

# Gladewater Mirror

Find us on Facebook

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



Thursday, April 11, 2024

Vol. 96, No. 15

1 Section, 10 pages

50¢

# ONCE IN A LIFETIME

## Freeman steps down from GPD, Ready named interim chief

Gladewater Police Chief Gordon Freeman stepped down Monday after five years at the helm of the police department.

Mayor Scott Owens told the *Mirror* Monday that Freeman resigned "for personal reasons" and added



that the police department is "definitely in better shape than when he came here - in personnel equipment and pay."

Owens said GPD Capt. Kyle Ready will assume the role of interim police chief and it will be up to Gladewater City Manager to determine what the next step will be to filling the position full-time.

Freeman started his law enforcement career in 1987 with the Gregg County Sheriff's Office, he attended the East Texas Police Academy in Kilgore and held several different duty positions within the Sheriff's Office.

In 2000 he joined the Gladewater Police Department as the School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. instructor.

In 2006 he returned to the Gregg County Sheriff's Office as a patrol Deputy and was soon promoted to Sergeant. Freeman retired in 2018 as a Lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office and became the City Marshal with Longview where he was employed until his appointment as Chief of Gladewater Police Department in 2019.



Photo by Jim Bardwell

Whether it was looking through the Gladewater downtown oil derrick or on White Oak ISD and Union Grove ISD campuses - Monday's solar eclipse totality left everyone speechless as they shared this once in a lifetime event.



Photo by Kimber Smith



Photo by Cami Ferguson

## Infrastructure, collaboration become key topics at 2024 candidates forum

By James Draper

With two contested races on the Gladewater City Council ballot, *Gladewater Mirror* Publisher Jim Bardwell was glad to see a healthy turnout for the paper's candidates forum Thursday evening.

"We've had several years where we didn't have anybody seeking office but the incumbent."

Welcoming almost 40 people to Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, Bardwell thanked the candidates for taking part, including mayoral contender and Place 3 incumbent Brandy Flanagan alongside Place 3 challengers Stoney Stone and incumbent Mayor Scott Owens. Mayor hopeful Jim Valentine did not attend - per Bardwell, the candidate had a previous commitment to be out of town and couldn't find a workable date for the dialogue.

"Everybody's been given equal chance," Bardwell noted.

Among the introductions, Flanagan said she moved to Gladewater in her mid-20s, angling to start a business here



FLANAGAN



STONE



OWENS

and contributing to the Boys & Girls Club and other organizations along the way.

"I always say that Gladewater development as the business-woman I am now," a Small Business Development Center consultant serving entrepreneurs in six counties.

Born and raised here, Stone went on from Gladewater High School to study electronics then put in five years at Glade-

water Fire Department ahead of a move to Longview Fire Department before retiring.

"I've lived here all my life - 61 years right here in Gladewater," Stone said. "I've seen the ups and downs, and I'd just like to serve. That's what I did all my life."

Owens explained why he's not running for re-election as mayor - after an initial 10 years on the council, returning under former Mayor J.D. Shipp then his own stint in the central seat, Owens anticipated Flanagan would seek the mayor's chair when she was ready.

That time is now, he added, but "I would like to have a couple more years on the council," hence the campaign for the contested Place 3 spot. "Some of the projects we have going I'd like to see implemented.

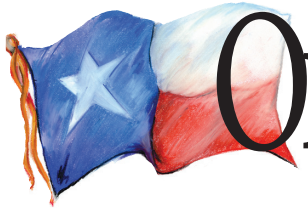
"I've got a lot of experience management-wise, budget-wise, and I just want to serve on the council and see things

Continued on Page 7



Peyton Hunter won the District 15-3A 100 meter dash for the second consecutive year, crossing the finish line in 12.22 seconds. Hunter also anchored the Lady Bears 4x100 relay team to a first place finish in the District 15-3A track meet held in White Oak. The relay team of Jerrica Gilmore, Paytin Thompson, Kyla Lincoln, and Hunter posted a 49.0 time in the event. Hunter amassed an impressive 38 points, triumphing in the triple jump, 100 meter dash, 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay, while also placing second place in the long jump. White Oak's Sophomore Jaxsen Ludlow roared to a gold medal finish in the 400 meter dash at the District 15-3A Track Meet with a time of 52.51.

Photos by Miek Peery



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## Gary Borders Capital Highlights



### Agencies blasted over wildfire oversight

State agencies and regulators were heavily criticized at a Texas legislative hearing for failing to communicate during the deadly Panhandle wildfires, the Texas Tribune reported.

The three-day hearing, held in Pampa, investigated the Smokehouse Creek fire and others that burned more than a million acres, destroyed hundreds of homes, killed up to 10,000 cattle and resulted in two deaths.

State Rep. Ben King, R-Canadian, chaired the committee and said the hearing was difficult but necessary.

"You may not like the line of questions or the tone of questions, but we are here for answers," King told representatives of the state's regulatory agencies last week. "It's not a personal attack on you or your agencies, but it's time for answers."

Xcel Energy has acknowledged that a fallen power line ignited the Smokehouse Creek fire. The company hired by Xcel to perform safety inspections – Osmose Utilities Services – declined to participate in last week's hearings.

### First human case of bird flu detected

The first human case of avian influenza in Texas was reported last week by the Texas Department of State Health Services. It came after contact with infected dairy cattle and is only the second case of a human being infected with bird flu in the United States.

"The risk to the general public is believed to be low; however, people with close contact with affected animals suspected of having avian influenza A(H5N1) have a higher risk of infection," the alert from DSHS said.

Symptoms can include a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, fatigue, eye redness, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or seizures. The alert urged health care providers who see someone who may have the virus to immediately contact their local health department.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the commercial milk supply is considered safe and that milk from infected cattle is being dumped.

### State's lawyer says immigration law maybe 'went too far'

An attorney defending a new state law allowing law enforcement officials to arrest people who cross the border illegally told a panel of federal judges the law possibly "went too far," *The Dallas Morning News* reported. The 5th U.S. Circuit of Appeals previously halted enforcement of the law and is now hearing arguments over its legality.

"What Texas has done here is they have looked at the Supreme Court's precedent and they have tried to develop a statute that goes up to the line of Supreme Court precedent but no further," Texas Solicitor General Aaron Nielson said. "Now to be fair, maybe Texas went too far, and that is the question this court is going to have to decide."

The U.S. Justice Department is arguing that Texas is trying to usurp the federal government's authority to enforce immigration laws, while the state says it wants to work with the federal government.

### State economy expands faster than nation

The state's economy continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole. Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates gross domestic product for Texas grew in 2023 at an annual rate of 5.7%, more than double the national average of 2.5%. The state also continues to lead the nation in job creation, adding almost 50,000 new jobs in February.

"Texas is again outpacing the nation in economic expansion and job growth thanks to the best business climate and the strongest workforce in America," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

While Texas outpaced the national average for GDP growth, a few states posted higher percentage increases – Nevada, Utah and Idaho.

### Distracted driving is deadly driving

Driving the vast highways of Texas can become a bit tiresome, often with hundreds of miles before reaching one's destination. But the Texas Department of Transportation is urging drivers to resist the urge to check that ping of the phone to read a text message or watch the latest social media video a friend sent.

TxDOT reported nearly 400 people died on Texas roadways last year because of distracted driving, and nearly 2,800 suffered serious injuries.

## Happy birthday son ...

From 2015

My grown-up 'kid' has a birthday April 10 and he is spending it in Florida. He won't be seeing Mickey, or hanging out on White Sand Beaches with his sweetheart of a wife. He won't be sight seeing in the Everglades or Keys, but he will be fighting fires and working controlled burns that will prevent horrendous fires in the drought plagued Land of Flowers.

Josh is a bona fide character. He is one of those people who has never met a stranger. He is as comfortable talking to a senator as to his next door neighbor. His funny bone tickles easily and he can tell a story that would make his tale telling ancestors proud.

And boy, does Josh have some tales to tell. He has fought fire all across the United States in something like 44 states. His old Dad and I once traveled all the way to South Dakota to end up eating a meal with him between horrendous fires that were sweeping the prairies. That stint resulted in adulthood in rapid order for our newly college-degreed son and heavily calloused knees for old Mom who spent a lot of time in prayer. A lot. He sat on top of the presidents' heads at Mount Rushmore. He was in a helicopter flown by a Vietnam Vet who put the chopper down in the middle of Sturgis during a violent storm. He and a crew were caught in cross fire in the Black Hills and miraculously survived. He has made friends from one end of this country to the other and all points in between. More than friends, my only child has a large extended family that was forged in those fires.

