

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢

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BURN BAN IN EFFECT

Gregg, Upshur and Smith County continue to be under a burn ban due to extreme dry conditions. That means no burning of trash piles or brush. Outdoor cooking is allowed, but please be careful. Fines for violating the burn ban can start at \$500.

Residents doing their part during current burn ban

Inside the Gladewater City Limits, there's been just one alleged burn ban violation since Gregg County Commissioners approved the measure Aug. 7 – that was on Sunday, Mike Simmons says, and when firefighters arrived on scene, there was nothing to speak of.

On the whole, Gladewater's fire chief says, residents are definitely doing their part.

He's grateful. "We put out the warnings, and we thank everybody for participating and following the rules," Simmons praised. "Due to that fact, we have not had any significant events take place."

In fact, he suspects the burn ban – and residents' respect of it – has reduced the average number of fire calls overall. A recent house fire (one not sparked by errant behavior) was disastrous, but contained without further incident.

"As far as grass fires go, knock on wood, we've been pretty fortunate," Simmons added, fewer than firefighters would see at any given time. "Grass fires are typically the most common fire call we get. In the 11 days since the burn ban was put in place, I'd say it's uncharacteristic not to have grass fires in that span."

Thank goodness, he added, because conditions are ripe for significant problems if people don't toe the line.

"We are hotter and drier than we were a week ago. As the winds pick up, things will become drier and more critical."

Simmons encourages everyone to be vigilant, hyper-aware of their surroundings, on the lookout for cinders and stray smoke.

"It's the team working together. We're all in this together, we're all doing our part, and we've had success."

Upshur County Commissioners Court last week extended the ban on rural outdoor burning through 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31.

The ban was prompted by continuing extremely hot, dry weather that has caused several other area counties and incorporated cities to impose such restrictions.

Upshur's order, extended on Aug. 15, doesn't apply to incorporated cities, but some cities in the county, including Gilmer, have issued their own bans.

Violation of the county's ban in a rural area is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

The order allows certain exceptions to the prohibition, namely "outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality."

Those include activities related to firefighter training; public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; planting or harvesting of agricultural crops or "burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified" under the Natural Resources Code and meeting that code's standards.

DUE HONORS

Veterans entrust Medal of Honor recipient's legacy to local firefighters

By James Draper

The torch has been passed.

For decades, U.S. Marine (ret.) Leon Watson was the principle caretaker of the Medal of Honor gravesite of U.S. Army Master Sgt. Travis E. Watkins. Watson and other area veterans ensured the final resting place of the Korean War hero was well-tended at Gladewater Memorial Park.

Years pass and so do the duties people bear – on Monday, Watson laid a symbolic penny on Watkins' gravestone, followed moments later by four Gladewater firefighters in a simple ceremony to ensure the grave will be respected for years to come.

More honors and activities are being planned for the weeks, months and years ahead. For now, though, a crisp flag flies cracks in the wind over a brightly-painted flagpole. The plot below is newly-landscaped, the marble is freshly-polished and the bronze Medal of Honor plaque has been given an extra shine.

"I'm glad they've taken this on," Watson said, admiring GFD's recent handiwork. "We'd hate to have someone like this who's not recognized."

Watkins was an Army soldier and veteran of World War II who was killed in the Korean War in action that began August 31, 1950, during the Battle of Yongsan. Following courageous



acts on the battlefield, Watkins was killed Sept. 3, 1950, and later interred in Gladewater Memorial Park. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in February 1951.

Watson served in the Marines from 1959 to 1963. Naturally, the Gladewater native and veteran knew of Watkins' legacy and of

his gravesite at Gladewater Memorial Park, but it wasn't until the 1980s that a representative of the National Medal of Honor Society visited town and recruited Watson to help install an official plaque on Watkins' final resting place.

"At the time, I was active in

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HOT on and off the field - stay safe



Gladewater vs Daingerfield
7:00 p.m. Thursday at Tiger Stadium



White Oak vs Troup
7:30 p.m. Friday at Roughneck Stadium



Bishop Gorman vs Union Grove
7:00 p.m. Thursday at Glyn Johnston Stadium



Its football time in East Texas, but sweltering heat and sweating at the game can completely ruin the experience. Feeling hot is one thing, but when your body begins to feel dehydrated and shut down, it's tough to focus on the game and enjoy it! You'll need the right kind of hot weather clothing in order to avoid the heat.

This week football games are expected to be really, really hot. So wear the right colors.

When you go to a game, you're kind of stuck wearing the colors of your team. But there are still a lot of choices that you can make based on the color schemes that the team offers to you. If you can wear lighter colors in the sun, you can reflect a lot more of the heat than you will with the darker colors. For example, if you can choose between a dark green and a neon green, go for the bolder neon. It will reflect more sunlight than going with your team's darker color kit. Lots of baseball teams use lighter pants for this reason, it's a smart way to do clothing when figuring out how to keep baseball players cool in hot weather.

Keep the sun out of your eyes

Continued on Page 4

Local schools join KC for workforce program

By James Draper

Three local high schools are working together with Kilgore College to open the workforce to students as soon as they're ready.

Based at White Oak ISD and ready to serve students from both Gladewater and Union Grove as well, the developing KC satellite puts dual credit coursework in even easier reach. With Career and Technical Education (CTE) options in the mix as well, it also emphasizes student safety, sparing them a regular commute for their advanced coursework.

"Right now it's kind of a seedling program, but it's got a lot of potential," according to Dr. William Paul, WOISD superintendent. "Hopefully it'll get some momentum and it'll grow."

But for a handful of final items on the punchlist, the 'Kilgore College at White Oak' campus is ready to launch this semester. Already, talks are underway to integrate more students, an open invitation to Sabine and Big Sandy ISDs that would add even more cost efficiencies and learning

options to a project focused on practicality.

"It's kind of come out of necessity," Paul said, a need to get students the education they need as soon as possible, whether it's core subjects or vocational skills in (eventually) a myriad of careers. "The workforce right now is so thin. It's hard to find people qualified to do these things. That's kind of created an issue, but we can't slow down in preparing our kids for the real world.

"This is an innovative way to continue serving kids, which is what we're here for – hopefully boosting the economy down the road."

All the partnering districts are already working to grant students access to academic dual credit or career dual credit options, he added.

"The issue you run into there is you can't always find individuals who are qualified to teach those courses. You wind up with a mismatch of what you can and can't offer."

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LOOK INSIDE!

Check out the 2023 Fall Sports special section in this week's newspaper. It features our area football, volleyball and Xcountry teams, as well as cheerleaders and drill teams.

Gladewater city council approves tax rate cut

By James Draper

The City of Gladewater's budget and tax rate were all but ready for a vote Thursday night – a key piece of bookkeeping had to be squared away first, though.

Ultimately, the council members in attendance completed mandatory roll-call votes and unanimously approved the \$8.1 million financial plan for Fiscal Year 2024, paid for with a tax rate of 0.626978 per \$100 valuation.

That's a 1.78 percent increase on the current rate, netting the city approximately \$46,230 more in taxpayer revenues compared to FY23.

Before they could get to a vote, the city's elected officials had to hold public hearings and a final budget workshop. They had one with a crucial task at-hand: to balance the budget by eliminating an anticipated \$100,000 deficit.

There were two philosophies debated by the council members: take the amount out of the city's reserves or reduce one of two line items for street work (a combined \$540,000).

City Manager Charlie Smith said he was comfortable removing the funds from the streets allocation – not permanently but, rather, in anticipation excess sales tax revenues will inevitably cover the difference with room to spare.

"We're going to be well over \$1 million in our sales tax this year," he said. "If things continue moving as they are, we're probably not going to have to touch our reserves."

"I think the City of Gladewater is in a lot better shape than it has been for several years."

Council members Brandy Flanagan and Teddy Sorrells echoed that plan.

Rather than dip into reserves, "I like the idea of taking that \$100,000 that we know exists already in our funds for streets," Sorrells said, putting it to use now and replacing it when the opportunity comes.

Streets are a key priority for residents, Mayor Scott Owens said, and there's much work to be done.

"I don't want to touch the streets (budget). We've got a bunch allocated plus we've got more that we have to get done."

Ultimately, Owens agreed the street line items – eventually

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

What a privilege... What a responsibility

The first day of school is magical, mysterious, frightening and the open door through which children discover themselves, the world, and the satisfaction of learning.

We hope.

On the first day of school I always try to capture the moments of a life changing event. The first day of kindergarten.

A couple of years ago my 'first day' experience was a joy and a revelation about what is necessary to educate children in our schools today. Two darling girls were walking down the hall by themselves. I asked them if they were new friends or old friends. "New" they squealed. Then one solemnly informed me that at lunch she was going to share her hand sanitizer with her new friend.

I just as solemnly replied that I thought that was a very good thing to do.

One darling little boy ran up to me and asked if I liked his new haircut. I told the handsome young man that I thought he looked "very cool". He jumped in the air and high-fived me before skipping on to class.

