

# Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



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50¢

## Year in REVIEW

### JANUARY

Gladewater began 2023 celebrating its 150th anniversary. The sesquicentennial celebration lasted all year with various annual events and celebrations tweaked to include the city's long history which began in the summer of 1873 as the Texas Pacific Railroad began the push westward from Longview.

To meet the water needs of the trains, a stop was planned in the vicinity of the Sabine River and the Point Pleasant Community. The new community, which was named Gladewater, was created from lands purchased from Jarred Dean and Anderson White.

Also in January, Sean Denison, 29, from Louisiana, who had been arrested for alleged public intoxication earlier in the day, was found hanged in his Gladewater Police Department jail cell on evening of Jan. 20. The Texas Rangers were called in to conduct the investigation, which is standard procedure.

### FEBRUARY

The top story as February began involved the investigation of a private, single-engine plane that crashed as it was approaching the Gladewater Municipal.

Officials said that the crash happened near Carter Road and Highway 271, south of the airport in a swampy area and heavy timber. All four people in the plane were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Officials said the Beechcraft F35 Bonanza aircraft, registered to Danny Downing, came to rest in a pond 0.5 mile short of the runway and the passengers were able to exit the plane and were on the wings of the plane when emergency crews arrived at the location.

Late in February, several hundred GHS alumni turned out on a Saturday for a walk down memory lane at the old senior/junior high school on Melba Street.

While many whose hair that has gone from black to gray strolled the halls at a slightly slower pace with old classmates, no doubt fond memories were as vivid as the day they were born. Alumni from classes going as far back as the 1940s were given a wonderful opportunity to walk the halls one last time.

The school was sold a few months earlier and the new owners – who plan to revitalize the old school, invited former students to enjoy a day at their old stomping grounds.

### MARCH

White Oak news got the month of March off to a good start with the announcement that the White Oak ISD school board welcomed its new Roughneck Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Michael Ludlow, who took over for Coach/AD Kris Iske, who retired at the end of this school year after nine seasons as the head football coach and athletic director for the White Oak Roughnecks.

That same week, the White Oak Fire Department celebrated receiving its new Pierce fire engine last Tuesday. The new engine took about a year and a half to be delivered since it was custom built and will replace the previous main engine which was aging out and parts were getting hard to find.

WOVFD firefighters took part in a long-standing tradition called the "push-in" ceremony, which pays respect to fire departments from a time before there were motorized vehicles and were pulled by horses.

Just a week later, White Oak ISD trustees named Dr. William Paul his lone finalist for superintendent. Paul, who was the Windthorst ISD superintendent, replaced Brian Gray, who retired over the Christmas holidays. Gray became superintendent in 2020, replacing Mike Gilbert.

The month ended on a positive note as Jon Keller and Judy Van Houten were honored at the 92nd Annual Gladewater Chamber of Commerce banquet with the "Man of the Year" and

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# 'This is going to be a game-changer for East Texas'

By James Draper

In a few years, an East Texas will be able to hop on passenger rail here and go West to DFW and beyond to the coast, East to Meridian, Mississippi, and beyond to Atlanta, Georgia.

It's been a long time coming – almost 20 years of negotiations, advocacy and some arm twisting – but a coalition of East Texas elected officials on Tuesday announced the 1-20 Corridor Intercity Passenger Rail Service is on the federal drawing board.

"It's extremely important. They've looked at all kinds of different wants to go around us, but they've decided this is the way to go," Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt told local, regional, state and federal representatives gathered alongside members of the media in Longview's Depot/Multi-Modal Transportation Center Dec. 19. "This marks a significant milestone for the long-advocated rail connection between Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta, Georgia."

The Federal Railroad Administration designated the stretch

in its FY22 Corridor Identification and Development Program.

Part of a broader effort to connect the United States' East Coast with the West via passenger rail, the regional route passes through Mineola, Longview, Marshall and into Northern Louisiana, a single path between DFW and Meridian.

"The east-west connection across our southern region will bring significant benefits to both urban and rural areas," Stoudt

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# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## It really is a wonderful life!

Column from 2018

The trash is overflowing. The fridge is jam-packed with leftovers. And there is much to be done to get 'Christmas' packed away. What if we didn't pack it all away? What if we held on to the things that make Christmas joyful, sacred and precious?

Of course we won't. We will get too busy, too stressed and too pressed for time to hold the sacred in our hearts in such a way that we share the gifts of Christmas with the folks we rub shoulders with every day.

What if we committed to a better self. Maybe we should go on a social media diet. We certainly could use a little more kindness in our hearts and in our world. Maybe that would be easier if we weren't spending too much of our time looking at a screen and pontificating on our, oh so important, righteous opinions.

What if we tried, really hard to just treat other people with respect? Of course, we would need to embrace the concept that we should "treat others the way we want to be treated". We can't assume to know what other people believe, know and act upon based on our judgment. So maybe we ought to hook onto that lovely but difficult concept of "judge not lest you be judged".

What a wonderful world it would be if we just followed those 2,000 year old instructions. Maybe they should be on our resolution list for 2019.

I have a few gifts I would like to share with you in the Spirit of Christmas. Unwrap them, use them, don't put them



in that special drawer to be savored some day in the far distant future only to be lost in the chaos of life. These gifts are for today, and every day, and they are for you.

**I wish for you:**  
—a sense of wonder your whole life though 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!**

**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

### COP28 ...

The recent United Nations Climate Conference in Dubai, known as COP28, ended with a historic agreement that, for the first time, mentions transitioning away from fossil fuels. More than 190 nations were represented at the event. Although the language regarding reduction in the future use of oil, natural gas, and coal is notable, it is far from a mandate.



Major producers (OPEC+ and others) naturally resist decreased use of petroleum. Production and exports in some cases account for the vast majority of business activity, and it is difficult to contemplate eliminating the goose which is laying the golden eggs.

Countries with rapidly developing economies (including China and India) have also been reluctant to curtail usage, as such fuels are helping to enhance growth while improving living standards. Demand for energy around the world is expanding, and affordable and reliable power is essential in lifting billions of people from extreme poverty. If you just peruse the numbers, there's not a realistic way to get there without using fossil fuels for the foreseeable future under a vast array of assumptions regarding business activity, energy prices, and carbon reduction technology.

On the other hand, some nations wanted an agreement calling for fossil fuels to be phased out entirely despite the impracticality of such a pattern. After intense negotiations, a compromise was forged.

The COP28 agreement leaves countries considerable flexibility regarding how they achieve climate goals, and it's certainly not going to eliminate fossil fuels usage. However, valid scientific research clearly indicates that we have a legitimate climate crisis and a closing window for addressing it. Perspectives differ dramatically, with the pragmatic solution being to strive to both assure adequate energy supplies and aggressively address environmental concerns.

