the public to guide transportation improvements that address congestion and enhance safety," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said.

Projects included in the plan seek to ease congestion and improve connectivity. They address all types of transportation, including aviation, rail, freight, maritime and public transportation. The public comment period ends on Aug. 7. To weigh in, go to txdot.gov and click on the public input link.

State gets \$60 million from feds for grid

The federal government is providing \$60.6 million to the Texas Division of Emergency Management to help utilities strengthen the state's power grid, the Texas Tribune reported. The grant program is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in late 2021.

"These grants will help modernize the electric grid to reduce impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters while enhancing power sector reliability," U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said in a statement.

State emergency officials will decide how to use the money. Possibilities include improving how power-producing equipment performs in extreme heat or cold, or trimming trees near power lines.

Since Winter Storm Uri caused widespread outages in 2021, other storms have also caused power crises. An ice storm in late January and early February sent tree limbs crashing into power lines, particularly in Austin. In June, severe storms swept through East Texas, again knocking out power lines.

A total of \$2.3 billion will be distributed by the Department of Energy across the nation to address power grid reliability issues.

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

People ...

Texas reached a notable milestone according to the latest release of US Census Bureau population data – the Lone Star State's Hispanic racial/ethnic group is now the largest. According to the July 2022 estimates, Hispanics comprise 40.2% of the population, while the second largest group (non-Hispanic white) is 39.8%. The state is also adding almost 1,300 people a day. That's more than my hometown had when I was growing up (or at least having my first 18 birthdays).



Note that Hispanics can be of any race (or multiple races), and 59.8% of the state's population is counted as not Hispanic. The Black or African American (but not Hispanic) population is now 12.5% of the total, a share which has been slowly increasing. The Asian group has also increased modestly to 5.5%.

Other Census data released relates to the percent of the population 18 and older and median age. Texas is second only to Utah in the youth of its population. In the United States, 21.7% of the population is younger than 18. In Utah, the share is 27.6%, and in Texas, it's 24.8%. Other states with high proportions of youth include Nebraska, Alaska, South Dakota, Idaho, and Oklahoma. At the other end of the spectrum are many of the New England states, with Vermont having only 17.7% young people.

There you have it! A large and well-trained workforce is the currency for long-term economic expansion, and Texas has young people in abundance.

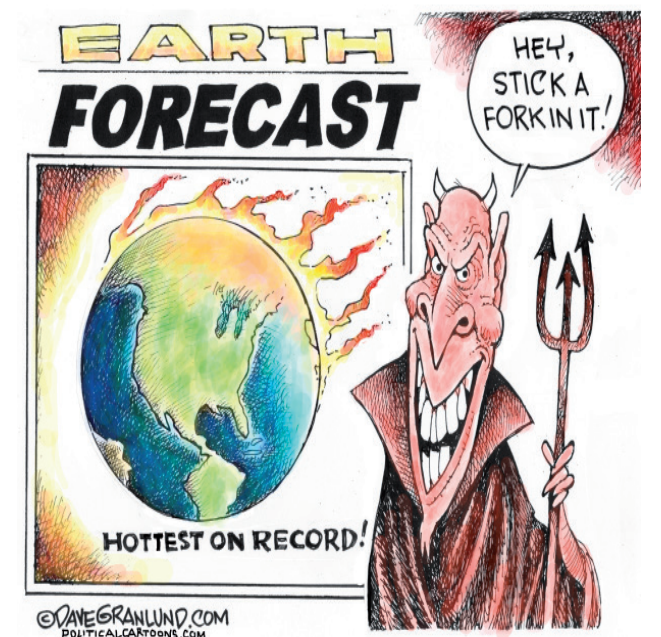
The key to success is, thus, ensuring adequate investment in education for the state's greatest resource – its young people. While many areas struggle with aging populations and a lack of workers, Texas will be in a much stronger position. However, preparation for the jobs of the future is imperative, from both individual and societal perspectives.

As with all areas, Texas students lost ground during the pandemic. While faring better than most in terms of the setback, there is much work to be done and resources are crucial. Supporting schools is an investment in the future for all of us.

Access to opportunities beyond high school will also be critical, as will affordability. One factor is that the Hispanic share of total wealth in Texas is notably smaller than the group's proportion of population. Although the situation is improving, I estimate that Hispanics hold about 9-10% of wealth compared to a share of population of over 40% (and well above 50% of the school-aged group, a percentage that is rapidly expanding). Assuring access and educational excellence is essential.

Texas is well positioned for the future with a large and expanding group of young people compared to many areas. If they become a world-class workforce, the sky's the limit! Stay safe!

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



THE RESPONSE TO PREACHING JESUS

In the eighth chapter of Acts we have two occasions where Jesus was preached. Acts 8: 5 says: "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them." In verse 35 this same Philip preached to a man of Ethiopia: "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." What was the response in both cases? Of the Samaritans it is said: "When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (v. 12). When the Ethiopian eunuch heard Jesus preached, he asked: "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" (v. 36). Upon the confession of his faith in Jesus Christ he was baptized (vs. 37-39). In both instances the response was the same. Both the Samaritans, and the Ethiopian eunuch, when they believed, were baptized. Remember that Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16: 16).

Have you ever wondered, when Jesus was preached, and people believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God they were told to be baptized? Since, in the Bible, when Jesus is preached, people who believed were baptized, why is it, that today people are told that all they have to do to be saved is believe, and they don't have to be baptized? If you preach "Jesus," or "preach Christ," or "preach the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" you will preach that people must be baptized. The reason this is true is because Jesus said so (Mk. 16: 16). Remember that Jesus asked: "And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Lk. 6: 46). Have you been baptized? Please read carefully Acts 2: 38; 22: 16; 18:8; 1 Pet. 3: 21. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

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Telephone: 903-845-2235

Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

Owners:

Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell
Reporting: James Draper
Advertising: Darla Ferguson
Office Manager: Tiffany Hobbs

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.



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.

County library hosts 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 (July 13.)

To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings are "Strictly No Elephants" by Lisa Mantchev, and "Elmer's Friends" by David McKee, said library spokeswoman Kari Dunn.

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

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.

Summer Shoe drive underway

The Darla's Angels charity outreach is kicking off a Christmas in July effort this weekend – the 2023 Summertime Shoe Drive is looking for locals who are ready to step up for students.

Throughout July, four businesses in Gladewater will be collecting donations of new pairs of shoes and socks for boys and girls in a variety of sizes. The four donation locations include Citizens Bank, the Gladewater Mirror, Penny's Food & Fuel and City National Bank.

Shoes sizes range from toddler through youth and adult. Socks will be greatly appreciated, says organizer Darla Ferguson.

For more information, contact Darla the Mirror at 903-845-2235.

Cowboy chuch VBS

Sit'em Down Cowboy Church will host a one day VBS for 4 years old through just finished 5th grade July 22. Registration is 8-9 a.m., VBS is 9 am-6 pm.

