



East Texans tackle wildfires

By James Draper

The largest wildfire in Texas history continues to ravage vast portions of the Panhandle, and as firefighters contain the destruction of the Smokehouse Creek fire and other blazes, East Texans are helping hold the line.

The record-setting wildfire began Monday, Feb. 26, in Hutchinson County. According to data being collected by Texas A&M Forest Service, it quickly grew from 100,000 acres to half-a-million the first day. By Feb. 28, it had burned 850,000 acres and has since exceeded 1.1 million.

It's just one of five active wildfires burning in the Panhandle, and firefighters have been dispatched from throughout the state and across the country to assist. The draft includes local firefighter Josh Bardwell, West Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Chief and Smith County Emergency Service District No. 2's coordinator with the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS).

"This things so dadgum big," said Bardwell, son of Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell. "This fire is so large that we have many different divisions and base camps geographically set up – we know the overall mission and overall operations, but we're not in communication because the fire is so long."

Bardwell's working as Strike Team Leader with TIFMAS, running the five units of Engine Strike Team 115 as they help hold a fire-line almost 107 miles-long.

"Smith County ESD No. 2 was ordered up along with hundreds of firefighters from other departments," Bardwell confirmed. "We're operating out of Borger, Texas, base camp. Our main area of operation is the western side of the Smokehouse Creek fire north from the town of Stinnett all the way over to southwest of Spearman."

The team includes a brush truck from Smith Co. ESD-2, a brush truck and water tender from Austin Fire Department, plus brush trucks from departments in Georgetown and Beaumont. They were dispatched to the Panhandle two days after the blazes began.

"We had an immediate request through the TIFMAS program to get a strike team assembled and on the road as soon as we could the morning of the 28th to get here to the fire, which was actively burning."

The strike team includes 15 personnel along with the equipment gathered from across the state: "We've been very fortunate that we have very good people who are very competent and doing a great job."

The cause of the Smokehouse Creek fire is still under investigation, with early reports focusing on a downed power line near Stinnett.

It's likely hundreds of homes have been damaged or destroyed by the five Panhandle wildfires. Thousands of livestock animals are dead, crops have been reduced to ash and officials are still working to assess

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East Texas firefighters, part of Strike Team 115, put out hotspots on the Smokehouse Creek fire.

4 day or 4 get it: With survey's support, GISD team works on key questions of truncated schedule

By James Draper

Across East Texas, 28 school districts have adopted a four-day week – that may be where Gladewater ISD ends up, too, but it could just as easily stick to the status quo.

Either way, there are questions to answer before the idea's put to a vote by the district's board of trustees.

Athens ISD was the first local district to adopt a four-day schedule, GISD Superintendent Dr. Seducic Clark noted, while many other nearby schools adopted some form of truncated calendar last year.

There's a common theme across the spectrum: recruitment.

"It's about the teacher shortage. It's about getting teachers. Always, the reason listed first is recruitment of staff. Retention of staff is the second reason why," he said. "We're exploring it because the folks who made the recommendations for a calendar to our board asked us to consider it last year. Not only that, our teachers, in their response to the surveys, asked us to consider it. "We're just doing our due

diligence to make sure our people know that when they ask us to look at things, we do."

GISD's process began late last year with a simple survey of faculty, staff, parents and students midway through the 2023-2024 school year. Responses favored looking into the four-day concept.

"We're still investigating it because it's over two-thirds of our people who say they're interested in it," Clark said. "I think we've got enough from them through the statements they gave us on the surveys to go through this next phase," developing a broader idea for consideration.

Out of 610 responses from students in the 6th through 11th grades, 78 percent said 'yes' to a four-day week alongside 72 percent of 299 parents.

"The first employee survey was just a one-liner on our mid-year satisfaction survey: 'Do you want us to investigate the implementation of a four-day school schedule?'"

On that poll, 174 of the district's 320 faculty and staff members responded, and 92 percent favored

investigating the idea.

On a subsequent survey, 78 percent of the respondents answered favorably, and 10 percent had no preference.

Likewise, the most recent second-round poll of parents netted 643 responses with 67 percent supporting a four-day week.

Looking beyond the school itself, "I'm not expecting a very positive public response," Clark said, "but we'll get it out there."

The current strategy's for GISD's District Education Improvement Council to continue researching options and present their mid-process findings to trustees March 18.

Right now, there are lots of unknowns – specifics on when school days would begin and end in a four-day week, about which additional day in the week would be off, of how the rest of the school year will be impacted, how extracurriculars will be affected, etc.

Obviously, there are questions about childcare, too: Who will be watching the children if they're out-of-school one more day in seven? Can local facilities handle the influx? What will the older

students do with themselves on the extra day off?

"Those are things our board members need answers to also," Clark said. "By the time we get to the April board meeting we'll have draft plans for that, as much as possible."

Texas Education Agency requires districts have 75,600 minutes of instruction built into their schedules.

"We will meet that with either calendar... with either a four-day or a five-day," Clark said. "We're exceeding it now with our current calendar with multiple days off during the year."

"With the four-day, we'll have to extend our hours of operation per day and, most likely, some of these days off that we've had will be gone also."

The DEIC is researching other districts' calendars – some have a 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. schedule, others go 7:10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Per Clark, another option could be 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

"We're going to look at it and make a suggestion to the board that we think is best for us."

In the midst of exploring the

topic, the district's keen for public insight and asking for patience while all the ducks get put in a row.

"People just want their questions answered," Clark said. "While we're in the investigatory state, we really can't answer. The plan is for the DEIC to get some information, draft a plan, go to the board and say, 'This is what we have. What do you need from us before we bring back calendar options?'"

The internal committee will work to finalize a broad presentation on the concept ahead of another, more robust survey and a town hall meeting. Those results, comments and all relevant data will be put to the school board for final consideration and, possibly, a vote later this Spring.

Meanwhile, "I'm trying to remain as neutral as possible," Clark said, "trying to gather as much information and give it to the board – they are the policy-making agents for our district."

"We're going to take care of kids whether it's a five-day or four-day schedule. We want to make sure we listen to those who wanted us to investigate this."



Spring 2024 has brought a fresh crop of campaign signs to the corner of Rodeo and Hwy. 80 along with street corners throughout the community. Some signs wilted this week following polling for the March 5 Primary, while others are just now taking root – the Gladewater City Council has two contested races bound for Election Day May 4, including current council member Brandy Flanagan and Jim Valentine vying for the mayor's seat as well as current Mayor Scott Owens facing newcomer Stoney Stone for Flanagan's current Place 3 spot.

Upshur preserving McFadden's cell draws protest

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Commissioners Court's plan to preserve the onetime jail cell from which the late Jerry (Animal) McFadden escaped in 1986, triggering what was then reportedly the largest manhunt in Texas history, is drawing a protest from the family of the woman McFadden was convicted of murdering.

While the county has said its plan is intended as a memorial to the three young people McFadden was charged with killing, Suzanne Harrison's relatives contend in a letter to several newspapers that the plan "glamorizes" McFadden and that the proposal would "bind" his victims to him. (The letter's entire text appears elsewhere in today's issue. Harrison's parents are

dead, but several living relatives are listed.)

The 87-year-old courthouse is undergoing a nearly \$13 million historic renovation, and plans call for preserving the cell on the fifth floor, which was the county jail's longtime site until only months after the escape. The jail was relocated to its current housing, the Upshur County Justice Center in Gilmer.