I laughed my way down the hall until I saw two very small Hispanic boys get off what must have seemed to them an absolutely huge bus, only to go in the wrong door. They gently received kind directions from a hall monitor that they didn't quite seem to understand. Eventually I ran into them at the other end of the building looking lost. A lovely mom who had just dropped her child off in his new kindergarten class dropped to her knees in the hall and began to speak to them in their native language. I saw their shoulders drop in relief.

I wanted to cry.

Every child should come to school with food in their tummies, and the knowledge of numbers, colors, letters and...English. The children should be excited to enter a world of bright colors, inter-

STAAR scores show problems with math and reading

Texas public student scores in standardized testing continue to improve since the pandemic, but more than half of those taking the test still struggle with math and just under half read below grade-level, the Texas Tribune reported.

Students in grades three through eight took the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness tests in math and reading last spring. The results were released last week by the Texas Education Agency.

Math scores have improved since the pandemic low of just 35% meeting grade level or above in math in 2021, up to 43% in the latest STAAR scores. The percentage of students reading at grade level or above was essentially flat at 52%, but still above pre-pandemic levels, which were 47% in 2019.

Teachers across Texas continue to work with passion and skill to help students learn," said Mike Morath, Texas Education Commissioner. "This year's results show the efforts of our educators continue to deliver improved results for students."

Lawyers: Paxton used burner phones, fake Uber account

A series of documents filed by House impeachment managers claim suspended Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton gave indicted real estate developer Nate Paul "unfettered access" to the AG's office in order to "harass his enemies," The Dallas Morning News reported.

Paxton used burner phones, a secret personal email account and a fake Uber account in order to visit a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair, the documents indicate.

"Uber records reflect drivers picked up Paxton under the alias of 'Dave P' a block from his home and ferried him to his lover's or Paul's properties more than a dozen times from August 6, 2020, until October 2, 2020," the House managers wrote.

Paul allegedly bribed Paxton by paying for a house remodeling and giving Paxton's lover a job, the documents indicate.

Paul was indicted in June for federal financial crimes. A federal grand jury is reportedly looking into Paxton's connection with Paul. Paxton was impeached by the Texas House in late May and faces trial in the Senate on Sept. 5. He was immediately suspended without pay upon being impeached.

Paxton also faces a criminal trial next year on a 2015 indictment for securities fraud.

New strain of COVID-19 being monitored

The World Health Organization is monitoring a new strain of COVID-19 it says is accounting for a growing share of cases in several countries, including the United States, according to the Texas Standard. EG.5, or "Eris," is being monitored to see how it might mutate.

Dr. Catherine Trosi, an infectious diseases epidemiologist

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



esting lessons and nurturing support.

And many do.

But some are confused. Or battered. Or neglected. Or lost.

Some have never opened a book until they get to school. Nor have they seen an adult read a book.

And then we expect teachers to work miracles bringing them all up to state mandated standards immediately.

I will tell you this, our communities' children need our support and encouragement. So do our teachers.

So, to the eager young minds out there...godspeed! Enjoy the journey, be a sponge and learn as much as possible; for your future depends on your ability, adaptability and dependability. All skills that can be learned at school.

Teachers you are the shoulders upon which these children will stand. You mold the future. There is no more noble career than teaching.

None.

You, my friends, challenge minds, touch hearts and write the future. So to all the little Bear and Lion cubs and little Roughnecks out there starting on this adventure, I pray that your days are filled with laughter and learning. And for their teachers, I pray for strength, wisdom, patience and insight.

You will need it all and more.

After all, you are holding the door to success open for these precious children.

What a privilege. What a responsibility.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health, said it's hard to know the exact cause of the recent uptick in COVID cases.

"When the public health emergency ended, a lot of tracking went away," she told the Texas Standard. "The latest data shows 17% of cases are due to this variant. But we're not tracking cases really well because people have stopped testing. Even if you test positive, it doesn't get reported to health departments. So really the markers we have are hospitalizations, which we have seen go up quite significantly — although it's important to remember we are still at historic lows in terms of hospitalizations due to COVID."

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported a rolling seven-day average of 929 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, up 132 from the previous week, with 21 fatalities.

80% of anti-migrant buoys are in Mexico

A survey by the binational agency in charge of the Rio Grande indicates nearly all of the anti-migrant buoys Texas has installed in the river are on the Mexican side of the river, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The survey by the International Boundary and Water Commission found that of the 995-foot string of buoys installed near Eagle Pass last month, 787 feet — nearly 80% — are on the Mexican side.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the state in attempt to force it to remove the barrier. In court, the state has insisted the barrier is on the U.S. side of the river. Mexico contends the barriers violate both federal law and an international treaty between it and the United States.

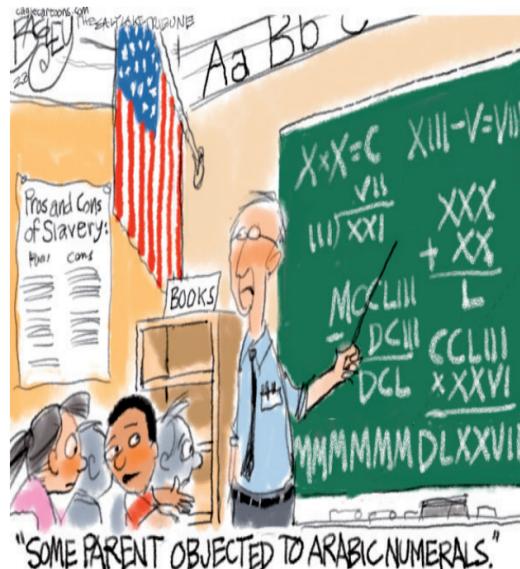
Employment records set in the state

Texas has more jobs and more people employed than ever before, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The state has recorded 29 consecutive months of growth and again leads the nation in the number of jobs added over the past year — 441,700 new positions since July 2022.

"Texas leads the nation in sustainable job growth with more than 2.7 million positions added in the past decade," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "The Texas economy remains strong, and TWC will continue to provide support through tools and resources for job seekers and employers alike."

The leisure and hospitality sector led job growth with 9,800 jobs, while manufacturing added 6,600 positions, closely followed by private education and health service with 6,400 jobs. Of the 26,300 new jobs added in July, all but 400 were in the private sector.

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

Jobs By the Numbers

Texas continues to shatter records for new jobs. The expansion has been broad based, both in terms of industries and geographic areas. Our latest projections call for notable employment gains over the next five years, though the pace will vary along with external conditions.

By 2027, the level of employment in Texas is forecast to rise from 13.9 million in 2022 to 15.2 million. That's a gain of some 1.3 million net new jobs and a total increase over the five-year period of 9.5%. (Note that we use the wage and salary measure of employment, which does not include proprietors.) Let's briefly examine our latest projections by industry group.

Almost one in five net new positions over the next five years is likely to be in the professional and business services industries. These firms provide specialized services such as legal advice and representation, accounting, architectural work, engineering, design, computer services, and consulting. The segment also involves businesses that manage other companies or support day-to-day operations of other organizations.

Health care and social services industries are expected to generate about 18% of new jobs over the next five years, while accommodation and food services accounts for about 13%. Retail trade is forecast to create over 9% of overall gains, while the public sector and other services segment each contribute about 6%. Notable increases are also projected for transportation and logistics as well as wholesale trade, each of which adds almost 5% to overall growth.

Regarding industry groups that are increasing at the fastest pace (as opposed to generating the most net new positions), health care and social services tops the list, with a total employment gain over the next five years of almost 15%. Strong rates of increase are also expected in the mining industry group (mostly oil and gas in Texas) and educational services (among others).

Several industries are less likely to be the source of large overall increases (though some are relatively small). The utilities, agriculture, information (which is largely publishing and media), real estate and rentals, and arts and entertainment segments are all projected to see increases of fewer than 18,000 jobs over the next five years (with some much lower).

As with other highly developed economies, Texas employment growth is concentrated in services-oriented industries, but manufacturing is also expanding at a healthy pace. Our projections indicate an increase in the number of manufacturing jobs of almost 7% over the next five years. One aspect of this expansion is the emerging importance of life sciences products.

The diverse and dynamic Texas economy is certainly not immune to national and global challenges, but the state is well positioned to generate opportunities across a broad spectrum of industries. 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.

HOW ARE WE SAVED?

This week let's think about how we are saved. Suppose someone asked you, "How are people saved?" What would you say? Would you say, "We are saved by God's grace?" If so, you would be right. Ephesians 2: 8 says, "For by grace you have been saved."

