

Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



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50¢

Piney Woods baseball team kicks-off run in White Oak

By James Draper

White Oak's new summer collegiate baseball team is going to make every home run in the local ball park even more memorable.

On the spot, Marc Schuster says, "We'll carve a wooden bat out of a piece of wood," awarding it to a young fan in the audience. According to the founder of the growing Mid-America League, it's another way to make the new franchise special for local fans and their visiting players.

"We might not win every game, but we're going to entertain you. We're very proud to be here."

Schuster joined the new Piney Woods team's president and co-owner, David Upchurch, at White Oak City Park's baseball facilities Saturday afternoon, welcoming a crowd of 125-plus for the ribbon cutting on the new venture. Team Owner Dany Chenail flew in from Canada for the event alongside Coach Matt Perisho and General Manager Eric Newendorf.

White Oak's the third team in the growing Mid-America League. With their official name-drop set Feb. 1, the operation's principals are looking forward to the first home game Friday, May 31.

"This is what we do. We love what we do," said Schuster, CEO of Ventura Sports Group. "The fact that this many people showed up for an event like this says something about the market, says something about the people."

The audience dug into a barbecue lunch while the team leaders laid out their plans for the months ahead. With 68 games on the schedule, 34 will be played in White Oak after key upgrades are made to the community's field.

"Man, this is an awesome turnout," White Oak City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell said, grateful for a bright day for the kick-off event. "I knew from the get-go this was going to be a big deal for White Oak."

Schuster's been working in baseball entertainment for more than three decades. In recent years, he's been pursuing a southern-based league across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Rapidly taking shape, four teams are now in the lineup including Abilene, Sherman and White Oak's Piney Woods outfit plus the most recent addition of Ft. Smith.

"We're here really because of the people. The City of White Oak has been such a pleasure to work with.



The principals behind the new Mid-America League's Piney Woods baseball team in White Oak celebrate their ribbon cutting Saturday at the ballfields at City Park. League Founder Mark Schuster welcomed team owner Dany Chenail, Coach Matt Perisho, General Manager Eric Newendorf and David Upchurch, the team president and co-owner spearheading the local development of the summer collegiate team with White Oak officials, stakeholders and fans.

We've got a lot of exciting things happening," he said. Upchurch is the brains of the operation, Schuster added, and the driver of the local effort: "He's committed his entire life to baseball and improving young players' lives on and off the field. He's our All Star."

The goal has been to help raise up young players, Upchurch said, guiding them as they leave their teenage years and continue into adulthood.

He's grateful for the opportunity in White Oak, through baseball, "to

teach them how to be real men and how to grow up and become great fathers and great grandparents," the longtime ballplayer said. "This world is crazy, so we need strong, young, Christian men in our lives to help this next generation.

"This is a special place already in my heart."

According to Schuster, most of the funds Chenail has invested will be put toward improving the fan experience. Doing business as 'White Oak Sports & Entertainment,' plans are in the works to add

a beer garden at the field included areas that can be rented for personal and corporate events. There will be events and activities between innings plus an area for kids' and live music performances down the road.

"I want to be able to mix my two passions, family and baseball," Chenail said. "All of you showing up today shows me we made the right decision.

"We'll try to make you proud, and we'll try to make this a success."



Brrrr.... It's cold out there!

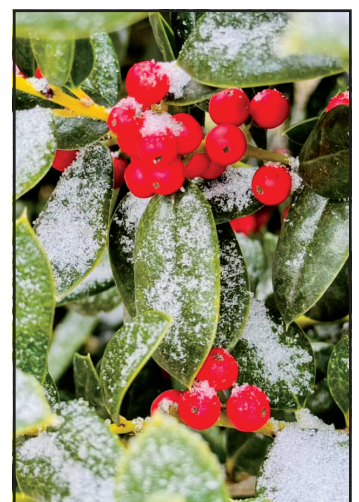
TxDOT crews were kept busy working since Friday to prepare for the winter weather that hit East Texas over the weekend and left schools, cities, county offices and most retail businesses closed through Tuesday as people hunkered down and tried to stay warm.

Temperatures dropped to single digits - some wind chill values in sub-zero temperatures - in rural areas and roadways were covered in ice for around 72 hours. And while many were off work to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, even many of those celebrations were canceled or rescheduled.

Throughout East Texas reports of vehicles sliding off the roads and in other wrecks, often because of driving speeds, were reported. Bridges and overpasses were tricky spots as usual, and drivers needed to be cautious of "black ice," which was very hard to see. Interstate 20 was shutdown numerous times as rescue crews responded to crashes involving 18-wheelers.

Fortunately the lack of wet precipitation - only light dry snow falling - kept power lines free of ice buildup resulting in few power outages as of Monday.

The extra days off from work and school did have its good points as kids got to play in East Texas snowy wonderlands. Check out how your neighbors handled the snow at our Gladewater and White Oak Facebook Pages.



They've got a good humor about it, but Gladewater firefighters were once again stuck cleaning up chicken guts last week at the intersection of the loop and 271, the first spill of 2024 thanks to an unidentified hauler's 'unsecured load.' Considering the 32-degree temperature, they worked as fast as they could to clean up the biohazard, especially before the slick surface snares another vehicle.

Photo by James Draper

White Oak sets limit on household pets

For the first time, the White Oak's animal ordinance has a cap on the number of cats and dogs households can have inside the city limits.