McFadden was convicted in 1987 of capital murder for the May 1986 sexual assault and strangulation of Harrison, who was 18 and from Hawkins. Convicted and sentenced to death by a jury in Bell County, where the trial was moved on a change of venue, McFadden was executed by injection Oct. 14, 1999.

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Gladewater follows flushing plan after flag from TCEQ

The water's safe to drink, but the City of Gladewater was recently notified of a 'Maximum Contaminant Level Violation' for excess chlorine residuals in its lines.

Per city officials, a mitigation plan was already in place when the notice arrived last month, and that TLC's underway now and for the long-term.

The scolding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality follows a 2024 first quarter sampling that registered total trihalomethanes at 0.084 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and 0.083 mg/L in two places. The numbers are about five percent more than the federal Environmental Protection Agency's cap of 0.080 mg/L.

Per the city's release about the violation, "Trihalomethanes are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine, added to the water during the treatment process for disinfection, reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in the water." Notably, "Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the (Maximum Contaminant Level) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidney, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer."

There's no need to use an alternative water supply, and the city is taking standard corrective action for the issue by regularly flushing hydrants throughout the community.

"If I weren't in the water industry, I would be asking the same questions," says Wendy Emmel, Water Plant Manager for the City of Gladewater. Fortunately, the answers are pretty straightforward.

Per Emmel, trihalomethanes are a disinfection byproduct caused by the interaction of chlorine and organic remnants in the water.



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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Largest wildfire in state history still raging

A wildfire in the Texas Panhandle has consumed more than 1 million acres and as of Sunday was just 15% contained, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. It is the largest wildfire in Texas history.

The Smokehouse Creek Fire is by far the most extensive of several blazes, which also include the Grape Vine Creek Fire in Gray County, covering 30,000 acres and 60% contained, and the Windy Deuce Fire in Moore County, which covers 142,000 acres and was 60% contained.

Two deaths have been reported thus far, with hundreds of homes and other structures destroyed and thousands of cattle likely killed, according to Sid Miller, the state's agriculture commissioner. Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 60 counties, and firefighting crews from across the state have arrived to assist.

The causes of the fires have not been determined, though the Panhandle has been experiencing exceptionally dry and windy weather. The forest service is advising residents and motorists traveling through the Panhandle to be cautious and not aggravate fire conditions.

"A lot of our fires start from the roadside," Meghan Mahurin, public information officer, said. "Dragging chains, throwing cigarettes, and pulling trucks off into a bar ditch where a hot exhaust can hit tall grass can cause one."

At least one lawsuit has already been filed, blaming downed power lines owned by Xcel Energy for starting a blaze, the Texas Tribune reported.

Head of DPS testifies before grand jury

A Uvalde grand jury considering bringing possible charges against law enforcement officers for the flawed response to the Robb Elementary school shooting heard testimony behind closed doors last week from Texas Department of Public Safety Director Col. Steve McCraw.

The Austin American-Statesman reported McCraw flew from Austin on a state plane and was driven to the Uvalde County Fairplex, where the grand jury is meeting. He made no public comments.

The Statesman has previously reported that multiple law enforcement officers have been ordered to appear before the grand jury, including from DPS. The responding officers have come under harsh criticism for not confronting the shooter more quickly. He murdered 19 students and two teachers before being killed.

McGraw's agency thus far has refused to release investigative information in the case, despite rulings to do so from a judge in lawsuit brought by the Statesman and multiple media outlets. The agency said it is doing so at the request of the Uvalde County District Attorney to protect the grand jury proceedings.

Court considers states' social media laws

Laws passed in Texas and Florida to regulate the authority of social media companies over content moderation have been challenged and are now before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Statesman reported.

Trade groups representing Facebook, YouTube, X and Instagram have been joined by the U.S. Justice Department in suing the two states, arguing the laws infringe on the companies' First Amendment right to free speech.

House Bill 20 in Texas passed in 2021. It required social media companies to publicly disclose their content moderation processes and provide recourse for Texans whose posts or accounts are removed or suspended.

The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, held a news conference after the high court hearing laws week.

"They control the new town square," he said of the social media companies. "Everybody understands that that's where people go to hash it out, to exercise their First Amendment rights, to have a discussion."

Judge stops survey of Texas bitcoin miners

A federal judge has temporarily halted an effort by the Department of Energy to collect electricity consumption data from cryptocurrency miners, the Houston Chronicle reported. Texas bitcoin miners claimed the mandatory survey was a "politically motivated attack on the industry."

The suit was filed by the Texas Blockchain Council and Riot Platforms in Rockdale, the most power-intensive bitcoin mine in the United States. They claimed the DOE sent out the mandatory survey without a public notice and comment period.

Hour of power ...

Everybody remember to "Spring Forward" this weekend. It is the time change that makes me feel like I have an antihistamine hangover and it takes a month to get used to that change.

I NEED that hour we are going to lose. How about you? If you had one hour per week that you got to spend any way you wanted what would you do. Would you exercise? Probably not. Would you catch up on housework? Maybe.

More than likely most folks would fill it with playing on their cell phone or online. Or they would watch mindless TV or troll Facebook.

What if you spent it alone... with you.

Reflection is something we seem to have lost the art for and we need it...desperately.

We need to turn the television, the radio, the iPod, the cell phone, the computer, the Kindle OFF. We need to be still.

We need to be quiet.

And we need to think about why we are here and what we are about.

Yes, the housework definitely



The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



needs to be done.

And yes, most of us need to make a habit of exercise.

But life is short and we need to connect with what makes it meaningful.

Sometimes we need to be still to find that out, or reconnect with what it is.

Life moves at the speed of light. We look up and our babies are grown. We look up and we are no longer young. We look up and life is full of challenges and heartbreaks or just plain tedium.

But as long as we take the time to be still and keep looking up we will find our purpose.

Don't lose more hours than you have to. Find the time to find yourself.

And, don't forget to look up.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Family members against courthouse 'memoriam' plans

Statement from the Family of Suzanne Harrison:

Upshur County has announced plans, as part of the courthouse renovations, to remove the old jail from the top floor except for one cell. They claim it will serve "as memoriam" to Suzanne Harrison, Gina Turner and Bryan Boone, three teenagers who were brutally murdered by Jerry "Animal" McFadden, who was held in that cell after his arrest for the murders.

The family of Suzanne Harrison is opposed to any "memoriam" at that cell where her killer was held. It will be no "memoriam" to his victims, but rather perpetuates the killer's existence and time in that cell. The last thing any family would want (including ours) is to bind the deceased victims to her killer's jail cell and him for however long the renovated courthouse stands.

If the county preserves that cell, it should not claim it to be in honor of the victims. It actually sensationalizes and glamorizes the jail's most infamous prisoner, done under the guise of honoring the murder victims.

Since her murder in 1986, her mother, father and brother have passed along with her grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. The surviving family sees the announced plan of the Upshur County government as an affront to and disrespectful of the life and memory of Suzanne. It is wrong to bind the victims' names and memories of them, to the jail cell of their killer.

We have no power in this matter except our unified voices, protesting the plan, but as long as we have God's given life and energy, we raise our voices to object to this misguided plan.

We beseech and pray the county will change their plan and ask all who agree with Suzanne's family to raise their voice with us in objecting to the county's plan.

God bless and keep us from harm and guide us in doing right in all things.

