Gladewater Mirror

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WEEK 5

FOOTBALL

IT'S GAME TIME!

Gladewater vs Gunter
7:30 p.m. Friday at Gunter

Union Grove vs Ore City
7:30 p.m. Friday at Union Grove

White Oak vs Elkhart
7:00 p.m. Friday at White Oak

WOISD's chief looks back at first 100 days

By James Draper

Dr. William Paul's first '100 Days' as White Oak ISD superintendent have been productive.

Skipping to the end: "The reality is, we're in great shape," Paul said. "We really are."

Case in point, prior to Paul's hundred days report Sept. 11, WOISD's school board members applauded alongside the friends and families of an extensive list of students and teachers who earned accolades after their first month of classes.

Likewise, trustees heard an update on the ongoing success of the district's FFA program before diving into a litany of necessary tasks.

According to Paul, after taking on the district's top job in the spring, he's attended 60-plus school and community events. He's survey parents in addition to dialogues with businesses as well as local government and church leaders.

"One of the things it did is just kind of affirm what I already thought: We have a great district," Paul said. "Our students are respectfully, take school seriously and hold staff in high regard. Our staff cares about students. Our facilities are well-maintained. Our budget is in good shape."

There are some areas with room for improvement, of course.

First, Paul said, he's eager to take a more in-depth look at the district's facilities plan and align it with a vision for the future: "Where do we want to be in 10 years in terms of facilities?"

Meanwhile, "We need to overhaul our business office and personnel procedures," he added, and to continue assessing and improving safety and security. The district also needs to be proactive in preparing for the inevitable retirement of senior staff members during the coming decade. "We are very top-heavy in that regard. We need to be very intentional about how we transition as these staff members retire and make sure they're being replaced with high-quality individuals."

For students' sake, Paul has two main goals: to win the Lone Star Cup – "Every year we're on the cusp." – and to continue enhancing Career & Technical Education (CTE) options.

That's not necessarily to add more, he added, but to ensure the district is maximizing potential in current programs. He's excited about WOISD's new partnership with Kilgore College (along with Gladewater ISD and Union Grove ISD) and the opportunities that creates for adding a healthcare pathway for interested students.

By the end of the school year, 10 White Oak students will be certified as Patient Care Technicians.

"That's what they need the most in healthcare facilities," he said. "That's becoming a more popular program by the day."

Among other practical steps for improvement, the district will post available jobs by March in order to get the "best and brightest" applying for the next school year. Another annual goal will be a balanced budget with six months of operating expenses in hand.

"With our overhaul of procedures," he said, "I think we're going to become more efficient.

Likewise, "We're going to work on overhauling our bus fleet through grants."

All things considered, based on everything he's seen, Paul is excited for the weeks, months and years ahead.

"It's easy to see why we're still a destination district."

Gladewater High School's Hadassah Balcorta was crowned 2023 Miss Gregg County Pageant at the Gregg County Fairgrounds Thursday night. Facing a cacaphonous crowd of friends, peers and fans while standing beside fellow contestants including Miss White Oak, Addison Clinkscales, Balcorta's white satin sash of Miss Gladewater was soon complemented by her new Miss Gregg County regalia, including a sparkling tiara. Balcorta was also voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants, cheered on by a contingent of Gladewater High School students, staffers and parents.

Photos by James Draper

Balcorta crowned Miss Gregg County

By James Draper

Gladewater High School's Hadassah Balcorta was chosen Miss Gregg County Sept. 14 – just one of a number of crowning achievements the past month.

Facing a cacophonous crowd of friends, peers and fans while standing beside fellow contestants including Miss White Oak, Addison Clinkscales, Balcorta's white satin sash of Miss Gladewater was soon complemented by her new regalia, including a sparkling tiara.

Balcorta was also voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants, cheered on by a contingent of Gladewater High School students, staffers and parents at the Gregg County Fairgrounds.

"Gladewater's trying to get put on the map for all of the good things," Gladewater High School Principal Derrick Floyd told trustees days later, presenting Balcorta with a litany of accolades Sept. 18: "She's a self-starter. She is well-poised. She is a lot of adjectives that I don't even have time enough to list out."

In addition to Miss Gladewater and Miss Gregg County, Balcorta – daughter of Sakkinah and Paul Balcorta – was named Gladewater High School's 2023 Homecoming

Queen earlier this month.

The spark for Monday's honors goes back even further.

"She took the PSAT last year and has gained national honors from this," Floyd said.

The College Board National Recognition Programs celebrate high school achievers, spotlighting strong academic performance.

According to the program, "The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students are an opportunity for students to share their strong academic achievements with colleges and scholarship programs that are seeking to recruit diverse talent."

With test scores, GPA, demographics and other factors in consideration, "She got recognized in two different categories," Floyd said, "the National Hispanic Recognition Program… and the National African American Recognition Program for outstanding academic achievement."

2023 Union Grove Homecoming Court

Freshman Duchess: Rachel Potter, Sophomore Duchess Kaki Pharr, Junior Duchess Hannah Coulter, Senior Duchess Sarah Clowers, Senior Duchess Faith Woodall, Senior Duchess, Maria Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez, Senior Duchess Jenna Scott and Senior Duchess Kathryn King.

Photo by Kim Hill

OPINION/COMMENTARY

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.

Its all about the blues ...

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell

Once upon a time in the 1970s a little country girl found herself going to community college full-time and working three part-time jobs. One was at a cattle auction, one was as a daily newspaper de- livery girl, and one was as a 20 plus hour a week secretary to Erwin Golden.

Mr. Golden was in medical school when he had a diving accident that led to a life lived depending on others. He was a quadriplegic. I had a severely handicapped brother. We were perfectly comfortable with each other. I learned a great deal from Mr. Golden and his par- ents. From 'his man' Sonny I learned the blues.

Sonny had been a bass player for the great blues artist Freddie King. I was blessed to see Freddie King the one and only time I went to Mother Blues in Dallas. I have never forgotten sitting just feet away from King and being transported to a place I had never experienced before.

Sonny taught me about music that was not rock, not country, and I thought, not mine. But real blues is for everyone because it is story telling truth, reverberating notes and guitar licks that get down deep inside you, moves you and changes you...if you let it.

My sweetheart and I married young, went off to university togeth- er, and loved and survived on $300 a month. If the music wasn't free, well, we didn't see much of it. As our careers took off, my sweet- heart worked nights and I taught eager young minds during the day. We had a beautiful baby boy after nine years and spent the next 20 or so working hard, raising our son and being adults...for the most part.

And then my sweetheart started taking me to concerts. He had me make my music bucket list and for the last few years he has been checking it off. Now it is done. Nothing will ever top last Friday night.

This past weekend I received, in my sweetheart's words, my anni- versary, birthday and Christmas gift...he took me to Eric Clapton's Crossroads blues festival. Friday there was five and a half hours of music heaven. Saturday more of the same. And, on Sunday we tired- ly trekked to Irving to say goodbye to my favorite guitarist of all time...Peter Frampton. Yes, over Clapton.

The lessons Sonny taught me when I was 18 years old came rolling back to me with the Crossroads Festival music, the legends and the legends in the making performances. The lineup included Clapton, Frampton, Bonnie Raitt, Joe Walsh, Billy Gibbons, Keb' Mo', Derek Trucks, Vince Gill, Robert Cray, John Mayer, Jimmie Vaughan, Citizen Cope, Buddy Guy, Gary Clark Jr., Sheryl Crow, Doyle Bramhall...and I could just keep going. Even Johnny Depp played with Jeff Beck. Beck I can do without.

But there was that moment when everything stopped. Time stood still, music history was written and a legendary performance giv- en. The greatest guitarists of my generation, Eric Clapton and Peter Frampton performed passionately "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" by their dear, late great friend, George Harrison. It was the first time the guitar heroes had performed together. At the end of the song, thousands were weeping right along with Clapton's and Frampton's guitars. Peter embraced Eric at the end and said, "thanks for making my dream come true".

