



Gladewater Mirror

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Latest dam discoveries raise more flags

By James Draper

The bad news won't come as a surprise – there's more wrong at Gladewater's dam than meets the eye.

There's a silver lining, though, since identifiable problems strengthen the city's case for financial assistance to repair the decades-old structure that both protects the community's sole water source and prevents the water from overwhelming everything downstream.

There are some key issues that might need to be addressed sooner rather than later, even if it means dipping into the city's coffers. The alternative – an 'unlikely' but potentially catastrophic failure of the dam – would be unimaginably more costly.

As the city's emergency coordinator, Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons and city employees have been steadily ramping up repairs, maintenance and monitoring of the Lake Gladewater Dam, both the concrete spillway and the earthen structure. Working with engineers from Schaumburg & Polk, they're collecting data and updating records to get a full understanding of the state of the mixed-material barrier and to get in compliance with state regulations.

The most recent foray saw the team suit up and dive into the spillway basin again, and the effort revealed more flaws.

"The left wing wall has a huge cavity behind it. It's a good 10- to 15-foot void space where it's just washed out, not really any dirt behind the concrete, which is why it's sinking in," Simmons said.

A few months back, the group discovered a similar problem area on the opposite side, abutting the earthen dam. All the data points to the same conclusion – the structure's headed for a downgrade. Simmons and other officials have previously described the 'high hazard' state of affairs at the lake, and a 'Poor' rating's ahead.

Meanwhile, "We got our flood models submitted to us with a list of structures that would be impacted" in the event of a failure, Simmons confirmed, extending the models as far as Highway 31/259. "It's going to impact all the way through Gregg County," with consequences far beyond the area as well, overflowing roads, railroad tracks, major utilities, homes, businesses and people. All things considered, "We'll be working with our Genasys system to create messages for 'Stand By Evacuation' alerts and the 'Evacuation' alerts for the buildings that will be affected downstream."

The flood models are meant to be updated every five years and are included in broad reporting to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas

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Gladewater Fire Department Driver/Operator Aaron Brandt puts his head in a void large void in the concrete spillway at the Lake Gladewater Dam, joining Fire Chief Mike Simmons, SPI Engineer Andrew Wright and GFD Driver/Operator Stephanie Lopez on another up-close examination of the flawed structure Friday. Courtesy photo from Mike Simmons

Condition of lake's relief valve has city treading carefully

By James Draper

Local officials continue carefully investigating another dam puzzle on the earthen structure, situated on the eastern end away from the concrete spillway.

On the lower portion of the southern slope, the dry side of the dam, city authorities are keen to test the original, decades-old relief valve. They're warming up to the necessary task by degrees,

concerned that without adequate precautions, the equipment could fail and drain the lake.

It's yet another problem current leadership has inherited from previous regimes who didn't ensure the dam was being maintained to the proper degree.

"The dam has been a story for a while now," interim City Manager Charlie Smith told council members last week. As for the valve, "It has been

covered with dirt and not exercised for years and years and years."

There are actually two valves, one that relieves pressure on the dam, another that sends raw water to the nearby treatment plant.

Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons and his team have exposed the valve, to a degree, but there's more work to be done before they're

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White Oak officials take bitter sip in belated increase to water rates

For years, decades, the City of White Oak has been partially subsidizing its residents' water costs – as of last week, council members have fixed their leaky faucet.

The increase to the city's water rates has been in the works for months, effectively on the drawing board since the last inadequate increase was adopted about a year ago. The issue's been through multiple iterations and revisions in between, leading up to the final set of numbers primed for a vote March 19.

The average water/sewer user in the city limits will see an increase of about 19 percent on their monthly utility bill after the five council members in attendance gritted their teeth and signed off on the change recommended by city administrators. Find more information at GladewaterMirror.com and via White Oak's recently-updated web portal at cityofwhiteoak.com

"It's a very, very serious situation concerning the water and sewer rates," City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell repeated, a common refrain across months of meetings. "We think we've done our homework, hired an outside water rate study company to come in and also verify" with consulting from the Rural

Water Association, expert Phillips Givens and the city's financial advisors. "They're all pretty much in agreement of where White Oak needs to be."

In short, Purcell summarized, the previous combined base rate for water and sewer was \$65.03 and included an initial 3,000 gallons before a sliding scale of charges tiered according to usage in thousands of gallons. Notably, those figures didn't account for either the increasing cost of water treatment supplies or for the depreciation of the community's water infrastructure.

At their special session last week the council – five out of six members – adopted an adjusted combined base rate of \$77.19 for users inside the city limits with a standard meter. It does not include any 'built-in' water considering the rationale anything that comes out of the faucet has already incurred a treatment cost for the city.

Customers outside the city pay an additional \$13.28 on the combined base rate and the usage tiers are increased as well – "We are going to revisit that later on to see how much we need to increase those living outside the city," Purcell noted.

Voters asked to approve changes to city charter

By James Draper

Gladewater's designation as 'The Antique Capital of East Texas' was never meant to be a reference to its charter.

First written and adopted in the mid-1950s, the city's guiding document has been amended just twice – in November 1968 and August of '85. Almost 40 years since the last update, eight proposed amendments will be up for voter consideration May 4.

Suffice it to say, sections of the document are outdated and, in some places, actually contravene state law. (Local officials tend to ignore those antiquated sections to carry on business as usual.)

All that said, the proposed updates themselves are fairly pedantic, a little belated housekeeping for City Hall. There are some key changes in the list, however.

Baby steps, according to Gladewater Mayor Scott Owens; there's no need to start from scratch, but the committee behind the proposed changes opted to keep the number to a minimum.

"We picked out the ones that we thought were the most important and

crucial to get down."

The most attention-grabbing changes relate to the city manager's position – specifically, relaxing the requirement on how close the person must reside in proximity to the city limits and clarifying the municipal chain of command. There's also a proposal to remove council members from office when they miss too many sessions.

The charter review committee included Owens as chair along with Gladewater ISD Superintendent Dr. Sedic Clark, former mayor and local business owner J.D. Shipp, banker Sam Cloud and Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell, who also sits on the board of Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.

"We wanted people with some governmental experience and oversight as well as citizenry and some business insight," Owens noted.

After vetting by Gladewater City Council members, the eight amendments will be on the ballot alongside three council races (two of which are contested) during early voting later this month and on the Election

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Gladewater man charged in shooting

LONGVIEW—A Gladewater man was arrested early Friday morning for allegedly shooting another man who later died at a Longview convenience store.



According to the Longview Police Department, officers were called to EZ Mart convenience store, located at 700 Gilmer Road, for reports of shooting around 3:40 a.m. that left another man with life-threatening injuries. He was taken to a local hospital and he later died.

During the investigation, Tykiron Mumphrey, 20, of Gladewater, was named as the suspect. He was arrested on an aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury charge.

He has been taken into custody.

Jail records show Mumphrey remains in the Gregg County Jail without bond. Those who have information are asked to call the Longview Police at 903-237-1110.

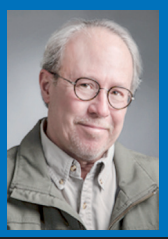


Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed supervises Board President Farrell Alexander as he hangs a light pole banner for Gusher Days on Main Street – the 38th annual event is set for April 19-20, featuring (among a wide variety of entertainment and activities) the 2024 Chili Cook-off as well as a 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. performance by the Darren Morris Band on Friday night followed by Sheila & the Caddo Kats from 7-10 Saturday. "Bring your lawn chairs," Reed reminded a crowd at City Hall last week. Photo by James Draper



OPINION/COMMENTARY

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



State immigration law again on hold

The on-again, off-again state immigration law is once more on hold while the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals considers its constitutionality. Senate Bill 4 would allow state and local law enforcement officials to arrest and deport people suspected of entering the state illegally from Mexico, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The U.S. Supreme Court last Tuesday removed a temporary hold on the law, which allowed it to take effect for several hours before the 5th Circuit court again stopped SB4 from being enforced while it considers its constitutionality.

At issue is whether the law usurps federal power to enforce border laws. A three-judge panel from the appeals court held a hearing last week but made no ruling.

"SB 4 is a modest, but important statute. It's modest because it mirrors federal law," Texas Solicitor General Aaron Nielson told the judges during Wednesday's hearing. "It's important because it helps to address what even the president has called a border crisis."

