

Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024

Vol. 96, No. 1

1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

Gay-Hagan Cemetery

'Each rock is a person.'

By James Draper

For the longest time, it seemed whenever James Beavers walked out on his back porch he'd hear some kind of noise from the supposedly vacant forestland across the way.

When he finally investigated, he came upon Harold Wells in the midst of the thicket. Hefting a gas-powered leafblower, he was painstakingly clearing the forest floor.

Putting in as many as four hours a day seven days a week for the past several years, the former Gladewater mayor has been gradually uncovering the graves of the long-neglected Gay-Hagan Cemetery off Phillip Springs Road. He's made a sizable dent, but there's plenty of work left to fully rehabilitate the final resting place of scores of the city's earliest settlers.

For many, there's just a rough-hewn stone marking their gravesite, and many of those rocks had been steadily buried over time. Apparently, the last major work at the site was then-Boy Scout Ryan Coker's Eagle Project in the early '90s when he cleaned the grove and marked graves with T-bars for future excavators.

Three decades later, Beavers is wowed by Wells' solo progress at the site – and frustrated that the 82-year-old's had to go it alone for so long – and he's intent to rally others to the task.

The City of Gladewater could pitch in more at the city-owned site, he insists. Organizations could lend a hand. Individuals should pitch in. Funeral homes. Surely, Beavers says, a grant writer could secure just a little bit of the millions of dollars available for such historical preservation work.

Heck, Wells says a front-end loader and a dump truck could make a huge difference in an afternoon.

"He's not getting paid a penny to do this. It's all volunteer," Beaver said. Many hands would make the work light: "Rally the troops."

It's easily a labor of love for Wells. "Each rock is a person."

Walking through the three-acre grounds, a good portion still obscured by fallen leaves and undergrowth, Wells introduces the families and individuals, recounting details from lives long past.

Research and cemetery 'reads' by contributors to the Upshur County and Gregg County TX GenWeb projects has preserved at least some of the information lost to erosion and vandalism.

From available records, the oldest grave in the cemetery is Elvey Shepperd (1779-1860). She reportedly came to Texas from South Carolina in 1845 and built one of the first homes in the area.

A stone's throw away, Wells notes a pile of rocks that likely indicates the otherwise unmarked graves of other early settlers: slaves brought here by Shepperd.

"We've got one veteran, and he's up yonder," Wells said, indicating a small, fresh American flag at the grave of Perry Hewitt, who fought in the Civil War.

Working from Coker's Eagle Scout efforts as well as other historians' additions, Wells puts the cemetery's total count somewhere between 150 and 180 individuals, many of them kin. Naturally, there could be more, lost to time.

"We don't care. That's what's too bad. But it'd be so easy, that's what bothers me, to get this stuff out of here."

An entry from 2010 notes a county effort that cleared the way to the cemetery along with brushwork by the City of Gladewater.

Coordinating with City Hall has gotten more brush cleared away in recent years, too, but there's plenty more where that came from. Wells will take all the help he can get.

"Once I get it cleared, I can just blow



Harold Wells (left) walks James Beavers through the Gay-Hagan Cemetery off Phillip Springs Road. Putting in hours a day across several years, Wells has managed to uncover numerous long-neglected graves at the site, some dating back before the founding of Gladewater. Photos by James Draper



A fresh American flag marks the gravesite of Civil War veteran Perry Hewitt.



Marked and unmarked graves and unearthed containers await excavation and identification.

it," he said. Between a leaf-blower, rake, hoe and lots of water, "I've about got it where if people wanted to come up here and walk, they could walk along the fence. It's beautiful down here."

He's hoping, at least, people will notice.

Clearly, it's happened before. There's evidence of private pains taken to replace old monuments. There are faded funeral home plac-

ards in place that preserved old graves. There are the standing T-bars installed by Coker.

And, there's a growing area, dutifully cleared of debris, primed for more.



Linda Allaire monitors her dispatch station in White Oak Police Department, a seat she manned for 45 years before her official retirement Dec. 28.

Photo by James Draper

White Oak dispatcher signs off

By James Draper

For 45 years, Linda Allaire was the voice of calm on the other end of the line.

She was there for callers enduring the worst moments of their lives. She was there for police officers and firefighters, sending them where help was needed. She trained successive generations of colleagues.

As the City of White Oak wrapped up 2023, it also closed the book on a much longer chapter of local history as the longtime emergency dispatcher put her receiver down for the last time.

"The dispatcher is your first person that you're going to talk to, either by regular phone, by 911 or in-person. That's where it all starts," Allaire says. It's impossible to collect 45 years of experience into a single conversation, but "Just have a lot of patience. You have to be sure and not take this home with you."

Allaire began her decades-long stint with the City of White's emergency services in February 1978. She handled daytime dispatch; Gregg

County covered the rest of the hours.

Looking around her post in today's White Oak Police Department, "When we moved down to this office, we went to 24 hours," she noted, bringing in new dispatchers to cover those other shifts. "I hired them and trained them."

Then and now, multitasking is an essential skill.

"We're a one-person office, so we answer the phone, we give out the calls over the radio, we answer 911, we transfer calls to other agencies. When you have a major event going on, you're having to do all that at once," Allaire said. "You have to be patient. You can't get overly-excited," especially since the people on the other end of the line are, in almost all cases, in crisis.

"You have to calm them down, so you can't get excited."

The City of White Oak celebrated Allaire's long service during the city council's regular monthly meeting Dec. 12. Her last working

Continued on Page 8

Weldon Auditorium's repairs frustrate GISD officials

Repairs to Gladewater ISD's Weldon Auditorium continue to frustrate staffers and district leaders.

Damages from June's severe weather were compounded by mold, and the latest details put the entire cost of repairs within GISD's insurance deductible.

Trustees discussed the issue briefly during their regular session Dec. 18, shaking their heads at, among other things, the towering \$150,000 pricetag for the scaffolding that's necessary to complete the repairs and revitalization of the structure.

"We're \$72,000 under the \$500,000 deductible," said GISD Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark. "That's the roof, that's the company doing the (asbestos) abatement and that's the rental of the scaffolding."

The auditorium discussion fol-

lowed a routine vote on Consent Agenda items (meeting minutes and bills) and a short Open Forum. Clark's regular Department Showcase spotlighted the district's Maintenance operations with an update from Director Matt McIntosh.

The department's areas of focus include district beautification, employing qualified personnel and building better relationships with campuses, he reported.

"We've developed a plan. Daily, we go out every morning and start picking up trash. The expected outcome is more attractive campuses," McIntosh said, praising Weldon Elementary School faculty for doing the same.

Trustee Garth Cockerell suggested incentivizing students to contribute to cleanup as well. For example, he added, a contest could inspire the younger grades; a

renewed sense of ownership could spur older students to help.

"Just being aware of the trash and things that are thrown to the ground," Cockerell added. "If people start taking a little pride... That's their campus. That's their classroom. That's their football stadium. That's their workout area. "Help the people that are taking care of the campuses."