Any combination of up to six is permitted - any more than that risks a fine of up to \$500 per day the number of a home's four-legged fur babies exceeds the limit.

Council members adopted the amended ordinance Jan. 9 following a brief discussion, and there are some select defenses embedded in the regulations.

"Did we have a different number in there?" Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Hood asked.

"There was no number," White Oak Police Chief Terry Roach said.

Roach brought the topic to the elected officials' attention. While

it applies across the board, there is a particular situation in mind, he acknowledged.

"There are some residents that have an overwhelming number of dogs," he explained after the meeting. "Close to 50."

As the ordinance was previously written, "There's nothing that we can do about it."

The police chief reached out to officials in Kilgore, Gladewater and Longview to inquire about their similar ordinances.

"Everyone has the number six in there."

The change amends Chapter 10 of the White Oak Code of Ordinances, noting "to place a limitation on the number of dogs and cats is necessary to protect the health and safety of the citizens of White

Oak and to further the quiet use and enjoyment of property located within the City limits."

As amended, "It is unlawful for any household to own or keep more than six (6) dogs or cats, or any combination thereof upon any private premises within the City limits."

The ordinance maintains provisions for veterinary clinics and animal hospitals, shelters and rescue organizations, pet shops and boarding kennels, research institutions and researchers as well as performing animal exhibitions and owners of animals that participate in recognized competitions.

Likewise, pet owners can still house a pet's litter for up to 16 weeks.

Continued on Page 3

OPINION/COMMENTARY

“...you gotta laugh to keep from crying.”

From 2021

A lot of jokes have been made about 2020 and its aftermath. We have faced a pandemic which didn't just target our bodies, but also our jobs, businesses and pocketbooks. To top it off, we have had contentious elections, frightening violence from all directions, and a lot of worry about the unknown. That is a truckload of reality to grapple with daily.

But the fact that there are so many jokes about 2020 gives me hope for 2021, as optimistic as that may be. You know why? You gotta laugh to keep from crying. My worn out, rancher, cowboy daddy taught me that. Every year in agriculture is like playing the odds. Overflows, droughts, tornadoes, livestock pandemics, locusts of biblical proportions...you know, just another day on the ranch.

I learned to laugh at the knee of a master. So let's look back at some of our favorite 2020 slam dunk jokes that hit painfully close to home and pray (hard) for a better 2021.

“If 2020 was a person I'd sue him for pain and suffering.”

“At the beginning of 2020 I made a New Year's resolution to lose 10 pounds...only 15 more to go!”

“Whose idea was it to sing ‘Happy Birthday’ while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake.”

“My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, ‘Throw this and wherever it lands, that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends.’ Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.”

Quakes prompt officials to limit disposal wells

The Texas Railroad Commission has suspended nearly two dozen permits that allow oil and gas companies to inject saltwater into the ground, which regulators say has contributed to increased earthquakes of greater magnitude in West Texas.

The Austin American Statesman reported the 23 disposal wells hold hundreds of thousands of barrels of produced water, which is a toxic brine. A 2022 report said the state generated 3.9 billion barrels of produced water from extracting oil and gas.

The RRC instructed major companies to no longer dispose of saltwater in Reeves and Culberson counties, which had seven earthquakes last year, including a 5.2 magnitude temblor that was the fourth highest in state history.

Meanwhile, the RRC has developed a framework for pilot programs to recycle produced water “safely and economically.”

“Operators will apply for authorization to conduct pilot studies, and RRC will issue a permit or letter of authorization if the application meets requirements. The operators would compile data of how treated produced water can be reused in certain activities that are safe and protective of human health and the environment,” the news release said.

The goal is to reduce the amount of produced water injected back into the ground, reducing earthquake incidents.

“This framework opens up the potential to use treated produced water in ways that have never been seen before in Texas, which is a win-win for conserving water resources, and protecting the environment and Texans,” Wei Wang, executive director, said.

Last year was hottest ever for Texas

It likely comes as no surprise to all of us who endured last summer, but 2023 was the hottest ever recorded in Texas, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and reported by the Texas Tribune.

The average temperature in the state measured 68.1 degrees last year, beating the previous 2012 record by 0.3 degrees. Every year since 2000 in Texas has been warmer than the 20th century average, said John Nielsen-Gammon, state climatologist. Last year was 3.5 degrees hotter than the 20th-century average in the state.

“That consistent warmth is because of climate change,” Nielsen-Gammon said.

Texas wasn't alone in feeling the heat. Since federal record keeping began in 1895, last year was the fifth warmest in the contiguous United States, not counting Hawaii and Alaska.

“You can think of (2023) as kind of a preview of the future and it's not pretty,” Andrew Dessler, professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University, said.

AG asks court to shield him from deposition

Attorney General Ken Paxton is asking the Texas Supreme

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



And for the pun lovers among us: “Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow romaines to be seen.”

Rationalization is a national pastime, here is one of my personal favorites:

“My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!”

And, here are a couple of personal faves that hit a little too close to home:

“If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.” And

“After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.”

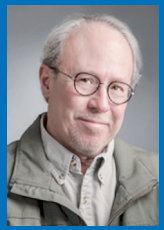
Wait, one more from my house:

“This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog, we laughed a lot.”

So dear friends and neighbors let's remember to laugh. After all, laughing is, and will always be, the best form of therapy.

