

Gladewater Mirror

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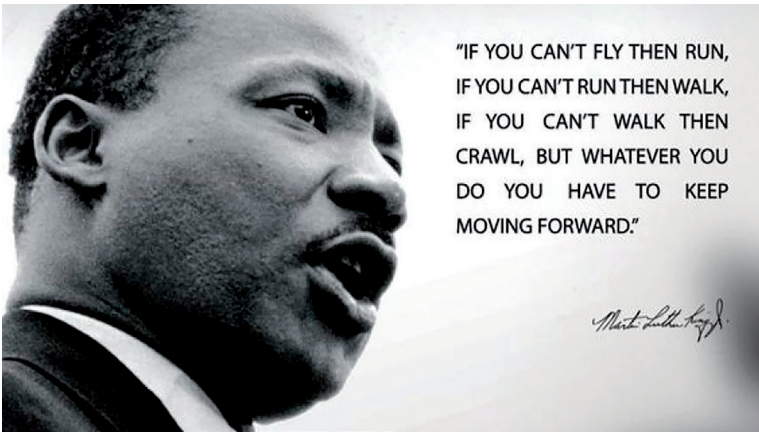
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Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024

Vol. 96, No. 2

1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



"IF YOU CAN'T FLY THEN RUN,
IF YOU CAN'T RUN THEN WALK,
IF YOU CAN'T WALK THEN
CRAWL, BUT WHATEVER YOU
DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP
MOVING FORWARD."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Red Rock hosts MLK brunch Monday

"Change Starts With Me."

That's the theme organizers are bringing to this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities in Gladewater, centered on the Red Rock community.

With no parade planned for 2024, this year's observance kicks-off at 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at the Red Rock Community Center at 2629 South Rodeo.

The 'MLK Gospel Brunch' will feature chicken wings and waffles, according to co-organizer Sandra Smith of Aunt Sandra's Boudian & More.

The program's keynote speaker will be Dr. Sedric Clark, superintendent at Gladewater ISD, and entertainment will include a performance by the Gladewater Community Choir. The event will also include recognition of several Gladewater residents for their service to the community, including Elijah "Sonny" Anderson, Marilyn Bolden, Andre Clay, Lois Reed and 'Ma Bell's Kids.'

Admission for the MLK Day brunch is \$10 per person, or attendees can bring five canned goods each to benefit Gladewater's Manna House. Tickets are on sale from Odette Alexander, Raymond Johnson and Smith.

Per Smith, look forward to a parade tied to summer's Juneteenth observance.

For more information, contact the Gladewater MLK/Juneteenth Committee.

City renames road in Anderson's honor

By James Draper

Since 1968, Elijah "Sonny" Anderson's lived in the same house on Roden Lane.

Well, most of that time, anyway – the house is the same, but for almost a week, Gladewater's Mayor Pro Tem and his neighbors have been residing on Anderson Lane.

Surrounded by a crowd of about 40 friends, family, city officials and well-wishers Saturday, Anderson unveiled the new street sign at the road's intersection with Dr. MLK Jr. Drive.

"I just thank God for all of y'all and thank God for this moment," he told the crowd.

Born and raised in Gilmer, Anderson moved to Gladewater in 1962. He worked hard in the meat industry and in cooking, saving up to purchase a family home.

"My wife always said, 'Sonny, I want you to get me a house.' We bought this house in '68."

Anderson choked up a bit Saturday as he looked down the street toward the home they shared for so many decades.

"I hope she is looking down on what is happening today," he said.

Anderson Lane is actually the second road in Gladewater that's been rechristened in his honor. Elijah Street was previously re-labeled with the East Texas native's given name then, on Sept. 21, the Gladewater City Council unanimously approved (with Anderson



Sonny Anderson unveils the new street sign that bears his name at Anderson Lane's intersection with Dr. MLK Jr. Drive.

Photo by James Draper

abstaining) the renaming of Roden Lane between Miller and the loop.

"I'm proud to serve with Sonny," Mayor Scott Owens said Jan. 6.

"The two people you could always go to for good solid counsel on doing what was right was Sonny and Walter (Derrick), and I appreciate both of them."



WO loads bases for Mid-America League Saturday

The Mid-America League's ready to play ball – first, though, the driver behind White Oak's new summer collegiate baseball franchise aims to cut the ribbon on its 'Piney Woods' HQ this weekend.

White Oak's the latest inaugural and as-yet-unnamed team in the league, the third franchise alongside Sherman and Amarillo. The effort received an official green light from White Oak City Council members late last year.

The organizers are now ready to make their public debut with a media day and ribbon cutting at noon Saturday (Jan. 13) at White Oak Baseball Field at 500 E. Magnolia St. in City Park.

It's a chance to meet league officials and team ownership. The Piney Woods franchise is being led by David Upchurch, a former 19th round draft pick in 1994 for the Kansas City Royals.

One step at a time

City aims for step-by-step improvements in 2024

By James Draper

Looking back on 2023, Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith's particularly pleased with the amount of antiquated infrastructure that's been replaced.

Bear in mind, there's a lot more to go, but there's been incremental progress, and the City of Gladewater aims to make more before the end of 2024.

Making the observation on the heels of the city's sesquicentennial celebration, Smith acknowledges it's part of life in a community with roots that go back to the 19th century – 150 years after Gladewater was founded, today's city leaders have to look forward to next 50, 100 and 150.

"That's one of the biggest deals that I've seen, and that is extremely important for the city," Smith said. Fortunately, "I feel like our council is extremely proactive on getting things done."

For example, streets. They're a "big deal" on council members' priority lists, and regular improvements are the name of the game.

"If we had all the money we could spend, they would use it on taking care of stuff," he added, "but we don't."

Taking that into consideration, Smith asks residents for patients in the coming year.

"Be patient with the employees that work for the city," he said. "The big picture is we've got 6,000 people to take care of. People see their problem as being a priority, which I don't disagree with that because it is a priority to them."

"But, when you multiply that number by the number of people that we serve, there's a lot of priorities we have to take care of."

Gladewater Public Works personnel, firefighters, police officers, they're out there working, Smith added.



Gladewater Public Works employees install one of downtown's new trash containers Monday morning. About 15 of 20 units have been replaced so far in one of the department's first projects of 2024.

"While most people are dead asleep, there's someone out there doing something for the city. I think people forget that."

Last year, the city did make some gains as far as helping its workers do their jobs. For example,

Continued on Page 5

Man indicted on drug charges

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury returned 11 indictments, three of them sealed, on Jan. 4 in Gilmer, District Attorney Billy Byrd announced Monday.

Defendants, charges and bond information in the open indictments were as follows, Byrd's office reported:

Jabar Okeith Miller, 49, of Gladewater, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine)--repeat offender last Sept. 6. He was freed on \$25,000 bond.

Alisha Nichole Robberts, 42, of Longview, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last Aug. 17. She was released on \$10,000 bond.

Megan Nicole Barrington, 33, of Gilmer, was charged in separate indictments with possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) and unauthorized use of vehicle, both last April 20.

She was freed on \$10,000 bond per charge.

Kelsey Lynn McCown, 30, of Kilgore, aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury last Oct. 29. She remained in the county jail in Gilmer under \$10,000 bond.

Jacquelyn Rose Green, 41, of Big Sandy, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on June

Continued on Page 3

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Tragically, it is taking place every day right in our own backyards. January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. As trafficking can take place right in front of our own eyes, it is critical to be aware about this scourge, how to recognize possible warning signs and how to prevent it.