Clearly, fossil fuels must be produced and consumed responsibly and with the lowest carbon footprint possible. Fortunately, Texas is not only a leader in oil and gas, but also in lower-carbon oil and gas and in technologies to reduce the carbon footprint further at every stage of production. The state also continues to embrace wind and solar power, as well as emerging alternatives such as hydrogen. Additionally, Texas is prominent in carbon capture and other initiatives to effectively address climate issues.

The COP28 agreement is certainly historic and could have a profound and positive impact. However, we must keep it in perspective and recognize it does not remotely suggest that fossil fuel usage is about to diminish. In fact, recent projections from our firm, the Department of Energy, and others suggest that we will be using more fossil fuels in 2050 than today. Energy to support global prosperity and a livable planet are both laudable (indeed, indispensable) goals. We can (and must) achieve both!

Stay safe!

## Legal groups sue to stop immigration law

The ink was barely dry on a law signed by Gov. Greg Abbott that makes unauthorized entry into the United States a state crime before a lawsuit was filed by civil rights groups and El Paso County challenging its constitutionality. The Austin American-Statesman reported the suit was filed in an Austin federal court by the ACLU and two immigrant advocacy groups on behalf of the county.

The complaint says Texas Senate Bill 4, passed in the recently concluded fourth special session, is "patently illegal" and that it violates "the federal government's exclusive immigration powers and the sensitive foreign policy implications of these powers." The law is set to go into effect on March 5.

SB4 allows any Texas law enforcement officer to arrest people who are believed to have entered the country illegally. Once in custody, they could either agree to leave the U.S. or face prosecution on misdemeanor charges of illegal entry.

"These laws will help stop the tidal wave of illegal entry into Texas, add additional funding to build more border wall, and crack down on human smuggling," Abbott said after signing the bill.

## Border Patrol banned from cutting razor wire

An appeals court has ordered the Border Patrol to stop cutting razor wire installed by Texas officials, The Dallas Morning News reported. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court ruling that gave federal authorities the legal right to remove the fencing, which federal officials said had been done to prevent injuries to migrants. The state contended, however, that federal agents were removing the concertina wire simply to let migrants enter Texas without notification.

Col. Steve McCraw, Texas Department of Public Safety director, said the state agrees that the wire should be cut in cases of emergency.

"We're doing it to go rescue somebody," he said. "We're not doing it to allow a large number of migrants to enter between the ports of entry. We want them to go to the ports of entry."

## Texas has lowest gas prices in country

Gasoline prices in the state are at their lowest level in nearly three years, according to AAA. The current average is \$2.57 a gallon — the lowest average gas price in the nation, according to a Texas Standard report. Matt Smith, an energy analyst for Kpler (stet), warned Texans that higher prices are likely during the holiday period.

AAA is projecting 104 million travelers are driving at least 50 miles to their holiday destinations, while air traffic is expected to be the busiest ever, with 7.5 million air travelers this holiday season.

Smith said a number of factors, including unrest in Yemen and the Middle East, could cause oil prices to rise, leading to higher gas prices in the future.

"We've seen a lot of bearishness that has pushed these prices to multi-month lows here; we may be at the point now where we're seeing a bit of a turnaround going forward here," Smith said.

## ERCOT chief: Grid is ready for winter

The chief of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas told his



board last week that added power generation will be sufficient this winter, despite population growth and lower output from wind power turbines because of less wind velocity.

"We are as ready as we have ever been to deal with the challenges of the winter season," ERCOT chief Pablo Vegas told the board.

The Statesman reported Vegas' statement of confidence in the grid comes just three weeks after ERCOT warned much of the state could face rolling blackouts starting next month, most likely in the early morning hours before solar generating facilities can be utilized.

"In the wintertime, the peak of the system tends to happen in the early morning hours as people are starting to wake up at 7 a.m., 8 a.m.," Vegas said. "It's still cold from an overnight winter cold. And we don't yet have the resources like solar resources on the system at that point in time."

Vegas said 800 new projects have been added to the grid in the past year. ERCOT's chief meteorologist is predicting a milder than usual winter for much of the state.

## Amount of state in drought declines

Drought conditions across Texas are declining, with 43% of the state in some stage of drought at the end of November — down 22 percentage points from the end of October and 42 percentage points from early September.

"Despite the improvements on the landscape, our statewide surface water supply reservoirs haven't seen a lot of recovery yet," Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, wrote in his monthly report. "That's not unexpected. Compared to the landscape, our water supply systems take longer to respond to drought."

The surface water systems most adversely affected are clustered in Central and South Texas, which are still experiencing drought conditions. Also still in severe-to-extreme drought are far West Texas counties and a scattering of counties in Deep East Texas.

## State leads nation in population increases

Texas' population grew more than any other state in the country, up nearly half a million people, according to the recent census estimate. The Texas Tribune reported the population growth is centered in the state's cities. Nearly 70% of the state's residents live in the four largest metro areas — Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas-Fort Worth.

While the state had the largest total increase in population, two other states had higher growth rates than the 1.6% recorded here — South Carolina and Florida. The South accounted for 87% of the country's population growth in the latest census estimate.

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## WILL WORSHIP

Religions include two different extremes: making laws God has not made and setting aside laws that God has made. Both are wrong. In Col. 2: 16-23 Paul warned against man-made rules. Many feel that they can worship God any way they desire so long as they are sincere and mean well. In Col.2: 22 Paul speaks of: **"the precepts and doctrines of men."** In verse 23 he says these things have a show of wisdom in **"will worship"** or **"self-made religion,"** and humility but are of no value. Will-worship is to worship God after one's own will and desires. Jesus said: **"And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"** (Matt. 15: 9).

God's word is supreme and obligatory. To put human authority (doctrines and commandments of men) on equality with God's authority is to bring God's authority down on an equality with man's authority. In Lev. 10: 1-2 Nadab and Abihu were consumed with fire from the Lord because they offered strange (profane) fire before Him, WHICH HE HAD NOT COMMANDED THEM! Their problem was **"will-worship"** i. e., doing what they desired instead of doing what GOD COMMANDED! Romans 14: 4 says these happenings in the Old Testament were written for our learning. It is not up to us to worship God according to our own choice, without authority from Him. To set up any commandment of men, and honor it as a command of God, is wrong. To obey His commandment is to do His will and everything else is mere "will-worship."

Think on these things.

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## 'This is going to be a game changer for East Texas'

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said. "This is going to be a game-changer for East Texas in the years ahead. All citizens who call East Texas home will benefit from this.

"It's economic development, going forward."

Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur is chairman of the East Texas Rural Transportation Planning Organization, affiliated with East Texas Council of Governments.

"This is an early Christmas gift for our region," LaFleur said last week. "The other routes that were looked at just weren't doable. They would cost a significant amount of money.

"East Texas is the perfect route for this project, allowing the development of new services to align on existing infrastructure."

A joint application to the Federal Railroad Administration submitted by the Southern Rail Commission secured a \$500,000 grant – with no matching funds component – to complete Step 1 of the project. That includes further development of the scope of the effort, a schedule and cost estimates.

Right now, there's no timetable, said Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson, a standout advocate for the intercity passenger rail effort alongside his wife, Christina.

"This is a transportation alternative. This is an economic development issue," Anderson said. "A half-a-million is a lot of money, but in the greater scheme it is not.

"The most important aspect of this is it puts us in line with the Federal Railroad Administration designation to receive money" for Step 2, completion of the service development plan, and Step 3, actual implementation of the project.

It's incremental, he said, echoing LaFleur, and each step must be completed in turn over time.

"This gets our name in the hat, it gets us in the line in order to be able to access this. That's a generational investment."

For 17 years, a coalition of county judges, mayors, elected officials and grassroots advocates have fueled the project which, upon completion, would see passenger trains operating at 79 to 125 miles per hour between the connected cities.

"Instead of fighting the horrific traffic in DFW and I20 in spots between here and there," LaFleur said, "you can jump on a rail car in Marshall, Texas, and be in downtown Dallas in an hour and 20 minutes, get in an Uber and go wherever you want and be back that day.

"It's a bar none great thing."

A feasibility study for the concept was completed with Amtrak in the past, LaFleur noted, giving the latest push a jump start. Stoudt thanked Amtrak for years of partnership with East Texas' communities.

"We look forward to the continued collaborative efforts going forward."

Not everybody can afford to fly in an airplane, he added later. Not everyone can afford the upkeep on a car.

"A train is much more adaptable to the lifestyle they have."

According to Stoudt, there are no land acquisitions anticipated, with plenty of right-of-way along the existing rail route, much of which is already double-tracked.

Cost estimates are still in the ether, and implementation could be a 10 years off, 15 or more.

The important thing: "They have formalized the route," Stoudt said, straight through East Texas. "Up until two days after Thanksgiving, there were other areas they were looking at and other routes possibly going north of here.

It's a big deal for everyone in the region, said ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland.

"It gives all the residents in East Texas another alternative transportation between the East coast and West coast," he said. As far as economic development, "Especially if you're a manufacturer, you're looking for these transportation options that can get your product to market as fast as possible.

For residents, "If you have looked at the ticket price, it's pretty inexpensive as opposed to driving your own vehicle. It also reduces congestion on I20 which should reduce traffic fatalities as well."



## New downtown Christmas tree coming in 2024

Gladewater's towering downtown tannenbaum has seen its last Christmas.

Don't fret: The plan's to have a new community Christmas tree in-hand well ahead of the 2024 holiday season, and Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed has already priced a replacement at about \$25,000, including shipping.

She has the pricetag covered, too. In addition to about \$5,000 Reed's already raised, an unnamed donor has stepped up with an additional \$5K, and Gladewater council members last month re-upped the city's \$15,000 commitment.

"It's going to be gorgeous," Reed told the council last month. "I think this would be a nice investment for our downtown area."

In particular, she said, the tree adds to the excitement of events like downtown's annual Holiday Open House in November and the Gladewater Christmas Parade in December.

The current tree's showing its age, though.

"At night the tree is beautiful, but during the daytime, we're lacking," Reed said.

Erecting the central decoration is also becoming more and more challenging for city workers as the equipment ages.

Ultimately, council member Teddy Sorrells' motion to approve the \$15,000 expense "for a better quality of life" was unanimously approved by the council.

Mayor Scott Owens requested Gladewater Economic Development Corporation help defray the city's contribution to the new tree to the tune of \$5,000. After considering the pitch during the regular GEDCO board meeting in mid-December, the organization's directors opted to table the issue until a finalized quote is in-hand.

## Read Local

Local company.  
Local journalists.  
Local stories.

## Gladewater council moves forward on \$2.8M water project

By James Draper

Earlier this month, the Texas Water Development Board approved financial assistance of almost \$2.8 million for the City of Gladewater for planning, design and construction a local water system improvements.

On Thursday, Gladewater City Council members unanimously-approved the selection of three firms to move the project forward.

Seeking proposals, "We only received one for bond counsel, one engineering firm and one financial advisor," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said. "We only received three, in that order, and that's what we chose.

"We've done business with all of these guys before."

The council's unanimous vote chose McCall Parkhurst & Horton LLP as Bond Counsel, Schaumburg & Polk for Engineering Services and Specialized Public Finance Inc. for Financial Advisory through the course of the project.

The council also rubber-stamped a rezoning request during their Dec. 21 meeting and updated the roster of the city's Charter Review Committee.

In a public hearing on the residential-to-commercial rezoning of 426 S. Tyler, City Hall's Al Harrison noted the spot is adjacent to Gladewater's Public Works Department.

As for the property, "Currently the front half of it is zoned commercial, the back half is zoned single-family," and owner Hank Pavlovsky of Valkyrie Holdings wants to build two quad-plexes in the rear section. "Seeing as how it's already commercial, which allows him to do multi-family," Harrison said, "we figured it was a better option, and for resale in the future, to have the whole lot commercial."

Pavlovsky will maintain his electrical business on the front portion of the space and intends for a property management company to oversee tenants.

"That's going to be good," council member Rocky Hawkins said. "It'll be more tax revenue."

The city's Planning & Zoning Board unanimously-approved the request before it reached council, and the city's elected officials gave unanimous 7-0 approval as well.

The council opted to postpone choosing a law firm to collect delinquent taxes, aiming to put it on their January agenda after an outstanding legal question is addressed.

After a brief discussion, the group unanimously-approved Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell to replace Leon Word on the charter review committee. The group includes Mayor Scott Owens in an ex-officio role as well as former Gladewater Mayor J.D. Shipp, Gladewater ISD Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark and Sam Cloud.

Already, Owens told the council, the committee has identified 12 charter issues: "We'll have others to come and bring to you in January or February for consideration," he said. Several council members said they'll also be submitting notes on proposed charter updates.



Gladewater Public Works personnel put the city's new wood chipper to the test Wednesday morning alongside Mayor Scott Owens, and they plan to be out and about chipping on a monthly basis. Residents should call the city at 903-845-2196 to get their home on the rotation then pile their green waste for the chipper at the curb so it's in easy reach — city employees can't go into a homeowners' yard to pick up the tree debris. Importantly, "This is not construction material. It's not for a commercial operation," Owens noted. That said, in time "Hopefully you'll be able to come and get free mulch from this also."