The Maintenance topic prompted a question from GISD Board President Ross Morgan about the ongoing efforts to refresh the damaged auditorium.

"How is that going, and do you anticipate any more expenses?"

The overall project was originally, rough-estimated at \$625,000, but updated costs include \$178,000 for roof replacement, \$75,000 for asbestos abatement, \$25,000 for consultation and the \$150,000 cost

of the scaffolding.

"So, it's all ours anyway," Cockerell said. "That scaffolding. Wow." "I don't even know what to say," trustee Chris Thompson added.

"The abatement doesn't happen without the scaffolding," McIntosh replied, noting other expenses will include painting and carpet replacement.

In other business during the end-of-year meeting, GISD Chief Financial Officer Glenda Hickey presented her final financial reports. Later in the meeting, trustees accepted Hickey's resignation along with a handful of others and approved the employment of Candace Keller as CFO along with four other hires.

Coming out of the Texas Legislature, a slew of mandated policy updates drew almost no discussion with Clark recommending

approval: "These policy updates, as written and given to us by the Texas Association of School Boards, help us," he said, getting a unanimous 7-0 vote.

The board also signed off on a final cost of \$269,000 for four School Resource Officers and approved new security cameras at the middle school, up to \$55,000 for a new cattle trailer for the high school's Ag Department and \$35,000 for parking lot repairs at Gladewater Primary School.

At Thompson's suggestion, the elected officials opted to postpone a \$51,000 fund balance request (for repairs to the parking lot at the school's tax office) until after the auditorium is repaired.

According to trustee Rickie Blackmon, "We don't have any idea what the auditorium is going to end up until we get there."

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Small moments ...

From 2020

The “It’s a Wonderful Life” Christmas village is boxed up. Santa Mickey is back in the closet. Forgotten gifts for family members that were tucked away have been belatedly discovered only to be packed away...again, for next year.

It is time for a new year and a new attitude.

I must admit that this year I have been celebrating a “Blue Christmas”. Ghosts of Christmases past have filled my thoughts. The loss of Jack the Wonder Sheltie has also been weighing heavily on me. We adopted him on Christmas Eve a few years ago. If only I knew then what I know now.

In our search for a new pet we have discovered that many Collies and Shelties have a problem with the heart worm preventative/treatment Heartguard. The use of that drug may well have shortened our much loved Jack’s life. And that has led to my very bruised heart since I was the one taking care of his vet visits.

My dog loving hubby and I think we may be ready to bring a new wet-nosed, 4-legged family member home. We are in line to get a rescue Collie named King in a few weeks. King’s owner is dying and King has the blues too...bad.

I think this may be a situation where we can rescue each other and love each other out of those blues. We have worked on the fence, cleared the adoption process, paid our adoption fee and have bought the treats and stuffed animal that will hopefully help to begin winning the heart of this beautiful boy and healing all our hearts in the process.

Spate of new laws effective Jan. 1

After the Texas Legislature spent much of 2023 in session, a bevy of new laws go into effect on New Year’s Day, though some have been delayed by lawsuits challenging their constitutionality.

The Austin American-Statesman reported on SB 17, a new law that institutes a ban on programs and policies “designed or implemented in reference to race, color, or ethnicity” at Texas public universities or colleges — commonly known as diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI.

GOP lawmakers who pushed the ban through argued that DEI programs are divisive. Those opposing the ban said it would eliminate initiatives designed to help people of color feel more included on campus. Universities have already begun the process of renaming and eliminating the types of programs that will be outlawed under SB 17.

Another law taking effect in 2024 doubles the state franchise tax exemption, with up to \$2.47 million of a company’s annual taxable revenue being exempt.

Another measure that passed with bipartisan support creates a diversion program for juveniles accused of low-level offenses. Local governments now will be able to turn to rehabilitation services, job training, and alcohol and drug awareness programs as alternatives to more punitive measures.

HB 4758 makes it a crime for companies to target minors with advertising for e-cigarettes, the use of which by teens has increased markedly in the past decade.

Not all laws passed by lawmakers will take effect on Jan. 1 because of lawsuits filed after their passage. As The Dallas Morning News noted, a bill that prohibits sexually explicit performances in front of minors — and was targeted toward drag shows in particular — was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner ruled the ban violated performers’ free speech rights under the First Amendment. That decision is being appealed.

Another law that would regulate what books children can read in schools is still in effect. An initial ruling that it was unconstitutional was appealed to the 5th Circuit, which has yet to issue a ruling.

Medical board silent on abortion laws

The Texas Medical Board remains silent on how to interpret the state’s abortion laws, The Texas Tribune reported, despite a call from the Texas Supreme Court to offer more guidance to doctors on how to interpret the laws.

This came after the high court rejected a Texas woman’s bid to terminate a nonviable pregnancy that she maintained threatened both her health and ability to have future children. Kate Cox later obtained medical care out of state.

“While the judiciary cannot compel executive branch entities to do their part, it is obvious that the legal process works more smoothly when they do,” the justices wrote. In response, Dr. Sherif Zaafran, board chair, said the Texas Medical Board is not likely to do so while other court cases were proceeding.

“It wouldn’t be appropriate for us to start making any kind of movement or decisions while all that is out there still being adjudicated,” Zaafran told the Tribune.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



A radio preacher I was recently scanning past reminded listeners to enjoy life, just as it is, and to remember the joys of the past with gratitude. And I always have...been grateful.

It is nearly always the small moments that our lives are built from that often go unrecognized that deserve more of our gratitude.

Small moments like those that include the soulful eyes of a rescue dog. Or the first bloom of paper whites and daffodils. Daily laughter over the inconsequential. Holding my sweetheart’s hand at night. Good music, good food and good friends. Small moments.

Today I give thanks for the small moments that are like the tiny pieces in the puzzle box. Sometimes those small moments are hard to recognize until you connect the pieces. And when they are connected a beautiful life emerges. It is after all, perspective.

Small moments create ‘big’ memories, loves and lives that deserve our gratitude.

May our small moments in this new year not go unrecognized or unremarked. May our small moments be full of meaningful moments that matter.

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

Around and About ...

The seven largest metropolitan areas in Texas drive the overall pace of growth, accounting for nearly eight of every 10 net new jobs. Looking ahead over a long-term forecast horizon (through 2050), this pattern appears likely to persist. Let’s take a brief tour of the highlights of our latest projections.

Through 2050, our analysis indicates that the fastest growing population centers as measured by job gains will be the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Dallas-Plano-Irving Metropolitan Division (MD). In each of these regions, diverse and dynamic economies are expected to expand in both traditional and emerging sectors, and we are projecting that wage and salary employment will increase at a 1.57% annual rate, significantly faster than the overall state pace of 1.41%.

For the Fort Worth-Arlington-Grapevine MD, broad-based expansion is expected to generate jobs at an annual rate of 1.45%. The McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA economy is also progressing impressively, with employment expansion projected to be 1.45% per year. The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA is the largest Texas metro area, comprising 24.33% of the state’s total population; we are anticipating a 1.41% annual employment increase for that area.