January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In recognition of this important day, and throughout the month of January, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign encourages others to take photos of

themselves wearing blue clothing and share them on social media with the hashtag #WearBlueDay. Be sure to also tag #E1ETWEETS!

By the Numbers

● Human trafficking is the 2nd largest criminal enterprise in the world

● The average age of victims is 14-16 years old

● In 2022, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received more than 19,000 reports of possible child sex trafficking.

● 1 in 6 of the more than 25,000 cases of children reported missing to NCMEC in 2022 who had run away were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

● Since 2000, traffickers have recruited 55% of sex trafficking victims online, usually through social media platforms, web-based messaging apps, online chat rooms, dating apps, classified advertisements, or job boards (Federal Human Trafficking Report, 2020)

Fact or Myth?

Myth #1: Sex trafficking only happens in foreign countries.

Reality: Sex trafficking is a significant problem globally, but it also occurs within the United States, affecting American citizens and foreign nationals alike.

Myth #2: Victims of sex trafficking are always kidnapped or physically forced.

Reality: While abduction and physical force can occur, traffickers often employ psychological manipulation, coercion, threats, or fraud to control victims and keep them trapped in exploitative situations.

Myth #3: Only women and girls are victims of sex trafficking.

Reality: Although females are disproportionately affected, males and transgender individuals are also at risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Myth #4: Victims of sex trafficking will always seek help or try to escape.

Reality: Due to fear, threats against loved ones, trauma bonding, or a lack of viable alternatives,

victims may not immediately seek help or attempt to escape their traffickers.

Myth #5: Sex trafficking only occurs in illegal establishments.

Reality: Trafficking can take place in various settings, including illegal brothels, escort services, street prostitution, hotel rooms, private homes, or online platforms.

Myth #6: Sex trafficking victims are always physically identifiable.

Reality: Victims may not display obvious signs of physical abuse, as traffickers often exert control through psychological manipulation and coercion, making it harder to identify victims in plain sight.

Myth #7: Only marginalized or

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

We need a 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington' more than ever

From 2021

Where is starry-eyed, man of character Jefferson Smith? We need him now.

Desperately.

On the edge of global war in 1939 Frank Capra made a film entitled "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington". In it a naive, deeply patriotic young American is appointed to fill the seat of a senator who has unexpectedly died. The good as gold Jefferson Smith heads to Washington, D.C. full of excitement and a desire to do a good job as a senator. And that is when he hits head on the power machine of party politics and big business ties. Because Smith won't be a party to the corruption and refuses to be bought, he wages a one-man senate filibuster to get the truth out.

See, here's the deal, and it's been a long time coming. We no longer treat truth as black and white, fact or lie. "Your truth is not my truth" is just a way of saying it doesn't matter what is true as long as I get what I want. Or, I like and agree with "this truth" so now it is "my truth". Can you see the problem?

The movie clearly shows the way that cynicism and influence peddling can affect, or infect, an entire system. At the end of the film, a worn out, heartbroken, filibustering Jefferson Smith says to the senator he admired who had chosen subverting his convictions in trade for power: "I guess this is just another lost cause...all you people don't know about lost causes. Senator Paine does. He said once they were the only causes worth fighting for and he fought for them once, for the only reason any man ever fights for them: Because of one plain simple rule: Love thy neighbor. And in this world

Voter registration deadline for primary approaches

The deadline to register to vote in the Texas Democratic and Republican primary elections is Feb. 5. Voters on March 5 will choose their nominees for president, U.S. Senator, all 38 U.S. House members from Texas, and a number of other state and local offices, from the Texas Supreme Court to district attorneys, sheriffs and county commissioners.

Any registered voter can cast a ballot in either party's primary election, but not both primaries in a single election cycle. Successful nominees in the primaries advance to the general election. Early voting begins on Feb. 20 and ends on March 1.

Anyone who wants to confirm their voter registration status can go to votetexas.gov.

Novelty plate sales on the rise

Whether it is buying a personalized plate, supporting one's alma mater or opting for a plate with a black background, Texans spent more than \$10 million on novelty plates in 2023, The News reported.

While plates with black backgrounds have been the top sellers for the past three years, there has also been an increase in personalized plates.

"More people are wanting to add their own personal message on their plate that means something to them," said Steve Farrar, CEO of My Plates.

The maroon plate purchased by Texas A&M University fans dominated the school-related novelty plates, followed by Texas Tech University plates.

Razor wire case goes to Supreme Court

The U.S. Justice Department last week asked the U.S. Supreme Court for an emergency ruling to allow Border Patrol agents to resume cutting razor wire installed by the state along the U.S.-Mexico border, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"Texas's placement of the wire near the riverbank in Eagle Pass has proved particularly problematic for Border Patrol agents," the justice department wrote in its plea. "By preventing Border Patrol agents from reaching noncitizens who have already entered the United States, Texas's barriers in Eagle Pass impede agents' ability to apprehend and inspect migrants under federal law."

Gov. Greg Abbott has accused President Joe Biden of impeding immigration enforcement.

"Americans and courts will reject Biden's hostility to immigration laws," Abbott posted on X. "Texas will continue to deploy National Guard to build border barriers and repel illegal immigrants."

Community colleges get millions in additional funding

The state's community colleges are receiving millions in additional funding under a move to merit-based funding and a

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



today, full of hatred, a man who knows that one rule has a great trust."

That golden rule has nothing to do with being a Republican or a Democrat.

Last week the mother of three of my former students, was harassed while driving to the point that the driver almost ran her off the road. According to the victim, the truck driver slammed on the brakes when he got in front of her. The truck had a Trump sticker, the mother had a Biden sticker on her car. She believes that is the reason for the harassment. In her words she was "terrified and shaking".

Why is a grandmother, for that matter, anyone, being subjected to violence and danger because they supported a particular candidate? When did it become wrong and unAmerican to disagree on politics? Democracy is built on the compromise of the two-party system. If you know your world history, you are well aware of how dangerous one party systems are.

The radicalization of politics is something that happens in third world nations, right? Or in unstable African or middle eastern countries, right? Not in America...right?

It is time for all of us to work on becoming a little more like Jefferson Smith and help remind people to stick to the plain simple rules that this country was founded on. And, "a little more watching out for the other guy" as Jeff Smith would say.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



departure from funding based strictly on enrollment numbers, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

House Bill 8 was signed into law by Abbott in June. Community colleges now are receiving state money based on how many degrees, certificates, transfers and "credentials of value" are awarded. The state budget is allocating \$683 million in additional funds to the state's 50 community college districts.

"It's a game changer, not just for bottom line revenue that will come to our colleges, which is sorely needed, but it is a game changer again because it will really allow us to focus on what we're really there for and that is to serve the students that grow in our colleges," Ray Martinez, CEO of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, said.

More than a third of state agencies using AI

More than one third of state agencies are using some form of artificial intelligence, according to a 2022 report from the Texas Department of Information Resources. The Texas Tribune reported agencies such as the Texas Workforce Commission are using chatbots to serve patrons. In the TWC's case, the chatbot was designed to help Texans sign up for unemployment benefits after the pandemic in March 2020 vastly increased the number of jobless claims.

"This is going to totally revolutionize the way we do government," said state Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake. Capriglione wrote House Bill 2020, which is aimed at helping the state make better use of AI technology. It creates an AI advisory council to ascertain how state agencies are now using AI and whether a code of ethics is needed.