The event will be at 231 PR 3487, Big Sandy. Contact Kara Boyles at 903-736-1015 to pre-register over the phone or send questions. May leave a message with a return number.

The VBS is free of charge. Mid-morning snacks, lunch, and evening snacks will be provided. Additional waiver will be required by the guardian on the morning of the event..

Saharan dust brings hazy skies to state

Dust from Africa's Sahara Desert is once again sweeping across Texas, making for hazy skies, pretty sunsets and a reduced chance of tropical storms forming in the Atlantic, according to KXAN-TV.

The waves of dust are caused by thunderstorms kicking up dust from the desert and sending it several thousand feet in the air,

where easterly winds blow it across the ocean and, eventually, into the southern United States.

The dusty air plumes suppress tropical cyclone formation and also slow down the intensity of the storms that do form.

Texas Broadband Development Office seeks feedback

LONGVIEW — The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) is asking the public to attend a meeting regarding internet accessibility, affordability, and usage. The BDO, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, will accept feedback from this meeting to help develop the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan, which is required to draw down federal funding for connecting Texans to reliable, high-speed internet. The BDO expects to complete the plan this fall.

The public meeting will be held on August 1, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the University of Texas at Tyler, Longview University Center. The meeting will be in the lobby. The address is 3201 North Eastman Road, Longview.

They encourage you to register at bit.ly/TxBDO-PublicMeetings for the event.

Upshur GOP to host training seminar

The Republican Party of Texas will host a training seminar in Big Sandy for GOP election workers and potential Republican candidates Saturday.

Jennifer Hall, RPT organization director, will conduct the training at the Big Sandy Civic Center on Texas 155. Only charge is \$10 for a box lunch, which must be RSVP'd in advance, but is payable at the door.

The morning session from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. is for precinct chairmen, who make up most of the Upshur County GOP's executive committee, and training on filing candidate applications.

After lunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., the afternoon session of 1 p.m.-3 p.m. will be training for election judges, election clerks and poll watchers.

For more information, call Jackie Oliver, a precinct chairman, at 903-399-4385, said Upshur GOP Chairman Carl Byers.

Texas Drilling Permit and Completion Stats for June 2023

AUSTIN-The Railroad Commission of Texas issued a total of 781 original drilling permits in June 2023. The total includes 694 to drill new oil or gas wells, 8 to re-enter plugged wellbores and 70 for re-completions of existing wellbores.

The breakdown of well types for total original drilling permits in June 2023 is: 166 oil, 58 gas, 501 oil and gas, 38 injection, 1 for service and 17 other permits.

In June 2023, Commission staff processed 1,046 oil, 249 gas and 451 injection completions for new drills, re-entries and re-completions.

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

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



Weekly area projects

Gregg County 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.

FM 2206/Harrison Road

Limits: From Loop 281 to Fisher Rd. Contractor: East Texas Bridge, Inc./Cost: \$15.16 million Anticipated Completion Date: October 2023

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

US 259 Bypass in Kilgore

Limits: SH 31 to the Rusk County line Contractor: Madden Construction/Cost: \$4.5 million Anticipated Completion Date: July 2023

This project consists of milling and inlaying hot mix asphalt on all lanes and restriping. There will be alternating lane closures. Slow down and watch for workers. Expect delays.

US 259 North

Limits: FM 1844 to Upshur County line Contractor: Madden Construction/Cost: \$5.03 million Anticipated Completion Date: July 2023

This project consists of milling base repairs and overlaying hot mix asphalt on all lanes, and restriping. There will be alternating lane closures. Slow down and watch for workers. Expect delays.

WOISD board to meet Thursday

The White Oak ISD Board of Trustees will meet July 13 at 6 p.m. in the board room at the administraton building, 200 S White Oak Road to discuss the following:

- Recognitions/Presentations/Board discussion/Policy/Recommendations
- Campus Principals Report.
- Superintendent's Report
- Handbook Review
- Appraisal Calendar
- SSSC
- Compensation Plan Review
- Transfer Update
- Resolution Region 7 ESC . (ACTION ITEM)
- Presentation: State Certified Property Values & Tax law firm solutions.
- Budget Review
- STAAR overview
- Discussion of Fuel/Tank bids.
- Financial matters
- Cash & Investment Report

- Budget Comparisons
- Tax Collection Reports
- Budget Amendments (ACTION ITEM)
- Minutes from previous meeting (ACTION ITEM)
- Personnel matters
- Hiring (ACTION ITEM)
- Resignations
- Closed Session
- Adjournment

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E. Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting.

All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting.



Six Gladewater High School Choir members brought home gold and silver medals from the Texas State Solo & Ensemble contest in Pflugerville in late-May. The Gladewater High School state solo and ensemble participants, under the direction of Darren Richardson, include new senior Morgan Perez (First Division), recent graduate Khristian Joliff (2nd Division), incoming seniors Johnnay Hawley (2nd) and Caiya Harris (3rd Division) as well as new juniors Logan McKnight (2nd) and Samyra Williams (2nd).

Courtesy photo

Fireworks mishap leaves 1 dead, 4 hurt

Continued from Page 1

the explosion," he wrote. On Friday, Hazel added that a female had inserted the electric match, which he said was like an "igniter," into a canister, and the resultant spark caused the explosion.

Taylor said either a defect, human error or static electricity could have caused the accident. "From what I understand, they (the victims) were all inside the building," he added.

Emergency personnel responded to the scene at 4101 Locust Road near Gilmer about 10:33 a.m., the chief

deputy added.

Taylor said Gilmer firefighters remained at the scene until 4:14 p.m. after departing the fire station at 10:34 a.m. Fire trucks returned several times to a water hydrant in front of Robroy Industries in Gilmer to fill the tanks on the vehicles, he added.

Taylor said the majority of the fireworks had exploded by the time firefighters arrived at the blaze, and that all major explosions had ended.

Saying the 100' x 300' metal building, whose inner portion was destroyed, was like an oven, Taylor

explained that firefighters couldn't do an interior attack on the blaze due to the extreme heat.

"We had to cut some holes in the side of the bulding" and in overhead doors which had collapsed and were too hot to remove by hand, he added.

Taylor worked with Maddox at both the Longview and Gilmer departments and said, "We're gonna miss him."

He said the veteran firefighter was "well-liked by everybody. He would do anything in the world for you."

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OBITUARY

MILDRED LOUISE BECK CAUSEY

Mildred Louise Beck Causey, age 94, passed away peacefully Thursday July 6, 2023, at Legend Oaks Nursing Home. She was born in Big Spring, TX to Jessie Samuel and Mamie Beck and was the oldest of eight children.

