

Gladewater Mirror

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Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023

Vol. 95, No. 51

1 Section, 10 pages

50¢

Letters To Santa



The Jolly Old Elf has gone "Techno Santa" this year and he thinks you will really like the change. All Letters to Santa, which use to be typed and run inside the paper and frankly were hard to read, will now be on the Gladewater Mirror website. The best part of this is moms and dads and grandmas and grandpas can now see all the great artwork that our young artists worked so hard to draw to impress Santa.

So pour yourself some eggnog go to www.gladwatermirror.com or scan these QR codes, and flip through the digital Santa Letters and see what your youngster had to say to Santa this year.



GLADEWATER



WHITE OAK



UNION GROVE



Locals observe Wreaths Across America

By James Draper

The wind carried the snap of an American flag Saturday morning as well as the quiet whisper of veterans' names throughout Gladewater Memorial Park.

Throughout the city's cemeteries, red surveying flags marked the final resting places of the community's service members. Volunteers laid wreaths at each veteran's marker and spoke their names aloud in turn, taking an extra moment to say "Thank You" for their service and sacrifice.

The same scene was repeated across the country Dec. 16 during concurrent Wreaths Across America remembrances. Gladewater's began downtown at Veterans' Memorial Plaza.

"We are all proud to be American that live in a free society made up of many people from many walks of life. The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without price," said the morning's Master of Cer-



emonies, Gladewater Police Chief and U.S. Marine Gordon Freeman. "The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice and equality. Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free, and we shall not forget you today."

Gladewater Mayor Scott Owen welcomed the dozens in the audience while Boy Scout Troop 198 served as Color Guard and led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Rev. Teddy Sorrells, a Gladewater council member and a retired

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Bynum happy to fill in for Old St. Nick

Santa Claus can't do all the work himself, and there's many a man willing to don the mantle of the Jolly Old Elf in the rush of the Christmas season – Jack Bynum's proud to do his part.

For the past three years, Bynum's stepped up and into the red suit, white beard and furred cap to help Gladewater ring in the holidays. With Kriss Kringle tied up elsewhere, Bynum was happy to fill in at downtown's Holiday Open House as well as the annual Christmas parade and other events at the library and similar spots.

"For me, and especially for the children, Santa embodies the miracle of Christmas," Bynum said. "He embodies the spirit of giving and of joy. I feel that's the biggest aspect of Santa," and he tries to do it justice whenever he has the opportunity, from dressing the part to evoking Santa's outgoing nature.

"You definitely have to take the role pretty seriously because every kid looks at you like you're an amazing thing walking by. I just believe you can't let a little kid go without thinking you're the real deal."

The beard helps, of course. Bynum has his own natural whiskers, but he augments them with faux facial hair to keep up appearances as much

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With Santa Claus tied up at the North Pole, Jack Bynum's happy to fill in for the Jolly Ol' Elf during local events like the Gladewater Christmas Parade.

Little learners get page turners at GPS

By James Draper

Tiny golden tokens are the coveted currency at Gladewater Primary School these days – each promises a trip to the brand new book vending machine on campus and a journey into whatever story awaits.

The first tykes to try out the tech knew exactly which tomes they wanted last week. "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" was a top choice for the nine kiddoes in the inaugural batch of young readers taking advantage of Longview United Way's 'Build-A-Bear Bookshop.'

"For 76 years we've been trying to impact our community in the ways of health, financial stability and education," said Dr. Evan Dolive, the agency's executive director. "My mom was an educator for almost 40 years, so I know

the impact of education and the importance of it."

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said, the organization's board had a dialogue with educators about how to best impact students' lives. Numeracy and literacy were the key targets, Dolive noted, and the team was quick to embrace the idea of a book vending machine.

"We bought the first six vending machines ourselves," he said. A year-and-a-half later, the agency has spearheaded the installation of a dozen units, including the one at Gay Avenue Primary School. Four more are in production. "We're very excited to be able to do this. We all know that reading is a lifeline."

With Longview United Way furnishing the equipment, Gladewater

Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell is providing the pages. He's committed to keeping the machine stocked in perpetuity in honor of his late wife, Suzanne Bardwell.

"This is important," he told the GPS well-wishers gathered to cut the ribbon on the vending machine Dec. 12: "Suzanne taught for 35 years, and she was an avid reader. She believed reading was the key, and these kids are going to be part of that."

"I wanted to make sure we were there for years to come. We hope this is the start of many in Gladewater."

According to GPS Assistant Principal Margie Collins, the nine youngsters in the first book batch were selected based on their top scores in the school's

Continued on Page 9



Greater Longview United Way Executive Director Dr. Evan Dolive (left) and Board President Mark Robinson cheer Gladewater Primary School students as they make their choices from the campus' new book vending machine Dec. 12.



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.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



WHAT I CAN AFFORD TO GIVE YOU!

*I can not give you an impressive gift.
Only wishes, which are in short shrift
in a world that values things above all else,
and is ever concerned with the fulfillment of self.*

*So on this day most holy,
my gifts to you are only--
the ones that from the heart springs
and have meaning only if you have the eyes to see.*

I WISH FOR YOU:

*--a sense of wonder your whole life through
so that life is ever new--
--the realization that the joys of life and good health
are not found in things and wealth.
Along with your health may you always keep
the knowledge that to see, and hear, to walk and talk,
and think;
are miracles, gifts, not a promise that is cheap--
--I wish for you love and the ability not to take it for
granted,
whether it is a mate, a child or friend,
for we must remember that hearts are the hardest
things to mend--
--And finally, when you are overwhelmed with the
cares and problems of this life,
May someone remind you that it really is:*

**A WONDERFUL LIFE!
Merry Christmas!
Suzanne Brown Bardwell**

Going forward by looking back ...