While many law enforcement officials support SB4, major questions persist about how it will be enforced if found constitutional, the Texas Tribune noted.

Phelan ally announces run for speaker

A former ally of House Speaker Dade Phelan announced last Thursday that he will run to replace him when lawmakers return to Austin in January for the 2025 legislative session, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"At this point, leadership change is required in the Texas House," state Rep. Tom Oliverson, R-Cypress, said in a news conference. "The status quo is too dysfunctional to continue, and the change from top to bottom is needed."

Phelan is locked in a tough runoff battle with David Covey, an oil-and-gas consultant backed by Attorney General Ken Paxton and former President Donald Trump. He was targeted by state Republicans' far-right faction after last year's vote to impeach Paxton, and for continuing the tradition of appointing Democrats to chair some House committees.

Phelan said in a statement Thursday that he was focused on winning his May 28 runoff race and increasing the GOP majority in the House.

"As Speaker, I'm focused on winning these races, getting our team over the finish line and ensuring we start the session united and ready to deliver another banner conservative session for Texans," Phelan said.

Medical Board unveils abortion guidelines

The Texas Medical Board on Friday released draft guidelines for administration of the state's near-total abortion ban. Critics said the proposed rules fail to clarify which health conditions must be present for a doctor to legally perform an abortion.

"Putting all the definitions in one place, that's helpful. But it doesn't tell you any more about what you should do or not do," said Steve Bresnen, whose joint petition with his wife, Amy, spurred the board to act after almost two years of calls by Texas OB-GYNs, pregnant patients, lawmakers, Gov. Greg Abbott and the state's highest court for the agency to issue the guidelines.

Bresnen told the American-Statesman he was "very disappointed" with the board's initial proposal, which it announced during a meeting attended by hundreds of Texans online and dozens in person. Both abortion rights proponents and those against the procedure acknowledged widespread confusion around medical emergency exceptions.

The abortion ban law allows exceptions when a pregnancy is contributing to a "life-threatening physical condition." However, physicians have been reluctant to decide whether an emergency abortion is needed, fearing prosecution if it is deemed to be illegal under the new state law.

Gender wage gap in Texas among worst

Texas has one of the worst wage gaps between men and women in the country, with only North Dakota and Alabama ranked worse, according to Forbes Advisor. The San Antonio Express-News reported the Forbes study indicated that women's median earnings in the state are 25% less than men's: \$39,615 versus \$52,823. The state also has one of the biggest disparities when it comes to making a six-figure income, the study shows, ranking 10th-worst in that category. More than 25.61% of men working full-time make at least \$100,000, compared to just 13.19% of women.

Easter frame of mind ...

I need an Easter frame of mind. Maybe a little more reverence, a little more quiet and a lot more hope, with just a dash of joy. The world is a rough place where we are surrounded by stories of devastation, loss and pain. It is also a world of routine and mundane exhaustion. It can be a world of critical mass anger and frustration. And, of course selfishness and self-absorption.

That is the nature of the world we live in, a by-product of human nature. But here we are on the edge of Easter and I know that some of you need hope today. Probably a lot more than I do.

I know that some of you are dealing with burdens seemingly too great to carry. That is when the rest of us need to reach out with grace.

Hope is there if we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear. It is in the bird's nest filled with three bright blue eggs. It is in the burnished colors of our East Texas sunrises and sunsets each day. It is that one word spoken that overpowers all the other harsh words that swirl around us.

Hope is in the outpouring of effort to help those who have been blasted by nature's unsparing winds. Hope is in the donations of food, blood and money to meet needs we can not begin to fathom. We receive the gift of hope by giving it to others.

And gifts should never be squandered. So, on this Holy Week of Easter I wish for you the beauty of sun-rise as you begin your busy, and for some, heartbreaking days. I wish for you the bold splash of spring blooms that remind us that winter passes. It may take awhile, but spring will return.

The thing is, we have to embrace it or we remain trapped in

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



the cold cell of our personal winter. What can we do to extend warmth and grace, and maybe most importantly of all, hope?

Maybe grace moments could include letting someone into your lane by slowing just a little to see the stressed out beside us. Perhaps we could buy the meal of the person behind us in the fast food line just to make their day a little brighter. Maybe a generous tip to a hardworking server who is trying to make a living, pay their way through college, or take care of their grandchildren.

Maybe you have your own gentle gift list of hope occurring to you right now.

For those of you who have sent cards, messages and emails to comfort us after losing our much loved newshound Jack, please know that your gifts of grace meant a great deal to us. Small kindnesses make a world of difference. A lesson to remember when we are rushed, exhausted and on our very, last nerve.

So, dear friends and neighbors, let us commit to gifts of grace this week and every week. And when we need them from others, help us to remember to give them first, and then we will find that grace and hope will flow back to us.

I wish each of you, our readers, a most blessed Easter filled with beauty, grace, hope and the promise of the Joy to come.



THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

4 Years later ...

Unlike most weeks in my frenetic schedule of projects, deadlines, speeches, and meetings, I remember that one well – Monday speech in Lubbock; flight to Dallas for afternoon meeting; all-day testimony in Dallas on Tuesday; Wednesday meeting in DC; Longview speech on Thursday; late afternoon flight for reception at our home. That was a pretty typical week, but it was followed by a year of being almost constantly at home with virtual work and all of the analysis, task forces, and other factors which accompany game-changing events. It was quite an adjustment from normally being on the road 250-300 days per year.



Four years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic reached the US, causing tragic consequences for life, health, and financial security. Millions lost jobs or had to work reduced hours. Between February and April 2020, the total number of Texas workers dropped by nearly 1.5 million (10%+). Initial unemployment claims rose from 13,500 per week to well over 300,000.

Businesses dealt with closures, capacity limits, and additional expenses to enable safe operations. Supply chains were disrupted, causing yet more issues. Some industries struggled to survive. The sharp decline in demand caused oil prices to plunge, and drilling was stymied. No one escaped the chaos.

A year later, 835,500 Texas jobs had been regained, with a return to February 2020 levels in 18 months. The rebound

and expansion in Texas has been impressive, and the state continues to make progress.

For comparison, it required 26 months for US employment to attain prior numbers. The dislocations emanating from shutdowns, supply chain problems, and high inflation emerging from the massive (but largely necessary) stimulus programs took their toll. Job growth has been concentrated, with Texas comprising about 20% of the national gain (1.1 million) and Florida another 15%. California, with the largest total employment, has gained fewer than 350,000. New York and several other states are not yet back to pre-pandemic levels.

Some patterns will never return, and others will require decades to repair. Educational losses are proving difficult to restore. Many young people saw career plans derailed and face ongoing challenges. Worker priorities shifted, with many remaining at least partially remote, and real estate markets were fundamentally altered. Physical and mental health issues are extracting a human toll. All of these factors affect productivity and future potential.

On the positive side, the US has shown remarkable resilience despite multiple headwinds, major issues have been resolved, biosciences have emerged as a major source of expansion and investment, and equity markets have soared to new heights. As with any disruption of such magnitude, the pandemic wrought enduring changes in many aspects of the economy (and life). Looking back over four years, the progress has been remarkable.

Stay safe!

"NOT AFRAID OF BURNING IN HELL?"

Ron Reagan, Jr., the son of former President Ronald Reagan proudly touted his atheist credentials in a TV ad for the *Freedom From Religion Foundation*. The ad states, "I'm Ron Reagan, an unabashed atheist, and I'm alarmed by the intrusions of religion into our secular government." He then asked people to support the nation's largest and most effective association of atheists and agnostics. He ended the ad with a wry smile, saying, "Ron Reagan, lifelong atheist, not afraid of burning in hell."

Unlike Ron Reagan, Jr., I'm alarmed at the intrusions of ATHEISM into our government. The "Freedom From Religion Foundation" seeks to not only keep God, religion, and the church separate from government, but to do away with God, religion, and the church altogether. The atheist unabashedly says, "No God!" while accepting the blessings and benefits that God provides, but never taking the time to say, "Thank You God!"

Without God this world does not add up or make sense. The great questions of the ages—"Where did we come from?"—"Why are we here?"—"Where are we going?" go unanswered. When God is eliminated one loses his standard or reference point from which to work. When one ignores God, his reasoning is without reason. Thus, when one rejects God and His truth, his heart becomes undiscerning, senseless, and foolish, and instead of being a "wise" man, he becomes an "ignorant" and "foolish" man. Psalms 14: 1 says: "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." Jesus describes the difference between a "wise" man and a "foolish" man in Matthew 7: 24-27.