She was a long-time member of Gladewater's North Loop Church of Christ and was retired from U.T. Health Northeast. Louise is survived by her four children, Wesley Causey of Gladewater, Juanita Vader and husband Dennis of Bullard, Elizabeth Bryant and husband Paul of Gladewater and Mervin Causey and wife Carol of Euless. She was "Nana" to four grandchildren: Shannon Bryant, Amy Tatum, Janette Myers, and Wesley Causey Jr., six great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She is also survived by brothers, Homer Beck of Pine Tree, and Edward Beck of Rison, Arkansas. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Henry Beck and J.D. Beck and sisters Dorothy Arndt, Yvonne Dixon and Fay Hearne.

Special thanks to the staff of Legend Oaks. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10AM at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater. Burial followed at Union Grove Cemetery. Visitation was held on Monday, July 10, 2023, at Croley Funeral Home.



Special thanks to the staff of Legend Oaks. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10AM at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater. Burial followed at Union Grove Cemetery. Visitation was held on Monday, July 10, 2023, at Croley Funeral Home.



GEDCO property included in ETCOG's \$1M Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant to Foster Environmental and Economic Revitalization

The East Texas Council of Governments was recently awarded a Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant of \$1 million from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This grant will allow ETCOG to lead environmental site assessments and re-use planning throughout the region. With a primary focus on Longview, Marshall, Kilgore, and Gladewater, this funding aims to revitalize and re-envision contaminated properties, fostering sustainable redevelopment across the 14-county ETCOG region.

The EPA's Brownfields Program plays a crucial role in facilitating collaboration among states, communities, and stakeholders to prevent, assess, remediate, and sustainably repurpose brownfield sites. These sites, characterized by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, often pose challenges to expansion, redevelopment, and reuse. With this grant, ETCOG will help in addressing these challenges through environmental remediation and planning while creating opportunities for future growth.

"We are excited to receive this grant because it will be used to revitalize and repurpose land and related buildings throughout our region that currently, for whatever reason, cannot be used for productive purposes," said ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland. "Within this context, this Brownfields grant is both an environmental and economic development revitalization tool."

The grant funds will support the assessment of approximately 31 sites in East Texas. The Brownfield Coalition has identified more than 100 sites to consider, including the former Stroh's Brewery Right of Way in Longview (4.9 acres), a former gas station and convenience store in Longview, a former dry cleaner in Gladewater, the former M.W. Dogan School in Tyler (6 acres), the former Texas and Pacific Hospital in Marshall (7.7 acres), a former oil extraction site in Gladewater (8.3 acres), and a student housing complex known as The Quads in Kilgore (7.9 acres).

In anticipation of the project's launch, a Brownfields Coalition meeting will take place in August, and the Brownfields Advisory Committee will meet in September with key stakeholders, including the Kilgore College Foundation, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation, Marshall Economic Development Corporation, Henderson Economic Development Corporation, East Texas Regional Development Corporation, the City of Longview, the City of

Rusk, Longview Community Ministries, East Texas Baptist University, Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity, and the City of Marshall.

To encourage local involvement, ETCOG plans to host public input forums beginning this fall, educating the public about initiatives and receiving feedback from the community for potential site locations. Through comprehensive investigations and community engagement, ETCOG is dedicated to transforming brownfield sites into safe, productive, and sustainable assets to benefit residents and contribute to the region's economic growth.

Federal Funding to address digital divide

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said today his Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) was allocated \$3.3 billion in federal funding for broadband expansion. The funds, provided by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, are part of the national \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

This historic investment, announced recently by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), will finance critical infrastructure projects across the state to increase access to reliable, high-speed internet and help close the availability gap in Texas.

"Texas' share was the largest of any state. Historically, Texas has typically been a donor state, meaning our tax dollars would go to Washington and then get sent out to fund projects in other states," Hegar said. "It's good to see our hard-earned tax dollars coming back to Texas, and you can be certain that each of those dollars will be spent wisely."

Before BDO can begin implementing the \$3.3 billion in funding, it must submit a proposal to NTIA describing its BEAD-funded grant programs. This proposal will be directly informed by public feedback, which is why the BDO will continue engaging with communities across the state to ensure these funds have a meaningful impact.

Hegar expects BDO to begin accepting grant applications for the BEAD program in 2024.

"This funding exceeds the amounts allocated to any other state or territory because the challenge facing our state is unique," Hegar said. "Texas has a large population with a significant share of unserved areas spread over a vast and geographically diverse landscape. The bipartisan legislation that appropriated these funds recognized the importance of giving states the flexibility to meet the needs of their unique populations. I am encouraged that NTIA recognizes the challenges we face in Texas. And I hope as NTIA evaluates our proposal in the coming months, that it gives Texas the freedom and latitude to bridge the digital divide without needless restrictions."

Please visit the [Comptroller's website](#) for more information about the BEAD program and community outreach opportunities.

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Summer program aims to empower teenagers

By James Draper

A group of young teens is dipping their toes in the workforce this summer, getting hands-on experience in a variety of jobs while also filing away some essential life lessons.

Dr. Margo Bell launched Doc Mab Teen Boy's Empowerment Program this summer, crafting an array of activities and recruiting mentors not just to give the 10 youths something to do but to also shepherd the 13- to 16-year-olds a bit during a key phase of their lives.

That starts with putting in the work, such as grabbing a bucket, soap and firehose in order to give Gladewater Museum's antique fire engine some TLC. The teens attacked the task with gusto Thursday morning with the enthusiastic assistance of some local firefighters.

Overall, it's a simple goal for Bell: "To enrich their lives, empower them, give them experiences they may not ordinarily have and show them there are different walks of life," she said. "To make them better humans."

With three sessions per week, the teenagers are learning about everything from financial literacy to nutrition and health education while also volunteering time and, when opportunities arise, putting in work that could earn a wage someday.

The Rev. Stacey Price is serving as the boys' mentor throughout the program, coordinated by Bell. Recruitment began with flyers passed out in church, and the teens were encouraged to invite their friends for the limited number of spots available during their break from school.

"We picked up debris after the storm. We help particular seniors in the community," Bell said, focusing on community service. The teenagers have also lent a hand with the Red Rock Historical Museum in addition to helping Gladewater Museum wash down the fire truck at Broadway and Pacific. "Just as much experience as we can get them."

At the same time, the boys are learning to profit from their labor.

"We went to the watermelon patch so they could learn how to pick watermelon. Then, they got hired for a couple of days," Bell said. "At the end of the program, the boys who have completed it will get a stipend. We'll also open them a savings account."

As it's not a grant-funded program, she's limited by her own resources for the time being, able to host 10 boys in the inaugural summer outreach, which includes their parents in two sessions.

For Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons, "It was a really awesome opportunity to work with these young men," and it was neat to watch them grow a little bit even in the course of Thursday's morning session – the teens arrived a



bit shy and then gradually warmed up to their mentors for the day, asking good questions about the fire service and a firefighter's career: "We had an opportunity at the end to give them advice for success in the future."

Simmons said he and his crew enjoyed shore up elements of the teens' foundations. Even basic introductions became a learning opportunity.