Peter Frampton, the passionate guitarist, who plays with aban- don and joy has been diagnosed with a progressive neurological disorder. His notes are now numbered. His trading of guitar licks with Clapton is the stuff of music legend. And l was there. I heard the talent. I saw the passion. And I saw the ending of something truly great and for that I will always be grateful.

I wish Sonny were still around so I could tell him what I saw and what I felt. The blues rocked my world and that sweet, gener- ous man taught me to love the blues. And, as for my sweetheart's anniver- sary, birthday and Christmas gift? The memories will be treasured, unwrapped and replayed for as long as my blues loving heart beats to the music.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

LNG ...

The United States now exports more liquefied natural gas (LNG) than any other country. It's a relatively new development, with Australia and Qatar usually topping the rankings in the past. The volume of US exports has surged over the past few years, with major new facilities coming online and strong global demand. While Australia and Qatar volumes have been fairly stable since 2018, US exports have basically quadrupled.

LNG exports during the first half of 2023 averaged 11.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), up 4% compared to the first six months of 2022 (due primarily to Freeport LNG's restart after an incident last year). Australia was second, averaging 10.6 Bcf/d, followed by Qatar at 10.4 Bcf/d.

Europe and the UK are the principal destinations for US exports. In fact, just five countries (the Netherlands, the UK, France, Spain, and Germany) imported more than one-half of US LNG. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resulting shutdown of Russian natural gas supplies to Europe have contributed to notable short-term expansion in regassification capacity, with Germany's imports beginning just this year and other European countries increasing capabilities. Other important export markets are Japan, South Korea, India, China, Argentina, and Brazil.

From an economic perspective, the primary effect of liquefaction technology is transforming natural gas from a domestic market limited by pipeline infrastructure to an international phenomenon. The development of the global LNG market enhances security by enabling Europe and other nations to purchase fuels from reliable allies on a continuing basis. In addition, gas-fired power plants involve dramatically lower emissions than the coal-fired units that countries such as Germany were forced to utilize last winter as Russian gas supplies dwindled.

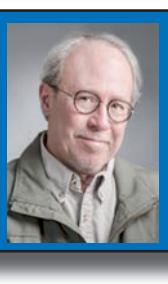
Texas and the Gulf Coast play a crucial role in the LNG market. For the 12 months ended June 2023, US LNG exports totaled over 3.9 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). Of that amount, about one fourth was produced in Texas, with 743.8 Bcf in Corpus Christi and another 231.1 Bcf in Freeport (which was only in operation for five months). Two Louisiana facilities in Sabine Pass and Cameron accounted for another 66% of US exports. Our firm has performed the regulatory analysis for most of these facilities, and more capacity is in various stages of completion.

The continued development of the LNG market helps ensure that people around the world have adequate power and heat despite the shenanigans of Russia and other like-minded nations. In addition, natural gas is clean burning compared to existing alternatives such as coal and has a definitive role in ensuring an affordable and reliable supply of power as renewables develop. Although prices are low at the moment due primarily to excess supplies, long-term demand throughout the world will assure sustainability and future investment.

Stay safe!

Paxton acquitted on impeachment counts

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Ken Paxton has been reinstated as Texas Attorney General after the Texas Senate on Saturday acquitted him of charges of bribery and misuse of office. Only two Republican senators joined the 12 Democrats in voting to convict him of some of the 16 charges heard by the Senate, with four other charges dismissed by the Senate, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"Today, the truth prevailed," Paxton said in a statement issued immediately after the verdict. "The truth could not be buried by mudslinging politicians or their powerful benefactors."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who presided over the impeachment trial, scolded the House for voting overwhelmingly for impeachment of the embattled attorney general in late May. House Speaker Dade Phelan responded that Patrick was "confessing his bias."

"The inescapable conclusion is that today's outcome appears to have been orchestrated from the start, cheating the people of Texas of justice," Phelan said.

Paxton is not out of legal hot wateryet. He faces a trial in March on an eight-year-old indictment for securities fraud. He is also the focus of a federal probe into his relationship with developer Nate Paul that led to some of the impeachment charges.

Out-of-state firefighters head to Texas

As drought and high temperatures continue to contribute to wildfires in Texas, more than 1,400 firefighters from 38 states and territories have arrived this year to help with response, the Texas Tribune reported. The number of wildfires that the Texas A&M Forest Service responded to in July and August skyrocketed to 163 in July and 501 in August, far above the average since 2005 of 103 in July and 151 in August.

"Drought development and the number of consecutive 100-plus degree days has contributed to critically dry vegetation across much of the state, which is supportive of wildfire activity," said Erin O'Connor, program specialist for the Texas A&M Forest Service. "With current conditions, we have wildfires that are more complex and show extreme fire behavior, hold heat longer and require more time and effort to suppress."

As of Sunday, the service reported six active wildfires, most of which are nearly contained. Recent rainfall has lowered the state fire level from 4 to 3.

There are currently 215 counties with burn bans in place. Luckily, widespread rainfall in the Hill Country, North and East Texas and much of the Rolling Plains is reducing the risk.

TEA delays release of accountability ratings

The Texas Education Agency is delaying the release of A-F district and campus accountability ratings for about one month. The ratings were to be released on Sept. 28. The postponement allows for re-examination of "the baseline data used in the calculation of progress to ensure ratings reflect the most appropriate goals for students," the news release said. The delay is a result of further study being made into the impact of the pandemic on student progress.

"Maintaining high expectations helps guide our efforts to improve student learning and support," said Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath. "The A-F system is designed to properly reflect how well our schools are meeting those high expectations, and the adjustments we are making this year will ensure it continues to serve as a tool for parents and educators to help our students."

New COVID-19 boosters now available

A new vaccine booster for COVID-19 is now largely available, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending all people over the age of six months get the new shots as the number of new COVID cases and hospitalizations increase across the state, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

"There's a lot of thought that COVID is over, but...we've seen over the last few weeks an increase in cases, hospitalizations and death," said Dr. Brian Metzger, medical director of infectious diseases at St. David's HealthCare in Austin. "While it's not nearly what we were seeing, ... there's still a significant burden of illness. We can't ignore it."

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 14 issue of the *Mirror*, the article on White Oak's upcoming tax increase miscalculated the percent change year-to-year. The city's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate is a 1.02 percent increase on the current year.

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THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION BY FAITH ONLY # 2

Last week I mentioned that the widely believed doctrine of *"salvation by faith only"* is flatly contradicted in the Bible. I emphasize again that James 2: 24 says: *"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."* As you reflect on that passage of Scripture, remember it is the only place in the Bible that the phrase *"faith only"* appears. Thus, In spite of how widespread the idea is, the facts are, that the only time the words *"faith only"* appear in our Bible, they tell us we are NOT justified by *"faith only."*

If you are wondering why so many people believe salvation is by faith only when the Bible plainly says it isn't, I would suggest that one reason is because many people have not distinguished between being saved *"by faith"* and the idea of being saved *"by faith only."* When we talk about being saved *"by faith"* we are talking about what the Bible teaches in many places. For example, Romans 5: 1 says: *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Ephesians 2: 8 says: *"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."* So, the Bible teaches people are saved *"by faith."* But saying one is saved *"by faith"* is one thing and saying one is saved *"by faith only"* is something else. Thus, one way we know *"salvation by faith"* is different from the idea that one is *"saved by faith only"* is because the Bible teaches one and denies the other! The same Bible that says we are saved *"by faith"* also says we are not saved by *"faith only."*

Dear friends, don't be misled into thinking you can ignore what God says to do to be saved, and instead be saved by simply believing there is a God or that Jesus is God's Son. True, there is a God, and Jesus is His Son, but just believing that truth and ignoring what God and Jesus say to do, will not save anyone. Think on these things.