Of course, it would be correct to say, "We are saved by faith," because the Bible also teaches that. Romans 5: 1 says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Or you could correctly say, "We are saved by Jesus' name," because Acts 4: 12 says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." And, of course, it would be correct to say "We are saved by the Gospel." We know that it is also true because Romans 1: 16 says, "The gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

So there are actually several things God teaches us in the Scriptures we are saved by. But suppose someone said, "I don't want to be saved by grace, I just want to be saved by faith"? Or suppose someone said, "I don't want to be saved by the gospel, I just want to be saved by God's grace"? Well, of course, that would be all wrong. We are saved by everything God says we are saved by, and we cannot disregard anything God says we are saved by.

Now, with that in mind, listen to one other thing the Scriptures say we are saved by. It's 1 Peter 3: 21, which says we are saved by baptism. That's right—baptism. You see, even though many people say "People are saved without baptism," the same Bible that tells us we are saved by grace, and faith, and Jesus' name, and the gospel, also tells us: "There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Friend, the next time you hear someone say: "Baptism has nothing to do with salvation," remember the Bible says in 1 Peter 3: 21, There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism..." 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



Rep. Dean talks education with civic groups

By James Draper

"I want to talk about education to start with."

District 7 Rep. Jay Dean didn't stray far from the topic of Texas schools Aug. 16 during a local Town Hall meeting with Gladewater Rotarians, Lions Club members and others.

"Where do you think the State of Texas – the home of a world-class economy, the eighth largest economy in the world – where do you think we rank in school funding? Where should we rank?" Dean asked. Among the United States, "We rank 42nd – 42nd.

"If we want to have a world-class economy, we've got to have a world-class education system."

Hosted by Gladewater Chamber of Commerce in First Methodist Church's Jeter Hall, Dean's lunchtime talk focused on bringing a massive, necessary overhaul to the Texas education system – no more munching around the edges of the problem instead of fixing it, he says. There aren't any rational, common sense, conservative business people in the state legislature, Dean lamented, but Texans know it's time to truly invest in education.

"Y'all, when Mississippi is outperforming us in reading and math and science, tell me what's wrong with that picture. 'Cause they're investing in their kids and their parents and their teachers," Dean said, and Texas must do the same. "We need to start with this clean piece of paper and we need to sit down and define what a world-class education system looks like. It's going to take several sessions to do this. We've got to quit kicking this can."

This session, Dean joined other lawmakers in a vote to underscore the constitutional restriction against using public dollars for private schools.

In the ongoing debate about school choice, vouchers and Education Savings Accounts, "Somewhere along the line, I think the governor got some bad advice," Dean said. "They're worried about this voucher program fixing Houston, Austin and other big cities. They always want to throw rural areas in with those major city areas where all the problems are..."

"It's not a good program, it's not a fiscally-sound program. We can't fund the vouchers anymore."

Moving students out of public school to private school isn't going to solve all their problems.

"We have school choice now," Dean said. It comes at the ballot box, where voters choose the elected officials who will guide their school districts at the local level. Otherwise, "Whenever the economy goes south, where's the first place the state goes? The public schools."

Lawmakers and state leaders talk local control, but they don't 'act' local control, he added.

Meanwhile, "We want our teachers and our principals and our superintendents to babysit our kids, but we don't want to pay for it. We need to pay our teachers as professionals. We're losing teachers that are moving over to the nursing area. We need to fundamentally change and properly fund education."

Come November, Texans will vote on the legislature's move to increase the local homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000. It happened last in May 2022, when voters approved an increase from \$25,000 to \$40,000 (after a previous vote increased the exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000 in 2015).

How is that going to affect cities and schools when they build their budgets next year? It represents a massive cut in municipal and school revenues.

It's also retroactive, Dean answered, going back to the beginning of calendar year 2023.

The representative had no specific answer.

"There's lots of details," he said. "We've got to figure out how this is really going to work within two years."

Before the November vote comes, Dean added, the legislature is already bound for another special session called by the governor this fall.

"How much money could the State of Texas save if the federal government was doing their job at the border?" attendee John Bisese asked

"Since I've been there," Dean said, "since 2018, we've spent over \$20 billion. At least. And it ain't stoppin'. They ain't fixin' the board until they fix the entire immigration system. And nobody wants to do that. They love kickin' the can.

"We like getting things done in Texas. They don't. Until they get the immigration laws and rules straightened out, we're going to continue trying to protect our borders."

Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Palmer asked how the state's leaders are working to enhance the labor pool.

"Workforce is very much on our minds," she said. "We've been partnering with the ISD for some time to be able to help develop that talent to go into the workforce, but what we keep running up against is TEA doesn't support the programs we need for the local workforce."

Dean – who advocates to make the state superintendent of Texas schools an elected position instead of appointed – agreed the state as a whole needs to account for the large portion of high school graduates who don't pursue or finish college.

Gladewater city council approves tax rate cut

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reduced to \$440,000 in the official document – could be adjusted for bookkeeping's sake.

"There's been no bigger proponent for getting the streets fixed than me up here," Flanagan told one community member concerned about the reduction to the roadway allocation. "We know we have the \$100,000-plus more in our reserves that we can pull if we need to. What we don't want to do is tap into the reserves now with hypotheticals.

"I promise you that we have streets covered. We are working hard on that."

Cattle owners need to call the GPD

Calling all livestock owners in city limits....

If you have livestock in the city limits we would like to hear from you. We have had a few instances lately where livestock have gotten loose and we need to know how to get in touch with the owners. Our dispatchers and officers don't always know who they belong to or where...

For these rare occasions help us plan ahead, please let us know your name, what and where your livestock are, any brands or markings, and how to get in touch with you or someone else during a livestock escape. Call dispatch at 903-845-2166.

UT Health offers free virtual seminar on nonsurgical treatment for injuries

UT Health East Texas is offering a free, virtual seminar at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 31. The seminar will feature a presentation on nonsurgical treatment for pain with Michael Galbraith, DO, board-certified family medicine physician who specializes in sports medicine at UT Health East Texas Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Institute.

The seminar is free, and you can register in advance at UTHealthEastTexas.com/seminars to receive an email with the direct link before the presentation starts. When you register, you will also have the opportunity to submit a question in advance through the message box. The presentation will premiere on our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/UTHealthEastTexas](https://www.facebook.com/UTHealthEastTexas).

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.

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



Gladewater Lions Club outgoing President Martin Pessink presented incoming President Judy Van Houten with the Lion of the Year award for her service to the club. Also pictured is Lions 2-x2 1st Vice District Governor Debra Caughron.

& 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.

GHS Class '64 reunion Sept. 23

Come join us at the Gladewater High School All-School Reunion to honor Outstanding Alumni including Jack Jones (Class of 1964) and Dr. John Hood (Class of 1985). The All-School Reunion is set for 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Gladewater Former Students Building.

Online registration and payment of \$30 are available on the GSFA website at gladewaterformerstudents.com. Attendees may also mail a check to GSFA, P.O. Box 1425, Gladewater, TX 75647.

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 (Aug. 24).

To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. events are "No Bears" by Meg McKinlay, and "Bear's New Friend" by Karma Wilson.

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

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

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

Man fixes cemetery entrance wall

The White Oak Cemetery Association would like to announce that the West Whatley Road cemetery entrance wall that was so greedily torn down has been rebuilt thanks to the honor and integrity of Mr. Jerry Childers and his generous donation! If you see this man, tip your hat, shake his hand, and tell him, "Thank you!" We will forever be grateful!

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center closing Aug. 28 for Renovations

ATHENS – The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens will be closed to the public starting Aug. 28 for major renovations and updates.

The nearly 300,000 gallons of aquariums will be updated, new larger aquariums will be added, the dive

theater and other existing indoor exhibits will be updated, and new exhibits will be developed. Enhancements to recreational fishing ponds like Lake Zebco are also included in the renovation project.

The closure will also enable staff to develop new educational programming and volunteer opportunities. The tentative date for completion and reopening to the public is Spring 2025.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) has raised more than \$4.5 million in private donations to fund the massive project. Looking ahead to the next 25 years, these enhancements will ensure the next generation can learn about, appreciate and enjoy the amazing freshwater fisheries resources that Texas offers.

Upshur Dems meet

The Upshur County Democratic Party will discuss several matters at its monthly public meeting in the Gilmer area Monday night, said county Democratic Party Chairman Winifred Jackson.

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

More information on the meeting is available by calling Jackson at 903-238-3779.

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SPORTS

Volleyball roundup

LADY BEARS

The Gladewater Lady Bears volleyball team picked up their first win of the 2023 season on Tuesday, August 15th as they traveled to Leverett's Chapel and came away with a hard fought 3-2 victory.

Both teams fought back and forth but Gladewater was able to win the 5th set to improve their record to 1-9. Then on Thursday, August 17th gladewater headed to Lufkin for a tournament hosted by the Lady Panthers. The Lady Bears ended up going 1-5 in the six games played. Beating Jacksonville (2-0) and falling to Lufkin (2-0), Bellaire (2-0), Nederland (2-0), Nacogdoches (2-0) and Madisonville (2-0) making their overall record 2-14 on the season.