"More than not in life, good things start with a handshake," he told the group. "Being able to shake hands, make eye contact, and be respectful will go a long way in their interactions."

The empowerment program is helping the youth learn how to both lead and serve, Simmons added, and he's keen

to see members of the group become leaders for tomorrow in Gladewater.

Bell's strategy for the program extends beyond the summer sessions.

"The boys who show real grit, they can work hours outside the program. I've found a couple of other jobs they can do," Bell said. "Throughout the year, mainly on the weekend, I'll let the boys come do some work for me so they can continue to make money."

"We've gotten a lot of help from the community providing for the boys," she added, thanking sponsors like Aurelia's Hope for lunches during the program: "We're trying to teach life skills."



Bralin Thompson hoses down Gladewater Museum's antique fire engine with help from Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons July 6. Photo by James Draper



New Gladewater Rotary Club President Darla Ferguson receives the gavel from out-going president Darren Richardson.



UT System Board of Regents Chairman Kevin P. Eltife has been awarded the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health) 2023 "Doc" Ballard Award for Excellence in Public Health. He was recognized for his significant contributions to regional health outcomes, as well as for his leadership in establishing the first school of medicine in East Texas, the UT Tyler School of Medicine at UT Tyler. "This community is exceptionally giving, and 'Doc' Ballard embodied that quality as well," said Eltife. "I not only want this medical school to be a vehicle for better health for the community, but I also want to it to provide an amazing educational opportunity for East Texas students," he added.

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ACROSS

- 1 Texas golfer Nelson book: "___ Played the Game"
- 5 longtime U.S. representative "Tiger" Teague
- 6 TX-born Robin Wright's "ex," actor Sean
- 7 TXism: "too lazy ___ swat flies"
- 8 Congress voted to admit Texas as a state in this mo.
- 9 TXism: "give me some ___ room"
- 14 TXism: "a sight for ___ eyes"
- 15 he coached for the Longhorns, Oilers, & Cowboys (2 wds.)
- 19 what TX "Spanky" wrote on the flying red horse atop Dallas' Magnolia Building (2 wds.)
- 21 a legal right
- 22 Brady hosted the "___ the Cactus Shoot"
- 27 TXism: "mobile mouse ___" (cat)
- 28 country ballad: "___ on My Mind"
- 29 a dazed state
- 30 takes gas with a hose
- 32 ___-con (now has his freedom)
- 33 TXism: "about as clear as Red ___" (confusing)
- 36 TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"

- 37 this Lupino was in 1972 film "Junior Bonner" with TX Joe Don Baker
- 38 polite Texas refusal to a woman (2 wds.)
- 39 popular attractions at Six Flags? (2 wds.)
- 41 "Friendship" (2 wds.)
- 44 TXism: "scared the dickens out ___ ' ___"

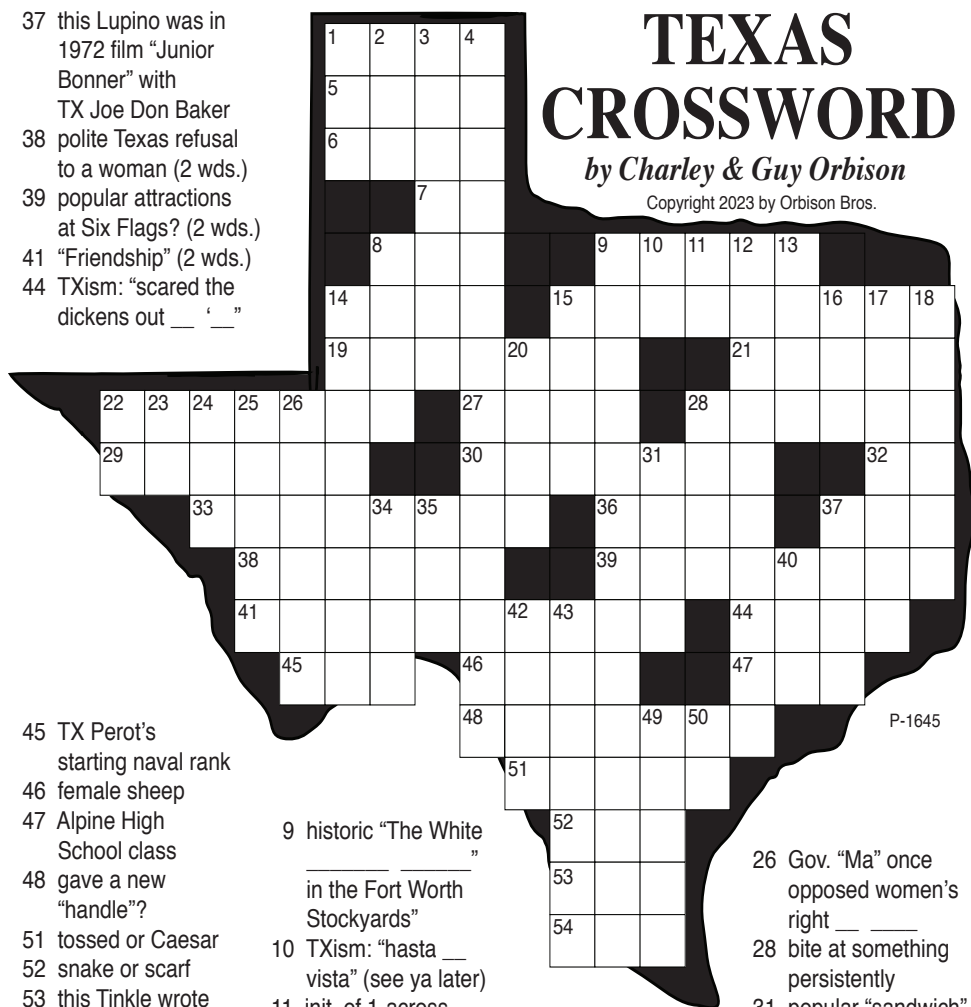
- 45 TX Perot's starting naval rank
- 46 female sheep
- 47 Alpine High School class
- 48 gave a new "handle"?
- 51 tossed or Caesar
- 52 snake or scarf
- 53 this Tinkle wrote Alamo book "13 Days to Glory"
- 54 TXism: "at the ___ of my rope"

DOWN

- 1 "___ to it!"
- 2 Grand ___ Opry
- 3 in Runnels County on U.S. 83
- 4 book about murder in Commerce: "The Last ___"
- 8 TXism: "it'll ___ a pinch"

- 9 historic "The White ___" in the Fort Worth Stockyards
- 10 TXism: "hasta ___ vista" (see ya later)
- 11 init. of 1-across
- 12 the San Antonio Trail (2 wds.)
- 13 TXism: "___ to a frazzle" (tired)
- 14 with "long," Houston dock worker
- 15 TXism: "do I have to draw you ___?"
- 16 counterterrorism "war" abbr.
- 17 the hens won't lay 'cause the dog "___ ' ___ up"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1645