The Family of Suzanne Harrison

The following have passed since Suzanne's death in 1986:

- 2012 TJ Harrison, Father
- 2022 Mary Ann Hester, Mother
- 2015 Craig Harrison, Brother
- 2014 Tony Harrison, Half Brother
- 1999 Willie Mae Eitel, Grandmother
- 2017 Moody Loftis, Uncle
- 2003 Sybil Olson, Aunt
- 2007 Dorthy Hesse, Aunt
- 2022 Lou Hewitt, Cousin
- 2018 Lewis Hewitt, Cousin
- 2018 Bill Horne, Uncle
- 2005 Kim Steadman Evans, Cousin
- 2021 Carolyn Harris, Cousin

Living Relatives:

- Thomas & Glynda Lane, Uncle & Aunt, Hawkins, TX
- Jason & Michelle Lane, Cousins, Longview, TX
- Matthew Lane, Cousins, Hawkins, TX
- Dan & Rachel Spence, Hawkins, TX
- Madalaine Lane, Brock, TX
- Kim Harrison, Aunt, Fryburg, PA
- Angie Hewitt, Cousin, Big Sandy, TX
- Scott Hewitt, Cousin, Big Sandy, TX
- Cindy Chitwood, Aunt, Longview, TX
- Courtney Allison, Cousin, White Oak, TX
- Stephen Lane, Cousin, Austin, TX
- Roger & Phyllis Loftis, Gladewater, TX
- Jennifer Loftis
- Chris Loftis, Cousin, Gladewater, TX
- Mark Loftis, Cousin, Tyler, TX
- Eldene Horne, Aunt, Newport Beach, CA
- Jon Horne, Cousin, Newport Beach, CA
- Darlene & Lloyd Steadman, Cousin, Mineola, TX
- Scott Harrison, Half Brother, Houston, TX
- Elmo Parsons, Cousin, Gladewater, TX

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NAAMAN, LEPROSY, AND SALVATION

In 2 Kings 5, we read about a man with leprosy who was miraculously healed. Naaman, was the man's name, and he was a general in Syria's army. He is described as a "mighty man of valor," but he had the dreaded, loathsome disease of leprosy. He heard of an Israelite prophet (Elisha), who, through God's power, could heal him of his leprosy, so he went to the prophet to be healed. When, however, Naaman and his entourage arrived, he was disappointed because the prophet Elisha did not heal him the way Naaman expected. Instead, Elisha sent out his messenger telling Naaman, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

Those instructions were simple enough to understand, and easy enough to follow, but Naaman became furious because the prophet didn't heal him in the way he expected to be healed. (vs. 10-12). Eventually, however, Naaman got over his mad spell, and when he went and dipped himself seven times in the river Jordan, he was healed (v. 13-14).

Dear friends, there is a lesson for us today. You see, just as God told Naaman, through His prophet Elisha, to "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you, and you shall be clean," through the Scriptures Christ says to us, in Mark 16: 16, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Friends, what we must do to be saved, like the instructions to Naaman, are simple enough to understand, and easy enough to obey. But it is sad that some people today, like Naaman long ago, will even get mad at what God requires. But, be that as it may, the blessing of forgiveness doesn't come until we humble ourselves and obey God's requirements.

Naaman's healing was physical, ours is spiritual, but the example and lesson for us is the same. Have you been washed from your sins? (Rev. 1: 5; Acts 22: 16). Think on these things.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.

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 WOEf 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 WOEf and you step in."

With a month-and-change until the event, both players and sponsors are needed. Sponsorships range from \$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](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/WOEF2024).

State Parks Day Pass Reservations for Eclipse Open March 8

AUSTIN – State Park day pass reservations for April 8 will open 8 a.m. March 8 (CST).

Those hoping to view the total eclipse from a state park location can call the Texas State Parks Reservations Center at 512-389-8900 or go online for all parks except Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. Reservations for Enchanted Rock will need to be made March 11 by phone only.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will take calls to the reservation line on a first-come, first-served basis, and the limited number of day passes are expected to go quickly. TPWD anticipates a high call volume on March 8 and March 11 and asks callers to exhibit patience as agents help answer calls in a timely manner.

To make the reservation

process easier, members of the public should have their vehicle information ready, including license plate number, make, model and number of occupants broken down by adults and kids under 12 years of age. Reservations must be confirmed with a credit card, so callers and those reserving online will need to have that information available as well. Agents will be available to take reservations in Spanish.

Texas has 31 state parks within the path of totality, and a partial eclipse will be visible in other state parks. Parks in the line of totality are expected to reach capacity, and members of the public are asked not to visit unless they have a pre-purchased day pass or overnight reservation.

Below are some additional items to keep in mind when making reservations:

Create a reservation plan and familiarize yourself with the website process before March 8. It is also advised to setup an account ahead of time if you haven't already.

Identify three different parks to try for online reservations. If your Plan A, B or C doesn't work out, call center agents may be able to help with more park site options.

Admission fees vary by park for anyone age 13 and over; children 12 and under enter free. The Texas State Park Pass waives day pass fees for everyone in the pass holder's vehicle.

However, the Texas State Parks Pass does not guarantee park entry. Pass holders still need to make reservations even though they do not need to make a payment.

County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Li-



The 2024 NHS Officers of White Oak High School are from right to left: Raylee Gajewsky, Historian, Gavin Sipes, Treasurer, Kylie Dugger, Secretary, Jessica Lowery, Vice-President, Keller Lott, President.

Photos by Mike Peery



WOHS Senior Henry Lattin lights a candle in the National Honor Society Ceremony as a part of his initiation into the organization that honors students.

brary's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (March 7.)

"A Campfire Tail" by Sarah Glenn Marsh, and "This is NOT a Dragon Party" by Mike Flaherty, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions, said Kari Dunn, children's coordinator

for the library.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154.)

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

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.

Honors handed out at awards banquet

The Upshur-Gregg Soil and Water Conservation District No. 417 honored several individuals and school FFA groups at the district's 68th annual Awards Banquet last Thursday night.

Adults honored included Terry Wright, "Conservation Farmer," and Braylon Session, "Conservation Teacher."

Individual students feted were Gilmer Bruce Junior High School student Kate Komac, winner of the 2024 Junior Essay Contest for ages 13 and under; and Union Grove High School FFA member Jeremiah McGee, who delivered the speech which won him second place in the Texas FFA State Stewardship Speaking Contest.

Also honored was the Gilmer High FFA, for winning a 2024 Wildlife Contest held in Mineola, and the top three FFA groups in the district's 2023 Forestry Contest.

They included New Diana, first; Harmony, second; and Ore City, third.

The district itself, under Joyce Williams and a board of directors, was also cited as the outstanding such district among 441 at the federal, state and local levels.

Wright was honored for numerous activities, including operating six broiler houses and growing about

six batches annually of 140,000 broilers each. He also was cited for producing "Bee Wright Honey" as a beekeeper, making red wine vinegar, and pasture management.

Session, a Longview ISD teacher, was instrumental in designing a multi-million dollar meat processing laboratory at that school.

In his speech, entitled "One Water," McGee called it the "single most important substance on this planet," as well as the "basis of all life," and discussed how to "help maintain healthy watersheds."

Citing how much water is wasted, he suggested checking for water leaks in homes and taking shorter showers.

Gladewater Garden Club holds meeting

The Gladewater Garden Club met recently at the Gardens of Gladewater. The meeting was called to order by the president, Michelle Askew. Routine business was handled. The President thanked Jamie Ballard and the Civic Committee for tending the planters in front of the Lee-Bardwell Library, the Police Station and downtown Gladewater.

The interesting program was presented by Joy Barnett. She spoke about the use of color in our lives. Different colors evoke different emotions and how these are utilized. Joy, also, donated books on the subject to the members.