The Lady Bears were next in action on Tuesday, August 22nd as they returned home to host Jacksonville. The results of that matchup was not available at presstime.

On Thursday, August 24, they will begin play in another tournament. Kicking off play vs Hawkins.

LADYNECKS

Moving over to White Oak, the Lady-Necks kicked off their season traveling the short distance to Spring Hill to take on the

Lady Panthers and fell 3-0.

Calee Carter finished with nine kills, seven digs, two blocks and 20 receptions in the loss for White Oak. Addison Clinkscales added seven kills and three digs, Karsyn Edwards 13 digs and 23 receptions, Alli Sims 10 assists and three digs and Addy Young eight assists.

Then moving on to Friday, White Oak began play in the Garland tournament where in the 2 days of action, they went 4-3. Going 1-2 on Friday with a win over South Garland (2-0) and falling to Richardson (2-0) and Frisco Independence (2-0).

Then on Saturday they went 3-1 with wins over Lakeview Centennial (2-0), Henderson (2-0) and North Garland (2-0) and only falling to Carthage (2-0). Giving them a 4-4 record.

White Oak will next see action on Thursday as they travel to Lufkin to also participate in the Lufkin tournament with 3 games on Thursday (Little-Cypress Mauriceville, Nederland and Spring Hill) and 3 more on Friday (Jacksonville, Splendor and Tatum).

The Ladynecks will next be in action on Tuesday, August 22nd with a home game vs Whitehouse. Followed by hosting their own tournament beginning on Thursday, August 24th with games vs Pittsburgh, Big Sandy and Pine Tree

"Coot's Corner" By Coot Putley

Nine player report card ...

This week we'll continue to assign report cards for the Texas Rangers. Let's look at the nine players who make up the preferred starting line-up for Bruce Bochy:

Corey Seager (Shortstop) A

The most expensive free agent signee ever for the team has been everything expected and more. He is the best hitter in the best lineup in the American League. Despite missing six weeks due to two different injuries, Seager has consistently hit home runs, delivered RBI's in the clutch, and maintained a batting average in the .350 range, currently 30 points higher than anyone else in the A.L. He has also been solid on defense. Without the missed games, Seager would be an A+.

Marcus Semien (2nd Base) A

The engine that drives the Rangers – he sets the tone for the team with his production and consistency. Semien is leading the league in runs scored and is among the leaders in RBI's despite batting leadoff. He steals bases and is a Golden Glove defender at second base. Marcus Semien is a complete ballplayer.

Adolis Garcia (Rt Field) A

The heart and soul of the team. His passion for baseball is obvious and he plays with an infectious enthusiasm. Garcia has worked to cut down his strikeouts by showing more patience at the plate. He has been at or near the RBI leader board all year and leads all of baseball in outfield assists. "El Bombi" is fun to watch!

Jonah Heim (Catcher) A

Was expected to provide excellent defense, but has added offensive production this year to become one of the best catchers in baseball. He has hit for average and power and is around .400 with runners in scoring position. Heim recently came back in less than three weeks from a torn wrist tendon. Despite a scheduled off-season surgery, he is ready for the stretch run – and beyond.

Nathaniel Lowe (1st Base) A-

ot off to a slow start but has been one of the best hitters in the game since the All Star break. The 2022 Silver Slugger winner has also improved on defense this year. Lowe will be a key player the rest of the year with his ability to hit to all fields with power.

Mitch Garver (Des. Hitter) A-

s also a capable catcher. Garver really stepped up when Heim was injured. With increased playing time, his offense took off. He adds depth and right-handed power to the lineup.

Ezequiel Duran (Left Field) B+

It doesn't tell the whole story to list Duran at just one position. He has played well in the outfield, filled in very capably at shortstop when Seager was hurt and is now holding down the fort at third base. "Zeke" has been a solid offensive contributor with his speed and power, and he plays with youthful joy.

Leody Tavares (Center Field) B-

Injured at the first of the year, came on strong when he joined the team and played very well the first half of the season, but has struggled recently. Tavares has all the tools but needs to become more consistent to be the center fielder in the future. The next six weeks will be crucial for him.

Josh Jung (3rd Base) I

Would be an A if his thumb hadn't been fractured on August 6. Jung was on track to be the unanimous Rookie of the Year in the American League. He hopes to heal quickly and return to play before the season ends but that may be too optimistic. In any case, the former Texas Tech Red Raider should have a bright future with the Rangers.

Overall Grade for the lineup A

What were you expecting me to say? This is one of the best lineups 1-9 that Texas has ever put on the field. They hit for a high average, have speed, power, and tremendous depth. I could go on, but their record speaks for itself.

Next week we'll wrap up our report cards with the rest of the position players.

That's one man's opinion – what's yours?

HOT on and off the field - stay safe

Continued from Page 1

with a team baseball cap, allowing you to shift the bill to front or back to keep things cool.

Hydrate and eat well - while not quite clothing-related advice, eating well

and staying hydrated the day before the game and during the game will be essential to staying cool during warmer weather. Drink a lot of water the day before the game. When your body is well hydrated, it is much better

at cooling itself down.

And keep the sun off by using generous amounts of sunscreen in order to prevent burning, especially on parts of your body that don't get a lot of exposure to the sun.

Think about a cooling towel. While you might opt for a fancy version that retains cool temperatures, you can also just use a small washcloth from the house. The key to having a great cooling tower during the game will be having extra water. If you have a water bottle that you don't drink out of, but is instead dedicated to the cooling cloth, you can keep refreshing the cloth with cooler water.

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Congressman Moran addresses Gilmer crowd for 175th anniversary

By Phillip Williams

U.S. Rep. Nathaniel Moran on Saturday told citizens celebrating the 175th anniversary of the city of Gilmer's formation that founding a new city "takes an independent spirit" and must be "faith-based."

Moran (R-Whitehouse) spoke to a few dozen citizens inside the Historic Upshur Museum, where Gilmer Mayor Tim Marshall read a proclamation honoring the anniversary, which was actually the following Tuesday.

Moran thanked the audience, which included several members dressed in the type of clothing worn in the 1800s, for working with the museum and said marking 175 years of existence was "really exciting."

"You're not getting paid for this. . . You love your com-

munity," he added. The celebration included a free walking tour of several downtown buildings where individuals were playing real-life personages in the city's history, and history-related exhibits such as copies of old newspapers were displayed.

Moran urged those present at the late-morning museum ceremony to "honor the character and the culture of Gilmer, Texas," adding "find a way to serve in your community. . . We do that in serving God and serving others."

Marshall's proclamation noted that the Texas Legislature both formed Upshur County in 1846 and declared that the county seat (which was finally established with sales of lots on Aug. 22, 1848) be named Gilmer.

The sites were named after United States Secretary of

State Abel P. Upshur and Secretary of the Navy Thomas W. Gilmer, both killed Feb. 28, 1844, when a gun exploded aboard the warship USS Princeton during a demonstration.

Before Moran and Marshall addressed Saturday's gathering, Upshur County Historical Commission Chairman Gwen Jewett, who oversees the museum, and local historian Bill Starnes, who is not an Upshur County native, also spoke.

Starnes said "land speculators" as well as mere "spectators" would have been around the city in 1848, when Gilmer had "families coming to change their lives."

The museum, originally constructed as the city's post office on the downtown square's northeast corner in 1925, served in that capacity until the early 1990s. Marshall's wife, Carolyn Marshall, is museum president.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE CITY, TX REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Clarksville City Council will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the City Council Chambers, 631 US Hwy 80, Clarksville City, TX to receive public input regarding the proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year annual operating budget.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$24,825. This is being done by lowering the tax rate from \$.74095 per \$100 to a proposed tax rate of \$.65095 per \$100.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to appear and be heard. If you are unable to attend, you may submit your written view to the City Secretary at 631 US Hwy 80, Clarksville City, TX or by calling 903-845-2681.

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Default & Foreclosure Sale was recorded in the Gregg County Recorder's office. WHEREAS, on **September 29, 2012**, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by **Lawanda G. Wilks**, as Trustor(s) in favor of **Scott R. Valby**, as Trustee, and **Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.**, as nominee for **New Day Financial, LLC** as Beneficiary, and was recorded on **December 18, 2012**, in Instrument Number **201222873**, in the Office of the Recorder, **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** in Instrument Number **201613479** in the Office of the Recorder, Gregg County, Texas; 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; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12U.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**, in Instrument Number **202109516**, notice is hereby given that, on **September 5, 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 ("Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder(s):

ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" LEGAL DESCRIPTION

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND BEING LOT ELEVEN (11), BLOCK NINE HUNDRED NINETY (990), 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.

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The Sale will be held at 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 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. 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. 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 will be forfeited, 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 trustor 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 trustor 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, 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.

