

# Gladewater Mirror

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50¢



## Primary election Tuesday

By Phillip Williams and James Draper

The statewide Republican and Democratic primary elections for offices ranging from President to state and county level are scheduled Tuesday. Early voting risn through this Friday.

Only three contested races for county offices are on the Upshur County Republican ballot, while the only candidate seeking a county office in the Democratic primary is unopposed. He is Brandon Williams, running for sheriff.

In the November general election, Williams will face the winner of Tuesday's GOP contest between Sheriff Larry Webb, seeking re-election, and Mark Case.

In the other county races on the Republican ballot, County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell is opposed for re-election by Andrea (Precious) Smith while Precinct 1 County Commissioner Gene Dolle, also seeking re-election, faces challenger Lucrecia A. Davidson.

Smith is the first African-American in modern times to run for Upshur County office as a Republican.

Some 15 polling places in Upshur County will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. election day.

Under "countywide" voting, an Upshur voter can cast his/her election-day ballot at any polling place in the county. Nobody, however, can vote

# Every VOTE COUNTS!

for a candidate for precinct office (such as county commissioner or constable) unless the voter lives in the precinct involved.

Early voting is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Friday at the Gilmer Civic Center, 1218 U.S. Hwy. 271 north of Walmart.

Upshur County election-day polling places include St. James Baptist Church at 2800 W. Commerce Avenue in Gladewater.

Others are Indian Rock Baptist Church, East Mountain Community Center, Glenwood Water Supply Corporation, Ashland Masonic Lodge No. 1138 in Diana, Redemption Worship Center/Assembly of God, and Walnut Creek Baptist Church in Diana.

Also, Ore City Community Center, Frontier Cowboy Church, Big Sandy Civic Center, Pritchett Community Center, Enon Community Center, Oak Hill Baptist Church, Rosewood Baptist Church, and the Upshur County Library.

The Simpsonville Volunteer Fire Department is no longer a polling

place. It was consolidated with Oak Hill Baptist Church as a voting box.

For more information on the Upshur elections, call County Election Administrator Lory Harle's office at 903-680-8506.

Gregg County voters, who had cast 3,057 votes as of Monday afternoon, have few contested races - Danny Craig II vs. Daryl Gregg in the Democratic Primary and Republican incumbent State Rep. Disct 7 Jay Dean vs. Joe McDaniel and Bonnie Walters.

Gregg County has 74,401 registered voters - less than half of one percent - had cast ballots in the primary since early voting got underway Feb. 20 at eight precinct polling spots and the county courthouse.

Up-to-date as of 3:15 p.m. Monday (Feb. 26) 288 of those votes had been cast at the new White Oak Community Center, the nearest early voting poll to Gladewater.

The primary's Election Day polling is set for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (March 5) including at First United Methodist Church in Gladewater.

## Man charged in wife's murder

By Phillip Williams

Gilmer police arrested a 40-year-old man Monday on charges of murdering his 41-year-old wife after her body was discovered at her Gilmer home, said Chief of Police Lana Davidson.

Craig Allen Smith of Gilmer is charged with killing Vennessa Smith, Davidson said in a news release Monday. Although the statement gave no details of how the woman died, her mother, Ruth Ann Hughes of Gilmer, posted on Facebook on Monday that "My son-in-law beat my daughter to death this morning. He beat her with a log splitter."

Another source, a retired Upshur County deputy sheriff, told The Mirror the girl's uncle told him she was fatally beaten after a daylong argument.

Davidson said Tuesday she "can't make any more statements than what's already been released" Monday about the circumstances surrounding the death.

In the news release, Davidson had said officers responded about 1:43 a.m. to the 800 block of North Street "in reference to a suspicious person" and "made contact" with Craig Smith, "who matched the description given of the suspicious person."

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## Pupils prep presentations for Weldon Science Fair March 5

By James Draper

"Science is everywhere." It's a key element of 5th Grade teacher Miguel Reyes' lessons, and a fundamental part of the upcoming science fair he's planning with his throng of students at Weldon Elementary School.

People tend to get so used to the science around them they take it for granted, and Reyes is hoping a mix of classroom learning and hands-on application through the fair will continue opening students' eyes to the wonders around them.

"It's about realizing what actually does go on every day scientifically."

The new set of science presentations are set for early afternoon Tuesday, March 5, when the students will introduce their projects in the Weldon Elementary Cafeteria.

"We've been practicing on it for quite a while, actually," Reyes said. "We're going to invite other teachers to bring their classes, too. So far it's a 'go' for parents coming."

In his Friday lessons this school year, Reyes has used weekly experiments to involve students in collecting data, writing hypotheses, laying the foundation for them to go solo: "All of that built up to this science fair. It's without my guidance. It's on their own."

He's permitting some classroom time for the projects and experiments, supplementing the efforts students put in after school.

"It's really fun to see what they've come up with," Reyes said, "things that are completely unique. One was

going with 'micro-greens' - I haven't seen that before.

The kids aren't the only ones jazzed about the idea: "I've talked to parents, and they seem pretty excited about it."

The science teacher's roster also includes some fourth graders among the 98 students producing projects for March 5. Prizes are in the works, Reyes said, with judging set for 2:15 p.m. that day.

He officially introduced the science fair challenge a month ago: "The kids are excited. They're actively participating. They've have everything from working with magnets to plants to circuits, gravity, physical traits, heat and thermal energy, electrical energy, mechanical, friction - pretty much everything we went over in the first semester up until now."

First rule, the project has to be an experiment. "It has to be something they have practiced and gone through at least three times to collect the data," Reyes said. "They have to do at least a two-page report getting graphs, data, pictures" to present their results and observations.

"They're writing an acknowledgement page and thanking everyone who helped them. At the end is a conclusion that answers a question they've asked as a theme for the project."

Reyes is excited to helm the fair for the first time at Weldon and eager to be surprised by the students' performance.

"I've been wanting to do it for a long time," he said. "I'm excited to see what they come up with and hopefully make this an annual thing."



Zahon Brown and Emily Vaughn experiment with magnets in Miguel Reyes' 5th Grade Science class at Weldon Elementary, getting prepped for their upcoming Science Fair in the school's cafeteria March 5. Photo by James Draper



Honorees at the 2024 ELITE Pathfinders fundraising event include (left to right) Sandra Ayers, Johnnay Hawley, Wilma Davis, Revs. Michelle and Stacy Price as well as (not pictured) Cindy Rowe. Find more photos at redrockha.org

Courtesy photo by Kennedy Scott

## ELITE Pathfinders hold spotlight at Red Rock

The Red Rock Historical Association celebrated its 15th annual ELITE Pathfinder event Feb. 17, honoring individuals from Northeast Texas for their service to the community.

"We believe that it is important to give people their flowers while they can still smell them," said Bennie Moore, founder of the non-profit organization.

This year's honorees are: Erudite - Cindy Rowe; Leaders - Stacy and Michelle Price; Triumph - Sandra Ayers; Example - Wilma Davis; and Pathfinder - Johnnay Hawley. "You probably recognize at least one of their names," said Darren Richardson, president of the RRHA board. "And if you do, you'll know exactly why we honored them. They are all leaders in our community."

The annual fundraising event was catered by The Clay Group and entertainment was provided by Clover, a violinist.

"We are fortunate to have such esteemed honorees and a community that recognizes and supports our mission," Richardson said, "This event is our largest fundraising effort each year."

Through this event and other projects the community has supported, RRHA has been able to erect a museum and an activity center in the Red

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# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## Gary Borders Capital Highlights



### Early voting ends Friday

Early voting in the March 5 primary election ends Friday with a host of candidates on the ballot in both parties, including president, U.S. Senate, all 38 Texas U.S. representatives, all 150 Texas House representatives, and down to local races for district attorney, sheriff and other positions.

Check with your local elections office for more information or go to [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov). A record number of Texans are registered to vote ahead of the primary election, according to Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson. More than 17.9 million people are registered to vote in Texas, which is one million more than were registered ahead of the March 2020 primaries.

