

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢

Gladewater council rules it needs rules

Gladewater council members spent a good portion of their July 20 session talking about rules of order, and the dialogue soon proved the need for some form of guidelines to streamline discussion.

It likely won't be Robert's Rules of Order – if there was anything the elected officials could agree on last week, it was that the minutiae of that standard guide to parliamentary procedure is probably more than Gladewater's dais needs.

Rather, council members established a committee (eventually) to review what the body is currently doing, to see what can be improved and to codify it enough for a vote.

"Let's put something back in front of the council that we can talk about," councilman Kevin Clark said. "If we put down what we do and what we do well on a piece of paper, I think that would suffice."

Clark brought the topic for council discussion at their regular meeting for July, following up after he missed a previous meeting and watched it via the Gladewater Mirror's livestream on Facebook. That outside perspective revealed the need for established procedures, he said.

It's not the first time council members have debated adopting Robert's Rules as a meeting guide – about 15 years ago, a similar discussion went nowhere.

"We do, oddly enough, follow quite a bit of Robert's Rules," Clark added, bettering it in some ways. That said, "Nothing that we do is written down. It does seem that we can make a codified version of Robert's Rules that fits us."

Acknowledging the minutiae of parliamentary procedure is rife for abuse by bad actors, "I don't want to be like Congress. I do think we need a set of rules that we can adhere to. I would like to have them written."

Council member Rocky Hawkins agrees.

"It would make our job a lot easier if somebody had something to refer to," he said.

According to Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith, as a home rule city, the council members can adopt whatever procedures they want.

"This would be really beneficial for on-boarding new council members," councilwoman Brandy Flanagan said. "I would have to say that it needs to be very simple."

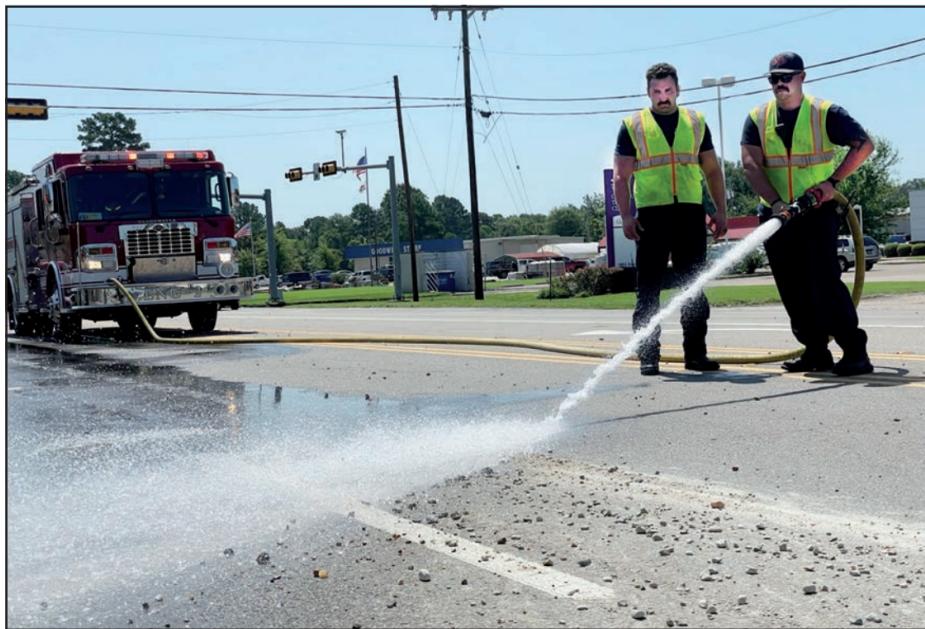
Previously, Mayor Scott Owens noted, past council members adopted an ordinance to regulate how items are added to the agenda. Previous officials declined to adopt Robert's Rules for the sake of not getting bogged down.

"Those rules of order do need to be adhered to in generalities," he said. "The most important thing, I believe, is that every voice needs to be heard. We do not need to speak over each other, that everybody has a chance to speak, to offer rebuttal on things..."

For council member Teddy Sorrells, that's why such procedures exist – to ensure every person has an equal opportunity to weigh in. The Texas Open Meetings Act has some provisions and regulations, he added, but Robert's Rules of Order is the standard for a reason.

"We've been in a number of discussion where Robert's Rules would have settled some issues that we didn't get settled and we're still having conversations about them," Sorrells said. "I feel like it is very important for us as a council to have rules in place so that we can be able to do our business and every council member has an opportunity to discuss and engage in that business."

Ultimately, after rounds of discussion, the council members approved a new rules committee chaired by Sorrells and including Flanagan, Owens and Hawkins who will bring back proposed rules at a later date.



Gladewater Fire Department's Russell Webb sprays down the pavement at Hwy. 80 and Shell Camp with help from James Lynn July 18 following a concrete spill at about 11 a.m. With the westbound lane of 80 closed for the cleanup, drivers were redirected down Shell Camp to Lynn Street. Photo by James Draper

White Oak works to close gap between local, state valuations

There's an ongoing disparity between White Oak ISD's local property valuations and the tallies by the state's appraisers.

Estimates put the gap at more than 10 percent year-to-year, and it's on the district to square up the two sets of numbers or lose funding for it – as much as \$1 million.

The task falls to a law firm of the district's choosing. That team of experts can bring the school and the state together through various means: by making sure top appraisers are looking at what they ought to, by ensuring the values are accurate, double-checking nothing's been missed locally and challenging numbers when necessary.

"They want to bring those values together so we stand to lose the least amount of money or none," according to Dr. William Paul, White Oak Superintendent.

During their July 14 meeting, WOISD trustees heard from Gregg County Chief Appraiser Mark Cormier as well as representatives from three law firms vying to be the district's advocates on appraisals.

For almost four decades, that's been McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen, based in Round Rock. Paul also wanted pitches from Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott (out of Houston) as well as Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson (Austin).

Each firm made their case to carry the torch for White Oak. No decision was made July 14 as the district's leaders continue to grapple with the situation, looking for the best representative to take up the challenge.

"Local appraisals have to be within a certain range of what Austin's appraisals are in order to be compliant, for lack of a better word," Paul explained. "If

you are below 95 percent (of the state's figures) then you get put into what they call a 'grace period' where the state does not dock your funding for three years. If after three years your local appraisals have not come into that threshold of what Austin says they have to be then we start losing funding from the state."

Lately, the state's values have skyrocketed, he added.

"What's happened is basically the state's appraisal district values have escalated a lot faster than what our local property values are. Whatever curve they're on is much steeper than ours. Ours is still steep, we've come up a bunch, but theirs has gone up as much and more."

Paul doesn't want to see White Oak go through the same rigors as other districts that reached the end of their three years of grace. If the state won't go backward for the district to catch up, at least someone could put the brakes on the increases.

"The entity that stands to lose the most is the school district because we're the one who it's going to cost funding," he said. "As a school district, we don't want to hurt taxpayers any more than they already are. Property values have gone up so much, we know they're feeling the pain. It's a pickle."

With White Oak nearing the end of that grace period, Paul brought in the law firms to get ahead of any problems.

"At the end of the day, I've got to do what's best for White Oak and I want to make sure that whoever's working for us is going to be in the best interests of White Oak," Paul said. "If that means getting them all in the same room competing for our business, that's what we'll do."

It's a statewide issue, Paul said, nothing that the district is facing alone. It's not simple, however, and

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More parents seek transfers for kids into WOISD schools

By James Draper

With more than two dozen transfer applications in-hand and more incoming, White Oak ISD Superintendent Dr. William Paul was quick to remind trustees the district's transfer policy is in flux.

"Keep in mind, this is kind of a fluid situation," he told board members at their mid-July session.

