

Lee Library damage assessed

The Gladewater City Council will meet Thursday at 6 p.m. to discuss the Lee Public Library, which sustained heavy winter storm damage to the roof and major water damage to the interior.

The city council and members of the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation (GEDCO) toured the library Monday evening as part of a special workshop session to assess the damage and formulate a plan to save the library. City manager Ricky Tow said the city's insurance, through the Texas Municipal League, will not cover the roof which was severely damaged from February's Arctic Storm. Tow said TML insurance adjusters said the roof would not be covered because the roof wasn't properly maintained. They based their findings on multiple poorly executed repairs found on the roof.

Repairs are expected to cost between \$110,000 and \$224,000, depending on which roof design is chosen. Suzanne Bardwell, a member of the Friends of the Library and co-owner of the *Gladewater Mirror*, has already reached out to several foundations in an attempt to secure grants to keep the library open. Thursday night the council will try and figure out what direction it will go concerning the library's future.

Continued on Page 8

Local Upshur tax office closed

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell said Monday she temporarily closed her office's Gladewater branch two weeks ago because her office is "short-staffed," but indicated it could re-open soon.

"We are trying to hire two positions," Howell said in an email after this newspaper learned of the branch's shutdown, and asked her about it. One employee was out for two weeks on emergency leave, she added, while "last week and this week both, we have a person out for vacations that were already on the schedule before the other situations took place."

"When I only have four people available to work the counter in the main office (in Gilmer), I can't afford to send anyone else out," Howell wrote. "I will re-open (the Gladewater branch) once we have enough staff to cover the Gilmer office."

"That could be next week or next month, depending on the staffing situation in the Gilmer office," Howell continued. "I am sorry for any inconvenience; however, the Gilmer office is the top priority and must be staffed before the substations."

The Gladewater branch, located on U.S. 80 in the same building as Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Rhonda Welch's office, was closed part of last year after the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced. It draws business from nearby Big Sandy residents as well as the Gladewater area.



BELOW - City Council member and author Rocky Hawkins, is joined by legendary Gladewater photographer Curtis Bright, city councilwoman and author Brandy Flanagan and best-selling author, screenwriter and Gladewater native son Joe Lansdale were presenters at Gladewater's Night at the Museum Saturday evening. A host of creative community members were honored or remembered for their artistic contributions. This group of writers were just a few of the contributors on hand to share their stories and talent with museum visitors who attended the annual event.

Courtesy Photo



Elizabeth Ferguson was the raffle winner of the stunning quilt handmade by Gladewater Museum Director Elaine Roddy as a fundraiser for the museum.

Courtesy Photo



Robertson, Webber seek Place 4 Council seat

Dennis Robertson and Michael Webber are seeking the Place 4 Gladewater City Council seat currently held by Nick Foster, who chose to not seek another term.

Place 5 Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem Elijah "Sonny" Anderson, Place 6 Councilman Rocky Hawkins and Place 7 Councilman Kevin Clark are unopposed in their bid for another term in office.

The local polling place will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., on May 1 at Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Gladewater City Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. beginning April 19 through April 27, and on Friday, April 23 from 8 a.m. until noon. On April 26 and April 27, early voting by personal appearance will be conducted between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Applications for a ballot by mail should be mailed to Judy Van Houten, City of Gladewater, P.O. Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647. Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 16.

The *Gladewater Mirror* asked the two candidates to answer four questions to help give voters better insight into the two men who are asking to represent them for two years on the council.

Q: Briefly tell us about your educational and/or business background and how that experience and expertise will help you in representing the City Council if elected.

Meet Your LOCAL CANDIDATES



DENNIS ROBERTSON



MICHAEL WEBBER

Webber: I have a bachelor's degree in Management with Industrial Management Concentration and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from LeTourneau University. I work for J-W Power Company as a Business Process Supervisor, where I specialize as a project planner, an efficiency expert, and one who can find creative solutions to challenging situations. My chosen field has put into a position where I have been able to develop, deploy, and replicate sound financial decisions, project planning, and teamwork that not only exceeded original objectives but also came in under budget. All three of these items are key for City Council and something I will bring to the table if elected.

Robertson: I spent my career in higher education, as a professor and administrator at universities in California, Arkansas, and Texas. Most recently I was Professor of Communication and Chair of the Department of Communication at The University of Texas, Tyler. My expertise is Business Communication and Public Relations. I believe my background and experience could be a tremendous help to the City of Gladewater as we reach out farther and wider for new audiences for our downtown area and new businesses for the much-needed industrial growth the city requires. As a Vice President at East Texas Baptist University, I dealt with infrastructure issues, business development, safety, lighting, emergency services, and a host of other city-like functions as the University grew at a rapid pace during my tenure. All these experiences can be correlated to the needs of the City of Gladewater and its residents. My campaign motto is "Let's Build

Continued on Page 7



Gladewater Boy Scout Troop 198 did their part in Saturday's citywide cleanup picking up more than 30 bags of trash and debris along the loop. The troop has adopted the loop as a part of their community service.

Courtesy Photo

Mirror earns NETPA honors

Bardwell INK, LLC owner/publisher Jim Bardwell was one of the featured speakers at the joint spring convention of the North & East Texas Press Association and the West Texas Press Association convention held this past weekend in Rockwall. Bardwell, who is an NETPA board member and currently serving as the statewide Texas Press Association President led a panel in the discussion of "Real Journalism Making a Difference."

"It is important that newspapers - big and small, weekly or daily - serve as not only a voice for the people of the community, but also a watchdog for the taxpayers," Bardwell explained.

The *Gladewater Mirror* earned first place honors in Community Service out of the entire weekly division. Bardwell also won first place in Advertising Design. Suzanne Bardwell won first place in Editorial Writing. The *Gladewater Mirror* also earned second place in Page Design, third place in Sports Writing and Sports Photography. In News Writing the *Mirror* placed third. Jim Bardwell also earned honorable mention in Column Writing. In overall Sweepstakes competition the *Mirror* earned third place honors out

of their region-wide division.