Ron Reagan, Jr. may not fear God, and he may smile and say he is not afraid of burning in hell, but Luke said, "Fear Him who...has the power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him" (Lk. 12: 4). Think on these things.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Spring clean up time

Roll up your sleeves and roll out your tires – Gladewater's annual citywide Spring 2024 clean-up is a month out.

Along with trash pickup, the April 13 event will once again include tire collection funded in part by a \$2,500 Solid Waste Reduction Grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through East Texas Council of Governments.

Volunteers are appreciated and most definitely needed for the community cleanup, spearheaded by Gladewater City Hall and set for 8 a.m. to noon the second Saturday in April.

"Just show up," says Al Harrison, Gladewater's Building Official and interim Public Works Director. "Sometimes some of the school groups or Scouts will do special project, or the Beautification Committee will get a group together to do something."

Advance sign-ups aren't necessary – volunteers should gather at the Ken Bennett Pavilion on East Pacific Avenue by 7:45 a.m. April 13 so they can be dispersed throughout the community's neighborhoods and parks.

"Bring your gloves and we will provide the garbage bags," City Hall announced.

As the pick-up's under way, grant funds cover the cost of trailers for the annual tire collection while the city covers its employees' labor. This year, there will be multiple, smaller trailers instead of a single, large collector for residents' old rubber, Harrison said.

"They can just bring 'em," he added. "It's mainly residential tires, not commercial. Either we'll have someone loading them up for them, or they can drop them off, and we'll take care of it."

The City of Gladewater will also be providing curbside Spring cleaning trash pick-up for disabled individuals and senior citizens who schedule collection in advance. Anyone interested and qualifying should call City Hall's Water Utility Billing Department at 903-845-2196 before 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11.

Notably, the city cannot accept paint, shingles, batteries, refrigeration items, chemicals or commercial waste during the clean-up.

Meanwhile, in White Oak the city's annual Trash Off Days is set next week. Public Dumpsters will be located on Hwy. 42 behind the White Oak Water Treatment Plant, available for drop-offs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday (March 21-22) then 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

The event cannot accept paint, oil, tires, shingles or

appliances with compressors.

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.

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).

County library hosts storytime

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer will hold only one "Storytime" session Thursday (March 28) before hosting its annual Easter egg hunt that day, then will close at noon until 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Two books, "Madeline at the White House" by John Bemelmans Marciano, and "The Easter Bunny's Assistant" by Jan Thomas, will be read to small children at 10 a.m., said library children's coordinator Kari Dunn.

A craft will follow before children ages 0-11 can participate in the egg hunt, and they need bring only baskets for their eggs, said Dunn. However, the child's parent must stay with him/her during the hunt, she said.

The library will close for Good Friday and Easter, and is normally closed Sundays and Mondays; hence, it will be closed four and a half days.

For more information on Thursday's activities, contact the library at 903-843-5001.

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.

UCSO Citizen police academy slated

The Upshur County Sheriff's Office in Gilmer is now accepting applications from the public to attend the educational Fifth Annual Citizen's Police Academy, scheduled two nights weekly from April 16-May 23 in Gilmer.

The academy, featuring various speakers and free of charge to enroll, is scheduled



Gladewater Rotary Club's Students of the Month for March include Gladewater ISD's Katelynn Lewis and Sixto Rojas.

from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Stanley Jenkins Training Center in Gilmer, located just south of the Upshur County Justice Center.

For more information on registration and course content, contact the sheriff's office at 903-843-2541.

Oil Patch TRTA meets March 28

Members of the Oil Patch Texas Retired Teachers Association will meet at 1:30 p.m. March 28 at First Methodist Church in Gladewater (217 W. Quitman Ave.).

According to the group, "Get ready to bid farewell to winter and welcome the vibrant season of spring with our upcoming meeting!" Rick White of Bailey's Hardware will be sharing tips and tricks about spring gardening.

Upshur GOP elects state delegates

The Republican Party of Upshur County elected its delegation to the GOP's forthcoming state convention at the party's county convention Saturday.

Meeting at the Barbwire Halo Cowboy Church outside Gilmer, Upshur Republicans elected 25 delegates and 21 alternates to the conclave, scheduled May 23-25 in San Antonio.

Since Upshur County is divided into two congressional districts, the delegation will include 16 delegates and 16 alternates residing in Congressional District 1, along with nine delegates and five alternates from Congressional District 5.

District 1 delegates include County GOP Chairman Carl Byers, Lanette Crittenden, John Ussery, Jesse Loffer, Joyce Dolle, Joseph Dodd, Nela Anderson, Jackie Lum, Bridget Byers, John Melvin Dodd, Mary Anne Farrow, Abigail Byers, Phil Garrett, Carol Ussery, County Commissioner Gene Dolle and Cindy Walls.

District 5 delegates are Jackie Oliver, William Brunhofer, Judy Crowder, Todd Quinn, Cynthia Ridgeway, Richard Crowder, Joan Skinner, Richard Ridgeway and Patty Alivo.

District 1 alternates include former County Commissioner James Crittenden, Charles Souder, Oretha Souder, Gary Wilson, Teresa Wilson, Chris Steigerwald, Shauna Steigerwald, John Welch, Michael Muench, Faly Muench, William England Jr., Rudy Desantos, Rachel Desantos, Adriana Steigerwald, Stacy McMahon and De'borah Deaz.

District 5 alternates include Rick Alivo, Tom Williams, Katherine Williams, Cindy Bickerdike and Wesley Bickerdike.

The hours-long county convention also approved several resolutions--most, if not all, by split votes. County Chairman Byers said Monday at least 65 delegates attended (although several left early as the proceedings consumed from mid-morning until well into the afternoon.)

Byers was elected chairman of the convention.

Reporter honored by American Legion

Veteran Gilmer newspaperman Phillip Williams received a plaque of appreciation March 21 from that city's American Legion post during a meeting where the post celebrated the recent 105th birthday of the national



Gladewater Rotarian Todd Clifton presents a Proclamation by Mayor Scott Owens to Rotary Club President Darla Ferguson March 20 as the group's celebrations nine decades in the community: "Whereas, the Gladewater Rotary Club was officially established and chartered on March 1, 1934, as a non-profit civic organization with the primary goal of bettering the lives of our citizens and community..."

organization.

Pat Taylor, commander of the R.E. (Peppy) Blount Post No. 320, presented Williams with the award for his coverage of the local post's activities. Williams is a correspondent for *The Gladewater Mirror* and *The Gilmer Mirror*.

The "Commanders Award of Excellence" was given "for outstanding service which contributed to the advancement of the American Legion programs dedicated to God and country."

"Our post is doing great,"

Taylor told the assemblage, noting it would receive an award from the Legion for having a certain number of members. The local post meets at the old Gilmer fire station on Harrison Street.

Also at the March 21 meeting, Legionnaire Mike Trull detailed the history of the organization for military veterans, noting its formation occurred at the end of World War I, when disabled veterans of that conflict collapsed on street corners and were ignored.

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Moran says GOP is dysfunctional

By Phillip Williams

U.S. Rep. Nathaniel Moran told a public meeting of the Cherokee Rose Republican Women's Club in Gilmer Monday night that GOP members of the House of Representatives are "being very dysfunctional."

"If we're not unified, we're in trouble," he told the audience at the Credit Union of Texas' "Gilmer Gathers" room. "The goal is to drive that ball down and shove it down the Democrats' throats."

The GOP, however, is dysfunctional because "we don't know the difference in unity and uniformity," said Moran, who was unopposed for re-election to a second term in his party's March 5 primary and has no Democratic opponent in November.

"We spend most of the time firing against ourselves," the congressman from Tyler asserted.

Moran said Republican U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green's recent motion to oust Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-La.) is the "wrong direction to go" and "undermines the long-term goal" of what the GOP wants to accomplish. "I don't think she's gonna be successful," he added.

"You won't get a more conservative

speaker than Mike Johnson" and "we need to get behind him," said Moran. Some House Republicans, however, are telling Johnson behind closed doors, "If you don't give me everything (I want), I'm gonna be against you."

Earlier in his 72-minute presentation, which included answering questions from the audience, Moran said "everybody wants perfect legislation," but that can't happen because Democrats control the Presidency, the U.S. Senate, and Republicans have such a small majority in the House.