Some of the current uses of AI by state agencies include translating languages into English, enhancing cybersecurity and fraud detection, and translating speech into text at call centers.

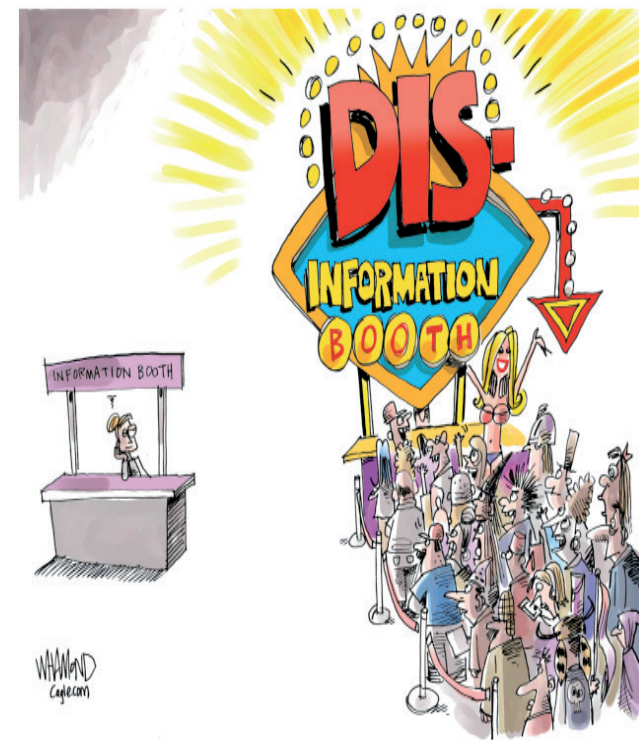
Texas economy still booming

New data released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Texas economy continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole for the fifth quarter in a row. During the third quarter of 2023, the state's gross domestic product – the value of all goods and services produced – grew in Texas at an annual rate of 7.7%, considerably higher than the national GDP's growth of 4.9%.

"Texas is America's undisputed economic leader, outpacing the nation in economic expansion and job growth," Abbott said.

Kansas posted the highest percentage increase in the nation at 9.7%.

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

Looking back ...

As I've said before, one of the most striking characteristics the US economy demonstrated in 2023 was resilience. Texas set a blazing growth pace for the year, though things slowed a bit toward the end. Let's look back at the year and the key developments from an economic perspective.

About a year ago, everywhere you looked there was another prediction of a recession (possibly a major one). Although I always thought (and said and wrote) that the fears were overblown, we were in an environment characterized by rampant inflation, with the Federal Reserve taking aggressive actions and indicating that it would stay the course until price increases slowed their upward spiral.

The path toward a "soft landing," where inflation is tamed without fostering a recession, is always difficult. Last January, it appeared to many as if the chances of avoiding a downturn were next to nil. It was a case of a recession that wasn't, with month after month of expansion despite ongoing challenges. We aren't out of the woods completely (as is always the case), but a gentle touch down is looking increasingly likely.

Geopolitical tensions escalated during the year, with the Russia-Ukraine war continuing and new conflict breaking out in Israel-Gaza with the Hamas invasion. Additional regions are showing increasing stress, including Venezuela-Guyana. China's faltering economy further rippled through world markets. Even with these problems and others, expansion continued.

Numbers of airline passengers finally got back to pre-pandemic levels, and the travel industry returned to profitability. However, the banking sector encountered significant challenges, with federal action needed to deal with highly visible (though not systematic) bank failures. Financial institutions face some ongoing challenges in real estate portfolios. Labor actions were also a major factor.

In Texas, official Census estimates indicated the state's population topped 30 million in July 2022, with an increase of more than 470,700 over the prior 12 months. Numbers of residents in several other states declined and continue to do so. Another notable milestone is that the state's largest racial/ethnic group is now Hispanics, followed by non-Hispanic whites.

Texas also won Site Selection magazine's "Governor's Cup" for an impressive eleventh consecutive year; the Cup is awarded to the state with the most major corporate locations and expansion projects. Several moves by the state legislature (such as maintaining key economic incentives) helped ensure ongoing competitiveness, although other actions were more problematic. Voters approved measures to fund expansion of broadband, water supplies, state parks, and higher education.

Looking back on 2023, the biggest story for the economy was continued growth despite some major challenges and increasing global tensions. Consumers led the way, and the job market was robust. Let's hope 2024 is a little calmer.

Stay safe!

WHO JUST FELL OFF THE TURNIP TRUCK?

The phrase "Who fell off the turnip truck" refers to someone who is naïve or easily fooled." Keep that in mind as you read this article.

Publishers Weekly, said, when reviewing Richard Dawkins, well-known atheist apologist, book: *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*: "Biologists depend on the reality of evolution. It's the theory that makes every other theory possible...Since many people actively ignore the idea of evolution, since it seems to contradict the Bible and diminish the role of God, Dawkins decided to write a book for these "history-deniers." In his book, Dawkins calls those who don't subscribe to evolution ignorant, fatuously ignorant and ridiculous, and compares them to "holocaust deniers." The word "fatuously" means "silly, foolish, stupid, insane, nonsensical, childish, infantile." Now, read one of Dawkin's typical diatribes in his book: "Only ignoramus and those who just fell off the turnip truck would dare question science...It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that). Evolution is a fact, beyond reasonable doubt, beyond serious doubt, beyond sane, informed, intelligent doubt, evolution is a fact...It is a plain truth that we are cousins of monkeys, more distant cousins still of aardvarks and manatees, yet more distant cousins of bananas, and turnips...continue the list as long as desired." After reading this, perhaps you are wondering, like myself, who it is that is "ignorant, ridiculous, stupid or insane, nonsensical, and just fell off the turnip truck!" Think on these things.

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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..

WO plans public water rate update

The City of White Oak will hold a Town Hall meeting next on pending changes to the community's water rates.

The gather is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the new White Oak Community Building at 1103 S. White Oak Road, next to VeraBank.

The Town hall will feature consultant Phillip Givens of Superior Water Management of Texas. Recruited by the city for a second-opinion analysis of water data, Givens will present his recommendations for changes to the town's water rates – an increase is on tap for this year.

According to White Oak officials, handouts will be distributed at the meeting, but they're available now for review via cityofwhiteoak.com by clicking "Download the Water Rate Study Handout."

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 enhance-

ment 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>

County library hosts storytime

Two books by James Howe will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Jan. 11.)

"Brontorina" and "Tyrone O'Saurus Dreams" 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.

Seed swap set Jan. 27 at library

There's still wintry weather ahead, but a gleam of spring is just around the corner, and local gardeners can get a jump-start on their 2024 seed stock later this month at Lee-Bardwell Public Library.

Glade Creek Garden will host a 'Seed Swap' at the facility. Set for 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, the rain-or-shine event is free and open to the public.

Learn more about the event through Glade Creek's event page at <https://fb.me/e/49joQfU3K>.

"All are welcome and encouraged to bring their seeds, spores, rhizomes, tubers, bulbs and cuttings (mess free) to swap with other local folks for new and interesting garden treasures."

According to the organiz-

ers, guests should arrive early to set up at a table before swapping starts at 11 a.m. As a free event for all gardeners and garden lovers, attendees are encouraged to also bring a seed donation for the facility to help set up a new seed library for the community.