"I am always pleased to be recognized by our peers, but to win the Community Service award and the Editorial Writing award for the fifth year in a row says we are doing our job for our town and the people," Bardwell said. "I am proud that we are so involved in our community and we can make a difference. Most of all, I am so very proud we can serve as a trusted vehicle so others can help their neighbors. It is truly a team effort including our readers and advertisers."

Bardwell also presented the TPA annual report, legislative update and the annual memorial tribute. Suzanne Bardwell also is an NETPA board member serving as scholarship chair for NETPA. The Bardwells have both served as NETPA past presidents. Jim Bardwell is a past recipient of the Sam Holloway Journalism Award, and the Bardwells have both received the Tom Mooney Friend of the Newspaper Award.

Bardwell INK, LLC includes the *Gladewater Mirror*, *White Oak Independent* and the *Lindale News & Times*.

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Abbott: No government mandated vaccine passports in Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order last week banning state agencies, cities or counties from creating a "vaccine passport" requirement.

In addition, organizations that receive public funds are prohibited from requiring consumers to prove they have received the COVID-19 vaccine. That includes businesses that receive money from the state in return for providing goods and services.

However, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities can still require that their residents are vaccinated under his order.

"Every day, Texans are returning to normal life as more people get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. But, as I've said all along, these vaccines are always voluntary and never forced," Abbott said.

Vaccines continue steady rise across state

As of Sunday, just more than 9 million Texans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 5.46 million are fully vaccinated, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. DSHS urges those who have not been vaccinated to go to the state's Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler, which can be found at getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov.

Meanwhile, the state's weekly shipment of COVID-19 vaccines dropped this week after a manufacturing error in a Baltimore plant ruined a 15-million batch of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Last week, the state received 2.5 million doses from the three manufacturers, an amount that dropped to 1.9 million this week, as J&J plays catchup. The company has pledged to deliver 100 million doses nationwide by the end of May, according to an NPR report. J&J reduced its Texas allocation this week by about 350,000.

COVID-19 cases rise, but deaths drop

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas rose to 24,333 last week, up more than 2,500 from the previous week, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

The number of deaths decreased to 512, down nearly 20 percent from the previous week. At its peak in January, the state recorded more than four-fold the number of deaths with 2,311 recorded in a single week. At this point, nearly 50,000 Texans have died from COVID-19.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized stayed steady at 2,804, according to DSHS.

Contempt order against salon owner tossed out

The Texas State Supreme Court on Friday threw out a contempt order against a Dallas salon owner who refused to close last year when all non-essential businesses were ordered.

Shelley Luther tore up a cease-and-desist order from Dallas County and was fined \$7,000 and sentenced to a week in jail. The high court ruled unanimously that the restraining order was too vague, and that the contempt of court decree issued by a district judge should be voided as well.

Luther's defiance sparked national coverage, prompting Abbott to reverse part of his order that called for jail time for business owners who did not shut down last year after the pandemic outbreak.

Luther ran as a Republican for state Senate last year, losing in a December runoff to Drew Springer, R-Muenster.

Paxton drawing potential high-profile opponents

Two candidates with famous surnames are planning to run against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in 2022, according to several media outlets.

Paxton, under indictment since 2015 on securities fraud charges, is also battling a whistleblower lawsuit filed by former employees accusing him of bribery and improper dealings with an Austin investor. He denies wrongdoing in both cases.

Democrat Joe Jaworski, a former Galveston mayor and a grandson of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, announced his plans to run last summer. And last week, George P. Bush, state land commissioner and grandson of President George H. W. Bush, told a talk-radio host that he is considering challenging Paxton next year in the Republican primary. Paxton has indicated he will run for a third term.

...when my name is called

Journalism gets a bad rap. Especially print. There have been, and are, times when even your hometown newspaper folks take a few hard raps on their ink-stained fingers. Sometimes a justified lick, sometimes just an angry one.

My lifelong journalist hubby and I just got back from a joint convention of the North & East Texas Press and West Texas Press associations. Jim was one of the session speakers. His topic was "Journalism that Matters". The discussion included stories from community journalists about how the small-town, and a few larger newspapers, had worked to save museums, libraries, community food ministries, support local school district needs and shine light in often, artificially and strictly controlled dark corners of city, county and state government.

I know many of you have a righteously critical opinion where the 24-hour news cycle is concerned and especially about 'talking heads' who use controversy to spark ratings and sell advertising, or maybe just to make a name for themselves. I get it. I really do. But most of what you see on the 24-hour news programs is NOT news. It is commentary. That means opinion. Which is fine if it is clearly understood to be opinion. That is where you come in. YOU, the viewer and reader, need to understand the difference and know when you are being manipulated for profit or politics or ego. That requires discernment and thoughtful consumption of news labeled sources. But journalism, at the local level is so much more.

One of Jim's responsibilities at the convention was to give a memorial report on the people in our regions who we lost to death this past year. As my sweet husband's voice read the long list of names, and occasionally broke over a particularly dear friend, I thought about the work these people gave their lives to. The high school sports they had covered, the unpopular, but needed changes they had helped spark in their communities. Their lifelong dedication to their hometowns.

And, I thought about the void their deaths would leave. In many of our communities small newspapers, and even larger ones, are being closed or gobbled up by corporations which then eliminate offices, local reporting and close interaction with the community.

Most of our small town papers cover city council, school board and county government where your taxes are at work or wasted. Some of us pay to broadcast city council meetings at our own expense with no underwriting advertising just because we want to make sure taxpayers are informed. We pay videographers, photographers and writers to cover events, school sports and more. More often than not, it is the

Suzanne Bardwell



aging owners of these small community papers doing the bulk of the work themselves. And trust me, it isn't for the money or the glory. It is a calling.

Despite what you may have been led to believe, a free press is absolutely necessary for a healthy democracy. The press is one of the first things that autocrats from the left and the right attack and discredit so that their message is the only one heard. Have you considered the importance of hearing and reading perspectives and opinions different from your own? Democracies survive and thrive when different sides of the political aisle have to work together to compromise.