See Answers On This Page

Smith to lead Masonic lodge

Richard Smith was installed as worshipful master of Bethesda Lodge No. 142 AF & AM at the Gilmer lodge's annual installation of officers for 2023-24. Smith succeeds Bob Lansdale, who was installed as master of ceremonies at the June 30 event. Other new officers installed included J.P. Steelman, senior warden; Brent White, junior warden; Bob Bates, senior deacon; Gene Burks, junior deacon; Clayton Venn, tiler; Todd Stansbury, secretary; and Robert Cromley, treasurer. Although not formally installed, other new appointed officers are David Holden, marshal, who was present, and James Parker, chaplain, who was not. Kevin Saxon was installing officer while Travis Covin was installing marshal. In addressing the gathering at the local lodge, Smith said "(I) look for an exciting time to happen here" and "I want to leave this lodge in better shape than I found it," although "it's not in bad shape" now. He said the local lodge does "a lot of good" and that he was inspired to become a Mason by his late grandfather, longtime Harmony ISD Superintendent H.C. Smith. The elder Smith, a Mason, died when Richard Smith was only nine years old, but the new worshipful master recalled his grandfather taking him to the lodge's former quarters at Christmastime to receive gifts. Richard Smith also noted that his grandmother had given him H.C. Smith's Masonic Bible and another relative had given him the grandfather's Masonic ring. Richard Smith said he found notes in the Masonic Bible indicating that his grandfather had wanted to be worshipful master. Richard Smith also said that Texas is the only state where a lodge's master is allowed to wear a cowboy hat at a Masonic ceremony, but he was wearing a fedora instead because H.C. Smith wore a similar hat. Afterward, several of the new officers spoke. Lansdale, who had said at the ceremony's opening that his successor "is gonna be a good" worshipful master, said the lodge "had a heck of a year" while he headed it.

S-1645

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Pictures: [DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com](#)

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PO Box 1800 - Lubbock, TX 79408-1800
LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com



NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2012, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for New Day Financial, LLC, as Trustor(s), in favor of Lawanda G. Wilks, as Trustee, and Scott R. Valby as Beneficiary, and was recorded on December 18, 2012, in Instrument Number 201222873 in the Office of the Recorder of Gregg County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated August 17, 2016, and recorded on August 23, 2016, under 201613479, in the Official Public Records of Gregg County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Deed of Trust in that payments were not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of July 1, 2023 is \$200,005.26; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR Part 27 subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on May 27, 2021, under Document Number 202109516 notice is hereby given that, on **August 1, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. local time**, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("11Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder(s):

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

Commonly known as: 1108 Dennis Dr Longview, TX 75605
Permanent Parcel Number: 63108

The sale will be in the Front Door-Patio area as designated by the county commissioner's office 101 E. Methvin, Longview, Texas 75601. The United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid an amount to be determined. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser(s) will pay, at or before closing, his (their) pro-rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders, except the Secretary, must submit a deposit totaling 10% of the purchase price in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of 10% of the purchase price must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder(s) will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the date of closing and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidder(s) will be returned to them.

The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15 day increments for a fee paid in advance. The extension fee shall be paid in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If the high bidder(s) close(s) the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due at closing.

If the high bidder(s) is/are unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidders' deposit may be forfeited, or the high bidder may be liable to the Secretary for any costs incurred as a result of such failure, and the Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD Field Office Representative, offer the Property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgage or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagee to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the Deed of Trust agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development HUD, before public auction of the property is completed.

In the case of a foreclosure involving a monetary default, the amount that must be paid if the Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is the entire amount of principal and interest which would be due if payments under the Deed of Trust had not been accelerated. In the case of a foreclosure involving a non-monetary default, the amount that must be paid if the Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is (i) all amounts due under the Deed of Trust agreement (excluding additional amounts which would have been due if Deed of Trust payments had been accelerated); (ii) all amounts of expenditures secured by the Deed of Trust; and (iii) all costs of foreclosure incurred for which payment from the proceeds of foreclosure is provided in 12 U.S.C. 3751, including advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out of pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.

Date: 6/08/2023
FORECLOSURE COMMISSIONER
Candace Sissac, Esq.
JAMES E. ALBERTELLI, P.A.
2201 W. Royal Lane, Suite 200
Irving, TX 75063
Phone: 469-804-8457 Fax: 469-804-8462
csissac@lalaw.net

ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND BEING LOT ELEVEN (11), BLOCK NINE HUNDRED NINETY (99), OF THE RICHMOND TERRACE UNIT NO. ONE (1), LOCATED IN THE ALEX JORDAN SURVEY, A-262, CITY OF LONGVIEW, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS. PLAT OF SAID ADDITION OR RECORD IN VOLUME 728, PAGE 385, DEED RECORDS, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS.

GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
7/2/23	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20233763	0:16	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ALARMOTHER	20233764	0:32	LAKE GLADEWATER STORE	LAKE SHORE LAKE SHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233765	0:33	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20233767	0:40	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20233768	0:56		COMMERCE COMMERCE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20233769	2:27		CEDAR CEDAR
	ABANDONED 911	20233770	2:42		807 TENERY TENERY
	EMS	20233771	4:58		216 OAK OAK DR
	ASSIST	20233772	8:35		216 OAK OAK DR
	EMS	20233774	9:31	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20233775	10:54		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	ASSIST	20233778	12:50		503 MELTON MELTON
	EMS	20233777	12:58		2105 ROSEMARY ROSEMARY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20233778	13:12	AMERICAN REAL ESTATE	1400 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20233779	13:51		HWY 271 HWY 271
	EMS	20233780	14:18	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	THEFT	20233781	16:12		1007 E PACIFIC PACIFIC
	THEFT	20233782	16:15	TEXAS HOLDEN STORAGE	1609 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20233783	16:24		216 OAK OAK DR
	ALARMHUMAN ERROR	20233784	17:53		300 LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	FIRE DEPT	20233785	18:58		2403 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20233786	20:19		932 LEE LEE DR
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20233787	20:46		HWY 80 HWY 80
	FIRE DEPT	20233788	21:37		508 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	EMS	20233789	22:26		805 NORTH NORTH ST
	EMS	20233790	22:51		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	EMS	20233791	3:11		1024 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
7/3/23	ALARMOTHER	20233792	4:52	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20233793	6:00	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20233794	6:19		CENTER CENTER
	ASSIST	20233795	8:42		508 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20233796	12:10	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20233797	14:24	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20233798	14:50		271 271
	ABANDONED 911	20233799	15:50		32 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238000	16:09		1825 BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISSING PERSON	20238001	16:21		1202 N WALNUT WALNUT ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238002	16:56		2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20238003	17:09	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARMHUMAN ERROR	20238004	17:20		370 S CENTER CENTER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238005	17:28		303 COOPER COOPER ST
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20238006	20:23		519 US 271 US 271
	EMS	20238007	21:38	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238008	21:43		510 WOOD WOOD ST
	EMS	20238010	22:55	LOVE STAR TRANSMISSION	2106 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20238011	23:15	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
7/4/23	EMS	20238012	0:30	TW LEE BUILDING	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20238013	1:07		1404 HOLBERT HOLBERT ST
	ABANDONED 911	20238015	2:37		317 SUNSET SUNSET AVE
	EMS	20238016	7:49		1105 OLIVE OLIVE
	CRIM TRESPASS	20238017	8:15	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20238019	10:46		4101 LOCUST LOCUST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20238020	11:00		1022 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	ASSIST	20238022	12:54	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	THEFT	20238023	18:05		1300 E MARY MARY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20238024	20:06	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238026	21:36		COBY COBY
	EMS	20238027	21:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238028	22:25		E LAKE LAKE DR
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20238029	23:01		800 COACH COOKSEY COACH COOKSEY
7/5/23	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20238030	1:14	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20238031	3:27		519 W MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20238032	3:42		508 W MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20238033	4:51		529 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	EMS	20238034	10:08	JO WILLIAMS	419 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20238035	11:04	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20238036	12:43		3024 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	ASSIST	20238037	12:49		805 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	ASSIST	20238038	13:53		1508 N DAISY DAISY ST
	EMS	20238039	14:28		136 PR 1299 PR 1299
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20238040	18:24		HWY 271 HWY 271
	EMS	20238041	18:43		802 EDDY EDDY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238042	19:59		ELIJAH ELIJAH
	ALARMOTHER	20238044	22:42	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
7/6/23	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20238045	3:26		2200 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	THEFT	20238046	5:58		1203 NELWYN NELWYN
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20238047	6:03		EDDY EDDY
	EMS	20238048	6:30		304 MAPLE MAPLE AVE
	EMS	20238049	6:54		204 MAPLE MAPLE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20238050	6:59	JULIAWOOD HOMES	24 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	EMS	20238051	8:25		141 THOMAS THOMAS
	EMS	20238052	11:19	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20238053	11:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20238054	12:33	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20238055	13:47	TOBACCO JUNCTION	1400 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20238056	14:23		207 HULL HULL AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238057	15:24	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20238058	15:51		312 HAINS HAINS AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238059	17:11		45 MCNESS MCNESS ST
	EMS	20238060	17:12		812 N POST POST ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20238061	17:54		LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238062	20:59		901 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	FIRE DEPT	20238063	22:42		403 N FERRY FERRY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20238064	23:52	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
7/7/23	EMS	20238065	0:35	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20238066	1:16	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ENDANGERED CHILD	20238067	2:19		86 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20238068	2:22		402 W PACIFIC PACIFIC
	THEFT	20238069	3:17		5810 W PARKWAY PARKWAY
	EMS	20238070	4:45		216 OAK OAK DR
	RUNAWAY	20238072	8:07		2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARMOTHER	20238073	9:56	ZIPPS LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20238074	10:58		1303 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20238075	12:54	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	TERROR THREAT	20238078	13:31	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238077	15:18		1100 N RODEO RODEO ST
	EMS	20238079	16:12	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238079	18:05		GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20238080	18:12		88 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20238081	18:27		1414 HUMBLE HUMBLE RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238082	19:05		903 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238083	20:48	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238084	22:22		903 E MARY MARY ST
	EMS	20238085	23:24		326 W MELBA MELBA AVE
7/8/23	EMS	20238086	4:20		216 OAK OAK DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20238087	4:56		2011 COBY COBY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238088	5:32		317 N MAIN MAIN
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20238089	5:39		1406 SPRUCE SPRUCE
	ASSIST	20238091	9:05		2186 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20238092	9:31		1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	EMS	20238093	10:51		4477 COMMERCE COMMERCE W
	ASSIST	20238094	11:39		2187 MAIN MAIN N
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238095	11:43	LAUNDRY KING	803 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238096	12:48		406 W GAY GAY AVE
	ASSIST	20238097	13:14	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	20238098	15:05		520 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20238090	15:06		2216 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238091	16:24	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1008 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20238092	16:43	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238093	16:55		3056 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISSING PERSON	20238094	18:20		810 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ALARMOTHER	20238095	19:06		2022 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	RUNAWAY	20238096	22:06		1507 N ALICE ALICE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238097	22:10	ZIPPS LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238098	22:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ABANDONED 911	20238099	23:56		703 N CULVER CULVER
7/9/23	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20238100	0:14		2301 HICKORY HICKORY
	FIRE DEPT	20238101	0:39		2804 RAMPY RAMPY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20238102	1:47	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	16-50 MINOR	20238103	2:26		410 W GAY GAY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20238104	4:57		EDDY EDDY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20238105	6:45		60 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	20238106	8:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	CRIM MIS	20238107	9:01	DOWNTOWN RESTROOMS	103 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20238108	13:14		512 LIVE OAK LIVE OAK RD

GPD Police Arrests

ARREST DATE	ARREST TIME	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
7/2/23	7/2/23	2:45	CHRISTINE, STACY CARON	W	F	POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY GROUP 1 OR	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY GROUP 1 OR	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUG	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY GROUP 1 OR	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY GROUP 1 OR	CEDAR
	7/2/23	2:45	SASSER, TRENT JORDAN	W	M	POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUG	CEDAR
7/3/23	7/3/23	6:51	HILL, ROCKY DWAYNE SR.	W	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY GROUP 1 OR	100 W UPSHUR
	7/3/23	6:51	HILL, ROCKY DWAYNE SR.	W	M	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON	100 W UPSHUR
7/4/23	7/4/23	1:30	TURNER, ANTHONY ROSS	W	M	TAMPER FABRICATE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE W/INTENT TO IMPAIR	1300 S TYLER
	7/4/23	1:30	TURNER, ANTHONY ROSS	W	M	PROHIBITED WEAPON	1300 S TYLER
	7/4/23	1:30	TURNER, ANTHONY ROSS	W	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ANALOGUE PENALTY GRO	1300 S TYLER
	7/4/23	1:30	TURNER, ANTHONY ROSS	W	M	EXPIRED LICENSE PLATES	1300 S TYLER
7/9/23	7/9/23	2:38	BROWN, JAMES WINDELL	W	M	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 2ND	410 GAY AVE

WOPD POLICE ACTIVITY

For the reporting period of July 3rd through the 9th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 173 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglar Alarms, Traffic Issues (reckless driver calls, collisions, or traffic direction), Loud Noise Complaints, Domestic Disturbances, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Six traffic collisions were investigated resulting in one injury and three continuing criminal investigations.

One arrest was made by White Oak Police during the reporting period: Kisi Sakzemien Mumford, 43, of Rockwall, TX for Burglary of a Motor Vehicle and Failure to Identify - Fictitious Information.