He also said that while he had voted against continuing resolutions on financing the government, he supported the first of two recently-passed appropriations bills, including the one which eliminated much of the funding for a proposed new FBI headquarters and reduced the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by 9.6%.

"We actually cut overall spending. That never happens in Washington, D.C.," Moran said. The representative said he voted against the second appropriations package, though, because while it had some good aspects, like raising military pay, it didn't include "border security."

Vote responsibly!

Step #1

Become an informed citizen.

Step #2

Cast an informed ballot!



Sponsored by The Gladewater Mirror

CANDIDATE FORUM

City Contested Races

April 4, 6 p.m.

At The Gladewater Chamber of Commerce

Meet the candidates in the May 4 election and hear what they have to say on the issues!

GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
3/17/24	EMS	20241375	0:40		10113 HWY 271 HWY 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241376	0:55		428 MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20241377	1:05	SEYMORES WILCO	1296 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241378	2:37		HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	EMS	20241379	8:07		504 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS DR
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241381	9:48		CULVER CULVER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241382	15:23		31 CROCDILE CROCDILE LN
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241383	15:33		1105 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	ABANDONED 911	20241384	15:57		158 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20241385	16:11	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20241386	16:26		5663 FM 1795 FM 1795
	EMS	20241387	16:37		912 E SHEPARD SHEPARD DR
	ABANDONED 911	20241390	17:35		801 MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241391	18:15		HOWARD HOWARD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241392	18:21		1001 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20241394	20:46		312 HAYNES HAYNES AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241395	22:28	GREENWAY VILLAGE	GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
3/18/24	EMS	20241396	6:21	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20241397	6:34		1603 N RODEO RODEO
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241398	6:42		37 GARDEN LANE GARDEN LANE
	ASSIST	20241399	8:27	ANTIQUA CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20241400	9:49		1072 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ALARM/OTHER	20241401	10:03		300 JORDAN JORDAN ST
	CTWARNING	20241402	10:22	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20241403	13:54		140 PEAR RD PEAR RD
	EMS	20241404	14:51	ANTIQUA CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	THEFT	20241405	15:19	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20241406	16:44		1604 LAKE SHORE LAKE SHORE DR
	EMS	20241407	20:06		2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241408	20:32		905 NELWIN NELWIN
	ABANDONED 911	20241409	21:13		801 N TENERY TENERY
3/19/24	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241411	0:13		N 271 271
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241412	2:07		39 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241413	4:45		2186 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20241414	7:17	6168 JEANETTE JEANETTE	6168 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	EMS	20241415	8:45		403 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241416	9:43	JULIAWOOD HOMES	JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	EMS	20241417	10:48	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20241419	14:20		204 E EDDIE EDDIE ST
	EMS	20241419	14:58		7 GREENWAY GREENWAY
	EMS	20241420	15:22		800 WOOD WOOD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241422	16:03	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20241424	16:43		4 PRIVATE ROAD 3293 PRIVATE ROAD 3293
	FIRE DEPT	20241425	17:17		8025 LOCUST LOCUST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241426	17:21		HWY 271 HWY 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241427	18:14		678 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20241428	18:35	CITIZENS BANK	678 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241429	20:36		107 MELBA MELBA
	FIRE DEPT	20241430	20:54		2811 COBY COBY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241431	22:35	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
3/20/24	EMS	20241433	0:21		1509 N LYNN ST N LYNN ST
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20241434	0:36	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ASSIST	20241435	1:13		511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	THEFT	20241436	8:08	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20241437	11:04	WALKER MANOR BED AND BREAKFAST	214 E COMMERCE COMMERCE
	EMS	20241438	11:50		2727 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	EMS	20241439	12:23	GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL	414 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	ABANDONED 911	20241440	12:52	CVS PHARMACY	1402 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20241442	15:00		GLADE GLADE
	10-50 MAJOR	20241443	16:13		N 271 271
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241444	16:46		2820 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241445	17:08		2204 W HAMPTON HAMPTON
	ALARM/OTHER	20241446	17:46		21 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	EMS	20241447	18:08		21 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE

	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241448	21:10		47 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	EMS	20241449	23:52	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
3/21/24	EMS	20241450	3:21:24	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20241451	4:04		5377 SWEET GUM SWEET GUM RD
	FIRE DEPT	20241452	4:16	POST OFFICE	101 N DEAN DEAN ST
	ASSIST	20241453	5:07		HWY 80 HWY 80
	EMS	20241455	8:54	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20241456	12:16		1072 FM 2685 FM 2685
	CTWARNING	20241457	13:38		501 QUITMAN QUITMAN W
	EMS	20241458	14:45		W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	10-50 MAJOR	20241459	16:25		N LOOP 485 N LOOP 485
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241460	19:07		113 W GAY GAY
	EMS	20241461	21:02		127 WOODLAND WOODLAND TRL
	ABANDONED 911	20241462	22:48		701 E SABINE SABINE AVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241463	23:25	ROSEDALE CEMETERY	E ARMSTRONG ARMSTRONG RD
	ALARM/OTHER	20241464	23:58		501 N AMES N AMES
3/22/24	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241465	0:18		302 GAY AVE GAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20241466	0:45		1600 E BROADWAY E BROADWAY AVE
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20241467	10:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20241468	10:30		6168 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20241469	13:32		500 LOOP 485 LOOP 485 S
	EMS	20241471	13:43	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20241472	14:04	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241474	15:37	DANIELLE'S HOUSE OF HOPE	1014 N LYNN LYNN ST
	EMS	20241475	18:44		616 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241477	18:54		WOOD WOOD ST
	ABANDONED 911	20241478	19:03		807 TYLER TYLER ST
	THEFT	20241479	19:41	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241480	19:50		1101 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20241481	20:33		318 N LEE LEE
3/23/24	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241482	1:59	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20241483	3:14	ORELLYS AUTO PARTS	801 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20241484	8:42	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20241485	10:57		511 VISTA VISTA LN
	RUNAWAY	20241486	12:51		1014 N LYNN LYNN ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241487	12:55		S LOOP TO 271 S LOOP TO 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241488	14:13	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20241489	14:18	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241491	15:03	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ALARM/OTHER	20241492	16:07		COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241493	17:13	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20241495	18:56		219 GAY GAY W
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241496	19:33	LEE PUBLIC LIBRARY	312 PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241497	20:06		1604 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241498	20:22		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241499	20:40		AUTO SHOP AUTO SHOP
	EMS	20241500	20:54		300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241501	21:31		BASEBALL FIELDS BASEBALL FIELDS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241502	21:36		MAPLE MAPLE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241503	23:28	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ASSIST	20241504	23:33		S TYLER S TYLER
3/24/24	10-50 MINOR	20241505	0:12		HWY 271 HWY 271
	FIRE DEPT	20241506	7:36		1216 WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	EMS	20241507	9:20	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20241508	10:36		1208 N EDWARDS EDWARDS ST
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20241509	11:00	CITIZENS BANK	678 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20241510	11:47	CITIZENS BANK	678 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241511	12:53		13 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	FIRE DEPT	20241512	13:43	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	EMS	20241513	14:13	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241514	14:41		803 LOCKER PLANT LOCKER PLANT RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241515	15:06	RESMOR APARTMENTS	700 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20241518	15:53		10113 HWY 271 HWY 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241519	16:36		593 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD ST

GPD Police Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	WARRANT (LOCAL)	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
3/18/24	3/18/24	15:40	SPANGLER, RONNIE ALLEN	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1640 E BROADWAY
	3/18/24	15:40	SPANGLER, RONNIE ALLEN	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1640 E BROADWAY
3/18/24	3/18/24	22:45	HICKS, ROY LEE	W	M		POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - 202	1109 BROADWAY
	3/18/24	22:45	HICKS, ROY LEE	W	M		POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENALTY	1109 BROADWAY
	3/18/24	22:45	HICKS, ROY LEE	W	M		INJURY TO AN ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL - W/ BODILY INJURY	1109 BROADWAY
3/21/24	3/21/24	19:20	SPENCER, MARLON RICARDO	B	M	ASSAULT - CAUSING BODILY INJURY (FAMILY VIOLENCE)		113 GAY AVE
	3/21/24	19:20	SPENCER, MARLON RICARDO	B	M	ASSAULT - CAUSING BODILY INJURY (FAMILY VIOLENCE)		113 GAY AVE
3/23/24	3/23/24	13:21	SIMMONS, CHARLES DESHAUN	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1095 COMMERCE
	3/23/24	13:21	SIMMONS, CHARLES DESHAUN	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1095 COMMERCE
	3/23/24	13:21	SIMMONS, CHARLES DESHAUN	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1095 COMMERCE
	3/23/24	13:21	SIMMONS, CHARLES DESHAUN	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1095 COMMERCE
	3/23/24	13:21	SIMMONS, CHARLES DESHAUN	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1095 COMMERCE
	3/23/24	13:21	SIMMONS, CHARLES DESHAUN	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)		1095 COMMERCE



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 Gladeview Baptist • 903-845-3842
 Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174
 Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440
 Greater New Hope Baptist
 Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
 Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768
 New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
 St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
 Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894
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SPORTS

“Coot’s Corner” By Coot Putley

Spring Forward ...