This will be our second Christmas without my lovely bride Suzanne and my dear mother-in-law Mimi and my stepfather Gary.

And as you might guess, life is not the same.

And as we continue to try and move forward without the three strongest people I have ever had the joy of loving, I felt the need to look back to a much simpler time.

When I was young Santa always visited my granny and granddaddy's house on Seven Pines Road (FM 1844 to anyone under 50) in Gregg County. That is where we all gathered on Christmas Eve.

It was a glorious time for an only child and the only grandchild. Sure, I was spoiled, and I loved every minute of it. Heck, it was Christmas and when it's that time of year, all's fair in love and war and presents.

I remember the aroma that floated from my granny's kitchen so many years ago as the smell of turkey and dressing and cherry pies mixed with the smell of rolls baking in the oven.

Then there was the overwhelming fragrance of the Christmas tree, which was always real and rather gangly. Best of all, I got to help cut down the tree with my granddaddy and that was pretty special.

I remember us drawing pictures with our fingers on steamed-up kitchen windows from all of the Christmas cooking. And I remember watching as my granny and great-grandma would use every pot, every skillet and every baking dish to prepare everyone's favorite dish. And sometimes I got to help make the cherry pie or cherry cobbler - my favorites.

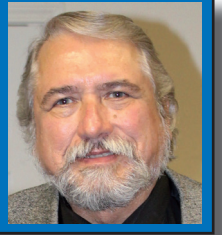
Oh, how I loved shaking all the beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts that had my name on them. And then shaking them again just for good measure.

I remember watching the rare snowfall on Seven Pines Road with my mom, two aunts and uncle and loving every minute of it, even though my father would complain about snow causing hazardous driving conditions.

I guess the best thing I remember was when all the family would gather at the kitchen table for dinner - everyone was elbow-to-elbow around what I thought then was the biggest oak table in the world.

I can see them to this day - granddaddy sat at the head of the table, with my chair scooted right up by his. Uncle George and my aunts Cheryl and Marilyn would be sitting

Jim Bardwell



by the windows, while mom and dad and my great-grandma would be on the opposite side, along with my step great-grandfather Mert. My granny - when she wasn't busy keeping food bowls and serving dishes full - would be opposite my granddaddy and me.

Then just as we were about to dive in to the best meal ever on my piece of earth, my great-aunt Belle and great-uncle Gene would come through the door - late as usual - and we would squeeze two more chairs around the table.

There we were in all our glory - everyone talking at the same time and everyone fidgeting trying to get some much-needed elbow room and not finding a spare inch around the table. We were squeezed in like sardines - but you know what - I really didn't notice and I really didn't care. I was all smiles - ear to ear - because I was in the happiest place on earth with the people I loved the most.

My granny passed away many years ago and my aunt sold my granny's house a few years back. I can't help but think of those happy holidays every time I drive past it.

And that old kitchen table, which now sets in my mom's house, is pretty bare these days - just my mom and I are left, along with my son Josh and daughter-in-law Jennifer.

The table is slightly smaller now, but it still serves its purpose. It is a place to bring what family there is left together even in the toughest of times. Our small family will gather on Christmas Day for lunch and look around for those no longer with us. It will be hard - no getting around that - but we will survive.

We will survive because that's what my family does and that's what Suzanne and Gary would expect from us.

So my friends, I'll just squint real hard so I can see that full table from when I was little and I will again feel safe because my granddaddy will be sitting next to me. And that's a pretty good Christmas present I can give to myself this year.

Merry Christmas to you all and I hope you too have a happiest place on earth you can turn to this season when times get hard.

Season's
Greetings



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www.woisd.net

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White Oak

(903) 291-2000

Dr. William Paul, Superintendent



Christmas Wishes Merry & Bright

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GISD staff

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Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Property tax cuts go into effect

A total of \$18 billion in property tax cuts were approved by more than 80% of voters in the November general election and should be reflected in property tax bills that are due by Jan. 31. The cuts come in the form of increased home exemptions, lower school district rates, and limiting the amount property appraisals can rise.

Many taxing districts sent out bills before the election that factored in the decrease, anticipating voter approval. For example, in Gregg County in Northeast Texas, the tax bill noted on the back sheet that the lower amount was contingent on voter approval of the proposed amendments. If the amendments had not passed, taxpayers would be billed for the difference.

According to the state comptroller's office, a typical homestead valued at \$350,000 will see a tax savings of about \$1,000. Prior to the approval of the tax cuts, Texas ranked sixth highest in the nation in property tax rates, partly because the state does not have a state income tax.

Paxton impeachment cost \$4.3 million

The Dallas Morning News reported last week that the taxpayer cost of impeaching Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was more than \$4.3 million. More than two dozen lawyers worked to prosecute Paxton leading up to and during his two-week trial in the Senate. That chamber acquitted him of all 20 charges after the House voted overwhelmingly to impeach Paxton, who is under indictment for securities fraud and was accused of abuse of office.

Lawyers billed more than 7,800 hours related to Paxton's impeachment. The News reported after seeking copies of all invoices and related documents. Co-counsel Dick DeGuerin defended the amount of work done by attorneys.

"Everything we did was justified, and I won't retreat from that statement ever," DeGuerin said. "We presented strong evidence that Paxton just surrendered the power of his office in a corrupt way. It's just that his financial supporters threatened retaliation against the Republicans that would have voted for conviction."

Paxton has vowed to campaign in the Republican primary against House members who voted for his impeachment, especially House Speaker Dade Phelan.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Paxton said in a statement released by his campaign. "Whether it's the House costs, Senate costs, or the overall impeachment session costs, many millions more were incurred on Dade Phelan's sham and needless impeachment."

