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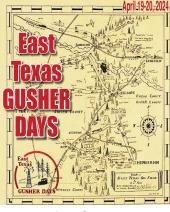
Thursday, April 18, 2024

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**Stadlewa** 

1 Section, 10 pages

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Find the Gladewater Mirror's 2024 Gusher Days special edition in today's paper **Gusher Days** gets ready to blow downtown

East Texas Gusher Days returns this weekend with its 39th annual two-day event downtown.

Scores of food and merchandise vendors will be filling the streets of Gladewater's shopping district, and there's a full slate of activities that will keep the free-to-attend event hopping April 19-20. A car show, chili cook-off, wrestling exhibitions, street dancing and, of course, the Brownie Bowl Licking Contest are all on the itinerary.

"I have over 100 vendors," Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed said last week. There will be plenty of artisans and crafters along with nine food vendors ranging from the savory to the sweet and everything in between. "At this point, anyone else who comes in goes on a waiting list. Gosh, it's exciting."

Gusher Days runs from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 20. All proceeds from the event help fund



Gladewater Public Works crew members help residents dump their Spring Cleaning detritus Saturday morning during the community's annual Citywide Cleanup. The four-hour event included trash collection downtown and curbside with grant-funded trailers available for old tires. Photo by James Draper

# Sales tax revenues continue steady climb

#### **By James Draper**

Robust sales in February brought another healthy sales tax check from the state this month.

According to the latest numbers from Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office, the City of Gladewater's allocation for April is 9.17 percent more than the same month last year, \$125,019.09 compared to \$114,502.46 in April '23.

That puts the community at 29 consecutive months of year-to-year gains – and then some – according to interim City Manager Charlie Smith.

For the year-to-date, City Hall's coffers are heavier by 9.24 percent compared to the same time in 2023.

The exact cause of the recent, and ongoing, increase in returns is a bit nebulous. There are a myriad of factors at play, Smith confirmed, from out-of-town visitor dollars to new business ventures and active retail outlets. "It's not 100 percent inflation," he said. "To me, I'm seeing more and more people downtown."

Smith credits the ongoing revitalization and resurgence of Gladewater's shopping district with drawing more out-of-town visitors in addition to locals. Likewise, he said, destination restaurants like Skipper's Pier and new offerings like Manni's Italian Kitchen are boosting the local economy as well.

"I think the restaurants are going to be a big part of it."

In addition to tourists and residents, Gladewater seems to be benefiting from an increasing amount of commerce from travelers' pit-stops and, also, from activity at local dollar stores.

#### Continued on Page 10

## Early voting in city races begins soon

Early voting in the City of Gladewater's Spring 2024 Election gets underway Monday at City Hall.

On the ballot this cycle are two contested council races, one uncontested spot and eight proposed amendments to the city charter.

Per the council's order of election in January, all polling this cycle is set under the city's roof at 519 East Broadway. That includes Gladewater's three election precincts in Upshur County (2, 3 and 14) along with Precinct 13 in Gregg County.

For Early Voting, polls will be open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 22-30 excepting April 26, when they'll be open 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Election Day polling Saturday, May 4, runs 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Gladewater ISD has no contested races this cycle, so only city issues are on the ballot, including Places 1, 2 and 3.

For Place 1, the mayor's seat, incumbent Place 3 council member Brandy Flanagan and contender Jim Valentine are challenging for the seat. Incumbent Mayor Scott Owens and candidate Stoney Stone are vying for Place 3. Council member Michael Webber saw no challengers for re-election to Place 2.



Be informed! Read the candidates' Q&A inside on Page 8

scholarships for Gladewater High Schoolers. In addition to a DJ, the weekend's entertainment features the Darrin Morris Band at 7 p.m. Friday evening, April 19, then Sheila And The Caddo Kats will provide the soundtrack for a Saturday Night Street Dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs in addition to dancing shoes.)

More live entertainment during the weekend will feature the Gladewater Middle School and Gladewater High School choirs, Awesome Sports, Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo Queen Contestants in three age groups and the Brownie Bowl face-off, among others. Follow @ EastTexasGusherDays on Facebook for schedule updates.

"I'm still having people firm up what they're going to do," Reed said. "We have a mechanical bull coming out of Oklahoma."