Marcy Smith's late husband Ernie was a part of that family. He helped train Josh as a very young seasonal firefighter. Ernie was Josh's mentor and role model in many ways. By now there has been a host of Ernies throughout this country. Josh is returning the favor and mentoring the inexperienced rookies passing on the lessons he was taught so well and a legacy of service continues generationally.

Josh is a wildland firefighter with a degree in Forestry and minors in Journalism and history. He is also an EMT and a rural volunteer firefighter. In fact, he and his lovely wife Jennifer, an RN, are the only medically certified first responders within miles and miles of where they live. They make a great team. They make a difference right there in their corner of the world when Josh is not busy working in the wider world and Jenn isn't busy working 12 hour shifts at the hospital.

They have two rescue dogs and three goats. The dogs are well trained despite being the size of shetland ponies. The goats, not



## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



so well behaved. Josh is well informed on politics, domestic and foreign policy and international issues. He has decided views, yet an open mind. He loves history and understands its importance in the present.

He is constantly learning and that is one of my very favorite things about him. Insatiable curiosity is a gift. One he has in abundance. This April 10 I will be recalling some of the experiences that helped to create this strong, unique and loving young man. Dad & Lad and Mom & Me scout camping trips, church family retreats and Day Camp, soapbox cars and rubber band rocket competition, along with a conglomeration of events and experiences that wrote lasting life lessons on the man he was to become.

This Friday I will remember when Josh was 8-years old and we lay in the front yard one warm summer night and found the constellations and talked about creation and its magnificence. And, I will know that his love of nature was something his Dad and I helped nurture. He may not remember that one night out of so many in his life, but I

will never forget it.

Art lessons, Little League, school plays and carnivals, Halloween costumes designed and made by he and his multi-talented Grani, so much fun, so much joy.

There were also all those visits to the ranch where he and his much loved Buddy and MiMi cut and baled hay, chased cows, built fence and cut mesquites in searing heat, and talked for hours on the front porch with feet propped and iced tea in hand. His grandparents really listened and knew well the person Josh was becoming and the vision he had for his future.

That future is here, and Josh's Dad and I couldn't be more proud of the man he has become and the difference he makes. Now don't get me wrong, he is not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, and I do mean any. And frankly, my old knees are ready for him to consider the Forester part of his education for his career.

But whatever he is doing, wherever he is doing it, he is a mighty fine man. And Jim and I could not ask for anymore than that.

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### Homebuying ...

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) recently settled a major federal lawsuit. The primary issue was the compensation to buyers' real estate agents required for homes listed on NAR's multiple-listing services (MLS). While there was the potential for negotiation, most transactions tended to play out according to the default arrangement, with the buyers' and sellers' agents splitting a 6% commission.



In most developed countries, total commissions/fees are a much lower percentage of the purchase than in the US, and a major point of contention was that buyers' agents were earning 2.5% to 3% of the purchase price irrespective of their involvement. Buyers finding a home largely through their own research with only minimal use of an agent's services nonetheless paid the full commission (through higher sales prices to cover the costs, which were technically borne by the seller). With home prices rising rapidly over the past few years (though moderating in some areas now), the compensation to agents climbed proportionately. There will undoubtedly be some changes, as the settlement ended this traditional approach (in addition to a substantial monetary payment).

Several situations may arise going forward. If buyers decide to pay only minimal fees or forego an agent entirely, they may save some money. However, they would also have

to locate desirable properties, negotiate with sellers, deal with inspections and repairs, and go it alone on reviewing contracts and other legal documents (or perhaps hire an attorney).

Effective buyers' agents may possess negotiating skills and knowledge of the market to secure better pricing and selections which could more than justify their commissions. They may also help protect purchasers by insisting on rigorous inspections or facilitating needed repairs prior to closing. Agents may be particularly important to inexperienced buyers or those without the necessary skillsets to effectively navigate the process.

Buyers will have to decide what services they need and how much they are willing to pay. Agents will need to develop a variety of options to meet the market and support their fees/commissions.

We may also see the emergence of new business models which are ultimately beneficial to buyers, sellers, and agents, such as specific services offered at flat fees or hourly rates or other innovations to add value. Since a home is the most expensive asset that most families purchase, many will view a full-service agent as well worth the investment.

There are a variety of questions yet to be answered, but real estate agents who offer a valuable service to buyers will be able to navigate a path toward appropriate compensation. The old patterns may be broken, but new and more flexible ones may offer their own advantages. Such is the nature of a market economy. Stay safe!

### WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO YOU WANT?

I recently read this observation about today's society: "Modern society wants entertainment instead of enrichment and a "good time" rather than a good life." Sadly, we see this played out in the lives of many people, and none of us are immune to the temptation to want the same.

Instead of being spiritually enriched, many only want to be carnally entertained. Many are not interested in whether or not they are living a good life, their priority is only to experience what they style "a good time!"

Hedonism is defined as "The self-indulgent pursuit of pleasure as a way of life." The pursuit of pleasure and entertainment predominates the lives of many people. Having a good time has become the avenue of happiness for some. Having said that, it doesn't mean that I think all entertainment is wrong, happiness is wrong, or having the right kind of good time is wrong. The truth is that clean entertainment isn't wrong, and even has some value. Helen Keller said: "Many persons have a wrong idea about what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." Thus, it is not wrong to have a "good time" as long as we don't have to become less than good to have it!

We need to acknowledge that it is foolish and short-sighted to be so caught up in momentary gratifications that we forget what is important in life. Serving the Lord is where true meaning and purpose in life is to be found. Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (Jn. 10: 10). Knowing that one has forgiveness of sins, access to God in prayer, God's Word for our daily guidance (Ps. 119: 105), spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1: 3), and encouragement of faithful people of God, we can have life in its fullness in this life with the hope of eternal life in Heaven with God after a while (Tit. 1:3; 2: 11-14). What kind of life do you want? The choice is yours. Think on these things.

### Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

North & East 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 \$36/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

Email: gladwatermirror@aol.com

Owners:

Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell  
Reporting: James Draper  
Advertising: Darla Ferguson  
Office Manager: Tiffany Harroff



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children Thursday (April 11) at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer.

"The Girl Who Wouldn't Brush Her Hair" by Kate Bernheimer and Jake Parker, and "Blue Bison Needs a Haircut" by Scott Rothman, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154). Library spokeswoman Victoria Antonmarchi announced the book titles.

While the events are free to the public, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

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

## GHS Class of '84 holding reunion

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

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

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

## Gusher Days schedule of events announced

The East Texas Gusher Days, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Gladewater invite area communities to join the family fun at the 2024 East Texas Gusher

Days. The main event will take place, Friday, April 19th, 1 p.m to 10 p.m and Saturday, April 20th, 8 a.m to 10 p.m. with the Annual Gusher Days Bass Tournament Saturday, April 27th.

Friday, April 19th and Saturday April 20th will feature a unique shopping and dining experience with local arts and crafts and food vendors, live music with street dancing, and plenty of activities for the entire family to enjoy. Children's activities include inflatables, games and face painting.

Reel in the Excitement at Gladewater's Finest Fishing Tournament on Saturday, April 27th at Lake Gladewater! First prize is \$500 Cash, plus a bonus \$250 Gift Card from Skipper's Pier. If the state record is broken, the winner will receive an additional \$250 Skipper's Pier Gift Card.

"This is one of Gladewater's largest annual events," said Ricky Burcalow, East Texas Gusher Days President. "Every year, we look forward to hosting the East Texas Gusher Days, which raises much-needed scholarship funds."

All East Texas Gusher Days proceeds fund scholarships for local High School students, supporting them in their higher education endeavors.

For more information, visit [Gusher-Days.com](http://Gusher-Days.com)

## TBT announces 2023 Employee of the Year

Texas Bank and Trust Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Rogers Pope, Jr. announced the 2023 recipient of the TB&T Employee of the Year Award at the bank's annual employee dinner on Tuesday, March 19.

Hillary Schmidt, who serves as administrative lending assistant in the bank's Lindale market, received this year's honor at the event attended by more than 525 of her fellow co-workers. The Employee of the Year Award is determined by a vote from the bank's officers and recognizes an employee who distinctly exhibits the bank's Core Values of Integrity, Excellence, Mutual Respect, Professionalism, and Joy.

As the 2023 honoree, Mrs. Schmidt's manager described her as "selfless, joyful, exuding positive energy, always on, and never meets a stranger." In addition to her bank duties, which include assisting loan officers with commercial and consumer borrowers, relationship management, and various other general banking needs, Mrs. Schmidt is a tireless contributor to her community. She serves as a volunteer for the Lindale High School Band Booster Club and Volleyball

Booster Club, and provides support for her children's extracurricular activities, including LSA Soccer, Lindale Pewee Football, basketball, and varsity cheer. She and her family participate in Operation Christmas Child each year, and Mrs. Schmidt also serves in the nursery at Rose Heights Church in Lindale, where she and her family are members.