Texas members of Congress face sparse election opposition

Texas has 38 seats in the U.S. House, and 35 incumbents are seeking re-election, the Texas Standard reported. Of that number, 16 do not have a primary challenger, while five will face no opposition in the general election as well.

Of the remaining three seats — all in North Texas — two members are retiring, while U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, D-Dallas, opted to run against U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz next November.

"It is not at all uncommon for incumbents to pretty much coast to reelection, even if they are challenged in the primary or the general election. Incumbents have an enormous advantage in name I.D. and ability to fundraise, connections and networks within the district," Todd Gillman of The News said.

Board signs OKs school library book rules

The State Board of Education approved guidelines for Texas school libraries to use in implementing policies to ban the possession or purchase of books considered "sexually explicit." The guidelines follow passage of a bill in the last regular session requiring book vendors to supply ratings for titles that contain sexual content. The law is being challenged in court by a coalition of book vendors and associations.

"It was a work of deep value and importance to bring the library standards to fruition. In Texas, parents have been identifying this issue to schools without the necessary support of law," said SBOE member Audrey Young, R-Trinity.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission must also adopt the standards. Each of the state's 1,000-plus school districts must approve a policy that explains how school libraries acquire books and other materials.

Judge upholds ban of TikTok on state-issued devices

An Austin federal judge last week upheld the state's ban of TikTok on government-issued devices such as phones, laptops or tablets, kut.org reported. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman upheld the policy that was challenged by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, which claimed the ban was unconstitutional.

"Texas's TikTok ban is limiting the use of an app on state-provided devices and networks, which is not a blanket prohibition," Pitman wrote.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Dec. 21), and a children's Christmas party will follow each session.

"Peppermint Post" and "Super Santa: The Science of Christmas," both by Bruce Hale, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions, said Kari Dunn, the library's children's coordinator.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154). The parties will be held after the readings and crafts, Dunn said.

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

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

Night at Museum set for Jan. 20

Music, memories & moments!

Be sure and mark your calendar for the Gladewater Museum's Annual Night at the Museum on January 20, from 6-8 p.m.

Jingle Jog December 22

It's Texas, so even a few days before Christmas it's pretty safe to say the weather will still be fairly warm Friday as PJ-powered runners race for the finish line downtown.

There's a chance of rain in the forecast — nothing a little hot chocolate won't fix, though.

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's first "Jammie Jingle Jog" kicks-off at 6 p.m. tomorrow evening at 109 N. Main Street. The family-friendly event Dec. 22 will run about an hour, sending pint-sized, pajama-clad participants careening around a portion of Gladewater's shopping district.

According to the chamber's chief volunteer, the first-time venture is aimed at helping kids run exercise some of their pre-Christmas excitement (literally) in the last lull before the peak of the Christmas holidays. She's keen to see who will be jamming the most memorable PJs for the season sprint.

"We're going to meet at The Labrador," she said, half of a new open-air venue with "The Picket Fence." Gladewater Police will provide a rolling escort for the runners, and every child participant will receive a jingle bell.

Importantly, "The parent must attend with the child," Reed quipped.

It's Christmas, so everybody wins, of course, with cocoa and cookies waiting for all comers at the end of jog.

To learn more, contact Reed at the chamber at 903-845-5501.

Forestry grant now open til Feb. 16

The submission window for the Texas A&M Forest Service Community Forestry Grant Program is now open and will close February 16, 2024.

These grants will help communities promote the management and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems and provide positive impacts throughout the state of Texas.

The seven grant categories include Human Health Equity and Accessibility, Municipal Foresters, Geospatial Analysis 65, Climate Resiliency, Tree City USA, Tree Planting and Schoolyard Forests.

Another goal outlined in the foundation of the grant program is to increase tree coverage to 30% on Texas school campuses through schoolyard forests grants. Access to green spaces and trees are essential in human development.

They serve as a strong physical and mental health aid while also providing a practical introduction to the important role of forests and trees play within their local ecosystems.

Learn more about the grant, application requirements and important dates here: <https://ow.ly/YiTR50Qhvfy>

WHITE OAK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
invites you to
CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
DECEMBER 24
4 P.M. & 11 P.M.
503 N. Center St.
in White Oak

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we wish you a very
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE COUNSEL OF GOD

Benjamin Franklin said: "He who won't be counselled can't be helped." He is right, depending of course, on the counsel one gets. It is vitally important to listen to good advice, and the person who stubbornly ignores wise counsel and valid rebuke will suffer because of it.

Listen to the Bible: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkens unto counsel is wise." (Prov. 12: 15). "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that you may be wise in the latter end." (Prov. 19: 20). Abraham Lincoln used to say: "Undertake not to instruct a man in that which he considers himself to be an expert." We are all familiar with "smart-aleck" people who cannot be instructed, because, however ignorant, they seem to think they know everything. "He is in the way of life that keeps instruction: but he that refuses reproof errs." (Prov. 10: 17). "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hates reproof is brutish (stupid)." (Prov. 12: 1). He whose ear heeds wholesome admonition will abide among the wise: He who ignores instruction despises himself, but he who heeds admonition gains understanding." (Prov. 15: 31-32). Good and wise examples from the Bible, don't you think, telling us how important it is to listen to wise counsel and not to ignore correction when it is needed.

Remember, the best counsel of all is the counsel God gives. The apostle Paul said, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20: 27). We have God's counsel in the Scriptures. "Your testimonies are my delight and my counsellors." (Ps. 119: 24). If we are to find comfort in the Scripture we must submit ourselves to it's counsel and guidance.