When transfer guidelines were first issued earlier this year, they had a cut-off date of June 29.

"At that point, we hadn't quite reached the number that I was looking for," Paul said. "We pushed it back to July 20."

By the time their July 14 meeting rolled around, the district had received 28 transfer applications, accepting 23 – the five denials were for a variety of factors include grades, attendance, disciplinary history and other factors. Available space was an issue as well with both the second and fifth grades full and not taking any transfers at the moment.

Following the most recent meeting and the final cut-off, Paul anticipates the district's policy will ultimately accommodate year-round applications.

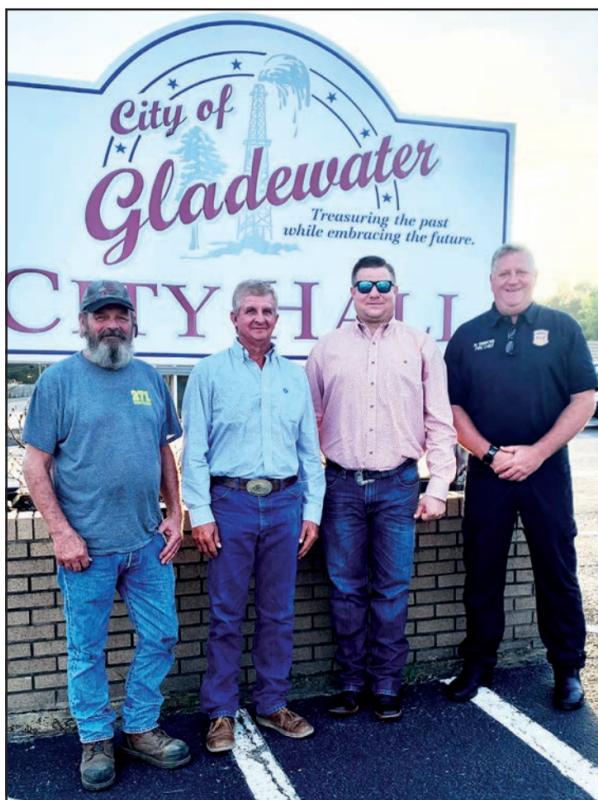
"If we want to be open to transfers, we need to be open to them whenever, not when it's convenient for us."

That said, all transfers remain subject not just to the school's rules but also to regulations set by the University Interscholastic League.

"I think what people need to understand is there's definitely a divide between what a local school district has as transfer policy and eligibility for UIL purposes."

The website UIL.texas.org contains the complete breakdown of guidelines for student eligibility for all UIL contests, including areas impacted by transfers. WOISD Athletic Director Michael Ludlow walked board members through highlights from the UIL policies – simply put, the regulations are complex, touching everything from residency to guardianship to options for waivers.

"If the UIL doesn't do this, it turns into the Wild Wild West," Ludlow said. "It's tough. There's gotta be checks and balances."



Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons (right) celebrates three local men for their help to the community during the June 16 storm including (from left) 271 Wreckers' Troy Bradley, GFD Firefighter Tim Basham and Capt. Kevin Palmer, who served as incident commander as the mid-June weather roared through town. Photo by Lois Reed

First responders recognize helpers after storm

By James Draper

As Gladewater firefighters focused on rescue and damage control the night of the mid-June storm that wrecked the community and surrounding area, the emergency responders were blocked in both directions on Hwy. 80.

Large trees had been downed on the roadway, and clearing them was going to be a major undertaking at that time of night in the midst of sideways rain and roaring weather.

Fortunately, GFD Capt. Kevin Palmer says, Troy Bradley of 271 Wreckers was inbound.

To the first responders' relief, Bradley was ready to make short work of the blockages: "He would back his flatbed wrecker up to the trees and we would hook a cable around the tree. He would then pull these large trees parallel to the highway," Palmer described. "We would unhook the cable, and he would back up and use the 'stinger' to push the trees completely off the road."

"What would have taken 3-5 hours to complete, we were able to complete in just under an hour. Additionally, this whole time it was raining very hard."

Bradley just kept working, Palmer emphasized in his after-action report on the June 16 storm.

"He never complained and was very happy to help," Palmer concluded, recommending the man for recognition from the City of Gladewater.

Bradley got the spotlight July 20 during Gladewater council members' monthly meeting. Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons also recognized Palmer and firefighter Tim Basham for their contributions during the harsh weather and recovery.

"Troy did all this without us even calling and asking. This is a particular incident where a lot of folks did a lot of things right," Simmons said,

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Life Skills 101:

Where did they go?...

Our 'kids' from tweens to 30-somethings are having a harder time than previous generations coping with stress, demands of responsibility, dealing with the daily slings and arrows of being a human, much less the grand catastrophes that are a part of being alive.

I am afraid that as a career high school teacher I may have contributed to the problem as a part of the culture of the last 30 years that has given out blue ribbons, stars and kudos for kids doing what they are supposed to be doing. Then there are those sports trophies for being part of team instead of awards earned through performance.

Do we not know how to lose anymore? Do we not know how to deal with the stress of life? Do we not know how to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and go again? In the environment of celebrity culture and 24/7 social media platforms, our kids and young adult 'kids' are spending their time with their cell phones in their hands either 'following' others' activities instead of doing them or posting the minutiae of their lives ad nauseam.

And who the heck cares how you look with an animal face or what you will look like when you are 80? Other than face recognition scam artists who want access to your media use devices that is.

Americans are wasting so much time on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook etc. ENOUGH! Read a dad gum book or newspaper and quit digital navel gazing and self absorption. People, there is a world out there for YOU. And it is going to be YOURS before you know it.

So how do we fix what is broken?

Jim Bardwell has said, "you can't be a winner unless you have lost." We have got to quit cushioning the losses during the growing up years so our kids can handle the more serious ones of their adult years. Most of the wisdom I have, which I must admit is a great deal, was hard won. Wisdom that came from mistakes, occasionally embarrassing and even humiliating experiences, sometimes wringed from heartbreaking events.

That is just life.

You gain wisdom, perseverance, the ability to endure,

Patrick issues gag order ahead of trial

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week issued a sweeping gag order ahead of the impeachment trial of suspended Attorney General Ken Paxton, the Houston Chronicle reported, saying "out-of-court statements" by both sides threaten to jeopardize the trial.

The trial is set to begin Sept. 5.

The gag order prohibits members of the Senate and House, their staffs, witnesses and attorneys from making statements that could have a "substantial likelihood of materially prejudicing the trial." Violators could be found in contempt of court and face up to six months in jail and up to \$500 in fines.

Patrick is acting as the judge in the impeachment trial. The gag order was required under the impeachment rules established by the Senate in June.

Meanwhile, Paxton has asked that three Democratic state senators be disqualified, saying their public statements prove they cannot be impartial, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Paxton is targeting Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and Sens. Roland Gutierrez and José Menéndez, D-San Antonio.

"Senators Menendez, Gutierrez, and Johnson's own public statements convincingly establish bias and prejudice against the Attorney General," the motion states. "That cannot be cured."

In a related matter, conservative activist Dr. Steven Hotze has sued Patrick and the Senate to allow Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, the suspended attorney general's wife, to participate in the trial's deliberations and vote on her husband's fate. The Senate rules for the trial disqualified her from participating.

A&M president resigns after botched hiring

Texas A&M University President M. Katherine Banks resigned last week after the faculty senate moved to investigate the botched hiring of journalist Kathleen McElroy to revive the university's journalism program, *The News* reported.

"The recent challenges regarding Dr. McElroy have made it clear to me that I must retire immediately," Banks wrote in her resignation letter submitted late Thursday. "The negative press is a distraction from the wonderful work being done here."