## County cleanup set for April 27th

The Upshur County Commissioners Court will host a free "County-Wide Cleanup" for county residents to dump certain items at the county's rural pug mill Saturday, April 27, announced Precinct 3 County Commissioner Michael Ashley.

The semi-annual event, at 1426 Cottonwood Road in Pritchett community, is set from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (concluding earlier if dumpster space is full.) It is only for households, not businesses.

Residents are limited to one trip per truck or trailer combination, or two trips per car or sport utility vehicle. Anyone wishing to dump must also show a voter registration card or vehicle registration to prove residency in Upshur County.

Examples of what can be dumped include brush and no-longer-useable items such



Rotarian Luke Kimbrough (left) and Rotary Club President Darla Ferguson welcome this week's guest speaker, Trevor Davis, Chief Operating Officer for Kourage Health.

as appliances, lawn furniture, sofas, recliners, bedding, other furniture, clothing, televisions, commodes, recorders, monitors, tools, water hoses, lawn mowers, weed-eaters, feed buckets, bicycles, musical instruments, flower pots, swing sets and trampolines.

Items containing batteries aren't necessarily banned, but residents aren't encouraged to bring them, said Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle.

Items which can't be dumped include household

trash, chemicals, liquids, paint brushes, paint, construction materials, tires, shingles, asbestos, Freon and any wood which could be burned in a personal "burn pile."

A flyer promoting the event said Etex Telephone will be present "to recycle appliances, computer towers, batteries and various metals. If at all possible, please have these items sorted" so they can all be removed at one time.

For information, call (903) 680-8157 or (903) 738-5143.



Gladewater Lion Club president Judy Van Houten presented Gladewater High School Lions Club Students of the Month for April are Ava Langford and Corey Nelms with their award.



Gladewater Lions president Judy Van Houten congratulated the Lions Club's Students of the Month for April - Konnor Mason and Emily Dickinson.

# Man gets 30 years in murder case

By Phillip Williams

A judge in Gilmer sentenced Jeffrey David Swanner to 30 years in prison for murder last week after the defendant pleaded guilty on the third anniversary of the crime, said Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Swanner, a 34-year-old Upshur Countian, was sentenced by 115th District Judge Dean Fowler for the April 3, 2021 ax murder of Kenneth (Ace) Wadel Burcalow, Byrd said.

The sentence for the crime, committed in Diana community, was a plea bargain and Gilmer attorney Matthew Patton represented Swanner, the district attorney added.

Burcalow, 60, of Diana, was slain "after a night of methamphetamine and alcohol use" by both men, the prosecutor wrote in a news release. "An argument began inside a small camper (owned by Burcalo) off of Swan Road" before Swanner hit the victim in the head with an ax at least once, Byrd said.

"The defendant and victim had been friends

for many years, yet upon seeing 'demons,' and believing the victim was attacking him," Swanner struck Burcalow, the prosecutor wrote.

"The defendant fled the scene, but was found the following day out in the woods," Byrd added.

Based on a report from a psychiatrist who examined Swanner, the state and defense had agreed in 2021 he was mentally incompetent to stand trial, and he was committed to Vernon State Hospital until he regained competency, the prosecutor said.

The order committing him to the hospital was signed Aug. 17, 2021, and he returned to Upshur County Jail last Oct. 18, "but we didn't become aware he was back until January of this year," Byrd wrote Monday in a text concerning the case.

Burcalo was a former sergeant-at-arms of the Banditos, a motorcycle gang, Byrd added.

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

# TexSCAN

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

**Wesley Financial Group, LLC** – Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-501-6864.

**OIL & GAS RIGHTS**

We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, [LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com](mailto:LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com).

**VACATIONS**

Alaska, Europe, Hawaii plus dozens of other popular trips! Starting at \$1649 per person (double occupancy req'd.) YMT Vacations plans everything, leaving you to relax and enjoy. Call 1-888-848-0599 for more details. Use promo code YMT2024 for \$250 off. Limited time only.

**WATER DAMAGE**

**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out ythe wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

**WANTED**

**Need Extra Cash** – I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes –Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition – Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title – No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

**Texas Press Statewide Classified Network**  
**221 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads**  
**Start At \$250 • Email [ads@texaspress.com](mailto:ads@texaspress.com)**

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is [www.ftc.gov/bizop](http://www.ftc.gov/bizop).



**TRUGREEN**  
Live life outside.®

**Get the most out of your lawn this spring.**

Save now with **50% OFF\*** Your First Application

Call for your **FREE, no-obligation quote today!**  
**1-888-653-4935**

TruGreen® experts have designed over 50 regionally-based lawn programs based on local variables such as climate, soil, weeds, insects, and grass types.

**TRUGREEN GUARANTEE** TruGreen will gladly visit your property as needed between scheduled visits to ensure your satisfaction.\*

Our TruGreen Lawn Assessment will examine your grass and soil types and tailor your plan based on the results.†

Our tailored lawn plans utilize the latest technology and techniques that help make your lawn green and healthy.

\*Special price is for first lawn service only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay, MonthlyPay, or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services and/or products may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2024 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.



# Sports Roundup ...

By Tyler Sutton

The baseball and softball seasons continue to chug along for our local teams this week as everyone was in action for multiple games.

Gladewater baseball opened up their week with the first of a home and home district series with the Daingerfield Tigers as they won a pitchers duel at home 1-0. Luke Brown tossed his second no hitter of the season with 9 strikeouts and Sean Burke won it with a walkoff rbi single in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning.

Then on Friday, the series moved to Daingerfield and the Tigers offense surged late with 3 runs in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning to walk off the Bears 4-3. Maddax Vasquez had two singles, Trent Jackson drove in 2 runs for Gladewater. Mason Budro went six innings and struck out three.

The Bears are now 10-9 on the season and 2-3 in district play.

Gladewater will host the Cardinals on Friday.

The Lady Bears softball team also were in action as they played a pair of games this week.

On Tuesday they hosted Hughes Springs and fell 17-2. Reagen Verner and Shaylee Ellis drove in the runs for Gladewater. Moving to

Friday, the Lady Bears were home once again as they hosted Hughes Springs and lost 10-0. Karlee Moses had the lone hit for Gladewater.

The Lady Bears are now 5-14 and 0-7 in district play. They will be on the road Friday at Sabine.

Moving over to White Oak, the RoughNecks baseball team continued to roll in district play as they took both games of their district home and home series with Sabine.

On Tuesday, the RoughNecks traveled to Sabine and came away with a 13-1 win. Brady Greenwood, Davis Toilver and Jaxsen Ludlow all collected three hits and Jordy Nelson drove in three runs. Colin Wheat gave up 1 run in 6 innings on the mound with seven strikeouts.

The series moved to White Oak on Friday night and in a back and forth contest, the RoughNecks held on for a 3-2 victory.

White Oak is now 12-7 on the season and a perfect 5-0 in district play.

The RoughNecks will travel to New Diana on Friday.

LadyNecks softball also had a good week themselves. History was made on Tuesday night in White Oak's 6-1 win over Sabine as senior Larkin Daniels

had 18 strikeouts as she joined the 1000 career strike out club. Tristyn Cox had a triple, double and two rbi's, Addison McClanahan drove in two and Jaidyn Marshall had a two run double.

The series shifted to White Oak on Friday and it was more of the same as White Oak jumped out early and cruised to a 12-6 win. McClanahan had a 2 homer night with a solo shot and a two run shot for the LadyNecks offense.

White Oak is now 21-5 on the season and 7-0 in district play. The LadyNecks will play their final home game of the season on Friday vs Daingerfield).

Union Grove baseball was in action this week as well as they played a pair of district contests.

First on Tuesday, the offense could never get going as they fell on the road to Union Hill 9-0. Jacob Griffin went 3.2 innings on the mound for the Lions and gave up 5 runs along with seven strikeouts. Judson George had a double and Rylan Roberts delivered a single.

Moving over to Friday, the Lions made the trip to Beckville and fell 10-0. The Lions were held to just 2 singles belonging to Jax Daniels and Cason Cowan. Union Grove is now 9-7 on the campaign

and 6-6 in district play.

The Lions will travel to Big Sandy on Friday.

The Lady Lions softball team continued their season this week as well.

On Tuesday it got away from them early as Big Sandy scored 12 runs in the first inning in route to a 20-3 win.