When we share laughter we share ourselves and hope for tomorrow.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Court to keep him from being deposed in a long-running whistleblower lawsuit filed by four former employees at the agency.

The aides claim they were wrongfully fired after complaining to the FBI about Paxton's conduct concerning a prominent campaign donor.

The Statesman reported Paxton filed the motion with the high court after an appeals court rejected his attempt to avoid being deposed. That ruling allows the whistleblowers to continue their suit, which comes after a \$3.3 million settlement agreement last year imploded when the Legislature refused to pay for it.

An investigation into the whistleblowers' claims led to an investigation that resulted in the House impeaching Paxton, who was acquitted in the Senate. Paxton contends he complied with the nonmonetary terms of the settlement agreement, which included retracting a disparaging news release, and that the Legislature's refusal to fund the settlement does not warrant continued settlement talks or a trial.

“The Legislature considered and rejected OAG's request for funding, and even added a rider to the appropriations bill forbidding OAG from settling this case with taxpayer funds,” the attorneys for the whistleblowers wrote in their response.

Rabies vaccine bait airdrop marks 30 years

Planes are taking to the air in South Texas to kick off the 30th annual oral rabies vaccine airdrop, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

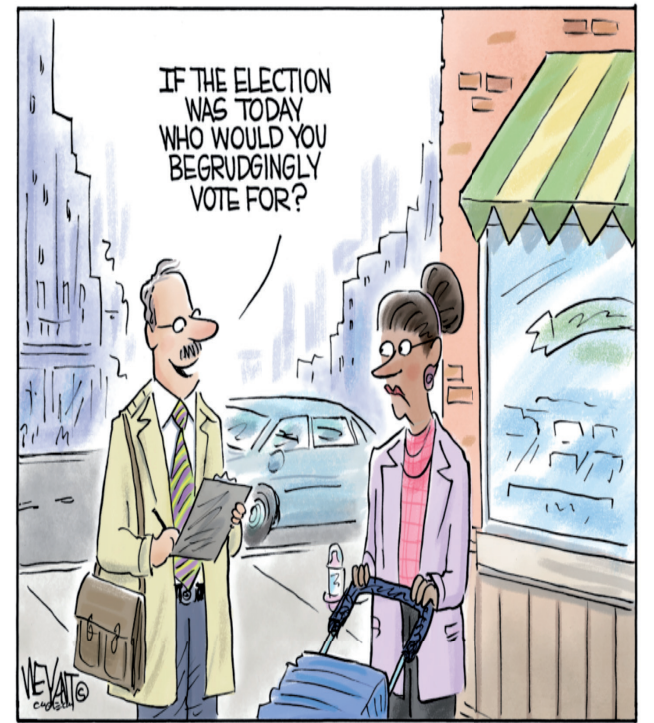
“Our goal is to vaccinate coyotes and gray foxes along the border to maintain herd immunity against rabies and keep new or previously eliminated rabies variants from becoming established in Texas,” said Kathy Parker, project director. “We will be distributing vaccine baits over 18 border counties this year.”

The project is expected to last two weeks. Vaccine baits are dropped along half mile intervals. More than 820,000 oral vaccine baits will be dropped. Since the airdrop program began, the number of animal rabies cases caused by the variants found in South Texas dropped from 122 cases in 1994 to zero cases by 2000.

There have been no human cases of rabies attributable to the rabies cases found in that region since the program began.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

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 at 2024 ...

Looking back at 2023 (or 2022, 2021, or 1687 for that matter) confirms that there are always unanticipated events in the economy, no matter how many millions of equations or thousands of hours of research a forecast involves. Nonetheless, there are trends that can be anticipated that will be key drivers of economic growth in 2024. Let's take a brief look.

As we enter a new year, the economy is better positioned than 12 months ago in many ways. Back then, prices were still on a fairly steep upward trajectory even though the Federal Reserve had been raising its target interest rate at an historic pace. Now, inflation has moderated, and there hasn't been an interest rate hike since the summer. In fact, the Fed has indicated that decreases will come this year, and some key rates are already falling. As always, the timing of these actions will be driven by ongoing data related to the twin mandates of maximum employment with low inflation. The sooner we can transition to rate cutting and easing, the faster the pace of expansion will be. My expectation is that, barring a major shock, we will see cuts relatively soon. That will also help the real estate lending situation, which will likely generate some headlines in the coming months.

Geopolitical tensions will be another driver of economic growth patterns. Uncertainty is a challenge for the economy, and major escalation of the situations in the Middle East or Russia/Ukraine would slow investment, spending, and positive trends. There are other issues that could worsen. Venezuela has indicated it will seek to take disputed territory in neighboring Guyana, where substantial oil reserves are under development offshore, and disruptions have occurred in Red Sea shipping channels. These and other trouble spots could cause disturbances ranging from higher energy prices to disrupted trade flows. Most of the trade passing through the Red Sea affects Europe and Asia more than the US, but long-term interruptions could impact domestic supply chains.

Another source of uncertainty is the upcoming election. Neither the best nor the worst scenarios which are being touted will likely come to fruition irrespective of the ultimate outcome, but there will clearly be significant implications for policy. Future growth is dependent to some extent on how things play out, but I don't anticipate the ultimate variation to be dramatic (despite the headlines and rhetoric, it is rare that major movements can be validly linked to election results). The resilience demonstrated by the economy through 2023 has positioned us well for sustainable growth. Relaxing monetary policy while keeping inflation under control will bolster prospects. As always, there will be some surprises, but the underlying patterns are generally positive. Stay safe!