Photo by James Draper

## City begins cleaning up wood debris

Gladewater Public Works personnel put the city's new wood chipper to the test last week alongside Mayor Scott Owens.

It took about a year and approximately \$45,000 to manifest (with East Texas Council of Governments covering about a third of the cost) and the aim's for the equipment to circulate through the community regularly to dispose of residents' limbs and brush.

"That thing is a powerful machine," Owens told council members Dec. 21.

The city will host monthly chipping days for anyone with yard debris who arranges a visit by the chipper by calling City Hall at 903-845-2196.

Importantly, "This is not construction mate-

rial. It's not for a commercial operation," Owens noted.

That said, "If you have limbs and things around your house, if you will cut them up and place them near the curb and call City Hall, once a month we're going to be coming by and chipping all this up.

Once they've made the call and gotten their house on the rotation, homeowners should then pile green waste for the chipper at the curb so it's in easy reach — city employees can't go into a resident's yard to pick up the tree debris.

In time, Owens said, "Hopefully you'll be able to come and get free mulch from this also."

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“Woman of the Year” awards. Also honored were Lois Reed with the “Marilyn Godfrey Volunteer Award” and Equipment Share was named “Business of Year.”

“Educator of Year” was Michael Jackson and Matt Smith was named “Youth of the Year.” The coveted “Bradley Award,” which was presented by Chamber President Lois Reed to those who went above and beyond the call of duty for the chamber throughout the year went to Elaine Roddy and Aaron Watson.

Gladewater’s four oldest continuous businesses were also recognized: The Gladewater Mirror - 95 years, J.O. Williams - 87 years, Brookshire’s - 75 years, and Shipp’s Marine - 65 years. The banquet also recognized the city’s 150th anniversary.

APRIL

Former Bardwellink owner/editor Suzanne Bardwell was elected to the Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame in April. Suzanne, along with her husband Jim, owned and operated the Gladewater Mirror, White Oak Independent and Lindale News & Times. She was killed in a car accident on Jan. 7, 2022. Suzanne was an award winning and highly respected journalist after a long, successful career as a teacher.

MAY

Upshur County taxpayers got upset in May when tax notices went out and property values skyrocketed. The Upshur County Appraisal District’s major increases in individuals’ taxable property valuations drew a storm of protests from a crowd of dozens in a standing-room-only meeting of the district’s board of directors.

JUNE

Suzanne Bardwell’s legacy endured in 2023 – look no further than the thriving Japanese Maple freshly planted in downtown Gladewater. The crimson-leaved tree is not only a tangible example of Bardwell’s dedication to beautifying her adopted community but also a tribute to her ‘We can do this’ mantra. It’s one her colleagues from Gladewater’s Beautification Board remembered fondly as they gathered to honor their late chairperson alongside family and friends.

“She was our leader and she was our driving force,” said Todd Clifton, Austin Bank president and leader of the beautification committee. “When Suzanne was determined to do something, she was all in. It wasn’t a little bit. She was gung-ho.”

The dam at Lake Gladewater, the community’s only water source and a ‘critical asset,’ took front and center in June as the dam infrastructure was evaluated.

Local officials focused on protecting, maintaining and enhancing the lake, but aspects of the dam have been allowed to deteriorate across years and decades. Changing administrations, staff turnover, evolving priorities, mixed messaging, incomplete information – there are a variety of causes, but at least a consensus is rising to the surface. Some elements of the dam are now approaching critical condition. Some, perhaps, are already at that point or past it. Considering the whole, there’s a growing sense of urgency driving a fresh dialogue among the community’s leadership.

In general, the dam has voids in the concrete spillway to leaks to slough off the earthen dam to a litany of other needs, large and small, that must be tended – some immediately. Officials said “The focus has been on the fun part of the lake instead of understanding that we also have to protect this critical infrastructure. It needs a good long-term thought and vision process.”

JULY

A popular retired veteran East Texas fireman, Jared Scott



Maddox, was killed, and four persons injured, in an accidental explosion of fireworks and blaze at his rural Upshur County event center on Independence Day, July 4.

Maddox was pronounced dead at the scene by Upshur County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes. Upshur County officials said Maddox and all the injured were preparing at his business, Firehouse 9 Farm and Event Center, for a professional fireworks display that night in Kilgore when the accident occurred.

Also in July, Kimberly Alexander, 61, of White Oak was found shot and killed and her husband was arrested and jailed as the suspected murderer. James Michael Alexander, Sr’s bond was set at \$250,000. The 63-year-old man had two shell casings linked to his wife’s murder still in his pants pocket when he was arrested two days after her body was discovered.

AUGUST

Both White Oak and Gladewater city councils wrestled with service issues in August. For White Oak - after keeping water rates as low as possible as long as possible, the future caught up with the City of White Oak. Aging infrastructure is pitted against growing demand, resulting in water rates to climb.

But basic services cost money and citizens were forced to pay more for their water.

And In Gladewater, the issue at hand was trash cans and how to get residents to pull them back off the street after trash pick-up. Some residents weren’t cooperating with the city’s ordinance, so the council set a fine of up to \$500 if they run afoul of the relevant municipal code, but city leaders agreed they haven’t been putting any sting behind the regulation.

Also, on the municipal front – Gladewater Mayor Scott Owens proudly announced – as many East Texas mayors did – that the city’s 2024 tax rate would be about 10-cents lower than the current rate – 0.626978 compared to 0.739089. While that would normally be good news, with this year’s property appraisals soaring in Gregg and Upshur counties – local taxpayers paid the same - if not more taxes - than this year.

On the education front - three local high schools began working together with Kilgore College to open the workforce to students as soon as they’re ready.

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

SEPTEMBER

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

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

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

In addition to Miss Gladewater and Miss Gregg County, Balcorta – daughter of Sakkinah and Paul Balcorta – was named Gladewater High School’s 2023 Homecoming Balcorta crowned Miss Gregg County Queen earlier in the month.

OCTOBER

“You are Gladewater. You showed up. You showed out. You showed your heart.” That’s how Education Foundation Gladewater president Katie Ellis shared the good news to a packed house at Tempest Club for the fourth annual fund-raiser’s night’s activities that netted about \$65,000 for the foundation and its efforts to fuel innovation in classrooms throughout the district. The evening’s tally included some \$16,000 in table sponsorships, almost \$6,000 from sponsors and more than \$42,000 in auction proceeds.