Jamie Webb drove in two runs for the Union Grove.

Then on Friday, Union Grove made the trip to Overton and fell in that game 12-9. Izzy Gregg homered, doubled and drove in two for the Lady Lions. Marissa Wick had a single, double and drove in two. Allie Cal-

houn had a double with a rbi. Calhoun also struck out two in the loss.

Union Grove is now 3-17 on the season and 1-7 in district play. They will be back in action on Tuesday when they host Hawkins followed by traveling to Union Hill on Friday.



This trio of White oak Ladynecks continued the tradition of excellence in the pole vault event by finishing 1-2-3 at the District 15-3A track meet. From Left to Right: Londyn Baker (3rd), Johanna Pennington (1st), and Lizzy Still (2nd).

Photo by Mike Peery



Union Grove Lions are the 21AA District Track Champions



2024 Gladewater High School Spring Captains (Left to Right), Aaron Chavarria: Team Selfless, Mason Budro: Team Accountability, Carsin Cooper: Team Grit, Luke Brown: Team Standard, Mason Thompson: Team Family B.T.S.



Union Grove Lady Lions are the 21AA District Runner Up



The Union Grove High School Shotgun Team had quite a day at the New Diana FFA David Ross Memorial Trap Shoot recently. 1st Place Individual - Jeremiah McGee 99/100, 2nd Place Team 277/300 (Cason Cowan, TJ Fowler and Hudson Wightman) 3rd Place Team 275/300 (Jeremiah McGee, Travis Steele, Colton Jamison and Jenna Scott)

## “Coot’s Corner”

By Coot Putley

### Opening Day ...

Opening Day should be declared a national holiday. For baseball fans it already is. On the morning of opening day, every team is tied for first place. At the end of the day, half are tied for first place and half are in last place. Sometimes, the optimism only lasts for one day – sometimes it grows throughout the year. Thirty teams have a chance, but only one will get to win the last game of the season.

And that’s why this day was special for Texas Ranger fans. After we finally got to end a season as champions, we got to celebrate that victory on a memorable opening day. The Rangers organization did it right.

The first pitch was scheduled for an ESPN telecast at 6:39 PM. Parking lots opened at 2:00. There were Texas-sized tailgate celebrations as the crowd gathered. When the gates finally opened at 3:30 there was a rush to get inside. It was still three hours until gametime but fans were already chanting, “Let’s Go Rangers!”

The revelry continued until the on the field festivities began.

At precisely 6:10 the World Series trophy was brought out to home plate by manager Bruce Bochy and pitcher Josh Sborz, whose glove spike at the end of game seven shot to the top of the list of Ranger memories.

At 6:12, after a terrific video presentation on the giant scoreboard, the championship banner was unfurled. What a thrill to finally see “World Series Champions – 2023” displayed in Arlington!

After the Cubs line up was introduced, the noise was deafening as Chuck Morgan presented the Texas contingent. Trainers, clubhouse attendants, physical therapists, and coaches got ovations. Then the decibel level shot up even more as each player on the roster was announced.

New team members received a warm welcome, and the returning players were applauded for their part in the championship. The noise

level rivaled anything I’ve ever heard. By comparison, jet engines, firework blasts, and rock concerts sound like a library.

At 6:25 the national anthem was performed by country artist Wade Bowen, and at 6:28 the ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by Michael Carter, a season ticket holder for 50 years who was chosen to represent the long-suffering Texas fans who were finally rewarded for their patience. Then at 6:39 Ranger starter Nathan Eovaldi delivered the first pitch.

The only thing missing was a fighter jet flyover, but that’s difficult to accomplish indoors. So, what could top off the celebration? How about a Ranger win! What could make it even more exciting? How about a Ranger walk-off! They delivered, as Texas won 4-3 in the tenth inning on a Jonah Heim line-drive single. The best opening day in history was complete.

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

**Automotive Restoration Systems Inc.**  
**903-295-8883**  
**automotiverestorationsystems.com**

**205 W US Highway 80  
 White Oak  
 (903) 295-8883**  
 Monday-Friday  
 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Saturday  
 8 a.m.-noon  
 Thomas Cash, Owner

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

1 mammal found under Austin's Congress Bridge (2 wds.)

5 TXism: "keeps his \_\_\_ polished" (do gooder)

6 TXism: "eagle \_\_\_" (observant)

7 Monte \_\_\_\_, Texas

8 TXism: "\_\_\_ gut" (whiskey)

9 feisty

16 TX Buddy Holly's "\_\_\_ Love Ways"

18 Friday night halftime performer (2 wds.)

21 investment for a specified period (abbr.)

22 TXism: "let \_\_\_" (leave alone)

23 TX Howard Hughes dated this Gardner

24 commotion

30 many of these settled in Texas

34 extra play for Texas pro teams (abbr.)

35 coffin transport

36 an overthrow of a government

37 TXism: "pulled the wool over \_\_\_ eyes" (deceived)

39 it often happens when a rich Texan dies (2 wds.)

43 TXism: "that's a fine how do \_\_\_" (embarrassing)

44 the Texas Hill Country is one for white-tailed deer

45 "Gig '\_\_\_ Aggies!"

46 "\_\_\_ mouth, insert foot" (blunder)

47 Galveston was once a main port for these plunderers

49 contributed

52 a Texas-sized conglomerate

53 \_\_Soto, Texas

54 TXism: "badge \_\_\_" (lawman)

55 more obvious

58 "fight toe \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "got \_\_\_ as big as Texas" (kind)

2 Seymour newspaper: "\_\_\_ County Banner"

3 TXism: "so green he could hide in \_\_\_ patch"

4 like 24-across: "a big \_\_\_"

9 TX Shelley of 1980 film "The Shining" (init.)

10 \_\_\_ cow-boys (disabled)

11 religious ceremony

12 in Wood County, on U.S. 69

13 TXism: "\_\_\_ savvy" (knows a lot)

14 rehab after surgery (abbr.)

15 opposite of nay

17 TXism: "book learned"

19 kept away from

20 prison guard at the Patrick O'Daniel Unit near Gatesville

24 Cougar university in Houston (abbr.)

25 Texas-filmed "\_\_\_-wee's Big Adventure" (1985)

26 skin breakout

27 "bottle \_\_\_ \_\_\_"?

28 "it came \_\_\_ surprise" (unexpected)

29 step down from working full time

31 decompose

32 TXism: "sticks \_\_\_ like a sore thumb"

33 frontier pistol: six \_\_\_

38 TX Joseph A. \_\_\_ may have invented the ice cream soda

40 arriv. guess at Houston Hobby

41 this Masterson got gunfighter reputation while in Texas

42 passionate or hot-blooded

48 month in which the State Fair of Texas opens (abbr.)

50 TXism: "you got two chances, slim and \_\_\_"

51 enjoyed a chicken fried steak and some pecan pie

56 lice singular

57 TXism: "she could charm a bird out of \_\_\_"

P-1684

See Answers On This Page

## OBITUARY

### MRS HELEN RUTH JONES

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Helen Ruth Jones, a beloved daughter, mother, grandmother, and friend. Born in Crawford, Texas, to Horace and Katherine Harrison, Helen resided in Gladewater for over 60 years with her husband, Joe John Jones.



A passionate educator, she earned a Master of Arts in Library Science from the East Texas State University in Commerce. Her dedication to teaching first grade exceeded her 30+ years of teaching; many of her students remember her fondly and would visit with her when they saw her around Gladewater. Tasha Phillips, a 1988, first-grade student of hers remembered, "I was the new girl at a new school with no mat at nap time. Miss Helen welcomed me with a mat and made sure I was comfy. She was so nice to me." Tasha and Miss Helen reacquainted years later when Tasha cared for her aging teacher. Another student, Debra Shipp, shared how blessed she feels to consider Helen a second mom and remembers Helen as her first-grade teacher at Gay Avenue Elementary, "Momma Helen was loving to all students. She told every student they were beautiful/handsome and smart. She was a teacher extraordinaire in her belief of her students and for them to believe in themselves." Helen cherished the friendships she created at work, considering her colleagues as family.

She enjoyed socializing and spending time with close friends, sharing stories and laughter. Helen loved Lake Gladewater. She loved the view, the array of birds and wildlife, and the many boat rides. A devoted grandmother, she loved to read and watch movies with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her daughter, Kay McKinney, will miss her dearly, along with her grandchildren Kate McKinney, Reggie Ahmad, Robin McKinney, Joseph McKinney, Betsy McKinney, and Sam McKinney, as well as her great-grandchildren Brady Wallace, Robby Wallace, Louisa Naja McKinney Ahmad, and Jones Marsel McKinney Ahmad; her sister Kay Norris, brother Bennett Harrison, and nephew Ross Harrison.