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Proposition Number 1
(HJR 126)

HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment would not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize the regulation of these practices by: (1) a state agency or political subdivision as necessary to protect the public health and safety from imminent danger; (2) a state agency to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production; or (3) a state agency or political subdivision to preserve or conserve the natural resources of the state under the Texas Constitution. Additionally, the proposed amendment would not affect the legislature's authority to authorize the use or acquisition of property for a public use, including the development of natural resources under the Texas Constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."**

Proposition Number 2
(SJR 64)

SJR 64 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The proposed amendment would authorize the governing body to adopt the exemption as a percentage of the appraised value of the property, but that percentage could not be less than 50% of the appraised value of the property. The proposed amendment also would allow the legislature to define the term "child-care facility" and to establish additional eligibility requirements to receive the property tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility."**

Proposition Number 3
(HJR 132)

HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the wealth or net worth of an individual or family. The proposed amendment also would prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax based on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family."**

Proposition Number 4
(HJR 2- Second Special Session)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to modify certain provisions of the Texas Constitution related to property taxes. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to temporarily limit the maximum appraised value of real property for property tax purposes in a tax year. The proposed amendment also would increase the mandatory homestead exemption for school district property taxation from $40,000 to $100,000. The proposed amendment would require the legislature to provide for a reduction in the amount of the limitation on school district property taxes imposed on the residence homestead of the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the amendment would exempt appropriations not dedicated by the Texas Constitution and used for property tax relief from being considered as appropriations when determining whether the rate of growth of appropriations in a biennium has exceeded the constitutional tax spending limit. The proposed amendment would further authorize the legislature to provide that members serving on an appraisal board in a county with a population of at least 75,000 serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from $40,000 to $100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts."**

Proposition Number 5
(HJR 3)

HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment would appropriate to the TUF an amount equal to the interest income, dividends, and investment earnings attributable to the economic stabilization fund for the preceding state fiscal year. The appropriation amount could not exceed $100 million for the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023, or an amount adjusted for the increase in the general price index, not to exceed two percent, in subsequent state fiscal years. The proposed amendment also would prohibit any state university that is entitled to participate in dedicated funding provided by Article VII, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution from receiving money from the TUF.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."**

Proposition Number 6
(SJR 75)

SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The Texas water fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) or its successor to assist in financing water projects in the state. The proposed amendment would direct the Texas water fund administrator to use the fund only to transfer money to other TWDB funds or accounts. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money for deposit to the water fund to be available for permitted transfers. No further legislative appropriation would be required for the water fund administrator to transfer money from or restore money to the fund, including the transfer of money to or the restoration of money from certain designated TWDB funds and accounts. The water fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by general law; (2) other revenue that the legislature by statute dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund; (4) money from gifts, grants, and donations to the fund; and (5) money returned from any authorized transfer. The proposed amendment would require the legislature, by general law, to provide for the manner in which money from the Texas water fund may be used. The proposed amendment also would require that at least 25% of the money initially appropriated to the Texas water fund be transferred to the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state."**

Proposition Number 7
(SJR 93)

SJR 93 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas energy fund. The Texas energy fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) or its successor. Money in the Texas energy fund could be used, without further appropriation, only by PUC or its successor to provide loans and grants to finance or incentivize the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities necessary to ensure the reliability or adequacy of an electric power grid in the state. The proposed amendment would require PUC to allocate money from the fund for loans and grants to eligible projects for electric generating facilities that serve as backup power sources and in each region of the state that is part of an electric power grid in proportion to that region's load share. The Texas energy fund would consist of: (1) money credited, appropriated, or transferred to the fund by or as authorized by the legislature; (2) revenue that the legislature dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) the returns received from the investment of the money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations contributed to the fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities."**

Proposition Number 8
(HJR 125)

HJR 125 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the broadband infrastructure fund. The broadband infrastructure fund would be a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund, administered by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller). Money from the fund could be used, without further appropriation, only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would consist of: (1) money transferred or deposited to the fund by the Texas Constitution, general law, or the General Appropriations Act; (2) revenue that the legislature by general law dedicates for deposit to the fund; (3) investment earnings and interest earned on money in the fund; and (4) gifts, grants, and donations to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the Comptroller to transfer money from the broadband infrastructure fund to another fund as provided by general law, and the state agency that administers the fund to which any money is transferred could use the money without further appropriation only for the expansion of access to and adoption of broadband and telecommunications services. The broadband infrastructure fund would expire on September 1, 2035, unless extended by adoption of a joint resolution of the legislature. Immediately before the expiration of the fund, the Comptroller would be required to transfer any unexpended and unobligated balance remaining in the broadband infrastructure fund to the general revenue fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects."**

Proposition Number 9
(HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to eligible annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the general revenue fund to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to pay the cost-of-living adjustment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas."**

Proposition Number 10
(SJR 87)

SJR 87 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation tangible personal property held by a medical or biomedical manufacturer as a finished good or used in the manufacturing or processing of medical or biomedical products.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain."**

Proposition Number 11
(SJR 32)

SJR 32 proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the authority of the legislature with regard to conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County. The Texas Constitution permits conservation and reclamation districts in certain counties across the state to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities but does not currently provide this authority to El Paso County. The proposed amendment would add conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to those districts currently allowed, if authorized by general law, to issue bonds supported by property taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities. The proposed amendment would not limit the powers of the legislature or of a conservation and reclamation district with respect to parks and recreational facilities as those powers currently exist.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities."**

Proposition Number 12
(HJR 134)

HJR 134 proposes a constitutional amendment to abolish the office of County Treasurer in Galveston County. The amendment would authorize the Galveston County Commissioners Court to employ or contract with a qualified person or designate another county officer to perform any functions that would have been performed by the County Treasurer. The proposed amendment would take effect only if a majority of the voters of Galveston County voting on the proposition favor the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County."**

Proposition Number 13
(HJR 107)

HJR 107 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for state justices and judges. Currently, the Texas Constitution establishes that justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts must retire on the expiration of the term during which they reach the age of 75 years or an earlier age, not less than 70 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment would change the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges of the appellate courts, district courts, and criminal district courts to 79 years or an earlier age, not less than 75 years, as the legislature may prescribe. The proposed amendment also would remove the provision stating that justices and judges may only serve until December 31 of their fourth year in office if they reach the age of 75 years in the first four years of a six-year term.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges."**

Proposition Number 14
(SJR 74)

SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The centennial parks conservation fund would consist of: (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the fund by the legislature; (2) gifts, grants, and donations received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or its successor for a purpose for which money in the fund may be used; and (3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to appropriate money from the centennial parks conservation fund to TPWD or its successor for the creation and improvement of state parks.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks."**

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GISD Super: *'What are the keys to our current and future success?'*

By James Draper

"What are the keys to our current and future success?"

There are a lot of factors that come into play for Gladewater ISD, Dr. Sedric Clark told local business leaders Sept. 12 during Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's quarterly luncheon.

Walk into any GISD school and speak to any student, Clark said, and anticipate a polite 'Hello,' 'Yes, sir' or 'Yes, ma'am' in return.

"We've got great kids. We've got great employees – I've never been in a place in our district where folks aren't working," he added. "We've got a great board of trustees that's focused on meeting the needs of our kids and meeting the needs of the people taking care of them.

"We've got a great community."

The district's in the best position it can be, Clark said, but it certainly does need its community.

"We need you not only to be for us but to be vocal for us," he said: "Our job is to meet the needs of kids."

Clark's been at Gladewater ISD seven years. With 300 employees including 150 teachers, the district's current enrollment stands at 1,695 – notably, that's 157 students less than GISD saw a decade back.

"You remember what happened in March of '20?" he asked. With the COVID-19 pandemic, "Everything shut down and we truly have not recovered from that in our enrollment."

Demographically, the student body is listed as 53 percent Caucasian, 21 percent African American, 18 percent Hispanic, 7 percent 'Two or More Races' and 1 percent Asian. Among the students enrolled this year, 77 percent are considered 'Economically Disadvantaged.'

"They didn't choose to come from a home with low income," Clark noted, adding that 23 percent of GISD's students are deemed 'Highly Mobile' and "22 percent of our kids are special needs students at some level or another."

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, trustees approved a $21 million budget, the sixth consecutive year a balanced budget has been submitted.