### It may be time to say adios to El Niño

El Niño, the weather pattern that has brought wetter and cooler weather to the state over the past several months, appears to be weakening, giving its counterpart, La Niña, a 55% chance of returning soon, according to the Houston Chronicle. The result could be a drier, hotter summer, if February's weather is any indication.

All across the state, temperatures in February are the warmest they have been since 2017, the Express-News reported. That might mean the state will have a hotter summer than usual, but not necessarily, according to meteorologists.

Meteorologist Anthony Franze says the state probably will not experience record temperatures like Texans endured last summer, but it isn't likely we will get a break this summer from intense heat.

### Wildfire season just around the bend

The Texas A&M Forest Service on Friday responded to seven new requests for assistance on wildfires, with last week being the warmest and driest of the dormant winter season. However, as of Sunday there were no active wildfires burning as the spring wildfire season approaches.

East Texas is experiencing some of the most significant drying as it has already been more than 10 days since the last significant rainfall, the forest service said. The highest danger for wildfires is in South Texas and along the I-35 corridor. Red flag warnings are in effect for Rocksprings, Del Rio and Eagle Pass, as well as counties along the Rio Grande. Burn bans are in place for 60 of the state's 254 counties.

A dry cold front swept across the state late last week, bringing temperatures down but also providing high, gusty winds and dry air. South, Central and far West Texas remain in severe or extreme drought, according to the National Weather Service.

### State spent \$148 million busing migrants

Texas has spent \$148 million since April 2022 busing migrants to other states, according to [kut.org](http://kut.org). As of Jan. 24, more than 102,000 migrants have been transported to New York, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

"It certainly is a great deal of money to be spent," Ray Perryman, the president of the Waco-based economic research company The Perryman Group, said.

## PUT A PING ON IT

### Chamber tourism data paints positive picture

From local cell towers' perspective, there were lots of visitors dropping by downtown Gladewater in 2023.

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed updated council members on 'ping' data collected by a digital contractor the past year. For her, it's a good sign local advertising dollars are effective in drawing people to town.

"Using the pings off of people's cell phones, this company can track in a certain area," Reed explained. By isolating the pings within Gladewater's antique district downtown, some promising top-level triangulation happening. For example, "Last year during Gusher Days in that one area there were 8,700 pings" on April 21-22.

From other ping results, "On any given Saturday, we have 2,000 to 2,500 people downtown."

The number gradually increases from February to June then declines October through November, she added. Approximately 4,100 pings were registered during the Nov. 11 Holiday Open House in the historic district.

"One-third of our visitors come from 10- to 30-miles away. Fifteen percent come from over 100 miles away."

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## Pouting like Jonah ...

I am going to sit by Job...or under the shade with pouting Jonah. Yes, it is pity party time. My beloved laptop that I have held together with bailing wire and duct tape is biting the dust... on deadline.

Friday I called 911, my version is hubby's cell number, with the news that the oven was on fire. He had sent me home early to recuperate from a hectic week and I wanted to return the favor by preparing a home-cooked meal (for a change). Instead I caught the oven on fire. No kidding.

In between frantic calls as he raced to the house, he told me to throw the 'big' breaker. I did but the element still had to burn itself out. My smart-aleck hubby once gave me a t-shirt that said "when the fire alarm goes off we know dinner is ready". Isn't he cute...and prophetic.

The AC isn't working properly at our house, my windshield wipers need replacing and I keep driving in the heavy rain. I had an almost flat last week. Aging Jack the Wonder Rescue Dog costs more than our monthly utility bills with prescription food and medicine daily.

I haven't even started on the human medical bills.

Between my complicated eyeglass prescription, our soon to be dental bills that include several root canals in our future, and Jim's need to have his old roofing/plastering (I didn't think I really needed those kneepads) knees shot up, wait...there is more...while thanks to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and the senators he had corralled in the last session, my Teacher Retirement Health Insurance that we are both on has gone from good insurance to high deductible, catastrophic insurance for a heck of a lot more money and MUCH less coverage. I guess you now know why I have been sporting the Scott Milder for Lt. Governor sign on my car.

I mean really! Their insurance is FREE. Mine is holding my earned retirement completely hostage. I loved teaching and I wouldn't change a thing, but dang boys and girls of the legislature, surely you want to support your public school employees after a lifetime of service. One other thing beloved readers, you DO KNOW that you can't base your vote on flyers that come in the mail. Surprise! You have to do your homework.

My 90-year-old Mom has been in the hospital in Lubbock and darlin' daughter in East Texas has pestered West Texas Baby Brother with suggestions.

At the same time it is getting hot and heavy in the fight to save the ranch from high-speed rail AND I have been working hard to campaign for pro-education candidates.

Now, let's get some perspective. My faithful laptop goes back to my teaching days and has been wagged over 10 years everywhere I have gone. I have ordered a new MacAir, which is supposed to be here Wednesday. Please Lord!

Mr. Fix-it, AKA Jim Bardwell found our oven element in Tyler Saturday and fixed it himself for \$40. Isn't he handy?

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



My eyeglasses are still going to cost \$800 but I have needed them for over a year and I finally gave in because, well... driving and reading are necessary to my life. Care Credit will help me hang with all the dental and medical bills. And goodness knows we want to keep our teeth in our mouths not on the nightstand.

Our 10-year old cars are chugging happily down our East Texas Roads despite the fact that Jim is working on well over 250,000 miles and I have the little Buick, just like the little engine, that could. And, our beloved dentist doesn't believe in pain. Sedation dentistry is our friend despite the expense. And most importantly, Mom is on the mend thanks to Baby Bro's watchful care.

In other words dear readers, it is just life. Probably just like yours...except for that high speed rail devil of a thing. Tell you what, don't forget to subscribe and buy ads when you can and remember, we are all in this thing together. As mu wise old Daddy used to say, "You have to laugh to keep from crying."

Job had the right attitude and Jonah got the Lord's attention. I think I will start being grateful, very grateful for everything I have. And I am going to keep laughing and get out from under that pity party shade with Jonah.

Smoke alarm's going off! Time for dinner.



## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Workforce Expansion ...

Maintaining a dynamic economy requires a constant flow of talented and skilled workers. With US long-term demographic patterns working against us, it's clear that it will be crucial to attract workers from other areas. While one imperative component of this effort must involve immigration from other countries, a significant additional factor that helps to define regional performance is movement from state to state.

Texas has long been attracting people from other areas (since the days of the Republic, in fact) for a variety of reasons including economic opportunities, lower cost of living, and no income taxes. A recent study by Zillow took a look at patterns for the age range commonly called Gen Z, which they defined as those of working age born between about 1996 and 2004 (college students moving for school were excluded).

Texas attracted far more Gen Z movers in 2022 than any other state, with about 76,800 on a net basis (those moving in minus those moving out). Next was California, with just over 43,900, followed by Florida, North Carolina, Washington, and Colorado. The California result was notable in that the state (unlike Texas and Florida) has been losing residents by the hundreds of thousands annually of late.

The fact that Gen Z is headed to Texas is good news for the state's capacity to continue to expand. The key to net in-migration from other states is the opportunities Texas offers. The state has been adding jobs at a strong pace, with no end in sight, and has also landed more major corporate locations and expansions than any other annually for more than a decade. Both long-time core industries and rapidly emerging sectors are expanding. It's a great place to build a career, and working-age Gen Zers have clearly noticed.

In addition, it's easier to afford a desirable house and enjoyable lifestyle in Texas than in many parts of the country. I wrote recently about how much less expensive housing is in the Lone Star State, whether apartment rentals or housing purchases. Thus, the options for financial success and building wealth are aided not only by career prospects, but also by a lower cost of living and an attractive tax structure.

The influx of workers enables more robust economic expansion, which generates even greater opportunities. To keep the flow coming and perpetuate positive prospects, Texas should continue doing the things that are working—supporting industry growth and expansion. Simultaneously, it's crucial to invest in the infrastructure needed to support a growing population and its quality of life (from world class education and training to highways to broadband to parks) and to avoid divisive legislation that discourages younger and highly skilled residents. Stay safe!