The San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA is expanding at a notable pace, but is slightly below the statewide rate of job growth; the forecast annual rate of escalation in employment is 1.35%. Modest economic expansion is projected for the El Paso area through 2050, with job gains at a yearly rate of 1.17%.

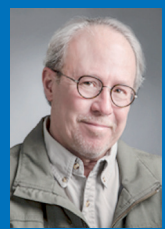
In addition to the large urban centers, the state’s smaller metropolitan areas are sources of notable business activity, both now and for the foreseeable future. Wage and salary employment expansion in several of these MSAs is forecast to match or exceed the state’s annual growth pace of 1.41% through 2050, including Tyler (1.54%), Brownsville-Harlingen (1.50%), Sherman-Denison (1.44%), and Midland (1.41%).

Our job growth rate projections through 2050 for the remaining MSAs include Odessa (1.39%), Waco (1.36%), College Station-Bryan (1.33%), Lubbock (1.32%), Laredo (1.30%), Longview (1.30%), Texarkana (1.29%), Corpus Christi (1.25%), Abilene (1.23%), Amarillo (1.21%), Killeen-Temple (1.21%), Wichita Falls (1.21%), San Angelo (1.15%), Beaumont-Port Arthur (1.13%), and Victoria (1.05%).

Business disruptions and unforeseen challenges are inevitable in our complex and dynamic economy, but our long-term outlook calls for economic expansion in each of the state’s metropolitan statistical areas. The largest population centers will lead the way, but smaller cities and rural areas will also contribute significantly to the state’s overall performance. This outlook is a testament to the diversity of this massive state that seems to have a little bit (in many cases, a lot) of everything.

All of us at The Perryman Group wish you a joyous holiday season and all the best in the coming year. Stay safe!

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Paxton must testify in whistleblower trial

A state district judge ruled last week that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton must testify in a whistleblower case that led to his impeachment and subsequent acquittal. That case revolves around Paxton’s dealings with developer Nate Paul, who is under federal indictment for wire fraud, The News reported.

Four top deputies were fired after reporting Paxton’s dealings with Paul to the FBI. A \$3.3 million settlement with the whistleblowers fell apart when the Legislature refused to fund it. The former deputies claimed, among other allegations, that Paxton “created a legal opinion to prevent the foreclosure sales of several of Paul’s properties.”

Paxton’s attorneys are appealing the judge’s ruling. The whistleblower case is more than three years old. Paxton remains under federal investigation and faces trial in early 2024 for a nearly nine-year-old state securities fraud indictment.

Inspectors out checking natural gas facilities

Inspectors for the Texas Railroad Commission were out in force in December, conducting weatherization inspections at hundreds of critical natural gas facilities across the state to ensure adequate gas supply this winter.

The RRC said inspectors have checked 99% of the facilities that directly connect to electric generating plants — including gas processing plants, underground storage facilities and pipelines.

“The commission will continue to inspect these facilities multiple times during the winter season,” Wei Wang, executive director, said. “In total, we expect to conduct more than 5,600 inspections of critical gas facilities on the electric supply chain map.”

Another important factor is the amount of natural gas stored in underground facilities that would be available if the state is hit with another severe winter storm, such as Winter Storm Uri in 2021, or the ice storm last February. The amount stored is up 6% from the same time last year and is the highest winter level seen in the past six years.

Unclaimed pot of money grows to \$9 billion

Texas has almost \$9 billion in “unclaimed property,” according to kut.org. This includes funds from paychecks, refunds, deposits and dormant bank accounts. If the money hasn’t been claimed after a few years, the asset holder, such as a bank, must send the funds to the Texas Comptroller.

The amount that gets returned to the rightful owner is only a fraction of the amount sent to the office. For example, in fiscal year 2023, the state collected \$1.1 billion but only returned about a third of that amount, or \$340 million.

Folks can find out whether the state is holding money that belongs to them by going to ClaimItTexas.gov.

EVOLVING STANDARDS OF DECENCY

In 1958, Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren spoke of the “*evolving standards of decency*.” The implication was that when it comes to morality, change is progress. The late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, in an essay, coined the phrase “*defining deviancy down*.” His thesis was that, as a society, America has been “*re-defining deviancy*” exempting conduct, that was previously stigmatized, and quietly raising the “*normal*” level for behavior that was abnormal by earlier standards. Therefore, America has simply redefined deviancy down by explaining away and making normal what a civilized, ordered, and healthy society long ago labeled “*deviant*.” On the flip side, innocent behavior is fast becoming condemned as deviant! In this way the real deviants are unmasked, and, of course, appear to be not Bonnie and Clyde, but Ozzie and Harriet. Who can deny that we are seeing evolving standards of decency, and the reason is, we are defining deviancy down?

Such is certainly seen in the sexual realm with the predominance of the LGBTQ phenomenon. First, it was same-sex marriage, and now it is the transgender phenomenon. Today we are being told that you are whatever you feel you are. Young people are confused as we move further along the ever-changing gender-neutral road. Biology, science and decency are being ignored as the concepts of masculinity and femininity are being destroyed in young children. For example, Mattel, the manufacturer of Barbie dolls, now has transgender dolls, and a Times Magazine article said: “*It can be a boy, a girl, neither, nor both.*” In public libraries “*drag queens*” are hosting story hours for children. Marriage has deteriorated to the point that it is defined according to one’s own desires. Anything goes, and young people are growing up with no understanding of what “*marriage*” and “*home*” really mean. Transgenderism is the latest behavior being defined by our sexually-crazed society as being normal, and we are told, not even parents have a right to question their young children about the perverted ideas being put into their minds. Gender is being redefined, and new “*gender*s” are being manufactured, and all of this is supposed to be progress, putting us on the right side of history. But progress in the wrong direction is not something to celebrate, especially when it goes against the natural order of creation, or even the established facts of science. We are fast normalizing the bizarre, leading to chaos, irrationality, and absurdity. “*We must return to the creation account to remind ourselves that God created only two genders: male and female. Without a belief in God as Creator, there is little hope in making sense of our lives and the roles we are intended to have in marriage, the family, and sexuality.*” WE Will Not Be Silenced p. 171-Erwin W. Lutzer.

Godlessness and aberrant sexuality always go hand in hand! (See Rom. 1: 21-25). Isaiah 5: 20 says: “*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.*” Think on these things.

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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

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.

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

Office Hours - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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., at 903-845-5501.

Forestry grant now open until 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/YiTR50Qhvyf>

Gilmer Chamber hosting banquet

The Longview String Quartet will perform at the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet Jan. 25.

Dinner will be served at 6



Gladewater Rotary Students of the Month were recognized recently - Addison Smith, Rylan Roberts, Jordan Fowler, Tristan Collins.

p.m. with the program starting at 7 p.m. at the Yamboree Event Center on Bob Glaze Drive near Walmart.

Several awards, including the outstanding citizen honor, will be presented at the event, theme of which is "One Ripple in Time," said chamber Executive Director Gloria McLuckie.

Individual tickets are \$30.