Helen is preceded in death by her parents and beloved husband, Joe John Jones. The loss of Helen is deeply felt by all who knew her. Her memory will forever live on in our hearts, a testament to the love and joy she brought into our lives.

A Reception with a light lunch will be held on April 12, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Methodist Church in Gladewater, Texas, allowing all who loved Helen to pay their respects and share their memories. May she rest in peace, surrounded by the love she shared with so many.



## Spring clean up time set for Saturday

Last reminder: Come Saturday, the City of Gladewater will be waiting to help you get rid of those old tires on your property.

The community's annual citywide clean-up kicks off at 7 a.m. Saturday morning, and volunteers are greatly-appreciated and much-needed to help clean up local streets.

Disabled and/or senior citizens who need assistance with their Spring cleaning detritus can schedule curbside pickup by calling the city's Water Utility Billing Department at 903-845-2196 before 3:30 p.m. today.

As far as volunteers, there's no need to sign-up, just show up, according to City Hall's Al Harrison.

Helpers are asked to gather at the Ken Bennett Pavilion on East Pacific Avenue by 7:45 a.m. to receive instructions, supplies and destinations for the 8-to-Noon trash collection.

"You will be dispersed to help in neighborhoods and parks throughout the city," the City of Gladewater stated in an April 5 reminder on social media. "Bring your gloves and we will provide the garbage bags!"

Meanwhile, city workers will be manning the grant-funded tire collection trailers for locals' leftover rubber donuts – East Texas Council of Governments once again awarded the city's application for a \$2,500 Solid Waste Reduction Grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Importantly, the tire collection trailers are for residents' use, not commercial customers, and personnel will be on-hand to unload the tires or haul off drop-offs.

## LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!



Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters.

Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

### THE LEAFFILTER ADVANTAGE



**20% OFF** + **10% OFF**  
 Your Entire Purchase\* Seniors + Military



++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!

**1-844-928-0635**

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 855-704-8579 to schedule your free quote!

\*Terms and Conditions apply. GENERAC



We're looking to install our NEXT GENERATION gutter guard on your home!



**FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION – SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-844-928-0635**



S-1684

**Last Puzzle Solution**

# Infrastructure, collaboration become key topics at 2024 candidates forum

Continued from Page 1

finished up.

The forum opened with a question about bringing new business to Gladewater.

The city's seen 28 months of consecutive sales tax gains, Owens noted, and a recent influx of residents is already driving sales tax increases as well. Meanwhile, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation is also using a portion of the city's tax levy to incentivize business development.

"You get the demand and businesses want to come," he said. More business will come here, Stone said, and he's eager to do his part once he gets up to speed in office.

"I don't know what the council is actually doing to get this going, but I would like to learn," he added. "I've got a lot to learn, let me tell you. I would love to help make Gladewater more attractive for the big businesses.

"I think we can get them, it's just a matter of finding out what they need."

For Flanagan, there things that needed to get in place and established in Gladewater for it be attractive to mid- and larger-sized businesses. Practices need to be streamlined, she said, and more collaboration between the city, chamber and GEDCO has set the stage to better attract companies here.

"They're looking for several things," Flanagan added, especially proper infrastructure, a major priority for the council the past six years. "They also care about location," and she's been in touch with Rep. Nathaniel Moran to discuss strategies. "As a city we have to develop our quality of life."

Infrastructure remained a common thread throughout the questions.

"This is an issue that Gladewater's got to care the most about. It's the key to everything," Flanagan said. "This is a US problem, not just a Gladewater problem. The infrastructure everywhere is crumbling."

Here, she continued, city leadership is following a concise plan and checking items off the list, avoiding 'Bandaid' repairs and using grants to invest more in infrastructure: "As the budget allows, we will continue to do what we're doing."

As just one vote, Stone said, he'll put it toward the same strategy.

"That's exactly what needs to happen. I would continue just like that."

Owens focused on the effort to bring in public funds from outside the community. The Toll 49 expansion will be a boon for the town, he said, and millions of dollars in funding from the Texas Water Development Board is going to help defray some of the necessary expenses tied to the project.

"We want to have it available for commercial development," Owens said. "Most of that is loan forgiveness and grant, so it's a really good idea."

Regarding trash can rules, the three candidates basically agreed local codes need to be enforced.

"We're not looking to hand out tickets every time," Owens said. "Tickets are the last resort on that."

Perhaps, Stone said, the ordinance should be modified to make things run more smoothly and, frankly, a bit more pleasantly for residents.

"I know those trash cans stink when they're only picked up once a week," he added. "What I'm hearing from people is they don't want the trash cans up by their house because they actually stink."

The city recently added another code enforcement employee, Flanagan noted.



"One thing as a city that we're really working on right now is to quit hiring quickly and to hire rightly," she said, praising building inspector Al Harrison for his efforts along with interim city manager Charlie Smith for his emphasis on deliberate hiring. Meanwhile, "I do believe that if the codes are on the books they need to be enforced."

On illegal dumping in Red Rock, Stone reminded residents to be part of the solution.

"That's the key. The police can't do it all," he said, especially if they're not alerted: "Call 911. Dumping, it's illegal... It's a community involvement issue."

Owens encouraged residents to use the City of Gladewater's app to report issues and noted Smith has coordinated with SWEPSCO to add additional streetlights in Red Rock.

"That in itself, lighting up something, will help," he said. Such issues are difficult, Flanagan said.

"That's where we really rely on the community," she added, whether it's reported to the city manager or police. "I think one thing we have to do as a community is get much more consistent... if we have a policy in place, if we have an ordinance."

On looming repairs at the 'Poor' Lake Gladewater Dam, the candidates agreed groundwork has been laid for improvements soon.

About 15 years ago, Owens said, engineers recommended filling voids. The late Snuffy Smith was fire chief at the time, "and he brought to our attention what we needed to do, and we did that in order to pass the code for the state at the time... There's more that needs to be done and there's some erosion over time that needs to be taken care of."

Things are getting under control with recent attention on the dam, Stone said.

"Once that's completed and we know the cost of it, then we can try to figure out how we're going to get it fixed, whether it be grants or whatever."

Flanagan praised current Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons for getting dam records and maintenance up to date.

When the current council learned of the issues, "Most of us were pretty caught off guard by it," she said. "As soon as that maintenance program is in place, we'll move forward with applying for those grants... There are multiple ones out there to help us correct this problem."

Stone lamented the lack of local activities for young people.

"I would like to see somebody start doing some things for the kids. There's really nothing here for our youth to do," he

said, adding he's a big believer in investing in younger generations. "Make people want to say here, live their lives here."

Flanagan wants to see communication improve between the city and its citizens – and vice versa.

"We have to encourage our city so they want to sit here and communicate with us more," she said. Meanwhile, the community needs to "Make sure that we can attract and retain a good workforce here. We have worked strategically on our budget to be able to increase pay for our employees here."

"We're going to have to continue what we've been doing on our collaboration."

There's been a lot of good happening here in recent years, Owens said, from sales tax gains to increased activity at downtown businesses.

"Those are also driving sales tax revenue that helps not only the city" but GEDCO as well, he added. Positive communication is key, too: "Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution. What we need to do is come together and let's work this out together. I applaud anybody who wants to get up here and serve and take the arrows that come with it."

The forum's final, key question: Why should residents cast their votes for the respective candidates?

"I was born and raised here, grew up here, I've seen the ups and downs. Now that I'm retired, I have the time" to serve, Stone said. "You also see some things you might can make a difference in. I would like to work with these people and try to make a difference in this city that I love."

Owens said he's proud of the family he's raised here, and he wants to keep contributing.

"You need a servant's heart to be able to do this," he said. "I just want a couple more years to see some of these projects underway."

As mayor, Flanagan said, she'll continue doing the work she's put in the past six years.

"Prioritize community needs, foster community growth, continue to be transparent," she said. "There's not a time when a citizen calls me that I don't talk to them. I serve because I care, but I'm also very solution-minded."

Early voting begins April 22, Bardwell said, with Election Day set May 4th. He concluded with thanks to the candidates for participating in the forum and for putting themselves into the political gauntlet.

It's often a thankless task, he quipped: "Anyone who serves, they've gotta be crazy."

## SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### KING PLUMBING

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELS • SERVICE

**RMP DENNIS KING**  
903-539-1716  
M36233

Gas Lines, Water Heaters & Roto Rooter

BBB All Major Credit Cards Accepted

### Call Dr. Barry Hail, Chiropractor

Don't Just Live With Neck Pain... Headaches Shoulder & Lower Back Pain...

