

Gladewater Mirror

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'We have heroes among us'

By James Draper

As U.S. Marine Jim Jones looked out over the audience in the Gladewater Former Students Association building Saturday, the veteran could count almost a score of them among the crowd.

There are many, many others, Jones said, sometimes sequestered away or harder to spot. He's proud to serve them as he's able as a veterans hospice volunteer.

"They live in our society," Jones added, and this society must make every effort not to forget them, not to neglect them, not to ignore their sacrifice and the virtues they exemplify. "It's been over 50 years, two generations, since we had a draft. Too few of us have skin in the game."

The 'son of a soldier and sharecropper' served from 1966 to 1969, including several campaigns in Vietnam in '67 and '68. In addition to a career with ExxonMobil, he's been a consultant for historical documentaries and movies about the armed forces.

His concern Saturday was not the past but the years and decades ahead.

"I see a future when no one knows any veterans," Jones lamented. "Patriotism is out of fashion," in schools and on university campuses, in the halls of government, where veterans' virtues are often forgotten.

That must change, Jones insisted.

"As war is apparently constant to mankind," he quoted, "there will always be veterans."

Saturday's event, at least, honored them.

GFSA members served a pulled pork lunch to the veterans and their guests with patriotic music from Gary Cox and door prizes for the attendees including a drawing for bespoke quilts. USMC veteran Leon Watson led a traditional POW/MIA observance ahead of the Veteran's Tribute to the Armed Forces, spotlighting each branch in turn as the gathered heroes stood at their anthem.

"For the most part, they came home and took their uniform off, never to be worn again," Jones said. Fortunately, their legacy of service continues – in businesses, in boardrooms, in their families, in places they can continue to have an impact and help ensure they, their fellow veterans and those who continue to serve are not forgotten by their society.



Revelers young-and-old descended on downtown Gladewater Saturday night for the 2023 Holiday Open House, getting a tiny taste of (specially-crafted) snow, knocking out some of their seasonal shopping with family in tow and gathering around the city's Christmas Tree to bask in the glow.

Photos by James Draper



No local polling spot for Gladewater voters

There were no nearby polling locations available for Gladewater's Gregg County residents last Tuesday, and it's sparked a fresh conversation between local and county officials.

Importantly, a \$19 million bond election for a county courthouse parking structure was on the ballot alongside 14 state constitutional amendments. The county's electorate signed off on the county's proposal, and officials noted an increased turnout in what would typically be a relatively muted vote compared to election years with the president on the ticket.

Through countywide polling, Gregg County voters can cast their ballot at any poll. It wasn't a substantial track for most residents with the closest polls in White Oak's Jim Nall Training, Sabine ISD's Old Elementary Cafeteria and the Greggton Community Center at 3211 W. Marshall Ave.

The lack of a Gladewater polling station sparked frustration with some voters, however, and they were keen for details about why this election was different from past years.

There's a straightforward answer from county officials: it saves residents' tax dollars.

Opening an Election Day polling location in Gladewater (or elsewhere) costs between \$4,500 and \$5,000 to cover 4-6 workers for about 14 hours in addition to the expense for the location and for the polling equipment. The county election office's decision also anticipated lower voter turnout based on prior years' data.

Running an early voting location costs between \$12,000 and \$15,000. It's why the county opted for a minimum number of polling spots this time around, focusing on county- and city-owned buildings.

Voters did use the opportunity to weight in, though.

More than 8 percent of the county's 73,723 registered voters had cast a ballot during Early Voting and the first hours of Election Day, Nov. 7. Total turnout was almost 15 percent by the day's end.

Ultimately, slightly more than 54 percent of the voters OK'd the county's parking garage bond – just shy of 6,000 votes in favor to about 5,000 against.

Regarding future elections, Mayor Scott Owens says he and other Gladewater elected officials and administrators are reaching out to the county to rectify the local polling issue.

Upshur murder suspect still at large

By Phillip Williams

As a capital murder suspect remained at large, his sister was arrested Saturday on a felony charge of hindering apprehension or prosecution of him, said Upshur County sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel.



Laquesha Monique McKnight, 38, of Longview, was arrested in that city by Longview police officers and remained in Upshur County Jail in Gilmer on Tuesday under \$500,000 bond, Hazel said.

Her brother, Alvin Charles McKnight Jr., 41, of Gilmer, is charged in the Nov. 4 apparent shooting deaths of sisters Mandy Ray, 35, and Dermetrica

Dashaunda Waters, 37, both of Gilmer.

They were slain at Ray's residence in the 2800 block of south U.S. 271 near Bluebird Road south of Gilmer, authorities said. Upshur County Crime Stoppers is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to Alvin McKnight's arrest.

Hazel has said Waters lived with Alvin McKnight until recently, so the slayings are considered "domestic violence." Gladewater police, meantime, said they found the suspect's pickup on Tenery Street in that city after the double homicide.

In a press release Saturday, Hazel said the sheriff's office obtained an arrest warrant for Laquesha McKnight after "investigators gathered information which provided

Continued on Page 3



Pope removes Tyler's Bishop Strickland after opposition to church reforms

From The Texas Tribune

Pope Francis has removed the bishop of Tyler, Joseph Strickland, who had been openly critical of the pope's efforts to reform the Catholic Church to be more inclusive of women in governance and LGBTQ+ people.

The removal Saturday comes after the Pope dispatched two U.S. bishops last year to investigate Strickland's governance of the Diocese of Tyler. The two bishops, who lead dioceses in New Jersey and Arizona, found it was "not feasible" for Strickland to remain in office, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston said Saturday.

Strickland, who was born in Fredericksburg and raised in Atlanta, Texas, has not released a statement on his removal from office.

In a September public letter responding to the investigation, Strickland said he "cannot resign" because he would be abandoning the congregation the late Pope Benedict XVI charged him with leading.

"I have also said that I will respect the authority of Pope Francis if he removes me from office as Bishop of Tyler," Strickland added.

The Pope asked Strickland to resign from office on Thursday. The bishop declined, leading Francis to forcibly remove him, DiNardo said. Pending "more permanent arrange-

ments," the pope has appointed Bishop Joe Vasquez of Austin as administrator of the Diocese of Tyler.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops declined to comment beyond DiNardo's statement.

Strickland, 65 and well below the 75-year-old retirement age for bishops, has been a prominent conservative critic of the pope. In May, Strickland accused Francis of "undermining the deposit of faith."

More recently, Strickland criticized the pope's October meeting to discuss the future of the Catholic Church.



The White Oak 4th Grade provided a musical program for the local veterans of the community Friday at C.C. Simmons Auditorium. The class was led by Elementary Music Director Brittany Fuller.

Photo by Mike Peery

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Brussel sprouts, premature Christmas carols & Mad Max Black Friday

Okie doke, materialism has wounded the wonder of Christmas and shuffled the lesser holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving under the rug. Premature Christmas ads on television started before Halloween. My Big Band 40s radio station has been playing Christmas carols for a couple of weeks. This is just too, too much.

In Suzanne's Perfect Fantasy World I would outlaw Christmas commercials until the week before Thanksgiving. Heck, Black Friday excitement seems to have overwhelmed the anticipation of traditional family Thanksgiving. Plus, we have those who have jump started the big BF sales starting the afternoon of Thanksgiving if not before. So much for family time.

What happened to groaning tables, straining buttons and lazy afternoon ball games interrupted by tryptophan inspired napping shared by the extended family? You can't tell me you are bonding at Wal-Mart's BF's early sale. Well, you can, but I choose not to believe it.

And those Christmas carols...if it is Bing Crosby, Andy Williams and even the best of pop Christmas today I am your girl, but please, NOT before I've had my turkey and dressing and counted my Thanksgiving blessings. While we are legislating holiday law can we outlaw the 'Christmas' songs that include barking dogs and Granny getting run over by reindeer. A laugh at Granny's expense just doesn't seem right. But, I really DO get Mommy kissing Santa Claus but after hearing that ONCE I'm good.

And yes Baby, I know that it's cold outside and while we are at it, frankly I want more for Christmas than you. I would like a little space, a little peace and a lot more reflection. But I digress. We haven't even had Thanksgiving yet.

Let's 'kill two birds with one stone'...family holiday drama. Yep, the stress level is up, my dressing is never going to taste like Mom's. I have lost my Mam'maw's pumpkin pie recipe (which makes me want to cry every time I think about it) and someone is always going to be at work, sick

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



or out of pocket. In other words, do not build up unmeetable expectations for the 'Big Family 2' ...you know, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Have you noticed that in the Hallmark movies they never show

horrific holiday traffic, truly terrible drivers, wound up cranky people with colorful vocabularies, absolutely flat wallets and the fact that you have to work every single day and then come to pay for it all. Let's don't even talk about weight gain and the holidays. Everyone says that calories don't count at the holidays but my jeans are counting and screaming.