And if you are holding the Constitution, as we do in our ink-stained hands, as your political bible, I would like to point out that Journalism is the ONLY privately owned business specifically protected by the Founding Fathers. Men who hotly debated political perspectives and came from different sides of early political American aisles. You can find what are considered Americans' most sacred rights protected in the First Amendment: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to assemble and petition the government.

If you would like to help continue the life of community journalism and protect rights and taxpayer interests there are a few things you can do. First is to subscribe and read your hometown newspaper. Second, give gift subscriptions and introduce new readers, family members and neighbors to the historical oracle of your hometown. If you need a reason, try because if these doors close your stories don't cease to be important, they cease to be told. And the light? Well, it gets a lot dimmer in the corners, and that may matter a very great deal.

Some day my name and Jim's will be read from that memorial list as well. When that time comes I pray that what we have left behind for you is a legacy that has made a difference. But I also pray that our newspapers continue to cover and tell the stories that readers NEED to know and not just what they want to know. There is a difference and that difference is what will make this little corner of the world a better place.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Show Us The Money

Even before the pandemic, Texas schools faced daunting challenges. About 88% of students were economically disadvantaged.

Two ethnic groups that comprised about two-thirds of enrollment (and rapidly growing) held less than 8% of the state's wealth. Many districts had massive infrastructure deficiencies, while others struggled to keep pace with explosive growth. As if that weren't enough, Texas ranked 41st nationally in spending per student.

Then came COVID! Recent studies estimate the learning loss over the past year to be five to nine months on average, with more than 10% of students completely disengaged. These losses came despite Herculean efforts by districts and heroic professionals throughout the state to respond quickly and to cope with a rapidly unfolding crisis never before imagined.

Overcoming this massive deficit and building the workforce that is absolutely essential to future prosperity and competitiveness requires urgent and immediate action. It also requires money – for extended days and hours, teacher training, technology, broadband, tutoring, outreach,

equipment, ventilation, materials, revamping spaces, personnel, interventions, supplemental learning opportunities, and even nutrition for a substantial portion of students and their families (an absolutely essential ingredient for success).

The original CARES Act provided substantial funding to support schools in these efforts. While some of these funds that came to Texas ended up in local districts, the Comptroller has acknowledged that much of the money was used to offset other outlays. In other words, it supplanted, rather than supplemented, existing public school resources.

The two recent stimulus measures both acknowledged the seriousness of the situation and provided extensive payments to aid in restoring the education system. Texas is receiving about \$17.9 billion in total, about 90% of which is expected to go to local schools. Many states have already distributed the funds, and institutions around the country are rapidly implementing innovative initiatives to address their unique needs. Flexibility is essential. The federal programs allow the money to be spent over three years, a practical recognition of the effort required to fully address the enormity of the task at hand.

As of the time that I am writing, Texas is well into the biennial budget cycle but has

not yet released the funds or even created a mechanism to assure that they will be provided without any diversions. The needs of areas across the vast and diverse expanse that is Texas vary markedly, and districts need the resources expeditiously to sustain the rebuilding and enhancements that must occur.

Texas schools are the lifeblood of our communities and the linchpin to our destiny. They should receive these funds without any unnecessary delays, restrictions, drama, or shenanigans.

Show us the money! The kids of Texas deserve it, and the fortunes of Texas demand it. Stay safe!



- The Honorable State Senator Bryan Hughes**
P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711 (512) 463-0101
100 Independence Place, Suite 301, Tyler, Texas 75703 (903) 581-1776
- The Honorable State Rep. Jay Dean**
Room E2.908, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768 (512) 463-0750
101 E. Methvin, Suite 103, Longview, Texas 75601 903-238-8452
- Governor Greg Abbott**
P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428 (512) 463-1762
- Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick**
1400 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-0001
- Attorney General Ken Paxton**
300 W. 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-2100
- Commissioner Sid Miller, Texas Department of Agriculture**
1700 N. Congress, 11th Floor, Austin, TX 78701 (512) 463-7476
- Comptroller Glenn Hegar**
111 East 17th Street, Austin, TX 78774 (512) 463-4444
- Courthouse Switchboard Phone Number**
(903) 758-6181
- Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt**
(903) 236-8420
- Pct. 1 Commissioner Ronnie L. McKinney**
(903) 663-0400
- Pct. 2 Commissioner Darryl Primo**
(903) 759-3611
- Pct. 3 Commissioner Floyd Wingo**
(903) 759-8962
- Pct. 4 Commissioner John Mathis**
(903) 981-1117
- Gregg County Sheriff's Office**
(903) 236-8400

DID YOU SUFFER DAMAGE BECAUSE OF TEXAS POWER OUTAGE?

Those who have suffered an injury, lost a loved one, sustained home or business damage or property loss may be entitled to significant compensation.

Call us toll-free at: 800-444-9112

Pulaski Kherkher, PLLC, Principal Office:
2925 Richmond Ave #1725, Houston, TX 77098

North & East Texas Press Association

TA TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Gladewater Mirror

Periodicals Postage Paid
Gladewater, TX
USPS 575-140
ISSN Number 1045-5671

The Gladewater Mirror is published weekly by Bardwell Ink, LLC
211 N. Main Street
Gladewater, TX

POSTMASTER:
Send PS3579 to
The Gladewater Mirror
P.O. Box 1549
Gladewater, TX 75647

Subscriptions are \$35/year in Gregg, Smith & Upshur counties and payable in advance.

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

Office Hours
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Telephone: 903-845-2235

Fax: 903-845-2237

Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

Owners:
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell

Advertising: Suzanne Bardwell

Office Manager: Tiffany Harroff

MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE

Hebrews 13: 4 says: "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." The idea today is that there is no standard for marriage and the home. In other words, marriage and the home are in a constant state of flux, and is to be defined by the whims of people of each succeeding generation. Thus, people today define marriage, home, and family the way they choose. If they don't think something is wrong with their newly defined marriage and home, then it is not wrong for them, and no one else should be judgmental and criticize. Therefore, marriage, home, and family are defined today to mean what people want it to mean. Family to some, means people of the same sex living together, multiple men and women living together, people who have put marriage partners on and off like changing clothes, or unmarried people cohabitating. More and more people want to do away with marriage altogether.