"Your tax rate for the school will decrease by 28.25 percent," he added. "Our folks do a real good job of taking what we have and doing what we need to do with it. We live within our means and do everything we can to remain there."

Notably, 2022 accountability ratings have not been released, but with new testing and a new calculator, Clark anticipates the district's results will come in lower despite recent progress among students.

Regardless, "Our teachers and our students will always work as hard as they can. We will always get better," he said. "That's what we're doing for every kid in our district. At the end, when all things are counted, we're going to look a lot better than we're looking.

"I'm expecting a decrease, but I'm also expecting an increase when we come back next year. I want to make sure this community's proud of who we are."

Especially following the tragedy in Uvalde and mandates from state legislators, the district has an even greater focus on safety, with a School Resource Officer on each of the four campuses.

Meanwhile, "We're pushing real hard this year for parental

and community involvement at a different level," he said. "School is for kids. Our school system shouldn't be set up to please the adults there. It should be set up to make sure those kids go through and get everything they need."

Clark's grateful for the district's partnerships; with the Gladewater Education Foundation, for example, and the burgeoning joint venture with Kilgore College, White Oak ISD and Union Grove ISD for career/technical courses and dual credit classes at WOISD's KC satellite.

"Our goal is to make sure that when every child crosses the graduation line, he or she has a spot, he or she has a place, they know where they're going for the future."

The superintendent also highlighted the district's 'Grow Your Own' District Innovation Plan that is cultivating new educators while they pursue their degrees.

"There aren't many folks going into education right now. We have to create our own teacher pipeline," he said. "We've also in the past five years, given a salary increase to every employee. We're doing that with a balanced budget with the money we have."

Overall, he repeated, it comes down to ensure Gladewater's students have the best education possible.

"Take care of kids, everything else will take care of itself. That's my belief about a school district."

Gladewater council to meet Thursday at 6 p.m.

The Gladewater City Council will meet Thursday at 6 p.m. at City Hall for its monthly regular meeting to discuss the following agenda items:

- Approve an interlocal agreement between Upshur County and the City of Gladewater for assessment and collection of taxes
- Approve a fire protection agreement between the City of Gladewater and Upshur County ESD #1 and a fire protection agreement between the City of Gladewater and Upshur County ESD #1 as agent for the City of Union Grove
- Conduct a public hearing regarding a request to rename a portion of Roden Lane to Anderson Lane, then take action on that request
- Discussion/consideration of Ordinance 0-23-10 designating W. Hull Ave. as a one-way street in a west bound direction from Canfield St. to N. Tenery Ave.; designating W. Jeanette Ave. as a one-way street in an east bound direction from N. Tenery Ave. to Canfield St.; prohibiting all parking on W. Hull Ave. from Canfield St. to N. Tenery Ave.; and prohibiting all parking on W. Jeanette Ave. from N. Tenery Ave. to Canfield St
- Discussion/consideration of Ordinance 0-23-11 amending §7.07.030 Schedule III -School Zones of the Gladewater Code of Ordinance
- Discussion/consideration of Resolution R-23-06 Nominations for Upshur County Appraisal District Board of Directors
- Discussion/consideration of Resolution R-23-07 Establishing a Public Newspaper of General Circulation to be the Official Newspaper for the City of Gladewater
- Discussion/consideration of Resolution R-23-08 regarding a Municipal Maintenance Agreement between the City of Gladewater and the State of Texas through the Texas Department of Transportation
- Discussion/consideration of Resolution R-23-09 Electing to Utilize the Standard Allowance to Determine Revenue Loss as Allowed by the Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund / American Rescue Plan Act. The City of Gladewater has been awarded $1,574,315.92.
- Discussion/consideration of Resolution R-23-10 regarding East Texas Council of Governments Solid Waste Grant Application
- Discussion/consideration of GEDCO budget amendments for fiscal year 2022-2023
- Discussion/consideration of establishing Rules for Parliamentary Procedure for Gladewater City Council and Council appointed boards
- Discussion regarding installation of fence along the south side of the railroad tracks in downtown Gladewater from Ferry Street to Broadway Avenue
- Executive session regarding purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property - Ball Park
- Reconvene into open session and take any action necessary regarding - Ball Park

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Cori Arevalo appointed to fill vacant GISD Place 5 seat

The dais is now full at Gladewater ISD – on Monday, the district's board of trustees chose Cori Arevalo to fill their vacancy in Place 5.

In addition to a number of other agenda items and board training, the school's elected officials tapped the brakes slightly on developing plans to repair storm damage and mitigate other issues at the Weldon Elementary School Auditorium.

After narrowing their pool of applicants, the trustees invited three to address the board in the opening portion of the regular Sept. 18 meeting.

"It's a blessing that we have a such a good applicant pool that we can make a decision without asking for more," board president Ross Morgan said. Later, after a 30-minute closed session and unanimous vote for Arevalo, he praised the other two nominees, thanking them for their interest and for their ongoing contributions to the district, its students and staff.

Arevalo is a communications specialist at the Region VII Education Service Center. While her family has deep roots in Gladewater, Arevalo told the trustees she and her husband were initially reluctant to enroll their children in GISD because of stigmas that once surrounded the district.

Eventually, though, "We were forced to come into Gladewater, and it was immediately a great thing. They welcomed us with open arms," she said, especially after her son was diagnosed with autism. "They guided us through the most difficult time in our lives and immediately changed our opinion of Gladewater. At that point, I became very involved," serving with the Parent Teacher Organization, Education Foundation and Band Boosters.

"I find it as my way to give back to the educators and students for all that they do. I truly believe in Gladewater's potential and am dedicated to helping all of us reach new heights here."

She looks forward to helping the district shed lingering stigmas.

"I think this school plays a very vital role in this town as a whole."

Regarding the auditorium at Weldon, mid-June's raging weather left behind catastrophic damage to the facility's roof. A faulty thermostat compounded the issue even more, and the building is on lockdown ahead of expensive renovations including mitigation for mildew and asbestos abatement.

In two action items on Monday's agenda, the board considered waiving the standard procurement process for such repairs and weighed approval of a budget amendment to cover the costs.

Trustees Chris Thompson and Garth Cockerell were reluctant to move forward without more information on the district's insurance claim – the anticipated deductible is $500,000 on an estimated $600,000 pricetag for the total refurbishment of the auditorium.

"We're putting the cart before the horse," Thompson cautioned, questioning whether "We're going to go ahead and approve something, but we don't know how much it's going to cost or anything."

Cockerell agreed: "I sure want to know what the insurance people say," he added. "We need to know what we're looking at and what they're going to provide for… It's major damage."

It's a two-fold issue for Dr. Sedric Clark, GISD superintendent.

Three months out from the storm, "We want to do this as quickly as we can but also save money," he said.

Ultimately, the trustees approved waiving the competitive purchasing requirements 5-1 (with Thompson voting 'Nay' and Arevalo abstaining) then accepted Clark's recommendation to table the budget amendment until more details are available.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Spud Supper served

The Gladewater Honeybears will host a Spud Supper from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, in the Gladewater High School Cafeteria. Purchase tickets from Honeybears in advance or at the door that night – at $10 for adults and $6 for children under 10, tickets include a baked potato (with options of sour cream, cheese, butter, chives and bacon) as well as dessert, salad and a drink.

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.

Summer Shoe drive underway

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

Throughout July, four businesses in Gladewater will be collecting donations of new pairs of shoes and socks for boys and girls in a variety of sizes. The four donation locations include Citizens Bank, the Gladewater Mirror, Penny's Food & Fuel and City National Bank. Shoes sizes range from toddler through youth and adult. Socks will be greatly appreciated, says organizer Darla Ferguson.

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

GHS Class '73 renuion 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 GFSA, P.O. Box 1425, Gladewater, TX 75647.

5K run on tap

Caring Hearts of Gladewater's latest 5K Run/Walk returns to Lake Gladewater Saturday, Oct. 14.

The annual event is being co-sponsored by Gym 101 and benefits Longview Cancer Center.