"You can bring any kind of seeds, whether they are dollar store seeds (which grow great), open pollinated stock of your own or purchased seeds from other vendors. They can be flowers, fruit, veggie, herb, medicinal (nothing illegal), houseplant, etc. type seeds."

Importantly, don't bring plants to trade, nor dirt or water as it's an inside-event. "Cuttings are welcome as long as they are mess-free inside closed containers or bags. Bulbs and bulb-like items are welcome. They must be washed clean, dried, put in a bag, and labeled."

Seeds must be labeled as well, and visitors are welcome to bring garden tools, gloves, plant containers, garden art and similar items for trade as well, "New or used, as long as they are clean/free of dirt."

Man indicted on drug charges

Continued from Page 1
15, 2022. She was released on \$10,000 bond.

Nathan Cole Jones, 32, of Tyler, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Aug. 18, 2022. He was freed on \$10,000 bond.

Marsha Jane Haldren, 57, of Diana, possession of controlled substance (metham-

phetamine) on Aug. 27, 2022. She was released on \$5,000 bond.

Identity of anyone charged in the sealed indictments wasn't disclosed as Byrd said no arrest had yet been made.

They included two for aggravated assault with deadly weapon, and one for delivery of controlled substance (methamphetamine)--repeat offender

Rags continue to sap city's limited resources

If there's one New Year's resolution Charlie Smith would ask of Gladewater residents, it's put trash where it belongs – not in the toilet.

Seriously. "One of our major problems is people putting rags in our sewer," Gladewater's interim city manager lamented last week. While that's one of the more frequent items wreaking havoc on the city's waste system, it's not the worst: "We found a brick in one of our motors the other day, in one of our pumps."

Replacing motors and repairing pumps at the city's lift stations was a common theme on the Public Works agenda last year (and in years prior). With 17 lift stations operating throughout the city limits, that's a lot of spots that can become problems when they pick up the detritus in the sewer lines. The cost of fixing the issues add up quickly.

"Because of the man-hours," Smith said. "We have to go out, pull the pump out the hole, clean it out and put it back in. It's just an ordeal, and it pretty much happens two or three times a week."

The labor alone is averaging about \$1,000 per week. A recent job took five hours with multiple city employees responding.

"When they clog up, we have to go right then because it'll start an overflow in that sewer," Smith said, and several of the lift stations are on the lake.

The issue becomes even more expensive when the pump has to be replaced.

Depending on the size, "Those things are running about eight grand to replace," Smith said. "And that's not the big pump."

Fortunately, not every instance requires a pump replacement, but they still have to be serviced.

"The bad part is the number of lift stations that we have – TCEQ requires us to check those lift stations every day."

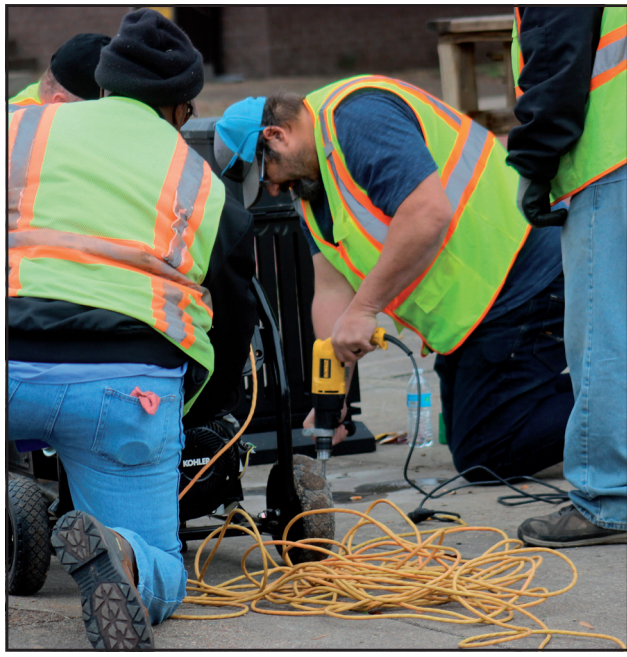


A brick clogs one of the City of Gladewater's lift station pumps in mid-December 2023, necessitating yet another time-consuming and costly repair.

GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
12/31/23	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20237105	2:09	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20237106	4:04	CITY NATIONAL BANK	895 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
	ABANDONED 911	20237114	18:16		317 AMES AMES ST
	EMS	20237115	18:32		1007 N LYNN LYNN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20237116	18:48	DANIELLE'S HOUSE OF HOPE	1014 N LYNN LYNN ST
	FIRE DEPT	20237117	20:37		2005 NORT POINT PLESENT NORT POINT PLESENT RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237118	20:43		901 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20237119	21:01		106 W GREGG GREGG AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20237120	22:29		1106 E SHEPPERD SHEPPERD DR
1/1/24	FIRE DEPT	20240001	0:01	PINECREST PINECREST	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240003	0:07		506 S CLINTON CLINTON
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240004	0:39	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240005	2:18		205 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20240006	2:50		3658 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20240007	3:00		1020 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20240008	3:07	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20240009	8:56	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20240010	11:39		2633 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK RD
	EMS	20240012	11:46		4 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ASSIST	20240013	12:20		801 TENNERY TENNERY
	ABANDONED 911	20240016	18:09		365 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ASSAULT CLASS A	20240017	18:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240018	19:26		205 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240019	19:41		2302 WOODBINE WOODBINE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240020	21:52		307 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20240021	22:39		519 MELBA MELBA AVE
1/2/24	EMS	20240024	9:09		519 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240025	10:25	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	10-50 MINOR	20240026	10:39		271 271
	10-50 MINOR	20240027	12:29		S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240028	13:27		121 N VILLAGE VILLAGE CIR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240029	16:42		508 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA DR
	EMS	20240030	20:34	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20240031	21:41	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240032	22:19		LEE LEE
1/3/24	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240033	2:42		2186 N MAIN N MAIN
	EMS	20240034	5:50		13 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
		20240036	12:10	JULIAWOOD HOMES	21 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	ESCORT	20240037	12:24	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	ASSIST	20240038	12:58	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1623 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20240039	13:54		315 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	10-50 MINOR	20240040	14:47		HWY 80 HWY 80
	CRIM TRESPASS	20240041	15:56		904 E MARY MARY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20240043	16:48		904 E MARY MARY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20240044	16:50		309 N COTTON COTTON ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240045	17:50		GAY GAY
	EMS	20240046	17:57		621 STARNES STARNES ST
	FIRE DEPT	20240047	20:23		145 PR 1013 PR 1013
	ABANDONED 911	20240048	22:41		406 W GAY GAY AVE
1/4/24	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240049	1:45	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20240050	2:59	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20240051	6:02		HWY 135 HWY 135
	THEFT	20240052	6:39	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	TERROR THREAT	20240053	7:43		805 N GARY GARY ST
	EMS	20240054	9:41		205 HURLEY HURLEY ST
	EMS	20240055	9:42		2019 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20240056	9:48		NORTH NORTH
	ASSIST	20240057	10:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	CT/WARNING	20240058	10:27	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	ASSIST	20240059	13:10		365 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	EMS	20240060	13:53		408 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20240061	15:13		UNKNOWN UNKNOWN
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20240062	15:18		501 N AMES AMES ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240063	15:52		1099 SHERWOOD SHERWOOD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240064	15:59		805 GARY GARY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240065	16:18	TEXAS TRADITIONS	807 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20240066	16:19	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	THEFT	20240067	16:46		383 W SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	EMS	20240068	16:51	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR

	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20240070	22:11		1050 BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20240071	22:58	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240072	23:27		107 N LEE N LEE
1/5/24	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20240073	1:03		1509 N DAISEY N DAISEY
	ABANDONED 911	20240074	1:29	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240075	1:42		107 N LEE ST N LEE ST
	EMS	20240076	6:03		519 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20240077	6:09		519 MELBA MELBA
	FIRE DEPT	20240078	7:14		383 W SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	FIRE DEPT	20240079	7:54		13 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	EMS	20240080	8:56		519 WEST MARSHALL AVE WEST MARSHALL AVE
	EMS	20240082	9:30		1102 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	ABANDONED 911	20240083	14:45		200 S DEAN DEAN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240084	15:12		802 COACH COOKSY COACH COOKSY
	EMS	20240085	15:55		1208 E MARY MARY AVE
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20240086	16:37	RBS LIQUOR	1601 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240087	16:53	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20240088	17:40		NO ADDRESS NO ADDRESS
	EMS	20240089	19:17		1201 MCKINLEY MCKINLEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240090	19:41		104 GROVES GROVES ST
1/6/24	MISCELLANEOUS	20240091	1:44		N LEE N LEE
	EMS	20240092	2:56		1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20240093	6:12		512 HANCOCK HANCOCK ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240094	7:30	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20240095	8:19		HWY 135 AND 271 HWY 135 AND 271
	ALARM/OTHER	20240097	9:16	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240098	9:28	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20240099	12:15		801 RODEN RODEN LN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240101	12:36		213 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240102	13:12		S 271 AT BRIDGE, SB S 271 AT BRIDGE, SB
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240103	13:19		
	EMS	20240104	13:22	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20240106	17:48	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20240107	19:00	BODACIOUS BBQ	1105 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	THEFT	20240108	19:08	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240109	19:25		2207 PINECREST PINECREST DR
	THEFT	20240110	19:41	CVS PHARMACY	1402 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20240111	20:19	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240112	23:38		601 COLLEGE COLLEGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240113	23:52		205 JEANETTE JEANETTE
1/7/24	ALARM/OTHER	20240114	0:32		501 N AMES N AMES
	FIRE DEPT	20240115	2:11		301 W COMMERCE W COMMERCE
	HARASSMENT	20240116	4:05		2805 RAMPY RAMPY AVE
	CRIM TRESPASS				



Gladewater streets top priority this year

By James Draper

The city's streets continue to be a top priority for Gladewater's elected officials and residents, and City Hall aims to carry a 'proactive' mantra into 2024. Granted, they always take time. Especially with a limited budget, strategic improvements require more planning on the front-end, Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said. The wheel turns slowly, but the advance work behind-the-scenes ensures better results once the project's underway.

"Sometimes it takes a little bit of time before people start realizing there are things going on."

There will be some visible progress this year.

For example, "I've talked to the Gregg County Commissioner about working with us on redoing some roadways around town," and the same conversation's ahead with Rusk County. Meanwhile, this year's chip-seal projects, Smith said, will help certain roads last longer until the city can afford to move forward with overlay work.

"It really does help," he added. "It seals the cracks —when they get water in them, especially during the wintertime, that's when we have a lot of issues arise. That water freezes in those cracks, it really tears the roadways up."

The Texas Department of Transportation made good progress on local roads last year, Smith said. It may have been a strain at the time, but it's getting the work done.

"We've got a good working relationship with TxDOT," he noted, coordinating with the agency's new engineer in Longview. "It's been expedited, and they get things done, and

I've been very pleased with him.

"Granted, he got a lot of phone calls about 80. But, they've got a big job to do. There's a lot of roads TxDOT is working on."

Long-developing work on Hendrix Street should kick off in the next week or so.

"That's going to be a major repair because we're redoing the water and sewer lines under that road," he added. "That's been one of the issues with the city — it's hard to go in and redo a road then turn right around and tear it up because the infrastructure is so bad underneath."

"That's the expense we have to incur, is fixing the infrastructure first before we spend a lot of money on the roadway."

When the funds are there, each project's chipping away at the very long-term goal of getting roads in the best shape possible for as long as possible.

"You can pretty much put your finger anywhere in the city and there's going to be some type of road issue," Smith said. "East Lake's bad. West Lake's bad. I want to go down Henderson Lane and at least put some chip-seal on that."

Fortunately, there are more dollars already bound for the city's coffers, even if they're already earmarked — it will be many months before there's visible progress, but the recent grant award from the Safe Streets 4 All Program will have an impact in the future.

"Since we got the \$240,000 for that planning phase, now we get to move forward with that project. That's more along the lines of sidewalks and crosswalks. Of course, we're at the federal government's mercy on that."

One step at a time

City aims for step-by-step improvements in 2024

Continued from Page 1

there's a new air conditioning system in place at City Hall — crews brought some relief to city workers sweltering in the building's dead air after the high heat and antiquated equipment forced the closure of the building and relocation of services to Lee-Bardwell Public Library last summer.

"That's made it bearable," Smith said. "There's a lot of little things we do that makes it better for our employees."

Likewise, "We got new equipment last year for our employees because some of the equipment they were trying to operate was just wore out."

There are a lot of 'wants' on the list, but right now City Hall is keeping focus not on shiny, new things, but on fixing what's broken and addressing needs.

Step-by-step, he said, things are getting better and they'll continue along that path in '24.

"We're going to do our best to make things better this year than what it was last year," Smith concluded. "I think we're building some connections with different organizations that we can enhance and work together with other organizations in our city just to make Gladewater even better."

"It's got a lot to offer."

White Oak's to-do list grows for 2024

By James Draper

White Oak's sales tax had a great 2023, and things are looking good for the year ahead. With an array of projects on the city's to-do list that puts just a bit of breathing room in the budget.

Sales tax collections last year totaled \$1,653,244, a 10.1 percent increase on the prior year's \$1.5 million (which was 22.5 percent ahead of 2021). Gains haven't been consistent, but 2023 showed almost twice the numbers reported a decade ago.

"Overall, the sales tax was wonderful," White Oak City Manager Jimmy Purcell said. "We had a good year, and if we go like we've been going, '24 is looking the same or even better."

"We had quite a few big businesses that moved from Longview over to White Oak. I think the word has gotten out that the best place to have a business is here in White Oak."

The city works to incentivize that kind of growth as much as possible, he added, and there's more in the works such as \$300,000 in funds from White Oak Economic Development Corporation (half up-front and the remainder at completion) to help fund developer Doss Rossouw's new destination shopping hub in the 1800 block of Hwy. 80.

In the coming year, the city is also part of the development of the Sabine River Paddling Trail across Gregg County, and plans aim to enhance the community's bike trail as well. The coming year will also include the launch of the Mid-America League summer collegiate baseball team based in White Oak (see separate story in today's edition).

2024 will also be the first year of operations at the White Oak Community Building after city / WOEDCO officials finalized

the \$350,000 purchase of the White Oak Road facility Dec. 28.

"Since we bought it from VeraBank, we were able to make one payment of \$175,000 now. Twelve months from now the final payment of \$175,000 is due. That really helped us out," Purcell said. "That's ready to be rented out to anyone. I think we're looking at \$350 a day plus \$200 deposit."