McElroy, a 1981 A&M graduate, elected to remain a tenured professor of journalism at the University of Texas

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



toughness, empathy and compassion from overcoming. That is what makes one a winner in life. Living it day-to-day well. Better or bitter is a choice.

I grew up hearing certain phrases over and over and over from my 5' little Mom who overcame a world of hurt and trouble with a severely handicapped son among a host of other problems, and my heroic rancher Daddy who could handle absolutely anything life threw his way. Their voices are in my head every single day telling me to "roll with the punches", "pull yourself up by your bootstraps", "put one foot in front of the other and keep going", "we do NOT quit, EVER" and "learn from your mistakes".

My parents also insisted on manners and taught me how to communicate with all kinds of people on all kinds of levels. I was expected to acknowledge every person who entered a room or I met on the street. I was taught that every human being has value. They might not be living up to it but they have value and I was to be respectful. And that approach has smoothed my journey many, many times.

They also told me when bullied or intimidated, "stand up for yourself, if you don't do it no one will". And that was a perfect lesson. They never ran to school and intervened. There were those times when I really wished they had because I thought I was in over my head. But they didn't. And I wasn't.

And yes, I got in trouble for everything from talking (2nd grade through graduation—no kidding) all the way to skipping school to go to a neighboring town that had been hit by a tornado. Only two of us out of seven who skipped got in trouble. The other 'in trouble' girl's parents threw a fit. Mine said, "we don't care what everyone else did. Did you skip? Yes. Then you have to pay the consequences".

In other words kids, friends and neighbors here's one of the MOST important life lessons of all...LIFE IS NOT FAIR! Get over it. It never will be.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



in Austin after the original offer for a tenure-track position at A&M was reduced to a one-year contract. The university received criticism from some people my concerning McElroy's work on diversity and equity issues while working in multiple roles at *The New York Times*.

Mark A. Welsh III, dean of A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service, is now acting president of the university.

Feds suing state over razor wire, buoys

The U.S. Justice Department has notified the state that it will file suit over the floating buoy barricade in the middle of the Rio Grande, which is meant to deter migrants from crossing illegally, as well as the razor wire now strung across the U.S. side, the *Texas Standard* reported.

"The State of Texas' actions violate federal law, raise humanitarian concerns, present serious risks to public safety and the environment, and may interfere with the federal government's ability to carry out its official duties," the letter sent to Gov. Greg Abbott stated.

In response, Abbott said the state has the "sovereign authority to defend our border, under the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution," adding, "We will see you in court, Mr. President."

Speed top contributing factor in crashes

Speed-related crashes killed 1,469 people on Texas roadways, according to the Texas Department of Transportation — the top contributing factor in traffic fatalities.

"Getting to your destination two or three minutes faster just isn't worth the risk of a crash and causing harm to yourself or others," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams.

For the latter half of July, Texas law enforcement agencies are participating in Operation Slowdown, a statewide, high-visibility speed enforcement program. TxDOT is also running a number of commercials, billboards and social media posts urging drivers to slow down.

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

Canary in the Coal Mine ...

Canaries were historically used in coal mines to provide an early warning of dangerous gases. The CNBC rankings, where Texas continues to fall, should be viewed in a similar light. Two years ago, I referred to Texas falling to fourth as "eerily disturbing," a remark that received considerably more attention than I anticipated. Last year, the state dropped to fifth, and in the newest rankings fell out of the top five, trailing North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and Minnesota.

CNBC evaluated 86 criteria within 10 categories, assigning weights based on factors identified as "most important to business each year." The heaviest-weighted category is Workforce (where Texas ranks 2), followed by Infrastructure, Economy, and Life, Health & Inclusion. Other categories include Cost of Doing Business, Technology and Innovation, Business Friendliness, Education, Access to Capital, and Cost of Living.

Texas performs well in Workforce (2) and Economy (2), also comparing relatively favorably in Technology and Innovation (8) and Cost of Doing Business (16). Lower rankings were Infrastructure (24 – particularly given recent issues with the power grid), Business Friendliness (25), and Education (35, a sizable drop which doesn't bode well for future Workforce rankings). Regrettably, the state is dead last in Life, Health, & Inclusion.

The specific reasons mentioned for this abysmal ranking were the high percentage of people without health insurance (by far the most in the country) and the low numbers of primary care physicians and licensed childcare facilities per capita. Various actions that are "hacking away at inclusiveness," such as laws related to the LGBTQ+ population, voting rights, and reproductive rights, were also significantly highlighted.

Texas is presently attracting hundreds of thousands of workers every year, and *Chief Executive Magazine* has ranked it as the "Best State for Business" for 19 consecutive years. Texas also has had the most major corporate locations and expansions for the past 11 years. All of that to say that these concerns are unlikely to diminish economic performance in the immediate future, but they serve as critical harbingers of things to come if key issues are not addressed.

Texas must assure that there are adequate water supplies and transportation capacity and that – when the switch is flipped – the lights come on. Proactive efforts in improving access to health care are similarly imperative. Inclusivity is becoming increasingly essential to competing for high-growth companies and in-demand workers. I've measured the potential effects of numerous discriminatory social policies (including impairing voting rights and gender identity), and their potential negative effects are substantial and very real.

The consistent drop in the CNBC rankings is not likely to derail short-term economic success, but it is a canary in the coal mine that we had best heed. Stay safe!

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—Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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PREACHING ABOUT BAPTISM

No subject has been discussed and debated more than baptism. Is it essential to salvation or is it not? Is baptism immersion, sprinkling, or simply pouring water on one? Are infants to be baptized? Is one to be baptized because he is saved, or in order to be saved? The questions are almost endless. Therefore, many just decide the subject of baptism is too controversial, and they do not preach or teach on the subject at all.

For example, let me tell you a little story. Preachers in a small town proposed a meeting in which all the preachers would take alternate turns to preach. A certain gospel preacher, had not been consulted on the arrangement, so he called the other preachers to request his turn to preach. He was informed that an agreement had been made that the subject of baptism would not be mentioned—that they had agreed to preach Christ and say nothing about baptism. The preacher accepted the conditions and agreed to preach without mentioning the word baptism. It was agreed, and he announced in advance his subject was "What Must I do to be Saved."

People came from all over to hear him preach. He preached with such animation and eloquence on salvation, and the love of God, that brought salvation to man through Jesus Christ. When he reached the point of the question-*What must I do to be saved?* he turned to Mark 16: 15-16 and read the words of Christ: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and doeth that thing I promised not to mention, shall be saved." He then read Acts 2: 38: "Repent, and do that thing I promised not to mention, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." And he proceeded to read every verse in the New Testament on baptism, and called it that thing I promised not to mention!

Isn't it strange how many people and preachers will detour around such a plain and positive command of Jesus and His apostles; so simple to be understood and performed, so easy to accept and obey, and so much emphasized in the New Testament? What about you, my friend? Would you like to study this biblical subject in order to understand what the New Testament says about it? Just contact me, and I will be happy to study this subject with you. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
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GISD preparing for Aug. 10 start

School kicks-off Aug. 10 at Gladewater ISD, but there are some key dates ahead of time that parents and students shouldn't miss.

Dr. Sedic Clark outlined the back-to-school timeline for trustees at their regularly-scheduled meeting July 17 along with routine votes on budget amendments and beginning-of-year business.

In key action items, the board approved an addition to the student code of conduct that enhances the punishment for students found in possession of vapes or e-cigarettes on-campus.

Regarding the back-to-school schedule, Clark noted the opening of online registration Tuesday, July 25, which continues as the school year gets underway.

Today, July 27, is the annual in-person residency check from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Gladewater Middle School.

"That's a biggie because everyone needs to come," Clark said. "There are other forms we'll have them fill out there, but that's the place."