Refreshments were served by the Hostesses Diane Richardson, Michelle Askew, and Janel Garnett. The tables were decorated with yellow daffodils. Attending, beside the above mentioned were Judy Banner, Phyllis Bet-hune, Mo Cuke, Sarah Elder, Shelia Faggans, Jackie Findley, Anne Hatfield, Beth Hodges, Nancy Holly, Joyce Hugman, Barbara Kennedy, Norman Livesay, Cynthia Scott, Linda Wells, and Tammy White.

Guests were: Amanda Lewis, Glenda Reese, Jamie Guinn, Nancy Kenefic, Amanda Lewis, and Debra Shipp.

The next meeting will be on March 25th. It will be at the Lee-Bardwell public Library at 1:00 pm.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Global growth ...

I often tend to focus on the US economy. Let's explore some context by examining how other countries are faring. Rates of expansion around the world vary significantly, and a few points about current patterns are noteworthy.

The fastest growing nations in gross domestic product (GDP) are, as usual, observed among emerging regions. A mature industrial base cannot generally sustain the rates of increase seen in areas where there has historically been little activity and, thus, relatively small gains in absolute terms can generate large percentage changes.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the countries with the fastest GDP growth this year are expected to be India (6.2%), Indonesia (5.1%), China (4.7%), and Turkey (2.9%). These rates equal or exceed the forecast global increase of 2.9% (which is impressive). Some of those projections may not come to fruition (especially China, where there are notable structural issues), but these forecasts provide a useful yardstick.

The next few on the list are Mexico (2.5%), Saudi Arabia (2.4%), and Korea (2.2%). The United States has a projected 2024 increase according to the OECD of 2.1% (our forecast is modestly higher). Brazil, Russia, Spain, Australia, Japan, South Africa, and Canada round out the top 15. The outlook for the Euro area calls for only 0.6% expansion, with perennial powerhouse Germany at just

0.3%. The United Kingdom comes in at 0.7%.

The position of the United States among the top performing developed economies is notable, and the divergence between US and European growth is striking. Although improvement for Europe is expected in 2025, the US will continue to perform better.

One reason for this disparity is distance and some insulation from geopolitical tensions. For example, when Russia invaded Ukraine, a key source of natural gas for Europe (pipelines from Russia) was interrupted. Energy prices remain well above those in the US, due to both the loss of supply and complex challenges with the transition to green energy. In fact, the US role as a net energy exporter has served it well as numerous disruptions have arisen around the world.

European taxes and costs are also generally higher, further constricting prospects by putting exporters at a competitive disadvantage on global markets. In addition, the US has (1) generated a sizeable turnaround in productivity and (2) enjoyed more consumer engagement, partially resulting from its aggressive stimulus responses during the pandemic.

Both areas faced substantial interest rate increases and inflationary pressures, but the domestic situation has been moderating more rapidly. The US economy has shown remarkable strength given the array of global challenges (though there are some signs of current slowing) and is better positioned for enduring progress than most parts of the world.

Stay safe!

Upshur accepts bids on road, bridge items

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court last Thursday voted 4-0 with one abstention to accept bids on numerous items for the Road and Bridge Department.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson abstained since his private business involves roads and bridges.

The accepted bids included \$305,901 for gasoline and diesel fuel from Petroleum Traders Corporation, and \$489,600 from Bryan and Bryan for refined road oil.

Others included \$95 per ton (\$110 if delivered) for oil dirt from Longview Asphalt Inc. and \$89 per ton (\$100 if delivered) from Wood County Asphalt for hot oil sand.

Also accepted were \$10.75-13.85 per ton for pug milling from J&B Production and Service LLC, \$50 per ton (\$65 if delivered) from Longview Asphalt for rock, and \$56.25 per ton (\$71.25 if delivered) for "riprap" from Longview Asphalt. (Google defines riprap as a "layer of large stones that protects soil from erosion in areas of high or concentrated flow".)

Other accepted bids included \$58 from Longview Asphalt for delivered limestone flex base, and \$20 per yard from Seaton Construction Inc. gravel iron/ore.

In other action, the court approved a resolution supporting a proposal that the state Legislature exempt county governments from paying motor fuel tax.

County Judge Todd Tefteller said an area county judge was advocating the proposal, and that school districts are already exempt from the tax.

In other business, the court approved scheduling of blood drives on county property in Gilmer after discussing the matter with Julie York, a county extension agent.

Carter BloodCare of Tyler will hold the drives at the site of the old Gilmer National Bank drive-through facility, which is next to the new records building for the county clerk's office on Cass Street and near Dollar General.

Dates are April 11, June 20, Aug. 15, and Nov 7 in 2024, and Jan. 9 in 2025.

The court also heard Jerry Beck say that while he appreciated the work the county had done on Gardenia Road, it also needs speed limit signs and has potholes "everywhere."

County Road Administrator Phil Stegall told the court erecting the signs was "not a problem" and that he would look at the potholes.

TxDOT launches Spring anti-drunk driving campaign, targeting college students

AUSTIN – As spring break approaches, TxDOT is teaming up with college students to make sure their celebrations don't have catastrophic consequences.

The "Drive Sober. No Regrets" campaign is traveling to college campuses and spring break hot spots across the state to spread the message that there is always a safe and sober way to get home. TxDOT is partnering with campus-based U in the Driver Seat and student leaders across Texas to reinforce this message with their

DRIVE SOBER. NO REGRETS.

#EndTheStreakTX 

classmates.

"Every death due to drunk driving is preventable," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "We want students to understand that it's easy to celebrate spring break safely. By finding a sober ride, taking a cab, using a ride-

share, or simply staying put after drinking, students can make sure their families gather for graduation and not a funeral."

In 2022, there were 810 DUI-alcohol-related traffic crashes during the spring break period, killing 44 people and seriously injuring

90 others. All because someone chose to get behind the wheel while impaired.

Throughout March, TxDOT will show the real consequences of driving after drinking as it brings its mobile "DUI Not So Fun House" and video exhibit to

college campuses and key spring break locations. The mobile exhibit lets people experience the effects of alcohol and the dangers associated with driving under the influence.

TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day.

East Texans tackle wildfires

Continued from Page 1

the scale of the destruction as the wildfires keep burning. Amid a rash of evacuation and shelter in place orders, Gov. Greg Abbott's disaster declaration covered 60 counties.

As reported by the Texas Tribune, numbers from the Texas Department of Agriculture put more than 85 percent of the state's cattle population on ranches in the Panhandle, and the fallout for the state's agriculture industry is expected to be enormous.

The other active wildfires include (as of March 5) Grape Vine Creek Fire in Gray County, 60 percent containing after burning almost 35,000 acres; Windy Deuce Fire in Moore County (144,206 acres, 55 contained); Magenta Fire, Oldham County (3,297 acres, 85% contained); and another Hutchinson county fire, Roughneck (est. 300 acres, 50 percent contained).

As of Tuesday morning, Texas A&M Forest Service's Current Situation status put the Smokehouse Creek fire in excess of 1.07 million acres burned and about 15 percent contained eight days from inception.

View a map of the Panhandle fires via tinyurl.com/SmokehouseCreek

"We have our chunk of ground, and we know what's happening to the right of us and left of us."

Morning operations calls give insight into the day's grand plan, Bardwell said, then the team may not see anyone else the rest of the day except for immediate neighbors as they watch the fire-lines, check buildings and coordinate with property owners.