## CONFUSION OF MORAL DISTINCTIONS

There are many churches claiming to honor God, but beyond the walls of beautiful sanctuaries and comfortable padded pews you see chaos, corruption and religious and moral confusion. In our society love has become a jungle emotion where lust is exalted, sin is elevated, Satan is ignored, and man is magnified above his Maker. Many have come to dwell in an Alice in Wonderland world of fantasy and self-delusion. Things have been turned upside down and inside out. Right is wrong and wrong is right, good is bad, and bad is good, normal is abnormal, and abnormal is normal, true is false, and false is true. Our culture is fast degenerating into decadence, obsessed with selfishness and sin, death and destruction. It is like a "topsy-turvy land!"

"I dreamed last night that I had come to dwell in Topsy-Turvydom. Where vice is virtue, virtue vice. Where nice is nasty, nasty nice. Where right is wrong, and wrong is right. Where white is black, and black is white!" The prophet Isaiah warned of just such times, when people confused moral distinctions. Therefore, such is not a new phenomenon. He said: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5: 20). In a climate where God and His Word is ridiculed it leads to confusion of moral distinctions in which people fail to discern between true and false values. We are seeing such in our society today, where drinking is equated to a good time, sexual immorality and adultery are considered simply the gratification of a natural normal urge, pornography has become an acceptable outlet for people's perverted sexual appetites, and under the guise of "freedom of choice" little babies are slaughtered in abortions. Sadly, religion is becoming timid and afraid to rebuke such ungodly conduct. But "God has not given us the spirit of fear or timidity" (2 Tim. 1: 7). Instead, we are to "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove or expose them." "Think on these things.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## GHS Class of '84 holding reunion

The Gladewater High School Class of 1984 will hold its 40th Class Reunion June 7-8, and organizers are inviting the GHS Classes of 1981 through 1987 to join them alongside the teachers and staffers who broadened their minds through the years.

Ticket for the banquet are \$20 per person including a meal or \$13 without, and the deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, May 3.

For more information, call Jana Wynn Ryan at 318-465-4149.

## WO Education Foundation Golf Tournament set

The White Oak Education Foundation's latest fundraiser is in full swing – the organization's annual golf tournament is set this year on April 5 at Wood Hollow Golf Course in Longview.

The 2023 event raised more than \$20,000 between contributions from players, sponsors and donors.

"As you may know, the WOE provides a variety of support for White Oak ISD's students and teachers in the form of resources, time and money," Dr. William Paul noted in a Feb. 5 outreach to potential sponsors. According to the WOISD superintendent, "The school district budgets for the basic items that teachers need to help our students succeed, but periodically they may have a 'wish list' that the school may not be able to afford. This is where fundraising, the WOE and you step in."

With a month-and-change until the event, both players and sponsors are needed. Sponsorships range from



Gladewater Boy Scout Troop 198 celebrated their Court of Honor February 20th at the Antique Capital RV Park banquet room at 7pm. Several merit badges were given that they earned for summer camp and turkey camp, including Landon Brown receiving three of his last merit badges to complete his Eagle Rank. Fundraisers and donations were discussed along with their next highway clean up opportunity. Boy Scouts are always looking for new members 6th-12th grade, If interested in joining or learning more you may come by our normal Tuesday night meetings 7-8:30pm at the hut across from the Gladewater Lake Boat ramp.



\$125 for an individual golfer's registration up to \$2,500 for the Lunch Sponsor.

For more information, contact Shelly Smith at (903) 918-8100 or email Bobby Fuller at bdfuller4@gmail.com. Find the event on Facebook via tinyurl.com/WOEF2024.

## ET Cigar Festival March 8-9

Longview's Tobacco Junction is preparing for The East Texas Cigar Festival to launch a newly-expanded location at 522 East Loop 281 in Longview.

Set for March 8-9, the festival's billed as "the largest premium cigar event in North East Texas," now in its second year and featuring 16 vendors in the largest all cigar humidor in the state of Texas at 1,550 square-feet.

Vendors on hand will be Davidoff, Cruce Del Tobac, Arturo Fuente, Crowned Heads, Drew Estate, Esteban Carreras, Dunbarton,

Foundation, General Cigars, Illusione, My Father, Oliva, Rocky Patel, United Cigars, Warfighter, Warped, and Xikar accessories.

The weekend will kick off with a VIP Davidoff Winston Churchill Event from 7 p.m. to 9 Friday night. Tickets are \$29.99, available at all Tobacco Junction locations or by calling 903-234-1212.

## County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Feb 29.)

"I Like The Sun" by Sarah Nelson, and "Sun! One In A Billion" by Stacy McAnulty, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions, said Kari Dunn, children's coordinator for the library.

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



Collene Duke with the Frontier Girls Troop 109 in Big Sandy stopped by the Lee-Bardwell Public Library recently to give the staff amazing beaded bookmarks for use at the Summer Reading program (for readers 10 and up only). She made these to distribute to area libraries for her Make A Difference Award. If you're interested in the Frontier Girls and Frontier Boys email them at FGFBtroop109@gmail.com.

# GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
2/18/24	ALARMOTHER	20240908	2:31		700 W MELBA MELBA
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20240909	7:56		2685 2685
	EMS	20240910	8:58		1607 N RODEO RODEO ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240911	9:27		1304 N EDWARDS EDWARDS ST
	EMS	20240912	11:27		1208 E MARY MARY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20240913	11:35		1300 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240914	12:01		1201 MARY MARY ST
	EMS	20240915	12:15		217 PR 1300 PR 1300
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240916	12:21	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20240917	12:38		1210 OLIVE OLIVE
	THEFT	20240918	13:26	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20240919	15:04		316 N CENTER CENTER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240920	15:09		321 EDDY EDDY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240921	16:59	EVERETT PARK	801 N LEE LEE ST
	ASSIST	20240922	18:02	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20240923	18:08		3067 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240924	18:27		EAST LAKE TOWARDS 80 EAST LAKE TOWARDS 80
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20240925	20:10		S MILL MILL ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240926	20:31		204 EDDY EDDY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240927	21:37	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20240928	23:51	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
2/19/24	ABANDONED 911	20240929	1:45		1300 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240930	3:38	GRANNY BS SHAVED ICE AND MORE	1603 N MAIN MAIN ST
	CRIM TRESPASS	20240932	7:15	SCRUBBY LOVE	200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20240933	8:04		507 W MARSHALL MARSHALL AVE
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20240934	9:57	ZIPPS LIQUOR STORE	301 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20240935	12:19	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20240938	12:30		3626 WHITE OAK WHITE OAK RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240938	13:55		3038 W GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY RD
	FIRE DEPT	20240938	15:15		1210 WHITE FIR WHITE FIR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20240940	15:42		271 271
	EMS	20240941	17:06		802 N POST POST ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240942	20:17	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240943	20:29	SEYMORS WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARMOTHER	20240944	21:20	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240945	22:58		109 JEANETTE JEANETTE ST
2/20/24	EMS	20240947	13:35	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20240948	14:29	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240950	14:53		1102 E MARY MARY ST
	ASSIST	20240951	16:56		10722 LOCUST LOCUST RD
	EMS	20240952	17:12		2630 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240953	18:55	BYRDS NEST	212 S MAIN MAIN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240954	19:35		421 MELBA MELBA AVE
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20240955	22:16	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240956	22:27		MARY MARY
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20240957	23:15	PENNY'S FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20240958	23:32	GLADEWATER PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
2/21/24	MISCELLANEOUS	20240959	0:13		1105 E MARY MARY ST
	EMS	20240960	2:48		158 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20240961	4:17	GLADEWATER ISD BUS BARN	721 VIRGINIA VIRGINIA ST
	EMS	20240962	4:37	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20240963	6:48	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20240964	14:17	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20240965	16:42		HWY 271 HWY 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240966	16:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20240967	17:19	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20240968	19:01		512 S TYLER TYLER
	ASSIST	20240969	21:36		EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	THEFT	20240971	23:22		803 N MAIN MAIN
2/22/24	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240972	23:56	CANFIELD CANFIELD	CANFIELD CANFIELD
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240973	0:07		CANFIELD CANFIELD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240974	5:42	POST OFFICE	101 N DEAN DEAN ST
	ABANDONED 911	20240975	6:20		2815 S BERNICE BERNICE ST
	EMS	20240976	6:23	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685