Yes, Ben Franklin was right when he said: "He who won't be counselled can't be helped." That's always been true. It is especially true of people who will not listen to the counsel of God in the Scriptures. Friend, I challenge you to make a fresh commitment to listen to what God is telling us in the Bible. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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Merry CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

North & East Texas Press Association
TA TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Gladewater Mirror

Periodicals Postage Paid
Gladewater, TX
USPS 575-140
ISSN Number 1045-5671

The Gladewater Mirror is published weekly by Bardwell Ink, LLC
211 N. Main Street
Gladewater, TX

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday
Office Hours - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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POSTMASTER:
Send PS3579 to
The Gladewater Mirror
P.O. Box 1549
Gladewater, TX 75647

Subscriptions are \$36/year in Gregg, Smith & Upshur counties and payable in advance.

GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CF#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
12/19/23	THEFT	20236743	0:23		408 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236743	0:49		HWY 271 HWY 271
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236747	2:15		1604 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236748	9:45		BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236750	12:31		1005 E MARY MARY
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236751	13:08		1110 N LYNN LYNN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236753	15:56		809 PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20236754	16:07	SEYMORS WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20236755	17:05	PENNY'S FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20236756	18:14		1061 FAIRVIEW FAIRVIEW ST
	ABANDONED 911	20236757	19:14		UNKNOWN UNKNOWN
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236758	19:17	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	FIRE DEPT	20236759	19:39		10113 S US HWY 271 US HWY 271
	FIRE DEPT	20236760	19:56		506 S CLINTON CLINTON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236761	20:25		2210 OAKRIDGE OAKRIDGE RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236762	21:10		221 PINE RIDGE PINE RIDGE RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236763	21:37		1818 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236764	22:24	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
12/11/23	EMS	20236765	2:38		1415 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236766	3:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20236767	3:18		501 N AMES AMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236768	3:51		1140 N LYNN LYNN
	ALARM/OTHER	20236769	10:07	ZIPP'S LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20236770	10:09	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236771	17:43		1301 WALNUT WALNUT ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236772	18:27	FAMILY DOLLAR	301 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236773	19:15		1818 N RODEO RODEO DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236774	19:57		402 SPENCER SPENCER ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236775	20:37		1102 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236776	22:32	EMPIRE EMPIRE	1609 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	EMS	20236777	22:35		1039 VESTA VESTA AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20236778	23:11		1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
12/12/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20236779	2:43	CEFCO 79	706 MAPLE MAPLE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236780	4:52		403 LIVE OAK LIVE OAK
	EMS	20236781	7:14		414 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	RUNAWAY	20236782	8:58	GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL	2184 N MAIN MAIN ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236783	9:54		2822 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ESCORT	20236784	10:42	BODY OF BELIEVERS	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20236785	10:48	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	EMS	20236786	12:23	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1700 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236787	15:14	DONNELLYS LIQUOR	220 S FERRY FERRY
	EMS	20236788	15:16		900 MARTHA MARTHA DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236791	17:19		890 BRIAR COVE BRIAR COVE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236792	18:10		1025 HONEYBUCKLE HONEYBUCKLE ST
	THEFT	20236793	19:43		10720 LOCUST RD LOCUST RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20236797	21:11		890 BRIAR COVE BRIAR COVE
12/13/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20236799	2:34		1301 N RODEO N RODEO
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20236800	2:37		314 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236801	5:10		56 EDDY EDDY ST
	ASSIST	20236802	7:46	WELDON HOMES	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ABANDONED 911	20236803	8:30	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	ASSIST	20236804	12:53	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	ASSIST	20236805	13:02	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1700 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20236806	14:47	GANON CANNON	1005 S PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20236807	14:23	GLADEWATER YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20236808	17:57	SENTINEL GARDENS	201 WALTON WALTON
	EMS	20236809	18:58		100 US 80 US 80
	10-50 MINOR	20236812	19:46		2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236813	22:01	WOODBINE COMMUNITY HOME	114 E COMMERCE COMMERCE DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20236814	22:14	CAPSHAW DERRICK LLP	910 E SHEPPARD DR SHEPPARD DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236815	23:08		1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
12/14/23	EMS	20236816	4:32	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1408 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20236817	4:45	PIZZA HUT	N MAIN N MAIN
	EVACUE	20236818	5:12		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20236819	7:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	503 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD
	EMS	20236820	9:14		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ESCORT	20236821	11:59	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20236822	12:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20236823	12:42	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	EMS	20236824	13:10	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20236825	14:08	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236826	15:53	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20236827	16:04		205 HURLEY HURLEY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20236828	17:52		1810 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236829	18:42	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236831	19:31	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FIRE DEPT	20236832	20:03	THE BAR	2827 COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236833	20:19		EDDY EDDY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236834	21:23		403 W TERRACE TERRACE DR
12/15/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20236835	2:21		2706 W UPSHUR W UPSHUR
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20236836	5:31	WASH TUB LAUNDRY MAT	201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20236837	7:40	CHRISTUS EMS	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20236838	9:39		1108 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	EMS	20236839	11:47		2105 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	ASSIST	20236840	14:22		S LOOP 485 S LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236841	15:49		321 W SUNSET SUNSET ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236842	15:54		56 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236843	16:46		910 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	FIRE DEPT	20236844	17:18		2806 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236845	17:22		224 HURLEY HURLEY AVE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20236846	23:17	DONNELLYS LIQUOR	1700 N MAIN MAIN ST
12/16/23	EMS	20236847	7:15		713 MARTHA MARTHA DR
	ABANDONED 911	20236848	7:36		402 WOOD WOOD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236849	8:56		1105 E MARY MARY ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20236850	10:32		500 MUSTANG MUSTANG DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236851	11:31		318 N LEE LEE DR
	ABANDONED 911	20236852	11:44		500 E ALLISON ALLISON AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236853	13:47		807 N TENERY TENERY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236854	14:49	PUBLIC RESTROOMS	98 S MAIN MAIN ST