Let's get to the main course. On Thanksgiving Day we need to double down and focus on the following: if you don't love hunkering down for hours of football you need to enjoy a nap, or long visits with people you spend far too little time with, or God help us, enter the Black Friday Mad Max driving competition.

And, I have to ask, does anyone really like Brussel sprouts? Then what about holiday etiquette? In my book, if you don't like it just eat it. Don't make a fuss, sample a few bites and display the good manners your Momma should have taught you. Make sure that everyone has firsts before you go back for seconds. Yes indeed, I did say that.

One last cardinal holiday rule, your Christmas tree and lights can not go up until after the Thanksgiving feast, preferably that weekend. And yes, I really, REALLY love Christmas.

Now that we have gotten that out of the way, prepare to count your blessings next week. After all, that is the reason for Thanksgiving and I am afraid that a bunch of us have forgotten that.

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

Family Fortunes ...

Every three years, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System releases results of the Survey of Consumer Finances. The Survey looks at family income, net worth, debt, and other indicators of the financial health of US families. The most recent report covers the interesting time period from 2019 (just before the COVID-19 pandemic) to 2022.

Let's explore a few interesting findings.



Although the pandemic has been devastating in many ways and the shut-downs and other disruptions to business activity caused massive dislocations, the Survey indicates that US families were actually better off financially due to the historic infusion of funds.

Income was up whether measured by the mean (average) or median (where half are above and half are below). The 2022 household income number reflects earnings in 2021, and many families were benefitting from pandemic-related federal relief packages. While the resulting enhanced unemployment and other benefits would be reflected, information on many stimulus payments was not included. Income increases were measured for most age groups and races/ethnicities. The highest median income group was Asian, with a median income of \$122,600, followed by White non-Hispanic (\$81,100), Hispanic/Latino (\$46,700), and Black (\$46,000) families. Not surprisingly, income remained highly correlated with education.

Looking at net worth (the difference between assets and liabilities), housing and equities both rose at rates outpacing general prices, leading to significant gains. Real median net worth was up 37% to \$192,900, and real mean net worth increased by 23% to reach almost \$1.1 million (obviously, wealthy households bring up the average). Net worth rose for all age ranges and education levels. Particularly notable percentage gains occurred in younger and less educated families.

The reasons for the improvement in financial wellbeing are varied. For many families, massive stimulus payments were used to pay down debt and increase wealth. Housing-related debt was fairly stable, but credit card balances dropped noticeably.

Homeowners' net worth was positively affected by soaring home prices. In fact, the Survey found that, for families that owned their home, the median net housing value (the value of a home minus the mortgage) rose from \$139,100 in 2019 to \$201,000 in 2022. The flip side of the surging housing market is that affordability fell to historic lows, with the median home value more than 4.6 times the median family income.

Despite the immeasurable human cost and dislocations accompanying the pandemic, it is interesting that from a purely financial perspective, most families were better situated in 2021 than they were in 2019. Nonetheless, it remains to be seen how future surveys will look given high inflation, a lagging housing market, the expiration of various stimulus initiatives, increasing consumer debt, and other issues surfacing since that time. Stay safe!

Lege gets to work in fourth special session

The Texas Legislature, conceived as a part-time body to meet every other year for 140 days, is now in its record fifth session (counting the regular session). When the impeachment trial of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is included, legislators have been in Austin pretty much the entire year, as the Texas Tribune noted. While legislators are paid just \$7,200 a year in salary, per diem payments – meant to cover their expenses while in Austin – have mounted. If the fourth special session goes a full 30 days, taxpayers will have spent \$4.8 million keeping lawmakers in Austin.

The Senate quickly passed measures last week allocating \$1.54 billion for segments of a border wall, a school finance bill that increases per-student funding, teacher retention bonuses for teachers and vouchers to parents who elect to send their children to private schools, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Once again, the onus is on the House, which has been reluctant to pass a school choice bill. The measure, being strongly pushed by Gov. Greg Abbott, is largely opposed by Democratic members and rural Republican legislators. On Friday, the latest plan was approved by the House Select Committee.

Voter turnout in amendment election was 14.4%

Voter turnout in the Nov. 7 election reached 14.4% of registered voters. The good news is that is the highest turnout for a constitutional amendment election since 2005, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office. The bad news: well, it was just 14.4% of the electorate.

Voters approved all but one of the 14 propositions on the ballot, the lone loser being a bid to raise the mandatory retirement age for judges from 75 years to 79. Measures providing property tax relief and a boost in teacher retirement pay passed overwhelmingly.

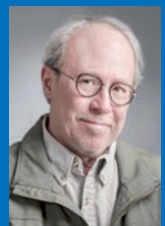
Also receiving approval was Proposition 5, which establishes a \$3.9 billion permanent endowment for research in eligible universities. Those include Texas State University, the University of North Texas, Texas Tech University and the University of Houston.

"We feel like we won the Super Bowl," Texas State University president Kelly Dampousse told the Statesman.

TEA releases financial accountability ratings

The Texas Education Agency has released its 2022-2023 financial accountability ratings for Texas public schools, with 88% receiving a "Superior Achievement" rating. The rating system, established in 2001, "encourages school systems to improve financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes."

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Only eight public schools and three charter schools received substandard achievement ratings. The eight public school districts receiving an "F" were Holliday, Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco, Keene, Priddy, Denver City, Tioga, Matagorda and Sunray ISDs. The three charter schools receiving an "F" were Education Center International Academy in Sunnyvale; St. Anthony School in Carrollton; and Texas Preparatory School.

Medicaid recipients victims of data breach

A data breach of a data file transfer company has exposed Texas Medicaid recipients, whose names and Social Security numbers were obtained in the hack. The breach occurred in late May when hackers obtained files being transferred using the MOVEit platform, The Dallas Morning News reported. A total of 67 million people in multiple countries had their personal information illegally obtained, including the Texas Medicaid recipients.

Anyone concerned about being affected by the hack can call UMass Chan, which was providing services directly to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, to find out. That number is 855-457-6006.

Millions offered for sustainable forests

Texas A&M Forest Service is offering \$16.65 million in grant funding to boost urban and community forest initiatives in communities throughout the state.

"The initiatives supported by this grant funding will prioritize communities and neighborhoods in areas of greatest need based on environmental and social data," said Gretchen Riley of the forest service. "By focusing on these areas, we can ensure that the benefits of urban forestry are distributed where they can make the most impact."

The funding comes from the federal Inflation Reduction Act. It is intended to help the state "expand its urban forest canopy, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption and enhance the health and well-being of residents," according to the news release. Grant applications will be accepted from Dec. 11 through Feb. 16, 2024. More information can be found at this link: <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/CFG/>.

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BAPTISM AND SALVATION

In Acts 22: 16, Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." We are repeatedly told that baptism isn't essential to salvation. Some say that all one has to do to be saved is just believe in Jesus. Others tell us that if you will say some "sinner's prayer," or "just invite Jesus into your heart you will be saved."

It is obvious that Saul of Tarsus believed in Jesus when He appeared to him on the road to Damascus, and said to him, "Arise, and go into the city, and there it shall be told thee what thou must do." (Acts 9: 6). Saul obeyed and went into Damascus, and was there three days, and did not eat or drink, and was praying. Ananias then came to him and told him what he MUST do. What did he tell him? He told him to, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 9: 18 says that Saul "Arose, and was baptized."

But, we are told that "water baptism has nothing to do with salvation, only the blood of Jesus can wash away one's sins." It is true that only the blood of Jesus can wash away one's sin (Rev. 1: 5; Matt. 26: 28). But, at what point does Jesus' blood wash away one's sin? At what point does one receive the remission of sins? Clearly, it is when one is baptized (Acts 22: 16; 2: 38).