By Tyler Sutton
Wet weather played havoc with the scheduling this week for the area baseball and softball teams but the sky cleared and all teams were able to get their games in.

Gladewater Baseball was supposed to make the trip to Hughes Springs on Friday night to open their district schedule but mother nature had other plans and the game was pushed back until 1 pm on Saturday. But the Bears would not be stopped as they doubled up the Mustangs in route to a 4-2 victory. Gladewater improves to 9-6 on the season and 1-0 in district play. The Bears will be back on the diamond on Tuesday when they travel to New Diana before hosting the Eagles on Thursday.

Gladewater softball continued their district schedule on Tuesday as they made the trip to Hughes Springs and fell 17-2. Karlee Moses homered and drove in two runs in the loss for Gladewater. Alayah Gordon struck out two and walked three in 2.1 innings.

The Lady Bears were supposed to host Daingerfield on Friday night but wet field conditions forced the game to be moved to Winnsboro and the Tigers took it 12-1. Alayah Gordon homered and drove in another run for Gladewater. She also pitched for the Lady Bears, striking out five and walking five in five innings. Gladewater is now 5-10 on the season and 0-2 in district play. The Lady Bears will hit the field again Tuesday as they host Sabine and then make the short trip to White Oak on Thursday.

The White Oak Rough-Necks baseball team also opened up district play this week. But as much like most of East Texas, their game scheduled for Friday was pushed back to Saturday

because of wet weather but their offense was red hot on Saturday as they throttled Daingerfield 12-1.

The RoughNecks are now 8-7 on the campaign and 1-0 in district play. They will be back in action on Tuesday when they begin a home and home with Hughes Spring.

Hosting the Mustangs on Tuesday and traveling to Hughes Springs on Thursday. The RoughNeck softball team continued their hot start to district play this week with a pair of wins. On Tuesday, Larkin Daniels struck out 14, walked two and allowed just one hit in seven innings pitched, and the White Oak Ladynecks blanked New Diana 3-0 on Tuesday.

Addison McClanahan singled twice, Daniels doubled and drove in a run and Kinradie Rayson added a single and an RBI for White Oak.

Wet weather on Friday forced White Oak’s game on Friday vs Hughes Springs to be pushed back to Saturday but it could not stop the LadyNecks as they shutout the Lady Mustangs 4-0. White Oak improves to 18-7 on the season and 3-0 in district play. White Oak will travel to Daingerfield on Tuesday before hosting rival Glade-

water on Thursday.

Union Grove baseball continued their district schedule this week as they hosted Hawkins on Tuesday and came away with a 5-4 win. Jacob Griffin singled and drove in two runs for Union Grove, and Carter Cooper went the distance on the mound for the Lions. Cooper struck out six and walked three, and Cason Cowan singled and drove in a run for the Lions.

Then on Saturday the Lions offense flexed their muscle as they pounded New Summerfield 18-0. The Lions are now 7-5 on the season and 4-4 in district action.

Union Grove will travel to Leverett’s Chapel on Tuesday and then host Carlisle on Thursday. The Lady Lions softball team continued their district action as well they picked up their first district win of the season as they blew out Union Hill 15-0.

Friday’s game vs New Summerfield was postponed to a later date because of rain. Union Grove is now 3-14 on the season and 1-4 in district play. The Lady Lions will be back on the softball diamond for a pair of home games. Tuesday vs Carlisle and Thursday vs Ore City.

It has been 20 years since I had been to Spring Training, so when we got the opportunity to go to Arizona, I was excited and anxious to see how things have changed. The first thing I noticed was how much the cities of Phoenix and Tucson have grown.

The whole area has exploded as more and more people have moved to the “valley of the sun”. It is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there. Lots of traffic, dust, and wind and not many trees. But we were there for baseball and there was plenty of that—and the weather was great for all our games.

Our first game was the Rangers at the Angels’ Diablo Stadium – Seems a little odd that is the name of their ballpark.

You picture the cartoon character with an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other. We got there early to checkout the practice fields. The complex is really laid out well – for a mountain goat. Several baseball diamonds are spread out over a long hilly terrain. Unfortunately, access was limited, so it was difficult to tell what was going on. As far as the game is concerned, Texas broke

out the bats, and pounded the Halos 15 to 5, so that was a great start to our week. We spent the next day at Surprise. The facility is shared by the Rangers and Royals. There are more fences and barriers than on my last trip, but it was still fairly accessible and fan friendly. Texas had apparently used up their offense the day before, as they lost 3 – 1 to the Guardians, but it was a good day for autographs, and we enjoyed visiting with the minor leaguers.

Later that evening we watched the White Sox beat the Reds 14-1 at Goodyear Park. Chicago looked like they were taking batting practice. They hit 4 homeruns, 2 by Luis Robert Jr. One of the homers cleared the big screen in straightaway center field and may still be in orbit! A personal highlight for me was getting to boo White Sox catcher, Martin Maldonado, a former Astro. Some people may have wondered why I was booing but Rangers fans understood. (See league championship series, Game 5)

Day 3 was spent at Camelback Ranch, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers. It was quite a circus atmosphere, as the fans crowded in to see 700-million-dollar man

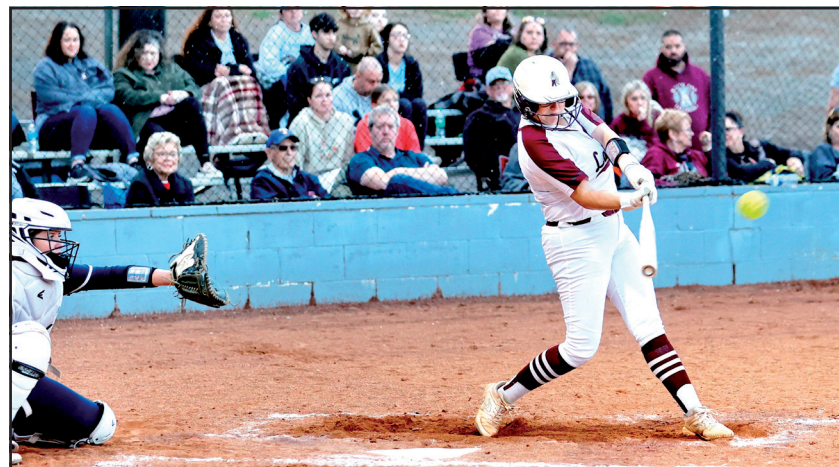
Shohei Ohtani and their new pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto. On this day they didn’t deliver, as Seattle beat LA 5-1. For years I’ve heard people brag about Dodger dogs, so we tried one. What a disappointment! They are about the size of a no.2 pencil and don’t taste much better. Someone needs to introduce them to Nolan Ryan and his 100% all-beef franks!

Our last day was spent back in Surprise for a doubleheader with the Rangers and Reds. The first game featured the best minor league prospects from each organization. It was fun to see tomorrow’s stars square off against each other and try to prove they are ready for the next step. In the nightcap the major league players battled.

Texas bookended our trip with a nice 7-4 win, highlighted by top rookie Wyatt Langford’s grand slam.

We headed home after a great week. Time spent with good friends, watching kids and grandkids play catch and getting autographs, relaxing in the sunshine, and plenty of baseball. If you get a chance to go to Arizona or Florida for Spring Training ---GO!

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



In the Ladynecks’ 3-0 shutout against New Diana, Larkin Daniels, the team’s outstanding pitcher, also showcased her hitting prowess by driving a double off the centerfield wall.