In White Oak, city council members gave the green-light to the formation of a summer-collegiate team tied to White Oak’s ballpark. The team name’s to be determined as the organizers of East Texas Sports & Entertainment prepare to reach out to the community for ideas. That name, too, is temporary while they develop a localized ‘Piney Woods’ moniker, but they’re hitting the gas to get things lined up well-ahead of a May 2024 debut.

NOVEMBER

A Gilmer man was charged with capital murder in connection with the slayings of two sisters in rural Upshur County. Alvin Charles McKnight Jr., 41, fled the area and was later arrested in California and brought back to Upshur County.

He is charged in the deaths of Mandy Ray, 35, and Dermetrica Dashaunda Waters,

37. They were killed at Ray’s residence in the 2800 block of U.S. 271 south near Bluebird Road south of Gilmer, authorities said.

Laquesha Monique McKnight, 38, of Longview, was arrested by Longview police officers and bond was set at \$500,000 after being charged with hindering her brother’s apprehension.

DECEMBER

Greater Longview United Way held its 12th Book Vending Machine ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of their Read to Succeed program, a first for Gladewater ISD, at Gladewater Primary School. Read to Succeed is an education initiative of Greater Longview United Way dedicated to promoting literacy and a love for reading among children in the community. Through innovative initiatives like Read to Succeed, the organization aims to make books more accessible to children, fostering a lifelong passion for learning.

Gladewater Mirror publisher Jim Bardwell has agreed to pay to keep the vending machine full of books on behalf of his late wife Suzanne, who was a teacher and a passionate reader. Suzanne also was instrumental in saving the Gladewater city library after an ice/snow storm nearly destroyed it. The library was renamed in her honor - Lee-Bardwell Public Library.

Gladewater wrapped up the year with good news - the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved financial assistance in the amount \$2,791,380 to the City of Gladewater, consisting of \$850,000 in financing and \$1,941,380 in principal forgiveness, from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The city will use the assistance for the planning, design, and construction of a water system improvement project. In addition to the loan forgiveness, the City could save approximately \$274,000 over the life of the loan by using the DWSRF.

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## Coach Murphy among THSCA 2024 Hall of Honor inductees

The THSCA Board of Directors announced the 2024 Hall of Honor inductees and Gladewater coach Jack Murphy is among the honorees.



These exceptional individuals joining Murphy in the Hall of Honor include - Ken Cook, Lee Bridges, Chris Koetting and Mel Maxfield - will be celebrated at the THSCA Hall of Honor Banquet, sponsored by Balfour, on July 20 at 7 p.m.. The event will take place at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio coinciding with the annual THSCA Coaching School and Convention from July 21 to 23, 2024.

Tickets will be available starting March 1.

Coach Jack Murphy, a graduate of Chapel Hill High School, distinguished himself as a three-year letterman, earning recognition as an all-district linebacker and team captain. His athletic journey continued at Tyler Junior College, where he excelled as an all-conference tackle and earned a spot on the Junior College All-American Team. Following

his tenure at Tyler, he transitioned to Tulsa University, showcasing his football prowess over three impactful years.

Murphy's coaching odyssey commenced in 1961 at Tulsa as a graduate assistant before assuming roles at Clarendon High School and subsequently becoming the head junior high coach at Judson Longview. However, it was in 1965 that Murphy embarked on his enduring legacy at Gladewater High School, initially serving as an assistant football coach before assuming the mantle of head coach in 1969.

A piece in the *Tyler Morning News* in October 1995 commemorated Murphy's achievements, noting his versatility in coaching winless teams, guiding state semifinalist squads, and everything in between. In pursuit of his 200th career victory at Gladewater, Murphy's dedication shone brightly.

Murphy's coaching journey at Gladewater spans 27 illustrious years, marked by remarkable milestones. From 1982 to 1992, his teams secured playoff berths for 11 consecutive seasons, reaching the quarterfinals on five occasions and clinching 38 consecutive district games.

Beyond wins and losses, Murphy's coaching ethos centers on molding character. His focus extends beyond the game, emphasizing life lessons. Teaching young men to exhibit class, respect, and integrity is his ultimate goal. 'They grow up and they become something or somebody,' reflects Murphy on his coaching philosophy.

In endorsement of Coach Murphy, his brother, Don Murphy, affirms: 'Jack's unwavering dedication as a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association for 35 years and his tenure as head football coach at Gladewater High School speak volumes. His accomplishments rival those of other esteemed coaches previously honored.'

Oscar Cripps, sharing a two-decade-long association with Murphy, lauds his leadership, both in coaching and in shaping young minds: 'Jack's willingness to engage in discussions about football, mentoring kids, and life reflects his dedication to both the sport and the development of future outstanding citizens.'

Jack Murphy's contributions extend beyond the field; he served on the THSCA Board of Directors from 1984 to 1988.

## "Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

### Gone But Not Forgotten

The story goes that Yogi Berra was at an Old-Timers Game at Yankee Stadium. As the scoreboard displayed the names of the New York players who had died, Yogi looked at a friend and said, "Boy I hope I never see my name up there!" He sure had a way with words. I was reviewing a list of people who passed away in 2023 and noticed a large number of baseball players. You already know about my admiration for Brooks Robinson and what he meant to me; I'd like to pay tribute to some others.

As a kid I was a Yankees fan. Joe Pepitone was a first baseman who was flashy on and off the field. It has been reported that he was very particular about his hair and was the first to bring a blow dryer into the locker room. I was crushed when New York was upset by the Pirates in the 1960 World Series. The Pittsburgh shortstop was Dick Groat, who also won a Series in 1964 with the Cardinals. Groat is one of only thirteen in history who played both Major League Baseball and in the National Basketball Association. Three others from the '64 Cardinals died in 2023 - Tim McCarver, Mike Shannon, and Roger Craig.

McCarver was a catcher who was a favorite receiver for Bob Gibson and Steve Carlton. He entered the Hall of Fame as a television Commentator. Mike Shannon was a St. Louis native who played for the Cards for nine years and was their radio broadcaster for fifty years. Roger Craig, who had also pitched for the original New York Mets team in 1962, went on to become a renowned pitching coach and manager.

Along about this time I was accumulating a baseball card collection. I remember opening a pack to find Jesus Alou and learned that he had two brothers (Felipe

and Mateo) who were also on the San Francisco Giants. In 1963 they made history by playing together in the same outfield. That record will probably never be broken.

The Oakland A's helped revolutionize the game in the early 70's. Sporting green and gold uniforms and white shoes, they had long hair and sideburns, were paid bonuses by their owner to grow mustaches and won back-to-back-to-back Championships from '72 to '74. Their team captain was Sal Bando, who later became a general manager for the Brewers. The other player from that team who died in 2023 was pitcher Vida Blue. In 1971 he won both the Cy Young and Most Valuable Player awards, one of only eleven players to accomplish that feat. One of the other ten was Willie Hernandez with the Tigers in 1984, who also passed away this year.