Thus, Saul of Tarsus was not told to "stay down and pray," which he had been doing for three days, but he was told to "get up and be baptized." Why? To "wash away thy sins!" Therefore, Jesus' blood washed away, (remitted) Saul's sins when he was baptized. If not, why not? Has Jesus' blood washed away your sins? Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
11/5/23	ASSIST	20236151	0:03		2692 S US HIGHWAY 271 US HIGHWAY 271
	ALARMOTHER	20236152	0:07		519 HWY 271 HWY 271
	ALARMOTHER	20236154	10:16	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236156	11:04		710 TENERY TENERY
	EMS	20236157	11:38		1618 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	10-50 MINOR	20236158	13:04	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236160	14:35	FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236161	14:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236162	15:39	SEYMORS WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20236163	16:48	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20236164	17:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236165	17:44		516 VISTA VISTA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236166	17:52		109 GAY GAY W
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236167	18:23		1213 N LYNN LYNN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236168	18:53		200 MAPLE MAPLE ST
	ABANDONED 911	20236169	19:00	PROGRESSIVE CHURCH OF GOD	119 S EDWARDS EDWARDS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236170	19:33		240 FAIRVIEW FAIRVIEW AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236171	20:14		710 TENERY TENERY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236172	20:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236173	20:33		204 EDDY EDDY ST
11/6/23	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236175	0:19	SEYMORS WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20236176	0:36		HWY 80 HWY 80
	ALARMOTHER	20236177	2:10	OLD ICE HOUSE	519 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236178	4:11		86 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	20236179	6:42	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20236180	8:12	WELDON HOMES	67 EDDY EDDY ST
	ASSIST	20236181	10:24		216 OAK OAK
	EMS	20236182	11:09	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20236183	11:59	GREENWAY VILLAGE	21 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ASSIST	20236184	12:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20236185	12:29		507 QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236186	15:34	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20236187	16:18		33 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS ST
	ABANDONED 911	20236188	16:22		200 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20236189	16:47	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20236190	16:54	CHRISTUS EMS	1879 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK DR
	ABANDONED 911	20236191	17:05		205 HURLEY HURLEY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20236192	17:30		SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236193	18:04		710 TENERY TENERY ST
	EMS	20236194	19:09		1298 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236195	20:13		112 CENTER CENTER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236196	22:14		218 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	EMS	20236197	22:30		216 PR 1015 PR 1015
	EMS	20236198	23:02		4465 W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
11/7/23	ALARMOTHER	20236199	5:47		300 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	EMS	20236200	6:23	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20236201	12:30		1515 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	20236202	12:46	DOMINOS	1050 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20236203	14:00	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ASSIST	20236204	14:14		512 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236206	16:04		2000 GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236207	16:25		502 SPENCER SPENCER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236208	16:50		TENERY TENERY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236209	17:10	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236210	18:15		307 W OLIVER OLIVER AVE
11/8/23	ASSIST	20236211	5:32		HWY 80 HWY 80
	EMS	20236212	7:41		512 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ASSIST	20236213	7:45		SWEETGUM SWEETGUM
	SEXUAL ASSAULT	20236215	12:59	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20236216	13:10		5 MILK MILK ST
	ASSIST	20236217	13:41		109 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	ASSIST	20236218	14:01	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20236219	15:17		216 OAK OAK DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236220	16:00		1008 KAY KAY DR
	EMS	20236222	16:18		1818 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	EMS	20236223	16:37		502 SPENCER SPENCER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236224	16:59		SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP
	ALARMOTHER	20236225	17:04		1293 NELWYN NELWYN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236226	17:17	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236227	19:55		1028 N LYNN LYNN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236228	20:03		1015 N LYNN LYNN
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236229	20:36		MILL MILL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236230	20:56		4 GARDEN GARDEN LANE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236231	21:46		PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	ALARMOTHER	20236232	22:28		700 W MELBA MELBA AVE
11/9/23	ASSIST	20236233	0:06		303 S UPSHUR UPSHUR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236234	0:20	SHIPPS MARINE SERVICE	4120 HWY 80 HWY 80 E
	EMS	20236235	1:15		
	EMS	20236236	8:28		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20236237	8:47		510 NORTH NORTH
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20236238	8:53	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20236239	9:28		210 EDDY EDDY ST
	THEFT	20236240	10:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20236241	10:57		902 ESAT LAKE ESAT LAKE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236242	12:03	WILD WEST HAIR SALON	2001 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20236243	14:51		1298 E MARY MARY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20236244	15:28		1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236245	16:05	RBS LIQUOR	1627 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236246	16:44	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236247	17:32		1702 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	EMS	20236248	18:32	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236249	18:42		221 MCKINLEY MCKINLEY ST
	EMS	20236250	18:57		1000 NELWYN NELWYN AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236251	19:05	RBS LIQUOR	1601 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FIRE DEPT	20236252	20:05		156 PR 3478 PR 3478
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236253	21:04		411 GODFREY GODFREY ST
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	20236254	21:32	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236255	22:01		109 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236256	23:16		800 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
11/10/23	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20236257	1:03		GAY GAY
	ASSIST	20236258	1:50		
	EMS	20236259	4:22		328 TYLER TYLER S
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236260	4:48	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236261	5:40		120 N LEE LEE ST
	EMS	20236262	9:07	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20236263	9:34		328 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ASSIST	20236264	12:51		LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	ASSIST	20236265	14:12	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	20236266	14:28	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20236267	14:54		216 OAK OAK DR
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20236268	15:49	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236269	18:38		HWY 80 HWY 80
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20236270	19:16		2207 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20236271	20:25	PMM PRODUCTS	1032 E COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236272	21:10		HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236273	21:45		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236274	22:12		204 EDDY EDDY ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236275	23:12	EVERETT PARK	901 N LEE LEE ST
11/11/23	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20236277	6:49		
	ASSIST	20236278	10:41		505 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20236279	14:37		1382 PHILLIPS SPRING PHILLIPS SPRING RD
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20236280	15:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20236281	17:12		216 ROSS ROSS RD
	ABANDONED 911	20236282	18:04		216 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236283	18:57		1407 VIOLA VIOLA
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236284	20:26	BUMBLE BEE PARK	637 COACH COOKSEY ST COACH COOKSEY ST
	EMS	20236285	20:56	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20236286	21:04		211 W ELEANOR ELEANOR ST
	EMS	20236287	22:17		216 OAK OAK DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236288	23:39		CANFIELD CANFIELD
11/12/23	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236289	3:39		710 TENERY TENERY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236290	4:08	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236291	4:15		508 N FERRY FERRY
	ALARMOTHER	20236292	4:51		309 N COTTON COTTON
	SEXUAL ASSAULT	20236293	6:35	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236294	10:42		902 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236297	11:23		111 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236298	13:30		1592 N RODEO RODEO
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20236299	14:17		416 W MARSHALL MARSHALL
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236300	14:30		2812 BERNICE BERNICE ST

WOPD Police Arrest Report

For the 2 week reporting period of October 30th through November 12th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 299 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Animal Complaints, Traffic Issues (collisions, motorist assists, reckless drivers, etc.), Disturbances, Investigative Follow-ups, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Four traffic collisions were investigated which resulted in no injuries or continuing criminal investigations.

Three people were ar-

rested by White Oak Police during the reporting period: Romeo Javonte Noel, 29, of Longview on an outstanding Gregg County bond forfeiture warrant for Assault Family Violence - Impeding Breath and/or Circulation, Roger Salinas, Jr., 42,

A Big Sandy area man was killed in Wood County last week when the motorcycle he was driving struck a deer on FM 515, said the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Jeffrey P. Walls Jr., 50, was pronounced dead at the scene of the Nov. 7 early evening crash by Justice of the Peace Tony Gilbreath, said the DPS.

Preliminary investigation showed Walls was westbound on a 2007 Harley Davidson when it struck the deer in the roadway, DPS Sgt. Adam Albritton said in a press release.

The 6:18 p.m. crash occurred less than one mile east of County Road 1973, and Walls wasn't wearing a helmet, Albritton said.

rested on two outstanding White Oak warrants for No Driver's License and Expired Registration, and Zachary Rasheen Lamar Harris, 20, of Gladewater for Possession of less than 1 Gram of a Penalty Group 1 Controlled Substance.

Big Sandy man killed in wreck

By Phillip Williams

A Big Sandy area man was killed in Wood County last week when the motorcycle he was driving struck a deer on FM 515, said the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Jeffrey P. Walls Jr., 50, was pronounced dead at the scene of the Nov. 7 early evening crash by Justice of the Peace Tony Gilbreath, said the DPS.

Preliminary investigation showed Walls was westbound on a 2007 Harley Davidson when it struck the deer in the roadway, DPS Sgt. Adam Albritton said in a press release.

The 6:18 p.m. crash occurred less than one mile east of County Road 1973, and Walls wasn't wearing a helmet, Albritton said.

Gladewater council to meet Thursday

The Gladewater City Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Nov. 16 and discuss the following agenda items:

- Approve a blanket permit for a Chili Cookoff hosted by Beautiful Tribe on Saturday, November 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Reappointment of Municipal Judge Tim Bryan
- Hold a public hearing regarding a request for a front set-back variance at 209 Oak Drive.
- Discuss and consider the selection of an attorney for delinquent taxes and other municipal fines and fees.
- Discuss and consider a resolution concerning the Gregg Appraisal District Board of Directors for 2024-2025 Official Ballot 2023;
- Discuss and consider SPI's Recommendation of Award - Hendricks Street Water, Sewer and Street Improvements
- Discuss and consider ratification of updated Grow Gladewater grant program
- Discuss and consider purchase of new Christmas tree for downtown Gladewater
- Discuss and consider installation and/or sponsorship of fence along south side of the railroad tracks between Ferry Street & Broadway Avenue
- Discuss and consider removal of Samuel Reddin from the Beautification Advisory Board

Hear an update regarding the city's "Charter Review Committee"

- Discuss and consider amending the City of Gladewater Code of Ordinance for removal of carts from curbside following weekly pick-up
- Discuss and consider new tax exemption for Childcare Facilities under the Texas Property Tax Code and Section 2308.3155 Government Code

In executive session the council is expected to discuss the following:

- Receive an attorney briefing on Wallace v. City of Gladewater v. CenterPoint Energy Resources, Inc.; in District Court, Upshur County
- Deliberation regarding purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real properties

Volunteers urgently needed to support The Salvation Army's Christmas initiatives

While some may think it is still a little early to unpack the holiday decorations, The Salvation Army has been hard at work, planning Christmas programs for several months. Now, as the red kettles are appearing outside stores, and Angel Trees are being set up, volunteers are needed to help ensure men, women and children in need throughout our community experience the joys of Christmas.