Gilmer FD monthly stats released

By Phillip Williams

The Gilmer Fire Department responded to 60 calls in June, said Fire Chief Jerry Taylor, who offered some safety tips for dealing with major wind storms like the one that struck here last month.

“Be prepared for storms. If possible, have bottled water, flashlight and working radio,” Taylor urged. “Stay away from any downed power line.”

June’s total number of calls was more than double the 28 the department reportedly answered in May, something Taylor said was largely due to the June 15-16 storm that caused widespread, prolonged power outages.

In fact, 13 of last month’s calls involved electrical wiring, the chief said.

Other types of calls and the number of each, he said, included fire alarms activating, 9; medically assisting ambulance personnel, 9; structure fires, 6; vehicle accidents, 6; grass fires, 4; canceled en route, 4; storm damage assessments, 3; animal problems, 2; public service, 2; “Jaws call/rescue” (referring to the “Jaws of Life” extrication tool), 1; smoke/gas odor, 1. The department also worked a collective 751.35 man-hours last month, compared to 497.79 in May, and issued 14 burn permits in June as compared to 20 in May, Taylor reported.



The Smith County Professional Firefighters Association Local 5300’s Captain Michael Van Winkle and Firefighter Joshua Bardwell were recently deployed to west and central Texas as a part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS), according to Local 5300. This TIFMAS deployment was done in conjunction with other resources across the Eastern Branch. “As some may know our firefighters and officers that are selected to go on these deployments, experience fire conditions and behavior that are not as common in our area of operation. This in turn can help us mitigate difficult situations in a more efficient manner. We are proud to be able to help serve other regions of Texas when called upon,” the Smith County Professional Firefighters Association Local 5300 stated.

Big Sandy man wanted for game room robbery

By Phillip Williams

A Big Sandy man who was arrested and made bond on an unrelated charge last week now is wanted for the May 23 aggravated robbery of a game room near that city, said Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb.

An arrest warrant for De-

wayne Michael Stevenson, 39, was issued in connection with the incident in which the game room and several customers were robbed at gunpoint, Webb said Monday.

He had said earlier that Stevenson worked at the business. The sheriff said

he couldn’t recall the name of the game room at the intersection of Texas 155 and FM 1002, but noted his office shut it down soon after the daytime robbery for allegedly violating game room regulations.

The day after the robbery, Webb had said Stevenson was being sought for questioning. Sheriff’s Chief Deputy David Hazel said a tip to Upshur County Crimestoppers resulted in the suspect’s July 3 arrest by Longview police in that city, on an Upshur warrant charging him with unlawful possession of firearm by felon.

Stevenson, who was charged with that before the robbery, was initially lodged in Gregg County Jail in Longview. Before being formally charged with the holdup, he was released from Upshur County Jail in Gilmer on the possession charge Friday on \$10,000 bond, said Webb and Hazel.

Hazel said Friday that Stevenson has “acknowledged his involvement” in the robbery, in which Webb said money was taken from the game room and some customers were robbed of cell phones. Stevenson fired a shot during the incident, but nobody was



Local skydivers ushered in the July 3rd festivities at Lake Gladewater. Photo by James Draper

Take care in this summer heat

Nationwide, an average of 700 Americans die every year due to a heat-related illness. According to the Centers for Disease Control, emergency departments respond to more than 67,500 calls for issues tied to heat, and it leads to the hospitalization of almost 10,000 people annually.

Unsurprisingly, there are more instances in the South, and a disproportionately large number of the incidents are clustered in Texas.

Meanwhile, last week saw temperatures round the world reach record highs, and 2023 is on track to be the hottest year on record.

They're numbers that Gladewater firefighters take seriously. Not only are the emergency responders often out in the heat in full bunker gear, hyper-aware of their own health, but they're also regularly fielding calls to help residents who

have run afoul of the heat.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Heat exhaustion signs and symptoms include the following:

- Cool, moist skin with goose bumps when in the heat
- Heavy sweating
- Faintness
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Weak, rapid pulse
- Low blood pressure upon standing
- Muscle cramps
- Nausea or vomiting
- Headache
- Extreme thirst
- Mild confusion
- Decreased urine output

For Mike Simmons, the goal is to push key information out to the community frequently to help people get to the point of prevention and early recognition of heat-related conditions.

"Hopefully, before it's too late," he said. Yes, he's been watching the headlines about global heat and saw the trending headlines about "one of the hottest days recorded" worldwide. "That's not my fact, that's just social media. I don't think Gladewater hit a temperature record."

Regardless, heat's been a regular topic at Gladewater Fire Department for weeks. In addition to reminding residents to 'Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed,' an ongoing, internal dialogue about heat-related illness and first aid is a priority as summer temperatures hit (and beat) their peaks.

From a quick reference guide compiled by Simmons, "Heat exhaustion is one of the earliest indications that an individual is suffering from a heat-related syndrome. If left untreated this could lead to other heat-related syndromes that can range in severity from mild to potentially life-threatening."

Common conditions include heat rash, heat cramps, heat syncope and heatstroke.

"Heat exhaustion can occur when the body loses too much water or electrolytes due to excessive sweating and dehydration. This can occur rapidly in high temperature and heat advisory conditions. It can happen suddenly or happen over time, usually after working, exercising or playing in the heat."

Syncope, Simmons noted, is the medical term for 'passing out.' Loss consciousness due to heat is a common occurrence – it may also present as dizziness or lightheadedness. It's not necessarily long-term unconsciousness; heat syncope also includes short episodes, going in and out of consciousness.

"We just want people to recognize and deal with it early if someone is having an issue with heat," he said.

A common refrain in the heat is to be careful when cooling down someone who's overheated.

Don't shove a person into a cold shower or bath; don't do anything that would be a shock to the system.

Instead, gradually cool the person down with sips of chilled water or sports drinks with electrolytes. Shed excess clothing and use cool compresses.

With an extreme response, "You can go very easily from exhaustion and heat issues to hypothermia," Simmons warned. "We don't want that extreme switch in these conditions. We want to slowly bring the person down, to bring their body temperature back to normal."

A recent increase in local medical calls tied to 'difficulty breathing' is likely linked to the heat, Simmons added.

"When the humidity goes up and the temperatures go up, for people who have respiratory diseases, it can make it harder for them to breathe due to the heat."

If you suspect heat exhaustion, take the following actions: Move the person out of the hot environment in a shady or air-conditioned place.

Lay the person down on their back and elevate their legs and feet slightly.

Respectfully remove unnecessary tight or heavy clothing

If the person can sit up have them sip on chilled water, a decaffeinated sports drink containing electrolytes, or other non-alcoholic beverage without caffeine.

Slowly cool the person with fans, placing ice packs under arm pits, or sponging with cool water.

Monitor the person carefully.

If the person does not return to a normal state after 10 mins of cooling or the symptoms worsen suddenly call 911 immediately.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0014572001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Clarksville City, P.O. Box 1111, White Oak, Texas 75693, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TCEQ Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014572001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 95,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on February 9, 2023.