"During this event, the Christus Health Mammogram bus will be available for on-site screenings for local women who have either never had a mammogram or need one," organizers announced. "They are offering screening vouchers of $99 per person to complete this process.

Registration for the Run/Walk begins at 7 a.m. Oct. 14 and will wrap up at 7:45 a.m. before the event's official 8 o'clock start.

It's $10 to participate for children and $20 for adults. Checks should be made out to Caring Hearts at P.O. Box 1404 in Gladewater, TX 75647.

The organizers are still seeking vendors for the event. For more information on Race/Walk details or to sign up as a vendor or donor, contact Shelia Faggins at 903-844-1326 or Teresa Gordon at 903-812-3269.

County library hosts storytime Thursday

Two books by Aaron Blabey will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Sept. 21.

To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings are "Pig the Pug" and "Pig the Stinker," said Kari Dunn, children's coordinator for the library.

OBITUARIES

MARTHA JEAN (KINCAID) CHRISTIAN

Martha Jean (Kincaid) Christian was born in Sherman, in 1934 to Floyd Paul Kincaid and Helen Bell Kincaid. She passed away peacefully after a brief illness in Lincoln City, Oregon on September 12, 2023 at age 89.

She grew up in Sherman and attended Austin College in Sherman then enjoyed a long career as a public-school educator. Martha was a standout high school and college thespian and orator, winning numerous state competitions for drama and extemporaneous speech.

She married William "Bill" Vaughn Christian of Whitewright, Texas in 1956 and they enjoyed 61 years of marriage before his death in 2017. After leaving Texas then living in California and New Jersey, Martha and Bill returned to their home state and settled in Gladewater and then later, Longview where they spent the next 44 years making many strong and lasting friendships. Martha taught in the Gladewater ISD for more than 25 years and served as a dedicated CASA volunteer for 5 years. They traveled

extensively after they both retired and in 2012, Martha and Bill moved to Lincoln City, Oregon to be near their daughter Ellen and her family.

Mother to David Christian of Arco, Idaho (deceased 2018) and Ellen Christian of Nazare, Portugal. Grandmother to Paul McCully, Christian McCully and his wife, Krista of Eugene, Oregon.

She will be remembered as a fiercely loyal friend, an extraordinary cook and social entertainer and a quick witted, wickedly good Bridge player.

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by Charley & Guy Orbison

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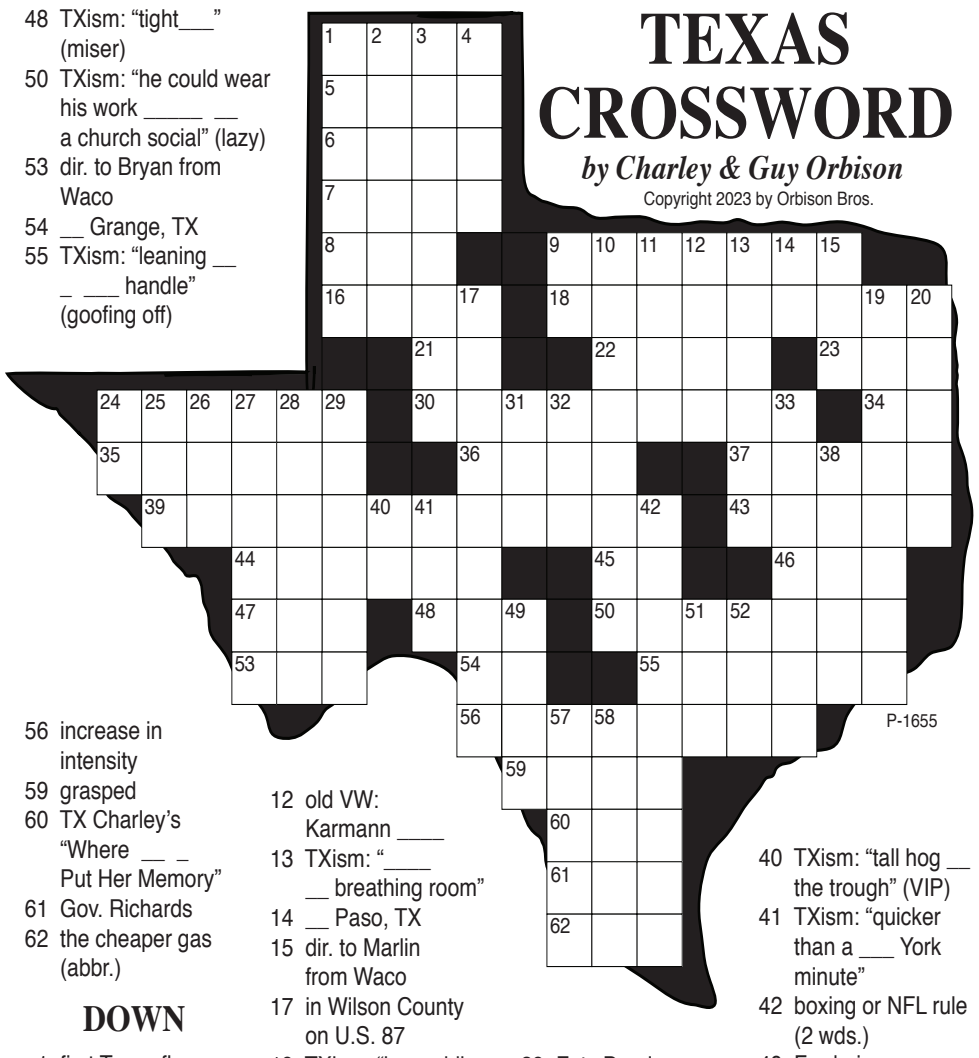


ACROSS

1 ____-Cola
5 TXism: "_ ___ piece" (distant)
6 TX Don Henley sang lead on Eagles hit "Life in the Fast ____"
7 TX Trini's "If _ ___ A Hammer"
8 not a gentleman
9 LBJ's dogs
16 this Nixon played outfield for the Rangers in 1995
18 actor Jack of TX-filmed "Terms of Endearment"
21 TXism: "chompin' __ the bit"
22 Glen Campbell is a Texan in film "True ____"
23 female sheep
24 TXism: "attacked like grandma ____ _ chicken snake"
30 direction to Austin from San Antonio
34 dir. to Dallas from Palestine (abbr.)
35 Texas fiddler, Choates
36 winter garment
37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" offers a 72-_____ steak
39 TXism: "___ _ _____' for" (craving)
43 _____ Tuck
44 joyful
45 _ _ Siecke State Forest
46 this Robb started as a Ranger and ended as a Giant
47 dreamy phase of sleep (abbr.)
48 TXism: "tight___" (miser)
50 TXism: "he could wear his work _____ __ a church social" (lazy)
53 dir. to Bryan from Waco
54 __ Grange, TX
55 TXism: "leaning __ _ ___ handle" (goofing off)
56 increase in intensity
59 grasped
60 TX Charley's "Where __ _ Put Her Memory"
61 Gov. Richards
62 the cheaper gas (abbr.)

DOWN

1 first Texas flag was made of this cloth
2 TXism: "at the drop __ _ ___" (immediately)
3 seat of Hemphill County
4 TXism: "mad as _ ___-eyed cow"
9 TX golf legend Byron (init.)
10 final decade of the Cold War
11 unit of Texas land
12 old VW: Karmann ____
13 TXism: "____ __ breathing room"
14 __ Paso, TX
15 dir. to Marlin from Waco
17 in Wilson County on U.S. 87
19 TXism: "he paddles his ___ _____" (independent)
20 more recent
24 TXism: "grabbin' __ straws"
25 TX O. Henry story: "A ___ in Santone"
26 TXism: "just ___ whoops and a holler away" (near)
27 goes in
28 caminos _____ (royal roads)
29 Fats Domino sang "Ain't That _ _____"
31 landmark case of "___ v. Wade" started in Texas
32 TXism: "hot as road ___ in July"
33 "____ ___ other cheek" (do not retaliate)
38 Enrique Pena _____ was 64th Mexican president
40 TXism: "tall hog __ the trough" (VIP)
41 TXism: "quicker than a ___ York minute"
42 boxing or NFL rule (2 wds.)
49 Frederic Remington's "A ____ for the Timber" hangs in Fort Worth
51 TXism: "brains __ _ box" (computer)
52 TXism: "rug ___" (child)
57 _____ Hill, Texas is south of Dallas on U.S. 67
58 how TX Howard Hughes died

See Answers On This Page

County tax rate goes down

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday lowered the county's property tax rate after approving the county budget for 2023-24, although dropping the rate won't prevent most taxpayers from having higher tax bills than they did last year.