Gloria Steinam, in a speech in Houston, Texas said: "For the sake of those who wish to live in equal partnership, we have to abolish and reform the institution of legal marriage." Mary Jo Bane, former Assistant Secretary of Administration for Children and Families under the Clinton Administration said: "In order to raise children with equality, we must take them away from families and communally raise them. It (divorce) makes for better family life...Divorce improves the quality of marriage."

Due to such wrong-headed thinking, we are witnessing the breakdown of the home and family, which is leading to the destruction of our nation. But Hebrews 13: 4 means nothing to people who reject God and consider the Bible an outmoded book. To these, marriage, instead of being honorable, is dishonorable, but to God, sexual relationships outside of marriage, or in an unscriptural marriage, defiles those involved. Sadly, the originator of truth, the Creator of man, marriage, and the home, is pushed aside, His will is ignored, sneered at, and perverted. Such ungodly conduct may be sanctioned and praised by government, but God will be the final Judge. (2 Cor. 5: 10). Think on these things.

Dennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454-White Oak, TX 75693-903-845-6139-preachab@suddenlink.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING

OBITUARIES



Manna House family food boxes are often customized to include foods for kids or convenience for seniors such as peanut butter, macaroni and cheese and cereal. Family food boxes may be picked up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the southwest corner of city hall. Food donations may also be dropped off at that time or at the Gladewater Mirror, 211 N. Main Street during business hours. Financial donations should be mailed to: Manna House, P.O. Box 808, Gladewater 75647.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



The mother-daughter volunteer team of Sylvia Whitlock and Debra Carter of First Christian Church, want everyone to know that the Clothes Closet is open and everyone of all ages is welcome to come and meet their clothing and shoe needs at no cost. The Clothes Closet is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the southwest corner of City Hall behind Manna House.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



Bardwell INK owner Jim Bardwell leads a session of the joint North & East Texas Press Association and West Texas Press Association joint spring convention this past weekend in Rockwall. Bardwell is currently serving as the statewide Texas Press Association president and serves on the NETPA board of directors. He also represents TPA in the National Newspaper Association.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

Guided walk in the Sabine National Forest set for April 24

The public are invited to join Texas Conservation Alliance's (TCA) well-known guide, Larry Shelton, on a walk through the woods in the Sabine National Forest, Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Larry, who is also TCA's National Forest Policy Coordinator, will meet forest visitors at the Boles Field Campground picnic shelter off FM2694 about 14 miles east of Shelbyville. The group will caravan to the trail head, then meander under a canopy of beech and white oak to a beautiful stream. Details, a schedule, and a link to RSVP can be found under the Events tab on the Texas Conservation Alliance website, tcatexas.org. RSVP is highly recommended, in case weather or other factors necessitate change or cancellation. Anyone who has RSVP'd will be sent a detailed schedule and notified of any changes.

For more information, anyone interested in joining the walk can contact Texas Conservation Alliance at contact@tcatexas.org.

Countywide cleanup set for Saturday

The Upshur County government will host a "County Wide Cleanup," at which county

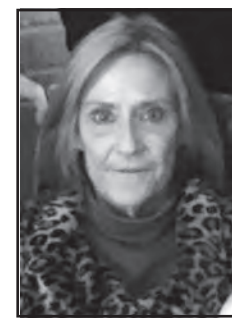
residents can dump certain items which are worn out or damaged, in the Pritchett community Saturday. The event is scheduled, as long as dumpster space is available, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the county pug mill site on Cottonwood Road.

Examples of items which can be dumped, said county Precinct 3 Commissioner Mike Ashley, are household trash, old indoor and outdoor furniture, appliances that don't contain Freon, unusable musical instruments and old lawn mowers.

Etex Telephone Cooperative will be present to recycle appliances, computer towers, batteries and various metals. Persons bringing such items are asked to have them sorted so they can all be removed at one time.

Only households, not businesses, may participate, and trips are limited to one for truck or trailer combination, two for car/sport utility vehicle.

Individuals must also present either a voter registration card or vehicle registration card to prove residence in Upshur County.



DONALYN AUDAS SMITH

Born February 9, 1959 she grew up in Gladewater. Where she went on to teach at Broadway Elementary School for 25 years. Her coworkers lovingly recall how "she could teach a rock to read". She and Joe David, her husband of almost 40 years, loved spending time with family.

They especially enjoyed being with their beloved son, Derek, and their grandchildren, Owen and Lee. Being "Meme" to her grandsons was her greatest accomplishment and greatest joy in life.

Donalyn passed away on Friday, April 9, 2021 at her home in Gladewater. She was preceded in death by her father Donald Audas and niece Whitney Sasser.

She is survived by her husband, Joe David; their son and daughter in law Derek and Shauna Smith of Union Grove their grandsons, Owen and Lee Smith, her mother MaryLue Audas and sister Kimberly Thornton and nephews Trent and Creed Sasser of Gladewater.

Memorial graveside services will be held 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, 2021, for family and close friends at the Union Grove Cemetery.

Online tributes and condolences can be made at www.croleyfh.net



Advertise your TAKE OUT and DINE-IN service here!
Call Suzanne at 903-845-2235!

903-845-2318

Guadalupe's

101 E Pacific Ave, Gladewater
100% occupancy for Dining in!
Curbside pickup available!




Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator



REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
855-672-2446

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Please join us at a Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Dr Pattie Ruth Harris

Saturday, April 17, 2021
2 p.m.

Siloam Missionary Baptist Church
13496 CR 371, Winona, Texas 75792

* Due to COVID 19 precautions, this memorial service will be conducted outside. We ask that you join us in your vehicle, in the parking lot of Siloam Missionary Baptist Church.