	ASSIST	20240977	10:45		2200 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	CRIM TRESPASS	20240978	13:22	SWAMP RAT TOWING	1829 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240979	15:53		411 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK RD
	EMS	20240981	16:58		1875 RIDGE RIDGE
	ASSIST	20240982	18:15		W GAY GAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20240983	18:42		518 HANCOCK HANCOCK
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20240984	19:00	HEALTHY PAWS VETERINARY SERVICES	1830 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARMOTHER	20240985	20:33	JACK PHILLIPS OIL OFFICE	700 N MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20240986	20:57		508 NORTH ST NORTH ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20240987	23:23	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
2/23/24	EMS	20240988	3:28		179 SPRING LAKE DRIVE SPRING LAKE DRIVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20240989	10:05		1100 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20240990	10:58	MANNA HOUSE	515A E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20240991	13:12		400 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20240992	15:59		1508 N DAISY DAISY
	EMS	20240993	16:29		2706 ELIJAH ELIJAH
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20240994	17:12	BUMBLE BEE PARK	637 COACH COCKSEY ST COACH COCKSEY ST
	ASSIST	20240995	17:28	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20240996	19:17	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	HARASSMENT	20240997	21:38		1035 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20240998	21:57		SHEPPARD SHEPPARD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20240999	22:15		211 OKRIDGE OKRIDGE DR
	WARRANT	20241000	23:05		2212 PINECREST PINECREST DR
2/24/24	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241001	4:29		51 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241002	9:21		SPRUCE SPRUCE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241003	10:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	10-50 MINOR	20241004	11:26	CHICKEN EXPRESS	1101 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20241005	14:56		1905 CHESTNUT CHESTNUT
	ASSIST	20241006	15:40		305 W WALTON WALTON
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241008	19:30		205 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241009	21:27	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	WARRANT	20241010	20:56		2101 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20241011	23:36		600 N POST POST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241012	23:50	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
2/25/24	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241013	3:26		MLK MLK
	EMS	20241014	3:44	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ABANDONED 911	20241015	8:07		1811 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241016	8:50	MIKES MINI MART	1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	BURGLARY/BUILDING	20241017	11:45		1905 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20241018	13:16		2406 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	ASSIST	20241019	15:11		810 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	ALARMOTHER	20241020	15:13	BLOCKS IN YOUR SOCKS DAYCARE	318 W QUITMAN QUITMAN ST
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20241021	15:45	ST CLAIR ANTIQUE EMPORIUM	104 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	EMS	20241022	16:06	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ABANDONING A CHILD	20241023	16:21	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARMOTHER	20241024	16:38	3D PLASTICS QUANTUM PLASTICS	1095 E COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	THEFT	20241025	17:11	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE

## McKnight arraigned on capital murder charges

By Phillip Williams

Capital murder suspect Alvin Charles McKnight Jr. pleaded not guilty through his attorney at a 4-minute arraignment proceeding last week before a packed courtroom in Gilmer.

115th District Judge Dean Fowler granted Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd's request to hold a hearing on the case in April. At the Feb. 20 arraignment, Fowler scheduled that hearing for April 23.

McKnight is charged with fatally shooting two sisters last Nov. 4. He was captured several days later in San Bernardino, California. His attorney, former Upshur County As-

sistant District Attorney Natalie Anderson, entered his not guilty plea.

The bespectacled McKnight appeared before Fowler in an orange jail jumpsuit, handcuffed and shackled as Sheriff Larry Webb stood directly behind him.

Byrd told Fowler "the investigation (of the case) is not complete" and has not announced whether he will seek the death penalty or, instead, life imprisonment without parole.

Under Texas law, those are the only two penalties for capital murder. The case is capital murder because more than one individual was slain.

## WHITE OAK POLICE

For the reporting period of February 19th through the 25th, 2024, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 195 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Traffic Problems (collisions, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), Animal Complaints, Burglar Alarms, Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Five traffic collisions were investigated which resulted in one injury and no continuing criminal investigations.

No warrants, other than for traffic violations, were obtained. One case for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child was filed through the Gregg County District Attorney's Office.

One person was arrested by White Oak Police during this reporting period: Kevin Lynn Jackson, 57, of Gladewater for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.







There are working plans to get more workspace under roof at Premix Marbletite following a year-and-a-half of progress in Gladewater for the multinational operation. Already, with seven employees on the roster the business has exceeded the six jobs targeted in its performance agreement with GEDCO.

## PMM exceeds expectations, crafts multiple expansions

PRESS RELEASE

Rapid growth that leads to cramped quarters can be a good problem in the right circumstances.

That's the case right now at Gladewater's arm of Premix MarbleTite, and the operation's principles are planning for facility expansions in the near future, according to Michael Venturelli, General Manager and Divisional Vice President for QEP Company Inc. / PMM Products.

"We have run out of room under roof," Venturelli recently reported to GEDCO Executive Director Michelle Palmer, racing ahead of the company's commitments to the local economic driver: "We are looking at doubling and then tripling the size of the facility and adding the automated production towers at the south end of the building."

PMM has an ongoing 'performance agreement' with GEDCO, dated through Sept. 30, 2027. There are a litany of stipulations within such an agreement, a common method for EDCs to inject sales tax dollars back into the local economy to generate even more – as a Type A corporation with Type B permissions, GEDCO receives a half-cent per \$100 valuation of sales taxes collected by the City of Gladewater and invests the funds according to state guidelines.

GEDCO has a number of agreements in play with both new and existing companies. At PMM, the deal touches on everything from facilities to equipment to jobs – after receiving a reimbursement incentive of \$75,000 for its contributions on the ground here, the company's more than holding up its end of the bargain to

help build strength in the local economy.

Gladewater was one of a number of potential locations in consideration when PMM was in the midst of another round of site selection in Spring 2022, once again expanding its Florida-based manufacturing of a variety of products – pool plaster, stucco, roof tiles, and more.

Per Venturelli, GEDCO played a primary part in sealing that decision and ultimately breaking ground for the multinational outfit here in September 2022.

Not even a year-and-a-half since, "They are exceeding expectations," Palmer proudly noted. For example, "According to their performance agreement and amendment, they were not scheduled to reach their maximum employee number of six until 2025. They are starting 2024 with seven."

"Phase II expansion plans were not supposed to be implemented until after 2025, yet they are preparing to do them as soon as possible."

In fact, the company has already completed one expansion, according to Venturelli's latest check-in.

"Things are doing very well here at PMM in Gladewater," he said. "Originally we were producing pool plaster, and now we are producing a large volume of both concentrate and sand."

PMM launched here with two employees on the roster. With seven on-hand ahead of schedule, the team's looking forward to getting more manufacturing space under roof: "These projects will take some time to develop, fund, and complete, but we are moving forward," Venturelli said, praising GEDCO for its support from the beginning: "Once again a huge, thank you to you and your team for helping us get a great start."

## "Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

### More From Cooperstown ...

This will be the third and final (for now) installment on the Baseball Hall of Fame. We previously discussed this year's election of a worthy trio and mentioned a pair that the voters missed. Today we'll talk about the election process and why it is flawed, in my opinion. Under current procedures, the Baseball Writers' Association of America has the exclusive voting privilege to consider recent players five years after they stop playing. Players are eligible from that time until 15 years after they retire, so there is a ten-year window of eligibility as long as they receive at least 5% of the votes cast. Exceptions can be made for players who die while still active, or six months after retirement. The other way to be elected is the Veteran's Committees who periodically consider, "long-retired" players including Negro League stars, managers, executives, and umpires. For now, we'll confine the discussion to the annual voting.