"The weather's really been on our side," Bardwell said. "Being that it's a high plains fire, there was a lot of activity the first couple of days then it moderated due to the hard work of a lot of firefighters and the weather changing. We're not running into many problems

as far as fire escaping," thanks to diligent monitoring.

"It's making good progress. We haven't had any new escapes on it. Minimal to no fire behavior. We've had good weather... good humidity, low wind. We haven't been in red flag conditions the past couple of days which has made things very beneficial to firefighters. Whatever we are finding and putting out is staying out right now."

According to Texas A&M Forest Service, fire environment conditions will moderate this week, reducing the threat for new, large wildfires.

"Cooler temperatures and less wind will aid in the ongoing suppression efforts for active wildfires. An underlying risk for new wildfires will continue in the Texas Panhandle and South Texas until spring green-up in occurs in the abundance of grass vegetation found in these regions."

The fire crews are glad for any form of reprieve, but they can't let up.

"You can look out over the wildfire and not see smoke coming up, but that doesn't mean we should be complacent. We're still putting boots on the ground: going through every creek bottom, every drainage ditch, every structure, every place the fire could be to make sure there's nothing we've missed."

It requires a lot of firefighters putting a lot of miles on their feet and their fire engines to get in and get the job done.

"I suspect this will have eyes on it for quite a while. It did greatly impact the town of Stinnett, parts of Pampa, Canadian... the State of Texas is here making sure these folks don't have to go through that again, if at all possible."

While the immediate task is to help the people on the ground in the Panhandle, in a wildfire situation Bardwell's mind always



Josh Bardwell and other East Texas firefighters and their colleagues from the across the state in Engine Strike Team 115 are holding the line of the Smokehouse Creek fire since being called up Feb. 28.



goes back to home and how lessons learned in the field can help locals in Gregg County, Upshur and Smith.

The key theme out of this experience: Make your home defensible against fire – now, not later.

"Unlike a lot of places in the country, the State of Texas can potentially have a year-round fire season. Just because this large fire occurred now, doesn't necessarily mean it'll be worse or easier. We can't predict what the fire season's going to be just yet."

Vegetation's been thriving from healthy rains, he said, and homeowners need to be aware if that growth is encroaching on their home, i.e.

fuel for a fire, up close and personal.

"Take those precautions now to clean up around your houses, create a defensible space that allows firefighters to protect the structure in the event of a wildfire," he said.

"Make the house more resilient and able to withstand a wildfire in the event one occurs

"A lot of the structures and homes we've seen that have burned here had dry vegetation really close to it or there was a way for embers to get under the homes, into the eaves... It's imperative that the public does what they can do to try and harden their homes to reduce the chance of a wildfire causing damage."



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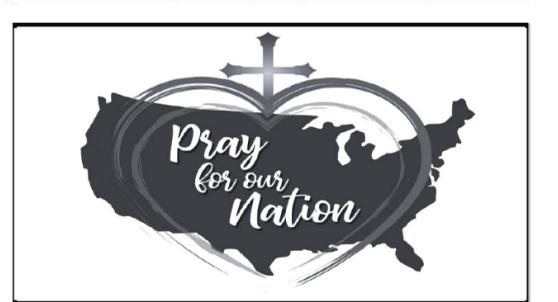
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SPORTS

By Tyler Sutton

The baseball and softball non district seasons continued for all 3 local teams this week as multiple games were played.

Gladewater baseball began play on Thursday in a tournament hosted by Frankston where on day 1 on they defeated All Saints in a pitchers duel 1-0. Then later in the day the Bears won another 1-0 game over Jewett Leon.

Moving on to Friday, Gladewater split two games as they knocked off All Saints again 9-5 and fell to Malakoff 9-5. Finally on Saturday, the Bears fell to Corsicana Mildred 10-3. Gladewater is now 4-6 on the season and will travel to Cumberland Academy in Tyler on Tuesday followed by a pair of doubleheader's on Thursday vs Troup and Saturday vs Gilmer. The Gladewater Lady Bears softball team also had a packed week starting on Tuesday as their offense was on fire as scored 21 runs in a 21-6 win over Ore City.

Karlee Moses homered, doubled, singled and drove in four runs to lead a 19-hit Gladewater attack. Shaylee Ellis added a double, two singles and two RBI for the Lady Bears. Janiah Strickland tripled, singled twice and drove in three runs. Ma'Khya Boone added two hits and two RBI. Reagen Verner tripled, singled and plated two runs, and Alayah Gordon doubled, singled and drove in a run.

Morgan Perez got into the act with a single and two RBI, and Claire Townsend delivered a single and drove in a run. Gordon struck out nine and walked three in five innings pitched. On Friday the Lady Bears made the short trip to Union Grove to begin play in the Union Grove tournament where they went 1-4. With a win over Union Grove (3-1) where Karlee Moses singled

twice and drove in a run and KK Pugliese and Adyson Evans added RBI for the Lady Bears. Alayah Gordon struck out six with five walks in 3.1 innings. With losses to Harmony (5-1 and 5-0), Alba-Golden (7-0) and Linden Kildare (8-0). The Lady Bears are now 4-8 on the season and are off until March 15th when they open district play at New Diana.

Moving over to White Oak, The RoughNecks baseball team continued its non district slate as on Thursday they traveled to Grand Saline to play in the Grand Saline tournament where they went 2-2. With wins over Mount Vernon (8-0) and Wills Point (1-0) and losses to Kaufman (7-0) and Jacksonville (2-1).

White Oak is now 6-3 on the year and will head to Bowie on Thursday to begin a tournament. White Oak LadyNecks softball also had a jam packed week as they hosted Beckville on Tuesday and fell in that game 14-3. Kara Kennedy and Larkin Daniels both doubled for White Oak, with Kennedy driving in two runs. Addison McClanahan added an RBI. Daniels Struck out 16 and walked six in 6.2 innings. Kennedy worked 1/3 of an inning.

Then on Friday, White Oak began play in the Franklin tournament where they went 3-3 with wins over Waco Midway's JV (14-0), Dawson (3-0) and Dawson again (3-0) with losses coming to Little Cypress Mauriceville (5-3), Blooming Grove (3-0) and Gateway Prep (7-0). The LadyNecks are now 8-4 on the season and will host Spring Hill on Tuesday and Lindale on Friday

Union Grove baseball was also in action this week as they began district play Tuesday night losing a heartbreaker to Carlisle 5-4. The Lions fell behind 5-1 early but rallied back to make it

a 5-4 game but could never get that elusive tying run. Kayden Day, Jax Daniels and Judson George had hits and Daniels and Peyton Laake drove in runs for Union Grove. Carter Cooper pitched six innings, striking out six with two walks and three earned runs allowed. The Lions bounced back on Friday with a 15-0 drubbing of Union Hill at home. Jax Daniels singled and drove in three runs, Kayden Day and Rylan Roberts added two RBI apiece and Jacob Griffin worked a three-inning no-hitter.