Directions from Gladewater, Texas: Head West on Highway 271 going towards Tyler. Exit left to County Road 371. Travel a mile to Siloam Church

Directions for Tyler, Texas: Head East on Highway 271 going towards Gladewater, Texas. Exit right on County Road 371. Travel a mile to Siloam Church.

Sincerely,
The Family of Dr. Pattie Harris



**ONE CALL
ONE LOW
PRICE**

Advertise Your
Business or Event
STATEWIDE
Regional ads available

Contact this newspaper
for more information

903-845-2235

Chicken Fried Steak Festival

April 22-25, Lamesa, TX

- More than 100 booths
- Fireworks display
- 5K Run • Live Music
- Children's Story Time
- Flippinout Trampolines
- Petting Zoo • Car Show
- Kickball Tourney • Homerun Derby
- Chicken Fried Steak Cookoff and Dinner
- Carnival Games • Worship Service • Parade
- Mister and Miss Chicken Fry Pageant
- Volleyball Tourney • Pet Costume Contest

For more info go to <http://www.ci.lamesa.tx.us/>
Call 806-872-4322 ext. 332

Police Activity Report

Table with columns: CALL DATE, CALL DESC, CFS#, CALL TIME, BUSINESS NAME, ADDRESS. Lists police activities from 4/5/21 to 4/8/21.

Police Activity Report

Table with columns: CALL DATE, CALL DESC, CFS#, CALL TIME, BUSINESS NAME, ADDRESS. Continues police activities from 4/9/21 to 4/12/21.

GPD Arrest Report

Table with columns: ARREST DATE, ARREST TIME, FULL NAME, RACE, SEX, OFFENSE, LOCATION ADDRESS. Shows an arrest on 4/10/21 by Kevin Endree.

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

KING PLUMBING
NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELS • SERVICE
RMP DENNIS KING
903-539-1716
Gas Lines, Water Heaters & Roto Rooter

WHY BUY LOCAL?
Build Community!
The casual encounters you enjoy at independent businesses and the public spaces around them nurture relationships, community cohesiveness, and smiles. They're the ultimate social networking sites!

Call Dr. Barry Hail, Chiropractor
Don't Just Live With Neck Pain... Headaches Shoulder & Lower Back Pain...
903-725-4357

Your money shouldn't stop working when you do.
Dallas D Long Financial Advisor
Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Bud's DISCOUNT TIRES
Highway 80 East Gladewater 845-5186
YOUR HOMETOWN TIRE STORE
BUD MAHAFFEY Owner & Operator

Black Dog Designs and Builders
Commercial and Residential Construction, remodeling and repair. Over 40 years of experience.
Call 903-663-0936

SM Tree Service, Stump Grinding & Lawn Care
No job is too small!!! Tree service, hauling off trees, stump grinding, box blading, driveways, brush hogging, lawn care, weed eating and clean up
903-402-9647

Pet Grooming
Lori Rushing Owner/Stylist 44 Years Experience
313 North Pearl Street Big Sandy, TX 75755
Appointments: 214-384-5878

Get your business noticed! Just \$15/week Call 903-845-2235

Robertson, Webber seek Place 4 Council seat

Continued from Page 1

Gladewater Better Together," and I believe my experience and expertise will be an invaluable asset to the city as we move forward.

Q - Since one of you previously served on the council and the other is a newcomer, please answer this question accordingly: Please tell us what your greatest accomplishment was while serving on the city council or what is your greatest accomplishment while serving on a city board or committee.

WEBBER: I am a political new comer, I have never served on the City Council before nor have I been on any city boards or committee. To me, this is a strength when it comes to this position because I come into the position with a fresh, new approach. I have served on several boards and organizations around the city and have been highly involved with Gusher Days, Arts and Crafts Festivals, Watch DOG programs, and the Gladewater Museum. I have served on several Boosters for the schools and served on the board both for the Gladewater Softball and Baseball Associations; I'm currently still serving on the Board for the Baseball. I use the word Serve because that is exactly what it is. I have been there, not for what it could do for me, but more importantly what I can do for them. I am known around Gladewater for being someone that you can count on, someone that will roll their sleeves up and get to, because I have been there. I strive for teamwork and push hard for proper communication. If given the chance by the voters, I will continue to provide the same dedication to the City and the Citizens that I have done for other organizations.

ROBERTSON: During my service on the City Council we developed major infrastructure projects, replaced outdated and crumbling water and sewer pipes, improved the water treatment plant, and started building a new sewer treatment plant at our facility near the new Middle School. We also hired two outstanding City Managers who led some of these efforts. We improved the baseball/softball complex, eventually paving much of the parking areas around the fields. I personally lobbied for improvements to our road repair and construction, eventually purchasing new street repair equipment that enabled our crews to patch our potholes and streets in a more professional manner. All these accomplishments led to an improvement in the quality of life for residents of our great city. There's plenty more that needs to be done, and that's why I am seeking another term on Gladewater's City Council.

Q - Please tell the voters how you propose to fix the city streets and the city's aging water/sewer infrastructure?

WEBBER: This is not a simple question to answer, or it would have already been answered by now and the fixes implemented. This is more complex than most people know because we do not have an adequate plan in place to address.

The first thing I would seek it to develop a map of all of the City's water/sewer piping. It is my understanding that such a map is either missing pieces or not even developed. Before you can begin the process of fixing the issues, you have to have a full understanding of what you are working with. Planning is the key here. Before we can fix the roads, we have to fix the water/sewer. It does not make sense to repave a road and then a year later, tear it up so you can fix the pipe. That would be spending your money twice and if you would have planned it properly, we could stretch out the money we do have.

Money is the second major issue here. The City is strapped with quite a few loans that keep us constrained on potential fixes and major repairs/renovations. The past 6 years of budgets show that we allocated \$50,000 to streets, which when you look at the bigger picture, that is not enough to do much more than patch work that is currently being done. A loan/bond would

Meet Your LOCAL CANDIDATES



DENNIS ROBERTSON



MICHAEL WEBBER

make sense to get these done but can we as a City be able to support those payments? Would more loans set us back even more? I have heard other's say that we could use GEDCO funding to pay for this. On the surface that sounds like a great potential, but we must remember why GEDCO is there and the purpose behind the organization.