Eligible voters come from the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) and are required to have ten consecutive years as a baseball writer, with a ten-year grace period for those no longer active. As a result, the voting base tends to be an older group. Broadcasters from television and radio are excluded, as are other media representa-

tives. It could be argued that many from these groups have more knowledge and accessibility than a lot of the writers, and as a result would provide a broader viewpoint and better-informed votes if included. Some writers have a narrow viewpoint, and I believe there are a number who have lost their focus completely.

The inequities and exclusions are not just a recent occurrence. There have always been some strange results in the voting. For example, 9 voters didn't vote for Hank Aaron, 20 excluded Ted Williams, and 23 failed to include Stan Musial and Willie Mays! There were 43 who did not vote for Mickey Mantle, and 65 who overlooked the fact that Warren Spahn won more games (363) than any other lefty in history.

There are also some interesting names of players who weren't elected in their first year of eligibility, like Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford, and Tris Speaker, who is generally recognized as one of the greatest defensive outfielders ever and has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest number of hits in history. It took voters 4 years to elect Joe DiMaggio, 5 years on Rogers Hornsby (.358 career batting average) and 8 years for Jimmy Foxx with his career average of .325 and 534 home runs. And in a touch of irony, since 1956 the best pitcher in the league

is given the Cy Young Award but Cy was not elected to the Hall until his third year of eligibility despite having won 511 games in a 22-year career. Maybe he hadn't received enough Cy Young Awards?

So, there have always been issues. Maybe they are just more noticeable now with our access to information. What could be done to improve? Here are my suggestions:

Broaden the voting base. Include broadcasters and media people who have a long-standing association with baseball.

There is now a limit for each voter of ten players, resulting in some leaving a worthy candidate off to include someone in their last year. Let them vote for more than 10.

With more voters included, consider a lower percentage requirement and a shorter span of eligibility. Might even include a "check yes or no" on each player on the ballot.

Most importantly, publicize the names and ballot of every voter. This isn't a presidential election; it's a privilege granted to represent all baseball fans. Voters would then be in a position to defend their stance, explaining why they are for or against a player's inclusion. Maybe this would weed out the ridiculous anonymous voters who send in a blank ballot or vote only for Alex Rodriguez or Manny Ramirez in order to "make a statement."

If someone needs to go to Cooperstown to lobby for these changes, I'm available! Want to sign up for the trip?

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

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# SPORTS

**By Tyler Sutton**

The non district schedule continued this week for Gladewater, White Oak and Union Grove Baseball and softball as all three teams were in action multiple times. And the boys basketball seasons for White Oak and Union Grove came to a end.

The White Oak boys basketball team began their run in the playoffs on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> as they traveled to Hallsville's Bobcats gym to take on Tatum and in a game that was quickly one sided, the Roughnecks fell 94-23. White Oak ends its season at 10-24. Union Grove also began its playoff run on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> as they made the short trip to Pine Tree's Pirate Gym in Longview to take on Overton. The Lions held firm at the half, but the Mustangs ultimately pulled away late and ended the Lions season 62-42. Union Grove finishes 13-14 on the season.

The Gladewater Bears baseball team opened up their 2024 season on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> with a home game against West Rusk and sadly the Bears were not only beaten, but no hit as the Raiders Kullen Tavares tossed a 5 inning no hitter. The Bears then hosted their own Tournament beginning on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> where they went 1-3 with a win over Cayuga ( 8-1 ) and losses to Overton ( 6-5 ), Union Grove ( 8-5 ) and Chapel Hill ( 6-1 ). The Bears are now 1-4 on the season and will head to Frankston to compete in the Frankston Tournament thjis week.

Gladewater Softball also opened it season this week with opening night on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> as they fell in a absolute slugfest 25-10. Shaylee Ellis and Ja-

niah Strickland had three hits apiece for Gladewater, with Ellis driving in two runs and Strickland one.

Ma'Khya Boone added a triple, double and RBI, and Alayah Gordon singled twice and drove in a run. Reagen Verner and Karlee Moses also drove in runs. Then the Lady Bears traveled to Arp to participate in the Arp tournament where they went 2-3 with wins over Carlisle ( 13-0 ) where Claire Townsend singled and drove in three runs against Carlisle. Morgan Perez had two hits and an RBI, and Karlee Moses and Shaylee Ellis also drove in runs. Alayah Gordon pitched three shutout innings, striking out three and walking one. and Westwood ( 9-2 ) and losses to Frankston ( 5-4 ) Sabine ( 9-1 ) as Karlee Moses doubled and drove in a run for the Lady Bears. Shaylee Ellis had Gladewater's other hit, a single, and Alayah Gordon struck out one and walked two in four innings. And to Arp ( 6-4 ) as Karlee Moses and Alayah Gordon doubled and Gordon and Syahlee Ellis drove in runs for Gladewater. Gordon struck out three and walked one in three innings. The Lady Bears are now 2-4 on the season and will make the short trip to Union Grove for the Union Grove tournament beginning on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Moving over to White Oak, The RoughNecks baseball team opened up their season on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> as they hosted the Spring Hill Panthers and fell 6-2. Caleb Maxted and Noah Fritsche drove in runs in the loss for White Oak. Davis Tolliver struck out three and walked one in 3.2 innings, and Kelton Cates walked one in 2.1 innings on the hill. Then on

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> they began play in the Elysian Fields tournament where they went a perfect 4-0 and won 1<sup>st</sup> place with wins over ETHS ( 18-3 ), Beckville ( 11-4 ), Atlanta ( 3-2 ) and host Elysian Fields in the championship game ( 9-1 ). White Oak is now 4-1 on the season and will next be in action on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> when they begin play in the Grand Saline Tournament. The LadyNecks softball team continued as they fell to Kilgore 18-9 on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Andee Bridges homered and drove in two runs in the loss for White Oak. Tristyn Cox, Emily Wallace, Cami Ferguson and Jaidyn Marshall all added two hits apiece. Marshall tripled and drove in a run. Cox had two RBI, and Ferguson, Graycen Sipes and Emily Arnold all chipped in with RBI then began play on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> in their own White Oak tournament where they went a perfect 5-0 and won the tournament with wins over Redwater ( 7-0 ) where Tristyn Cox tripled, singled and drove in three runs and Addison McClanahan added a double and two RBI. Kara Kennedy and Jaidyn Marshall both drove in runs. Kennedy fanned four with no walks in three innings, and Larkin Daniels struck out seven with no walks in two frames, Pittsburg ( 9-0 ), Carthage ( 18-0 ), Buffalo ( 2-1 ) and Texas High in the championship game ( 6-1 ). White Oak is now 5-1 on the season and will head to Franklin on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to begin play in the Franklin tournament.

Union Grove Baseball began its 2024 season on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> as they began play in the Gladewater Tournament were they went

3-1 with wins over Gladewater ( 8-5 ) where Kayden Day singled twice, Jacob Griffin doubled and drove in a run and Carter Cooper, Wrigley Roberts and Judson George all drove in runs for the Lions. Cooper struck out five and walked two in three innings, Cumberland Academy ( 11-10 ) as Peyton Laake banged out three hits and drove in two runs for the Lions. Rylan Roberts doubled and drove in three runs. Carter Cooper tripled. Wrigley Roberts singled and had two RBI, and Judson George drove in a run. Rylan Roberts struck out three in two innings, and George fanned four in two innings and Cumberland Academy again ( 5-1 ) with their lone loss coming to Chapel Hill ( 7-6 ) where Kayden Day, Rylan Roberts and Wrigley Roberts all drove in runs for Union Grove. Jacob Griffin struck out three and walked four in two innings. The Lions are 3-1 to begin the season and will have their home opener Tuesday night, February 27<sup>th</sup> against Carlisle. Then travel to Union Hill on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for their district opener. The Lady Lions softball team continued its non district schedule as they took on Alba-Golden on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> where they were shut out and no hit 18-0. Then on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> Union Grove were shut out 3 time by Liberty-Eylau ( 10-0 ), James Bowie ( 19-0 ) and McLeod ( 8-0 ) in the Lady Rabbs softball tournament in Atlanta. They also fell to host Atlanta on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> by a score of 24-3. The Lady Lions are now 1-4 on the season and will host the Melinda " Memaw " Smith Softball tournament beginning on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.