In 1972, the Washington Senators moved to Arlington and became the Texas Rangers. One of their original players was catcher Ken Suarez. After he retired from baseball, he lived in Fort Worth and was a regular at Ranger alumni events. Another legend lost was Frank Howard. The "gentle giant" was well known for his tremendous power. He hit the last home run by a Senator, and the first home run by a Ranger. The other Texas Ranger we lost in 2023 was Pat Corrales, a fan favorite who coached and managed in the late '70's.

These are just a few highlights from the careers of those players. I am grateful for their contributions to my baseball memories.

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

## GEDCO assisting in Sasquatch's Trading Post's expansion

Gladewater's Sasquatch is getting even bigger.

With a bit of help from Gladewater Economic Development Corporation, local salvage grocer and auctioneer Martin Pessink aims to add an additional 1800 square-foot building at The Sasquatch's Trading Post at 701 W. Upshur Ave.

Gladewater City Council members signed off on GEDCO's 'Project Big Man Expand' following a brief closed session discussion during their end-of-year session Dec. 21. Bottom line, the business will receive a \$25,000 incentive from the local EDC upon successful completion of some key milestones tied to the project.

Pessink was the first recipient of GEDCO's Grow Gladewater Grant earlier this year, putting the economic develop-

ment corporation's public revenues to use to enhance his property and, consequently, enhance the local economy. The latest project goes beyond the grant program's parameters, however, which prompted Gladewater EDC to develop a standard project with the operation.

"The Sasquatch Trading Post is in need of expanding their facility to accommodate shipments they are currently have to turn away," said Michelle Palmer, executive director at the EDC. "This expansion will enable them to serve the public at a greater capacity."

"They are planning to build a 60x30 metal building to house an industrial freezer. They'll also have a new repackaging area that will free up space in their current building, and it will provide much-needed storage."

To receive the project incentive, the business' covenants include spending \$200,000 on property improvements as well as \$60,000 on FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment), all by Dec. 31, 2024 along with securing a Certificate of Occupancy on the new building by the same date.

Once the Trading Post receives the \$25,000 boon, long-term expectations include maintaining retail operations for the next five years while maintaining a minimum of six part-time employees, "which they expect to far exceed in the upcoming couple of years," Palmer said.

Overall, she noted, the value of the incentive was calculated based on the project's anticipated benefit to the community in increased property taxes and sales tax: "The net benefit warranted this particular amount."

# SPORTS

## Gladewater, White Oak basketball roundup

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears basketball team wrapped up their pre Christmas break portion of the home schedule on Tuesday, December 19th as they hosted the Winnsborro Red Raiders.

It was a close game after 1 quarter as it was tied 11-11, but Winnsborro took over in the 2nd quarter shutting out the Bears 20-0 in their way to a 57-33 victory. The Bears are now 1-14 on the season and will participate in the Hawkins Holiday tournament December 27th-29th.

The Lady Bears are on their holiday break and will be back in action on January 2nd with a road game at Beckville.

Moving over to White Oak, the Rough-

Necks were off this past week and will be back in action this coming week as they get ready to take part in the Teneha tournament beginning on Wednesday, December 27th. The LadyNecks fell in their only action this week, falling 46-40 to Big Sandy on Monday, December 18th. Elyse Paiz had 11 points in the loss for White Oak.

Lauryn Rosado added 10 points, Graycen Sipes nine, Gentry Whittington six and Kalyn Hepler four. Hepler also had five rebounds, and Whittington added five steals and three rebounds. Peyton Thompson chipped in with four rebounds.

White Oak now sits at 7-9 on the season and will be back in action in the new year on January 5th when they open district play with a road game at Hughes Springs.

## GEDCO's ready to turn the page, launch projects for New Year '24

PRESS RELEASE

Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Palmer's ready to build a successful 2024 on the gains of 2023.

"We are in the process of reviewing the strategic plan to update it for the next two years," Palmer said. "I'm doing a deep dive into the strategic plan to really break it apart and see what is productive, what goals we may want to pivot toward a new direction and, now that we have a more robust foundation than ever, what do we want to take away from this?"

Early in the year, GEDCO spearheaded a successful Job Shadow Day with Kilgore College, putting Gladewater High School seniors into workplaces throughout the community. Likewise, February's 'Walk Down Memory Lane' event gave GISD alumni one last chance to tour the old middle/high school before its slated renovations.

"We collaborated with Gladewater 150 to be able to do that," Palmer said, coordinating with the buyers of the historic property. "The closure is still pending, but we're almost there. Former students wanted to go through and walk the building before they didn't have the chance. We opened it up and gave tours throughout the building on a set path."

"The buyers of the building actually came in that day and brought their families to walk them through the building. It was a really cool experience."

February also saw the launch of the Grow Gladewater Grant Program and, within just a couple of months, its first recipient - licensed salvage grocer and auctioneer Martin Pessink successfully applied for and received funds to make necessary upgrades to 'The Sasquatch's Trading Post'



on Highway 80.

The grant program went through its first revision this month ahead of, hopefully, a stack of applications in the new year.

"We're beating the bushes looking for people to apply," Palmer said. "We have funds available, and we want them to go to qualifying applicants who are going to put the monies to use to better our community and enhance our economy by investing in their properties. That won't happen without applicants, and it's not a complicated application at all."

Spring brought a change to the GEDCO board: the organization thanked Laura Talley for her years of dedicated service as a director and welcomed a new volunteer board member, Danny Darden.

Meanwhile, "We had a huge emphasis on training and education this year," Palmer said, as well as networking. She completed multiple accredited classes necessary for certification in economic development. "I went through two week-long sessions and have acquired more than 80 college hours," putting her enhanced experience to work here and in interactions with other EDCs through multiple conferences.

"Those have benefited us in connections that have involved GEDCO in regional projects that we wouldn't have an open door to otherwise."

For example, in 2023 GEDCO helped ensure Gladewater (through East Texas Council of Governments) was part of a grant

award from the Environmental Protection Agency. The funds cover the initial, Phase I assessment of potential contaminants on the site of the former laundromat at 705 W. Upshur Ave.

Another emphasis in 2023 was promotion and education: GEDCO's ongoing sponsored articles aim to inform the public of the organization's role while a new marketing firm has expanded the EDC's presence on social media. The ongoing enhancement of GladewaterEDC.com is shooting for the same target as the New Year dawn.

GEDCO has multiple ongoing projects in-house, coordinating with various prospects. One, 'Project Big Man Expand' was ratified by the Gladewater City Council Dec. 21. Two more are in their final stages and will likely be announced in some form early in '24.