Headache? Neck Pain? Shoulder Pain? Back Pain? Awkward Strain!

Affordable Cash Rates

**903-725-4357**

116 N. Mimosa, Gilmer (Rosewood, 7 miles west of Gilmer on Hwy 154)

### HLH DESIGN BUILD, INC.

ARCHITECTURE. DESIGN. CONSTRUCTION.

**903-757-7202**  
HLHDESIGNBUILD.COM

### Edward Jones

Partnering throughout the years to reach your financial goals.

**Dallas D Long, CFP®**  
Financial Advisor  
1420 N Main St Suite 101  
Gladewater, TX 75647  
903-845-6680

MKT-5894N-A > [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

### EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK

FREE GROCERY ITEMS AVAILABLE  
No eligibility requirements, paperwork or ID required.

Gladewater Rodeo Grounds  
HWY 80, Gladewater

Distributions: 3rd Tuesday of each month  
10:00 am to Noon  
While supplies last

### GET YOUR BUSINESS NOTICED HERE!

**CALL 903-845-2235**  
**JUST \$15/WEEK FOR 13 WEEKS**

### Consumer Cellular

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING.  
Plans start at just \$20/month.

**855-493-3803**

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

### Bud's DISCOUNT TIRES

Highway 80 East Gladewater  
**845-5186**

### YOUR HOMETOWN TIRE STORE

BUD MAHAFFEY  
Owner & Operator

HOURS  
7:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

### Mamma's Designs

Handcrafted Jewelry ★ Painted Gourds ★ Custom Paintings ★ Pet Portraits

*Artist: Dorothy Sweet*

**1971 S. Tyler (US 271), Gladewater**

Follow us on Facebook - MammaDesigns  
Ph: 903-387-2831 [dasweat7@gmail.com](mailto:dasweat7@gmail.com)

**GET YOUR BUSINESS NOTICED HERE!**  
**CALL 903-845-2235 JUST \$15/WEEK FOR 13 WEEKS**



## **NOTICE OF CITY SPECIAL ELECTION**

To the registered voters of Gladewater, Texas: Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 4, 2024, for voting in a special election on the following charter amendments to the City of Gladewater Charter:

### **Amendment A:**

Should the Preamble of the Gladewater City Charter be amended to provide for gender neutral interpretation of the language?

Proposed language:

In this document any reference by noun or pronoun of either male or female gender is herein understood to be inclusive of both male and female.

### **Amendment B:**

Should Section 24 of the Gladewater City Charter, THE MAYOR AND THE MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, be amended to provide for meeting times in accordance with State Law?

Proposed language:

The City Council shall meet at the City Hall at the first meeting next following the regular City election, which will be scheduled in compliance with State Law, and thereof shall choose one of its members as Mayor Pro Tempore, for a term of one year. In the absence or inability of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore shall act in his/her place.

### **Amendment C:**

Should Section 33 of the Gladewater City Charter, RECALL OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEN, be amended to divide the Section into subsections and to provide for forfeiture of office for excessive absences?

Proposed language:

- a) Any member or all members of the Council (including the Mayor) may be recalled and removed from office by the electors qualified to vote for a successor of such incumbent by the following procedure:
  - i. A petition signed by qualified voters entitled to vote for a successor to such member sought to be removed equal in number to 35% of the entire number of persons entitled to vote in said city demanding the recall of the Mayor or any Councilman, shall be filed with the City Clerk. Such petition shall contain a general statement of the ground for which removal is sought. The signatures to the petition need not all be appended to one paper, but each signer shall add his/her signature, his/her place of residence, giving the street and number. One of the signers to each paper shall make oath before an officer competent to administer oaths that each signature is that of the person whose name its purports to be. Within ten (10) days from the filing of such petition the City Clerk shall examine the same and from the list of qualified voters, ascertain whether or not the petition is signed by the requisite number of qualified voters, and if requested to do so, the council shall allow him/her extra help for the purpose. He/She shall attach to each petition a certificate showing the results of each examination. If by the City Clerk's certificate the petition is shown to be insufficient, it may be amended within ten (10) days from the date of such certificate by obtaining additional signatures. The City Clerk shall within ten (10) days after such amendment is filed, in case one is filed with him/her, make examination of the said amended petition and if his/her certificate shall show same to be insufficient, shall be returned to the person filing same and shall not be subject to amendment.
  - ii. the petition be found sufficient, the City Clerk shall submit the same to the Council without delay and the Council in the event the Mayor or Councilman named in said petition fails to resign, shall order and fix a date for holding the said election not less than forty (40) or more than fifty (50) days from the date of the City Clerk's certificate; provided that if an election is to be held within the City for any other purpose within sixty (60) days from the date of said certificate, then the said recall election shall be held on the same day. If the Mayor or Councilman in question resigned, no election shall be necessary and the vacancy shall be filled by the Council as in other cases of vacancies unless the number of vacancies shall require an election as in this charter otherwise provided.
- b) The Mayor or any Councilman shall forfeit his/her office if he/she fails to attend three consecutive regular Council meetings or six Council meetings in any calendar year without being excused by the Council.

### **Amendment D:**

Should Section 42 of the Gladewater City Charter, CITY JUDGE, be amended to provide for a two year term and to provide for a city prosecutor?

Proposed Language:

Section 42. CITY JUDGE/CITY PROSECUTOR

There shall be a magistrate of the Municipal Court known as the City Judge who shall be appointed by the Council to serve for a term of two years. He/she may be removed by the Council at any time for incompetency, misconduct, malfeasance, or disability. He/she shall receive such salary as may be fixed by the Council from time to time. The Mayor shall act in the place of the City Judge in the event of a vacancy until a City Judge is appointed by the Council. The Mayor, while acting as City Judge, shall receive no compensation. All costs and fines imposed by the Municipal Court or by any court in cases appealed from judgement of the Municipal Court shall be paid into the City Treasury for the use and benefit of the City.

There shall be a City Prosecutor representing City of Gladewater in Municipal Court of Gladewater. He/She may be removed by the Council at any time for incompetency, misconduct, malfeasance, or disability. He/She shall receive such salary as may be fixed by the Council from time to time.

### **Amendment E:**

Should Section 46 of the Gladewater City Charter, QUALIFICATIONS, be amended to permit the City Manager to live within 30 miles of the City Limits?

Proposed Language:

The City Manager shall be chosen by the Council, on the basis of his/

her executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his/her actual experience in or his/her knowledge of accepted practice in respect to the duties of his/her office, as hereafter set forth. At the time of his/her appointment, he/she need not be a resident of the city or state but shall, within 6 months of his/her appointment, move his/her residence within 30-miles of the city.

### **Amendment F:**

Should Section 48 of the Gladewater City Charter, POWERS AND DUTIES OF CITY MANAGER, be amended to clarify that the City Manager has day-to-day supervision over the other officers of the City.

Proposed Language:

The City Manager shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the city government. He/She shall be responsible to the Council for the proper administration of the affairs of the City under his/her supervision and to that end, he/she shall have power to:

- a) Appoint and remove all the heads of each department except the City Treasurer, City Attorney, City Judge, City Prosecutor, and City Clerk. Provided, however, that the City Manager shall have supervisory and disciplinary responsibility and powers over the City Treasurer, the City Attorney, the City Judge, the City Prosecutor, and the City Clerk.

### **Amendment G:**

Should Section 75 of the Gladewater City Charter, entitled PUBLICATION, be amended to comport with State Law?

Proposed Language:

Every ordinance passed by the Council prescribing penalties for the violation thereof may provide for punishment by fine not to exceed the maximum amount provided for in State Law. A full text of all penal ordinances may be published at least twice in the official newspaper of the City, or in lieu thereof, a descriptive caption or title stating in summary the purpose of the ordinance and the penalty for violation thereof, may be published. All other ordinances, except those ordinances specifically required by the provision of this Charter to be published are not required to be published in either the official newspaper of the city or in any other publication, and such ordinances shall become effective as the date stated therein, and in the event no particular date is stated said ordinance shall become effective from and after the passage and adoption by the Council.

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE: Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning April 22, 2024 through April 30, 2024, and on Friday, April 26, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Applications for ballot by mail shall 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 23, 2024.

## **AVISO DE CIUDAD ELECCION ESPECIAL**

A los votantes registrados de Gladewater, Texas: aviso es, por la presente, dado que el lugar de votación que se enumeran a continuación estará abierto de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m., el 4 de mayo de 2024, para votar en una elección especial sobre las siguientes enmiendas a los estatutos. a los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater Elección especial sobre las siguientes propuestas para la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico de Gladewater:

### **Enmienda A:**

¿Debería modificarse el preámbulo de los estatutos de la ciudad de Gladewater poner a disposición una interpretación del lenguaje neutral en cuanto al género?