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN?

Many people ridicule the concept of salvation by the blood of Christ. Robert Ingersoll launched numerous tirades against Christianity about what he ignorantly called “blood religion,” even referring to the Christian faith as a “slaughterhouse religion.” A favorite pastime of intellectuals today is ridiculing the idea of “blood atonement.” They tell us: “Your blood sacrifice theology is horrific. I could never believe in a God who would accomplish salvation through a cross!” But the Bible still says: “without shedding of blood there is no remission.” (Heb. 9: 22). This is the focal point of the gospel story of redemption. The crimson thread of blood runs throughout God's entire revelation to man. We understand that Christ's blood makes justification from sin possible (Rom. 5: 9).

Robert Lowry's hymn: *Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*, asks and answers the question of the title of this article. “What can wash away my sin?” Answer: “Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” How true it is, for Jesus said: “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matt. 26: 28). Revelation 1: 5 says: “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” The question is: “WHEN are we washed from our sins?” “WHEN do we receive the remission of our sins?” Acts 22: 16 gives us the clear answer. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus to “Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins.” Acts 9: 18 says: “And he arose and was baptized.”

While many correctly tell us that Christ's blood washes away our sins, they fail to correctly tell us WHEN this occurs. Question: Would it be permissible to tell a person: “Arise and be baptized because your sins are already washed away?” Such would nullify Christ's blood “which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matt. 26: 28). Think on these things.

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The White Oak Dance Team under the direction of Loree Tatum and Micah Friesen made their performance debut at the halftime of Ladynecks Basketball game in E.B. Carrington Gymnasium on Friday, January 12th.

Photo by Mike Peery

WO students headed to All State Choir Competition

Seven White Oak High School students were involved in the Texas All State Choir Competition. This was their third round of competition that started in September.

Addi Morris, Layla Hidalgo, Kenna Stewart, David Watson, Nathan Watson, Matthew Warrens, and Jack Allen all made it to the final

part of the process.

Securing a spot in the Texas All State Choir were:

- Bass: David Watson - 6th Chair
- Tenor: Jack Allen - 4th Chair
- Tenor: Matthew Warrens - 5th Chair

These students will represent the best of all Texas High School Vocalists in a clinic and concert in February as part of the All State Choir in San Antonio.

They will be joined by the other top students across the state of Texas who gained the highest vocal award allocated by our state music program.

TMEA sponsors the Texas All-State audition process to promote students' dedication to their musical knowledge and skill and to encourage educators to support their students in this development. Beginning each fall, over 70,000 high school students across the state audition in their TMEA Region. Individuals perform selected music for a panel of judges who rank each instrument or voice part.

OBITUARIES



SALLY LOUISE BRESHEARS

Sally Louise Breshears, 80, of Gladewater passed away on January 7, 2023. Sally was born on October 16, 1943 to Horace and Ruth Russ in Freeport, Texas.

Sally loved her family especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She retired from her job as the deli manager at Safeway and spent her time after enjoying her family. Sally could be found crocheting, tending her garden and listening to her wind chimes. When she was able to attend church she enjoyed playing the piano. Sally will be missed by everyone who knew her. She leaves behind fond memories that will forever remain in the hearts of her loved ones.

Sally is survived by her sons, Danny Loyd Breshears, Troy Ferguson and wife Rhonda, Dale Ferguson and wife Tracy, Shane Ferguson and wife Viki; daughter, Debbie Lynn Saboda; son-in-law, Mike Byrd; grandchildren, Keith, Nick, Chris, Carolyn, Keri, Tessa, Tristan, Tyler, Tagger, Kristan, Kimberly, Kaleb, Lacey, Heather, Allen, James, Jennifer and Jodi as well as 19 great-grandchildren. Sally is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Loyd Breshears; her parents, Horace and Ruth Russ and Angelia Jo Byrd.

There was a visitation Friday, January 12, 2024. A graveside service was held Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Union Grove Cemetery in Upshur County.



Barbara Sue Smith Mackey

Barbara Sue Smith Mackey passed away on January 8, 2024 in Beaumont, Texas at the age of 86. Barbara was born on April 1, 1937 in Gladewater, Texas to the late Joel and Verlie Kathryn Baillio Smith.

Barbara attended school in Gladewater and graduated from Gladewater High School in 1954. She attended Kilgore College, the University of Houston and graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree from North Texas State College in 1959. Barbara went on to teach English, Speech and Theatre Arts for many years all over Texas before retiring from Union Grove ISD in 2002, where she was instrumental in creating the annual Veteran's Day program.

She was also active in her community, serving in the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, the Gladewater Former Students Association, the Garden Club, and the Gladewater Museum, where she created an exhibit honoring professional athletes from Gladewater and the surrounding area.

Barbara was chosen "Woman of the Year" by the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce in 2009 and the "Outstanding Alumni of the Year" by the Gladewater Former Students Association in 2010.

Barbara competed in many beauty pageants, becoming Miss Gladewater in 1959, Miss South Texas

State Fair in 1960 and was the second runner-up in the Miss Texas pageant in 1959.