"I have another which is an entity collaboration that I am eager to get approved and get announced at the beginning of the year," Palmer said. In the meantime, the organization will continue educating the public about the EDC and its activities in order to seed more development: "We don't want GEDCO to be an unknown. We want it to be an organization that is public-facing, future-forward and transparent."

"I want the public to feel comfortable coming to see us, asking questions and referring their friends, associates and business leaders to us to increase the awareness of what Gladewater and its economy have to offer."

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**ACROSS**

1 "\_\_\_ 2" (twice the speed of sound)

5 Kick \_\_\_ Traditional Tribe of Texas

6 small channel made by running water

7 "\_\_\_ Bird" Johnson

8 retire. acct.

9 TXism: "confused \_\_\_ \_\_\_ on astroturf"

16 stock exchange for Texas-based Caterpillar (abbr.)

18 newspaper in Houston or Double Mountain

21 TXism: "can't hunt with \_\_\_ empty gun"

22 "the \_\_\_ of society" (problems)

23 once Egypt and Syria (abbr.)

24 "get \_\_\_ on reality" (quit fantasizing)

30 like 37-across

34 TXism: "dance with who brung \_\_\_"

35 TX rancher Chuck Norris film: "An \_\_\_ an Eye"

36 subdivision of a military grouping

37 "March of \_\_\_"

39 Border \_\_\_

45 TX-\_\_\_ Weekend

46 extra points (abbr.)

47 TXism: "cream \_\_\_ the top" (quality)

49 Beyonce and Willie are Texas \_\_\_

52 WFAA-TV commercial this Otto directed TX Linda Darnell in 1945 "Fallen Angel" (init.)

54 Fort Stockton's county

9 Texas summer necessity (abbr.)

10 TXism: "could wear his work \_\_\_ church social" (lazy)

11 PBS "\_\_\_ Guthrie Show" was filmed in Austin

12 popular Texas pastime

13 type of kickoff

14 smart machines abbr.

15 private univer. in Fort Worth

17 TXism: "looks good \_\_\_ give a sermon" (dressed up)

19 onesies, e.g.

20 TXism: "wipes the slate clean"

24 smart enough to be a Texan, Albert (init.)

25 cheat or swindle

26 TX Chester Nimitz became a \_\_\_ admiral in 1938

27 TXism: "attacked like grandma \_\_\_ chicken snake"

28 sleazy

29 college teachers (abbr.)

31 dir. from Plainview to Borger

32 "don't \_\_\_ all your hopes on it"

33 in Shelby County on U.S. 59 & 84

38 ditches around castles

40 Texas tall tale

41 biblical donkey

42 caught off guard

48 gem found in coastal Texas

50 pegs for 12-down

51 Texas-based Blue Bell \_\_\_ cream

56 some Texans put \_\_\_ panels on their roofs

57 seat of DeWitt County

See Answers On This Page

### Moratorium remains on permits to dispose of yard debris

There's a local moratorium on Gladewater's permits to dispose of yard debris, but that doesn't mean residents can't sit outside and warm themselves by the fire this season.

During the Gladewater City Council's regular session Thursday evening, City Manager Charlie Smith reiterated the current permit pause only applies to disposal burns while Fire Chief Mike Simmons updates local regulations.

That said, "You can have a ceremonial fire, a warning fire, a cooking fire in your yard," Smith noted. "If you have a fire pit and want to do those things, it just has to be six square feet, nothing large. "You don't have to get a permit from the city to do that. You can burn sticks and things under those circumstances."

As for the update to the guidelines goes, Smith noted there'll soon be a local primer on the dos and don'ts of outdoor burns inside city limits.

"We're going to meet with TCEQ after the first of the year at the library, and we're going to invite the public to come talk to TCEQ regarding the burn regulations throughout the state," Smith concluded. "I think that'll be a good thing."

In his regular city manager's report, Smith also reported the extensive road rehabilitation of Hendrix Street is almost ready to begin.

"We're going to try to get that thing kicked off about January 2," Smith said, noting he's been in dialogues with Gladewater ISD about the work. "That's moving right along."

Also, he added, there's been a surprise development at Lee-Bardwell Public Library, an end-of-year, long-belated gift for the sake of city history.

"There's a lot of microfilm-type stuff at the library with old newspapers," Smith noted, and librarian Brandy Winn has been on the lookout for grants to help cover the cost of digitizing the resources to make it readily-accessible to locals and other researchers.

In a happy discovery, Winn recently learned the late Suzanne Bardwell, one of the library's staunchest advocates and it's co-namesake, had already gotten the ball rolling – and then some.

"(Winn) found out when she started making phone calls that Suzanne had already started that process," Smith said, successfully getting grant funds on tap. Thanks to Bardwell's efforts before her death in January 2022, "No cost."

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# Soar Into 2024 With a First Day Hike

AUSTIN— As the year ends, so does Texas State Parks' Centennial Celebration, but the fun doesn't stop when the clock strikes midnight. Kick off your resolution to explore the outdoors in 2024 with a First Day Hike at a state park, which will host ranger-guided and self-guided walks, bike rides, paddling trips and polar plunges in honor of the national initiative aimed at getting people outdoors.

Last year, nearly 8,000 participants shattered the previous attendance record New Year's Day by ringing in Texas State Parks' 100th birthday with a First Day Hike. Texans across the state traveled to one of the 83 participating parks and hiked, biked and paddled a combined 17,190 miles.

"Texas State Parks' staff had so much fun celebrating the 100th birthday with the people of Texas this year," said Rodney Franklin, director of Texas State Parks. "Last

year, Texas led the nation in First Day Hikes participation and miles walked. We invite everyone to come back and be part of the fun again this year as we usher in the next century of memories. Whether visiting for the first time, or returning to your favorite park for more fun, there's something for everyone to enjoy."

Trails at Texas State Parks range in length and difficulty levels. Some short, easy trails are perfect for family-friendly scenic strolls, while more strenuous ones can challenge experienced hikers. Trail maps for all Texas State Parks can be found on TPWD's website, the recently redesigned official Texas State Park app and individual park webpages.

"I am thrilled to see the continued growth and success of the First Day Hikes program," said Lewis Ledford, executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors. "This initiative has



become a cherished tradition, providing individuals and families with the opportunity to embrace the outdoors, and kick off the year with a commitment to health and well-being."

TPWD strongly encourages anyone planning a trip to a Texas state park to reserve a day pass in advance since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Reserve day passes online through the TPWD reservation website or by calling (512) 389-8900.

## OBITUARY

### ROBERT "DOC" BURNETT

Early morning, November 12, 2023, Robert "Doc" Burnett passed away peacefully at Houston Methodist Hospital, surrounded by loved ones.