Photo by Mike Peery



Roughnecks Caleb Maxted beats out an infield hit in their game against Daingerfield, contributing to White Oak’s decisive 12-1 victory.

Photo by Mike Peery

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White Oak ISD's Fiona Rolland stands next to her award-winning painting "Eyes Like the Sky" (acrylic on canvas) which placed 1st in the Kilgore College New Talent 24 juried Junior/Senior Art show, netting Roland a \$1600 Art scholarship to KC. In addition to Roland's three pieces in the show, works by White Oak High School's Brandi Odms and Ryley Kuhn were also featured among the show's 40 selections from 200 works entered from 15 area high schools.

Courtesy photo from Kim Linscomb Taylor

Unknown condition of lake's relief valve leaves city treading carefully on testing

Continued from Page 1

ready for a test. Things are on hold right now until the rain-drenched ground dries a bit.

"We discovered that the upstream pipe is encased in thick concrete," Simmons noted. "Now we are in the process of excavating the end of the pipe in the creek to be able to expose the pipe and discover, is it a steel pipe? Is it a concrete pipe?"

The answers will determine how carefully they'll have to be moving forward, i.e. what additional equipment they'll have to install in order to stop the flow if the old valve fails.

"We started excavating last week, but due to the rain we've had to postpone the process until it's drier due to be the ground be saturated and soft," Simmons said. Likewise, "I'm afraid with as much rain as we've had it'll be flowing too hard."

Smith praised the team on the ground along with the city's engineers.

"They've done a really good job on that with Schaumburg & Polk," he said. They'll move forward soon: "It's something that we do need to take a look at and get that thing in order."

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 slang for "athlete"

5 vera

6 TXism: "suits me to a fare-thee-"

7 Metroplex
Tex-Mex eatery: "Fenix"

8 Madigan of Texas-based 1985 film "Alamo Bay"

9 TX Meat Loaf's first album: "of Hell" (1977)

15 San Antonio-based military insur. co.

16 TXism: "exciting as a fire at the"

19 TXism: "jumped from the frying the fire"

21 residences for old folks: nursing

22 1970s male hair style (2 wds.)

27 this McEntire was "Ma Tex" in 1994 film "North"

28 cut in half

29 TX John Wesley Hardin, e.g.

30 TXism: "put on the" (eat)

32 a shoe width

33 TXism: "he rides over everybody"

36 TXism for "nonsense" or "lies": "hog"

37 Texas-based "Steak and"

38 where you find expensive sodas in a hotel room

DOWN

1 TXism: "cracker" (dentist)

2 TXism: "good boy"

3 city of the "Chronicle and Democrat-Voice"

4 "Kelly Field" in San Antonio was formerly "Base"

8 TXism: "tough old boot"

9 Bing's role in 1959 film "Say One For Me" with TX Debbie Reynolds (2 wds.)

10 TXism: "old dirt"

11 TXism: "up snuff"

12 TxDOT was "The Department and Public Transportation flying saucers abbr."

13 flying saucers abbr.

14 TXism: "spends his looking for shade" (lazy)

15 TXism: "run flag" (give up)

16 Dolly recorded a cover of Beatles' "Let"

17 this "Cece" Kizer is a forward for the Houston Dash

18 admiration, respect

20 ville, Texas

22 long (goodbye)

23 noted epic 1959 film: "Ben"

24 abandoned SSC was to be a giant smasher in Waxahachie

25 repairing a broken vase, e.g.

26 TXism: "attracted like steel to a"

28 Rangers' sport: ball

31 prohibits

34 outlaw Bass (init.)

35 TXism: "on the hoof" (hog)

37 the Texas flag has stripe

40 jogging pace

43 crow cries

44 prophets

50 TXism: "on up to the trough" (join in)

51 Edward of "Fight Club" with TX Meat Loaf (init.)

P-1682

See Answers On This Page



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PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that letters of guardianship for the person and estate of WILLIE SHAW an incapacitated person, were issued on December 15, 2023, in Docket No. 2023-0327-E, pending in the County Court of Gregg County, Texas, to DERRICK SHAW, Guardian, as guardian of the person and estate of WILLIE SHAW.

The residence of Guardian is in Gregg County, Texas, and the mailing address is: Guardian of the person and estate of WILLIE SHAW, c/o DERRICK SHAW 1009 S. 13th Street, Longview, Gregg County, Texas, 75602.

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

DATED the 22nd day of March 2024.

Courtney Anne Harris
HARRIS & HARRIS, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MATTHEW C. HARRIS
State Bar No. 24059904
mch@matthewharrislaw.com
COURTNEY ANNE HARRIS
State Bar No. 24060434
courtney@harrisandharristx.com
P.O. Box 4373
Longview, TX 75606
Telephone: (903) 757-7500
Facsimile: (903) 215-8467

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the ESTATE OF MELODY MARIE ESCHER A/K/A MELODY SMITH, were issued on, March 19, 2024, in Cause No. 2024-0006-E, pending in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Gregg County, Texas, to: Alan Ray Escher.

All claims to be filed and served upon said Estate shall be served in the following manner at the following Address:

Alan Ray Escher
c/o Kyle Kutch, Attorney
211 E. Tyler St, Ste. 600-G
Longview TX, 75601
903/236-8788

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

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CITY OF WHITE OAK
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LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 2024-08 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2024 AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE II, SECTION 82-45(B), OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING THE PRESENT WATER RATES FOR THE MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICE; PRESCRIBING AND FIXING NEW WATER RATES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. FOR A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x7024.

ORDINANCE 2024-09 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2024 FOR AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE II, SECTION 82-47(1), OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING THE PRESENT SEWER RATES FOR THE MUNICIPAL SEWER SERVICE; PRESCRIBING AND FIXING NEW SEWER RATES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x7024.

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PROPERTY FOR SALE

The City of Gladewater is accepting sealed bids on property located in Gladewater, Upshur County, Texas, and described as LOT 11, BLK 7 GLADEVIEW ADDN A177 (A8), more commonly known as 2810 Hendricks Street, Upshur County Appraisal District Property ID #15616.

Minimum bid required –\$2,100.00.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly and plainly marked "Bid – LOT 11, BLK 7 GLADEVIEW ADDN A177 (A8)" and must be physically received and filed in the office of the City Clerk no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024, when they will be publicly opened and read. All bids received after the prescribed opening time, regardless of the mode of delivery, shall be returned unopened. The Gladewater City Council will formally award the bid on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to accept such bids as it shall deem most advantageous to the City and reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or portions thereof, and to waive all formalities.

No representations, written or oral, are made by the City of Gladewater. The property is being sold "as-is" with no warranties of any kind, including no warranty of title.

Terms of Sale and Bid Sheet may be obtained from and mailed or delivered to:

Judy Van Houten, City Clerk
City of Gladewater
519 E. Broadway
Gladewater, Texas 75647

All inquiries should be directed to City Manager Charlie Smith at 903-845-2196.



Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Gladewater will receive seal bids for ARPA - 2024 WTP Upgrades until 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave., Gladewater, TX 75647. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave., Gladewater, TX 75647.

The project involves the construction of a pre-engineered 35-ft x 50-ft metal building with concrete foundation. The building is to be equipped with one steel roll-up bay door, two pedestrian doors, electrical system, exhaust system, heaters, and plumbing for water and future connections. Other miscellaneous construction items include site grading, sodding, and driveway installation. The project includes turn-key construction in which the Contractor will provide design and construction of the foundation base, concrete foundation, and structural for storage building.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at SPI, 320 S. Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702, and Gladewater City Hall, 519 E Broadway Ave, Gladewater, TX 75647.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained for a non-refundable deposit of \$30 with Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. Plans can also be found online at www.civcastusa.com.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Gladewater or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Department of Labor and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$100,000.00.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Gladewater for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

City of Gladewater Scott E. Owens Mayor 3/28/24 & 4/4/24

All contractors/subcontractors whose System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration is not active or that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.



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NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE TARIFF FILING

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on March 25, 2024 its Petition requesting approval of its proposed Military Base Surcharge Tariff.

Section 36.354(a) of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), at Texas Utilities Code § 36.354, provides that each electric utility in an area where implementation of full customer choice has been delayed by the Commission in accordance with PURA Section 39.103 shall discount charges for electric service provided to a military base. Section 36.354(b) of PURA establishes the discount to be provided to military installations as a 20 percent reduction of the base commercial rate that the electric utility would otherwise charge the installation.