Saturday opens with the Gladewater Lions Club Pancake Breakfast with plates at \$7 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the downtown

**Continued on Page 10** 

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Pmt. Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Paymet YTD	% Change
Clarksville City	1.00%	\$9,387.93	\$8,446.87	11.14%	\$35,095.70	\$34,877.80	0.62%
Easton	1.00%	\$3,383.86	\$4,843.29	-30.13%	\$17,724.11	\$19,552.05	-9.34%
Gladewater	1.50%	\$125,010.09	\$114,502.46	9.17%	\$567,684.96	\$519,652.21	9.24%
Kilgore	1.50%	\$682,218.21	\$776,258.63	-12.11%	\$3,023,524.36	\$3,332,821.85	-9.28%
Lakeport	1.50%	\$25,049.84	\$24,104.04	3.92%	\$88,603.88	\$100,519.17	-11.85%
Longview	1.50%	\$3,340,142.15	\$3,521,072.97	-5.13%	\$14,677,307.57	\$15,414,362.10	-4.78%
Warren City	1.00%	\$1,458.70	\$1,044.60	39.64%	\$6,321.35	\$5,778.33	9.39%
White Oak	1.50%	\$117.329.02	\$118,346,69	-0.85%	\$521.688.58	\$539,484,06	-3.29%

## Adams returns to lead Union Grove athletics

#### **By Tyler Sutton**

A familiar face has returned to Union Grove as Kyle Adams was hired on last Wednesday to become the new head coach and athletic director for the Lions.

"Coming back to Union Grove as the Head Football coach and Athletic Director was a decision influenced by several factors," Adams said. "Firstly, having spent nine of my 16 years coaching within the district, it holds a special significance for me. The familiarity of the environment and the opportunity to work alongside trusted colleagues were key motivators. Also, the potential of the Union Grove football program and the talent of its athletes were important considerations.

"The program's success across various other sports indicates a strong foundation, which I'm eager to contribute to and build upon. Equally important was the chance to reunite with my family. Joining my wife and children in one location presents an opportunity for us to create shared experiences and strengthen our bonds," Adams said, adding he is eager to hit the ground running and continue the success Lions athletics has had this season in all sports.

But it is also a chance to return home to a program he is so familiar with. From his previous coaching job here where he was a assistant coach on the staff of his father, long time Lions coach Roger Adams for seven seasons as offensive coordinator and special teams coach. He also was the head track coach and a assistant on the boys basketball team. That was followed by coaching at his alma mater Hallsville in 2021 where he was their offensive

Continued on Page 5

The proposed charter amendments are the first to be put to voters in decades.

The eight pending changes include, in simple terms: adding a gender-neutrality statement to the charter's preamble, linking the city's elections to state timetables, adding an office forfeiture provision for council members with excessive absences from meetings along with extending the term for municipal judge and accounting for the city prosecutor in the charter.

Voters will also choose whether to loosen residency requirements on city managers, and the proposed amendments would clarify the city's chain of command as well as local fines and regulations in addition to relaxing some of the charter's specificity on voting procedures.

Find more details on the proposed amendments on the Gladewater Mirror's website via tinyurl. com/gladewatercharter.

## Locals indicted on drug charges

#### **By Phillip Williams**

The Upshur County Grand Jury returned 19 indictments, including some against five Gladewater residents, in Gilmer last Thursday, said District Attorney Billy Byrd.

Only one of the indictments was sealed (meaning the defendant's name wasn't disclosed) as no arrest had been made in that case, said Byrd. Defendants, charges, and bond information in the open indictments were as follows,:

Cameron Scott Spears, 38, of Gladewater, was separately indicted on three felony charges.

They included delivery of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last Sept. 26, possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine) on Feb. 2, and unlawful possession of firearm by felon on Feb. 2.

He was released on bonds of \$50,000 on the delivery charge, \$75,000 on the drug possession charge and \$25,000 on the firearm charge.

Benjamin Heath Evans, 45, of Gladewater, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Feb. 2. Although he posted \$25,000 bond, he remained in county jail on other charges.

Jimmy Wayne Skinnner, 50, of Gladewater, was separately indicted on two charges: possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) and unlawful possession of firearm by felon, both on Feb. 2.

Although bonds were set at \$15,000 on the drug charge and \$25,000 on the firearm charge, Skinner remained in county jail on a "blue warrant," seeking to revoke his parole.