**A Gladewater Bear runner slides in safe at 2nd base, under Union Grove Lions short stop Wrigley Roberts as the ball is thrown in from the outfield.**

Photo by Kim Hill



**Larkin Daniels, the 2023 All East Texas Most Valuable Softball Player, is back for her senior season with the Ladynecks. Daniels, who stuck out 415 batters last year, has continued her domination in that category this year. She saw limited action because of the flu against Redwater at the White Oak Softball Tournament, where she pitched just 2 innings and struck out 7 batters! One of the batters was able to advance to first base as the catcher dropped the ball to make that possible.**

Photo by Mike Peery



## THANK YOU, GLADEWATER

For helping to make the celebration of our 150 years of history so memorable!  
We look forward to what the future holds for our great community over the next 150 years.



**In January 2023, citizens were challenged to volunteer 150 minutes during at least one of the Sesquicentennial special events. Many people became involved in every opportunity! Those to be recognized include:**

Farrell Alexander, Elijah "Sonny" Anderson, Pat Applegate, Christian & Kat Allen, Judy & Paul Banner, Kathy Barrow, Jeff Bishop, Jack Bynum, Karla & Matt Byrd, Kevin Clark, Dr. Sedric Clark, Todd Clifton, Mickey Coutier, Sheila Faggans, Bill Fishburn, Brandy & Jeremiah Flanagan, Allen Fowler, Gordon Freeman, Ginger Graf, Jennifer Hand, Ben Hatfield, Al Harrison, Rocky & Laura Hawkins, April & Michael Hines, Jim Jones, Becky King, Beth Lewis, Bo Lothrop, Betty Lynch, Dotti McCoy, Tony McCullough, Bennie Moore, Pam Oller, Rita Osha, Elane & Jay Osteen, Rhonda Owens, Scott Owens, Michelle, Nate, Kaleb & Kyle Palmer, Jim Quinn, Rose Rachal, Chuck & Lois Reed, Darren Richardson, Elaine Roddy, Randy Rumfield, Cathy Shipp, Hillie Shirley, Michael Simmons, Charlie Smith, Jessica Smith, Roger Smith, Sandra Smith, Teddy Sorrells, Brad Spears, Michael Stanford, Jesse, Rachael, Sean & Leland Thrapp, Lee & Cori Todd, Beth Turner, Trecia Turner, Judy Van Houten, Michael Venturelli, Marsha & John Walker, Leon & Pat Watson, Michael Webber, Harold Wells, Gary Wesson, Helen Winchell, Brandy Winn, Etta Withers, Jeff & Rhonda Wright, and Steve Young.

### SETTIN' ON THE WOODBINE

**Cast & Crew of "Settin' on the Woodbine" included:**

Director/Script Editor Jessica Smith, Music Director Darren Richardson, Ricky Thompson, Nick Lack, Rachel Shepard, Dr. Dennis Robertson, Lesly Hernandez, Illyssa Hawley, Dorrie Warburton, Jacobie Willis, Kyle Martin, Brent Owen, Zoe Fossan, Yamil Bacon, Astrith Alvarez, Tonya Fowler, Brandy Humphreys, Ethan Bailey, Emmie Benson, Emily Brown, Rilynn Duren, Ava Edwards, Ty'azia Fagans, Sidney Garcia, Olivia Gill, Alaya Green, Caiya Harris, Johnnay Hawley, Garrett Kegarise, Christopher Hernandez, Ja'Qualyn King, Logan McKnight, Corey Nelms, Kyera Orange, Morgan Perez, Zander Phillips, Mackenzie Richardson, Emma Williams, Samya Williams, Jacobie Willis, and Jordan Woods.

### Troup 198

**Members of Troup 198 have participated in several events:**

Committee Chair Jaime Plunkett, Scoutmaster Allen Fowler, Asst. Scoutmasters Christopher, Thomas, and Liam Reagh, Asst. Scoutmaster Mark Lowry, Asst. Scoutmaster (Cubmaster Pack 196) Dustin Watson. Committee Members: Amanda Brown, Tonya Fowler, Wendy Lowry, Dee Smith, and Charter Organization Representative Jim Thompson. Scouts included: Bradley Bigler, Killian Boyles, Landon Brown, Jaxon Cook, Preston Lanier, Jake Lowry, Aaron Reagh, Hudson Reagh, Toren Reagh, Nathan Smith, Noah Smith, Aerron Watson, Drue Watson, and Garrett Watson.



**Local businesses and service organizations who sponsored/donated to an event included:**

Pete Adams/Gladewater Books, Austin Bank, ABC Auto, Bailey's ACE Hardware, Jamie Ballard, Brookshires, Christus EMS Gladewater, City of Gladewater, Citizens Bank, City National Bank, Bill Dickason, East Texas Gusher Days, Katie Ellis Realtor-Miller Group, Equipment Share, Tonya & Allen Fowler, Gladewater Antique Mall, Gladewater Area Ladies Association, Gladewater Chamber, Gladewater EDC, Gladewater Fire Department, Gladewater ISD, Gladewater LIONS, Gladewater MIRROR, Gladewater Museum, Gladewater Police Department, GoBus Transit, Granny B's, Robert Haberle, John Linder Operating Co. LLC, Happy Cabbage, Jim Jones, Tammy Kessler-Texas Real Estate Executives, Knights of Pythias-Longview, Marine Corps Association, Oil Patch TRTA, O'Reilly Group, McDonald's Gladewater, Rita Osha, Pam Oller, Republic Services, Sasquatch Trading Post, Terri Searcy-Texas Real Estate Executives, SHIPPS Marine, Texas Bank and Trust, Marilyn Vaught, Harold & Linda Wells, and J. O. Williams.



**Gladewater 150 Committee Members include:**

Chairman: Kevin Clark

Committee: Christian Allen, Cori Arevalo, Matt Byrd, Jennifer Hand, Brenda Kaster, Lois Reed, Darren Richardson, Elaine Roddy, John Ussery, and Harold Wells.



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## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 TXism: "jumpy as \_\_\_ on ice"

5 Saturday is a cowboy's \_\_\_ day

6 TX Mildred "Babe" Didrikson

7 Austin band: "Asleep \_\_\_ the Wheel"

8 Texas fire \_\_\_

9 inner Fort Worth suburb: \_\_\_ City

15 director Preminger

16 TXism: "grabbin' at straws"

19 detests

21 "copying" company

22 "Wreck it Ralph" song: "When \_\_\_ \_\_\_ You Again?"