The facility is located approximately 4050 feet south of the intersection of Texas Street and U.S. Highway 80, in Gregg County, Texas 75693. The treated effluent is discharged to Campbell Creek, thence to Moody Creek, thence to Sabine River Above Toledo Bend Reservoir in Segment No. 0505 of the Sabine River Basin. The designated uses for the unclassified receiving water for Segment No. 0505 are primary contact recreation, public water supply, and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-94.904722,32.519444&level=18>.

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Clarksville City-City Hall, 631 US Highway 80, Clarksville City, Texas.

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE NOTICE. Alternative language notice in Spanish is available at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-lang-uag:e-summaries-and-public_notices. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español esta disponible en https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-lang-uag:e-summaries-and-public_notices.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Clarksville City at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Matt Maines, City of Clarksville City, at 903-845-2681.

Issuance Date: June 15, 2023

SHOP LOCAL ... SHOP LOCAL ... SHOP LOCAL ...



Former Lion roars down the track

Continued from Page 1

prestigious trophy, right after graduating from Union Grove in 2012.

"People would not even pull up beside him because they did not want to race him," McNeal's mother Tamara Merritt said. "He was that dominant."

To fund his racing career, McNeal found work in the oilfield and started his own company, Poseidon Oilfield Services, in 2021. In 2023, he joined the Scott Palmer Racing team and became the only UG graduate other than former NFL player Dee Mackey to go pro.

Now, he regularly drives one of the fastest accelerating cars on the planet.

"Before you can say 1, I'm already going 100mph," McNeal said. "One lap around the school track, I can do that in 3.5 seconds."

McNeal recently raced in the Top Fuel division at Joliet, Illinois, where he finished in fifth, making his fastest pass in 3.77 seconds and topping out at 322 mph. Then he ran the 13th annual Circle K NHRA Four-Wide Nationals at zMax Dragway at Charlotte, North Carolina, in 3.793 seconds at 320.81mph.

"As a kid, that's all I had in life was racing, and I just got made fun of for it," McNeal said. "Now, I look back and kind of laugh. Imagine going from that little kid wanting to be a race car driver to being on TV and famous. I actually made it. I'm living the dream."

Pretty awesome

Fortunately McNeal has had no crashes "came close" and "almost hit the wall the very first race - could've reached out and touched the wall, it was that close.

"If I hit the wall, that'd be the way I'd want to go out. If I crash at 320 mph, it'd mess you up a little bit."

As for his "legacy" McNeal says - "Never count yourself out as long as you can put in the time put in the work, the man hours, you can achieve whatever you want. Look at me, if a little guy from UG can make it, anybody can."

And as for "advice," McNeal shared this - "Win the lotto - it costs a lot. And no matter the outcome of the current race, look forward to the next one. Have a short-term memory and keep looking forward."



Austin Bank is proud to announce the following winners of the annual Freedom Fest Boat Parade at beautiful Lake Gladewater:

- FIRST Place The Louvier Family
- SECOND PLACE The Minton Family
- THIRD PLACE The Aiken Family

Thanks to everyone who participated in the boat parade.

Photos by James Draper



City Hall lays groundwork for FY2024

Continued from Page 1

ing year. "We can only do so much because of the money that we have," Smith said. "As far as revenue, I think that we're going to continue to grow there. That's what I would like to see, especially with the growth and expansion have coming - I think our revenue sources are going to continue to grow. We really need to work on those and make sure it happens."

He's a bit concerned about the water/sewer relocations ahead tied to the expansions of Hwy. 271 and the loop. Those expansions could also draw new development, though.

"If we can get some industry in here I think that would really put us in a better place. That may or may not happen, but I think it's where we really need to move."

For the July 6 workshop, the key was to put council members face-to-face with the department heads to get a better idea of where things are

and what's on tap.

Meanwhile, "I've given you just the basic stuff today from each department and where they're at in their departments," about 67 percent of the way through their budget for the current fiscal year.

The council members heard first from City Treasurer Meghan Davis then Library Director Brandy Winn, Fire Chief Mike Simmons, Police Chief Gordon Freeman and Inspector Al Harrison.

On the public works side, "We've still got some issues out at the water treatment plant that we're going to have to address. There's just some things that have to be fixed," Smith noted. For one, "What I found out here in some of our lift stations is a single pump in a two-pump compartment because they just never put another pump in. They didn't spend the money because they're \$10-15,000. When you do that, number one, you burn your pump out" and, two, it requires notifying the Texas

Commission of Environmental Quality of the problem and going through that process.

"I'm telling you, I won't waste money for the city."

One-on-one discussions with the city's department heads have been fruitful, Smith said, giving him a clear picture of where they're at in current spending and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year.

"I think they're keeping an eye on their budgets. They do have some capital items they want to move forward on. We just have to take those one at a time and see what we're going to do."

Across the board, he added, personnel is a challenge - the city has good people throughout its labor force, and city leaders don't want to lose any of them.

"Number one, retention of employees is on everyone's mind."

In consultation with the council, Smith opted to cancel a follow-up budget workshop, nothing they'll continue discussions at their regularly-scheduled monthly meeting July 20, when Smith presents anticipated capital expenditures for FY23-24. The next official budget workshop will be July 27 after receiving solid tax numbers from local appraisal districts on July 25.

"It makes me glad to come to work," Smith said, "because there's so much potential here and I want to see it through."

In other business July 6, the council opened the special session with a 25-minute closed door meeting for "consultation with legal counsel," one of the specified exceptions to the state's open meetings regulations. They took no action following the discussion.

In another called session Monday (July 10) the council members met with their attorney again for a short time and, again, took no action on the unspecified issue.

White Oak seeking water rate increase

Continued from Page 1

the east to the tune of \$70,000 annually for the water, the pipe and repairs. Any leaks cost White Oak an average of \$5,000 to fix, and there's plenty on tap each year on the 90-year-old line.

Meanwhile, it takes roughly \$3 million just to run the water treatment plant in a given year - that doesn't include any margin for upgrades. It costs a bit more each year to push out the 1 million gallons used daily in the community.

At the same time, the state-driven expansions of George Richey and Hwy. 42 demanded White Oak relocate its lines - consequently, the city took out loans to cover the costs, adding debt service to other expenditures.

On the current tier system, an average user (5,000 gallons) pays about \$36 per month, including a \$24.60 base rate and volume fees. An initial recommendation for a new base rate of \$35 and new tier system would see that cost increase to about \$62 monthly - and it would only bring the city to the break-even point.

"We need to have more than \$35 because \$35 isn't going to cut it," City Secretary Kristine Toon said. "If we do \$35, we only break even and no repairs can be done" nor is the city adding to its requisite reserve.

"We got any good news?" Mayor Kyle Kutch asked.

For Toon, "The good news is everyone wants the lowest rate possible because we all live in the same city."

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