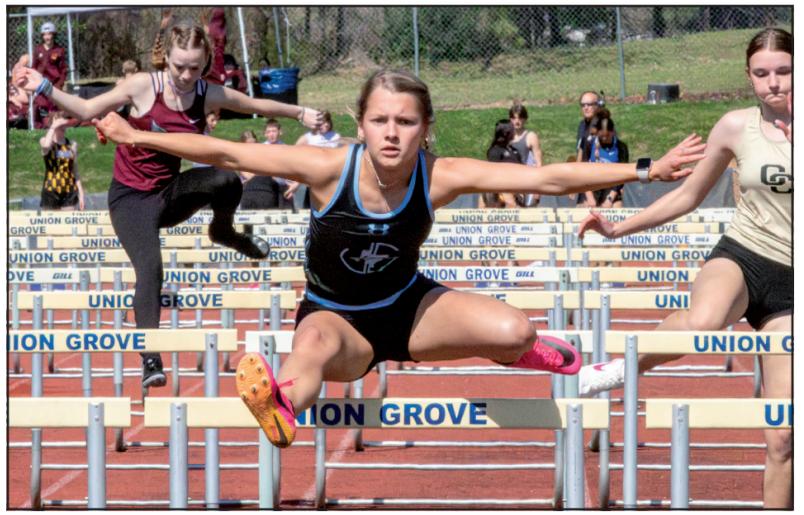
Griffin struck out six and did not issue a walk. Peyton Laake, Carter Cooper, Judson George, Griffin, Jesse Fulmer and Wrigley Roberts all added RBI. Union Grove is now 4-2 on the season and 1-1 in district play. The Lions will host Beckville on Tuesday before heading to Overton on Friday.

Union Grove softball also had games this week as on Tuesday they traveled to Eustace and fell hard 21-2. Allie Calhoun doubled and drove in a run in the loss for Union Grove. Then on Friday the Lady Lions hosted the Memaw Smith softball tournament where they went 1-4. With losses to Gladewater (3-1), Linden-Kildare twice and Alba Golden. (10-0) With their win coming against Harmony (8-3).

Union Grove is now 2-9 to begin the season and will begin district play with a pair of road games on Tuesday (vs Ore City) and Friday (vs Big Sandy).

In Girls Regional Powerlifting results - White Oak's Morgan Gee took 3rd Place in the 123 lb weight class, while Alyssa Spurger finished in 4th Place in the 132 lb weight class.

Coach Clay Hodges said other participants improving on all totals were Lizzy Still, Preslee Twomey, Danica Vaughn and Kyndal Langley.



Frankston girls , Troup boys take Dee Mackey Relays

By Kimber Smith

Fifteen schools participated in Union Grove's annual Dee Mackey Relays track meet on Friday, March 1, with Frankston winning the varsity girls' division, followed by Hawkins, Union Grove, Jefferson and Elysian Fields. Sophie Pyle started the Lady Lions off with a fourth place finish in the 3200m run and sixth in the 800m run. Rylee Aiken placed fourth in both the 100m hurdles the 300m hurdles.

Ava Wightman placed third in the 200m run, and Pyle placed third in the 1600m run, followed by teammate Jenna Scott in sixth. The girls' 4x200m relay team of Wightman, Danica Vestal, Natalie Woodard and Sarah Prince placed sixth, and the 4x400m relay team of Wightman, Vestal, Prince and Rachel Potter placed third. Savanna Clark won the shot put, Addison Smith placed third in discus, and Wightman placed fifth in the long jump. Gracie Lawrence placed second in the pole vault, and Jenna Scott placed fourth in triple jump, where Aiken placed sixth.

Troup placed first overall in the varsity boys' division, followed by Frankston, Jefferson, Tenaha and Arp. Union Grove's boys tied with Hawkins for seventh. Jace Roberts placed third in the 110m hurdles, Luis Fernandez placed fourth in the 400m run, and Will Wilson placed sixth in the 1600m run.

Roberts took second in the 300m hurdles, followed by Wrigley Roberts in third and Jesse Fulmer in fourth. The 4x400m relay team of Cason Cowan, Isaiha O'Neal, Roberts and Fernandez placed fifth. Jacob Griffin won the discus, Roberts placed fifth in the triple jump, and Lane Turner placed fifth in the pole vault.

In the JV boys' division, Jefferson came out on top, followed by Union Hill, Troup, Frankston and Hawkins. Union Grove's boys placed 10th overall with points from David Shaver's fourth-place finish in the 800m run; the 4x200m relay team of Alston Mullins, Brady Gordy, Shaver and Kody Nutt's fifth-place finish; Preston Travis's fifth-place finish in the 400m run; and the 4x400m relay team of Gordy, Shaver, Nutt and Travis's third-place finish.



"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

From Twelve Players to Ten ...

You may have trouble believing what you're about to read, especially if you're young, but I promise you, it's true. You can look it up if you doubt it! When I was in high school, girls' basketball teams had six players in the starting lineup instead of five.

There were three guards who were responsible for playing defense, and three forwards on the other end of the floor who played offense. Neither group was allowed to go over the half court line.

When the other team had the ball, forwards had to wait at midcourt while the guards attempted to stop the opponent from scoring. When the guards got the ball by taking it away, rebounding a miss, or throwing it in after a made shot their job was to get it to the forwards at the other end of the court without crossing the center court line. Then it's the forwards turn to try to score on their end. It was like two separate 3 on 3 games were

being played. There were always six players waiting at half court, three from each team, jostling for position and reaching out to get the ball when it got close.

This is the way ladies basketball was played for many years. The Federal International Basketball Association didn't approve full-court five player basketball for females until 1971. Even then it took a long time to be fully adopted. The last six player teams in Texas played until 1978, in Iowa until 1993, and Oklahoma until 1995.

It is hard to compare that game with games today. As basketball has evolved, we have seen talented players like Kelsey Plum, Sheryl Swoops from Texas Tech, Candace Parker, and Cheryl Miller take it to a whole different level.

In 1986, the NCAA approved the 3-point shot for ladies' basketball and in 1987 high schools followed. Now you see sharpshooters like Caitlan Clark making

threes from all over the court, including "logo shots" where she pulls up just past the half court line. And Sabrina Ionescu had a three-point contest at the NBA All-Star game with the great Stephen Curry. It went to the wire, with Curry having to sink his last shot to win.

Some females have added dunks to their repertoire. The first documented dunk in a game by a high school girl was by a sophomore, Fran Belibi in 2017. As a side note, Fran went on to graduate from Stanford University and is now pursuing a master's degree at Harvard. The first to dunk in a college game was Georgeann Wells, in 1984 at West Virginia.

Ladies' basketball continues to increase in popularity. What once might have been considered something of a novelty act is now a dynamic and exciting game. To borrow an old advertising line, "You've come a long way baby!"

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



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Gladewater High School Junior Landon Brown poses for a photo alongside Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed to celebrate the completion of the teen's Eagle Scout project, the revitalization of the city's pocket park at the intersection of Quitman and Main. Brown, son of Amanda and Donald Brown and a member of Scout Troup 198, secured private donations to fund the materials for the project along with sweat equity to repair and enhance the street-corner spot.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 slightly wet

5 TXism: "went to the well ___ too often"

6 "don't put all your ___ in one basket"

7 "I will do nothing of the ___"

8 TX Willie & Kenny sang "We ___ the World" in 1985

9 moon to Houston on 7/20/1969: "The Eagle ___ Landed"

12 Beaumont University

17 TX Ellie Breaux was first Runner-Up of 2024 Miss America

19 TXism: "panting like a lizard ___ rock"

21 "she ___ of the world" (happy)

22 in Palo Pinto County on highway 16

23 "___ a leak"

28 "___ areas" are found on Texas highways

29 groupings of dominos

30 TXism: "happy ___ with two tails"

31 TXism: "pay ___ never mind"

35 Rio Grande City is seat of this county

36 TXism: "mean as a ___"

42 Lone Star Museum has a NASA Motion Base

DOWN

1 TXism for "yes" (4 wds.)

2 Texas has the most of these mohair goats in the U.S.

3 in McLennan County on U.S. 84

4 Texas fire ant, e.g.

9 ten-gallon lids

10 TXism: "that's ___ his belt" (success)

11 oil or gas additive

12 "___ Ebanos Ferry" crosses Rio Grande

13 TXism: "ran like ___ burning stump"

14 TXism: "so broke I couldn't buy hay for a night ___"

15 what a cowboy has on his head (2 wds.)