We cannot rely on others to bail us out nor can we continue to borrow our way out of problems. Sometimes, the best approach is learning to live within your means and strapping the belt down a little tighter until we can afford to stretch out. We are stretched out a lot as a City right now and we have some major loans that we are currently paying and will continue to pay for several years.

This will not be a popular answer, but I do believe it is a great approach and something that we desperately need to do.

ROBERTSON: As I said in the previous answer, we have made many improvements in our aging infrastructure over the last several years, but we have a long way to go to rectify what is becoming a crisis for many small cities in Texas. Some of our water lines and sewer lines are still more than 50 years old; some are probably 60 or 70 years old, and they must be replaced. Replacement, however, is a costly process that few cities can afford in one fell swoop. A one-time fix that would update and upgrade our entire system would cost tens of millions of dollars. We have to tackle it one section at a time, as budgets permit, but that is often agonizingly slow. As we chip away at this problem, much of the system gets older and older. I will propose a new comprehensive plan that will outline what we need to do and where we need to be over the next 20 years to completely revamp our entire water/sewer infrastructure. The plan - Gladewater 2040 - will not only map out what needs to be done and when, but it will propose ways the City can pay for such an expensive endeavor. It will require major growth in our revenue base, and that will be dependent on a host of new companies and factories relocating

in and around Gladewater. Without this growth, the City will always be a day late and a dollar short when it comes to planning budgets that address our growing infrastructure problems.

Q: 3. Finally - the Lee Library sustained major damage from the February Artic Storm. Are you for or against saving the library and why? If you are for saving the library, please tell us how the city can pay for the repairs that TML insurance won't.

WEBBER: Our Public Library sustained significant damages from water pipes during the freeze we experienced in the middle of February. I fully support saving the library and doing what we can, within our means, to get it back up and functional. Library are not just facilities that have books and magazines, they are an institution to promote a desire to learn, foster new ideas, and drive people to achieve more. I remember the library from my hometown and how I would spend 8-10 hours a week in there, reading books, researching concepts, and feeding my desire to know. Our library deserves to be saved; it is a vital part of our community. Not only does it need to be saved, but it also needs to be elevated to 2021 standards.

With that said, we come back to the same problem as was presented with the water/sewer and roads issue; we do not have a lot of money to work with to make this happen. I think it would benefit the city to possibly contract an individual or company that specializes in grants and such that could help us be better positioned to win some of the grants that are out there to help rebuild the library.

One of my concerns in building the library up to 2021 standards is that the facility may be too small to fully accommodate. Perhaps we should evaluate the current facility, forecast the potential needs, and plan the proper approach with the Library. Maybe the best approach would be to replace the building with either a newer building or maybe a joint venture with the schools; where we could move the library into an existing structure that could possible afford all of the space and layout needs and stretch what money we have to get the most for the dollars we have.

ROBERTSON: I am and always will be a supporter of our library. Lee Library has been a bedrock of learning for thousands of men and women and boys and girls over the many years it has existed. It would leave a cultural gap in our City if it were to disappear. I realize that new technologies make access to books and learning more readily available from homes and schools, but a depository of knowledge like Lee Library can bridge the gap among those who don't have such access, or those who prefer the more familiar sight and touch of a good book, a newspaper, or a magazine. One of my fondest memories of my childhood is sitting in my little hometown library dreaming about the world, and the adventures that awaited a young boy from a small town in Arkansas. That was the beginning of my pursuit of knowledge that led eventually to my Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Texas in Austin. Paying for the repairs needed will be a challenge for the City budget. Outside funds will be necessary to finish what TML will not. We should look for major grants available to small-town libraries from state and federal agencies. A city-wide fundraiser would also benefit the library and get all our citizens involved in saving Lee Library. I do think the City itself should set aside dollars necessary for some of the repairs. That's part of what our City budget is for, but we will never find enough in our City coffers to satisfy the needs of the library.



WOMS students of the month Ethan Even and Tiffani Watts were presented their Lion's Club certificates by Principal Chis Langford.

Courtesy Photo



Lion's Club students of the month for March Josue Ventura and Izzy Mize were honored with certificates by Principal Chris Langford.

Courtesy Photo

School Calendar

GISD Calendar

- 4/14, Wednesday**
Librarian Appreciation Day
Progress Reports
Area Track Meet@New Diana
- 4/15, Thursday**
SpEd Zoo Trip
Adv. Eng. to Medieval Times
Area Track Meet@New Diana
- 4/16, Friday**
4:30/7 p.m. JV/V Baseball@New Diana
6 p.m. Softball@New Diana
- 4/17, Saturday**
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday School
- 4/20, Tuesday**
Regional Track Meet@Whitehouse
4:30/7 p.m. JV/V Baseball@WO
6 p.m. Baseball Senior Night
- 4/23, Friday**
Student Holiday/Teacher Prof. Dev.
Regional Track Meet@Whitehouse
4:30/7 p.m. JV/V Baseball@WO
- 4/26, Monday**
Ag Officer Interview & Test Ag Rooms
- 4/27, Tuesday**
School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
TSI Testing
4:30/7 p.m. Baseball vs. Ore City-H

UGISD Calendar

- 4/14, Wednesday**
9 a.m. Area Track@Beckville
Stomp Out Child Abuse-wear boots or shoes
School Librarian Appreciation Day
- 4/15, Thursday**
Virtual College Fair
FFA VI Forage
Peace Out to Child Abuse-wear tie-dye/peace signs
- 4/16, Friday**
4 p.m. V baseball@New Summerfield
4 p.m. softball@New Summerfield
UIL Regional Academic Contest@Panola College
Blue Day-wear blue
- 4/17, Saturday**
UIL Regional Academic Contest@Panola College