Candace Sissac, Esq.
JAMES E. ALBERTELLI, P.A.
HUD Foreclosure Commissioner
2201 W. Royal Lane, Suite 155
Irving, TX 75063
Phone: 469-804-8457
Fax: 469-804-8462
csissac@alaw.net
21-006730



NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

The White Oak Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Rd. regarding a request from **de Lucas**, for a Special Use Provision (SUP) permit for a request to build a carport/storage and a storm shelter, to be located at AB 88 H Hathaway SUR TR 39-02 SEC 2, White Oak Tx more commonly known as 801 **ustin Ln, White Oak Texas**

A second public hearing will be held before the White Oak City Council on October 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact **immy Purcell**, City Coordinator at jpurcell@cityofwhiteoak.com

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "he's still got some snap in his garters"

5 squeezein' snakes

6 TXism: "it's near _____" (approximate)

7 Texas veggie: fried _____

8 golf or football prop

9 TXism: "bone _____" (cemetery)

16 TXism: "got a mind like a steel _____"

18 Hawaiian dance attire (2 wds.)

21 TX Don Henley's "All She Wants Do Is Dance"

22 TXism: "working between _____" (night work)

23 once a brand of GMC cars

24 Crowell High School football (2 wds.)

30 TXism: "behind the _____" (predicament)

34 TX Chandra Wilson is _____ Miranda Bailey on "Grey's Anatomy"

35 small, narrow river

36 Gulf canvas

37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" features a 72-_____ steak

39 TX George H.W.'s NASA director (2 wds.)

43 cowboys _____ buckle on their belt

44 party decoration inflatable

45 sodium symbol

46 TXism: "just a _____ in the bucket"

47 UT has original manuscript of E.M. Forster's "Passage _____"

49 former Texas honky tonk used in "Urban Cowboy" film

52 Ranger Eovaldi or Astro Valdez stat.

DOWN

1 Texas birth town of Willie Nelson

2 northernmost Texas town, mostly in Lipscomb County

3 Grace Noll Crowell was a Texas poet _____

4 TXism: "como _____" (how are ya?)

9 TX Buddy Holly hit: "____, Boy"

10 stealing cattle

11 honky tonk, e.g.

12 Dallas' Rosewood developed Hawaii's _____ Maui Resort

13 TXism: "_____ as a sluggish turtle"

14 founder of famous TX King Ranch (init.)

15 TXism: "shin _____" (big dance)

17 "rash" vine? (2 wds.)

19 disaster relief organization (2 wds.)

20 you're apt _____ what you sow

24 35th governor, Coke (init.)

25 former Ford model

26 Semitic person

27 TX Ted Cruz Washington group

28 Gulf traveler

29 pilot Earhart

31 TXism for "female"

32 TXism: "he _____ out" (concealed)

33 in Jones County on highway 6

38 TXism: "_____ soul" (no one)

40 _____ Chaney is a San Antonio street

41 Lee Greenwood hit: "_____ Bless the USA"

42 spread near Albany (2 wds.)

48 "_____ in the tub"

50 West Texas animal: mountain _____

51 Luling Watermelon Thump once had a melon that weighed 88 of these (abbr.)

56 extreme adjective

57 TXism for old, senile men

See Answers On This Page

Texas WIC celebrates national breastfeeding month

AUSTIN—August is National Breastfeeding Month, and Texas WIC is sharing resources to support moms and pregnant women to help meet their breastfeeding goals.

"From the start of your pregnancy through your child's fifth birthday, Texas WIC is here for you every step of the way," said Texas WIC Nutrition Education and Clinic Services Director Amanda Hovis. "Pregnant women in Texas wanting nutrition advice, moms looking for breastfeeding support and families with young children are encouraged to apply for WIC to help give their children a healthy start to life."

The benefits of breastfeeding for both mom and baby last a lifetime. Breastmilk has hundreds of ingredients and antibodies that help protect babies from illness and allergies. For moms, breastfeeding has been linked to lower rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and even certain cancers.

Breastfeeding can be challenging sometimes, and Texas WIC has a free 24/7 lactation support hotline, breastfeeding peer counselors, lactation consultants, and free nutrition and breastfeeding classes available to all Texas moms, regardless of whether they qualify for Texas WIC. Texas WIC also provides women who qualify with a free breast pump and pumping supplies.

WIC benefits are provided at no cost to eligible pregnant women, breastfeeding moms and families with children younger than 5. Anyone with children under the age of 5 can apply for WIC, including dads, foster parents, guardians or grandparents. Moms-to-be can qualify for WIC as soon as they find out they're pregnant. WIC recently updated its income guidelines, allowing more families to participate.

"Eligibility for the WIC program depends on your income and the number of people in your household," said Amanda Hovis, Director of Nutrition Education & Clinical Services, Texas WIC. "For example, a family of four can make up to 55,500 and qualify for the WIC program."

For more information or to apply, visit TexasWIC.org/apply or call 1-800-942-3678.

"The WIC program provides nutritious foods that are curated for specific ages. Our target age range is kids aged 0- 5 years old, and moms who are pregnant and breastfeeding. It's moms and children who need additional nutrients at those key stages of time as they're growing and developing. So we have foods like milk, cheese, juice, eggs, cereal, beans, or peanut butter and fresh fruits and vegetables that really help get mom and baby what they need," added Hovis.

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Despite unrelenting summer heat, dove season expected to have soaring numbers

AUSTIN — A cool and rainy spring means that despite above-average summer temperatures, Texas hunters could encounter significantly increased dove populations as the 2023 season opens Sept. 1.

Spring surveys conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff found an estimated 28.3 million mourning doves in Texas, a 44 percent increase from 2022. White-wing dove populations have increased 20 percent, tying the record high with an estimated 11.7 million this year. "This spring was about as perfect as it could be, with steady rains and cool weather," said Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD Dove Program Leader. "Given the population increases this year and the excellent breeding season conditions that persisted through the first half of the summer, hunters should expect to see a lot more birds on the landscape this

September."

As daily temperatures top 100 degrees with no relief in sight, hunters will likely find larger concentrations of birds at watering holes, and doves may be feeding earlier and later than normal to avoid the mid-day heat. In areas where agriculture has suffered from the heatwave, look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses.

Texas is home to seven species of native doves and pigeons, including the three legal game species- mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves. Texas accounts for 30 percent of the total mourning doves and 85 percent of the total white-winged doves harvested in the U.S. each year, far more than any other state.

TPWD officials remind hunters to prepare for the extreme heat and make sure they are packing all the essentials for a day in the field.



They should bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and take measures to stay cool in a shaded area. The same is true for canine hunting partners.

"If this extreme heat persists, think twice about bringing your dog out in the early season," Fitzsimmons said. "Temperatures this high

can be dangerous for dogs, particularly when they're excited and running hard after birds. If you do bring them, try to limit the hunts to early mornings or late evenings."

The regular dove seasons:

North Zone: Sept. 1-Nov. 12, resuming Dec. 15-Dec. 31, 2023

Central Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 29, resuming Dec. 15, 2023-Jan. 14, 2024

South Zone: Sept. 14-Oct. 29, resuming Dec. 15, 2023-Jan. 21, 2024

For the third straight year, there will be six Special White-Winged Dove Days, Sept. 1-3 and 8-10.

The aggregated bag limit in South Zone's regular season is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves. During the Special White-winged Dove Days in the South Zone, hunting is allowed only from noon to sunset and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

All updated hunting regulations for this year's hunt-

ing season can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or online at OutdoorAnnual.com.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course to hunt legally in Texas. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Hunters can find more information or print a replacement at no cost online.

A Migratory Game Bird Endorsement (Stamp) and Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification are also required to hunt dove. HIP certification involves a brief survey of previous year's migratory bird hunting success and is conducted at the time licenses are purchased.

WOPD POLICE ACTIVITY

For the reporting period of August 14th through the 20th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 153 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglar Alarms, Traffic Issues (collisions, traffic direction, road hazards, etc.), Investigative Follow-ups, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

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

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

- Sarah Amanda Craft, 37, of White Oak for Criminal Mischief, and
- Corey Eugene Bray, 45, of White Oak for Assault Family Violence - Impeding Breath or Circulation.

GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CPS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
8/13/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234601	3:10	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234602	3:24	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234603	6:08	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	THEFT	20234604	9:54	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20234606	10:58		707 MARTHA MARTHA DR
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	20234608	13:38		10764 S HWY 271 HWY 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234609	14:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234610	15:03		1106 N RODEO RODEO ST
	EMS	20234611	15:20	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20234612	15:54	ST JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH	106 S RODEO RODEO ST
	CRIM MIS	20234613	15:57		317 N MAIN MAIN ST
	THEFT	20234614	17:25		803 GAYLE GAYLE ST
	EMS	20234615	18:07		804 E MARY MARY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234616	19:08		1203 CANNON CANNON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234617	19:14		2812 RAMPY RAMPY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234618	19:25		306 MAPLE MAPLE ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234619	20:48		306 MAPLE MAPLE ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234620	21:50		803 GAYLE GAYLE ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234621	23:46		
	EMS	20234622	23:58		711 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
8/14/23	EMS	20234623	14:42		701 ELEANOR ELEANOR
	ASSIST	20234624	16:42	J & J TRANSMISSION	302 US - 80 US - 80
	FIRE DEPT	20234625	18:26		904 MARY MARY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234626	19:31		302 MAPLE MAPLE AVE
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20234627	19:41		1400 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234628	20:38		132 N LEE LEE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234629	21:05		2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE ST
8/15/23	RUNAWAY	20234632	5:55	WOODBINE COMMUNITY HOME	2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	FIRE DEPT	20234633	6:28		
	EMS	20234634	6:56	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20234635	12:27		709 RODEO RODEO
	EMS	20234636	13:45		206 S CULVER CULVER ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20234637	14:48		800 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20234638	15:48		806 GAYLE GAYLE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234640	17:20		1105 N OLIVE OLIVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20234641	17:51		271 271
	10-50 MAJOR	20234642	18:27	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
8/16/23	EMS	20234644	4:05		1508 N DAISEY DAISEY
	ALARM/OTHER	20234645	4:30	SASQUATCH TRADING POST	701 W UPSHUR UPSHUR ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234647	6:44		563 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20234648	10:19	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20234650	12:29	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20234651	12:49		201 MAPLE MAPLE
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20234654	15:57	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20234655	16:05		122 PR 3447 PR 3447
	EMS	20234656	16:44	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SIMPLE ASSAULT "C"	20234657	17:14		203 OLIVE OLIVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234658	17:48		803 LOCKER PLANT LOCKER PLANT RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234659	19:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20234660	19:34	J & J TRANSMISSION	4322 US - 80 US - 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234661	20:24		HWY 271 HWY 271
	ACCIDENT INVOLVING PEDESTRIAN	20234662	20:27	NEW LIFE WORSHIP CENTER	401 N LEE LEE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234663	21:41		S 136 136
	EMS	20234664	22:38		1009 SHERWOOD SHERWOOD
	FIRE DEPT	20234665	23:47	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
8/17/23	THEFT	20234666	0:09	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20234667	0:31	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20234668	2:02		632 N POST POST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234669	4:24		800 S TYLER TYLER
	EMS	20234670	6:52		57 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	ASSIST	20234671	7:56	GREENWAY VILLAGE	17 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20234672	8:39		508 NORTH NORTH
	EMS	20234673	9:48	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20234674	10:25		201 WALTON WALTON
	EMS	20234675	15:10		415 S CENTER CENTER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234676	15:21		216 OAK OAK DR
	EMS	20234677	17:22	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20234678	18:31		2411 W HAROLD HAROLD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234679	20:32		SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234680	21:00		203 OLIVE OLIVE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20234681	21:45		203 OLIVE OLIVE ST
8/18/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234682	3:18		PACIFIC PACIFIC
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234683	11:02		501 CULVER CULVER
	EMS	20234684	13:52		2035 SHERROD SHERROD
	EMS	20234685	14:59	TW LEE BUILDING	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234686	15:37		2101 WOODBINE WOODBINE DR
	EMS	20234687	17:13	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	10-50 MINOR	20234688	17:26		N LEE LEE ST
	THEFT	20234689	18:46	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234690	22:09	LEE BUILDING	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234691	22:35		216 OAK OAK
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234692	23:36	PENNY'S FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
8/19/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20234693	0:14	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20234694	0:45	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20234695	3:40		1509 N DAISEY DAISEY
	ALARM/OTHER	20234696	8:41		2501 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	ASSIST	20234697	11:40		204 LAFAYETTE LAFAYETTE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20234698	12:59		1613 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP
	THEFT	20234699	17:02		408 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	EMS	20234700	18:07	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234701	19:13	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20234702	21:45	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234703	21:52		LYLE LYLE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20234704	22:32		GAY GAY

GPD POLICE ARRESTS

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1	NUM
8/13/23	8/13/23	21:53	GORDON, RONNIE KWAME	B	M	THEFT > -\$750 <-\$2500	E.BROADWAY @ LEE ST.	

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If you post it, they will come

PRESS RELEASE

As Gladewater Economic Development Corporation continues to tell the story of opportunities for businesses in this corner of East Texas, the first step is to get the word out.

"In this new fiscal year, we are putting an emphasis on that component of our strategic plan," said GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer. The marketing budget gets a boost, particularly for social media: "I'm currently having discussions with potential vendors and receiving bids to develop that arm of our outreach."

While Palmer focuses on traditional marketing avenues, she'll coordinate with a social media contractor to develop content for the organization and refine its messaging.

With those assets in hand, GEDCO will focus on building its digital audience - locally and anywhere there may be businesses and individuals who could find opportunities in Gladewater's economy.

"First of all, it creates a presence to be seen. It captures an audience and allows for our message to be more broadly distributed," Palmer said. "People are on social media, and ultimately the point of marketing is exposure."

"Our goal is to bring businesses and families into Gladewater. It's difficult to do that when they don't know you exist."

It's not a tourism endeavor - others are focused on that area - but rather an attempt to convince entrepreneurs and economic builders to put down roots within this economy and #GrowWithGladewater.

"We're trying to reach people who own businesses and are looking to relocate and plant a new business," she added. "There is no other entity in Gladewater that captures that particular audience."

To that end, beyond Facebook Palmer expects GEDCO will concentrate its social media outreach on

LinkedIn, angling to put Gladewater in front of CEOs and site selectors.

"You'll capture the business side on LinkedIn, you'll capture the family side on Facebook," Palmer noted. Those families represent potential employees for existing and new businesses here. "We'll also pursue search engine marketing through platforms like Google Ads," getting the message in front of people who are already researching destinations for their labor and for their business.

"We want to add to the economic fabric of the community. We're not just looking for an increase in property tax, we're also looking for an increase in talent to enhance, expand and elevate our local workforce."

Those potential employees are already on Facebook, LinkedIn and similar platforms, they just need to make the connection with Gladewater.



Local schools join KC for workforce program

Continued from Page 1

That challenge typically leads to a partnership with a local college or junior college for an alternative in-person or online course. Facilities are another obstacle, particularly for CTE – it’s hard to have an autobody repair program without an adequate shop.

Diving into the discussion upon joining WOISD in late-Spring, Paul said he was soon inviting his fellow superintendents to come tour available space at the district: centrally-located, ready to renovate as necessary.

Four months and a lot of coordination later, the program’s ready to launch, in-person with online options.

Students with the partnering schools will soon descend on a two-story building near White Oak’s auditorium – academic courses up top, CTE on the first floor. The central thrust of the program is to offer, initially, academic credits in all core subjects as well as a medical pathway to become a Patient Care Technician. After successfully completing the PCT program, the student will be certified to go straight from high school to a hospital or similar facility.

“The whole idea behind all these programs is to offer students the opportunity to either earn credits for college or learn real-life skills for the workforce,” Paul said.

Additional courses are already in discussions: construction management, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and even a fire academy extension.

Already, “At White Oak, we have a pretty robust culinary program. We’re working on building up the audio/visual arts CTE program. There’s a print shop we are renting out that’s doing T-shirts and everything else. It’s got a lot of potential there.”

Through a Memorandum of Understanding with KC, the college ensures credits for the coursework taught by qualified White Oak personnel.

“We have the nursing person. We have the math, the science, the social studies. We have in-person teachers,” Paul said. “We already have the facility, so that’s taken care of.”

Only one key element is missing for the project – as soon as new program signage is installed at White Oak ISD, everything will be ready to roll following a ceremonial opening.

For KC’s president, “It’s going to be a great partnership

for Kilgore College,” Dr. Brenda Kays said. “We have great plans, and I can’t tell you how much we appreciate Dr. Paul and his board. We look forward to the Fall semester kicking off.”

It’s not the first partnership of its kind for KC – an initial program pioneered at Overton ISD has five districts participating.

“That was our first success with this model,” Kays said. It quickly became apparent that success could be replicated elsewhere, “The idea of where else we wanted to do that in both our taxing district as well as our service area.”

Of course, KC has already been serving individual students of the participating high schools, whether as graduates or current dual-credit scholars.

“Now we’re going to be able to serve them as a group,” Kays said. “This produces volume. As you have a number of students that come together to be in a class, we can serve those students in a face-to-face classroom environment. We can have a greater list of class offerings for those students.”

Fortunately, Paul said, the program doesn’t require a lot of funding.

“Kilgore pays all the adjunct professors. We pay the base salary. We already had the teachers in place,” he noted. “The students are paying for the dual credits. They’re supporting the Kilgore side of it.

“Anything that we’re adding that’s new, we’re sharing the cost of – if we have to add new personnel in the future, we can share the cost of that.”

Meanwhile, the schools generate more state funding by having the enhanced course load available for students.

“The district’s pitch in some, TEA gives us more funding, and Kilgore College gives too,” Paul said. Only the PCT position had to be added to White Oak’s faculty: “Everything has really been either donated or a system that’s already in place.