For more information, contact the chamber at 903-843-2413.

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, Jan. 4

"Lester's Dreadful Sweaters" by K.G. Campbell, and "The Mitten" by Jim Aylesworth, 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).

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.



A recent Rotary Club program was presented by Rotarian Scott Owens and featured Jackson, who was welcomed by Rotary President Darla Ferguson.

Upshur commissioners charging ISDs more for tax collection

By Phillip Williams

After a lengthy discussion in both closed and open session during its final meeting of 2023, Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday approved charging taxing entities more money to collect delinquent property taxes if the entities use a different law firm than the county now does for it.

The court also declined to act on accepting notices from three of the seven school districts centrally located in the county--Union Grove, Harmony and Big Sandy ISDs--that they were terminating their respective interlocal agreements with the county for collecting school taxes.

The court has for years used the Austin-based firm of Linebarger Attorneys at Law (which has attorneys throughout the nation) to collect delinquent taxes for all entities. The three school districts, however, want to use attorney Patrick Woods of the Tyler firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder and Collins.

While the county acknowledged the school districts' right to choose their delinquent tax attorney, County Judge Todd Tefteller said the county would charge entities not using Linebarger more for two reasons.

Using multiple law firms would require the county government hire more non-budgeted help in the county tax assessor-collector's office, and also cost the county more than the current \$30,000 yearly it pays to utilize the Linebarger-owned software used to bill for collecting, he said.

Linebarger would lose revenue by the schools changing to another firm, and Tefteller said he had heard the county's cost for using the software could thus rise to between \$180,000 and \$250,000.

"We don't have the money," the judge said, adding he had been advised that entities which continue using Linebarger would have to pay the additional cost.

Upshur GOP holds drawing for name placement on 2024 primary ballot

By Phillip Williams

The Republican Party of Upshur County held a drawing at Whataburger in Gilmer on Dec. 21 to determine the order of candidates' names on the party's March 5 county primary ballot, said Upshur GOP Chairman Carl Byers.

About 20 persons, including several candidates, attended, said Byers. The drawings were for offices ranging from Republican county chairman to sheriff to United States senator.

Other than individuals running for Upshur County public office, or for county Republican party offices, the only candidate attending was Dewey Collier, one of three contenders for the nomination for District 5 state representative, said Byers.

The order of names in the three contested races for county public office will be as follows, he announced:

Sheriff--Mark Case, incumbent Larry Webb. (Winner will face the only Democratic candidate for county office, Brandon "Bear" Williams, in the November general election).

Tax assessor-collector--Andreana Precious Smith, incumbent Luana Howell

Precinct 1 county commissioner--incumbent Gene Dolle, Lucrecia A. Davidson

In the state representative race (which involves several counties), the order on the Upshur ballot will be Collier, Jeff Fletcher, incumbent Cole Hefner. No Democrat is seeking the office.

The order of names in contested races for Upshur County Republican party offices will be as follows, said Byers. (The nine contested races for precinct chairmanships listed below are actually for seats on the county's GOP executive committee):

County chairman--Cynthia Ridgeway, Byers. Byers said his daughter, Abigail Byers, did the drawing, although both he and Ridgeway were present.

Precinct 2--incumbent Jesse Loffer, De'Borah Deaz

Precinct 4--William Brunhofer, incumbent Deborah J. Hodge

Precinct 8--Todd Quinn, David Hamblin

Precinct 10--Gary Wilson, incumbent Mary Anne Farrow H

Precinct 11--Cindy Hanson Walls, incumbent Brenda Kelsey Beal

Precinct 13--Nela McCurry Anderson, incumbent Stacy McMahan

Precinct 15--incumbent Lewis F. Miller, Jimmy M. Sanders

Precinct 17--Joe Dodd, incumbent Madison (Matt) Barrett

Precinct 20--Jackie P. Lum, Maria B. Marsalis

Local entities support GCAD's request for more parking

If the Gregg County Appraisal District top officials think their headquarters needs a larger parking lot, they're not going to get any pushback from Gladewater-area officials.

White Oak ISD, the City of White Oak, Gladewater ISD and, as of Thursday, the City of Gladewater have all followed through with boilerplate resolutions green-lighting GCAD's planned addition of about 40 spaces to its available parking at 4367 W. Loop 281 in Longview.

Gladewater City Council members unanimously-approved the requested measure from GCAD during their end-of-year meeting in December, days after GISD trustees signed off on the same.

It's necessary paperwork for the appraisal district, but nothing that will dip into the various Gregg County taxing entities' coffers.

"This is not out-of-pocket for the City of Gladewater. This will come out of their operating budget," Mayor Scott Owens said Dec. 21. "If you've been over there, particularly during the time when people may be talking to them about their appraisals, when those evaluations come out, they do not have enough parking over there.

"This last year in particular they said they had people parking across the highway at times and coming across, a dangerous situation."

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OBITUARIES

DARRELL GLEN MCKNIGHT

Services for Darrell Glen McKnight, 89 of Gladewater were on Wednesday January 3rd at 2:00p.m. at Croley Funeral Home. Interment followed at Barber Cemetery. Visitation took place on Tuesday evening January 2nd from 5-7 at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater Texas.



Darrell was born on July 8, 1934, to Russell Joseph and Lucy Ione and went to be with his Lord on December 28th, 2023. He was married to the love of his life Joy Dale for 62 years before her passing on September 26th, 2017. Darrell and Joy raised three children together, Terry McKnight, Teresa Ludovice, and Tracy McKnight.

Darrell graduated from Gladewater High School in 1952 and continued his education at Tyler Junior College where he graduated with an associate degree in finance. Over the years he worked as a produce manager at Piggly Wiggly and several Brookshire stores. Darrell worked in accounts receivable for Allied

Finance. For over 30 years, he owned and operated six convenient stores and two car washes. His final business venture was a real estate business that he shared with his youngest son Tracy McKnight for 15 years. Darrell enjoyed playing golf in his younger days and also loved playing poker with his buddies up until just a few months before his passing. He also loved traveling to Hot Springs, Arkansas and Branson, Missouri with his wife, brother and sister-in-law and his sister. Darrell was a member of Gladewater United Methodist church where he and Joy attended regularly. He served as the church finance committee chair for many years. He was a member of the Gladewater City Council and the Gladewater Zoning board and served as President of the Texas Retail Grocers Association.

He is preceded in death by his parents Russell Joseph and Lucy Ione McKnight, his brother and sister-in-law Cody and Helen Houston, his brother-in-law Bill Haire, his wife Joy Dale Pritchett McKnight, and his daughter-in-law Melinda Edwards McKnight.