16 lines of seats at Globe Life Field and Minute Maid Park

18 dir. from Vega to Pampa

20 Davy's home st.

23 Alamo City (abbr.)

24 longest book of the Bible (abbr.)

25 stool pigeons

26 TX "Red" who was an oil well firefighter

27 this Bates was a momma's boy in 1960 film "Psycho"

32 TX George Strait's "___ Like to Have That One Back"

33 Texas-based "Lone Wolf ___ Quade"

34 "___ can do" (unable)

36 sedan or coupe

37 2,000 pounds (2 wds.)

38 make a hole with a chisel

39 TXism: "I've ___ overdose of woe" (sad)

40 TX Jamie Foxx won an Academy ___ for title role in 2004 film "Ray"

41 one of 25-down

43 Cotulla is the seat of ___ Salle County

45 "Only the Lonely" Texas singer, Orbison (init.)

47 cloth sellers

48 Dak Prescott aerial

55 "Hill Country State Natural ___"

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GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
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
	ALARM/OTHER	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
	ALARM/OTHER	20241024	16:36	3D PLASTICS QUANTUM PLASTICS	1095 E COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	THEFT	20241025	17:11	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20241026	17:36	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ASSIST	20241027	18:00	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20241028	18:11	GREENWAY VILLAGE	37 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241030	20:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241031	20:12		904 E MARY MARY
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20241032	21:33	OLD ICE HOUSE	519 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20241033	21:54		55 E EDDY EDDY AVE
	DEADLY CONDUCT	20241034	23:48		512 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK ST
2/26/24	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241035	7:30		COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB
	EMS	20241036	8:27		1012 FM 2685 FM 2685
	FORGERY	20241037	11:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FIRE DEPT	20241038	12:58		5261 N HWY 135 HWY 135
	ABANDONED 911	20241039	13:10		401 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20241040	13:14	DOLLAR GENERAL	2670 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20241041	13:29	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISSING PERSON	20241042	13:34		2811 ELIJAH ELIJAH
	ABANDONED 911	20241043	14:14	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20241044	16:03		111 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20241045	16:19		321 E EDDY EDDY ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241046	16:24		1506 N FULTON FULTON
	EMS	20241047	18:45		1007 NORTH NORTH ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241048	22:22		GAY AVE GAY AVE
2/27/24	EMS	20241049	1:18		600 N MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20241051	7:17		205 HURLEY HURLEY
	RUNAWAY	20241052	7:32		1502 N LYNN LYNN ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241053	7:46		1103 E MARY MARY AVE
	ASSIST	20241054	9:52		2413 W HAROLD HAROLD ST
	ASSIST	20241055	11:15	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20241056	12:51	GARDENS OF GLADEWATER	108 N LEE LEE ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20241058	12:56		403 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	ASSIST	20241059	13:25	E CAR	808 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20241060	13:34		701 WOOD WOOD
	EMS	20241061	14:59		1216 N WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK RD
	THEFT	20241062	16:11	DOLLAR GENERAL	2670 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SIMPLE ASSAULT "C"	20241063	17:00		111 S CULVER CULVER ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20241065	17:34		214 E COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241066	18:13		2654 FM 2685 FM 2685
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241067	19:36		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISSING PERSON	20241068	19:59	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241069	20:19		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241070	20:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241071	21:54		103 N DEAN DEAN
2/28/24	EMS	20241073	3:55		800 WOOD WOOD ST
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20241074	4:41	PENNY'S FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20241075	7:18		322 MELBA MELBA
	ALARM/OTHER	20241076	8:20		401 N RODEO RODEO ST
	THEFT	20241077	9:14		407 PARADISE HILL PARADISE HILL
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20241078	10:49		321 W SUNSET SUNSET AVE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20241079	13:57		906 E MARY MARY ST
	THEFT	20241082	15:50	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISSING PERSON	20241083	16:11	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD

	MISCELLANEOUS	20241084	19:35		526 MELBA MELBA
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241085	22:25		420 MELBA MELBA
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241086	23:46		906 E MARY MARY
2/29/24	EMS	20241087	9:26		302 TAYLOR TAYLOR ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241088	12:33		HWY 271 HWY 271
	ABANDONED 911	20241089	12:42		1409 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241090	13:03		HWY 135 HWY 135
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241091	13:08		906 E MARY MARY ST
	EMS	20241092	15:25		403 W GAY GAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241094	19:34	DOLLAR GENERAL	904 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241095	20:28		204 EDDIE EDDIE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241096	20:33		LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241097	21:05		22 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	FIRE DEPT	20241098	21:11		410 W GAY W GAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241099	21:21	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
3/1/24	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241100	0:46	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20241101	7:53	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20241102	8:07	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20241103	8:38		204 E EDDY EDDY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241104	8:53	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20241106	13:58		414 QUITMAN QUITMAN ST
	EMS	20241109	14:26		602 N POST POST ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241111	15:21		115 E GAY GAY
	ASSIST	20241112	16:43	AUSTIN BANK	1625 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	THEFT	20241113	17:25	BOOM TOWN RV PARK	301 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241115	20:46	ANGEL FOOD MART	233 E HWY 80 HWY 80
	FIRE DEPT	20241116	21:56		
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241117	22:36		S LOOP 485 S LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241118	22:43	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
3/2/24	ALARM/OTHER	20241119	5:28		501 N AMES N AMES
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241121	7:25		AMES AMES
	CRIM MIS	20241122	8:29		101 S PINE PINE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241123	8:52	BODACIOUS BBQ	1105 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20241124	10:28		1509 N IVY LEE IVY LEE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241125	12:43		1009 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20241126	13:13		410 PR 3478 PR 3478
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241128	15:14	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	10-50 MAJOR	20241129	16:27		10742 LOCUST LOCUST
	EMS	20241130	16:54	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241131	17:29	EVERETT PARK	801 N LEE LEE ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20241132	18:45		707 N MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20241133	20:27		700 N HOLLY HOLLY ST
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20241134	20:44		W PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS
	EMS	20241136	23:41		403 W GAY AVE GAY AVE
3/3/24	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241137	0:57		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241138	1:32		202 W GREGG GREGG
	EMS	20241139	2:45		529 W MARSHAL AVE W MARSHAL AVE
	ASSIST	20241140	2:56		529 W MARSHAL MARSHALL AVE
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20241141	5:29		410 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20241142	7:53		313 TAYLOR TAYLOR ST
	EMS	20241143	11:30	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20241144	13:15	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ESCORT	20241145	13:37	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241146	14:08		NORTH NORTH ST
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20241147	14:49	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20241148	15:00		11679 UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20241149	16:16		510 WOOD WOOD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241150	16:41		GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20241151	18:07		501 AMES AMES
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241152	19:01		271 271 S
	EMS	20241153	20:36	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241154	21:15		306 W OLIVER OLIVER RD
	EMS	20241155	21:29		784 NORTH LAKE NORTH LAKE DR
	ABANDONED 911	20241156	21:52		2710 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	WARRANT	20241157	22:12	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST

GPD Police Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
3/3/24		3/3/24	10:20 HENDRIX, SHAWN LYNN	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	300 MONEY ST

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Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

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 25, 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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Upshur preserving McFadden's cell draws protest

Continued from Page 1

He was charged, but not tried, for the deaths of Harrison's two companions, Gina Turner and Bryan Boone, who were allegedly kidnapped with her on May 4, 1986 as they were going to Lake Hawkins.