Amanda Lynn Gage, 40, of Gladewater, possession of controlled substance (methamphtamine) on Feb. 2. She remained in county jail under \$15,000 bond.

Hailey Renee Shaddix, 33, of Gladewater, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Feb. 2. She also remained in county jail under \$15,000 bond.

Cassandra Angelica Rocha, 38, of Lindale, unauthorized use of vehicle on Feb. 8. She remained in county jail under \$10,000 bond.

Jessi Nicole Leimer of Gilmer, who turned 41 Saturday, prohibited substance/item in correctional facility

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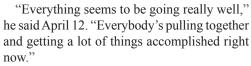
# Interim GPD chief hits the ground running

#### **By James Draper**

"We're moving forward."

Any leadership change brings challenges along for the ride, but

Kyle Ready's first week as Interim Gladewater Police Chief was a smooth one.



Outgoing GPD Chief Gordon Freeman retired April 8 after five years in the post, and his longtime second in command was subsequently appointed to the task.

"We're pushing through," Ready said, taking

things one step at a time and business as usual while Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith lines up the next steps to determine a fulltime successor.

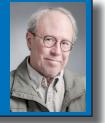
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THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

## **Gary Borders Capital Highlights**



### 'Aggressive' hurricane forecast for Gulf

Colorado State University researchers are calling this year's hurricane season forecast "the most aggressive" ever, the Texas Standard reported. They say there is a 54% chance a hurricane will strike the Texas coast, and a 25% chance it will be major.

Justin Ballard, the Houston Chronicle's newsroom meteorologist, told the Texas Standard that the last hurricane to make landfall was Nicholas in 2021. The last major hurricane to land was Harvey in 2017, which caused \$125 billion worth of damage.

"These storms are becoming, yes, more common, more intense, but they're also becoming more destructive with the amount of damage that they can cause just because things are more expensive," Ballard said.

Ballard is urging Texas residents, especially those new to the coast who have never experienced a hurricane, to consider gradually stocking up on nonperishable items such as water and canned goods, rather than waiting until a hurricane threatens the Gulf of Mexico.

#### TPWD sued in land swap with SpaceX

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is being sued in an attempt to block a land swap deal with SpaceX in South Texas, kut.org reported. TPWD in March approved pursuing an exchange of 43 acres of Boca Chica State Park to the company in exchange for nearly 500 acres of land that is now privately owned. SpaceX is negotiating to buy the land in order to make the swap with TPWD.

The South Texas Environmental Justice Network, the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas and Save RGV filed the lawsuit in a Travis County district court in early April.

SpaceX wants the land swap in order to expand its launch facility near the state park. The suit alleges TPWD violated statutory requirements to ensure mitigating harm to the land and considering alternatives to giving up park land.

#### Patrick lists legislative priorities for 2025

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has a to-do list of 57 items for senators in the next legislative session, The Texas Tribune reported, including improving housing affordability, fighting antisemitism on college campuses, and examining charitable bail organizations.

"Come January 2025, the Senate will hit the ground running at the start of the 89th Legislative Session," Patrick said in a statement. "The priorities of the conservative majority of Texans will be accomplished, including school choice, continued property tax relief, and strengthening the power grid."

Patrick said he wants his chamber to recommend how to "reduce regulatory barriers" and "strengthen property rights," that could possibly reduce city land use and zoning rules.

## To follow, or not to follow ...

Rules exist for a reason. Usually.

Some we have a tendency to bend, others we break with a wink, and others we follow either out of personal safety concerns or out of respect.

I have been known to have a bit of a lead foot. Most of the time I am consumed with whatever is on my little old mind and I don't realize I am breaking the law. As soon as I do, I nearly always ease off the pedal.

I always get a fresh plate on the second go round at a buffet and I do not double dip at a party.

I never cheat at games. If someone beats me they are better than me and I know it.

A rule I broke with abandon as a journalism teacher who had to motivate a group of teenagers to produce a nationally competitive K-12 yearbook and a high school newspaper was to allow food in my production room. Always. Drove my principal crazy but he loved me anyway. (Also, when he needed a snack he knew where to go.)

When I was a student I was a bit chatty when I should have been listening. I can remember having to write 1,000 times as a freshman in high school..."I will not be a detrimental influence in class". Apparently whoever I was chatting with couldn't keep up with their work. Personally, I have always been a multi-tasker.