Robert was born to Robert F. And Hellen M. Burnett in 1958 in Lenard, TX.

He lived a full life serving in the Air force, raising three sons and sharing his love and wisdom with those around him. He enjoyed working with his hands, often tinkering with anything mechanical or electronic and was a skilled woodworker.

Robert is preceded in death by his 3 sons John, Eric and Gregory his sister, Beverly Nuckles. He will be laid to rest at the Houston National cemetery.

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# A LOOK BACK AT 2023

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 21 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**Happy Graduation**  
Class of 2023

**150th fly-in celebration lands**

**Local Memorial Day event on tap for downtown**

**'Necks keeping state crown in sight'**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, June 1, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 22 | 1 Section, 12 pages | 50¢

**Saying 'Thank You' on Memorial Day**

**Bardwell's living legacy continues**

**Town Hall on streets set**

**Roughneck Superintendent enjoys smooth start at ISD**

**Texas journalists induct Bardwells into state's top press circles**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, June 15, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 23 | 1 Section, 12 pages | 50¢

**Rodeo rides into town 86 years and going strong**

**Dam'd ... if they don't**

**Round-Up Rodeo beats rain, posts successful 86th event**

**'We're hoping to make it better'**

**21 months of growth posted in Gladewater**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, June 22, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 24 | 1 Section, 9 pages | 50¢

**We'll get through this**

**East Texas recovers after hurricane-like storm**

**City stresses streets at packed town hall meeting**

**More parents work transfers for kids into WOOD schools**

**White Oak works to close gap between local, state valuations**

**First responders recognize helpers after storm**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, July 6, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 25 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**Lake wardens discussion underway**

**City gets clean earth report**

**Storm Round-Up ...**

**Former Lion roars down the track**

**White Oak FFA finds Gold at convention**

**Local schools join KC for workforce program**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, July 20, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 26 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023**

**Storm Round-Up ...**

**Former Lion roars down the track**

**White Oak FFA finds Gold at convention**

**Local schools join KC for workforce program**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, July 27, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 27 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**City Hall lays groundwork for FY-2024**

**Former Lion roars down the track**

**White Oak FFA finds Gold at convention**

**Local schools join KC for workforce program**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, July 27, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 28 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**White Oak seeking water rate increase**

**Fireworks mishap leaves 1 dead, 4 hurt**

**City Hall lays groundwork for FY-2024**

**Former Lion roars down the track**

**White Oak FFA finds Gold at convention**

**Local schools join KC for workforce program**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, July 27, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 29 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**White Oak council rules it needs rules**

**More parents work transfers for kids into WOOD schools**

**White Oak works to close gap between local, state valuations**

**First responders recognize helpers after storm**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, August 3, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 30 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**Salary gaps discussed at budget workshop**

**County may cut property taxes**

**Don't get trashed by can ordinance**

**Local restaurant health inspections limited**

**State sales tax free weekend set for Aug. 11-13**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, August 10, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 31 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**BURN BAN IN EFFECT**

**White Oak water rates going up**

**Don't get trashed by can ordinance**

**Local restaurant health inspections limited**

**State sales tax free weekend set for Aug. 11-13**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, August 17, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 32 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**White Oak seeking water rate increase**

**Fireworks mishap leaves 1 dead, 4 hurt**

**City Hall lays groundwork for FY-2024**

**Former Lion roars down the track**

**White Oak FFA finds Gold at convention**

**Local schools join KC for workforce program**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, August 24, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 33 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**White Oak council rules it needs rules**

**More parents work transfers for kids into WOOD schools**

**White Oak works to close gap between local, state valuations**

**First responders recognize helpers after storm**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, August 31, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 34 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**Due Honors**

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

**LOOK INSIDE!**

**HOI on and off the field - stay safe**

**Local schools join KC for workforce program**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, August 31, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 35 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**White Oak council rules it needs rules**

**More parents work transfers for kids into WOOD schools**

**White Oak works to close gap between local, state valuations**

**First responders recognize helpers after storm**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 36 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**White Oak council ready to vote on tax, budget**

**Thank you for your service!**

**Balcorta, Clinkscales competing for Miss Gregg County crown**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 37 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**Water, tax increases officially on tap for White Oak residents**

**White Oak council ready to vote on tax, budget**

**Thank you for your service!**

**Balcorta, Clinkscales competing for Miss Gregg County crown**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 38 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**Balcorta crowned Miss Gregg County**

**WISD's chief looks back at first 100 days**

**Councilman Anderson honored with street naming**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 39 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**Water level concerns prompt city to ask for conservation**

**Quick activities every night!**

**Councilman Anderson honored with street naming**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 40 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**Man sought in double homicide**

**Jury selection for murder trial on tap**

**October is deadly month for Texas pedestrians**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 41 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**First of two solar eclipses this Saturday**

**City, Union Pacific finalize land deal**

**FOOTBALL**

**City, Union Pacific finalize land deal**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 42 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**City ready to enforce trash container ordinance**

**Annual Fall Fest set for Saturday**

**FOR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES, JOIN IN 2023**

**FOOTBALL**

**City, Union Pacific finalize land deal**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 43 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**Antarctic adventure welcomes White Oak alum**

**Double homicide suspect extradited back to East Texas from California**

**First responders get ready for water rescues**

**Gladeater continues positive run on sales tax revenue**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 44 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**White Oak Football Boardwalk and Normans**

**Local VFDs among those getting rural volunteer fire department assistance funding**

**White Oak Football Boardwalk and Normans**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 45 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**Man sought in double homicide**

**Holiday Open House among full weekend**

**Veterans launch 'Up at 6' app**

**Take aim at Lion's 'Turkey shoot'**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 46 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**'We have heroes among us'**

**No local polling spot for Gladewater voters**

**Upshur murder suspect still at large**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 47 | 1 Section, 10 pages | 50¢

**Happy Thanksgiving**

**2023 THANKSGIVING DINNER**

**Double homicide suspect caught in California**

**Faith-based education outreach meets students 'where they are'**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 48 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**Antarctic adventure welcomes White Oak alum**

**Double homicide suspect extradited back to East Texas from California**

**First responders get ready for water rescues**

**Gladeater continues positive run on sales tax revenue**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 49 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**White Oak Football Boardwalk and Normans**

**Local VFDs among those getting rural volunteer fire department assistance funding**

**White Oak Football Boardwalk and Normans**

**Gladewater Mirror**  
Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023  
Vol. 95, No. 50 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

**FOOTBALL**

**Man sentenced in drunk driving case**

**Santa makes many steps Saturday**

**Man sentenced in drunk driving case**