GPD POLICE ACTIVITY

	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20236855	16:05		1701 E HWY 271 HWY 271 AVE
	RECKLESS DAMAGE	20236857	18:22	LAKE GLADEWATER	1822 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	RUNAWAY	20236859	19:07	DANIELLE'S HOUSE OF HOPE	1014 N LYNN LYNN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20236859	20:13		400 AVOLON AVOLON DR
	EMS	20236860	21:23		300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20236861	23:55	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
12/17/23	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20236862	0:14		1406 SPRUCE SPRUCE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20236863	0:39		LEE LEE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20236864	11:12		515 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	EMS	20236865	13:11	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2885 FM 2885
	EMS	20236865	16:03		54 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236867	16:12	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20236868	16:15		28 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD ST
	EMS	20236869	16:20		1301 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236870	16:48		55 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	10-50 MINOR	20236871	16:57		N LYNN LYNN ST
	FIRE DEPT	20236872	17:54		512 RODEO RODEO LN
	EMS	20236873	18:09	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236875	18:12	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE

GPD POLICE ARRESTS

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
12/14/23	12/14/23	5:45	REED, CHARLES VONDALE	W	M	EVADING ARREST DETENTION W/VEHICLE	14206 W FM 968

WOPD REPORT

For the reporting period of December 11th through the 17th, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 158 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Traffic Issues (collisions, driver assistance, driving complaints, and traffic control), Animal Complaints, Burglar Alarms, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

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

One arrest was made by White Oak Police during this reporting period:

Donovan J.R. Christian, 18, of Longview for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Read Local

Local company. Local journalists. Local stories.



White Oak Police Department
103 E. Old Highway 80, White Oak
(903)759-0106

Gregg County Sheriff Maxey Cerliano

101 E Methvin St., Ste 559, Longview
greggcountytxsheriff.org
(903) 236-8400

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 Evening Service 6 p.m. 903-845-6440
Pastor Steven Zanjter
 www.gbcgladewater.org

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
 First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905
 Full Gospel Fellowship
 Gladewater Revival Church
 Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
 Love of God Church • 903-845-2623
 Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050
OTHER
 Starrville Church of the Living God • 903-877-3220
 Friendship Community Church
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Read Local

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SPORTS

Gladewater, White Oak basketball roundup

By Tyler Sutton

Gladewater's basketball season continued this week for both the Bears and the Lady Bears as both were in action.

The Bears played their only game this week on Friday, December 15th falling to the Tenaha Tigers 66-31. The Tigers jumped out to a big early lead after 1 quarter at 17-4. Then led 37-11 at the half. The loss drops the Bears to 1-13 on the season. Gladewater will be back in action on Tuesday, December 19th when they host Winnsboro.

The Gladewater Lady Bears left with a victory in their only game of the

week as they defeated the Waskom Lady Wildcats on Tuesday, December 12th by a score of 63-52. Gladewater is now 7-12 on the season and are off for Christmas. Their next game isn't until January 2nd when they travel to Beckville.

Moving to White Oak, the Roughnecks dropped a pair of games. Falling 78-54 to Grace Community on Tuesday, December 12th and then 49-40 to Overton on Friday, December 15th. Scotty Breitenberg had 11 points and three assists in the loss for White Oak. Gavin Sipes finished with nine points, Campbell Sutton and Kanaan Moore

six apiece, Kaleb Sorgee five, Tysen McClain two and Braydon Bratcher one. The 2 losses drops the RoughNecks to 6-10 on the season. They are now off for the Christmas and New Year's holiday's and will be back in action on January 2nd when they host Tyler HEAT.

The Lady Necks dropped their only game of the week falling to Grace Community 47-26 on Tuesday, December 12th. White Oak is now 7-9 on the season and has one more game before the Christmas and New Year's break on Monday, December 18th when they travel to Big Sandy.



JO Williams Ford is proud to present the 2023 Class 3A Built Ford Tough Texas High School Player of the Week award to Colt Sparks from Sabine ISD! Colt earned this award for his outstanding performance in Sabine's week 10 victory over White Oak. Colt accounted for 415 yards and 7 touchdowns during the 70-12 victory. He was 12 of 18 passing for 225 yards and 4 TDs. He also carried the ball for 190 yards and 3 TDs. JO Williams Ford is honored to present this award to Colt. Special thanks to Coach Cody Gilbert and Colt's family. His parents, grandparents and great grandfather were here to support and celebrate with Colt who is Built Ford Tough!

Gilmer Buckeyes win state title

By Phillip Williams

ARLINGTON--'Twas not so very long ago that the Gilmer Buckeyes, afflicted with a tottering defense which yielded points by the megaton, appeared about as probable to procure their fourth state championship as bovines would be to buy stock in Burger King.

Perennial power Gilmer lost its first two wargames of the season for the first time in more than 20 years. At mid-season, the team was 3-3 after being bludgeoned by Pleasant Grove in the squads' district opener. And in three of those games (including one the Buckeyes won), Gilmer had yielded anywhere from 62-71 points each.

Things looked about as hopeful as being able to find a water fountain in Hell, although Gilmer's offense was racking up plentiful points itself.

And then, Coach Alan Metzel's Buckeyes performed the unthinkable, tallying 10 straight triumphs to win the Loving Cup, including a stupefying upset of their old nemesis Carthage--which had 29 consecutive conquests under its belt, and hadn't lost to Gilmer in eight years before the Buckeyes unseated the defending state champ bedeviling Bulldogs in Playoff Paradise's fourth round.

Eventually came Friday afternoon at AT&T Stadium and again, Gilmer appeared to several gridiron soothsayers to be en route to the electric chair as, with a 12-3 mark, it had to confront 15-0 Bellville--which possessed both an overpowering offense and dismaying dismantling defense.