New Teacher Orientation is July 31, and returning teachers head back to their classrooms Aug. 1. Convocation is set for 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 2 for faculty and staff.

For students and parents, Meet the Bears is 6:30 p.m. Aug. 7 at Gladewater High School then Meet the Teacher is set for 4 p.m. on all campuses Aug. 8 before the first day of school Aug. 10.

In several budget amendments, trustees approved shifting expenditures from the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year to the new FY23-24.

"We're a July 1 Fiscal Year board," Clark confirmed.

The budget for the current Fiscal Year includes a boon for the district's staffers, granting raises (above scheduled 'steps') for the fifth consecutive year.

In April, the board members approved a new salary schedule for teachers. Budget adoption in late-June added a significant increase for all hourly workers, Clark said, a \$2 per hour pay increase across the board.

"For all of our employees, our salaries are more competitive with other districts than they ever have been before. On a person to person basis, it's more money in their pockets to help them during the times that we're in," Clark said. "One of the things I will do as superintendent: we've worked on raising pay for five years and we will continue to do that, but I'm also going to look at what we can do in the benefits area. We'll ask them what will help them more than just a simple increase in pay."

Meanwhile, "This board is just committed to doing whatever it needs to do, whatever it can do to take care of employees. We do not have unlimited funds... but we're doing the very best with the funds we have to make sure our people know their well-being is important to us."

In a series of standard votes including approval of the 2023-2024 Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, Grading Guidelines and Employee Handbook, Clark noted a disciplinary change: moving forward, student possession of e-cigarettes or vapes will result in a mandatory stint in alternative school.

Another notable change for the district: to comply with the newly-passed Senate Bill 629, Gladewater ISD will ensure at least one person on campus is trained to administer the antidote for fentanyl poisoning and to comply with similar requirements approved this legislative session.

Trustees also approved a resolution regarding wage payments during Emergency School Closings. The policy covers any period of five days or fewer that the school is compelled to close beyond planned dates.

"Without it, we'd be doing a gift of public funds to our employees for times they didn't work," Clark said. This way, staffers can be confident of timely compensation according to the annual budget. "They don't have an option when we say school is closed for a natural disaster, electricity being off, water being off or anything," but they'll still receive due wages.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING



New Gladewater Lions Club officers were recently installed (L-R): Ann Hinds- Vice President, Mandy Wood- Treasurer, Martin Pessink - Outgoing president, Judy Van Houten - President, Farrell Alexander - Tail Twister, and Donna Seery - Secretary. Jimmy Cox - 2nd Vice District Governor from the Waskom Lions Club installed the new officers.

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.

Museum hosting Dick Burnett exhibit

The Gladewater Museum is featuring a new exhibit honoring Dick Burnett and his semi-professional baseball team, the Gladewater Bears – this team became the Dallas Eagles. The Texas Rangers are honoring their origin that includes the Dallas Eagles and the Fort Worth Panthers. Admission is free. Visit the museum at 116 W. Pacific Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday to learn the rest of the story.

County library features 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 27). To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. events are "Rocket The Space Giraffe" by Suzanne Shepard, and "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees.

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

While all the events are free to the public, 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 at the *Mirror* at 903-845-2235.

Texas Prepaid Tuition Plan Newborn Enrollment Deadline Approaches

Texas families have through July 31 to enroll their newborns at 2022-23 prices in the Texas Tuition Promise Fund®, the state's prepaid college tuition plan. Newborns are children younger than 1 year of age at the time of enrollment.*

"I know what it's like to be the parent of newborns, and paying for college was not always at the top of my mind," Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said. "That's why we're reminding new parents to take advantage of the opportunity to lock in

this year's rates and lay the foundation for their children's future educational opportunities."

With the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, participants can purchase tuition units and lock in the costs of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide required fees at Texas public colleges and universities, excluding medical and dental institutions, based on today's prices.

For additional flexibility, the plan also can be used at Texas medical and dental institutions, Texas private colleges and universities, out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools and registered apprenticeship programs, where tuition is not locked in, and the benefits and payouts would be based on the Transfer Value.**

Enrollment at 2022-23 prices closed on Feb. 28 for children 1 year of age and older. The next annual enrollment period begins on Sept. 1, with new contract prices based on Texas public college tuition and schoolwide required fees costs for the 2023-24 school year.

Complete plan information, including the plan description and agreement, current sales prices, enroll-

ment forms and more, is available at TuitionPromise.org or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.

The plan's outreach team also offers free webinars that provide an overview of the plan and discuss the different tuition unit types and payment options, as well as provide information about Texas Match the Promise Foundation - matching scholarship opportunities.

Operation Creation set

"Operation Creation" will be theme for a one-day Family Bible School on Saturday at the Gracetown Church of Christ in Diana community.

The public is invited to the event for all ages, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with free breakfast and lunch provided. Registration and breakfast are at 8:30 a.m.

Infants will be cared for in a Bible class.

"We are looking at the evidence that exists--such as the law of nature and the fossil record--that God created all things," said the church's minister, Scott Dykowski. "We will discuss macro- and micro-evolution, and discuss the evidence that exists for each."

The rural church meets at 384 Lazy Daisy Road at the intersection with FM 1972. Call 903-797-2673.



Gladewater ISD high schoolers pose for a photo with MavTex employees after getting a personal tour of the facility during the Job Shadow event organized by Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

GEDCO helps connect local businesses with workforce

PRESS RELEASE

Striving to both support businesses and foster economic growth, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation puts strong emphasis on expanding and enhancing the community's labor pool.

"We put a lot of effort toward supporting businesses through workforce development," says Michelle Palmer, GEDCO executive director. Workforce is one of the organization's six key goals. "When I visit businesses and I ask them what their greatest hurdles to success are, the number one answer has been workforce issues."

Palmer, her volunteer board of directors and their supporters throughout the community continue focus on tangible ways to assist businesses, whether they're small retailers or large manufacturers inside the city limits.

For example, "Last year we held Gladewater's first-ever job expo in order to help local companies overcome staffing issues," Palmer recalled. "We had good involvement from local companies as well as good participation from the community."

Likewise, "We have partnered with Workforce Solutions East Texas on multiple occasions to connect businesses with programs to bolster their staffing efforts."

In a similar project, an employee with Texas Workforce Commission in Austin created a training program for EDC workers, and Palmer was the 'beta trainee' for the program, giving her fresh, new insights on how to bolster recruiting and

training for the businesses in her Gladewater service area.

"It was quite an honor," Palmer said. "Once he had tested the content on me, he would roll it out to other EDC directors."

Locally, Palmer is working on strengthening the connection between Gladewater ISD and the business community. This Spring saw GEDCO's first Job Shadow event with GISD students.

"I've been working with the high school because our goal for some time has been to build a talent pipeline from the high school to local businesses," she added. There's a lot of support statewide, but "It has been met with some significant challenges because Texas Education Agency doesn't support all the programs needed currently to build that talent pipeline."

"I am working regionally with other EDCs in Gregg County to bring awareness to TEA of the need for a more open curriculum. We want it to be location-specific, to have some kind of flexibility that if you're in this area, the needs of this area can be represented in the curriculum and the school can get credit for that."

Currently, Palmer is also working with Raise Your Hand Texas, an organization that advocates specifically for similar programs.

"Right now we are working on creating a roundtable event in September to bring together regional businesses and educators to be able to marry the need and what can be provided educationally to support those needs to build those talent pipelines."

OBITUARIES

Theresa Marie Sorrells

Theresa Marie Sorrells, age 53, of Gladewater, passed away on July 17, 2023, in Longview. She was born on April 5, 1970, in Nebraska to Jerome and Doris (Caldwell) Kouma.