The court reduced the rate from the current 59.9 cents per $100 valuation to 49.6 cents-=a 10.3-cent decrease--but increases in taxable property valuations assessed by the Upshur County Appraisal District are expected to generally increase taxes.

In a separate vote from the one on the rate itself, the court ratified raising tax revenue by $1.12 million, or 8.23%, from this fiscal year (which ends Sept. 30.)

County Auditor Connie Williams has said that about $536,000 of the increase will come from new properties, and that the overall increase will go primarily toward the forthcoming historic restoration of the county courthouse in downtown Gilmer.

Williams told the court that while overall valuations in the county jumped about 30%, she also noted that Texas voters can decide to raise their homestead tax exemptions in the Nov. 7 election on proposed amendments to the state constitution.

County Judge Todd Tefteller said that if the exemption increase passes, county taxes on an average homestead will rise only $20.14, which is "not much."

He also said the state government had required that many valuations be adjusted. (Major increases in valuations drew a protest from several citizens at the county appraisal district in Gilmer earlier this year.)

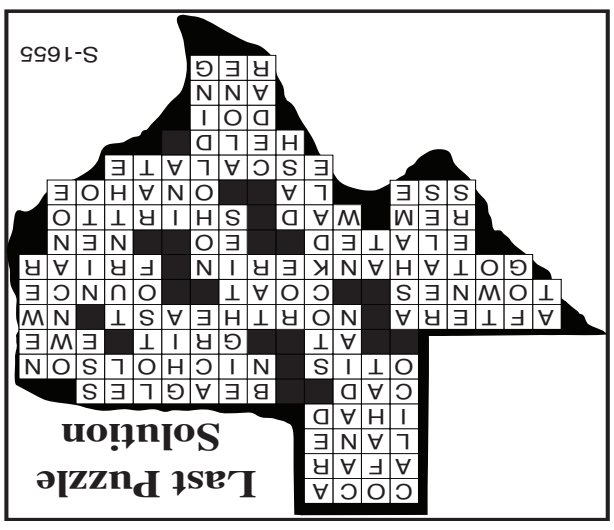
Dropping the county tax rate to 43.666 cents wouldn't have increased the county's tax revenue. The additional intake, though, isn't enough under state law to require voter approval in a special election.

Besides setting the 49.6-cent rate--which is all for maintenance and opeerations since the county has no debt--the court approved budgets of $18.67 million for the general fund, $2.83 million for the insurance fund, and also a budget for the dedicated fund.

Williams has said the dedicated funds are mainly from grants, along with funding assigned to certain offices for certain purposes, and that most of the dedicated monies come from the county's reserve fund.

The budget contains $1,200 salary increases for most county workers, more for a handful of others, but no raises for elected officials other than Sheriff Larry Webb and the four county constables. They are Tim Barnett, Jason Weeks, Ronnie Mitchell and David Thompson.

Webb received a $15,000 raise and the constables a $10,000 hike because the increases were required for the county to receive a Rural Law Enforcement Grant from the state, Williams said recently.



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GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
9/10/23	EMS	20235094	2:22		530 NORTH NORTH ST
	EMS	20235095	8:00	MOBILE VILLAGE TRAILER PARK	1520 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20235096	12:14		1997 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235097	12:56		505 W GAY GAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20235098	17:14	DOMINOS	1050 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235099	19:17		18151 FM 1252 FM 1252
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235100	20:17		1703 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20235101	21:46		1813 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235102	21:57		1577 N RODEO RODEO DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20235103	23:32	CAPSHAW DERIEUX,LLP	114 E COMMERCE COMMERCE DR
9/11/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20235104	9/11/23	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20235106	6:52	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235107	7:37		1576 N RODEO RODEO ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235108	11:59		1811 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	WARRANT	20235110	13:15		MARTHA MARTHA
	FIRE DEPT	20235111	15:57		2539 N POINT PLEASANT RD N POINT PLEASANT RD
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20235112	19:16		305 WOOD WOOD ST
	ABANDONED 911	20235113	21:27		UNKNOWN UNKNOWN
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20235114	22:00	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
9/12/23	EMS	20235115	0:37	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20235116	4:01		302 W MAPLE MAPLE AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20235117	5:39		1406 SPRUCE SPRUCE ST
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20235118	9:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20235119	10:04	THE BAR	26237 COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20235121	11:48		WOODBINE WOODBINE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20235122	11:49		N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20235123	13:11	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ESCORT	20235124	13:46	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	CRIM MIS	20235126	16:09	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20235127	16:16		507 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	EMS	20235128	16:52		2604 W HAMPTON HAMPTON
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235129	18:47	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235130	20:10		906 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235131	20:49	DOLLAR TREE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235132	21:45	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
9/13/23	ABANDONED 911	20235133	2:09		101 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20235134	2:16		302 MAPLE MAPLE
	UNAUTHORIZED USE MOTOR VEH	20235135	6:14		409 N MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20235136	6:44		2281 W GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20235137	9:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20235138	11:46		510 WHITE WHITE
	ASSIST	20235139	13:35		306 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	EMS	20235140	15:02		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235141	16:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235142	16:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235144	17:06		27 GARDEN GARDEN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235146	19:38		510 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	EMS	20235147	19:50		16 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235148	20:46		319 TAYLOR TAYLOR ST
9/14/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20235149	2:00		690 BRIARCOVE BRIARCOVE
	ASSIST	20235150	9:52		500 E EDDY EDDY AVE
	EMS	20235151	10:47		1592 N RODEO RODEO ST
	EMS	20235152	13:47		671 HICKORY HICKORY
	EMS	20235153	13:54		1508 N DAISY DAISY
	EMS	20235154	14:01		1002 KAY KAY DR
	10-50 MINOR	20235155	15:13	GLADEWATER CITY HALL	519 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20235156	16:23	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20235157	16:49		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235158	17:19		115 PR 1301 PR 1301
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235159	19:47	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235160	20:28		810 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20235161	20:50		305 WOOD WOOD ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20235162	20:49		LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	10-50 MINOR	20235163	21:27		COACH COOKSEY COACH COOKSEY
	EMS	20235164	23:40	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
9/15/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20235165	3:20	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235166	4:08		HIGHWAY 80 HIGHWAY 80
	INCIDENT W/REPORT	20235167	6:57	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20235168	7:17	ANYTIME FITNESS	603 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20235169	9:33		519 MELBA MELBA
	ASSIST	20235170	9:49		
	EMS	20235171	11:57		2723 COBY COBY
	ASSIST	20235172	12:12	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20235173	12:40		1207 VESTA VESTA AVE
	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	20235174	12:45		401 RIVERSIDE RIVERSIDE
	CRIM MIS	20235175	13:11		503 S TYLER TYLER ST
		20235176	14:37	GLADEWATER ISD BUS BARN	721 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20235177	15:06		319 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	ASSIST	20235178	15:43		RINEHART RINEHART
	ASSIST	20235179	16:21	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20235180	16:29		2212 PINECREST PINECREST
	TERROR THREAT	20235181	16:35		101 EMPIRE EMPIRE
	10-50 MINOR	20235182	16:58		HWY 135 HWY 135
	ASSIST	20235183	18:01	WILD WEST HAIR SALON	2001 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235184	19:39	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235185	21:57		EDDY EDDY
9/16/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20235186	1:35		HAROLD HAROLD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235187	2:04		328 MELBA MELBA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235188	4:56		226 HULL HULL ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235189	9:04		301 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK ST
	EMS	20235190	11:44	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235191	11:47		COMMERCE COMMERCE
	FIRE DEPT	20235192	12:19		BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235193	13:55		197 ELEANOR ELEANOR
	EMS	20235194	14:21		42 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235195	14:55		QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235196	15:41	FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	20235197	17:18		700 W MELBA MELBA AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20235199	18:30		1207 CANNON CANNON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235200	18:57		2115 HENDRICK HENDRICK ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235201	19:43		700 MELBA MELBA AVE
	EMS	20235202	20:05		1521 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20235203	20:16		GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235204	20:38		317 FIR FIR RD
	FIRE DEPT	20235205	21:08		2654 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235206	22:06		608 MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20235207	23:30		205 MILLS MILLS ST
9/17/23	EMS	20235208	0:03	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235209	1:06	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235210	2:32	CHADS HOTWINGS FISH AND BURGERS	809 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MAJOR	20235211	2:50		510 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20235212	4:16	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235213	8:34	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20235214	9:57		325 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ABANDONED 911	20235215	11:01		207 N FERRY FERRY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235216	11:38		1104 N LYNN LYNN
	FIRE DEPT	20235217	12:29		N RODEO RODEO
	MISCELLANEOUS	20235218	13:50		WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	FIRE DEPT	20235219	14:36		505 PEAR PEAR RD