Texto propuesto:

En este documento, se entiende que cualquier referencia por sustantivo o pronombre de género masculino o femenino incluye tanto a hombre como a mujer.

### **Enmienda B:**

¿Debería modificarse la Sección 24 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater, EL ALCALDE Y EL ALCALDE PRO TEMPORE, para establecer horarios de reuniones de acuerdo con la ley estatal?

Texto propuesto:

El Concejo Municipal se reunirá en el Ayuntamiento en la primera reunión siguiente a la elección regular de la Ciudad, la cual se programará de conformidad con la Ley Estatal, y de la misma elegirá a uno de sus miembros como Alcalde Pro Tempore, por un período de un año. En ausencia o incapacidad del Alcalde, actuará en su lugar el Alcalde Pro Tempore.

### **Enmienda C:**

¿Debería enmendarse la Sección 33 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater, PROCEDIMIENTO PARA LA DEMOCIÓN DEL ALCALDE Y CONCEJALES, para dividir la Sección en subsecciones y prever la pérdida del puesto por ausencias excesivas?

Texto propuesto:

- a) Cualquier miembro o todos los miembros del Concejo Municipal (incluido el Alcalde) pueden ser destituidos y destituidos de su puesto por los electores calificados para votar por un sucesor de dicho titular mediante el siguiente procedimiento:
  - i. Se deberá presentar una petición firmada por votantes calificados con derecho de votar por un sucesor de dicho miembro que se desea destituir en un número igual al 35% del número total de personas con derecho a votar en dicha ciudad exigiendo la destitución del Alcalde o cualquier Concejal, deberá presentarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad. Dicha petición deberá contener una exposición general del motivo por el cual se solicita la destitución. No es necesario que las firmas de la petición consten todas en un solo papel, pero cada firmante deberá agregar su firma, su lugar de residencia, indicando la calle y el número. Uno de los firmantes de cada documento prestará juramento ante un funcionario competente para administrar juramentos de que cada firma es la de la persona cuyo nombre pretende ser. Dentro de los diez (10) días siguientes a la presentación de dicha petición, el Secretario Municipal la examinará y, de la lista de votantes calificados, determinará si la petición está firmada o no por el número requerido de votantes calificados, y si así se solicita, el Concejo Municipal le permitirá ayuda adicional para tal fin. Adjuntará a cada petición un certificado que muestre los resultados de cada análisis. Si según el certificado del Secretario Municipal se demuestra que la petición es insuficiente, podrá modificarse dentro de los diez (10) días siguientes a la fecha de dicho certificado mediante la obtención de firmas adicionales. El Secretario Municipal deberá, dentro de los diez (10) días





posteriores a la presentación de dicha enmienda, en caso de que se le presente una, examinar dicha petición enmendada y, si su certificado demuestra que la misma es insuficiente, será devuelta a la persona que la presenta y no estará sujeta a modificación.

- ii. Si la petición se considera suficiente, el Secretario Municipal la presentará al Concejo Municipal sin demora y el Concejo Municipal, en caso de que el Alcalde o Concejal nombrado en dicha petición no renuncie, ordenará y fijará una fecha para la celebración de dicha elección no menos de cuarenta (40) o más de cincuenta (50) días a partir de la fecha del certificado del Secretario Municipal; siempre que si se va a llevar a cabo una elección dentro de la Ciudad para cualquier otro propósito dentro de los sesenta (60) días a partir de la fecha de dicho certificado, entonces dicha elección revocatoria se llevará a cabo el mismo día. Si el Alcalde o Concejal en cuestión arenunció, no será necesaria ninguna elección y el puesto vacante será cubierta por el Concejo Municipal como en otros casos de vacantes, a menos que el número de vacantes requiera una elección según lo dispuesto en este estatuto.
- b) El Alcalde o cualquier Concejal perderá su puesto si no asiste a tres reuniones regulares consecutivas del Concejo Municipal o a seis reuniones del Concejo Municipal en cualquier año calendario sin ser eximido por el Concejo Municipal.

**Enmienda D:**

¿Debería enmendarse la Sección 42 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater, JUEZ DE LA CIUDAD, un término de dos años y proporcionar un fiscal de la ciudad?

Texto propuesto:

Sección 42. JUEZ DE LA CIUDAD/FISCAL DE LA CIUDAD

Habrà un magistrado del Tribunal Municipal conocido como Juez de la Ciudad que serà designado por el Concejo Municipal para desempeñar su puesto por un período de dos años. El Concejo Municipal podrá destituirlo en cualquier momento por incompetencia, mala conducta, o discapacidad. Recibirà el salario que periódicamente fije el Concejo Municipal. El Alcalde actuarà en lugar del Juez de la Ciudad en caso de una vacante hasta que el Concejo Municipal nombre un Juez de la Ciudad. El Alcalde, mientras actúe como Juez Municipal, no recibirá compensación alguna. Todos los costos y multas impuestas por el Tribunal Municipal o por cualquier tribunal en casos apelados de sentencia del Tribunal Municipal se pagarán al Tesoro de la Ciudad para uso y beneficio de la Ciudad.

Habrà un Fiscal Municipal que representará a la Ciudad de Gladewater en el Tribunal Municipal de Gladewater. El Concejo Municipal podrá destituirlo en cualquier momento por incompetencia, mala conducta, o discapacidad. Recibirà el salario que periódicamente fije el Concejo Municipal.

**Enmienda E:**

¿Debería modificarse la Sección 46 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater, CALIFICACIONES, para permitir que el Administrador de la Ciudad viva a menos de 30 millas de los límites de la Ciudad?

Texto propuesto:

El Administrador de la Ciudad serà elegido por el Concejo Municipal, sobre la base de sus calificaciones ejecutivas y administrativas con especial referencia a su experiencia autentica o su conocimiento de la práctica aceptada con respecto a los deberes de su puesto, como se establece a continuación. Al momento de su nombramiento, no necesita ser residente de la ciudad o estado pero deberà, dentro de los 6 meses posteriores a su nombramiento, trasladar su residencia a menos de las 30 millas de la ciudad.

**Enmienda F:**

¿Debería modificarse la Sección 48 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater, PODERES Y DEBERES DEL ADMINISTRADOR DE LA CIUDAD, para aclarar que el Administrador de la Ciudad tiene supervisión diaria sobre los demás funcionarios de la Ciudad?

Texto propuesto:

El Administrador de la Ciudad serà el director ejecutivo y el jefe de la rama administrativa del gobierno de la ciudad. Serà responsable ante el Concejo Municipal de la adecuada administración de los asuntos de la Ciudad bajo su supervisión y para tal fin tendrá facultades para:

- a) Nombrar y destituir a todos los jefes de cada departamento, excepto el Tesorero de la Ciudad, el Fiscal de la Ciudad, el Juez de la Ciudad, el Fiscal de la Ciudad y el Secretario de la Ciudad. Siempre que, sin embargo, el Administrador de la Ciudad tenga responsabilidad y poderes de supervisión y disciplina sobre el Tesorero de la Ciudad, el Abogado de la Ciudad, el Juez de la Ciudad, el Fiscal de la Ciudad y el Secretario de la Ciudad.

**Enmienda G:**

¿Debería modificarse la Sección 75 de los Estatutos de la Ciudad de Gladewater, titulada PUBLICACIÓN, para que se ajuste a la ley estatal?

Texto propuesto:

Toda ordenanza aprobada por el Concejo Municipal que ordena sanciones por su violación podrá estipular una sanción con multa que no exceda el monto máximo proporcionado por la ley estatal. Se podrá publicar un texto completo de todas las ordenanzas penales al menos dos veces en el periódico oficial de la Ciudad, o en su lugar, se podrá publicar un título o título descriptivo que indique en resumen el propósito de la ordenanza y la pena por su violación. Todas las demás ordenanzas, excepto aquellas ordenanzas específicamente requeridas por la disposición de este Estatuto para ser publicadas, no requieren ser publicadas ni en el periódico oficial de la ciudad ni en cualquier otra publicación, y dichas ordenanzas entrarán en vigor en la fecha indicada en el mismo, y en el caso de que no se indique una fecha particular, dicha ordenanza entrará en vigencia a partir de y después de la aprobación y adopción por el Concejo Municipal.