Although Gilmer runner/receiver Will Henderson was named the contest's most valuable offensive player as the team's workhorse,

Buckeye quarterback Cadon Tennon heaved two TDs and hoofed for another as Gilmer rode a flummoxing first-half tide of touchdowns to bedevil the Bellville Brahmas, 28-26, for the state Class 4A Division II state championship Friday.

Gilmer tailback Will Henderson was named the Of-

fensive Player of the Game after rushing for 227 yards on 27 carries with a TD.

Gilmer defensiveback Brendan Webb was selected as the Defensive Player of the Game. Webb forced and recovered a fumble and intercepted a pass in the end zone. He also scored a TD on offense.



Union Grove Lady Lions' defense - #12 Jenna Scott and #2 Jamie Webb shutdown the Harleton Lady Cats' offense, while Webb steals the ball, heads down the court for 2 points. Union Grove took the win 34-31.

Photo by Kim Hill

"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

Christmas List

It's the time of year when people prepare their list of Christmas wishes. Some may have been too busy to work on their lists, so I would like to give Santa some ideas.

- Texas Longhorns** – Two more wins.
- Texas Aggies** – Enough money to pay former and current coaches.
- Jerry Jones** – A new General Manager. Oh wait, he's not going to replace himself!
- Dallas Cowboys' Fans** – Same gift as Jerry. Since we already realize that's not happening, maybe they can get a couple of wins in the playoffs?
- Dak Prescott** – A couple of wins in the playoffs.
- Kicker Brandon Aubrey** – A 70-yard field goal. It could happen!
- Coach Mike McCarthy** – No more emergency surgeries. (Although the missing appendix didn't seem to bother him in the Cowboys' game against Philadelphia.)
- Patrick Mahomes** – Receivers who don't drop the ball and have the vision to see where the line of scrimmage is.
- LeBron James** – Humility.
- Michael Jordan** – A one-on-one game against LeBron. It would probably be a pretty close game since Jordan is sixty years old!
- Dallas Mavericks Fans** – A new lifetime contract for Luka Doncic.
- Luka Doncic** – A supporting cast like Dirk Nowitzki had in 2011. And increased self-restraint to refrain from yelling at the referees.
- Shohei Ohtani** – A good money manager to help him get by on 2 million dollars annually until the rest of his 700-million-dollar contract kicks in after ten years.
- Los Angeles Dodgers** – A money tree to provide that additional \$680 million for Ohtani
- Texas Rangers Fans** – We got our present early! Would it be greedy to ask for the same present in 2024?
- Everyone – Health and happiness. Peace on earth, goodwill to men. That's one man's opinion – what's yours?

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 by Charley & Guy Orbison
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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TEXAS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- gauge to check rpm on Santa's reindeer?
- Stanley Gardner was an honorary Texas Ranger
- day when "nice" TX youngsters get presents (abbr.)
- largest continent
- TX "Mr. Sam" who was speaker of U.S. House (init.)
- Texas-born Gene Autry wrote "Here Comes _____ Claus"
- TXism: "changes his mind as often _____ does his socks"
- holiday garland
- Texas government building
- holiday greenery or Texas rock-'n-roller Buddy
- help Santa's helper (2 wds.)
- Santa's elves work behind-_____
- TX Bobby who co-founded the "Black Panthers"
- "you need to _____ that baby!"
- TXism for "Scrooge": "_____ flint"
- this Philbin was like Santa Claus on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"
- "Star Wars" missile defense system (abbr.)
- "plastic money" gets _____ a lot at Christmas
- yuletide log chopper
- pack clothes in this for a holiday trip
- there's little of this indifference at Christmas
- what kids do on Christmas morning (3 wds.)
- provoked mockingly need a stand to _____ up a Christmas tree
- some Texans go to this New Mexico area to ski over the holidays
- a main ingredient of Christmas nog
- this TX Winters is a linebacker for the 49ers
- TXism: "_____ few bricks shy of a load" (dimwit)
- pig's place
- _____ Belo founded The Dallas Morning News
- TX Blue Bell flavor: "Cookies _____ Cream"
- TX handyman Carrell and Mr. Neiman
- private detectives (abbr.)
- actress Garr of 1999 film "Kill the Man" with TX Luke Wilson (init.)
- Santa's jolly shout when repeated
- beige
- "_____ fine" by the Easybeats
- what to do with a tiger (2 wds.)
- birth state of Davy Crockett (abbr.)
- univ. in Lawton, OK
- suitable
- hot tub or resort
- TXism: "flew off the handle"
- Larry, Moe, or Curly (2 wds.)
- looks through the blinds for Santa
- TXism: "it belongs to me _____ the bank"
- TX Tanya (init.)
- _____ McArdle painted "Dawn at the Alamo"
- TXism: "rile up"

DOWN

- TX Tanya song about Texas (4 wds.)
- moonwalker Neil and Cowboy Dorance
- TX-born Gen. _____ Chennault founded the "Flying Tigers"

See Answers On This Page

OBITUARY

ROY DALE DUNNAVANT

Roy Dale Dunnivant, 67, of Longview, passed away on Thursday, December 14th, 2023.

Roy was born on September 29th, 1956 to Helen and Lee Roy Dunnivant in Gladewater, Texas. His childhood was spent here as well as farther away places like Hawaii and Germany with his father's military career. After graduating from White Oak High School, Roy studied Education, Economics, and Political Science, receiving his higher degrees.

Roy's career was multi-faceted as a teacher, manager, and salesman. His love of history culminated in his interest in antiques and lead him to establish his beloved store R&S Clocks and More in Gladewater, which he successfully operated for over 14 years.

Roy met his wife Ruth Elizabeth Marples when they were both still in their teenage years, and they shared 47 years of marriage, having their daughter Amanda in 1986.