Darrell is survived by his children and their spouses Terry and Melanie McKnight of Longview, Teresa and Steve Ludovice of Houston, and Tracy McKnight and his fiancé Daphne Casses of Gladewater. He had many grandchildren Daniel and Kelsey (spouse) McKnight of Longview, Kristin and Will (spouse) Knox of Houston, Kyle and Candice (spouse) Ludovice of Deer Park, Kelly Ludovice of Houston, Josh and Jessica (spouse) McKnight of Gladewater, Patrick and Amanda (spouse) McKnight of Casper Wyoming, Ashley Garcia and her fiancé Zack Strait of Gladewater. His great grandchildren are Owen Knox, Mackenzie Knox, Sutton Ludovice, Landon McKnight, Logan McKnight, Lillie McKnight, Madison Vaughn, Madix Garcia, and Aubrie Garcia. Darrell also leaves behind a sister Ikey Haire, one nephew Kenneth Dykes and a niece Dana and her husband Craig Parr and their son Hudson.

The family would like to thank Lorene Phillips, Wanda Duffy, Ella Sublet, NaDasha Armour, Nokoshia Gordon, Jessica Phillips, Jasmine Green, and Ronnie Spratland for their in-home care, support and love of our dad.

SYLVIA A. WHITLOCK

Sylvia passed away just weeks before her 89th birthday. She was born January 13, 1935 in Gilmer to the late Charles Ralph Bauman and Florence Lantrip Bauman. Sylvia was married to Eugene Perry Whitlock for 59 years until his passing in 2010.



She worked for Dr. A.R. Hancock for many years until his retirement. She then went to work for the City of Gladewater until her retirement.

Sylvia is survived by her son Charles Whitlock and wife Carolyn; daughter Debra Carter and husband Russ; six grandchildren; many great grandchildren and great great grandchildren as well as many other loving family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, step-mother Annie Dove Atkinson Bauman, son Dennis, brother Charles R., Jr. and grandson B.J.

Services were held in the Chapel of Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater on December 27, 2023.

DR. MICHAEL RAY ELLIS

Michael Ray Ellis, 75, was born in Naples, Texas to Eugene and Rose Jean Ellis on September 2, 1948. He went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 23, 2023 after a long, courageous battle with Parkinson's disease.



Services for Mike will be held on Friday, January 5, 2024 at Stewart Family Funeral Home. Visitation at 1 p.m., followed by the funeral at 2 p.m. Officiating will be Reverend Bailey Harris of First Baptist Church, Gladewater, where Mike was a member. Burial will be at Rose Lawn Cemetery in Tyler.

Mike graduated from El Paso's Eastwood High School in 1966 where he lettered in football, basketball, and golf. He went to TCU graduating with honors and was accepted to the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston. After graduation and getting his dental license, Mike began a 40-year career of general dentistry practice in Gladewater.

Michael was an excellent golfer who played in hundreds of tournaments with his brother

Scott. They would spend hours talking about their rounds on the phone. He loved golf and always loved to read "Golf Digest" magazine. Mike also loved to fly. He owned both a Cessna 150 and a 172. He flew all over the US and even flew his 172 to the Bahamas!

Mike loved his stepson, Trey Gould, as his own and he spent many hours coaching Trey in football, baseball, tennis, and golf. Mike was a profound and positive influence on the man Trey has become.

Michael also loved boats, jet skis, dancing, and fast cars, but the greatest love and joy in Mike's life was his daughter, Michaela. She was truly a daddy's girl and the apple of his eye. He was so proud of all of her accomplishments. When she came to visit him, he would tell everyone Michaela was coming and talk non-stop about her latest activities.

Michael was a member of the American Dental Association, the Texas Dental Association, and the East Texas Dental Society. In 2013 he was named "Man of the Year" in Gladewater. Shortly after that, Mike was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He retired from practice and relocated to Tyler to be near family.

Michael was preceded in death by his father, Gene Ellis and mother, Rose Ellis. Mike is survived by his daughter, Michaela Ellis; stepson, Trey Gould (Natalie); grandchildren, Maddox and Maverick Gould; and brothers, Steve Ellis (Marilyn), Dr. Scott Ellis (Susan), and Russell Ellis. Also nephew, Spenser Ellis (Jessica); niece, Amanda Ellis; aunt, Molly Eastman (Jim); and cousins, John Eastman (Melissa), Ryan Eastman (Andrea), and Casey Eastman (Helen).

Pallbearers will be David Holcombe, John Paul Tallent, Curtis Crabtree, David Lassen, John Eastman, and Trey Gould.

Michael's family wishes to express their appreciation to the staff of Heart to Heart Hospice, especially nurses Nelva and Sara, for their devoted and tender care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation or the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

ROY DALE DUNNAVANT

Celebration of life for Roy Dale Dunnavant will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024 from 12 to 2 PM. This come and go event will be held for friends and family to get together and share stories and memories of Roy. The location of the memorial will be at Forgotten Treasures, 111 South Main, Gladewater, Tx.

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SPORTS

Gladewater, White Oak basketball roundup

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears basketball team were in action post Christmas this week as they traveled to Hawkins to compete in the Hawkins Holiday Hoops tournament on Wednesday, December 27th.

The Bears began play with a 42-27 win over West Rusk which put Gladewater on the winners side of the bracket. They followed that up with a 63-26 loss to the host's Hawkins on Thursday, December 28th and finally falling 47-18 to East Texas Home School's in the third place game on Friday, December 29th.

Gladewater now sits at 2-16 on the season. The Bears will now be off until Friday, January 5th when they play their final non conference game of the season as they travel to take on Rivercrest on January 5th.

The White Oak boys and girls teams were also in action in post Christmas tournaments. The Roughnecks taking part in the Teneha tournament and the LadyNecks playing in the girl's side of the Hawkins Holiday Hoops tournament.

The RoughNecks began play on Wednesday, December 27th as they took on the host Teneha Tigers. White Oak made a rally in the 4th quarter, but ultimately fell 49-39.

Kanaan Moore guided White Oak in the loss with 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Scotty Breitenberg followed with 10 points. Tysen McClain produced five

points and seven rebounds, Kaleb Sorgee finished with four points, and both Gavin Sipes and Jacob Sorgee earned two points. White Oak then fell later in the day to Hooks 78-16.

Scotty Breitenberg scored eight of White Oak's 16 points in the loss, Campbell Sutton produced five more, Tysen McClain earned two, and Gavin Sipes followed with one.

White Oak would end up going 0-4 in the tournament as they fell Thursday, December 28th to Brookeland (70-50) and to Moulton (38-28) on Friday, December 29th.

The RoughNecks are now 6-14 on the season and will play their final 2 non district games vs Tyler Heat (January 5th) and Joaquin (January 9th).

The White Oak LadyNecks were a part of the ladies side of the Hawkins Holiday Hoops tournament. They fell in their opener 52-15 to host Hawkins. White Oak was guided by Gentry Whittington's seven points, Elyse Paiz's six points, and Madi Baker's one point.

White Oak then fell 55-18 to rival Spring Hill before knocking off Linden-Kildare in the 7th place game.

The LadyNecks now 7-11 record and will next be in action on Friday, January 5th when they open district play with a road game at Hughes Springs.

"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

Gone But Not Forgotten – Part 2

After last week's column on baseball players who passed away in 2023, I began to think about some football legends that we lost. Today I'll share some memories about them.