OIL FIELD SPECIAL AUTO SHOW

MAY 1, 2021 \$10 ENTRY FEE
AUGUST 14, 2021 \$10 ENTRY FEE
OCTOBER 2, 2021 \$20 ENTRY FEE

DOWNTOWN
GLADEWATER, TEXAS

Show dates & times

5-1-21 @ 10am-2pm
8-14-21 @ 9am-1pm
10-2-21 @ 10am-2pm

25 % off food at Booshay's
door prizes
lots of awards
50/50 drawing

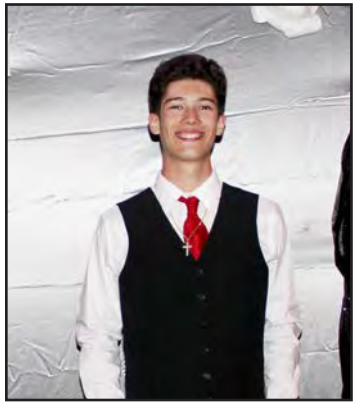
Sponsored by

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce
Gladewater Mirror
Booshay's

for more information; Ronnie 903-253-3213

Who's Who

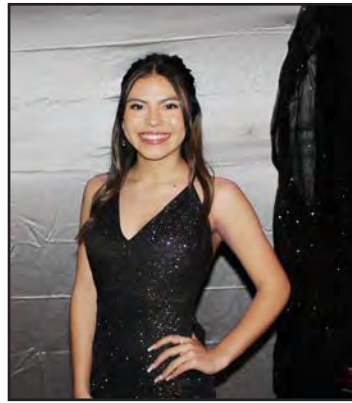
Departmental Awards



Agriculture
Lucas Miles



Art
Elixabeth Gribble



Band
Pamela Zarate



BNN
Nick Lincoln



Business
Jayden Shirey



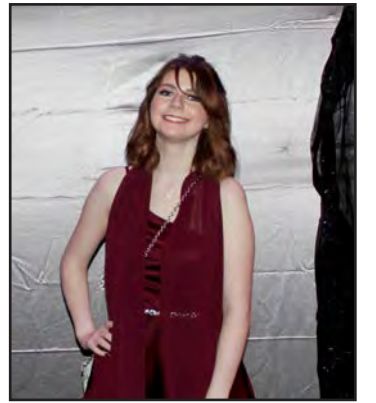
Varsity Cheer
Mia Medina



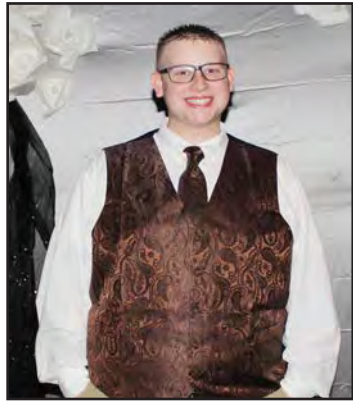
Choir
Shanilah Gordon



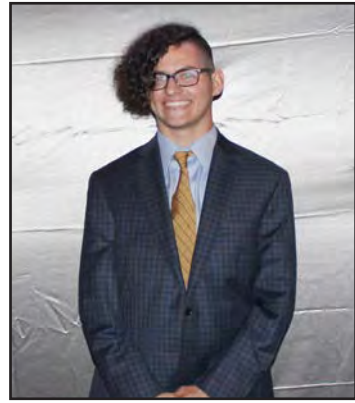
Counseling & Mental Health
Deja Martin



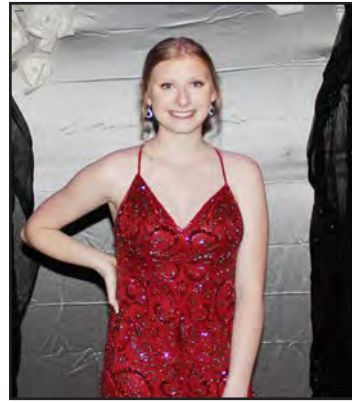
English
Megan Cooper



FCCLA
Hunter Jones



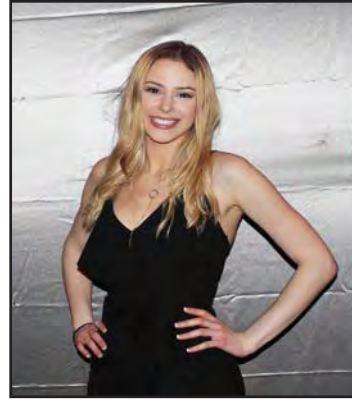
Graphic Design
Jay Ramo



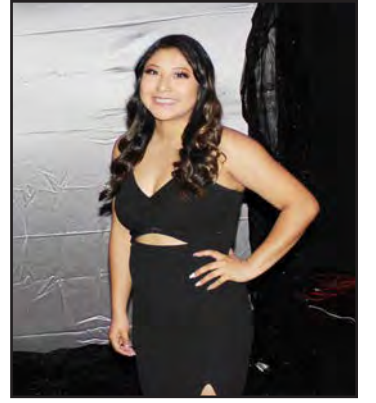
HoneyBears
Mady Timmons



Library Aide
Derrion Simmons



Math
Cassie Steele



Science
Cinthia Vicente

NOT PICTURED

Diversified Career Prep
Jennifer Rivera

Office Aide
Felipe Gomez

Theater
Garrett Defreese



Dwayne Barnhill and Eddie Goode

www.walkerpharmacy.net

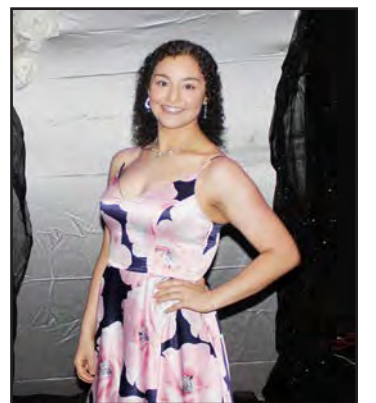
Who's Who
Sponsored by:
Walker Pharmacy



Your Locally Owned Health Mart PHARMACY
402 B W. Upshur Ave
Gladewater
903-845-2573



Social Studies
Edith Alvarez



Spanish
Nayeli Aguillon

Gladewater Area Ladies Association Scholarship & Charity Garage Sale

Saturday, April 17th
8 AM to 4 PM

Gladewater Bible Church Gym
115 Money Street
Gladewater

**All proceeds benefit GISD
Seniors' Scholarship Fund**

Lee Library damage assessed

Continued from Page 1

At the Monday walk-through councilmen Nick Foster and Scott Owens questioned how the city could ask taxpayers to put that much money in the library. Foster said he wasn't against the library, he was just against cutting a check that big when the city faces other financial hurdles.