GPD POLICE ARRESTS

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
9/11/23	9/11/23	13:13	BURT, SHAKIA KAY	B	F	WARRANT (LOCAL)	100 GAY

WOPD POLICE ACTIVITY

For the reporting period of Sep 11th through the 17th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 196 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Animal Complaints, Traffic Issues (collisions, road hazards, reckless drivers, traffic control, etc.), Burglar Alarms, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

One traffic collision was investigated which resulted in no injuries and no criminal investigations.

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

Terone Markeith Franklin, 31, of White Oak for an outstanding Baton Rouge Louisiana warrant for Possession of a Stolen Firearm,

Michael W. Stringfellow, 61, of Longview on an outstanding Gregg County warrant for Harassment,

Alanual James Randell, 33, of Longview for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and

Audriona Lenay Morrison, 29, of Longview on an outstanding Upshur County warrant for Possession of between 1 and 4 grams of a Penalty Group 2 Controlled Substance.

Upshur commissioners lifts burn ban

By Phillip Williams

Following recent rain, Upshur County Commissioners Court voted 4-1 Friday to immediately lift its temporary general ban on outdoor burning in rural areas, but parts of the county inside some cities' limits remained under such a prohibition as of Monday.

Some members of the court said certain officials who deal with county emergencies wanted the rural ban, which was imposed Aug. 4, terminated. Such a restriction, also imposed Aug. 4, remained in effect Monday in the cities of Gilmer, Gladewater and Big Sandy, but not Ore City and East Mountain.

Respective spokeswomen for the latter two cities said their bans were lifted because those municipalities follow the county's lead in such orders.

As for the rural ban, County Judge Todd Tefteller joined Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle, Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller in voting to end it.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley voted against lifting the restriction, which had been imposed due to extremely hot, dry weather that made burning hazardous.

Before Friday's vote, Nicholson told the court that the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2 wanted the ban ended. Miller and Tefteller said county Emergency Management Coordinator Marc Nichols also favored terminating it.

Celebrating 50 years of arts and crafts

After 50 years, it's no wonder the Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival drew a healthy crowd of well-wishers, treasure seekers and artisanal aficionados to town over the weekend.

With wonderful weather beckoning them to the grounds of the Gladewater ISD Administration, the bargain hunters and early Christmas shoppers moved through the sea of tents at a relaxed pace, taking their time to take in the sights, to feel the textures, to taste the salsas and honey, to enjoy the day surrounded by the creativity of visiting crafters.

Among the throng of artisans at this year's event, Darlene Garrett kept a watchful eye on the shoppers Saturday and Sunday, scanning for the lingering glance that said one was almost ready to go home with one of the items from 'Grandpa's Handcrafted Birdhouses.'

How was it going?

"We'll tell you tomorrow at 5 o'clock," she said with a smile Saturday.

George Garrett lounged nearby, enjoying the steady stream of festival-goers.

"Seems to be a very good crowd," he said, "a lot of friendly people."

Needless to say, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed was excited to be in the midst of the hustle-and-bustle of the half-century-old fair.

"I'm quite pleased," she said, handing out another guide listing the scores of crafters in attendance. "The weather's great. The crowd's been great."

Photos by James Draper

With almost 100 vendors on the list, Reed expected plenty of activity for the 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. stretch Saturday and its 10-4 encore Sunday.

Jessie and James Kaye were eager to join the multitude browsing the artisans' wares.

"We actually just moved here from Kansas," James said, holding a handmade metal decoration from 'Francisco's Metal Art.'

"This is way more than I expected it to be," Jessie agreed, hefting another recent purchase. "This is great. When the makers are here, that's really special."

They were ready to get a move on – there was still plenty to see, and plenty of items had already caught James' attention.

"The salsa, the preserves for me. I'm an eating kind of guy," he quipped. "Lots of creativity from a lot of people."

Gladewater residents still under burn ban

There's still an active burn ban within the Gladewater city limits – no ifs, ands or buts.

While Upshur County officials lifted their ban Monday, that only applies to areas that aren't also part of Gladewater. Gregg County's ban remains in place as well.

"Things are still in a critical nature right now," Mike Simmons insisted.

As Gladewater Fire Chief, the decision falls to him whether a burn ban is still active within the city, and Simmons is taking no chances based on data from the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI).

"When we go above 600 on the drought index, maximum 800, that's significant because we're in a condition where if a fire starts, live fuels burn," he explained. "Anything above 600 is when you're in extreme fire conditions.

"When I checked yesterday, we're at 741."

So, there's no way to forecast when the local ban will be lifted.

"We didn't get a significant enough rainfall to get that number down, no saturation."

On Sunday, local firefighters responded to an Upshur County incident after a burn pile got out of hand.

Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Palmer (left) and Consultant Amanda Nobles (second from left) connect with other economic development professionals during Stand Up Rural America 2023. Conferences are both opportunities for training and networking, tools that help fuel GEDCO's local progress. (Courtesy Photo)

GEDCO leans into learning, connecting to keep growing

PRESS RELEASE

A key item in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget for Gladewater Economic Development Corporation is an increase to the organization's fund for travel – specifically, travel that's tied to training.

Just recently, GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer attended the annual Stand Up Rural America Summit in Laurel, Mississippi, this year on Sept. 5-7.

It's a healthy road trip, Palmer said, but one that was definitely worth the drive.

"They move it all over the country," she said. "Our speakers were from smaller towns that used to be basically where we are, and now they've come into a place of success and prosperity while remaining smaller because of their location.

"A big theme that the success stories held was unification of vision between municipal and nonprofit entities in their area. That is something that has been a big point of attention for the new leadership that came into Gladewater in 2022."

More than just training, such events have other practical benefits as well – ones that can develop into leads down the road.

"It's about networking as well," Palmer added. "Networking is, in its own right, as valuable as training.

"Without the connections that are made at the conferences we attend, many of the areas we have made progress in and achieved success would never have happened."

Those connections open doors for partnerships with people and entities that broaden GEDCO's ability to support the community.

"Often, getting a seat at the table comes through a connection that you made at a conference. They have opened doors for us to participate in grants and multiple regional programs."

For example, GEDCO's recent participation in a brownfields remediation grant from the EPA came about through a conference connection. Another led to Palmer being the test participant in a new workforce training outreach.

The travel and training budget also covers GEDCO's board members.

"With ongoing training, board members are better-equipped to make educated decisions in handling these public funds," she said. "The network connections they make at conferences also bolster our reputation and exposure in the economic development community."

In the end, that's the primary thrust – building Gladewater as a thriving economic destination.

Immediately, though, "One of our biggest goals at this point is getting me specifically trained to prepare for certification," Palmer noted. "While I won't be eligible to test for certification for a few more years, the training is critical to our success here and now."