The Salvation Army of Longview is seeking volunteers for its Red Kettle campaign and Angel Tree program for Gregg and Harrison Counties.

Become a Bell Ringer - Every dollar collected in the red kettle supports The Salvation Army's social services programs throughout the year right here in Gregg and Harrison Counties.

Bell Ringer Volunteer Details:

Dates: November 10 - December 23, Monday - Saturday

How to volunteer: Visit RegisterToRing.com and follow the prompts to sign up for the location and shift of your choice or contact Keith Gibson at 903-215-8463 or Keith.Gibson@uss.salvationarmy.org.

OBITUARIES

JOHN MICHAEL "MIKEY" MCWHORTER JR.



John Michael "Mikey" McWhorter Jr., age 41, formerly of Gladewater, passed away on November 1, 2023, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mikey was born on July 18, 1982, to John McWhorter Sr. and Lynda Edwards.

Mikey graduated from Gladewater High School in 2000. He was a huge Gladewater Bears fan. He had a unique personality and never met a stranger.

Mikey was preceded in death by a brother; James McWhorter, grandparents; Jim and Betty Edwards and Peggy Lee, special father; Tom Allen, and great uncle; Tom Edwards.

Mikey is survived by his mother, Lynda Edwards Allen; father, John Michael Sr. "Johnny"; brother, Jayson Marc McWhorter; special stepbrothers, Tommy and Bobby Allen; uncle and aunt, Jay and Nancy Edwards; great aunt, Earlene Edwards; cousins, Colt and Samuel Edwards; and a several other aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of life for Mikey will be held on Saturday November 18, 2023, at 2PM at the Treasure Church in White Oak. The family has requested any donations to be made to the Treasure Church in Mikey's name.

KATHY DELLE JACKSON GARNER

Kathy Delle Jackson Garner, lovingly known as a devoted mother, cherished sister, and beloved granny, passed away on November 7, 2023, at the age of 69. She was born on May 23, 1954, in Dallas.

A service was held on Friday, November 10, 2023, under the direction of Croley Funeral Home.

COOKIE HOLCOMB

Cookie Holcomb, 79, of Gladewater, was born on July 11, 1944, to Charles Wiley Owen and Alpha Mae Hearnberger Owen and passed from this life on November 10, 2023. Cookie married Billy Ray Holcomb Sr. on June 6, 1962. She was the last surviving child of a family of eleven siblings.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Belinda Greathouse (Jerry); son, Billy Holcomb Jr (Michelle); niece, Lisa Holcomb; nephew, Charles Holcomb (Angela); grandchildren, Chance Greathouse, Brittan O'Neal, Sierah Mae Holcomb, Whitley Cheyanne Holcomb, and Harli Kiana Holcomb; great-grandchildren, Stoney Greathouse, Colton Holcomb, Sage Holcomb, Aydan Holcomb, Tripp Greathouse, Judd Greathouse, Everleigh Holcomb, and Mateo Saravia.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Billy Ray Holcomb Sr. in 1997; and her nephew, Barry Holcomb.

Memorial services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 17, 2023, at the Church of West Mountain under the direction of McWhorter Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Gladewater Former Students Association, % Gary Cox, P.O. Box 1425, Gladewater, Texas 75647, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.com.

Please visit Cookie's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

3-vehicle accident leaves 2 dead

By Phillip Williams

A man and woman were killed, and another woman was injured, in a fiery 3-vehicle, chain-reaction crash on north Texas 155 near Gilmer on Monday of last week, said the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Elijah A. Auld, 20, and Kinzy Jones, 21, both of Gilmer, were pronounced dead at the scene by Upshur County Precinct

WHAT'S HAPPENING

White Oak Xmas parade is Dec. 4

Mark your calendars and stay on the 'Nice' list – White Oak's annual Christmas Parade is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4.

As the event's planners get a jump-start on this year's organizing, they've announced lineup is set for 6:30 p.m. That evening on West Old Highway 80 before the parade begins on South White Oak Road and City Hall and heads toward its end at White Oak ISD.

"We encourage all interested groups and individuals to take part in the parade," the organizers announced.

For questions or more information, contact Maureen Carrigan at 903-759-3936.

Gladewater Xmas parade is Dec. 9

Gladewater kicked off its end-of-year revelries with the Holiday Open House on Nov. 11, but it's the annual downtown Christmas Parade that really ushers in the season's festivities.

This year, the event's sponsors have a new carol for the community, leading locals in a round of "Joy to the Rails" in honor of the city's 150th celebration.

Parade entries who best reflect that theme Dec. 9 will be in the running for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place prizes. Entry in the parade is free.

Importantly, there will be a spot on the square at Pacific and Main to mail letters to Santa.

This year's parade is sponsored by Citizens Bank, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, the City of Gladewater and Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

For more information, contact Lois Reed at the



Gladewater Rotary Club recognized its Gladewater Students of the Month for November last week, celebrating Israel Cerda & Kaytlin White.

chamber at 903-845-5501.

County library hosts storytime

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer has ongoing activities for both adults and children which are free of charge, said library spokeswoman Kari Dunn.

Its book club for adults meets at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154.)

"Teen game night" for those ages 12-18 is held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

Jingle Jog set for December 22

Grab some sporty sleepwear this season – a Jammie Jingle Jog is racing toward downtown Gladewater next

month.

Set for 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, the kid-friendly event is centered on 109 N. Main Street, headquarters of a newly-minted open-air venue, The Labrador.

Organized by Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, participants of all ages are encouraged to "Wear your jammies and join in the fun" for a short sprint during the hour-long event. Hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting for runners at the finish line that night.

For more information, contact Lois Reed at the chamber at 903-845-5501. Find out more about The Labrador and its neighboring venue, The Picket Fence, via email to TheLabrador-Gladewater@gmail.com or by calling 903-399-0351.



GFD helps check dam for structural problems

The City of Gladewater got a closer look at voids, structural weaknesses and other issues with the Lake Gladewater Dam Wednesday.

In a joint effort by Gladewater Fire Department personnel and Schaumburg & Polk, the latest findings cement the broad assessment of the structure as high risk due to a number of known flaws and a laundry list of items to correct. Officials aren't concerned about an imminent failure, but they do recommend locals plan for an unlikely worst-case scenario.

"City of Gladewater personnel are actively monitoring the dam and working with engineers to keep things safe until a solution is achieved," GFD Fire Chief Mike Simmons said. "In the meantime, if you live south of the dam in the floodzones, we highly encourage you to sign up for our Genasys system. If any evacuation is needed it will be conducted through the Genasys system.

"Always have an evacuation plan ready – Where are you going to go? Who are you going to stay with? Have ways to keep in contact with your family so we can account for you."

Learn more at cityofgladewater.com/genasys/

Wednesday's dam close-up gave firefighters an opportunity to simultaneously drill their water rescue tactics as SPI engineer Andrew Wright joined the crew with a hardy camera ready to capture better images of the dam. Suited up for the chill water, the team carefully descended from the top of the dam's earthen portion to shore level below the concrete spillway before leaping in.

"During last year's annual inspection, the water was actually flowing over the dam. You couldn't see the concrete structure itself," Simmons said. "Once that water receded, we noticed there was a missing piece of concrete on the eastern side.

"Obviously, we knew we needed to get down to it and probe it this year. We discovered a fairly large void space that's washed out behind it."

Meanwhile, several of the spillway's concrete panels have clearly sunk in, visible from a distance, indicating additional voids behind them. There's also some healthy grass growth between the panels – plants couldn't take root easily without voids filled with soil.

SPI is preparing an annual inspection report on the inspection and updated analysis of the dam's condition. With that analysis in hand, authorities will refine their plans to mitigate the dam's problems.

"Short-term is how we shore up the structure," Simmons said. "Long-term is how do we get grants to improve the overall health of the dam."

From the last inspection, without being able to see the extent of the damage to the concrete structure, the dam was officially rated in a 'Fair' condition with some decline.

"We're pretty confident with the amount of wear and tear and the voids, it will be downgraded which will qualify us for funding."

The city is eyeing a new federal grant program for high hazard dams – Lake Gladewater's seems to qualify, especially after the Nov. 8 inspection.