Another water rate increase is on tap for '24 — the latest numbers estimate a 19 percent increase on the base amount for water, sewer and trash, roughly \$20 a month more for average users, plus additional costs for actual usage. A town meeting on the issue is set Jan. 16.

Elsewhere on the Public Works agenda in 2024, the city will begin relocating water/sewer lines on Hwy. 42 ahead of the planned expansion of the highway about five years from now. The work will cost about \$1.7 million more than anticipated due to two years of delays since original funding.

Meanwhile, work on George Richey Road is good to go.

"They should be finishing putting in the sewer and water lines in the next few months."

There are resurfacing/repaving projects in the works for streets throughout the city, Purcell noted.

Likewise, "We have some drainage issues that we're looking into and are possibly going to get some grants for."

The upgrade of the community's smart water meters is also pending — \$500,000 has been set aside for the \$850,000 project.

Looking ahead, "We also are talking about replacing the water storage tank out on the north end of town and changing that to an elevated water tank."

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SPORTS

Gladewater, White Oak basketball roundup

By Tyler Sutton

2024 kicked off this past week and the Gladewater and White Oak boys and girls basketball teams were in action wrapping up their non district and beginning district play.

The Gladewater Bears basketball team wrapped up their non district schedule on Friday, January 5th as they traveled to Rivercrest. In a back and forth battle, the Bears fell 65-55.

The loss dropped Gladewater to 2-17 on the season. The Bears will be back in action as they open up district play on Friday, January 12th with a road game at Daingerfield. Moving over to the Lady Bears, they played both their final non district game and district opener this week.

On Tuesday, January 2nd Gladewater went on the road to Beckville and came home with a 70-54 victory. Five Lady Bears scored in double figures, led by Paytin Thompson with 18 points, seven rebounds and five steals. Kyla Lincoln added 15 points, seven assists, four steals and two rebounds, Calice Henderson 13 points, seven rebounds, five assists, two steals and six blocks, Ava Langford 12 points, two rebounds and four steals and Khera Lincoln 10 points.

Ramya Ransom chipped in with two points, two rebounds, two assists and five steals. Then on Friday, January 5th the Lady Bears opened up district play on the road in New Diana and came away with a 47-23 win. The 2 victories improve the Lady Bears record to 9-12 and 1-0 in district play. Gladewater will

be back at home on Tuesday, January 9th as they host rival White Oak. Then on Friday, January 12th Gladewater will be on the road at Daingerfield.

Moving over to White Oak, the Roughnecks played their next to last non district game with a home game vs Tyler HEAT and fell to them 69-32.

Scotty Breitenberg led the way for White Oak with 13 points. Henry Lattin added 10, Kanaan Moore six, Campbell Sutton five and Kaleb Sorgee, Gavin Sipes and Jacob Sorgee two apiece.

The RoughNecks now sit at 6-15 and try to end their 7 game losing streak as they wrap up their non district schedule with a home game on January 9th with a home game vs Joaquin. Then they will begin district play on Friday, January 12th hosting Sabine.

The LadyNecks opened up district play with a road matchup with Hughes Springs and came away with a thrilling 31-29 overtime victory. Elyse Paiz knocked down six 3-pointers on the way to a 22-point night. Kalyn Hepler added four points, Graycen Sipes three and Gentry Whittington two for White Oak. Lauryn Rosado had four steals and Paiz three.

White Oak is now 8-13 on the season and 1-0 in district play. The LadyNecks next hit the court on Tuesday, January 9th when they make the short trip to take on rival Gladewater. Then host Sabine on Friday, January 12th.

Lady Lions ranked 10th in state poll

TGCA State Basketball Poll	12. Jewett Leon 19-3	6. Winnsboro 21-6
January 9, 2024.	13. Ozona 21-4	7. Comanche 22-2
Class 2A	14. Normangee 19-5	8. Hooks 19-4
1. Bremond 18-0	15. Falls City 14-5	9. Malakoff 21-2
2. Clarendon 19-1	16. Flatonina 22-4	10. Kountze 18-3
3. Lipan 16-3	17. Cisco 18-4	11. Jourdanton 21-5
4. Shiner 21-2	18. Christoval 18-7	12. Huntington 20-5
5. Goldthwaite 22-3	19. Frost 18-4	13. Commerce 22-5
6. Farwell 20-3	20. Sudan 16-5	14. Lorena 19-5
7. Johnson City 22-3	Class 3A	15. Hallettsville 22-5
8. Nocona 20-3	1. Tuscola Jim Ned 22-2	16. Comm. Academy 17-4
9. Martins Mill 20-4	2. West 20-1	17. Hitchcock 15-4
10. Union Grove 17-4	3. Tatum 19-1	18. Idalou 19-5
11. Floydada 16-3	4. Fairfield 21-2	19. Rio Hondo 16-4
	5. Rains 23-2	20. Bells 18-5

“Coot’s Corner” By Coot Putley

Gone But Not Forgotten – Part 3

This will be the final column looking back at sports figures who passed away in 2023. We have talked about baseball and football; today we’ll discuss others.

Chris Ford attended Villanova University and was drafted by the Detroit Pistons but was traded to the Boston Celtics and is one of a handful who won an NBA Championship as a player and as a coach. Ford is remembered as the first to be credited with a three-point basket in 1979.

The New York Knicks have won two NBA Championships. One in 1970 and the other in 1973. In both years the MVP in the playoffs was 6’10” Willis Reed. He was the first in league history to be named MVP in All Star game, regular season, and playoffs in the same year, 1970. That championship series against the Lakers was especially memorable. In game 5 Reed suffered a severe muscle tear in his thigh and had to leave the game. He also missed game 6. Without Reed’s interior defense, Laker center Wilt Chamberlain had 45 points and 27 rebounds. New York’s prospects were dim.

It was doubtful that Willis would be able to play, and ever more doubtful that the Knicks could stop Chamberlain and the Lakers in game 7. As the teams were preparing for the game, the crowd erupted when they saw Reed come limping on the court, pulled off his warmups and began to loosen up. The team played inspired basketball and beat the Lakers. Never before had 4 points and 3 rebounds provided so much motivation. Later, when asked about his decision, Reed said he would have always regretted missing the opportunity to help his team, so he gave it his best shot. That’s the stuff legends are made of!

Two great college coaches died in 2023. Their personalities couldn’t be more different, but they both won. Denny Crum coached at Louisville for 31 years, took his team to 6 final fours, and won 2 national championships. His calm demeanor on the sideline led to the nickname “Cool Hand Luke.”

Bobby Knight was the polar opposite. He won three national championships and his Indiana team in 1975-76

is the last men’s team to go undefeated and win the title. Unfortunately, despite the winning record (902-370) he is better remembered for his temper. He had many episodes with referees, other coaches, and players, and once threw a chair across the court to protest a foul call. Sadly, his lack of self-control tarnished his image.

If you are my age, you remember when high jumpers faced the bar and tried to jump over sideways. Then, along came Dick Fosburg. He ran to the bar, turned with his back to the bar, and flopped over like he was landing on a mattress. In 1968, he won the Olympics in Mexico City. Suddenly, others decided the “Fosburg Flop” was a better way to jump. Now hardly anyone tries to roll or straddle, everyone does “the Flop.” How many people can say they totally revolutionized a sport? Dick Fosburg could!

We’ve paid our respects for the last three columns; now it’s time to look forward. Hope 2024 is your best year ever!