The training takes a deep dive into the daily workings and needs of EDCs. In particular, Palmer is getting an education in best practices that an executive director wouldn't be able to pick up organically.

"It doesn't just come with job experience," she said. Rather, these targeted trainings cover years' worth of high-level concepts from experts in the field. "They're college-level courses. I go for a week at a time, and earn about 40 college credits in a six-day period."

The goal is practical ROI by the end of the fiscal year.

"It gives us a firm foundation for developing our community," Palmer said, "and assists in putting us on the map. There are procedural expectations from prospective companies and site selectors – we have to be able to meet and exceed those expectations, and we're working steadily toward that goal."

SPORTS

Bears fall to #4 Malakoff

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears had a tough task on their hands on Friday night as they welcomed in the # 4 ranked Malakoff Tigers into Jack V. Murphy stadium for a non district battle. And while the Bears put up a fight early on in the 1st quarter, the Tigers were simply too much as they ran away with the game 51-7

The game started the worst way possible for Gladewater as they fumbled the ball on the second play of the game and it was recovered by the Tigers. Malakoff took no time cashing in as one play later Quarterback Mike Jones found wide receiver Kayland Davis for a 9 yard touchdown and a 7-0 Malakoff lead. After a 3 and out punt by Gladewater, the Tigers struck again as Jones found wide receiver Chauncey Hogg for a 37 yard touchdown catch as Malakoff went up 14-0. But the Bears fought back as Kyron Wilson threw a perfect fade pass to Carter Snider to cut the Malakoff lead in half at 14-7 to end the first quarter. But the Tigers began to a strangle hold on the game beginning in the 2nd quarter as Hall took it in from 3 yards out to give Malakoff a 21-7 lead. Then after another huge run by the Tigers, this one a 68 yard run by Bubba Hicks, Hicks took it in from 2 yards out to give Malakoff a 28-7 lead. The Tigers would add one more score before half time when Jones found Jakerry Smallwood streaking down the sideline for a 63 yard score and a 35-7 Malakoff lead at halftime. The Malakoff offense again took just one play into the 3rd quarter to get in the endzone again as Jones found Hogg again from 50 yards and gave the Tigers a 42-7 lead early in the 3rd quarter. Gladewater had a decent drive going but Wilson's pass was intercepted by Malakoff's two way star Hogg and that lead to a Tigers Landon Boswell 25 yard field goal and a 45-7 lead to end the 3rd. The Tigers would tack on one last touchdown in the 4th quarter as Smallwood found the endzone on a 2 yard jet sweep to cap the final score of 51-7

"Just an all around bad night on all sides of the ball. I thought the offense played well at points. But we couldn't get any stops on defense against a really good Malakoff offense. Probably one of the best offenses we will see all year, " said coach Louvier.

The loss drops the Bears to 0-4 on the season. They will be on the road on Friday night, September 22nd at Gunter in their final non district game.

"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

Learning to play the game ...

Last week we talked about kids playing baseball for fun. It should always be fun but at some point, it helps to know a little bit about what you're doing!

The first lesson that I remember learning about the game came from playing catch with my dad. There was nothing better than laughing and talking together while throwing the ball back and forth. It is a special time you never forget. Maybe that explains why grown men and women sometimes have to wipe their eyes when Kevin Costner and Dwyer Brown "have a catch" at the end of "Field of Dreams." When I was about eight it was time to learn the right way to catch a fly ball. Catching a straight ball or a grounder was instinctive but when that high fly ball seemed like it had dropped from a plane it was hard to get under it and wait for it. You needed to get your glove up above your head and shoulders so you could use the pocket. If you held the glove in front of you the ball could bounce out and drop to the ground or hit you in the face.

One morning Dad told me that when he got home from work that afternoon, we were going to work on it, so I was ready for the challenge when he got there. He must have thrown me fifty fly balls that were misjudged, dropped, or found their way to some part of my body other than the hand with the glove. Truth be told, we were probably both crying at one time. Finally, it began to sink in, and I was catching them all. Dad's arm may have been dragging the ground by then and I was probably exhausted but we were so excited nothing mattered. I don't remember what we had for supper that night, but I know it tasted great. It was a feast of celebration!

There were so many things yet to discover about baseball and so many ways to learn but no lessons made a bigger impression than that day in the yard with my dad. You know what they say about riding a bike – you never forget how. That same saying applies to catching a fly ball.

Baseball was – and is – fun. There is a right way to play. Then you add teamwork. Next week we'll talk about little league baseball in my hometown.

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

White Oak slips to a 0-4 preseason start

By Aidan Keller Lott

Following a loss last Thursday, the Roughnecks took on the Brook Hill Guards at home but failed to pick up their first win in the 55-20 loss.

The Guards were led by quarterback Cam Ryle who scored four of their seven touchdowns: throwing two and rushing for two. Ryle's two touchdown passes were to Dallas Clements and Brecklin Westbrook. Brook Hill also added three rushing touchdowns from Ronnie Lindroos, Xavier Kendrick and Tra Whatley as well as six points from kicker, Osagie Aziegbe.

Despite their defensive struggles, White Oak had two fumble recoveries from junior Lucas Frazier and sophomore Levi Sipes. The Roughnecks also stuffed the Guards on the goal line in the third quarter as well as forcing two tackles-for-loss from sophomore Bryce Morgan and senior Caleb Maxted.

"Our defense is starting to click because of better communication," Maxted said. "Our defense got better when we went to a four down front, but we have one more predistrict game and a bye week to get that fixed."

The Roughneck's scores all came through the air as sophomores Jaxsen Ludlow and Bryce Morgan combined for three touchdown passes. Morgan connected with sophomore Braydon Bratcher for 12 and 51-yard touchdowns while Ludlow heaved the ball 34 yards to freshman Tysen Mclain who led the team with 10 receptions and 140 yards.

"It felt great being on varsity," Mcclain said. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to catch the ball and contribiute for the team, and it feels better having a chance to show everyone what I can do."

Morgan stepped under center for the second straight week after Ludlow reinjured his left elbow in the third quarter.

"I feel nervous because I don't want to do something that messes up the team," Morgan said. "I definetely have a big role to fill with Jaxsen being out. I feel like we'll be fine, but I hope he can recover soon so we can get right back on track."

White Oak's Brayden Bratcher goes up for a catch against Brook Hill.

Photo by Mike Peery

UG Lions roll over LK, 45-8

Jace Roberts passed for two scores and rushed for a pair of touchdowns enroute to a 45-8 win over the Linden-Kildare Tigers.

Union Grove is now 4-0 with the win and will host Ore City this Friday night.

Roberts carried 18 times for 161 yards and two touchdowns and completed 9 of 14 passes for 107 yards and two more scores for the Lions. who racked up a total 436 yards.

Defensively, Will Wilson recorded 11 tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery and Carter Cooper recorded 10 tackles

The Lions led 7-0 after one quarter following a 12-yard TD run by George, and added to the lead midway through the second on a 26-yard TD pass from Roberts to George.

In the second quarter Roberts scored on a 47-yard run and then tossed a 7-yard TD pass to Griffin before the half to give the Lions a 28-8 lead. The Lions got TD runs of 9 yards from Roberts and 2 yards from Sirmans in the third quarter.

Volleyball roundup ...

In East Texas volleyball action, the Gladewater Lady Bears dropped their only game of the week 3-0 ot the Overton Lady Mustangs.

The loss drops Gladewater to 5-19 on the season. Their final non district game was Tuesday in Mineola, then district play gets underway on Friday, September 22 with a trip to Sabine.

The White Oak LadyNecks volleyball team was also in action this past week going 1-1 - falling to Central Heights on the road 3-0 and winning a home match vs Harmony 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, and 25-22).

White Oak now sits at 16-14 on the season. The LadyNecks were back in action on Tuesday against Pittsburgh before opening up district play on Friday at Hughes Springs

Lady Lions Taylor Campbell and Hannah Coulter block the ball. The Lady Lions won 3 to 2 against Jefferson.

Photo by Kim Hill