A key element is how many people, homes, businesses and essential infrastructure are in the floodpath should the dam fail.

"Right now, we don't have a ton of houses downstream, but this is also based off our old models," Simmons noted. "(SPI) is now running new models based on our floodplains, so a lot of that can change.

"We're going to push how much of our infrastructure would be effected – airport, fiber optic lines, rail, businesses and major highways / roadways."

Sunday Services

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 Sat 8:00-6:00 903.845.5787
 Sun 1:00-5:00

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 Eastview Baptist Church • 903-984-8524
 First Baptist Church • 903-845-2171
 Friendship Baptist Church • 903-845-4603
 Gladeview Baptist • 903-845-3842
 Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174
 Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440
 Greater New Hope Baptist
 Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
 Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768
 New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
 St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
 Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894
 Olde Tyme Baptist Church • 903-806-2411
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
 East Mountain Church of Christ • 903-285-1871
 North Loop Church of Christ • 903-845-2531
 North Main Church of Christ • 903-845-2816
 Rocky Church of Christ
- CATHOLIC**
 St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306
- CHARISMATIC**
 New Life Church • 903-845-8108
- LUTHERAN**
 Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019
- CHURCH OF GOD**
 Elevate Worship Center • 903-374-2064
- NAZARENE**
 Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425
- METHODIST**
 First Methodist Church Gladewater • 903-845-2565
 McCrary's Chapel United Methodist
 New Mountain CME Church • 903-845-1175

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 Schedule of Services

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Morning Service 11 a.m.	903-845-6440
Evening Service 6 p.m.	

 Pastor Steven Zanjter
www.gbcgladewater.org

- Starrville Methodist • 903-877-4040
 Union Temple CME Methodist • 903-845-1050
- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
 New Life Fellowship Church • 903-261-4227
 Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234
 Grace Tabernacle Church • 903-309-8801
- PENTECOSTAL**
 First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
 Northside Pentecostal
 Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
 Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)
- PRESBYTERIAN**
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 Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
 Love of God Church • 903-845-2623



- Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050
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SPORTS

Bears eliminated from playoffs

By Tyler Sutton

On a chilly Friday night in Longview, the Gladewater Bears began their playoff run at Pine Tree's Pirate stadium as they took on the Mount Vernon Tigers in the opening round of the 3-A division 1 playoffs. And in a game that was anyone's ballgame at the half, the Tigers flexed their muscles and ended the Bears season 49-7.

The Bears went 3 and out and punted on their opening procession of the game and Mount Vernon took no time getting in the endzone on their opening drive as runningback Dawson Witherspoon had a 3 yard touchdown run to give the Tigers a quick 7-0 lead halfway through the opening quarter. But the Bears answered back quickly after forcing a Mount Vernon punt as on their first play of their second drive, Carson Cooper went untouched 80 yards for a touchdown and just like that we were tied up a 7 with 2 mins left in the opening frame. But the Tigers countered again as just 3 plays later, Witherspoon broke free again for a 56 yard touchdown run and gave Mount Vernon the lead back at 14-7 with 1 minute left in the 1st quarter. The defense took over in the 2nd quarter as neither team scored. The Bears had the best chance as they had a drive get deep into Mount Vernon territory but fumbled the ball at the Tigers 5 yard line that

was recovered by Mount Vernon.

The 3rd quarter and the game quickly got away from the Bears as Mount Vernon showed why they are one of the favorites to go a long way in the 3-A playoffs as they quickly scored to open up the 3rd quarter as Witherspoon again found the endzone for a 4 yard touchdown run to add to the Tigers lead at 21-7. Then Mount Vernon's passing attack got in on the action as quarterback Cade George found Mitchell Nuziard for 32 yard touchdown pass and a 28-7 Tigers lead. The Bears had another good drive going but it was ended when Kyron Wilson pass was intercepted by the Tigers Jayden Doss. Mount Vernon's Mehki Perry took it in for a 5 yard touchdown run to make it a 35-7 Tigers lead after 3 quarters. Mount Vernon would add 2 more touchdowns in the 4th quarter as Doss got in for a 4 yard touchdown run and finally Witherspoon found the endzone one more time, this one 55 yard touchdown run and end the game at 49-7. "It was a rough 2nd half for sure. But I loved how we stuck together in the first half and had a shot at winning this. Really loved the fight this team put up in district play after a rough non district schedule to get us back into the playoffs. Gonna miss the seniors on this team" said coach Louvier. The Bears finish the season at 3-8 for the 2nd straight season.



Ludovica Polizza consoles with Peyton Thompson as the Ladynecks fall at the Regional Tournament to Gunter 25-21, 25-11, 25-18.

Photo by Mike Peery

Volleyball, basketball roundup ...

The Gladewater Lady-Bears opened up their basketball season on Tuesday, November 7th under new head coach Caleb Williams who takes over for Jermaine Lewis who left for another coaching opportunity during the summer and came

away with a 35-26 win over the Kilgore Lady Bulldogs. Gladewater and Kilgore were tied 4-4 after 1 quarter but the Lady Bears used a 22-10 run over the 2nd and 3rd quarters to put the game away.

Then on Saturday, No-

vember 11th the Lady Bears were back in action again taking on St. Mary's and won that game by a score of 40-24.

Gladewater starts the season 2-0 and will be back in action on Tuesday, November 14th with a trip to take on

WO's High named coach of year

Superlatives were released last week and White Oak Coach Morgan High received Coach of the Year honors.

White Oak earned District Champs, Bi-District Champs, Area Champs, Regional Quarterfinals Champs, Regional Semi-Finalists honors.

District awards:

Co-MVP: Calee Carter
Co-Setter of the year: Alli Sims
Co-Newcomer: Ludovica Polizzi
Server of the year: Addison Clinkscales

1st team:

Addison McClanahan
Karsyn Edwards

2nd Team:

Londyn Bodovsky
Andee Bridges
Peyton Thompson

Honorable Mention:

Addy Young
Kate Dusek
Taylor Morgan

"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

You are not dreaming ...

Eric Nadel, the long-time radio voice of the Texas Rangers, summed it up nicely. In his call after the last World Series out was recorded, the Hall of Fame announcer said, "Ranger fans - you're not dreaming!" Perfect words to describe an improbable result. After years of hoping and dreaming, you can understand why we needed to be reassured that this championship had really happened.

After all, no team had ever won eleven games on the road in the postseason - but the Rangers did. No-one had ever had 22 RBI's in the playoffs - but Adolis Garcia did. And never before had a rookie gotten on base in every postseason game - but Evan Carter did. The 21-year-old also hit nine doubles - more than anyone had ever hit in the playoffs. No pitcher had ever won five starts in the postseason - but Nathan Eovaldi did. And just for good measure, Will Smith became the first player to earn World Series rings in three consecutive years with three different teams.

There were so many reasons that the Texas Rangers were not expected to win the World Series - but they did. The Friday parade was certainly the biggest event to ever take place in Arlington, Texas. Over half a million people gathered to celebrate the champions. It was incredible - almost like a dream. The noise level was unbelievable. But over the roar I could still hear Eric Nadel's voice - "Ranger fans, you're not dreaming!"

Mid America League announces White Oak Franchise

The Mid America League, a premier summer development baseball league, has announced the selection of White Oak as the home of its third franchise in the League.

White Oak joins Sherman and Abilene as inaugural members of the Mid America League. The team will be known as "Piney Woods" in its nickname, celebrating the East Texas region and its thick forest of pines, part of a larger forest that extends into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Fans interested in participating in the "Name the Team" contest or being placed on the Season Ticket Holder waiting list can log onto midamericaleague.com/pineywoods.

"We are thrilled to have a franchise in White Oak that represents the entire East Texas

Region," said Matt Perry, President of the Mid America League. "The East Texas region has produced some of the best baseball players in the State of Texas and we are excited to bring baseball back to East Texas after a long absence".

The Piney Woods franchise will be led by David Upchurch. Upchurch, a former 19th round draft pick in 1994 for the Kansas City Royals, will be President and part owner of the Piney Woods franchise. "I am thrilled and humbled at the opportunity to bring premier development baseball back to the East Texas region," Upchurch said.

After his playing career in the Royals system, Upchurch parlayed his experience in professional sports to the amateur sports of baseball, football, basketball and cross country track for the past 24 years. Upchurch is also co-owner and president of Red Dirt Baseball which teaches and trains young athletes to prepare for the next step in their career, whether it be in college or the professional ranks.

"Every one of our players aspires to continue their baseball career with the ultimate goal of parlaying the experience in the Mid America League into a Major League organization," he added.

Mid America League teams will play 68 regular season games (34 games on the road and 34 games at home) from late May through early August followed by playoffs to determine a League champion. Teams will be comprised of a combination of the best college players in the country, undrafted post-college players and former professional players who are pursuing their dream to play for a Major League organization. Further, the League will institute a 'Name, Image and Likeness' program for players to earn income for approved services while playing in White Oak.