Theresa was witty, hilarious, and didn't hold anything back. She liked her chickens and added some color to them every once and a while. She had two four-legged soul dogs "Bighead" and "Nugget". Theresa could come up with the best names/nicknames for any and everything. She had the most infectious smile that would truly light up the room. She liked to get from A to B quick, fast, and in a hurry, with the best music coming through the speakers. She was generous and could talk to you about absolutely nothing at all. Theresa was a one-of-a-kind wife who made the best chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, and gravy.

Above all her greatest loves were her two grandchildren. From building the coolest racetracks, to making the fastest toddler slide, it didn't matter. Making a fort or being "Frankenstein Gigi", she was there for those boys along with the rest of the family.

Theresa is survived by her husband Don Sorrells of Gladewater; son, Clint Sorrells; daughter, Shelby Rojas and husband Junior of Kilgore; two grandsons, Oliver and Owen Rojas; mother, Doris Caldwell; brothers, Michael Kouma and wife Kathy, Paul Kouma and wife Cindy, and Larry Kouma and wife Gina; sisters Linda Galloway and husband Kenny and Julie Mebane and husband Rusty; and brother-in-law, Dan Sorrells of Prichett.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jerome Kouma. A memorial service for Theresa was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at Croley Funeral Home Gladewater.



HELEN NELSON POWNELL

Helen Nelson Pownell, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on July 17, 2023, at the age of 91. Helen was born on December 26, 1931, in the Bazette community, near Kerens, Texas, to Joe and Vennie Nelson. She grew up living in the East Texas "oil patch" near towns, such as Overton and New London during her father's thirty-six years with Humble Oil & Refining Company (now ExxonMobil).

She attended Gladewater High School, graduating third in her class in 1949, and was a

member of the Gladewater Band. The band performed across the country, including in New York City for Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, in Washington D.C., and in Galveston. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Baylor University in 1953. Her family recently dedicated a bench in her honor at Baylor's Armstrong Browning Building, where she worked for Dr. Andrew Armstrong during her college years.

She began her teaching career in Dallas but after one year moved to Tyler to work for Humble Oil & Refining Company (ExxonMobil), where she met and married, in August of 1955, her husband of sixty-five years and love of her life, Galyn Dee Pownell. They started a family in 1957 and Helen transitioned into a full-time mother and housewife, raising their five children (two girls and three boys). Galyn's forty-year career with ExxonMobil took the growing family from Tyler to Mount Pleasant, Kingsville, Corpus Christi, Houston, and overseas. Family vacations were a priority, including trips to East Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, France, Australia, New Zealand, and The Holy Land. Helen's creativity was channeled into many of her children's activities, serving as Cub Scout Den Leader, Blue Bird Leader, and Oil Belt Little League scorekeeper, to name a few.

As her children got older, Helen began teaching English at Tuloso-Midway High School, where she had the opportunity to teach most of her children. In 1981, the family moved to Houston, where Helen embraced another career as a realtor and broker. Over the years, as their children grew and left the nest to form their own families and lives, Helen, along with Galyn, joyously served as parent, teacher, mentor, booster, cheerleader, coach, and fan. After Helen and Galyn retired to Weston Lakes in Fulshear, Helen continued to hone her seamstress and furniture refinishing skills, including upholstering couches, chairs, and making curtains for her children's homes and her own. She, along with Galyn, developed a passion for genealogy, and she expanded upon her mother's research of the Nelson and Tramel family. Over time, she compiled several large binders full of history, pictures, and stories. Helen also served as the Weston Lakes Women's Association President, a foundation that planned community activities and contributed scholarships for college-bound high school students. As a committed Christian and believer, Helen was a faithful member of and actively involved in her local churches. For many years she taught the Women's "JOY" Sunday School Class at Tuloso-Midway Baptist in Corpus Christi and often served as its Vacation Bible School Director. After moving to Houston, they attended Champion Forest Baptist, and then, when they retired to Weston Lakes, Simonton Community Church, where they proudly dedicated a stained glass window in the church sanctuary.

Shortly after Galyn's death in December 2020, Helen had a major stroke that impacted her both physically and mentally. Despite her difficulties during her final two and half years, Helen remained gracious and never lost her wit, charm, beauty, and spirit.

The family extends their utmost thankfulness to her wonderful caregivers, nurses, and staff at MyCompanion and MyFamily Hospice. Her "overtime" period was made

possible because of their outpouring of love and concern, treating our Mother like their own. The family also would like to thank the staff and residents at The Abbey at Westminster Plaza, where Helen thoroughly enjoyed dining with her friends, biking in the exercise room, and getting her hair and nails done weekly. She was known for her "best dressed" appearance, even winning the Halloween contest last year dressed as a queen.

Helen is preceded in death by her husband, Galyn; her parents, Joe and Vennie Nelson; and her brother, Edward Nelson.

She is survived by her loving brother Ronald Nelson (Martha) and her loving children Susan Walko (Ted), Patrick Pownell (Dawn), Jeffrey Pownell, Tim Pownell (Katherine), and Vicki Bevan (Jim). She is also survived by her grandchildren Nathan Walko; Leah Walko; Kaiti Walko; Caroline Megison (Daniel), Preston Pownell (Katie), Trevor Pownell (Sydney), Kristen Pownell (Wesley Tiu); and Kelsey Pownell; and by her great-grandchildren Ella Grace Megison, Luke Megison, Noah Megison, and Hallie Pownell; and cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A viewing service for Helen will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Grand Parkway, in Katy. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2023 at Simonton Community Church. She will then be laid to rest in Simonton Cemetery next to her beloved Galyn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Simonton Community Church. Helen, always know that you are deeply loved. Your wisdom, kindness, graciousness, and goodness impacted everyone that you encountered. You are the essence of the woman depicted in Proverbs 31: "Her children arise and call her blessed. Many women do noble things but you surpass them all." We will miss you dearly, but in our grief we take comfort knowing that you have entered the gates of Heaven, joined Galyn and other loved ones, and we will see you again. Funeral services held under the direction of Schmidt Funeral Home, Katy, Texas.

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SPORTS

Roughnecks - New coach, new season

By Tyler Sutton

2022 was a frustrating season for White Oak football as they had one of their worst seasons in a while, finishing 3-7 and missing the playoffs.

The 2023 campaign will be a new era, with long-time coach Chris Iske retiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year and Mike Ludlow taking over as head coach and AD.

He comes to White Oak from Robinson high school in central Texas. He inherits a White Oak team that lost a lot of senior leadership to graduation but will have a ton of young players returning to earn spot's.

"I feel we have a ton of potential. We will have a lot of positions up for the taking going into Week 1. But I feel we can do some damage in the district if we play up to our potential," Robinson said.

The Roughnecks will be trying to bounce back from just a 1 win district season last year. But they were still in playoff contention until the final week of the season when the lost a winner gets in game to crosstown rival Gladewater

Key returning players on offense: Jaxsen

Ludlow, David Watson, Kenny Poul, Dee Williams, Dakota Green, Jackson Thorp, Colin Wheat, Landon Ayock, Gage Davison

Key returning players on defense: Watson, Poul, Williams, Jonathan Farnham, Maddock Hardin, Kelton Gates, Wheat, Davison, Ayock

The RoughNecks will once again have a ton of players playing both ways on both offense and defense

White Oak's 2023 schedule:

- August 25th: Troup**
- September 1st: @ Harmony**
- September 7th: @ Harleton**
- September 15th: Brook Hill**
- September 22nd: Elkhart**
- September 29th: Bye week**
- October 6th: @ Jefferson (district opener)**
- October 13th: Tatum (Pink Out)**
- October 20th: @ Atlanta**
- October 27th: Sabine (Sr. night)**
- November 3rd: @ Gladewater**

Ladynecks - on top of the hill again

By Tyler Sutton

The White Oak Lady Roughnecks volleyball team looks to continue their run as the top dogs in the district as they look to improve even more on the great 2022 season they had.