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- ACROSS**
- TXism: "___ as a two-day-old kitten"
 - TXism: "sounds like a dry ___" (bad singer)
 - hot tubs
 - meaning of Spanish word, "Brazos"
 - Texas band "High Fidelity" plays the music of "___ Speedwagon"
 - Guadalupe is a spring-___ river
 - TXism: "you can't ___ silk purse out of a sow's ear"
 - TX Matt who was a pro wrestler easternmost city in Texas
 - national citizen (2 wds.)
 - shaped clay
 - Texas-based Mary Kay is present in this Chinese country
 - "Bear" or "Berra"
 - TX Janis died of a drug over ___
 - "Anytime" country singer, Eddy
 - Texas film "Lone Wolf Mc ___"
 - some confuse ___ with a raven
 - place with coin-operated washers and dryers (2 wds.)
 - TXism: "plain ___ on your face"
 - TX George Foreman was one

- attached wood slantwise
- moutie "Do-Right"
- opposite of 21-across (abbr.)
- space agcy. in Houston
- on the side of a ship sheltered from the wind
- "Deaf" Smith in the Texas Revolution

- DOWN**
- TXism: "___ the Dead Sea was only sick" (old newspaper in Pleasanton, Texas)
 - Texas-based 1985 drama film with Ed Harris (2 ws.)
 - Fort Worth Spanish contemporary hit FM radio
 - TXism: "big ___ in the pond" (VIP)

- TEXAS CROSSWORD**
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.
- noncombatant Alamo survivor, son of Gregorio and Ana (2 wds.)
 - comfy room in a house
 - female parent, informally
 - TXism: "mean as ___"
 - before KDEI, in Port Arthur
 - TXism: "tie up the loose ___"
 - this RB Tommie was on 2 Cowboy Super Bowl teams
 - "for sale" abbr. often
 - this Ames was "Mingo" when TX Fess was "Daniel"
 - 16-down init.
 - noted Notre Dame coach, Parseghian
 - Peru native people
 - "do your ___" (threat response)
 - TXism: "got ___ arrows in his quiver" (capable)
 - int'l security org.
 - commercial
 - ___ Pepper
 - "Santa ___ National Wildlife Refuge"
 - pork ___ (cut of meat from a pig)
 - TXism: "dull ___ week's news"
 - TX Lois Chiles profession before acting
 - car's wheel shafts
 - golf ball support
 - Texas Ranger radio announcer, Eric (init.)
 - TX Yarborough, a U.S. senator from 1957 to 1971 (init.)
 - communal location in a nursing home
 - Donald Duck's girlfriend
 - Cowboy Hall-of-Famer, Aikman

See Answers On This Page

OBITUARY

JASON BROWN

Jason Brown, age 45, of Liberty City, passed away on December 29th at UT Health in Tyler. Jason was born March 16th, 1978 to Ricky and Debbie Brown.



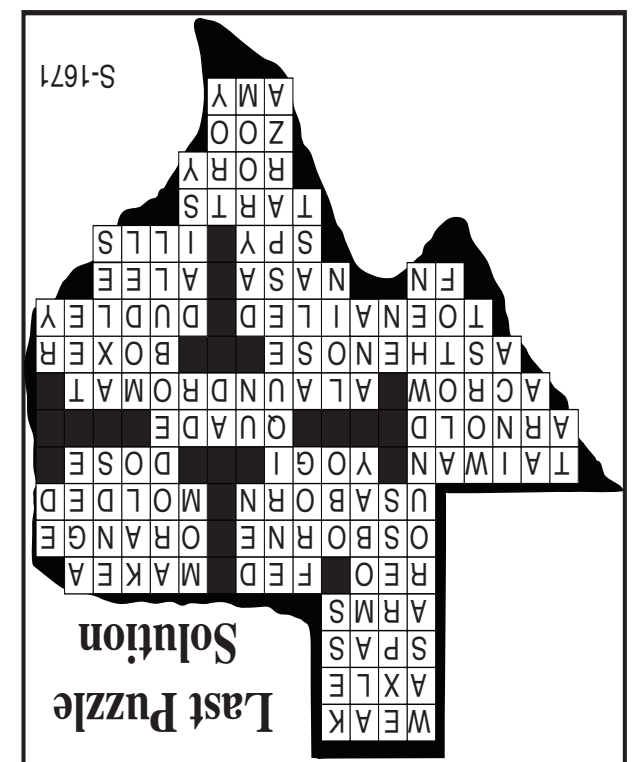
Jason was best known for his ability to fix almost any small engine and his skills at a pool table. Jason was in a committed relationship with his girlfriend of 6 years Serina Poorman and helped raise her three boys, Kris, Kyler, and Kellen Harju.

Jason was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents; Jim and Faye Brown, his maternal grandfather; JL Landers, and his uncles; Todd Brown, Mackey Meadows

Jason is survived by; his parents Ricky and Debbie Brown, his only brother and wife; Donald and Amanda Brown, one niece, Saige Piper and one nephew Landon Brown. Also, cousins Sabrina Brown, Cody Brown, and several other cousins spread across east Texas.

A celebration of life for Jason will be held on Saturday, January 27th, at 2 pm at Go Forth Baptist Church in Kilgore. Please come help the family reminisce over all the good times.

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The City of Gladewater is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or businesses to operate a Lake Store / Bait Shop located at 1604 Lakeshore Dr., in Gladewater, Texas. Please visit our website at www.cityofgladewater.com for more information and full proposal preparation instructions. Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024, at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway Avenue, Gladewater, Texas 75647.

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You and each of you are hereby cited, required and commanded to appear before the County Court at Law #1 of Gregg County, Texas, to be held in the County Court at Law # 1 courtroom in the courthouse of said county in the city of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, such appearance to be at or before ten o'clock a.m. of the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of service, exclusive of the day of such service, which day and date of service shall be the date of publication that this newspaper bears, and which appearance shall be at such time on such Monday, which will be the 15th day of January, 2024, by filing written answer to the application hereinafter mentioned, contesting same, should they or any of them desire to do so, which application will, at such 10 o'clock hour and such place be acted on, said application having been filed by Matthew Harris, Dependent Administrator, in said court on the 30th day of October, 2023, and now pending there, in a proceeding on the probate docket of said court, styled

"In the Estate of Catherine Caruthers, Deceased"
the file number of which application and the docket number of which proceedings is 88000203P, the nature of such application being for

FIRST AMENDED APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP

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

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

Given under my hand and the seal of said court, at office in the City of Longview this the 3rd day of January, 2024

Michelle Gilley
Clerk of County Court at Law #1
Gregg County, Texas
C. Garrett
Deputy

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

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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO or the Company) publishes this notice that on September 29, 2023, it filed its Statement of Intent and Application for Authority to Amend Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) in Docket No. 55438. The filing was made in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) § 36.209 and 16 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) § 25.239. The TCRF will recover SWEPCO's reasonable and necessary costs for transmission infrastructure improvements as well as changes in wholesale transmission charges under a tariff approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to the extent that the costs or charges have not otherwise been recovered. In this application, SWEPCO seeks to recover its transmission capital investments from July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023. SWEPCO also seeks to recover through the TCRF approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through current rates. This notice is being published in accordance with PURA § 36.103 and 16 TAC § 22.51(a)(1).

STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CHANGE RATES

SWEPCO requests that the Commission approve an increase of \$3,461,491 above the revenue requirement approved by the Commission in SWEPCO's last TCRF proceeding, Docket No. 54040 for its Texas retail customers. This amounts to a 0.86% percent increase in SWEPCO's overall annualized Texas retail revenue requirement. SWEPCO proposes that its requested rate change become effective on November 3, 2023, which is 35 days after the filing of the Statement of Intent and Application. The proposed effective date is subject to suspension and extension by actions that may be taken by the Commission.


All customers in SWEPCO's Texas retail rate classes will be affected by this change. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons with questions or who want more information on SWEPCO's Statement of Intent and Application may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent and Application and related filings is available for inspection at the address listed in the previous sentence.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. A request for intervention or for further information should refer to Docket No. 55438. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its Statement of Intent and Application with the Commission.

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January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Continued from Page 1

vulnerable populations are at risk of sex trafficking.

Reality: While individuals facing vulnerabilities, such as poverty, homelessness, or a history of abuse, are more susceptible, anyone can be targeted by traffickers, regardless of socioeconomic background.

Myth #8: Victims of sex

trafficking are involved voluntarily or have chosen the lifestyle.

Reality: Coerced consent and manipulation make it appear as if victims are participating voluntarily, but in reality, they are trapped in exploitative situations against their will.

Myth #9: Sex trafficking is primarily an urban issue.

Reality: Trafficking occurs in both urban and rural areas of the United States, as traffickers exploit vulnerabilities and target victims wherever they can find them.

Myth #10: Victims of sex trafficking can easily escape and reintegrate into society once rescued.

Reality: Survivors face numerous challenges, including trauma, fear, stigmatization, lack of resources, and limited support systems, which can make recovery and reintegration a complex

and lengthy process.

Warning Signs

- Change in behavior or mood
- Change in dress or style
- Signs of physical abuse
- Increase in secrecy
- Materialistic / Focus on money
- Sudden changes in peer group or affiliation
- An older, dominating/controlling boyfriend/girlfriend

What You Can Do Right Now?

- Establish open and on-

going communication with your kids about sex trafficking, child exploitation and predation.

- Teach your kids about online safety and how to detect predators on social media and online gaming platforms.
- Monitor their online activity and social media/gaming platforms and smart phones. Watch for warning signs such as being secretive or hiding “new friends” online.
- Implement the guide-

lines contained in Enough Is Enough’s “Rules ‘N Tools” to protect children on all internet-enabled devices.

- Set Parental Controls and use filters and monitoring software on all devices that connect to the internet.
- Turn on privacy settings on social media, gaming and smart phone accounts.
- Know who your child is communicating with via texts, instant messages, social posts, and while using voice chat on gaming systems.

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More repairs remain as dam starts new year in better shape '23

Last year may have been a bit of a reset for the Lake Gladewater Dam, but it's positioned the structure for key improvements in 2024 and beyond.

Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons is also the city's emergency management coordinator, and in 2023 he took the sad state of the dam as a professional affront and a personal challenge. After a decade or more of bare minimum maintenance, if that much, before his tenure with the city, the time had come to set things as right as they could be and set the stage for serious improvements.

Following months of work by a motley crew of city workers and officials, first responder representatives, state authorities, engineers and more, Simmons is confident 2024 will see some key boxes checked on the dam's safety rundown.

“Last year's annual inspection revealed the dam in ‘Fair’ condition in a declining state,” Simmons confirmed, but that assessment



Recent rainfall has raised the level of Lake Gladewater enough for a healthy run-off over the concrete spillway. The most recent annual inspection of the dam puts it in ‘poor’ condition as the City of Gladewater works toward consistent maintenance and improvement while pursuing grant-funded repairs.

lacked important information, minimizing the reality that the city's only water source is contained behind a ‘high hazard’ structure. “For this year's annual inspection we were able to get down there in the water to inspect it, and we found the voids behind the concrete.

“There's enough damage and voids in the concrete structure that will downgrade it to ‘poor’ condition.”

City officials are always quick to say, the sky's not falling. The dam's not at imminent risk of failure.

It is decades-old, though, and it is showing its age. There are both visible, invisible and as-yet unknown weaknesses and trouble-areas on both the earthen dam and the concrete spillway that must be addressed and mitigated to ensure the ongoing reliability of the structure.

To that end, a ‘poor’ designation isn't entirely bad news – it reflects the reality authorities already see, and it officially opens the door for state and federal funding set aside to assist with problematic structures.

The City of Gladewater doesn't have the financial resources readily-available to fix the dam. Grant monies to address ‘poor’ conditions will go a long way toward getting the necessities done.

In the meantime, city personnel are getting regular maintenance and inspections back up to par.

Last year saw a significant update to the emergency plan tied to the dam (it's still ongoing, currently in review at the state level), and 2023 also included the launch of new flood modeling downstream – also ongoing, the models should be finished soon.

“We've just about got that totally completed. That was a big undertaking,” Simmons said. “Now we're starting the vegetation control of the dam. All the vegetation on the front of the dam needs to be removed.”

Already, the greenery on the lake side of the earthen dam is brown and dying – it's not because of the season, but due largely to spraying. The desiccated remains will be removed soon, along with work on the back side of the dam and on the concrete spillway, where vegetation is another indicator of voids in the works.

Combined with mechanical cutting and cleaning, the lake's relief valve will soon be uncovered ahead of operational testing that had to be put off last fall.

“They'll spray around it to where it never grows back like that again.”

Upshur County special investigation unit makes multiple arrests

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested six individuals on various charges in December.

All were apprehended in traffic stops and taken to the county jail in Gilmer, said Webb, who gave these details:

A 31-year-old Yantis woman was arrested on two misdemeanor charges Dec. 12 when the male driver of the vehicle they occupied initially sped away from the unit before fleeing on foot.

The SIU tried to stop the vehicle in Rosewood community before the male drove behind a residence in the 8000 block of Texas 154. The woman remained behind and was charged with possession of dangerous drugs and interfering with public duties.

Authorities know the driver's identity and are seeking him. The unit found prescription drugs in the vehicle which were not legally prescribed to anyone.

The SIU report didn't show why the unit initially attempted to stop the vehicle, nor what drugs were allegedly found. The interfering charge was brought under a statute which prohibits interrupting, disrupting or interfering with a peace officer's lawful duties.

Victor Gomez, 40, of Irving, was arrested Dec. 13 on an outstanding Dallas County warrant charging him with felony injury to a child, elderly or disabled person.

The unit discovered the warrant's existence when it stopped Gomez at the intersection of Scott and Bledsoe Streets in Gilmer. He was awaiting extradition to the Dallas County Jail on Monday.

A 40-year-old Hawkins woman was arrested Dec. 14 on an Ector County warrant charging her with misdemeanor theft of property.

Investigators were performing drug interdiction in the Harmony area when they stopped her near the intersection of Horse Road and FM 852. She was still awaiting extradition Monday to Ector County.

A 29-year-old Gilmer man was arrested Dec. 14 on a misdemeanor charge of failure to display a driver's license after he was stopped at the intersection of Texas 154 and FM 49 in Gilmer.

Two Gilmerites were arrested Dec. 20 on warrants involving motions to revoke the respective felony probations they were on in Harrison County for possession of a controlled substance. (The drug wasn't identified in the SIU report.)

The driver, Shannon L. Ryan, 45, and passenger, Thomas L. Hopkins, 42, were extradited to Harrison County after investigators stopped them at the Dollar Tree on U.S. 271 in Gilmer and learned of the warrants.

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