The Piney Woods team will play its home games at White Oak Baseball Stadium. The stadium went through an impressive renovation in 2014 including upgraded seating options, concessions, playing surface and locker rooms.

"We were so impressed with the leadership at the City of White Oak and felt welcomed by the city and the community from the first day of our discussions," Perry praised.

Chapel Hill then head to Van for the Van tournament over the weekend of November 16th-18th. The White Oak LadyNecks basketball team also continued its opening games of the season as on Tuesday, November 7th they fell 39-14 to Cumberland Academy but bounced back on Thursday, November 9th with a 42-35 win over Detroit.

White Oak now sits at 2-1 on the season and will be back at home with a game vs Hawkins on Tuesday, November 14th

White Oak's volleyball team continued their playoff run with a regional quarterfinal round 3-0 sweep of Tatum on Tuesday, November 7th at UT Tyler's Harrington Patriot center which earned them a trip to the regional semi final on Friday, November 10th in Midlothian where sadly their run ended at the hands of Gunter 3-0.

The LadyNecks finished the season at 31-15 with a district championship, bi-district championship, area championship regional quarterfinal championship and were a regional semi finalist once again.

UG's Vaughn most valuable server

District 19-2A Awards

MVP- Catherine Dennis (Overton)

Most Valuable Hitter- Kellen Weaver (Beckville)

Most Valuable Blocker- Alaya Scoggins (Hawkins)

Most Valuable Defensive Player-Avery Smith (Overton) & **Dayton Vaughn (Union Grove)**

Most Valuable Server- Sarah Prince (Union Grove)

Most Valuable Setter- Karolyne Estrada (Carlisle) and **Brady Colby (Union Grove)**

Newcomer of the Year- Hannah Hester (Beckville), Kaylee Stevens (Overton), **Ava Wightman (Union Grove)**

1st Team All-District

Beckville: Maddie McAfee, Lexi Barr, and Carli Tuttle

Overton: Kayla Nobles and Ja'Miya O'Neal

Union Grove: Taylor Campbell and Addi Smith

Hawkins: Taetum Smith and Skylar Murray

Carlisle: Kasey Hart

Big Sandy: Daphnie Blavier

2nd Team All-District

Beckville: Karsyn Coleman and Adyson Davis

Overton: Halle Mayfield and Annalise Perkins

Union Grove: Hannah Coulter

Hawkins: Haylie Warrick and Londyn Wilson

Carlisle: Lexi Ibarra and Kyra

Holcomb

Big Sandy: Shemaiah Johnson

Honorable Mention

Beckville: Ayanna Burroughs, Ava Henigan, Gracey Struwe, and Kaitlyn Mauritzen

Overton: Sarah Emery, Lila Gurley, Mason Fenter, Anaisha Tilley

Union Grove: Karen Chavez, Gracie Lawrence

Hawkins: Abby McQueen, Jentri Evans, Kalyn Ellison, Alana Gipson, Alyvia Barber, Elle Frazier, Jaci Smith

Carlisle: Emily Rocha, Joana Canchola

Big Sandy: Madi Hill, Journie Plunkett

Coach of the Year: Andee Poteet (Beckville)

Academic All District

(90 or above)

Big Sandy

Madi Hill

Ava Jenison

Daphnie Blavier

Shemaiah Johnson

Ryleigh Allen

Kenzie McCartney

Journie Plunkett

Union Grove

Taylor Campbell

Chloe Brooks

Gracie Lawrence

Natalie Wodard

Hannah Coulter

Sarah Prince

Ava Wightman

Addi Smith

Dayton Vaughn

Brady Colby

Karen Chavez

Carlisle

Emily Rocha

Makayla Holcomb

Kalei Martin

Karolyne Estrada

Hawkins

Kalyn Ellison

Jentri Evans

Abby McQueen

Skylar Murray

Alaya Scoggins

Haylie Warrick

Overton

Sarah Emery

Halle Mayfield

Catherine Dennis

Lila Gurley

Bree'Ohna Sublett

Anaisha Tilley

Balcorta earns honors for Lady Bears

DISTRICT 15-34

ALL DISTRICT

Libero Of The Year - Hadassah Balcorta

ALL DISTRICT HONORABLE MENTION

Karlee Moses, Advson Evans, Chloe Mumphrey, Cana Harris

ACADEMIC - ALL-DISTRICT

Hadassah Balcorta, Adyson Evans, Caiya Harris, Peyton Hunter, Morgan Perez, Janiah Strickland, Amiyah Minter, Tatiana Gunder., Karlee Moses, Gracie Sumner, Chloe Mumphrey

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1 Lone ____ State

5 TXism: "it ain't ____, there ain't a cow in Texas"

6 go by horse

7 TXism: "he's ____ hombre" (mean)

8 agcy. that regulates Texas utilities

9 TX Trini Lopez sang "____ Had a Hammer"

12 TXism: "old ____"

17 some say an ____ your socks will cure the flu

19 it was Letterman's nightly list (2 wds.)

21 Fox ____ carries NFL football games

22 TXism: "he's ____ walk the river with" (reliable)

23 "the die ____" (no turning back)

28 hankerings

29 TX Vikki Carr album: "____ Hombres"

30 this 1967 hurricane hit Texas hard

31 horny ____ (lizards)

35 ____ of cotton

36 museum Institution in Washington, D.C.

42 the Alamo was originally "Mission San ____ Valero"

44 TX Charley Pride's "Kiss an ____ Good Mornin'"

46 Seur ____ led first French expedition in Texas

48 liquid absorber

49 first 2 init. of president born in Denison, Texas

50 high school student, e.g.

51 Spanish for "little girl"

52 driver's license agcy.

10 Galveston had the ____ exchange in Texas

11 TXism: "____ slinger" (writer)

12 TX Tanya Tucker sang "One Love ____ Time"

13 TXism: "he's still got ____ in his garters" (able)

14 health or relaxation resorts (eat a meal)

15 TXism: "pay ____ never mind" (disregard)

16 they hang on basketball rims

18 in debt

20 TXism: "he's ____ spring chicken" (old)

23 this Berlin wrote songs for TX Ginger Rogers' 1936 film "Follow the Fleet" (init.)

24 "____ Rim State Park" on the Gulf

25 Havana's country

26 TXism: "does ____ office business"

27 seasoned

32 TX Roy Orbison's "____, Pretty Woman"

33 TXism: "honest ____ the day is long"

34 TX Strait's "What ____ You Say to That"

36 bro's sib

37 water ditch around a castle

38 wasted time

39 "hole ____"

40 TXism: "he could shoot the eye out of ____"

41 saying "no" (abbr.)

43 symbol for sodium

45 noted black golfer, TX Elder (init.)

47 guaranteed

48 Crackle and Pop's amigo

55 New York's NL team in MLB

See Answers On This Page

October rain reduces drought conditions

About half the state received above-normal precipitation in October, which reduced drought conditions to 65%, down 16 percentage points, according to Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board. Central Texas and much of Deep East Texas have the most severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"El Niño conditions, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Equatorial Pacific, are in place and expected to persist into next year. El Niño typically brings Texas wetter and cooler-than-normal conditions during fall and winter. Those conditions are at least partially responsible for the improvements we saw in October," Wentzel wrote.

Texas road fatality streak surpasses 23 years

On an average day for more than two decades, a dozen people have been killed on Texas roadways. That streak nearly ended in February on a day when Texas experienced just one traffic fatality, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. The streak of daily deaths on Texas highways has continued since Nov. 7, 2000, despite the state investing \$17 billion in safety improvements through its 10-year plan.

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Divide & Conquer Estate Sale of Jeanetta (Mrs. Jerry) Caddy

Thurs., Nov. 16 ~ 7:00-5:30 Fri., Nov. 17 ~ 8:00-5:30
Sat., Nov. 18 ~ 8:00-2:00 (LAST sale for 2023!!)

417 Brighton Court ~ Tyler, TX 75701

Inside SSW Loop 323 and off Old Bullard Rd., turn west onto Brighton Court (between Woodland Hills and Shelley). Please park at the Sama Church on Old Bullard Road. We will have a golf cart running from the entrance.

This lovely garden home is for sale by owner. Contents and consignments include the following: lovely din. table/8 chairs, great china cabinet; Bombay chest; glass top breakfast table/4 chairs; super rugs; lg. antq entry mirror; sterling silv. dinnerware; other flatware; goldware; place setting of Tiffany sterling dinnerware; lg set of beautiful "Winter Game Birds" china by Lynn Chase (decorated with 24 karat gold); Haviland china; blue & white selections; tea sets; silverplate serv. pieces; wall clock; lg wall units and coordinating dresser; Asian soapstone panels; misc chairs; coffee tables; nesting tables; side tables; framed art; lamps; floral arrangements; wall sconces; king bed & nightstands; queen bed; loveseat; Anri carved figures; Limoges / Halcyon Days boxes; wash. & dry.; linens; material; sewing notions; clothes, shoes, scarves, purses; books; bookshelves; holiday decorations; Christmas dishes; Thomas Kinkadee music boxes; bed bench; vanity stool; TV and TV armoire; cookware; dishes; red mixer; sm appliances; cooker; toys; games; puppets; lots of patio furniture; large desk; computer desk; office chair; file cabinet; Bose radio; electronics; CD's; clocks; sooooo much more!!