When he escaped July 9, 1986, he struck a deputy sheriff in the head and forced a female dispatcher to drive him to Big Sandy. The dispatcher soon escaped from a railroad car in that city before McFadden was re-captured in a nearby vacant house two days after escaping.

During last Thursday's meeting of the commissioners court, Marion County Judge Leward J. LaFleur, who was hired by Upshur County to oversee the Gilmer courthouse restoration, said the cell's preservation was designed "to remember the victims."

When a reporter at the meeting had asked whether the proposed memorial involved a plaque, County Judge Todd Tefeller said it would involve "some kind of writing" about the three victims and details of the massive manhunt.

Tefeller said some people told him the county shouldn't recall a criminal, but "that's not what we're doing."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley said he would like for "his (McFadden's) name not to even be up there," and LaFleur said that could be done.

Defending the proposed preservation of the cell, Sheriff's Chief Deputy David Hazel pointed out that the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas, from where President Kennedy was allegedly assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963,

wasn't demolished. It now houses a museum about the tragedy.

Hazel said it was a "great idea to use that opportunity" to preserve the cell, and that the sheriff's office has "artifacts" of the escape which it could contribute to the display. (They are currently displayed in the Stanley Jenkins Training Center near the courthouse.)

Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson also defended the proposal, saying "Jesus died on the cross. We don't need to eliminate the cross."

The Texas Historical Commission, which is helping the county fund the courthouse project with the requirement that the building's interior be restored largely to its original 1937 appearance, granted a variance for how the former jail space could be used.

Plans call for converting the fifth floor to office space.

LaFleur told the court "everything's going smooth" on the restoration, which began near the end of 2023, although he added that deconstruction of the fifth floor is taking longer than expected.

Overall, he said, the project was about a week and a half ahead of schedule. Asbestos abatement is completed, and "a lot of (interior) demolition work" is being performed, he added.

The building is fenced off, but LaFleur warned that a "lot of things are falling off the side of" the structure, and that "the public absolutely should not be over there."

He also said it was illegal for the county to give away anything removed from the building.



Water Plant Operator Nate Palmer takes a water sample Monday afternoon while flushing a hydrant on Hwy. 271 south of town.

Photo by James Draper

Gladewater follows flushing plan after flag from TCEQ

Continued from Page 1

"We remove as much of the organic material from the water that we can," Emmel said. Granted, "No plant is 100 percent efficient. You dose the chlorine into the water after you've done all your filtration."

Further down the line, if water sits too long in a pipe or is warmed too much within the system, THMs are produced. In this instance, the former explanation's the cause – in the midst of freezing weather and a subsequent rash of breaks in recent months, water lingered overlong in sections of the lines.

"We weren't able to do any flushing hardly. Especially with the lines breaking and the turnover of personnel, it couldn't be done," she said. "The water would sit in the dead-end areas. It wouldn't move."

One of TCEQ's third-party contractors came amid the freeze to meet local water plant personnel at sampling points.

"A few days after the ice, they came back. They collected from areas that are prone to have THMs if the water is sitting there for a while."

The next sampling will come in April, and Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith's as eager as anyone to see the THM numbers drop.

"It's so minute, but it looks terrible," he said. Beyond the lapse in flushing, the issue does illustrate another weakness of the city's aging system: "We have to flush those things periodically to get the old water out and just keep it circulated. One of the main goals is to always try to loop your dead-end lines in so you don't have that issue where you have to flush lines."

"With all the transition in the water plant that was going on with personnel, some of those didn't get flushed as often as they needed to be. That problem has been resolved, and we are flushing lines periodically like we're supposed to be doing."

Gladewater gets ETCOG grant to collect old tires

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) announced \$93,500 in grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) awarded to East Texas jurisdictions, special districts, and regional initiatives to support waste minimization efforts

in ETCOG's fourteen-county region.

The City of Gladewater will receive \$2,500 to assist in a tire collection event.

Upshur County will receive \$3,600 for a waste collection event.

Funding like this by ETCOG assists jurisdictions in establishing or expanding projects that would directly provide a measurable effect on reducing the amount of waste going into area landfills by diverting various materials from the municipal solid waste stream for beneficial use or reducing waste generation at the source.

Applicants were eligible to apply for the following Municipal Solid Waste Grant Project Categories: 1) Local Enforcement, 2) Litter and Illegal Dumping Clean Up and Community Collection Events, 3) Source Reduction and Recycling, 4) Local Solid Waste Management Plans, 5) Citizens' Collection Stations and "Small" Registered Transfer Stations, 6) Household Hazardous Waste Management, 7) Technical Studies, 8) Educational and Training Projects.

ETCOG annually helps jurisdictions apply for funds, which are then ranked and scored by our Solid Waste Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of local subject matter experts from the region.

After the ETCOG Executive Committee approves the projects, we recommend them to TCEQ. The following grants in East Texas have been approved for funding by TCEQ.

White Oak gets ready to tackle repair for tilted 'tower' on Big Sandy Creek

By James Draper

The 'Leaning Tower of White Oak' is actually located a good distance upstream on Big Sandy Creek, and officials are eager to get it righted as soon as possible.

The nickname's the only bit of levity surrounding the 60-year-old 'can' tied to the primary water intake for the community's flow. The can has dislodged and tilted, hindering standard operation and requiring an urgent – and careful – repair before any real breakage.

"We're not getting the proper amount of water at the bottom," White Oak City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell told council members last month. "In order to fix this, we'd have to get in equipment to basically go over and push it into place. We don't know what's going to happen at the bottom of that can because of how old it is – the rust.

"If we push it over, that's the simple fix. If it does break, the price goes up to fix it."

According to Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager Beaux Huey, there's no telling what crews will find when they attempt the upcoming repair.

"We do have a backup pump, but that is our primary



White Oak City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell points out the problematic tilt in the 'can' at the community's water intake on Big Sandy Creek. A careful repair is necessary and could reach as much as \$100,000 if the equipment fails any further.

pump... If it breaks off at the bottom, we're done," he said. "If we can push it back and attach it to the concrete, we're good.

"If we can, we need to get this situation resolved as soon as possible."

Notably, in the event of a catastrophic problem with the community's water source, there's a limited supply available in the reservoir, Huey noted, three weeks at best.

Costs for the repair, including making a path for an excavator to reach the can, could range up to \$100,000.

"We're just keeping our fingers crossed that it could be as cheap as \$25,000," Purcell said.

The tilt probably began in the latter months of 2023, Huey said, ultimately impact flow enough that water plant employees took notice.

"I can tell you're worried

Photo by James Draper about this," council member Thomas Cash said.

"It's a big deal," Huey replied. "That's our water. If we don't have that, we don't have anything."

The project's in limbo right now until repairs get on the schedule upriver.

"OK. Well. Thanks for the news from Big Sandy," Mayor Kyle Kutch said. "It's usually not good when we have news from Big Sandy."

TRADES DAYS THIS WEEKEND

Longview Trade Days will be held March 9-10 at the Longview Fairgrounds 1123 Jaycee Drive Longview

Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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