27 party-giver

28 "\_\_\_ on" (tell somebody else)

29 Austin's "Tree-Folks" encourage people to \_\_\_ tree

30 TXism: "she could sell ice cubes to \_\_\_"

32 noted TCU coach: \_\_\_ "Dutch" Meyer

33 "let \_\_\_ bygones"

36 TXism: "ain't \_\_\_ lick of sense"

37 this agcy. administers soc. security

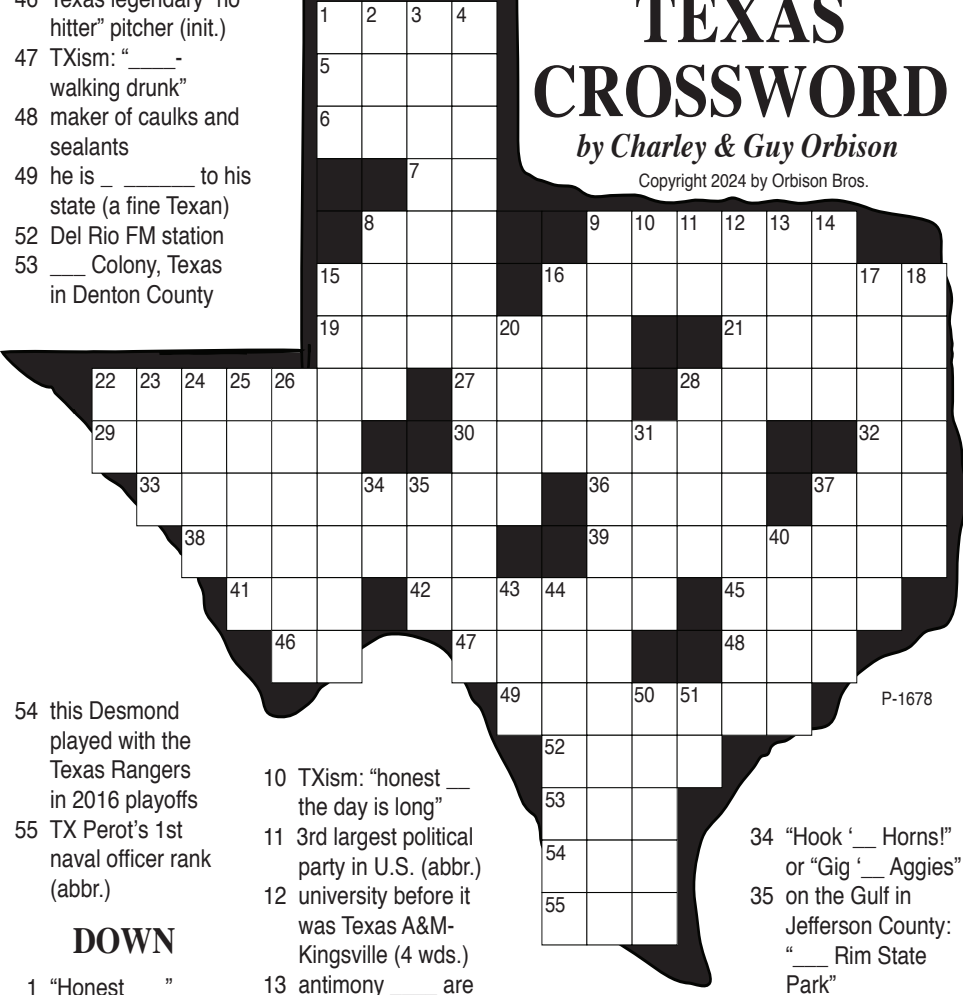
38 TXism: "he \_\_\_ bill of goods" (lied)

39 biblical shouts of praise

41 golf peg

42 TXism: "short as \_\_\_ eyebrow"

45 clean and tidy



46 Texas legendary "no hitter" pitcher (init.)

47 TXism: "\_\_\_ walking drunk"

48 maker of caulks and sealants

49 he is \_\_\_ to his state (a fine Texan)

52 Del Rio FM station

53 \_\_\_ Colony, Texas in Denton County

54 this Desmond played with the Texas Rangers in 2016 playoffs

55 TX Perot's 1st naval officer rank (abbr.)

**DOWN**

1 "Honest \_\_\_" Lincoln

2 this Farley founded Boys Ranch in Oldham County in 1939

3 city in Texas and Georgia

4 TXism: "you can take \_\_\_" (certain)

8 foot digit (2 wds.)

9 TXism: "\_\_\_ bark on a tree" (cheapskate)

10 TXism: "honest \_\_\_ the day is long"

11 3rd largest political party in U.S. (abbr.)

12 university before it was Texas A&M-Kingsville (4 wds.)

13 antimony \_\_\_ are processed at a smelter in El Paso

14 TX Tommy Lee Jones 1978 film: "Eyes of Laura \_\_\_"

15 Galveston has the "International \_\_\_ Festival" (evergreen shrub)

16 office furniture

17 works hard to do something (2 wds.)

18 locals hired to be in a crowd in a film

20 TXism: "useless as panty \_\_\_ to a pig"

22 Texas singer of "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone" (init.)

23 first Texan moon-walker, Bean (init.)

24 "no" votes in the Texas legislature

25 gold or silver brick, e.g.

26 rustled cattle, e.g.

28 \_\_\_ and pans

31 cow sounds

34 "Hook ' \_\_\_ Horns!" or "Gig ' \_\_\_ Aggies" on the Gulf in Jefferson County: "\_\_\_ Rim State Park"

37 TXism: "He's still got some \_\_\_ in his garters" (able)

40 TXism: "\_\_\_ as a pin"

43 on banks of the Rio Grande: "Santa \_\_\_ National Wildlife Refuge"

44 a bolo to a cowboy

50 this Tom pitched for the Astros in the 1993-94 season

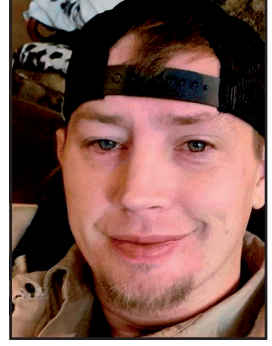
51 soft drink created in Waco: \_\_\_ Pepper

See Answers On This Page

## OBITUARY

### MR. KENNETH "TRAVIS" CRENSHAW

Kenneth "Travis" Crenshaw, 33, of Liberty City completed his earthly adventure February 17, 2024. This fun, loving family man was born January 27, 1991, in Kilgore to Kenneth Ray and Frances Renee (Gaddy) Crenshaw and was raised in Liberty City.



Staying close to his family was of utmost importance in Travis' life. He and his two children, parents, sister, niece and nephews resided on the same family land on which he was raised, providing his children with a loving close-knit family. During Travis' much too brief life, he thrived when being with his children, from fishing with his son to dancing with his daughter Travis made every single day count. He ensured that each moment he spent with his children was full of love, now cherished memories on which to hold.


Travis enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, PC gaming, and playing pool with his friends. He was a proud graduate of Libery City High School in 2009, worked hard in school to obtain college credit and worked as manager for the Crenshaw family business, KC Vending.

Left to cherish Travis' memory are his parents; Kenneth Ray and Frances Renee Crenshaw, his children; Talan Travis and Sophie Renee Ellen Crenshaw, his sister Tricia Bailey Crenshaw as well and his niece and nephews; Kenneth Connor, Colton Kyle and Chloe Kate Crenshaw.

Travis was a treasured father, son, brother, uncle, and friend. He will be profoundly missed by all who have experienced the joy of knowing him. Travis was laid to rest at the Crenshaw Family Cemetery located at the Crenshaw Family property.

Online condolences may be left at [www.raderfuneralhome.com](http://www.raderfuneralhome.com)

8/291-S



**Solution**  
Last Puzzle

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# Upshur constables seeking grants for equipment

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court recently approved a resolution supporting applications for grants to purchase equipment for the county's four constables.

Precinct 1 Constable Tim Barnett said applications for the three grants from federal or state agencies had already been made. They include proposed funding for rifle-resistant body armor, all-band radios, and bullet resistant shields. None of the proposed grants require matching funds from the county, he said. The amounts are

about \$6,000 for the body armor, about \$79,000 for the radios, and about \$15,000 for the shields, Barnett added.

The court opened bids on supplies for the Road and Bridge Department, then informally decided to have County Road Administrator Phil Stegall and County Auditor Connie Williams study them before taking action. The items ranged from gasoline to limestone and road oil. The court also approved the lease/purchase of two tractor-mowers at a cost of about \$136,000 each, to be financed through the First National Bank--Wichita Falls.

# Five arrests made by Upshur County Special Unit

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested five suspects on various unrelated charges in January, Sheriff Larry Webb announced Monday.

All were confined in the county jail in Gilmer, said Webb, who gave these details:

Jose L. Torres, 37, of Gilmer, was arrested at a residence in the 500 block of Lamb Road Jan. 3 on a felony charge of indecency with a child, and two felony counts of credit card abuse.