Section 36.354(c) of PURA provides that the electric utility may assess a surcharge to all its Texas retail customers to recover the difference in revenue between the revenues from the discounted rate for military bases and the base commercial rate. SWEPCO's Tariff Sheet No. IV-16 provides the Military Base Adjustment Factor per billing kWh as reflected below:

MONTHLY FACTOR

Major Rate Classes	\$/kWh
Residential	\$0.0000938
Commercial & Small Industrial	\$0.0000674
Industrial / Large Lighting and Power	\$0.0000254
Municipal	\$0.0000655
Outdoor Lighting	\$0.0001287

SWEPCO has requested that the tariff become effective with the first billing cycle of June 2024. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon this proceeding must notify the Commission within 21 days of SWEPCO's filing of the Petition. A request to intervene or for further information should reference Tariff Control No. 56403 and be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (800) 735-2988. The Company can be contacted at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, or by calling (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours.

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New Vision takes root in renewed church building



New Vision MBC's Rickey Moore (right) stands alongside Gladewater Mayor Scott Owens on the steps of the 309 N. Cotton St. church Sunday afternoon, surrounded by local and visiting congregants for the dedication of the building and the Marlon Green Fellowship Hall.

By James Draper

Just last year, the building of brick, stone and stained glass was a wedding venue – on Sunday, Rickey Moore preached on the bride of Christ, the church, seeking her glorious groom, Jesus.

He'd prefer we call him Rickey. Not 'Bishop' or 'Dr.' Not 'Preacher,' 'Reverend' or 'Pastor.'

"We're not hung up on titles," says the leader of New Vision MBC at 309 N. Cotton in Gladewater.

He's exultant after welcoming a standing room-only crowd for the congregation's dedication ceremony Sunday afternoon, a diverse

group of about 350 people, including members of both the new Gladewater ministry and their sister church in Marshall.

"Our vision was to start a church where people would come and feel comfortable, they would feel like they are family," Moore said. "When you come to church, you won't see folks with suits on. We wear jeans and t-shirts and football jerseys. We want folks to feel comfortable when they come."

A church was first organized on the spot in the late '30s – "We have the original Bible in there that was donated to the church back in

1939," Moore says – and its original building burned in the 1950s.

The rebuilt structure served for years then eventually fell out of use. Ultimately, local developers Dale and Tanna Rhoades acquired the property and renovated it into a wedding venue.

Per Moore, "They always said, 'If we ever get rid of it, we want it to remain a church.' Other people had tried to buy it. They were going to make a rooming house out of it in that neighborhood." That wasn't the plan, he added: "It's a church, and we want to keep it a church."

The new congregants found rich architecture waiting for them Sunday, including some of the original chairs from the 1952 rebuild.

"What makes it unique, when you sit in the church and look up, the ceiling represents the crown of thorns that was on Jesus' head," Moore said, "to remind us that we too are going to bear a crown. Every time we come to church to worship, we are reminded that down here we bear our crosses but we look up to be reminded that one day we're going to wear a crown. I think that's beautiful."

Sunday's service included dedications for both the church and the Marlon Green Fellowship Hall, named in honor of the late son of Robert Green, who was instrumental in landing the church here along with Moore and Robert Nash.

For five years, Moore said, every Sunday Green and Nash drove from Gladewater to Karnack then to Marshall to attend services until the trio began crafting their new vision last Christmas Eve. Three months later, both churches have been adding members consistently, both in-person, online and through a half-hour television ministry airing at 7 a.m. Mondays.

"When I preach, I'm going to make you, number one, laugh. Number two, I want you to listen, I want you to learn, and, when you leave, I want you to live it. That's my goal when I preach," he said. "My sermons don't go past 20 minutes. I don't believe in holding people all day."

Part of the vision is for the church to become another educational hub. With professors, school administrators, coaches and teachers in the congregation, Moore sees great potential.

"We're planning on getting a grant to get some computers so we can offer a computer course and after school tutorials," he said. "We want to help people prepare to go to college and also help adults get their GED."

"I believe in education," currently enrolled at East Texas Baptist University toward a degree in Christian counseling.

Moore says he's grateful to be back in Gladewater after being called to preach at St. James MBC here at age 25. The late Mary Hawley and Delores Johnson were keen to see him return along with his spiritual mother, Evergrace Derrick.

"Thank God she's still alive to see I came back to Gladewater," he said, and to see the new church come to life through the dedicated efforts and generosity of its members: "New Vision is truly a church that lives up to its motto. This our mission statement. This is what we live by:

"We are the church where the word is explained, Jesus is proclaimed, love is exchanged, and where God's vision for your life will be made plain."

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0010940001

APPLICATION. City of White Oak, 906 South White Oak Road, White Oak, Texas 75693, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010940001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0026531) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 2,000,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located approximately 1,500 feet east of State Highway 42 and 3,800 feet south of U.S. Highway 80, in Gregg County, Texas 75693. The discharge route is from the plant site to Hawkins Creek; thence to Sabine River Above Toledo Bend Reservoir. TCEQ received this application on January 11, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at White Oak City Hall, 906 South White Oak Road, White Oak, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-94.847777,32.507222&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of White Oak at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jimmy Percell at 903-759-3936.

Issuance Date: March 18, 2024

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Voters asked to approve changes to city charter

Continued from Page 1

the Election Day, the first Saturday in May.

The first suggested amendment is to update the charter for gender neutrality.

"The charter was originally drafted in 1955. You had certain positions in that timeframe of tradition were male or female type of jobs," Owens said. "In our modern era here, we know that male or female are doing most any job.

"Instead of going through in each little place and changing each job as male or female it was easier to put in the preamble here and say that if any pronoun references either male or female it was meant to be inclusive of either one."

The second amendment effectively updates the charter's election code.

"We are what is called a home-rule city, which means we can make up the rules that we self-govern by unless they are in conflict with (state law) and unless the legislature directs otherwise," Owens noted. "Back in the day we were holding the elections in April" before the legislature consolidated polling in May and November.

Those election results have to be canvassed in due course, and it's more efficient not to put a specific date to it. "We just stated it would be the first meeting after the election as dictated by state law."

Amendment C covers excessive absences of council members and adds a consequence – if approved, an elected official forfeits the post after missing either three consecutive regular council meetings or six in any calendar year.

With no such provision in the code now, "We thought it would be good to address that, and we looked at other city charters that addressed that," Owens said, following the City of Longview's example.

The fourth amendment would officially extend the city judge's appointment from a one-year term to two. The other portion relates to the office of city prosecutor.

Previously, "The city attorney was acting as prosecutor also in representing the city and the municipal court. For financial reasons in order to save money, we just hired a city prosecutor who just comes over for municipal court. But, we never allowed for it in the charter. We do appoint that prosecutor, and we do evaluate that prosecutor annually. We just needed to include that in the charter."

Amendment E considers the city manager's residency – if the change is approved, a manager may live within 30 miles of the

Gladewater City Limits.

"This has come up before," Owens said. "With the current housing situation, we have had candidates that we would have considered and would have been good city managers that already lived within the area," but they were reticent to relocate into the city limits. Likewise, out-of-area candidates might not be able to find suitable housing inside Gladewater but would have more options in close proximity. "We want to get all the quality candidates we can."

The sixth proposal clarifies the city's chain of command, particularly that "The City of Manager shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the city government," with supervisory authority over all department heads, including council-appointed positions such as City Treasurer, City Attorney, City Judge, City Prosecutor and City Clerk. The council would retain the authority to appoint/remove those select positions.

"We just want to clarify the chain of command but still keep the checks and balances that the charter provides."

The next amendment removes some specificity from the charter on fines so the regulations don't conflict when costs change over time. They're codified outside the charter in other city guidelines.

According to Owens, "There are certain things that are going to be in state law that are going to be a mandated range or a mandated fee or fine. Instead of putting an arbitrary figure in there that will change in value over time, we just want to do that we can never go over what is the maximum allowable in state law."

The final amendment again removes outdated specificity in the charter, eliminating instructions on how to use now-defunct voting equipment and, again, adding general language that the city will follow state law.

"That just goes back to how technology changes over time," Owens explained. Since the charter was written and last updated, "We've had hanging chads, we've had electronic ballots, we've had paper... This is just to say the voting is going to be consistent with state law, which we'd have to anyway."