The Ladynecks are coming off a 39-9 regular season including a perfect 10-0 and a district championship. Ultimately falling in the 3rd round of the playoffs to fellow east Texas team Tatum.

Head coach Morgan High is entering her 2nd season as head coach at White Oak as she looks to improve even more on her amazing debut season in 2022.

"We will obviously be the hunted coming into the season. But I feel we will be having another great team full of ladies wanting to go even further than we did a year ago," High said.

White Oak will be the clear favorite to once again win the district for a 2nd year in a row.

Key returning starters: Ali Sims, Karsyn Edwards, Addison McClanahan, Londyn Bodovsky, Kate Dusek. Addison Clinkscales, Calee Carter

White Oak's volleyball schedule:

August 8th: Spring Hill

- August 11th-12th: Garland Tourn.**
- August 15th: Pleasant Grove**
- August 15th : Longview**
- August 17th-19th: Lufkin tourn.**
- August 22nd: Whitehouse**
- August 24th: Shirley Atkins tourn.**
- August 29th: @ Bullard**
- September 1st: @ Gilmer**
- September 5th: @ Hallsville**
- September 8th: @ Beckville**
- September 12th: @ Central Heights**
- September 15th: Harmony**
- September 19th: Pittsburgh**
- September 22nd: @ Hughes Springs**
- September 26th: New Diana**
- September 29th: @ Gladewater**
- October 3rd: @ Sabine**
- October 6th: @ Dangerfield**
- October 10th: Hughes Springs**
- October 13th: @ New Diana**
- October 17th: Gladewater**
- October 20th: Sabine**
- October 24th: Dangerfield (Sr night)**

"One Man's Opinion by Coot Putley"

Impressions from the Midsummer Classic

Baseball's All-Star Game is the best in professional sports. The NBA game is all dunks and threes, with no defense. The NFL Pro Bowl has become a "skills exhibition." MLB has a real game, with players who actually seem to care. The only reward is pride, but they keep score for a reason.

Let's talk about this year's game. One criticism I have is the uniforms. These AL and NL outfits are just another attempt to sell merchandise. Part of the game's appeal is having players represent their team. If there are six Texas Rangers in the game, (and there were!) I want them wearing Texas uniforms. Elias Diaz hit the game-winning home run. How many people know he plays for the Colorado Rockies? Wear the "custom designs" at the Home Run Derby but wear your team's uniform in the game.

The other complaint was the four studio hosts who were attempting to imitate the TBS Basketball group. Barkley, Shaq, Kenny and Ernie have great chemistry. They offer valuable insight and are genuinely funny. Rodriguez, Martinez, Jeter and Burkhardt were just going through the motions with their forced banter. ARod is still a pretentious phony. Watch the expression on his face as he feigns interest in what the others are saying. He looks like he smells something!

Now let's move on to some good things. The relationship between Aroldis Garcia and Randy Arozarena was fun to watch. They are obviously great friends enjoying a healthy rivalry. How cool was it to see them make carbon copy great catches to rob the first two National League batters? Having mics on some of the players helped us get to know them better. It was especially interesting hearing Nathan Eovaldi discuss pitch selection from the mound.

These games give us a chance to watch players that we might not get to see much during the regular season, like Arizona Diamondback teammates Corbin Carroll and Lourdes Garcia Jr. with his purple hair. Carroll was especially happy to be in Seattle - he went to high school eleven miles from T-Mobile Park. Miami Marlin Luis Arraez did what he does best. After he had seen only two pitches, Luis had two hits on his ledger. And San Francisco Giants closer Camino Duval threw a pitch clocked at 101.2 miles per hour.

Next year the All Star Game will be in Arlington. Globe Life Field looks like a warehouse from the outside, but it is a very impressive and comfortable place to watch a game. The Rangers will be ready to host. It will be special - things are bigger and better in Texas!

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Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before Planning & Zoning Commission of Gladewater, Texas Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, Texas to consider a request for a rear set-back variance to City of Gladewater Code of Ordinance §15.11.120(C)(3) – Single Family Districts at LTS 2 & 3 BLK 3 PARKVIEW (W 37' LT 3); more commonly known as 221 Hull Street and LTS 3A; 3B; 4A & 4B BLK 3 PARKVIEW (N/2 OF E 83' LT 3 & N/2 OF W/2 LT 4); more commonly known as 304 Hull Street.

A second public hearing will be conducted by the Gladewater City Council on August 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend these public hearings or send written comments to City of Gladewater, Judy Van Houten, City Clerk, PO Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647.

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Local veterans' graves to be honored with a memorial marker during Wreaths Across America

There are more than 400 veterans' graves in Gladewater cemeteries – come Dec. 16, each will be honored with a memorial marker during Wreaths Across America.

It's a simultaneous ceremony held nationwide in mid-December. On the East Coast, the honors for America's deceased veterans begin at noon in Washington D.C. which

puts it at 11 a.m. in Gladewater that Saturday morning. "It's a way that we can thank those who preserved our liberties and the freedoms that we enjoy today," says Lois Reed, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce president.

Calling on individuals, families, churches, civic organizations and businesses to step forward and support the effort, Reed is spearheading the local push through the community's 150th Anniversary Celebration. She continues to be thrilled at the enthusiastic reception for the idea.

"Gladewater has never done it on this scale before," Reed said, "and 150 years into it, we need to honor everyone."

Wreaths will be laid on every veteran gravesite at both Gladewater Memorial Park and Rosedale Cemetery. Not only does that require about 400 red bow'd wreaths at \$17 apiece, it demands a small army of volunteers to make it happen.

Reed has been fundraising for the program: Gladewater needs at least \$6,800 in donations to participate and honor every vet's grave. From individual donations of \$17 to \$1,000 checks from local organizations like the Knights of Pythias Longview Lodge #26, the outreach has been a success so far.

"By the time I left city council Thursday night I had \$190. That's a pretty good hour," Reed praised. "Within a week, we have collected more than \$3,400."

"The community wants to see this happen, and I'm quite pleased with everyone who has stepped forward, made donations and volunteered to place the wreath."

For more information, to make a donation or to volunteer to place wreaths, contact Reed at the chamber at 903-845-5501 or by email to info@gladewaterchamber.org.



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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 riding ____back (without a saddle)
5 TX Janis Joplin was a drug ____
6 "Texas Central" is proposing a high-speed ____line
7 TXism: "not a lick"
8 TXism: "I'm at the ____ of my rope"
9 highly recommend-ed film (2 wds.)
16 early band of TX Roy Orbison: "____ Kings"
18 Texans, because of their country
21 "____ Siecke State Forest"
22 "____ Bell Creameries in Brenham
23 cowboy's bolo
24 feudal serf
30 a horse with no one aboard
34 Gov. James "____" Ferguson
35 TX King Vidor directed 1937 film: "____ Dallas"
36 retail blowout
37 Houston Rockets had this Daniel for 2021 season
39 TXism: "long as ____"
43 TXism: "I ____"
44 TXism: "he can't carry a ____ _ bucket"
45 19th governor: "____ Sul" Ross
46 blood vessel
47 it was needed in World War I (2 wds.)