Many people think that Jim Brown was the greatest professional football player ever, and it would be hard to disagree. When he carried the ball, he would often drag two or three would-be tacklers along for the ride. He would then limp back slowly to the huddle as though he could barely walk, then take another handoff, and repeat the process. It was similar to the "godfather of soul", James Brown, (1933-2010) whose schtick included collapsing after he completed a song, then emerging from under his cape with a sudden burst of energy to perform another song. Both Browns were very effective – and entertaining!

Dick Butkus is recognized as one of the best all-time linebackers, and certainly one of the roughest. When someone questioned his ferocious style, his tongue-

in-cheek response was that he never intentionally hurt someone unless it was something important – like a league game.

Another favorite we lost last year was Walt Garrison. The Lewisville, Texas native graduated from Oklahoma State (cowboys), was a part time rodeo cowboy who participated in steer wrestling and team roping and had a nine-year career with the Dallas Cowboys. Always a Cowboy.

Garrison and Butkus are linked by one of my favorite quotes. Butkus had just violently tackled Garrison. He glared down at him and told him if he tried to run again, he was going to bite off his head. Walt looked up at him and said that if he did, he would have more brains in his stomach than he had in his head.

Homer Jones was a native of Pittsburg Texas. He was a world-class sprinter who played for six years with the New York Giants. Jones was credited as the first NFL Player to spike the football after he scored a touchdown.

Bud Grant was the head coach of the Minnesota Vikings for 18 years and led them to 4 Super Bowls. His calm, stoic demeanor gave him the nickname "Iceman",

which was especially appropriate in Minneapolis when he refused to allow heaters on the sidelines.

Long time director of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys, Gil Brandt, died at the age of 91. In the early days of the franchise, he revolutionized scouting and evaluation with his innovative approach and use of a computer to accumulate information. He drafted players from other sports: Bob Hayes from track and Cornell Green from basketball. He scouted small colleges and found players like Jethro Pugh. Brandt signed undrafted free agents such as Drew Pearson, Cliff Harris and Everson Walls. And he took a chance on drafting a quarterback who still had a two-year obligation in the Navy – a guy named Staubach. All these turned out pretty good! No one had more influence in building a team. In those early days Clint Murchison owned the team, Brandt picked the players, Tex Schramm handled the business side and Tom Landry coached. Today Jerry Jones tries to handle it all, but that's a story for another time.

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

Toyota ShareLunker embarks on 38th season

ATHENS – New Year's Day arrived on Monday and with it came the kickoff of the 38th Toyota ShareLunker season. Anglers from across Texas and the nation will cast their lines in anticipation of landing a Legacy Lunker largemouth bass (13-plus pounds) in Texas' world-class fisheries.

The Toyota ShareLunker program has played an integral part in making Texas a destination for hundreds of thousands of anglers in search of this prized sport fish. Grabbing a pole, hitting the water and hauling in a 13-pound plus largemouth bass would be a great way to jumpstart the new year. The cast of the line, the lure landing just right on the water and a strike from a possible fish of a lifetime is what many anglers strive to experience.

"ShareLunker season sparks excitement, not just for big bass catches, but for a shared commitment to conservation," said Natalie Goldstrom, Toyota ShareLunker program coordinator. "Anglers, scientists, and industry partners unite to gather vital data for trophy bass management, stocking of world-class offspring, and critical genetics data to make bass fishing bigger and better in Texas. The 2023 season was full of achievements, and we are enthusiastic about what unfolds in 2024."

The 2023 season was another banner year for the program, with multiple milestones reached and memories made by anglers working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division staff that make the program a success. Key highlights from the 2023 Toyota ShareLunker collection season include:

- A record 15 Legacy Class ShareLunkers produced from O.H. Ivie.
- Five fish weighing more than 14 pounds.
- Angler Kyle Hall recorded a Legacy Lunker in back-to-back seasons.
- Anglers Dalton Smith and Caden Cowan reeled in Legacy Lunkers at O.H. Ivie on the same day (Feb. 2).
- Anglers from seven states, including Texas, etched their name into the program's record book: Texas, Colorado, Kansas,

Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico and Washington.

● Anglers have submitted 650 Legacy Lunkers in the first 37 years of the ShareLunker program and during the 2022 and 2023 collection seasons, all the loaned fish were healthy and returned to the lake where they were caught.

● During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13-plus pound bass can loan it to TPWD for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 through March 31, 2024.

Anglers who catch and loan one of these 13-plus pound lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event, a high-quality replica mount of their fish from Lake Fork Taxidermy, and Bass University will provide a swag pack and annual subscription.

These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings – a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree.

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Tired of all the trash talking

It seems everybody's pretty tired of talking trash. Curbside trash receptacles – specifically, putting them out and bringing them in on schedule, consistently – became a recurring topic at Gladewater City Council meetings in Fall '23. The issue cropped up one final time in the city's final meeting of the year albeit without any fanfare. The topic appeared on the Dec. 21 Consent Agenda (items typically approved with a single vote and minimal or no discussion) as an ordinance update along with past meeting minutes and budget amendments. The relevant regulation notes "All refuse should be placed at curbside by 6:00 a.m. on the designated collection day" and, as amended, "All Carts shall be removed from the curbside no later than 6:00 p.m. the day after collection." The key change gives residents an additional 21 hours to haul the carts back from curbside after Republic Services has made the rounds of their neighborhoods. With a motion by councilwoman Brandy Flanagan, seconded by council member Teddy Sorrells, the Consent items were approved unanimously Dec. 21. Notably, in the past several months, the city produced warning stickers for code enforcement purposes, flagging trash receptacles left out past the ordinance's margin. An actual ticket for violating the guidelines carries a fine of up to \$500.

WOPD Activity

For the reporting period of December 25th through the 31st, 2023, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 184 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Assist Other Agencies, Loud Noise Complaints, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.). One traffic collision was investigated which resulted in no injuries and no continuing criminal investigations. No arrests were made by White Oak Police during this reporting period.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 this Meharg was first female Texas Secretary of State

5 Mineola's county

6 seat of Jackson County

7 TX Charley Pride tune: "___ Just Me"

8 money machine

9 TXism: "exciting as a fire at ___ office"

15 TXism: "phoo-___ water" (perfume)

16 TXism: "hot enough ___ a horny toad"

19 a blimp, e.g.

21 TX Jimmy Webb wrote "By the ___ Get to Phoenix"

22 in Anderson County on U.S. 287

27 ___ weevil came to U.S. thru Texas

28 TXism: "cut ___ slack"

29 married woman in Mexico

30 1960's protests

32 this Palmer won the Texas Open three times (init.)

33 TXism: "he ___ with the facts" (liar)

36 Gulf shrimp catchers

37 this conven. was in Houston in 1928

38 a ___ pizza is a small one

39 Fair Park is on the ___ of Dallas

41 "let the ___ settle"

42 Odessa's county

45 king toppers in cards

46 Cowboy Jake Ferguson pos. (abbr.)

47 needed in a drought

48 TXism: "just a ___ (small amount)"

49 more intelligent

52 Cheryl of film "Wilson" with TX Harrelson

DOWN

1 female sheep

2 a car modification, e.g. (abbr.)