Pictures: [DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com](#)

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: The Unknown Heirs of Catherine Caruthers

You and each of you are hereby cited, required and commanded to appear before the County Court at Law# 1 of Gregg County, Texas, to be held in the County Court at Law# 1 court room in the courthouse of said county in the city of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, such appearance to be at or before ten o'clock a.m. of the first Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of service, exclusive of the day of such service, which day and date of service shall be the date of publication that this newspaper bears, and which appearance shall be at such time on such Monday, by filing written answer to the application here in after mentioned, contesting same, should they or any of them desire to do so, which application will, at such 10 o'clock hour and such place be acted on, said application having been filed by Matthew Harris in said court on the 30th day of October, 2023, and now pending there, in a proceeding on the probate docket of said court, styled Catherine Caruthers, Deceased, the file number of which application and the docket number of which proceedings is 88000203P, the nature of such application being for:

First Amended Application To Determine Heirship

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Witness, Michelle Gilley, Clerk of the County Court at Law#1 of Gregg County.

Given under my hand and the seal of said court, at office in the City of Longview this the 30th day of October, 2023

MICHELLE GILLEY
Clerk of County Court at Law #1
Gregg County, Texas
By Aimee Belding
Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO:

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ALMA LEE CHRISTIAN, OSCAR CHRISTIAN, JOSEPH L. CHRISTIAN, WILLIE MAY CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, JR., RUBY RUTH CHRISTIAN, GLASCOW CHRISTIAN, RUBEN CHRISTIAN, BILLY LEE CHRISTIAN, ODIE D. CHRISTIAN, PATRICIA ANN CHRISTIAN, YORK CHRISTIAN, JR., CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN, DOLLIE B. CHRISTIAN, GWENDOLYN CHRISTIAN-ALLEN, MADELINE MASON, YOULANDA CHRISTIAN, WESLEY CHRISTIAN, JR., RODNEY CHRISTIAN, SR., and VINCENT CHRISTIAN
Defendant's Greeting:

"Plaintiffs' Original Petition was filed on October 10, 2023. You may employ an attorney. I you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m., on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](#)."

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable 124th District Court of Gregg County Courthouse at 101 E. Methvin Suite 447, Longview, Texas 75601 by filing a written answer at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m., on the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the day of the issuance of this Citation, the same being 12/18/2023 then and there to answer the Plaintiff's Original Petition filed by Riley Branch, 10300 N. Central Expressway, Suite 480, Dallas, Texas 75231, in said Court, in this cause numbered 2023-1773-B on the docket of said Court and Styled:

CHARLES CHRISTIAN, JR., FLEANORL CHRISTIAN; EVIE KEELING AND NEDRA GATT-PIPKINS v. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ALMA LEE CHRISTIAN, OSCAR CHRISTIAN, JOSEPH L. CHRISTIAN, WILLIE MAY CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, LORENZO CHRISTIAN, JR., RUBY RUTH CHRISTIAN, GLASCOW CHRISTIAN, RUBEN CHRISTIAN, BILLY LEE CHRISTIAN, ODIE D. CHRISTIAN, PATRICIAANN CHRISTIAN, YORK CHRISTIAN, JR., CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN, DOLLIE B. CHRISTIAN, GWENDOLYN CHRISTIAN-ALLEN, MADELINE MASON, YOULANDA CHRISTIAN, WESLEY CHRISTIAN, JR., RODNEY CHRISTIAN, SR., and VINCENT CHRISTIAN

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

An action to quiet title by adverse possession on real property covering any interest of ownership claimed by Defendants to the land described to-wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN 8.333 ACRES OF LAND SITUATED IN THE g. w. Hooper Survey, Gregg County, Texas, and being a part of a called 59 acre tract of land conveyed to James M. Salter, Jr. and Paul B. Griffith by deed dated September 14, 1978 and recorded in Volume 1144, Page 597, Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 5/8" iron rod with aluminum cap found in the North R.O.W. line of Farm to Market Road 2275 and White Oak Road bears South 73 deg. 22 min. 09 sec. West, 99.32 feet, said iron rod also lying and being North 07 deg. 20 min. 35 sec. West, 500.93 feet from the Southwest corner of said called 59 acre tract;

THENCE South 82 deg. 53 min. 06 sec. East, 319.20 feet with and along said North R.O.W. of said Farm to Market Road;

THENCE North 12 deg. 50 min. 41 sec. East, 1107.61 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set for the northeast corner of the tract described herein;

THENCE North 85 deg. 46 min. 18 sec. West, 331.84 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;

THENCE South 05 deg. 14 min. 07 sec. West, 93.02 feet with and along the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at an angle point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;

THENCE South 14 deg. 25 min. 05 sec. West, 388.85 feet with and along the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at an angle point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;

THENCE South 18 deg. 44 min. 13 sec. West, 189.58 feet with and long the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at an angle point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road.

THENCE 11 deg. 00 min. 15 sec. West, 347.22 feet with and along the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road to a 1/2" iron rod set at a point in the East R.O.W. line of Jamerson Road;

THENCE South 00 deg. 20 min. 35 sec. East, 75.32 feet with and along the West boundary line of said called 59 acre tract to the POINT OF BEGINNING and contain 8.333 acres of land, more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT

That portion taken by the judgement recorded in Volume 1792, Page 639, Real Property Records, Gregg County, Texas.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

The officer executing this process shall promptly execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patsy Ruth Garrett, Deceased were issued on October 30, 2023 in Cause No. 2023-0339-E, pending in County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County, Texas to CYNTHIA RUTH GARRETT. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law.

The post office address is Cynthia Ruth Garrett, PO Box 5357, Longview, Texas 75608.

Dated this the 1st day of November, 2023.



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEER, BOND COUNSEL, AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR

The City of Gladewater, Texas (City) requests the submission of qualifications statements, which will lead to the possible award of contracts to provide engineer, bond counsel, and financial advisor services for a project involving the City's waterworks system.

Scope of Work

Services to be provided by Engineer: professional engineering services associated with proposed (a) water treatment, storage, and distribution system improvements, including water treatment plant, storage facilities and water lines; and (b) assistance in application preparation and documentation to federal, state, and other possible funding sources.

Services to be provided by Bond Counsel: assist in obtaining loan and/or grant funding and to provide legal opinion with respect to validity of any debt obligations issued by the City for capital financing; preparation of resolution authorizing and securing the debt and/or authorizing any grant agreements as necessary.

Services to be provided by Financial Advisor: strategic financial planning; analysis of market conditions; recommended investments of bond proceeds; provide recommendations to the City for financing through programs established by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), including loan and grant funding.

Guidelines for Content of Qualification Statements

DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION with the qualification statement. Responses that include cost or pricing information will be rejected and will not be considered by the City.

Detailed instructions on preparation of the qualification statement must be obtained from the City. For more information on preparing and submitting the qualification statement, contact Mr. Charlie Smith, Interim City Manager at (903) 845-2196 or citymanager@cityofgladewater.com. This information should be requested as soon as possible in order to allow time to prepare the document and comply with the procedures.

Submittal Deadline

One (1) copy of the qualifications statement must be filed with the City by 2:00 PM (Central) on Monday, December 18, 2023, at City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave., Gladewater, Texas 75647.

Minimum Qualifications and Selection Criteria

The City will evaluate the proposals to determine which firm has the best qualifications.

Contract Terms and Negotiation Schedule

Consultants for Bond Counsel, Financial Advisor, Engineering and Rate Consultant services are expected to negotiate an agreement for services which is acceptable to the City. If an acceptable contract cannot be negotiated, the City may formally end negotiations and begin negotiating with the next highest qualified person or firm.

Contracts are contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or contracts awarded under the Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be a party to the RFQs, or any resulting contract. These RFQs are issued in accordance with Section 2254 of the Texas Government Code (Professional Services Act).

This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBE's through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details of the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe.

The City of Gladewater is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Small, minority, and women-owned business enterprises are encouraged to submit proposals.



TexSCAN Week of
Nov. 12-18, 2023

ACREAGE

LAND FOR SALE. Hunting, recreational, retirement. Hill Country, Trans Pecos regions in South Texas. 30-year fixed rate, owner financing, 5% down. www.ranchenterprisesllc.com. 800-876-9720.