All the necessary furniture’s ready, too, save for the PCT program’s hospital beds – on the way.

“We can expand this out to as big as we want it to be. It can become a full-blown program,” Paul said, “kind of like a satellite campus.

“Right now, it’s small, but we at least have it in motion. All in all, I think it’s got a lot of potential.”



UG’s Spears honored by UIL

AUSTIN — The University Interscholastic League is proud to recognize 15 of the best UIL sponsors in Texas as the 2022 UIL Sponsor Excellence Award winners.

The winners were selected by a panel of judges in the areas of academics, athletics and music from nominations submitted by school principals and superintendents across the state.

The award, now in its 32nd year, was created to identify and recognize outstanding sponsors who enable students to develop and refine their extracurricular talents to the highest degree possible within the education system.

“Coaches and teachers have such a difficult job, and they go beyond the call of duty to serve as UIL sponsors, coaches and directors,” said UIL Executive Director Dr. Charles Breithaupt. “UIL events function and thrive on the dedication and immense effort from sponsors like these. On behalf of the UIL, I commend these outstanding educators.”

Union Grove’s Sandy Spears was one of those honor.

With over 37 years’ experience in coaching theater and debate, Sandy Spears has spent the last nine years at Gladewater Union Grove. During that time, she has led her teams to a third-place finish at UIL State One-Act Play, and an individual state championship in Persuasive Speaking. She also guided 11 other individuals to medals at the UIL Academic State Meet. Spears has served on the 2A UIL Regional Speech and Debate Committee for over 20 years and served as host for the District Academic Meet.

“In my programs, I believe in setting a precedent in excellence,” Spears said. “I believe many students will achieve exactly what you expect them to achieve; students are going to rise to or sink down to what is expected of them. I have been blessed to find my passion of teaching high school students theater and debate, and I am so thankful for it.”

EDUCATION FOUNDATION GLADEWATER'S 4TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
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GIDDY-UP & GIVE 2023
Education Foundation Gladewater's 4th Annual Grants For Teachers Fundraiser
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 • 6 PM

Dear Gladewater ISD Patron,

The Education Foundation Gladewater (EFG) is pleased to announce its 2023 Grants for Teachers Fundraiser Event, Giddy Up & Give 2023! We have scheduled this event for Sept 30 at Tempest Golf Club in Gladewater. It will once again be a fun night of fundraising with dinner, music, and a live and silent auction. Watch for more details on our website and Facebook page!

The EFG's mission is to support innovation and creativity in the classroom by funding educational grants submitted by faculty and staff of Gladewater ISD. The teachers of our district strive to add innovative and engaging curriculum to their classrooms, but budget constraints at times limit those possibilities. By supporting Giddy Up & Give 2023, you can provide a much needed contribution to make those innovative ideas a dream come true for our teachers.

There are several ways to support this effort. Would you sponsor a table? Purchase individual tickets to attend the event? Or, donate an auction item? Certainly, you are welcome to do all!

We hope that we can count on your help to make this year's Giddy Up & Give 2023 event a success!

Thank you for your consideration in partnering with the EFG as we work together to make Gladewater ISD a premier district in this region. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact any of our EFG directors for additional information.

Sincerely,
Katie Ellis
Katie Ellis, Event Chair

P.S. We are pleased to announce that the Education Foundation Gladewater is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

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- Charitable Non-Profit Tax Donation
- Sponsor will receive 10 dinner tickets to the "Giddy-Up and Give" Fundraiser Event
- VIP table placement
- Logo/Name on Table
- Recognition at Live Auction Event, Foundation Website, Social Media & receive a "Thank You for Sponsoring" Yard Sign
- Happy Hour Entry

SILVER SPUR LEVEL - \$1,500

- Charitable Non-Profit Tax Donation
- Sponsor will receive 10 dinner tickets to the "Giddy-Up and Give" Fundraiser Event
- VIP Table Placement
- Logo/Name on Table
- 2 Heads/Tails entry
- 1 bottle of red and/or white wine on table or spirit of choice
- Recognition at Live Auction Event, Foundation Website, Social Media & receive a "Thank You for Sponsoring" Yard Sign
- One (1) Grant given in your name during the 2023-2024 school year
- Happy Hour Entry

GOLD NUGGET LEVEL - \$2,500

- Charitable Non-Profit Tax Donation
- Sponsor will receive 10 dinner tickets to the "Giddy-Up and Give" Fundraiser Event
- VIP Table Placement
- Logo/Name on Table
- 4 Heads/Tails entry
- 10 "Bear Bags"
- 2 bottles of red and/or white wine of your choice on table & spirit of choice
- Recognition at Live Auction Event, Foundation Website, Social Media & receive a "Thank You for Sponsoring" Yard Sign
- Three (3) Grants given in your name during the 2023-2024 school year
- Happy Hour Entry

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LIQUOR WAGON SPONSOR - \$200 (2 available)
Includes recognition at Giddy-Up & Give with company name and logo in all printed and multimedia materials and signage on liquor wagon.

HEADS & TAILS SPONSOR - \$200 (3 available)
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MYSTERY COOLER SPONSOR - \$200 (2 available)
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Thank you in advance for your sponsorship and donation!

Courthouse renovation begins in October

By Phillip Williams

The adviser to Upshur County Commissioners Court on the \$12.8 million historic renovation of the 86-year-old county courthouse told the court last week the project will probably begin in October.

Marion County Judge Leward J. LaFleur—who the court hired several months ago to oversee the project since his own courthouse in Jefferson underwent a similar one—made the statement after the court approved signing a contract with JC Stoddard Construction Co. of San Antonio to be construction manager as contractor.

In a related development at the court's Aug. 15 meeting, County Judge Todd Tefeller said he was “not (making) a promise” that the annual East Texas Yamboree carnival, traditionally located around the courthouse, will be held there during the Oct. 18-21 festival.

LaFleur said Monday that was because officials aren't sure exactly what day the renovation will start, and that keeping the carnival away from the project would be for “public safety.”

Yamboree President Abby Stewart declined comment on the matter Monday until she confers with Tefeller.

LaFleur had told the court last week that Stoddard, which the court recently selected from four firms that submitted bids on the job, will name a supervisor and run newspaper ads seeking subcontractors.

The Marion judge addressed the court at its first meeting in its new temporary meeting quarters at 150 E. Jefferson, across the street from the courthouse lawn's north side.

The project, funded by state, local and federal funds, is aimed at restoring the five-story courthouse largely to its original appearance when it opened in 1937. The renovation has been in the works for many years, awaiting approval of funding from the Texas Historical Commission.

Tefeller said although the state has committed \$5.2 million toward the project, “we're trying to pad on that” and the state may add another \$900,000-plus. That could lower the county's current share of the project cost, which is more than \$7.6 million, he said.

While the contract with Stoddard is for \$12.297 million, LaFleur said Monday that doesn't cover architectural-related costs of the project.

Stoddard's construction schedule is 620 days.

As of Monday, all courthouse offices except County Election Administrator Lory Harle's had relocated to various temporary sites near the courthouse in the downtown Gilmer area.

Hers will be moved to 115 Simpson Street on the downtown square's east side after remodeling at that address. A spokeswoman for Harle said the administrator was packing Monday to move and hoped to do so by Sept. 7.

Already moved to 150 E. Jefferson are offices of Tefeller (and his courtroom), County Clerk Terri Ross, County Auditor Connie Williams, County Treasurer Brandy Vick, County Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle, Precinct 3 County Commissioner Michael Ashley, and the misdemeanor section of District Attorney Billy Byrd's office.

Several other offices were moved to the old Croley Insurance building, located at 216 and 218 Titus across the street from county Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell's office. The onetime Croley quarters, a brick structure one block north of the courthouse, was formerly occupied in recent years by Dean Fowler's law office and a bail bond operation.

Relocated there are offices of Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Anthony Betterton, Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller, Precinct 4 Constable David Thompson, Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols and the indigent health care office.

The adult probation office was moved to a shop building on Cass Street next to the sheriff's office's Stanley Jenkins Training Center.



Lady Lions place 2nd at Xcountry meet

By Faith Woodall

Union Grove hosted their annual cross country meet Aug. 19, with the varsity Lady Lions earning second place out of 15 teams.

And out of 99 runners, Sophie Pyle led the Lady Lions by finishing in 10th, Danica Vestal placed 18th, Ava Wightman 20th, Rachel Potter 22nd, Keira Taylor 39th, and Jenna Scott 42nd. The JV Girls won the team competition with Gracelyn Head in 6th, Averi Cook 7th, Hailey Griffin 9th, Arianna Gibboney 12th and Jill Taylor 17th.

Despite the team being rather young, the Lady Lions maintain the motivation they will need to win their ninth district meet and get back on top at region after placing fourth last year by saying “seven together five strong”, meaning that though seven compete, only five scores count.