3 Wood County newspaper

4 TX Robert ___ was U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1989-92)

8 Corey Seager got this to end a no-hitter in game 5 of the 2023 World Series (2 wds.)

9 TXism: "plain as the ___ chart"

10 TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (init.)

11 org. in Europe

12 I-20 that runs across Texas

13 Texas Ranger Corey Seager had 6 of these in the 2023 World Series

14 Japanese wrestling heaven

16 ___-A-Whirl rides are built in Plainview

17 returns a case to a lower court

18 UT has first photo ever, taken by this French inventor

20 sharpen, like skills

35 this Nellie, and husband John, were in limo with JFK in 1963 (init.)

37 TXism: "headed for the last roundup"

40 wound reminder

43 TXism: "___ on the barrel head" (immediate payment required)

44 TXism: "___ a whipped pup"

50 Texans have to ___ car registration annually

51 TXism: "dot the i's and cross the ___" (finalize)

See Answers On This Page

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Texas' annual employment growth continues to outpace the nation

AUSTIN - Texas' labor market achieved a new record high as the state's seasonally adjusted job count reached 14,094,900, an increase of 26,800 positions over the month of November. Lone Star State employment set new record high levels in each of the last 26 months and added 407,100 positions since November 2022, ranking No. 1 in the nation in over the year increase of seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs. Texas' employment growth rate continued to outperform with 3.0 percent annual growth from November 2022 to November 2023 - outpacing the nation's more modest 1.8 percent.

The Texas seasonally adjusted civilian labor force grew over the month by 30,800 people to reach 15,192,900 in November. This marked the 11th consecutive monthly increase and included the addition of 39,700 Texans

employed. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent.

"Texas continues to lead the nation and break records for economic growth," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "With more than 26,000 positions added in November, TWC continues to connect job seekers and employers to keep Texas working."

Statewide, eight of 11 major industries in Texas expanded over the month. Professional and Business Services saw significant growth with 9,900 jobs added while the Construction industry gained 9,200 jobs in November. Another 5,100 positions were added in Private Education and Health Services. Furthermore, six of the 11 major industries set new employment highs in November, including Construction, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, Private

Education and Health Services, Leisure and Hospitality, and Government.

"Texas continues to outpace the nation in job growth as Texans take advantage of the many options available for their next career opportunity," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "TWC has various programs and services available to provide the right training and tools needed by job seekers to enter into a diverse range of high-demand occupations."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) maintained the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.2 percent in November, followed by the Amarillo MSA at 2.6 percent, and College Station-Bryan at 2.7 percent.

"The Texas labor market has continued to thrive month after month, and continues to lead the nation in

many categories," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza. "As we head into 2024, the future looks bright for Texas employers across the state

seeking to expand their business and tap into the state's growing workforce."

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S.

Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). *All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com.



The 2023 Lady Lion Alumni Game was held last week, with the Alumni team winning over the Lady Lions, 40-32.

GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CF#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
12/24/23	ASSIST	20236993	2:09		3067 W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	EMS	20236994	6:10		1212 SANDERS SANDERS ST
	FIRE DEPT	20236994	10:09	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ALARM/OTHER	20236996	10:09	3D PLASTICS QUANTUM PLASTICS	1096 E COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20236997	11:39	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20236998	12:30		1207 CANNON CANNON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237000	13:06		48 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	EMS	20237001	13:59	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	ABANDONED 911	20237002	18:46		2001 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	EMS	20237004	19:24	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237005	20:21		690 BRIAR COVE BRIAR COVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237006	21:32		705 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
	EMS	20237007	21:59		321 E EDDY EDDY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237008	22:32		207 E MARY MARY ST
12/25/23	EMERGENCY COMMITMENT	20237009	0:14		800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237010	0:22		GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ALARM/OTHER	20237011	0:32	CAPSHAW DERIEUX,LLP	114 E COMMERCE COMMERCE DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20237012	1:46	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237013	2:18		400 N MAIN MAIN
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20237014	3:45		208 PINWOOD PINWOOD ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20237015	15:24	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20237016	17:10		95 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237017	17:25		1507 N ALICE ALICE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20237018	18:47		54 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20237019	19:08		690 BRIAR COVE BRIAR COVE LN
	ABANDONED 911	20237020	19:22		916 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237021	20:74	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20237022	21:24	DONNELLYS LIQUOR	1700 N MAIN MAIN ST
12/26/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20237023	0:01		1304 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	EMS	20237024	6:36		1212 N EDWARDS EDWARDS ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20237025	9:08		MAIN MAIN
	ASSIST	20237026	9:17		512 HANCOCK HANCOCK
	EMS	20237028	14:05	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	10-50 MINOR	20237029	14:26	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237030	16:34	BUMBLE BEE PARK	637 COACH COCKSEY ST COACH COCKSEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237031	17:16	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237032	17:44		204 HICKORY HICKORY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20237033	18:21		131 PR 3447 PR 3447
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237036	21:07		1106 N SHELL SHELL RD
	EMS	20237037	22:10		2710 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237038	22:39		N RODEO RODEO
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237039	1:56		2812 RAMPY RAMPY ST
12/27/23	ESCORT	20237040	8:20	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	EMS	20237041	10:53	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	20237042	11:43		1801 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	EMS	20237043	12:16	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20237044	12:48		1509 N LYNN LYNN ST
	ASSIST	20237045	13:19	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20237046	13:57		1216 N WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK RD
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20237047	14:06		1117 RICKS RICKS CIR
	THEFT	20237048	14:22	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20237049	15:07	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20237050	19:38		316 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20237051	21:19		1203 CANNON CANNON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237053	23:54	MAHGONEY MAHGONEY	525 LAKE GLADEWATER RD LAKE GLADEWATER RD
12/28/23	EMS	20237054	6:10		1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20237056	7:50	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20237057	9:24	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20237058	10:40		1801 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20237059	11:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ALARM/OTHER	20237060	11:41		1801 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	EMS	20237061	15:50		205 HURLEY HURLEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237062	17:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237063	17:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20237064	18:46		HWY 80 HWY 80
12/29/23	MISCELLANEOUS	20237065	4:05		37 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ALARM/OTHER	20237066	7:54	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	ASSIST	20237067	9:00	POST OFFICE	101 N DEAN DEAN ST
	ASSIST	20237068	10:10		TENERY TENERY
	ASSIST	20237069	10:17		2186 N MAIN MAIN ST
	CRIM TRESPASS	20237070	10:44	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20237071	14:08		902 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237073	15:30		522 W MARSHALL MARSHALL ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237074	15:54		1604 MUSTANG MUSTANG ST
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20237075	17:04	SUPER STOP EXXON	500 MAIN MAIN ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20237076	17:34	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237077	17:41	DOLLAR TREE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20237078	18:25		NO ADDRESS NO ADDRESS
	ABANDONED 911	20237079	18:50	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237080	19:27	LAMBERTS LIQUOR	1975 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237081	21:04	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20237082	23:55	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
12/30/23	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20237083	2:19		MAIN MAIN ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20237084	2:35	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20237085	3:46		1035 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	ESCORT	20237086	11:26	SOUTH MAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST	101 W MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20237087	11:50		715 CANFIELD CANFIELD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237088	12:10	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237089	12:24		1105 NELWYN NELWYN AVE
	EMS	20237090	12:32		902 EAST LAKE DRIVE EAST LAKE DRIVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237091	15:03		325 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20237092	15:16		205 HURLEY HURLEY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237093	16:00		2021 E HARROLD HARROLD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237094	16:20	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237095	17:21		1006 E PACIFIC PACIFIC ST
	FIRE DEPT	20237096	17:25		519 MELBA MELBA AVE
	EMS	20237097	18:07		105 N TENERY TENERY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20237098	19:08		205 E GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20237099	19:11	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237100	19:27	MIKES MINI MART	1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237101	19:59	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237102	20:19	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20237103	20:27		COMMERCE COMMERCE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237104	22:15		801
12/31/23	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20237105	2:09	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20237106	4:04	CITY NATIONAL BANK	805 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237107	5:25	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237108	9:42		407 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237109	11:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20237110	12:09		HWY 271 HWY 271
	EMS	20237111	12:30		5377 SWEETGUM ROAD SWEETGUM ROAD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237112	14:56		2808 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237113	16:52		1707 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR

GPD Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
12/25/23	12/25/23	2:10	PATTERSON, BRIAN ALLEN	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	400 N MAIN ST
12/30/23	12/30/23	16:34	HILL, DANIEL BRASWELL	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	301 W COMMERCE AVE

SELL IT IN THE
Classifieds
903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladwatermirror.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Fay L. Wright, Deceased were granted to the undersigned on the 31st of October, 2023 by the Probate Court of Gregg County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to FRANK F. WRIGHT, JR. within the time prescribed by law.
My address is 2604 Summit Drive, Irving, Texas 75062, Independent Executor of the Estate of Fay L. Wright, Deceased Cause No. 2023-0338-E.

Gladwater ISD is beginning the referral process for Gifted/Talented (GT) services for the 2023-2024 school year. We are Committed to providing challenging learning experiences for students with exceptional intellectual and creative thinking abilities. Anyone wishing to refer a student attending Gladwater ISD in Kindergarten through 12th grade can pick up or request a copy of the referral form at their school office after January 9, 2024. This form must be returned to the school by February 2, 2024. Those unable to go by the school office should call and request a form to be sent to them.

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ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Gladewater will receive bids for Gay Avenue Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation. Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater, TX 75647. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater, TX 75647. Bids received after 2:00 p.m. will be returned, unopened.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, may be examined without charge at Gladewater City Hall. Bid forms and plans may be examined or obtained at the office of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702. One copy of each set of documents may be obtained from Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. upon payment of \$100. No refunds will be made. Bid/Contract Documents can also be found online at www.civcastusa.com.

A Bidder's Bond, Certified or Cashier's Check in an amount not less than (5%) of the total bid shall accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into a contract with the City of Gladewater, Texas.

This project consists of an interior near-white blast (SSPC-SP 10/Nace No.2) with protective coating application on a 300,000-gallon Elevated Storage Tank. Additional tank improvements include a weld repair on a 1/2-inch hole in the tanks side wall plates with exterior spot touchups on coatings damaged by the weld.

The project is to be substantially complete within 30 calendar days from the notice to proceed and shall be fully complete within 60 calendar days from the notice to proceed. Liquidated damages of \$300.00 per day shall be assessed for any days in which contract time is exceeded.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Adv. Dates: Thursday, January 4, 2024
Thursday, January 11, 2024
City of Gladewater
By: Scott E. Owens
Title: Mayor

happy
NEW YEAR

Gladewater Mirror
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White Oak dispatcher signs off

Continued from Page 1
day was Dec. 28, capped by a reception in her honor at the city's new community building on South White Oak Road. Suffice it to say, the technology tied to the job has evolved a lot in the past 45 years. "It's unreal," Allaire said. "When I started, I dispatched on a handheld radio," and used a Plectron UHF/VHF single-channel unit to set off the siren behind the fire station. "Of course, we had typewriters here. We didn't have computers here until... I'm thinking maybe the '80s. Allaire's tenure fell under four police chiefs – Robert Shelton, Peyton Haas, Charlie Smith and, today, Terry Roach – and she speaks fondly of each. All of them, and everyone who served with them, saw their fair share of happenings during Allaire's stretch. "I can't really give any details on the calls, of course, because it's private," she added. That said, one event blends into another overtime. "I can't even begin to tell you all of



White Oak VFD Chief Bill McBride presents an award of appreciation to Linda Allaire Dec. 12 in honor of four-and-a-half decades serving the community as emergency dispatcher.

them. We've had several different major events happen. It runs the gamut: "We've had explosions. We've had murders. We've had suicides. A lot goes on in a small town that people just don't really realize." Allaire's still wrapping her head around the idea of 'retirement.' "It's gonna be different," she said, simply. "I'm used to getting up early in the morning and coming to work and

having a set routine. "Of course I'm going to miss all these people over here. We have a good crew right now, a good chief. I'm not going to be able to visit with them every day." She is, however, looking forward to spending more time with her husband, Pat, a retired patrol officer who finished his career as chief deputy in Gregg County before heading into the oilfield. "He was hired first as an officer in '78," Allaire said, and that helped bring her on board soon after: "The chief needed someone to set up the records. He hired me then to set up the records as far as files and all." That soon led to the dispatch chair. "We were in a one-room that used to be where the fire station is. That's where City Hall was. The police department had one room then they had a council room then the tax office. The water department and all was in another room." The operation moved to the current campus as the '70s gave way to the '80s. The move launched the 24-hour schedule and, not long after, dispatch gained access to state and national computer networks. "We added the jail and all when we went 24 hours," Al-

laire said. She's on a starkly different schedule as 2024 gets rolling: "I'm looking forward to retiring, doing more trips, staying at home with my husband, just having a relaxing time." She and Pat live out in the country, and there'll be plenty to keep them busy. "We enjoy just reading books and just being together," but there's also some catching up to do, tasks to tackle. "I've had a lot of stuff that I've put off, saying I'm going to do it when I retire. I guess I'll have to do a lot of work when I retire. I've got some trips planned."

Needless to say, the City of White Oak will feel Allaire's absence while forging ahead. By the time White Oak VFD Chief Bill McBride started with the department four decades back, Allaire already had five years under her belt in dispatch. He embraced the chance Dec. 12 to present Allaire with an appreciation award for her years of service. "We appreciate you," McBride said. "We're going to miss you." Thank you, Allaire replied. "Now I gotta go to work," she said, turning toward City Hall's side door and the walk back to dispatch. "Thank y'all very much."

LOOKING FORWARD 2024
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Dr. Sedric Clark
GISD Superintendent and staff