The unit executed a search warrant at the location. Jerrad W. Jackson, 37, of Gilmer, was arrested Jan. 8 on a felony charge of possession of controlled substance--one to four grams of methamphetamine.

The SIU was performing drug interdiction in the Lake

Gilmer park when it stopped his vehicle in the 2600 block of Armadillo Road and seized 1.9 grams of the drug.

Leroy B. Morrison, 55, of Gilmer, was arrested Jan. 9 on a charge of possession of controlled substance--1-4 grams of methamphetamine.

The unit was working drug interdiction in the Harmony area when it stopped Morrison's vehicle at the intersection of Jaguar Road and Texas 154, and seized 3.8 grams of the drug.

A 48-year-old Big Sandy woman was arrested Jan. 10 on two misdemeanor charges: possession of dangerous (prescription) drugs and driving while license invalid.

The SIU was again performing drug interdiction in the Harmony area when it stopped the suspect's vehicle at the Four Corners Grocery at the intersection of FM 1002 and Texas 154 in Rhoneboro community.



The Gladewater Rotary Club's Feb. 22 program featured Rotarian and GUSD Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark and Gladewater Education Foundation President Katie Ellis. They were joined by Rotary President Darla Ferguson.

**21AA ALL DISTRICT AWARDS**  
LADY LION BASKETBALL

<p>#4 <b>AVA WIGHTMAN</b> SENIOR   OFFENSIVE MVP</p> <p>#2 <b>JAMIE WEBB</b> JUNIOR   NEWCOMER</p> <p>#10 <b>SARAH PRINCE</b> JUNIOR   1ST TEAM</p> <p>#12 <b>JENNA SCOTT</b> SENIOR   1ST TEAM</p> <p>#23 <b>KEIRA TAYLOR</b> JUNIOR   2ND TEAM</p> <p>#20 <b>MALLORIE CANNON</b> SOPHOMORE   2ND TEAM</p> <p>#11 <b>ALLIE CALHOUN</b> SENIOR   HONORABLE MENTION</p>	<p>#3 <b>RACHEL POTTER</b> FRESHMAN   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>#5 <b>DANICA VESTAL</b> FRESHMAN   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT: RACHEL POTTER AVA WIGHTMAN SARAH PRINCE ALLIE CALHOUN JENNA SCOTT MALLORIE CANNON KEIRA TAYLOR</p>
--	--

**DISTRICT 21AA ALL DISTRICT AWARDS**  
UNION GROVE BASKETBALL

#EARNT | #GROVEHOOPS

<p>#15 <b>JACE ROBERTS</b>   1ST TEAM</p> <p>#00 <b>JAX DANIELS</b>   1ST TEAM</p> <p>#2 <b>PEYTON LAAKE</b>   2ND TEAM</p> <p>#35 <b>MORGAN MAYHAN</b>   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>#4 <b>WILL WILSON</b>   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>#24 <b>LANE TURNER</b>   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>#5 <b>WRIGLEY ROBERTS</b>   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>#21 <b>CASON COWAN</b>   HONORABLE MENTION</p> <p>#32 <b>KAYDEN DAY</b>   HONORABLE MENTION</p>
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**LEGAL NOTICE**

(Longview, TX) The Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has scheduled a Public Meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Longview City Council Chambers located in the Jo Ann Metcalf Municipal Building, 300 W. Cotton Street, Longview, TX 75601. The MPO will present revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify numbers for Longview Transit, present the draft of the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and present the proposed expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The meeting will be live-streamed on the City of Longview's Facebook Live, CityView Municipal TV LongviewTexas.gov/CityView, and Longview Cable TV: Channel 10.1 or 215. After the meeting, citizens may view the recorded meeting online in the CityView Video Library. A 30-day public comment and review period for the TIPs and the MPA will be held from March 6, 2024, to April 10, 2024. Comments and questions regarding the Longview MPO's TIPs and the MPA may be sent to the Longview MPO, P.O. Box 1952, Longview, TX 75606, or emailed to MPO@LongviewTexas.gov. The TIPs and the MPA will be available for review online after the meeting, at Longview-Texas.gov/MPO, the Longview Public Library located at 222 W. Cotton St., Longview, TX 75601, and the Longview MPO office located at 933 Mobile Dr., Longview, TX 75604. This public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comments on the TIP development process will satisfy the FTA's Program of the Project requirements. Persons with disabilities who may need auxiliary aid or services at the meeting and persons needing a translator or interpreter are asked to contact the Longview MPO at 903-237-1062. Para información en español, por favor comuníquese con Marisela Henson en 903-237-1300. #FGR6510001-651-Pub Notice

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS GLADEWATER ISD'S**

State Financial Accountability Rating Gladewater ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024 in the GLADEWATER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD ROOM, 200 E. BROADWAY, GLADEWATER, TX 75647.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Gladewater ISD's rating on the State's Financial Accountability System.

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## ELITE Pathfinders hold spotlight at Red Rock

**Continued from Page 1**  
Rock community, at 2629 S. Gregory Lane. The ELITE Pathfinder event reflects the best of our community, celebrating diversity and achievements which proves that we are stronger together. The Red Rock Historical Association was founded

in 2005. The mission of the organization is to nurture an understanding of and energize an appreciation for the cultural contributions of African Americans in Northeast Texas thus honoring the past and serving the present and future communities. The Feb. 17 event was

held in the RRHA Activity Center, which opened its doors to the public in 2023. "We are confident that next year, if not before," Moore said, "our museum doors will also be opened to the public." Learn more about the organization at redrockha.org

## PUT A PING ON IT

*Chamber tourism data paints positive picture*

**Continued from Page 2**  
According to the data, there were approximately 6,000 pings collected from visitors from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in the past year along with about 1,700 pings by Houston visitors' phones and some 1,000 pings by Aus-

tin/Round Rock phones. During the 2023 Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Lake Gladewater, pings from the area of the grass hill to the beach totaled about 4,000 for the day. "At 9 p.m. when the fireworks started we had 3,300

still on that grass noll," based solely on the ping data – obviously, it does include individuals without cell phones (i.e. children) so the actual crowd count was higher. "As your chamber of commerce person, I was quite excited about this. We are working hard, and it's starting to show," Reed concluded, "but there's always room for improvement."

## Man charged in wife's murder

**Continued from Page 1**

"Through the course of the officers' investigation, it was discovered" Smith's wife "was deceased at her residence," Davidson added. Hughes posted the home was at the intersection of nearby Walnut and Allen Streets, which Davidson confirmed Tuesday.

Online records from the Upshur County Sheriff's Office show Craig Smith was being held in county jail Tuesday under bonds of \$100,000 on the murder charge, and another combined \$30,000 on various other charges.

Davidson said the charges included an outstanding warrant for one offense--felony assault/family violence--impeding breath or circulation. The other charges, she wrote, include failure to identify and fugitive giving false information.

"At this time, Gilmer Police Department will not be releasing further information as this is an ongoing investigation," Davidson's mid-afternoon press release concluded.

Upshur County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Lyle Potter set Smith's bonds, online jail records show.

8700 people attended Gusher Days in the Historic District April 21-22, 2023.

4100 people attended Holiday Open House in the Historic District November 11, 2023.

2000-2500 people were in the Antique District on Saturdays.

3300-4000 people were at Lake Gladewater on July 3 for Fireworks.

33% travel 10-30 miles.

15% travel 100-plus miles.

6000 visitors from DFW last year.

1700 visitors from Houston last year.

1000 visitors from Austin/Round Rock last year.

## Caution requested with burning outside

- Check local burning restrictions and burn bans before lighting any outdoor burn piles.
- Keep debris piles small and manageable.
- Keep a water source, such as a hose or bucket, nearby.
- Clear vegetation and flammable material at least 10 feet away from your pile.
- Avoid burning under overhead obstructions like trees, powerlines, and structures.
- Never leave your fire unattended.
- Always fully extinguish your fire before leaving.
- Choose alternatives to burning, when feasible.

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