“This helps motivate our team to want to be the five that get counted, and even if you are not a part of the five strong, you are just

as important and needed in the team,” captain Sophie Pyle said. “Anyone can have a bad race, so the runners who step up to be counted in the five strong make up the difference.”

The varsity Lions placed seventh place overall with Senior Isaiah O'Neal leading the team by finishing in 12th. David Shaver finished in 20th, Lane Turner 47th, Kenneth Flannagan 50th and T.J. Fowler 74th. Josiah Sturkie finished in 20th and Mateo Lara 21st for the JV boys.

The junior high girls finished in third place Landry Harris finishing first place in a field of 64 runners. Susanna Sturkie finished in 10th, Emma Waddle 19th, Briana Bowling 26th and Bree Cox 29th.

The junior high boys also earned third overall with Ryder Martindale placing 7th, Brady Pritchett 13th, Konnor Long 21st, Liam Mayhan 23rd, Kynan Birlew 28th, and Connor Stanford 34th.

20 schools participated at The Union Grove Cross Country Invitational on Saturday, Aug. 19th.

Varsity Girls
(15 teams and 99 runners)
VARSITY GIRLS:

- Gilmer 1st
- Union Grove 2nd
- Mt. Vernon 3rd
- Quitman 4th
- Mineola 5th
- Tyler Heat 6th
- Marshall 7th
- Harleton 8th
- James Bowie 9th
- Ore City 10th
- Troup 11th
- Jefferson 12th
- West Rusk 13th
- New Summerfield 14th
- Gladewater 15th
- UG - Sophie Pyle 10, JoJo Vestal 18, Ava Wightman 20, Rachel Potter 22, Keira Taylor 39, Jenna Scott 42

VARSITY BOYS
(10 teams 91 runners)

- New Summerfield 1st
- Quitman 2nd
- Tyler Heat 3rd
- Marshall 4th
- Gilmer 5th
- Harleton 6th
- Union Grove 7th
- Elysian Fields 8th
- West Rusk 9th
- Troup 10th
- UG - Isaiah O'Neal 12th, David Shaver 20th, Lane Turner 47, Kenneth Flannagan 50, T.J. Fowler 74

JH GIRLS
(8 teams 64 runners)

- Christian Heritage Longview 1st
- Quitman 2nd
- Union Grove 3rd
- Gilmer 4th
- Tyler Heat 5th
- New Summerfield 6th
- Gladewater 7th
- Marshall 8th
- UG - Landry Harris 1st, Susanna Sturkie 10, Emma Waddle 19th 19, Bri Bowling 26th, Bree Cox 29th

JH BOYS
(8 teams 60 runners)

- New Summerfield 1st
- ETHS 2nd
- Union Grove 3rd
- Tyler Heat 4th
- Gladewater 5th
- Marshall 6th
- Quitman 7th
- Elysian Fields 8th
- UG - Ryder Martindale 7th, Brady Pritchett 13th, Hunter Long 21st, Liam Mayhan 23rd, Kynan Birlew 28th, Connor Stanford 34

JV GIRLS
(4 teams 39 runners)

- Union Grove 1st
- Gilmer 2nd
- Gladewater 3rd
- Jefferson 4th
- UG - Gracie Head 6th, Averi Cook 7, Hailey Griffin 9, Arianna Gibboney 12th
- Jill Taylor 17th

JV BOYS
(4 teams 30 runners)

- White Oak 1st
- Quitman 2nd
- Marshall 3rd
- Tyler Heat 4th
- UG - Josiah Sturkie 20th, Mateo Lara 21st



Senior Calee Carter sends her trademark canonball shot toward the Pleasant Grove front line as Ludovic Polizzi (14), Alli Sims (1), and Kate Dusek (8) watch from a safe distance. The Ladynecks defeated PG, 25-18, 25-23 in a 3 way match played at Lobo Coliseum. The Ladynecks will be hosting the Shirley Atkins Volleyball Tournament this Thursday thru Saturday.
Photo by Mike Peery

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Gladewater Firefighter Tim Basham places a penny on the gravestone U.S. Army Master Sgt. Travis E. Watkins, who died Sept. 3, 1950, in action that began Aug. 31 during the Battle of Yongsan. The symbolic penny comes from the Wounded Warrior Project – any person who visits a veteran’s grave leaves a penny, a nickel shows that individual trained with the deceased at boot camp, a dime indicates they served together elsewhere and a quarter shows the visitor bore witness to the death of the soldier.

CITATION:

M/Sgt. Watkins distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When an overwhelming enemy force broke through and isolated 30 men of his unit, he took command, established a perimeter defense and directed action which repelled continuous, fanatical enemy assaults. With his group completely surrounded and cut off, he moved from foxhole to foxhole exposing himself to enemy fire, giving instructions, and offering encouragement to his men. Later when the need for ammunition and grenades became critical he shot two enemy soldiers 50 yards outside the perimeter and went out alone for their ammunition and weapons. As he picked up their weapons he was attacked by three others and wounded. Returning their fire he killed all three and gathering up the weapons of the five enemy dead returned to his amazed comrades. During a later assault, six enemy soldiers gained a defiladed spot and began to throw grenades into the perimeter making it untenable. Realizing the desperate situation and disregarding his wound, he rose from his foxhole to engage them with rifle fire. Although immediately hit by a burst from an enemy machine gun he continued to fire until he had killed the grenade throwers. With this threat eliminated he collapsed and despite being paralyzed from the waist down, encouraged his men to hold on. He refused all food, saving it for his comrades, and when it became apparent that help would not arrive in time to hold the position ordered his men to escape to friendly lines. Refusing evacuation as his hopeless condition would burden his comrades, he remained in his position and cheerfully wished them luck. Through his aggressive leadership and intrepid actions, this small force destroyed nearly 500 of the enemy before abandoning their position. M/Sgt. Watkins’ sustained personal bravery and noble self-sacrifice reflect the highest glory upon himself and is in keeping with the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.

DUE HONORS

Veterans entrust Medal of Honor recipient’s legacy to local firefighters

Continued from Page 1

the Marine Reserves,” the retired gunnery sergeant said, “so I got a Color Guard together for the occasion.”

Later, he tended the grave, but there were no other specific celebrations in the following years until President George H.W. Bush signed into law the national Medal of Honor Day, set annually on March 25 since it was first observed in 1991.

Watson and his fellow veterans continued to care for the gravesite over the years but at “82 knocking on 83,” the former Gladewater City Council member is content to pass on the privilege to Gladewater Fire Department, whose personnel – veterans among them – will show the plot the respect it deserves in perpetuity.

They’ve already made a significant impact, enlisting a litany of volunteers to enhance the Medal of Honor winner’s space.

Before they got started, “The flag that was here was tattered and worn,” Watson said, and there was no key to be found for the padlock put in place by the Korean War Veterans Association. As his brother was a retired GFD firefighter, “I called the fire department to see if they would come out and cut that lock off for me so I could change that out. They did, and ever since then Gladewater Fire Department has been involved in maintaining this.”

From enhancing the landscaping to adding solar lights and revitalizing the flagpole, the department’s firefighters (veterans among them) and other volunteers have made diligent improvements. Several joined Watson Monday to place their own pennies on Watkins’ headstone.

“It comes from the Wounded Warrior Project,” GFD Fire Chief Mike Simmons noted. “When people come and visit any kind of veteran’s grave, you put a penny down.”

A nickel means the person served with the fallen at boot camp. A dime indicates they served together elsewhere. If a quarter is laid at a gravesite, it means that individual witnessed the service member’s death.

“You can go anywhere in the world where Americans have served, and you’ll see coins on graves.”

After Watson’s coin was in place, Simmons insisted GFD Capt. Kevin place his penny next: “He kind of took the bull by the horns when he came out here and saw the flag and said, ‘Can we do something?’”

Palmer is a veteran himself – he joined the Army in 1998 – and spearheaded the gravesite revitalization alongside his GFD colleagues.

Gladewater firefighters Tim Basham and Josh Ewald were among the volunteers who helped with the project and laid down pennies as well Monday afternoon.

“I think this is going to generate some interest and we’ll get back to doing an annual event,” Simmons said. Meanwhile, “At least we’re getting back to doing Wreaths Across America. It’s a good starting point, and we’ll go from here.”

That memorial observation – set in December – has already collected more than half the cost of 400 wreaths (\$6,800 at \$17 apiece) to be placed on veterans’ graves throughout Gladewater Dec. 16. Donations by individuals, families, churches, businesses and other organizations should be directed to Gladewater Chamber of Commerce’s Lois Reed.

In the meantime, Simmons is proud of his personnel and Bucket Brigade volunteers for honoring Watkins’ grave with time to spare before the Sept. 3 commemoration of his sacrifice.

“Definitely a marked improvement from where it was to where it is now.”



(From right) Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons, Capt. Kevin Palmer and veteran Leon Watson speak beside the gravesite of local Medal of Honor recipient Travis E. Watkins Monday.

Photos by James Draper

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