Between Ruth and Granny (Helen) we "raised" a good man who loved his family very much and was the best dad and granddad "Pop-pop" that anyone could ever have.

His best friends Mitch and Eva Aills were always there for him with encouragement and banter at his second home, his store, where he spent countless hours researching, buying, and selling his wares. He had dear work friends including Bob Chauvin and many others who checked on him daily.

Roy was preceded in death by his father Lee Roy Dunnivant.

Roy is survived by his mother, Helen Lydia Dunnivant, wife Ruth Elizabeth Dunnivant, daughter Amanda Michelle Cockerham, son-in-law whom he loved like his own son, Ryan Kelly Cockerham, granddaughter Lona Remington Cockerham, his younger siblings Debra Kay Dunnivant, Bruce Wayne Dunnivant, and Mary Ann Hunter, and also his sweet dog Zoie.

Roy requested no funeral or services. Family and friends celebration of life is pending.

8991-S

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Defendant's Greeting:
"Plaintiffs' Original Petition was filed on October 10, 2023. You may employ an attorney. If 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, 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

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 00 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.

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PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before the City of Gladewater Planning & Zoning Commission on January 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request to rezone property located at AB 179 L J RIGSBY SUR TR 10 SEC 3; more commonly known as 831 N. Main., from residential to light commercial. There will be a second public hearing held by the Gladewater City Council on January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in these public hearings. If you are unable to attend these meetings you may send written comments to Judy Van Houten, City Clerk, City of Gladewater, PO Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647.

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PROPERTY FOR SALE

The City of Gladewater is accepting sealed bids on property located in Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas, and described as LTS 1 THRU 3 BLK 5 MALLOCK ADDN, Gregg Appraisal District Property ID # 53696.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly and plainly marked "Bid - LTS 1 THRU 3 BLK 5 MALLOCK ADDN" and must be physically received and filed in the office of the City Clerk no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2024, when they will be publicly opened and read. All bids received after the prescribed opening time, regardless of the mode of delivery, shall be returned unopened. The Gladewater City Council will formally award the bid on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to accept such bids as it shall deem most advantageous to the City and reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or portions thereof, and to waive all formalities.

No representations, written or oral, are made by the City of Gladewater. The property is being sold "as-is" with no warranties of any kind, including no warranty of title.

Terms of Sale and Bid Sheet may be obtained from and mailed or delivered to:

Judy Van Houten, City Clerk
City of Gladewater
519 E. Broadway
Gladewater, Texas 75647

All inquiries should be directed to City Manager Charlie Smith at 903-845-2196.



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Multiple arrests made on drug-related charges

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested three persons in November, Sheriff Larry Webb said last week.

Details were as follows, and all suspects were taken to the county jail in Gilmer, he announced Dec. 13:

Payton D. Campbell, 26, of Ore City, was arrested Nov. 1 on two felony charges: tampering with physical evidence, and possession of controlled substance--less than one gram of methamphetamine.

The unit was working drug interdiction in the Ore City area when it stopped Campbell's vehicle on U.S. 259 inside city limits. The SUI seized less than a gram of methamphetamine.

Comaneci M. Gordon, 47, of Gladewater, was arrested Nov. 20 on an outstanding warrant charging her with manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance--at least one, but less than four grams. The SIU report didn't identify the substance.

The SIU arrested her at the Lucky 7 game room, located at the intersection of U.S. 271 and Silk Tree Road in West

Mountain community, after receiving a report she was there.

Stephanie D. Pugh, 54, of Gilmer, was arrested Nov. 29 on an outstanding warrant charging her with violating the probation she was serving for possession of controlled

substance--at least one, but less than four grams. The type of drug was not disclosed.

The unit was working drug interdiction in the East Mountain area when it stopped her vehicle at the intersection of FM 1845 and Medlin Road.



The GMS Choir performed last week at the GISD Holiday Concert.

Courtesy Photo

Locals observe Wreaths Across America

Continued from Page 1

U.S. Army Medic, opened the event with a prayer before the day's Honor Guard stepped to the fore, wreaths in hand.

The group included veterans, active service members and community members, tasked with laying symbolic wreaths in honor of the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard and the United States Merchant Marines. Gold Star Mom Rhonda Owen also laid a veteran's wreath in honor of the 93,129 United States service members from all branches whose last known status was either Prisoner of War or Missing in Action.

Freeman thanked those in the audience who had answered the call and served their country well.

"More than ever, we reflect on our nation's veterans and active duty service members who have and continue to fight to protect the innocent and the oppressed," Freeman said. "This nation has always been the first to stand up for the freedom of people from around the

world.

"Today, we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we remember the fallen, honor those who serve and their families and teach the next generation the value of freedom."

Before the attendees dispersed to the city's cemeteries to lay individual wreaths on veterans' graves, veteran U.S. Marine Jim Jones exhorted them to not just to remember and honor vets but to teach young Americans about that legacy.

"We are not here to honor the deaths of these military heroes. We do that on Memorial Day," Jones said. "Rather, we are here to remember and honor their lives. On every grave marker here you will find a date of birth and a date of death. It's what they did between those two dates that we remember today."

"In keeping with the mission of Wreaths Across America, we must remember their lives of service, honor them for their sacrifice and teach others about those sacrifices and services."

Pausing to give due honors in the midst of holiday festivities, Jones recalled his own Christmas 1967, a cold and rainy twilight time on a forgotten hill in South Vietnam. His company of U.S. Marines was dug in, miserable in their muddy foxholes.

"Misery loves company," he said. The group watched as a lone figure, an enemy soldier, emerged unarmed from the jungle yards away, clutching a leaflet announcing the Christmas truce. "One cannot imagine the courage it took for him to do this with the sure knowledge he could have been riddled in seconds but there he stood."