Through the years, she enjoyed singing in the East Texas Revue with her former high school choir director, Ken Bennett. She loved traveling with dear friends, John Paul and Beverly Talant and Betty Stegall. Barbara also loved cheering on her seven grandchildren at their numerous athletic events.

Barbara is preceded in death by her husband, Dee Mackey; her brothers, Troy Smith and Foy Charles Smith; her sisters, Juanita Baird, Doris Norfleet and husband Jake, Wanda Allard and Jewel Dahl.

She is survived by her sons, Kevin Mackey and wife Leann of Overton, Texas and Kyle Mackey and wife Michelle of Silsbee, Texas and her daughter, Kelly Mackey Drake of Silsbee; special niece and nephew Dawn and Steve Elrod of Gladewater; her grandchildren Kortney and Josh Calhoun of Silsbee, Kalynn and Ty Ligon of Silsbee, Molly and Acie Savell of Longview, Garrett and Jennifer Drake of Silsbee, Abby Mackey of Overton, Kanon Mackey of Silsbee and Kolten and Cassie Mackey of Lumberton, Texas; 11 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Barbara's life will take place at the First Methodist Church Christian Life Center in Gladewater, Texas on April 6, 2024 at 1 pm. Barbara donated her body to science and will be laid to rest at Rock Springs Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Barbara's name can be made to the Gladewater Former Students Association, the Lee-Bardwell Library in Gladewater, the Gladewater museum or a charity of your

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For more information check out the website
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If you have any questions give **Randall Christian** a call at **210-823-4145** or leave a message on the website.

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SPORTS

Gladewater, White Oak basketball roundup

By Tyler Sutton

District play was in full swing this week for both Gladewater and White Oak as the girls and guy's teams were both in action.

The Gladewater Bears opened up their district portion of their schedule on Friday, January 12th as they traveled to Daingerfield and fell to the Tigers 85-29. The Bears fall to 2-17 on the season an 0-1 in district play. They will be back at home on Tuesday, January 16th hosting the Sabine Cardinals. Then on Friday, January 19th, Gladewater will travel to Hughes Springs.

The Lady Bears were also in action this week with a pair of games. On Tuesday, January 9th, Gladewater dominated their crosstown rival White Oak as they beat the LadyNecks 66-39. Calice Henderson and Paytin Thompson both recorded double-doubles for Gladewater, and Kyla Lincoln and Ava Langford scored in double figures. Henderson finished with 17 points, 20 rebounds, eight steals and two blocks, and Thompson finished with 14 points, 10 rebounds and five steals. Lincoln chipped in with 12 points, three assists and three steals, Langford 13 points, five steals and three rebounds, Ramya Ransom four points, four assists, six steals and four rebounds, Sarya Miles four points and five rebounds, Karlee Moses two points and two rebounds and Jaiden Eeds one point and one assist.

Then on Friday, January 12th Gladewater made the trip to Daingerfield and while the temps outside were frigid, the Lady Bears were on fire as they manhandled the Lady Tigers 76-24. Calice Henderson poured in 21 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists and 5 steals. Kyla Lincoln added 13 points, three assists, three rebounds and two steals for Gladewater. Ava

Langford had 12 points, two rebounds, two assists and two steals, Paytin Thompson nine points, seven rebounds, seven assists and five steals, Khera Lincoln seven points, five steals and three assists, Adyson Evans six points and Ally Albright two points and two rebounds.

The two wins gets Gladewater to 11-12 and 3-0 in district play. They will be back in action on Tuesday, January 16th with a home game vs Sabine. Then a road trip to Hughes Springs on Friday, January 19th.

Moving over to White Oak, the RoughNecks, they finished up non district play on Tuesday, January 9th with a 55-48 loss to the Joaquin Rams. Scotty Breitenberg scored 16 points in the loss for White Oak, which led 30-24 at the break. Kaleb Sargee added 11 points, Gavin Sipes eight points and five assists, Campbell Sutton six points, Tysen McClain five points and five rebounds and Jacob Sargee two points.

Then on Friday, January 12th, the RoughNecks fell in their district opener to Sabine 34-22. The RoughNecks now sit at 6-17 on the season and 0-1 in district play/ White Oak will be back in action on Tuesday, January 16th with a roadtrip to New Diana followed up by a home game on Friday, January 19th against Daingerfield

The LadyNecks were also in action twice this week. Besides the previously mentioned loss to Gladewater, on Friday, January 16th, White Oak fell to Sabine at home 34-18. The 2 losses drops the LadyNecks to 8-15 and 1-2 in district play. The LadyNecks will be back in action twice this week with roadtrip to New Diana on Tuesday, January 16th and a home game vs Daingerfield on Friday, January 19th.

Lions, Lady Lions post key wins

By Kimber Smith

Union Grove's varsity basketball teams have scored key wins in the first round of district play.

The Lady Lions defeated Harleton (34-31), Linden-Kildare (55-39), Ore City (43-11), Big Sandy (67-25) and most recently McLeod (33-25), when Ava Wightman tallied 10 points, eight steals and six rebounds and Sarah Prince earned 10 points, 10 rebounds and four steals.

The Lady Lions suffered only one district loss in a close rivalry game with Hawkins (54-50).