Councilman Rocky Hawkins said the library was very important to the community and its residents and he wanted to pursue its repair.

Library supporters want to modernize the Lee Library and add work stations and computer labs so more people can use the library to look for a job online or file for benefits.

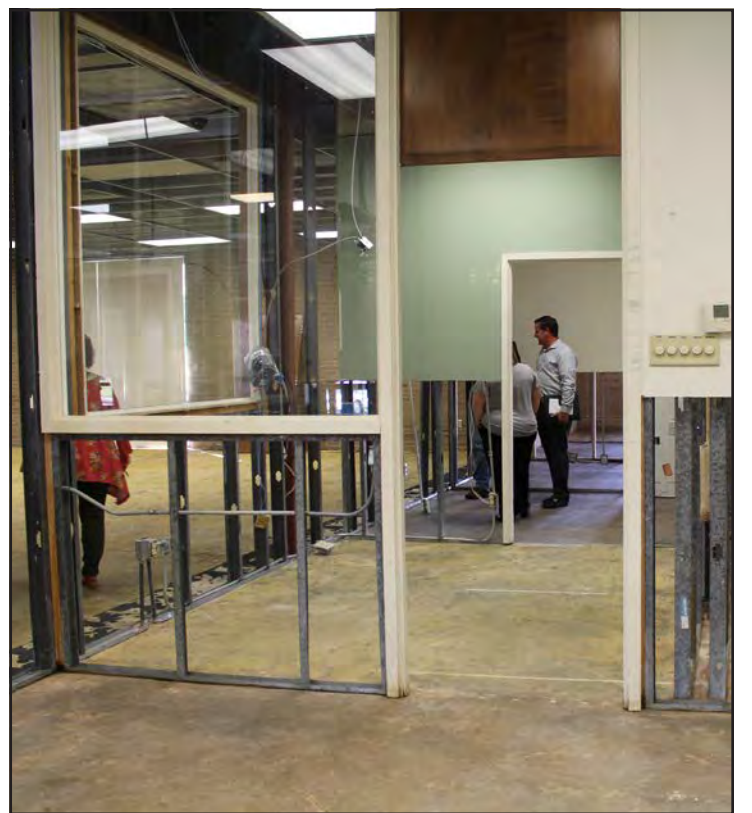
Gladewater Mayor JD Shipp

said there were "lots of questions" and that's why he wanted everyone to walk through the gutted library building - sheetrock removed from the lower half of all walls and ceiling tiles missing along with all carpet, tile and furniture and books - so they could make a better informed decision Thursday.

The city needs to get the building assessed for asbestos before it can move forward and obtain any solid replacement figures.

In other business on the April 15 agenda include:

- Ratification of Investment Policy
- Investment Report for Quarter Ending March 31, 2021
- Blanket Permit for "The Oilfield Special" 1-day Car Show sponsored by the Gladewater Mirror to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021
- Blanket Permit for Senior Graduation Parade to be held on Friday, May 21, 2021
- HOT report for January 2021-March 2021
- Public hearing and possible action regarding a request for a variance to City of Gladewater Code of Ordinance in connection to City .
- The council will hear from city department heads regarding the 2nd quarter - City Hall/ Finance, Code Enforcement, GEDCO, Fire Department, Library, Police Department, and Public Works/Streets/Water/Wastewater.
- The council will consider a resolution authorizing application for financial assistance from Texas Water Development Board for water system improvements and consider authorizing the issuance of City of Gladewater General Obligation Refunding Bonds.
- Consider changing the use of budgeted line-item from zero turn lawnmower to air packs
- Consider board reappointments - Airport, Beautification, Board of Adjustments, Lake and Planning & Zoning.



Cell phone use, other distractions cause 1 in 5 traffic crashes

Sadly, distracted driving is still near the top of the list when it comes to crashes on Texas roadways, coming in at No. 2 for traffic crash causes. Last year Texas roadways saw nearly 1 in 5 crashes caused by a distracted driver in which 364 people died and 2,200 were seriously injured.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and TxDOT is reminding all Texans to put their phones down and give driving their full attention whenever they are behind the wheel.

"A serious or fatal crash can happen in an instant," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "If you're distracted by your phone, or doing anything else that takes your focus away from driving, you're putting yourself, your passengers and everyone else on the road at risk. Distracted driving crashes are 100 percent preventable. Driving should be your number one priority behind the wheel - everything else can wait."

Since September 1, 2017, it has been illegal to read, write or send a text while driving in Texas. Violators can face a fine up to \$200.

TxDOT offers these tips to prevent distracted driving that can lead to a ticket, or worse, a crash:

- * Always give driving your full attention.
- * Pull off the road entirely and come to a complete stop before you talk or text.
- * Put your phone away, turn it off, or use an app or your phone settings to block texts and calls while driving.
- * Tell friends, family and co-workers you won't respond to texts or calls while driving.
- * Remember that all distractions are dangerous, so pay full attention when behind the wheel.



The lovely home of Janell Roach at 606 Daniel is that April yard of the month. With beautiful blooming shrubs and charming seating to enjoy the changing light of the neighborhood this home offers inspiration for relaxation.

Yard of the Month

Sponsored by



Superior Soils & Fertilizers
(903) 845-2163