AUCTIONS

Simulcast Auction November 18th at 10 a.m. Trinity, Texas. Equipment, attachments, containers, metal art, 54' Semi-Trailers, portable office containers, temp fence panels and more. 936-222-7588, WWW.WALLEEAUCTIONCOMPANY.COM.

Ranch Dispersal Auction, Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53+ acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, CJ-AUCTIONS.COM.

42nd Annual Oklahoma Select Bull Sale, Sat. Dec. 2nd - 1 p.m., 800 East B Street, Atoka, OK. Just East of Hwy 69-75, 806-790-2535, www.lawrencefamilylouisian.com.

BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS - August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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BASEBALL

BOB'S BASEBALL TOURS - August 2-12, 2024. See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & NY Yankees. Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball, Pro Football and Rock & Roll Halls of Fame, guided Tour of Manhattan. \$3,500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets. Call/text 507-217-1326. Also offering Arizona/Grand Canyon Spring Training Tour & New York/New England Fall Foliage Tour in '24!

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Nov. 12-18, 2023

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Ranch Dispersal Auction, Dec. 7, Mount Pleasant, TX. Full dispersal auction of McKellar Ranch: 430 acres w/2 homes in 11 parcels of 5 to 53+ acres each ideal for homesites or development; 75+ lots including tractors, trailers, implements, UTV's, gates, pens and more. 918-550-8118, CJ-AUCTIONS.COM.

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Miller Homes Group realtors, staffers, stakeholders and supporters join Gladewater Chamber Of Commerce members, City of Gladewater officials and well-wishers to officially cut the ribbon on the firm's 110 N. Main St. headquarters Nov. 8.

Photo by James Draper



ABOVE - Visitors line up their shots during Gladewater Lions Club's annual Turkey Shoot Nov. 11 at Gladewater Municipal Airport. RIGHT - Adam Byrd helps Adam Byrd Jr. take aim during the Lions Club's annual Turkey Shoot Nov. 11 at Gladewater Municipal Airport.

Lone Star Rider makes local stop

Rex Covington's ride continues in memory of his son, following the long road toward a cure for diabetes.

The 'Lone Star Rider' passed through Gladewater last week and was soon on his way again. The Texan's two-wheeled trek keeps going and going, raising awareness about diabetes and recruiting more supporters in the fight against it.

"I've been doing this more than five-and-a-half years now," he said.

Covington's son, Chris, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 2003. Twelve years later, in 2015, he died in a car crash at 38 years-old after blacking out during a low blood sugar episode.

Haunted by thoughts of what could have been done to prevent it, Covington eventually made his peace, but he woke from a dream in 2018 and knew his course: to ride his motorcycle cross-country and back again – and again and again – until he had raised \$90,000 in support of diabetes research.

With thousands of dollars raised and thousands more to go, Covington continues. Donors support his cause through RidingForACure.com and fund his personal efforts via Patreon.com/LoneStarRider.

Along the way, he averages about 26,000 miles a year.

Granted, "It's never really been about how many miles," he said. Raising awareness is the real mission, and the miles Covington travels put him wherever he needs to be: "I just go from event to event – festivals, rallies, speaking engagements, stuff like that.



"I hand out cards. Sometimes I have conversations about Type 1 and Type 2, the differences – Type 1 is a really difficult road to go down, especially with your kids. I also let people know about resources, the diabetes kids camp, where to get insulin, help and things like that."

Fueled by a bevy of on-line supporters and towing a trailer, Covington keeps followers updated on his travels through LoneStarRider.com. With the holidays arriving he's fielding a variety of invitations to appear in seasonal parades and other festivities. Gladewater, too, has issued an invite, courtesy of Lois Reed at the chamber of commerce.

Covington says he's eager to participate, but it just

depends on where he is at any given time. After lunch downtown last week, he headed from his brief stop in Gladewater to a rain-extended stay in Jefferson then beyond.

"I'm not really sure where I'm going to be at."

The Motorcycle Grand Tour of Texas provides a bit of a roadmap. Covington's been on the self-guided tour of 50 stops throughout the state. In fact, he's one himself.

"I am mobile stop," the rider said. "They have to find me."

"This is the first year I decided to hit all the stops. That's why I was in town," checking in at Gladewater's downtown derrick, now lit for the holidays: "I might be back."



As the Gregg County Commissioner for Precinct 3, I have strived to represent all citizens with integrity, ensure that your tax \$ are at work in our communities, and have provided responsible and reliable leadership. I remain committed to sound decision making and to upholding a strong and consistent work ethic that the citizens of Gregg County deserve. Your support and votes are much appreciated so that I may continue in serving you to the best of my abilities.

Floyd Wingo

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"Driven to Serve"

2024 Republican Primary Election Cycle
Early Voting: Feb. 20 – Mar. 1
Election Day: Mar. 5

Political Ad Paid for by the Floyd Wingo Campaign Fund – Kelly McCorkle, Treasurer

GEDCO balances openness with discretion for broadest benefit

PRESS RELEASE

As a nonprofit organization entirely funded by public dollars, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation is committed to transparency – it's the law, and it's good business practice for strengthening the organization's relationship with its community.

There's a key caveat, however: the nature of GEDCO's mission means the operation and its stakeholders are usually required to be tight-lipped about ongoing projects until they've matured to a certain point.

"Namely, we want to protect the prospect's name," said GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer. "Depending on how well-known they are, some companies that could potentially work with the prospect may raise their prices because they see an opportunity to take advantage in an inappropriate way. Everyone wants to make the most of the deal, but we can't allow that to happen at the expense of our new partner."

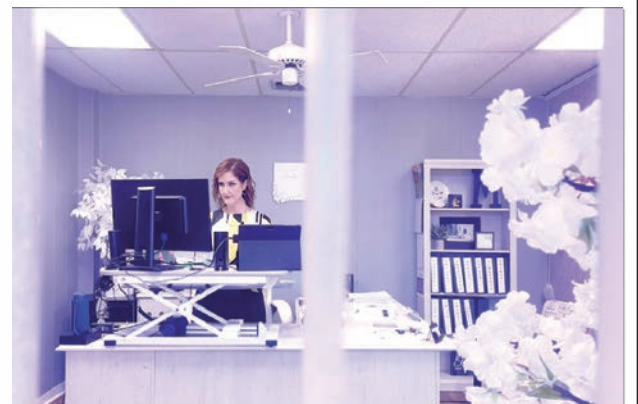
Beyond that particular aspect of the economic development corporation's activities, it's an open book.

"We fall under the Public Information Act, so most of our records are subject to public scrutiny," Palmer noted. "There are few documents from our normal operations that wouldn't be available to any member of the public through the act."

There is, technically, a formal process for gaining access to those documents.

"Frankly, no one has exercised that while I've been here for good reason – we don't make people jump through hoops to get to our details."

Rather, GEDCO's goal is to be as up-front as possible, whether it's to residents, local businesses or prospects. Often, the more information that's available, the more opportunities



Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Palmer works in her office at 213 N. Main St. Palmer and her Board of Directors are committed to transparency, but they're also respectful of the necessary, typically temporary confidences that go hand-in-hand with helping a business prospect succeed.

GEDCO sees to make its efforts succeed.

"These advertorials are a part of that transparency effort," Palmer added. "We are making a strategic effort to educate the public about what we do and keep them informed about our developments."

"Again, we have to make sure that some information – when it's directly tied to our prospect endeavors – doesn't release at the wrong time. We want to get it out there as soon as possible, when appropriate and when it benefits everyone involved in the best way."

Likewise, the bulk of GEDCO's meetings are open to the public. Some portions do fall under the state's 'executive session' exemption to the Open Meetings Act, but the ideal is openness.

"It can be pretty dry stuff, but everyone's welcome to attend," Palmer quipped.

GEDCO's official meeting date is eight days before the Gladewater City Council's regular session, which typically falls the third Thursday of the month – it means the GEDCO Board of Directors meets on Wednesday the week before.

"The schedule can get a bit confusing," Palmer said, "but don't let that discourage you. We'd love to see people get involved in the economic development of

this community.

"During my tenure here, I have not experienced losing a prospect due to a breach of confidentiality, but we visit that subject on a very regular basis by quoting 'Loose lips sink ships.' I do know of multiple EDCs who have seen deals dry up." That applies on the prospect's side too. "Once information is leaked out, it is shocking how far and fast it can go. It's typically by accident, but deals have been killed because, for instance, a person who knew the guy at the register in a fast food place mentioned something and did not know the person they were talking to had a random connection to the prospect. That stuff gets back to the prospect, and deals can fall through within hours."

The foundation for any deal is trust – for every deal, at GEDCO.

"Without trust, people don't want to be in your community."

Meanwhile, the still-developing refresh of GEDCO's website is targeted toward transparency, giving people as much up-to-date information as possible, with greater ease, as soon as it can be released. The organization's by-laws and other operating documents will be available there as well along with key tools for attracting developers to the community.