In the first round of district play, Wightman led the Lady Lions with an average of 14 points, 7.2 rebounds and 5.5 steals per game, followed by Jamie Webb with an average of 8.6 points and 3.1 steals; Prince with 4.4

points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.8 steals; and Jenna Scott with 4.1 points, 2.4 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game.

The Lions defeated Ore City (47-24) and Big Sandy (73-72) but lost to Hawkins (62-50) and McLeod (62-33). The boys have two games remaining in the first round of district: Jan. 16 against Harleton and Jan. 19 against Linden-Kildare.

Jace Roberts led the Lions through the first three games with an average of 16 points and 13 rebounds per game. Jaxson Daniels averaged 15 points and three assists, and senior Peyton Laake averaged 14 points and two steals per game.

Boys and girls JV and varsity teams are all scheduled to play Harleton at home Jan. 16 starting at 4 p.m., weather permitting.

GEDCO welcomes KC literacy program to community center

By James Draper

The Gladewater Center for Community Education will soon be back in operation again, helping locals craft new opportunities for themselves.

Gladewater Economic Development Corporation's board of directors last week warmly approved use of the building by Kilgore College's Adult Education & Literacy Program.

"It is an excellent program," said Jim Bardwell, vice president of the GEDCO board and publisher of the Gladewater Mirror. "It has won national awards. They really generate a lot of interest."

"They get people back in the workforce who think they didn't have the skills."

A planned hand-off of the GCCE building last year to Gladewater ISD had to be set aside in order to respect state regulations. GEDCO's leaders have since been determined to find a best use for the facility at 2109 W. Gay Ave.

According to GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer, Gladewater City Councilwoman Brandy Flanagan reached out regarding the KC program's needs.

"They're looking for a place to house their local classes," Palmer told her board

Jan. 10. "In the next week or two, they're going to need to start classes up again after the holidays. We've got those classrooms at the GCCE building."

The EDC's Memorandum of Understanding with Kilgore College permits the institution's use of the space from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday for their outreach. GEDCO will continue to cover the same utility expenses for the facility.

"That's very little commitment on GEDCO's part to be able to support the program," Palmer said. "It's so much more space than what they've had. They'll be able to hire another teacher, and they'll be able to double their classes."

"The more people who are able to go through this program, the more people are being fed into our workforce."

With resources made available to students at no cost, the adult education and literacy effort is well-attended, said board member Danny Darden, a Kilgore College employee.

"This program kind of targets people who fall through the cracks," economic consultant Amanda Nobles agreed. "It's a special population of people that is probably underserved in Gladewater."

With one board member absent and Darden abstaining, Bardwell's motion for approval passed 3-0.

"It'll be good to see it in use," board member John Paul Tallent said.

Manna House needs your help

Gladewater's Manna House food pantry is in need of fresh volunteers – and ingredients for spaghetti.

According to longtime volunteer Phyllis Bethune, the clothing donations to the charity outreach at 519 E. Broadway Ave. (the corner of Gladewater City Hall) are bursting at the seams.

"We need ladies to come help us sort through all the clothes," Bethune said.

Fortunately, there's been a healthy flow of contributions in recent months, she added, but there's lots of stock that's yet to be sorted without enough hands on deck. Bethune said the crew of volunteers is eager to partner

with local churches to flesh out the roster of helpers.

Meanwhile, on the grocery side, the food pantry is in particularly need of spaghetti and spaghetti sauce donations.

For more information, to sign up as a volunteer or arrange donations, contact Manna House at 903-845-3128.

"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

Football fever ...

If the Texas Rangers' plane collided mid-air with the Dallas Mavericks' jet, the lead story in the Texas media outlets would probably say, "Dallas Cowboys players react to tragedy." Football discussion dominates almost year-round and other sports news sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. Things were a little different in 2023 with the Rangers playoff run and championship, but after the World Series most people began to focus on the gridiron.

Locally, East Texas produced three high school state champions. Malakoff and Timpson both went undefeated with 16-0 records. The Gilmer Buckeyes started their season slowly but surprised everyone by getting past Carthage in the playoffs and beating previously undefeated Bellville in the title game.

In the college ranks, an

exciting and dramatic season ended last Monday. It boiled down to the only two teams which had perfect records, with Michigan dominating the Washington Huskies in the finals 34-13. The Wolverines certainly earned the championship, but there was some controversy attached to the accomplishment. Their head coach, Jim Harbaugh, served two three-game suspensions during the season. The first involved a recruiting violation, and the second punishment was for illegal scouting procedures. So how will Michigan be viewed in retrospect? Will history consider them to be the 2017 Houston Astros of college football?

The Harbaugh family is well known in football circles. The father, Jack, won a national championship at Western Kentucky. Brother John was the head coach of the Baltimore Ravens when

they won the Super Bowl in 2013. Their opponent was the San Francisco 49'ers – coached by brother Jim, who then left to take the Michigan head coach job in 2015. In Jim's words, "this year's title win earned him the right to sit at the big table at family dinners now."

John is still coaching the Ravens, who are the betting favorites to win another Super Bowl this year. There are several teams standing in their way, such as the 49'ers, who are considered the best team in the National Conference. And what about the returning champs, the Kansas City Chiefs? Will this be the year the Cowboys finally make a run in the playoffs? Will their home field dominance overcome years of mediocrity and failures in the big games? We'll see. Let's enjoy the ride!

That's one man's opinion. What's yours?