A U.S. sergeant walked out to create the enemy soldier, and more of the Vietnamese soldier's comrades walked into the open, cautiously greeted by their American counterparts. The Marines shared a crate of oranges the Red Cross had delivered days prior.

"Feeling quite naked and vulnerable standing out in the open with them was surreal. With gestures, we tried to communicate with them,

but what was there to talk about?" Decades later, "All I know is that for one brief moment in time, one shining hour, a scant footnote of history, there was in our little corner of the world peace on earth and goodwill toward man."

Members of VFW Post 4002 closed the ceremony with a three-volley gun salute and a rendition of Taps before handing things back to Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed, who organized the local event and spearheaded fundraising for the 400 veterans' wreaths. As 'Location Coordinator' Reed worked with Gladewater City Clerk Judy Van Houten on the cemetery markers along with Etta Withers of the historic Rosedale Cemetery to ensure each local vet's grave was flagged for Saturday's honors.

"As we lay these wreaths here today, let us remember that every one of them honors an individual who answered the call of their nation," Jones said. "As we place these wreaths we should share a deep appreciation for that sacrifice."



Gladewater Primary Schooler Blessyn Craig chooses her book and Joshua Smith waits his turn at the new 'Build-a-Bear Bookshop' Dec. 12.

Little learners get page turners at GPS

Continued from Page 1 most recent assessment. The children included Ian Baxter, Blessyn Craig, Amere Minter, Margo Pouliaxis, Declan Rast, Joshua Smith, Cora Solle, Ezra Stiles and Declan Whitehorn.

The kiddoes clutched their golden book tokens and excitedly helped cut the yellow ribbon to unveil the welcome glow of the vending machine.

Students across campus will have the opportunity to earn coins, Collins said.

"It's just going to incentivize reading and growth," she added. "We are so elated at this beautiful machine and what it's going to do for our kids. It's already promising excitement and the love for reading."

"That's exactly what we want to instill here. We're like the gateway to GISD. We want them to leave our campus loving to read and learn. Thank you for this amazing opportunity."

There were cheers all around as each child plugged their token into the machine, made their selection and watched their book drop Dec. 12.

"It's a true honor to be able

to invest in the minds of kids, especially with regards to literacy because they become empowered communicators and thinkers," Principal Kerry Hradecky said, thanking United Way and Bardwell making the fully-stocked vending machine a reality.

"We're really working on reading like writers and writing like readers. This will be a very exciting, fun way to incentive students and make it extra fun."

"It's already having an impact on the kids, so we're excited to get started."

Bynum happy to fill in for Old St. Nick

Continued from Page 1 as possible.

At 46, he hasn't quite reached his first white Christmas, but "I've been debating whether or not to get the real beard dyed."

He started out through a local theater group, just messing around. Then, a friend and fellow Santa had to miss a gig and invited Bynum to step in. It wasn't long before he was making the rounds of local antique malls and taking part in Gladewater Chamber of Commerce activities.

When he's not in St. Nick's duds (i.e. the other 360-odd days of the year), Bynum works at Scantech Instruments in Longview.

He's easily a Christmas fan.

"I am firm believer that after Thanksgiving, Christmas music gets played every day," he said. "I love Christmas music and this time of year. It's a thing that as a child I always loved."

"As a dad, I love it even more, just watching the kids light up."

He has five of his own plus three grandkids, and, yes, he puts in the Santa hours for the family as well.

"In all honesty, I love it, and I enjoy it. If I didn't like it so much, I would definitely not be doing it," Bynum said. "And I really do ham it up playing Santa, too."

If nothing else, it helps take the mind off the heat – the suit gets pretty warm in a Texas winter: "You will definitely be sweating."

Upshur ESD board members appointed

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday appointed three new members, and re-appointed one current member, to the board for the county's Emergency Services District No. 1, said county officials.

Newly-appointed were Anthony Depaep, Brian Jones and Ray Cook. Scott Mischnick was re-appointed for a 2-year term.

All terms begin Jan. 1, County Clerk Terri Ross said Monday.

Depaep was appointed to a 1-year term, Jones to finish out former board member Bobby Jenkins' term which expires at 2024's end, and Cook was named to a 2-year term, officials said.

The court was also scheduled to consider appointing members to the Emergency Services District No. 2 board, but County Judge Todd Tefteller asked that be delayed because Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson, whose area is served by that district, was absent from Friday's meeting.

The court voted 4-0 in open session to make the appointments after discussing them in closed session.

In other action, the court approved an

employee policy for the Road and Bridge Department, and letting District Clerk Nicole Hernandez's office become a passport acceptance facility.

County Road Administrator Phil Stegall said the new policy, proposed by Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller, would "without a doubt" help the department function. County Judge Todd Tefteller said the document regulates such matters as lunch breaks.

In other business, the court approved letting County Extension Agent Julie York attend a Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference in Tampa, Fla.

York will be a workshop presenter with a co-worker, and present a poster on part of her research for a PhD degree, at the Feb. 14-15 event. The Texas Tech University Family and Consumer Sciences Education department will partly fund her trip.

York told the court county funds may not be required for her travel. She explained Monday she is applying for scholarships and grants to help cover the cost, but they aren't a certainty.

The court's approval was needed because York is leaving Texas during working hours.



ABOVE - White Oak's 5th Graders performed their Christmas Musical "Snow Biz" recently, under the direction of Brittany Fuller, White Oak Elementary Music Teacher. BELOW - White Oak's Varsity Choir celebrated the holiday season with song, as did the 7th and 8th grade choirs

Photo by Mike Peery



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MICHAEL WEBBER Councilperson, Place 2	TEDDY SORRELLS Councilperson, Place 4	ROCKY HAWKINS Councilperson, Place 6	CHARLES SMITH Interim City Manager



we wish you a very
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and Happy New Year

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