UBICACIÓN del lugar de votación: Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas. Voto anticipado por comparecencia personal se realizarán cada día de la semana en Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas entre las horas de 7:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. comenzando el 22 de abril de 2024 y el último el 30 de abril de 2024 y el 26 de abril 7:30 a.m. a 2:00 p.m. para el voto por correo se enviará por correo a Judy Van Houten, ciudad de Gladewater, P.O. Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647. Las solicitudes de votación por correo deberán recibirse a más tardar el cierre del negocio el 23 de abril de 2024.

**LEGAL**  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF WAYNE )  
IN THE WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
CAUSE NO. 89C01-2311-GU-000105

**IN RE: THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: KAYDENCE DANIEL COATES, a minor child**

DARRIN and DENISE COATES, Petitioners  
TO: JEREMY R. COATES, father

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITIONERS' APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR**

A Petition for Appointment of Permanent Guardianship of said Minor has been filed by the persons named as the Petitioners above.

Hearing on Petition for Appointment of Permanent Guardianship of Minor has been set for hearing on the 8th day of May, 2024 at 2:30 p.m., with Judicial Officer Amy Drake.

You must answer the Petition within thirty (30) days after the first notice of this action is published or judgment may be entered for what Petitioners seek.

**BARRELS FOR SALE**  
55 gal drum \$5.00  
container barrels with lid & seal \$10.00  
3700 Crabapple or 1414 N Cypress Gilmer

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the **ESTATE OF ZETA ROSE BOYLE**, were issued on, March 27, 2024, in Cause No. 2024-0085-E, pending in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Gregg County, Texas, to: **Bobbe Lou Campbell**.


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

**Bobby Lou Campbell**  
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.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a WINE AND MALT BEVERAGE RETAILER'S OFF-PREMISE PERMIT (BQ) by WHITE OAK PETROLEUM LLC dba ROUGHNECK CENTER, to be located at 313 S WHITE OAK RD, WHITE OAK, TX 75693. The Officers of said corporation are DEVENDRA BHANDARI (MANAGING MEMBER/OWNER), MANOJ KC (MANAGING MEMBER/OWNER), SANJAYA PANDEYA (MANAGING MEMBER/OWNER) and TUK RAJ NEUPANE (MANAGING MEMBER/OWNER).



**NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The White Oak Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Rd. regarding a request from Henry Hoffman for a SUP install a Carport to be located at AB 176 J. Ruddle SUR TR 16 SEC 3, more commonly known as 2006 S Lake Harris Rd, White Oak.

A second public hearing will be held before the White Oak City Council on June 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact Jimmy Purcell, City Coordinator at [jpurcell@cityofwhiteoak.com](mailto:jpurcell@cityofwhiteoak.com)




**SHOP LOCAL  
EAT LOCAL  
READ LOCAL**

When you support your local newspaper, you support your community.

America's Newspapers  
America's Newspapers is a national association supporting journalism and healthy newspapers in our local communities.

Find out more at [www.newspapers.org](http://www.newspapers.org)

**SHOP LOCAL ... SHOP LOCAL**



**NOTICE OF CITY GENERAL ELECTION**

To the registered voters of Gladewater, Texas: Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 4, 2024, for voting in a general election to elect four Council members. LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE: Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning April 22, 2024 through April 30, 2024, and on Friday, April 26, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Applications for ballot by mail shall 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 23, 2024.

**AVISO DE CIUDAD ELECCIONES GENERALES**

*A los votantes registrados de Gladewater, Texas: aviso es, por la presente, dado que el lugar de votación que se enumeran a continuación estará abierto de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m., el 4 de mayo de 2024, para votar en unas elecciones generales para elegir Alcaldes y dos miembros del Consejo. UBICACIÓN del lugar de votación: Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas. Voto anticipado por comparecencia personal se realizarán cada día de la semana en Gladewater City Hall, 519 East Broadway, Gladewater, Texas entre las horas de 7:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m. comenzando el 22 de abril de 2024 y el último el 30 de abril de 2024 y el 26 de abril 7:30 a.m. a 2:00 p.m. Las solicitudes de boleta para el voto por correo se enviarán por correo a Judy Van Houten, ciudad de Gladewater, P.O. Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647. Las solicitudes de votación por correo deberán recibirse a más tardar el cierre del negocio el 23 de abril de 2024.*



Photos by Jim Bardwell



Photo by Kimber Smith

**TRADES DAYS  
THIS WEEKEND**

Longview Trade Days will be held April 13-14 at the Longview Fairgrounds 1123 Jaycee Drive Longview

**Saturday**  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Sunday**  
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

[www.greggcountyfair.com](http://www.greggcountyfair.com)

For Booth Rental Call  
**903-753-4478**



Photo by Teagan Holder

## Prodigal pumps return to water plant

By James Draper

Barring any unforeseen complications, the city’s water plant personnel were poised to put Gladewater’s principle pumps back in position Tuesday.

The repair of the essential water system equipment was scheduled after the Mirror’s publication deadline, but City Manager Charlie Smith was confident the maintenance would go ahead as soon and efficiently as possible under Plant Director Wendy Emmel’s supervision.

“We’re going to set the two water pumps Tuesday (April 9) and pull the third that’s been running nonstop,” he said ahead of time, eager to get the plant’s equipment back in place and operating normally after two of the city’s three water pumps went kaput back-to-back in early March.

The trio’s meant to provide redundancy in case one goes down. With two dropping in succession, the collective blood pressure went up at City Hall – one more failure would launch a slew of consequences down-line.

Smith praised Emmel as well as Operator Nate Palmer for the extra hours, and no small amount of tension, they’ve

endured for the past several weeks, waiting for the pumps’ off-site repair and ETA-unknown replacement. The water plant employees kept a round-the-clock watch on their Little Pump That Could using remote monitoring software.

With the pump pair’s return, a sigh of relief is in order along with some TLC for the pump that’s been pulling triple-duty.

In due course, the water plant will be back to double-redundancy.

Meanwhile, “We’ve got our state inspection the 18th out there, too,” Smith added. “I’m confident it’ll be one of the best that we’ve had in several years.”

“I’ve got a list that’s about two pages long that Wendy put together,” showing the plant’s inspection-readiness for operations, chemical feeds, maintenance processes and more: “They’re looking at the functioning of the plant.”

Notably, water quality’s a monthly-check, and the latest results are due soon. At the other end of Gladewater’s flow, last week the city received a clean bill of health on its regular bio-monitoring check at the Wastewater Plant.

**Spring** **APRIL 13th, 2024**  
**8AM-NOON**

**Gladewater**  
**CITY-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY**

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.



The Gladewater Middle School Varsity Band celebrates their First Division Sweepstakes win Friday, April 5, at the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest.

## Shutoff valves added to water system

By James Draper

Last winter’s rash of line breaks highlighted some key weaknesses in Gladewater’s water system – many, of course, will take years of attention and investment to be set right, but recent updates have already mitigated a key concern.

One of the largest red flag fixes in February had workers scrambling to find shutoff valves on and around Hwy. 271. To their surprise, and city leaders’ frustration, the equipment wasn’t just hard to find, it was missing entirely.

Most likely, given the era when the antiquated pipes were installed, the valves simply weren’t part of the design.

Today, without the ability to close water flow to a problem spot, repairs ran the risk of major water loss. A worst-case scenario could have drained the city’s water towers which would cause a cascade of new problems.

According to interim City Manager Charlie Smith, the recent installation of a set of Inserta Valves will help prevent water loss when repairs need to be made in a pinch.

The moniker’s fairly literal: a crew “inserts a valve in an operating line without loss of pressure,” according to the manufacturer.

“They’ve got those put in,” Smith reported Friday following the installation of half-a-dozen such valves in key spots of Gay Avenue, on Rodeo and elsewhere.

The installation itself revealed additional ‘Why did they do that?’ issues that have been literally buried for decades.

Some of it’s a bit inexplicable, such as a strange dip in one newly-uncovered pipe – “That makes for a sewer line that will never drain right.” Meanwhile, in addition to not being able to isolate sections of the line previously, there was no looping in the system: “Honestly, I don’t

know why the lines were never tied it,” Smith said.

Recent upgrades, though, aim to spare future generations from past oversights.

“First of all, you’ve got more coverage when you do have to turn things off somewhere,” Smith noted. “You’ve got a looped lined that will furnish water to neighborhoods that might not have been able to have it before.”

New ‘catch-boxes’ are being added for the sake of storm drains, as well. The goal’s to make the system more manageable, whether it’s for day-to-day work or emergency repairs.

“When you can isolate things like that on a main break, you won’t have the water loss you’d have if you can’t turn it off,” Smith concluded. Importantly, and for a multitude of reasons, “Water loss is a big deal to TCEQ when you’re applying for grants.”