Cheers to 100 Years of State Parks

AUSTIN— As Texas State Parks' year-long birthday celebration winds down, we are looking back at the highlights from 2023.

"It has been a truly amazing year for Texas State Parks," said Rodney Franklin, Director of Texas State Parks.

"It has been a career highlight to see new visitors discover parks because of our celebrations and witness a year of milestones. Milestones made possible by our hardworking teams within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, partnerships with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and certainly H-E-B. I am forever grateful to Texans that helped us honor the legacy of 100 years of Texas State Parks but also expand the foundation of state parks for future generations of Texans."

Here are some of the top achievements from the Texas State Parks Centennial Celebration:

- Texas State Parks received the 2023 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in October. The award recognizes the best state park system in the country. The National

Gold Medal Award Program is governed and administered by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and announced at the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference.

- Texas Travel Alliance named Texas State Parks the 2023 Heritage Award winners Oct. 17 at the annual Texas Travel Summit. Past recipients of this award include the Dallas Cowboys, Southwest Airlines and Landry's, Inc. The Heritage Award recognizes and honors outstanding businesses and organizations that have enriched the heritage of and made a lasting, positive imprint on the Texas travel industry. The selection is based on the organization demonstrating a history of exceptional achievement, exemplary business practices, innovative corporate culture and a commitment of excellence to their customers and their community.

- Voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 14 during the November election, which created the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund. The \$1 Billion fund is made from a portion of state budget surplus and creates a dedicated funding stream for acquiring and developing new state parks.



Part of its mission to enhance the local economy, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation is connecting entrepreneurs with resources like the Small Business Development Center and Pebble Plan to give new and existing business owners valuable guidance to help their ventures succeed.

GEDCO connects local businesses with more resources for success

PRESS RELEASE

Entrepreneurs often need a helping hand to achieve their best success, and Gladewater Economic Development Corporation wants to help make the necessary introductions whenever it can.

"We want to link local businesses, new and existing, with resources that will help them be as healthy as possible," GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer said. "Healthy businesses are successful businesses."

One partner she's discovered for developing businesses is Pebble Plan, an online platform Palmer found through a colleague in EDC networks, Tracy Shea.

"He gave me a demo of the product, and I was really impressed with it," Palmer said. "They are there to help entrepreneurs build out a business plan and really set them up for success."

Likewise, the Small Business Development Center is an early opportunity, and often a necessity, for individuals launching their first business.

"I invariably lead peo-

ple to the SBDC," Palmer noted. "If there is a small business owner that comes in here asking for information or assistance, I always give them the link to the SBDC, and I explain what that process will look like for them."

As a business owner's operation continues to develop, they can start to see to the gaps in their experience, though, and PebblePlan.com is a good route to close those spaces before the business has even begun. To that end, once GEDCO's revitalized GladewaterEDC.com is launched, visitors will find a quick connection to the platform.

"Pebble Plan partnered with GEDCO in recent years, and we went through this process with a local entrepreneur," Palmer said. "I got to watch them go through that process, see where they got stuck, encourage them, prompt them and see them continue on."

"It is robustly comprehensive in walking a person (newbie or experienced) through the process: Is this feasible? Will this take up too much of my time? Am I really dedicated? Do I

have a solid plan in place? Am I realistic of the financial investment?"

Working online with PebblePlan.com, Gladewater entrepreneurs can forge a long-term connection with an objective collaborator, she added, a go-to contact for questions and for guidance through the common obstacles they've already identified.

Importantly, as a resource, the business mentors also avoid jargon, explaining concepts in common vernacular so anyone without a business background can connect easily.

"They also have recovery solutions – if a business is in jeopardy, they can go through Pebble Plan to troubleshoot and try to save their company," Palmer added. "Because they're so comprehensive and knowledgeable about what needs to be done, and very realistic, you're going to have a better shot at saving your business and then turning the corner to be successful using their recovery plan than you ever would by yourself."

"I really believe it's a business-saving solution."

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ACROSS

1 hangs down

5 in Concho County on U.S. 83 & 87

6 TXism: "___ lick" (none)

7 TXism: "tame as ___ dog"

8 TX Kenny Rogers sang "___ I Can Make It on My Own"

9 J.R. was shot in the final ___ of season three of "Dallas"

16 "those" in Mexico

18 TXism: "still wet ___ ears" (inexperienced)

21 TX Nolan pitched seven ___-hitters

22 rattling sound heard by a stethoscope

23 Clyde High class fill 'er up (2 wds)

30 Highlands Mansion in Marlin has a stained-___ in the great hall

34 TX Tom Kite won ___ Open in 1992

35 this David was leader of Waco's Branch Davidians

36 Humble Oil once had Esso and this brand name

37 rep for TX Matthew McConaughey

39 county west of Sabine County (2 wds.)

43 Nacogdoches old road: "La Calle del ___"

44 boycott, e.g.