49 honky tonk, e.g. (2 wds.)
52 four-bagger as a stat
53 Marlin High class seat of Rains County
54 before he was a Ranger, Jorge Cantu played for the Miami
58 TXism: "playing with ____ deck" (unlucky)

59 TX Jim Reeves hit: "____ Losing You" (1957)
60 air mover
61 dir. to Clyde from Greenwood

DOWN

1 first president of Republic of Texas; name of city/county
2 TXism: "busy ____ _armed paper hanger"
3 TX-born Autry sang "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed ____"
4 honorary Texas Ranger: ____ Stanley Gardner
9 wife of 34-across
10 mobile rain protection
11 TXism: "she could ____ ice cubes to eskimos"

12 TXism: "if it ain't ____ , there ain't a cow in Texas"
13 TXism for "nap"
14 this Clark was the Texas governor when the Civil War started (init.)
15 "chow down"
17 TXism: "____ _ calf crying for mama"
19 TXism: "____ _ the bud" (stop something early)
20 TX Gene Tierney 1951 film: "The Mating ____"
24 TX Stephen Tobolowsky was in Texas-based 1980 TV film "Roe ____ Wade"

25 TX Tanya Tucker sang "One Love ____ Time" (1986)
26 Branch Davidians who lived near Waco, e.g.
27 swamp
28 dark moon: ____ eclipse
29 bowling alleys
31 Buchanan ____ , TX
32 UT graduate, actor Wallach

33 37th governor, Allan
38 late country music TV host, Ralph
40 Daly of television show "Wings" with TX Crystal Bernard
41 single strand nucleic acid
42 speed trap town in Hall County on U.S. 287
48 Deer Park FM, or El Paso AM
50 in the middle of
51 ____ Ormy, Texas
56 TXism: "hot as ____ griddle"
57 Ruth of 1950 western, "Dallas," with Gary Cooper

See Answers On This Page

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GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFSE	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
7/16/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234061	0:57	GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL	414 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	WARRANT	20234062	1:10	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234063	1:31		325 S MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20234064	2:11	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ABANDONED 911	20234065	2:34	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234066	2:50		314 W OLIVER OLIVER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234067	9:10		510 NORTH NORTH ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234068	9:46		5 HWY 271 HWY 271
	EMS	20234069	9:58	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234071	11:41		812 E COMMERCE COMMERCE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234072	13:28		BEHIND SEAFOOD PLACE BEHIND SEAFOOD PLACE
	ASSIST	20234073	13:42	BODACIOUS BBQ	1105 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234074	14:10		SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234075	14:31		GAY GAY
	FIRE DEPT	20234076	16:02		HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234077	17:19	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20234078	18:18		201 WALTON WALTON ST
	EMS	20234079	19:22		212 GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY RD
	EMS	20234080	19:57		23 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234081	20:15		CHESTNUT CHESTNUT AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234082	21:31		85 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	20234083	21:41		520 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	EMS	20234084	21:48		2064 FM 2885 FM 2885
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234085	23:27		86 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	20234086	1:24		27 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS ST
7/17/23	WARRANT	20234087	10:45		511 GODFREY GODFREY
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234088	11:35		DEAN DEAN
	ASSIST	20234089	13:21		1050 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	THEFT	20234090	13:46	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20234091	13:58	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	215 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20234092	17:40	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234093	19:09		FR 3479 PR 3479
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234094	21:34		SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234095	21:35		SOUTH LOOP 485 SOUTH LOOP 485
	EMS	20234096	21:51	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234097	22:02		39 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	EMS	20234098	23:04	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
7/18/23	EMS	20234099	0:08	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234100	0:12	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234101	5:10		520 W PACIFIC PACIFIC
	EMS	20234102	5:17	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	EMS	20234103	5:36		21 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	EMS	20234104	5:55	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234105	7:15	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20234106	7:54	GREENWAY VILLAGE	16 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ASSIST	20234107	9:31		609 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20234108	9:47		382 S CENTER CENTER ST
	ASSIST	20234109	10:46		SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP
	HARASSMENT	20234110	10:54	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20234111	13:32		302 MAPLE MAPLE
	ALARM/OTHER	20234112	15:00		1211 NEWLYN NEWLYN
	THEFT	20234113	16:24		1501 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234114	16:50		2417 W HAROLD HAROLD
	EMS	20234115	17:28		313 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD LANE
	EMS	20234116	17:39		710 TENNERY TENNERY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234117	17:48		86 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234118	19:49		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234119	21:41		LYNN LYNN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234120	23:04		86 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD
7/19/23	ALARM/OTHER	20234121	1:21	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	EMS	20234122	4:39		1879 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	THEFT	20234123	7:00	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20234124	15:47	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234125	16:56		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234126	16:59	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234127	17:25	CAPSHAW DIERIUX,LLP	114 E COMMERCE COMMERCE DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20234128	18:40		MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20234129	20:04		14 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234130	23:30		HWY 80 HWY 80
7/20/23	ABANDONED 911	20234131	4:07		1102 HAMPTON HAMPTON
	EMS	20234132	9:55	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20234133	10:54		2820 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20234134	12:28		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	ASSIST	20234135	13:40		10920 S US HWY 271 US HWY 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234136	15:04		16 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VLG
	ILLEGAL DUMPING	20234137	15:14		55 COUCH COOKEY COUCH COOKEY
	10-50 MINOR	20234138	16:20	MIKES MINI MART	1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20234139	16:45	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234140	16:51	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	FIRE DEPT	20234141	16:59	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	FIRE DEPT	20234142	17:16		2403 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20234143	17:31		1029N LYNN LYNN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234144	17:38		408 W GAY GAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20234145	17:38		1105 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234146	17:50		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20234147	20:43		117 AUSTIN AUSTIN ST
	EMS	20234148	22:04		216 OAK OAK DR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234149	22:32	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234150	23:04		7 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234151	23:57		9 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
7/21/23	EMS	20234152	0:07		300 MAPLE MAPLE
	EMS	20234153	2:18		1842 PHILIPS SPRINGS PHILIPS SPRINGS RD
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234154	3:04		COACH COOKSEY COACH COOKSEY
	ALARM/OTHER	20234155	6:50		700 MELBA MELBA
	MISSING PERSON	20234156	7:16		204 OAK OAK DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20234157	8:05	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	THEFT	20234158	9:34		801 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234159	10:08	AUSTIN BANK	1825 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234160	12:17	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234161	16:51		271 271
	EMS	20234162	18:55		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234163	19:50		704 N HOLLY HOLLY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234164	19:59		605 N GARRY GARRY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234165	20:05		106 COTTON COTTON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234166	20:15		1302 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234167	20:18	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234168	20:21		1008 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE ST
	EMS	20234169	21:24		303 COOPER COOPER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234170	21:46		1212 EDWARD EDWARD ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234171	23:55	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
7/22/23	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20234172	0:08		FOREST HILL FOREST HILL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234173	0:43	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234174	1:53	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234175	2:12		101 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234176	2:29	TELES MEXICAN RESTAURANT	401 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20234177	7:19		1 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ALARM/OTHER	20234178	7:33		1032 COMMERCE COMMERCE E
	ALARM/OTHER	20234179	8:04	PFM PRODUCTS	1032 E COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234180	8:26	GLADEVIEW BAPTIST	901 CULVER CULVER ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234181	9:24		690 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	EMS	20234182	9:41		4411 COMMERCE COMMERCE
	EMS	20234183	10:20	DOLLAR TREE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234184	10:37	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234185	11:45	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234186	12:17	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20234187	12:45		3412 W HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234188	13:16	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234189	14:00	GAY AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20234190	14:32	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234191	14:42	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
		20234192	15:51	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234201	16:51		271 271
	EMS	20234202	18:55		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234203	19:50		704 N HOLLY HOLLY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234204	19:59		605 N GARRY GARRY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234205	20:05		106 COTTON COTTON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234206	20:15		1302 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234207	20:18	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234208	20:21		1008 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE ST
	EMS	20234209	21:24		303 COOPER COOPER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234210	21:46		1212 EDWARD EDWARD ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234211	23:55	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
7/23/23	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20234212	0:08		FOREST HILL FOREST HILL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234213	0:43	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234214	1:53	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234215	2:12		101 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234216	2:29	TELES MEXICAN RESTAURANT	401 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20234217	7:19		1 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ALARM/OTHER	20234218	7:33		1032 COMMERCE COMMERCE E
	ALARM/OTHER	20234219	8:04	PFM PRODUCTS	1032 E COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234220	8:26	GLADEVIEW BAPTIST	901 CULVER CULVER ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234221	9:24		690 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	EMS	20234222	9:41		4411 COMMERCE COMMERCE
	EMS	20234223	10:20	DOLLAR TREE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234224	10:37	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234225	11:45	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234226	12:17	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20234227	12:45		3412 W HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234228	13:16	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234229	14:00	GAY AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20234230	14:32	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234231	14:42	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
		20234232	15:51	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE

GPD POLICE ARRESTS

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDR
7/16/23	7/16/23	1:10	SHEFFIELD, JAYLON MCSHANE	B	M	EXPIRED LICENSE PLATES	100 MONEY
	7/16/23	1:10	SHEFFIELD, JAYLON MCSHANE	B	M	FAILURE TO APPEAR (CLASS C OFFENSE)	100 MONEY
7/21/23	7/21/23	3:22	SAMPSON, TERRY LYNN	W	M	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	COACH COOKSEY @ LO
	7/21/23	3:22	SAMPSON, TERRY LYNN	W	M	FAILURE TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	COACH COOKSEY @ LO



First responders recognize helpers after storm

Continued from Page 1

reading Palmer's report to council members so they could fully understand the challenges and successes Gladewater experienced that night.

City personnel were monitoring the forecast throughout the day, including at 11 p.m. when radar indicated the storm cell moving well north of Gladewater. By 12:30 a.m., however, heavy rain and winds arrived in town with a vengeance.

"I walked over to dispatch to see if any calls were coming in," Palmer recalled. "The dispatcher was overwhelmed as every phone was ringing, and he had multiple calls on hold."

At that point, the rain was coming down heavy with winds gusting at more than 70 miles per hour.

At 12:50 a.m. dispatch received a call from residents trapped in their mobile home after a tree fell through it.

"That was the first call of over 50 that the Fire Department responded to over the next 72-96 hours," Palmer noted.

The city's Incident Command System was activated and additional resources were called in from fire, police and public works with Palmer filling in as Incident Commander while Simmons was out of the area.

"This phase was focused on rescue operations, resource consolidation and allocation," lasting until approximately 5 a.m. June 16. Phase II saw efforts switch from rescue and damage control to protecting the city's infrastructure, particularly the water treatment plant and wastewater plant.

"We needed to get the operator to that location. However, all roads were blocked and there were no access points," Palmer reported. "Public works split up into two crews and access was gained to both facilities at approximately 0830. Other infrastructure concerns were major roadways such as Hwy. 80, Hwy. 271 and other major thoroughfares."

Multiple other fire department personnel and volunteers responded, enabling the city to fully staff three emergency vehicles as recovery efforts got fully underway.

Palmer transferred Incident Command to Simmons at 7 a.m. June 17.

"If it had not been for the great teamwork between the fire department, police department, public works and City Hall," Palmer noted, "there is no doubt in my mind that the damage that hit us these two days would have been much worse. To date, there have been no reports of a single fatality or major injury."

The work by Bradley, Bashum, Palmer and so many others was phenomenal, Simmons praised.

"With incidents like this, it takes the whole community," he told council members. "Gladewater Fire Department has a mindset that we will do whatever it takes in the service of our citizens."

"When our city was at our weakest, we were at our strongest."

'Failure is not an option – when you are with God.'

By James Draper

"Failure is not an option – when you are with God."

The first half of the phrase was spoken by Gene Kranz, NASA's second Chief Flight Director, who directed missions in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo Programs, including the lunar landing mission of Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969. Kranz made the pronouncement in the course of the averted-disaster of Apollo 13.

Jonny Ferguson tacked on the second portion, the culmination of many lessons and observations he gleaned from more than four decades behind the consoles of Mission Control.

The United States' success in the Space Race was, in very real ways, miraculous, he told Gladewater Rotarians Thursday afternoon, the 54-year anniversary of the moon landing.

One miracle after another compounded with the diligent contributions of brilliant, hardworking people, Ferguson said. Prayer and God's guidance were integral to the NASA community.

For example, "We had lots and lots of people meeting during the lunch hour for Bible Studies," he explained, adding up to hundreds of sessions in a given week. "This just goes to show you we were very much concentrating and understanding this whole thing depended on God."

Born and raised in Kilgore, Ferguson's father was a local police officer while his mother worked in department stores. Their son graduated Kilgore schools and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1965.

By March of the 1966, the 26-year-old was working at the still-new Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"The timing was just right," he says. "God was opening up the doors for me to get involved in that."

One of Ferguson's key roles at the agency was Guidance Officer, or GUIDO, the flight controllers who worked with spacecrafts' on board navigational systems and guidance computer software.

"I did computer programming back in the early days when you programmed them with ones and zeros."

During Apollo 8's flight around the moon, the astronauts snapped a famous picture of the Earth rising over the lunar horizon on December 24. The crew read from the book of Genesis that Christmas Eve.



"When back on earth we were having so much turmoil," Ferguson said, "there was not hardly a dry eye in the control center. That brought us to the realization of 'Here we are. We need to take care of each other. We need to take care of Earth.'"

It was July 20, 1969, when Apollo 11's Neal Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the surface of the moon.

"Neal Armstrong was the right guy at the right time to be in command of that event," Ferguson said, experienced in carrier landings, rocket tests, successful missions, failures and recoveries.

It was a good thing, too. "Things got very, very tense. The lunar surface where they wanted to land was too rough," Ferguson said. "Neal Arm-

strong takes over control of the lunar module and pulls it up to start flying a little longer. Fuel became a critical issue."

"Finally, Buzz Aldrin called down, 'Kicking up, dust.' Then, Neal: 'Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.' They had 13 seconds of fuel left."

There's another key moment that stands out for Ferguson, who retired in 2009 after 42 years working in the space program.

"Buzz Aldrin had Communion on the moon," he recalled. "The very first meal served on the moon was a Communion."

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White Oak works to close gap between local, state valuations

Continued from Page 1

he intends to set a public forum in the near future so the district's taxpayers can better understand the issue.

Unchecked, "It sounds like it could cost us anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million in funding," Paul said, looking a year down the road. "That's why it's important to us that we're doing everything we can not only to make sure that doesn't become an issue, but if it does become an issue we've got good people behind us to help us fight that battle and do all we can for the students of White Oak."

In other business during their July 14 meeting, the trustees heard from Paul on handbook updates for the district.

"We are making a couple of adjustments in our business office practices. We have rewritten some of our business policy procedure guideline books," Paul said later, anticipating board consideration of the finalized changes in August. "It all goes back to making sure we're efficient here in the business office, and we're working for the best interests of

the taxpayer."

The trustees heard campus updates from their principals and good news, albeit incomplete, on the school's STAAR returns.

"We won't get final results until September," Paul noted. From initial figures, "The high school really did a great job. Those high school students, teachers and administrators did a great job with that. Scores are still pending for elementary, intermediate and middle school."

A necessary budget amendment moved money between accounts to cover security improvements at the district.

"We're doing a lot of installation of cameras and door access and vape sensors in the bathrooms, things like that," Paul said. All told, the cost will be in excess of \$750,000. "Five hundred (thousand) of that is going to be paid through a grant. We're looking to see if we can get another \$250,000 grant-funded as well."

"We're going to do what we can for the safety and security of our students."

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