Owens agrees none of the proposed changes are particularly substantial, but the committee feels they're necessary to help the city run a bit more smoothly and in full compliance with state law and best practices.

It's just a start, he added: "I'm not saying that we will not come back next year or the year after with some other little changes."

Latest dam discoveries raise more flags

Continued from Page 1
Department of Emergency Management. The two agencies are a major artery for state and federal mitigation funds.

Broadly, "You take the number of structures im-

acted plus the condition of the dam, and all that goes into a scoring – the worst dam gets the money first, and they go down a list until all the money's spent."

A key next step will be to prioritize repairs.

"That's going to be for the engineers to decide," Simmons said. "Obviously, the whole structure needs tending to. We're just now getting the data and beginning those conversations as to what the plan is going forward."

Upshur Co. to discuss updates on courthouse

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court meets Thursday to hear any updates, and consider taking any "necessary action" on the ongoing renovation of the county courthouse and re-locating of county employees during the project.

That is among 11 items, counting such items as the invocation, citizens' comments, and adjournment, on the agenda for the 10 a.m. public meeting at the temporary county courthouse in downtown Gilmer.

In another matter, the court is scheduled to approve buying and implementing Tyler Technologies' Enterprise Jury Manager Software.

Upshur County District Clerk Nicole Hernandez said Monday the current software system involving her office's mailing of summonses for jury duty is "quite old," "doesn't

work very well," and is "outdated."

She said 115th District Judge Dean Fowler and District Attorney Billy Byrd wanted a new system, which will "be great" and allow prospective jurors to fill out questionnaires online.

In other business Thursday, commissioners have two separate items on their agenda involving the Upshur County Library in Gilmer.

One is hearing County Librarian Cynthia King concerning the Lex Frieden Employment Award from Gov. Greg Abbott's office, her "State of the Library" report, and possibly accepting annual for recording the library's report. The award involves serving the disabled.

The other library-related item on the agenda is considering allowing the Friends of the Upshur County Library organization to hold its semi-annual book sale and craft fair at the

library building.

In other business Thursday, the court will consider:

- Proclaiming April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the county.

- Proclaiming April as "Child Abuse Awareness Month" in the county and approving the display of signs related to it at the temporary courthouse and the Upshur County Justice Center in Gilmer.

- Purchasing new, matching chairs for the commissioners court.

- Several mostly-routine items which are sub-grouped under one item on the agenda, ranging from approving the payroll and paying bills to considering applications for using county roads and rights-of-way.

The court would normally meet Friday since it is the last business day of this month, but county offices will be closed that day for Good Friday.

OBITUARIES

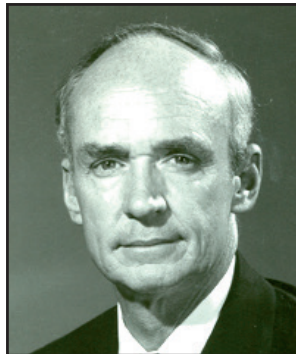


MR. LENION WILLIAM HAMPTON

01/11/1929 – 03/21/2024

Mr. Lenion William Hampton funeral services will be March 30, 2024 at 11:00 am at Siloam Missionary Baptist Church, 13496 CR 371 Winona.

A wake will be held March 29, 2024 from 2:00 – 6:00 pm at All Faith Chapel US HWY 80 in Gladewater.



DR. JAMES TAYLOR WHARTON, M.D.

Dr. James Taylor Wharton, M.D., of Houston, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by family on Thursday, February 29, 2024, after a valiant battle with Parkinson's Disease.

A chapel service and Celebration of Life was held at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home, 1010 Bering Dr., Houston on Monday, March 11, 2024, with Pastor Jason T. Hughes officiating.

Born March 29, 1938, to the late Ivy D. Wharton and Era Taylor Wharton in Henderson. His pre-medical education was received from Stephan F. Austin University. In 1959, Taylor married Mary Louise Hearnberger. The family is so grateful that their paths crossed on the campus of SFA celebrating the culmination of 65 years of a perfect marriage. That same year, he entered the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston and graduated in 1963 with honors including The Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Taylor completed a rotating internship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, before returning to UTMB to complete residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology. He

continued his training via a Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In 1971, after completing his duty in the United States Air Force Service as a Major, he joined the staff of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center as an assistant professor in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology and retired in 2008 after 38 years of service in patient care and research. Throughout his career Taylor published more than 240 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and edited six books. He was a highly skilled surgeon, professor, and researcher making significant contributions in his field. Taylor was an integral part of the MDACC Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Training program and resident rotation training, all of which included residents from St. Josephs, LBJ, and Hermann Hospitals, also including recipients of the Felix Rutledge Fellowship program annually.

In addition to various academic roles, Taylor served in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology as Deputy Chairman and as Chairman. He was so very proud of his department ranking Top Five nationally by the U.S. News and World Report ranking of "Best Departments in Best Hospitals in America" for 16 consecutive years. Taylor then served as Special Assistant to the President of Patient Affairs. Throughout his career, he received numerous awards including the Charles B. Barker Chair in Surgery 1990-2003 and the Charles B. Barker Chair Emeritus from 2003-2007. In 2000, Taylor was recognized with the establishment of the J. Taylor Wharton M.D. Distinguished Chair in Gynecologic Oncology. In 2021, he was a proud recipient of the Ashbel Smith Distinguished

Alumnus Award. Additionally, Taylor served as President of American Radium Society, President of Society of Gynecologic Oncology and served as President of the Felix Rutledge Society. He also served on the Board of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. and McMoRan Exploration Co and as Consultant for Medical and Health Affairs to the Office for the Chairman.

Taylor had many passions, and shared his love of hunting and fishing with all that knew him. He embraced family and friends while practicing the teachings of Pastor Teachers R.B. Thieme, Jr. and R.B. Thieme III at Berachah Church. Blessed with 65 years of marriage and many friends he considered "family", he will be greatly missed.

Taylor is survived by his wife Mary Louise, brother Arnold Wharton M.D. (Julia) and his three daughters: Amy Vanderhill (Jim), Tiffany Crona (Mark), and Nanci Moon (Todd), his grandchildren: Ceili Baxley, Shannon Collett, Meagan Cochran, Ryan Crona, Travis Crona, Todd Moon Jr., Bryleigh Moon and Linden Moon, his great grandchildren: Anna Baxley, Jennifer Baxley, and Elizabeth Collett, and numerous nieces, nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff of Houston Methodist Hospital for their expert care and compassion and his caregivers at Ultra Staff Health Care Staffing Services who helped make Taylor comfortable in his last few months.

Please share a memory of Taylor at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries>.

In lieu of flowers, please consider your favorite charity, Berachah Church/ Berachah Church Tape and Publications, 2815 Sage Road, Houston TX 77056, or of course, U.T. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

BARBARA MACKEY

A celebration of Barbara Sue Smith Mackey's life will take place at the First Methodist Church's Jeter Hall in Gladewater, Texas on April 6, 2024 at 11 a.m.

Barbara passed away on January 8, 2024 in Beaumont, Texas at the age of 86. Barbara was born on April 1, 1937 in Gladewater, Texas to the late Joel and Verlie Kathryn Baillio Smith. Barbara donated her body to science and will be laid to rest at Rock Springs Cemetery at a later date.



Spring Gladewater CITY-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY
APRIL 13th, 2024
8AM-NOON

GLADEWATER RESIDENTS may deposit bulky, household garbage and items into dumpsters located along E. Commerce St., downtown Gladewater.

Prohibited items include paint, shingles, batteries, chemicals, refrigeration items and commercial waste. These items will not be accepted.

The City of Gladewater will provide curbside pick-up for any disabled and senior citizens, as available.

To schedule this complimentary service please call: Gladewater Public Works - 903-845-2196 no later than 12 noon on Friday, April 12th.

Your help is needed to keep our community clean. Volunteers will be meeting at the Ken Bennett Pavilion on E Pacific at 8 AM where they will be dispersed to help in parks and neighborhoods in Gladewater. Trash bags will be provided.



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Dr. Sedric Clark, Superintendent
www.gladewaterisd.com



Todd & Neta Clifton
May the spirit of the Lord fill
your home this Easter and all the
rest of your days.



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Farrell Alexander, President
www.gladewaterchamber.org



Gladewater Primary School
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Kerry Hradecky, Principal
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