45 TXism: "hard ___ nails"

46 wedding cake layer

47 Eagles & Giants to the Cowboys

49 sought to influence Texan in 1-down

52 dir. to New Boston from Mount Pleasant

53 Texas cosmetics queen, Mary Kay

DOWN

1 where TX Ted Cruz serves

2 this Rangers' Garcia hit 5 home runs against Astros in 2023 ALCS

3 "Whoopie ti yi yo, ___ little dogies"

4 TXism: "___ beans" (in a pod)

9 TX Banks who was "Mr. Cub" (init.)

10 TX A.C. Greene book: "A ___ Country"

11 TX Trini Lopez sang "If ___ a Hammer"

12 farm storage tower

13 "___ band" (solo performance)

14 Duryea of 1954 "Ride Clear of Diablo," starring TX Audie Murphy (init.)

15 Love Field arrival guess (abbr.)

17 TX wheeler-dealer: Billy ___

19 legend has it that Texas "Enchanted Rock" is this

20 this bunny gives gifts

24 actor Kennedy of film "Creepshow 2" with TX Lois Chiles

25 Greek goddess of the dawn

26 TXism: "mobile mouse ___" (cat)

27 film categories, e.g.

28 TXism: "busy ___ -armed paper hanger"

P-1672

See Answers On This Page

More scams reported

Officials with the Smith County Sheriff's Office are issuing another warning concerning scams involving phone callers identifying themselves as members of the sheriff's department demanding money.

Spokesman Sgt. Larry Christian said in the most recent scam, callers are identifying themselves as Smith County Sheriff's employees, specifically "Lt. Robert Strickland" and "Sgt. Larry Christian."

The callers have fraudulently obtained these identities, Christian said.

One of the scam victims was told that he owed two \$4,000 fines for Failure to Appear. Law Enforcement was notified prior to the payment and the transaction was not completed.

Again, the caller is asking the victim to retrieve the money and then stay on the line. Once the money is retrieved, they get explicit instructions on where to deposit it.

"If you receive a call like this, hang up and notify your local law enforcement office to advise them of the scam," Christian said. "Please do not allow yourself to fall victim to these scammers and save your hard earned money."

In December, Christian issued a warning concerning the same type of scam, where victims are receiving calls from someone identifying themselves as Smith County Sheriff's Deputy Smith.

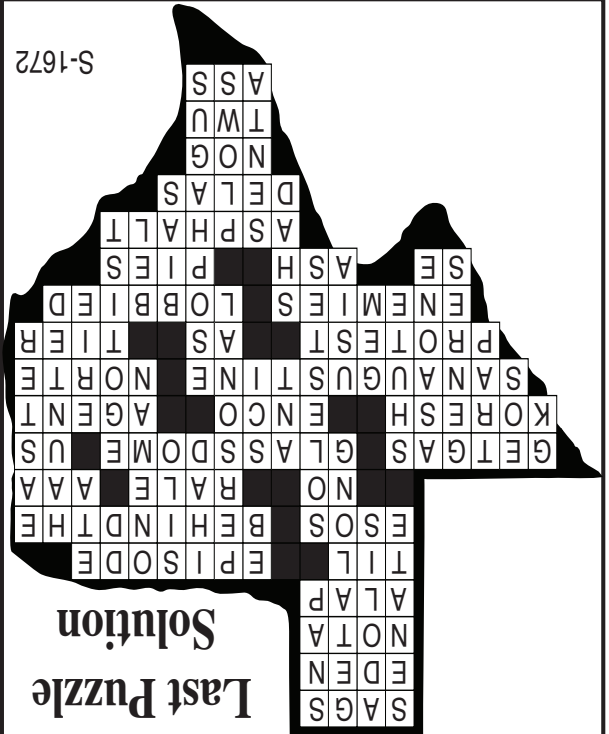
The suspect tells the victim that they have an outstanding warrant and to immediately pay a fine.

The victims have been instructed to go to local vape shops throughout the area and deposit money into bitcoin machines.

"We have also received similar reports of an individual identifying himself by the name of Captain Craig Halbrooks, who is the Patrol Commander for the SCSO," Christian said. So far, approximately \$50,000 has been fraudulently obtained by this suspect(s) from Smith County citizens. This suspect is requesting \$10,000 to \$20,000 at a time.

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S-1672



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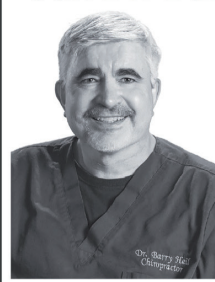
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The City of Gladewater is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or businesses to operate a Lake Store / Bait Shop located at 1604 Lakeshore Dr., in Gladewater, Texas. Please visit our website at www.cityofgladewater.com for more information 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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PUBLIC NOTICE


NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Ann Allen a.k.a. Nettie Ann Allen, Deceased, were issued on June 5, 2023, in Cause No. 2023-0123-E, pending in the County Court of Gregg County, Texas, to: Abigail Allen.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

My Texas Estate Plan, PLLC
c/o: Casey Cook
1658 W. Grande Blvd., Suite 200
Tyler, Texas 75703
DATED the 11th day of January, 2024.

/s/ Casey P. Cook
Casey P. Cook
Attorney for Abigail Allen
State Bar No.: 24094599
1658 W. Grande Blvd., Suite 200
Tyler, TX 75703
Telephone: (903) 561-8644
Facsimile: (903) 561-8649
E-mail: info@mytxestateplan.com



ORDINANCE 2024-04 AND ORDINANCE 2024-05

ORDINANCE 2024-04 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 9, 2024 TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 (ANIMALS) OF THE WHITE OAK CODE OF ORDINANCES. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x17.

ORDINANCE 2024-05 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 9, 2024 TO ORDER AN ELECTION FOR CITY OFFICERS. FOR A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x17.

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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.