In an emergency I will go into a men's restroom (single use



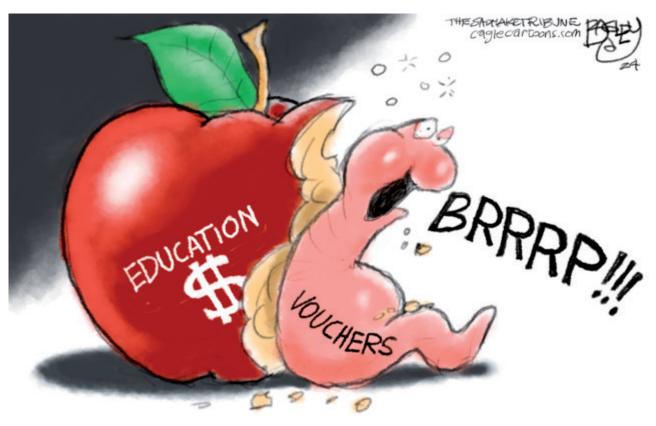
only). This is one of those rules that is right up there with breaking the glass and pulling the fire alarm. When it is an emergency it is an emergency people.

I have never vandalized anything in my entire life. I don't know what my Mom said or did to ingrain in me that children don't write on walls, or scratch their name into memorials. I wish I knew, then I would create handout instruction sheets for new parents and tell them they would be tested round about the time their kid turns 13.

I also never assume when attending a hosted event with specific rules and boundaries that I can make up my own. My mother would have given me a good old Sunday church service pinch and asked me who "made you queen of this universe?" One thing I learned from good old Mom is that it sure ain't

me.

And one last thing, the only time my name will be scratched on a memorial will be when it includes my birth and death date.



# **THE ECONOMIST**

#### By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

## The Short-Term Outlook for the US Economy

The US economy continues to defy the expectations of artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and other capital inthat seem to pop up constantly. Barring a major setback, we childcare availability. Sensible immigration reform (while should see the expansionary pattern continue (possibly with some bumps along the way). Here's a brief look at my latest projections for the US economy and factors affecting likely performance. Inflation is not completely tamed, but the economy is in a much better position than a year ago. The last increase in target interest rates by the Federal Reserve was last summer, and there remains clear indications that cuts will begin in the next few months. The timing is somewhat dependent on data being released in the near future, as the Fed remains focused on its dual

many, gaining jobs at a surprising pace given the challenges vestments, as well as enhanced workforce training and even

of celebrating!

Join us for a weekend

## 2024 Lottie Christian **Family Reunion**

## July 18- July 20, 2024 Holiday Inn - Tyler Broadway

For more information check out the website www.lottiechristian2024.com

If you have any questions give Randall Christian a call at 210-823-4145 or leave a message on the website.



mandate of promoting maximum employment and stable prices. The most recent job increases and commodity costs may push back the timeline to some extent, but not for an extended period.

The number of US job openings remains high, though down from those in the early stages of the pandemic recoverv: many industries continue to experience severe shortages. While the major COVID-related dislocations in the labor market have largely eased, long-term demographic trends are pointing toward ongoing challenges for the foreseeable future. Solutions will involve a range of options, such as

simultaneously protecting the border) will also be required.

While the current outlook embodies both positive and negative factors over the next five years, I anticipate that the US economy will expand at a relatively healthy pace. Growth has persisted despite challenges ranging from the Federal Reserve's efforts to slow inflation to major geopolitical tensions around the world to addressing the many challenges emanating from the pandemic. At present, it appears as if the elusive soft landing may have already been achieved, though future events could certainly cause disruptions.

The Perryman Group's latest projections indicate increases in US real gross domestic product at a 2.65% annual pace over the 2023-2028 period. Total employment is projected to grow by approximately 13.9 million net new positions, an annual increase of 1.72%. Performance will likely be below these thresholds in 2024, with momentum building over time.

Uncertainty will remain high due to the situations in the Middle East, Ukraine, Venezuela, the Red Sea, and elsewhere. A major escalation could lead to higher energy prices, supply chain disruptions, and other potential headwinds. We also must confront the quadrennial gyrations of election year politics. Nonetheless, the economy is on much more solid ground than in the not-too-distant past, and the underlying fundamentals sustain moderate expansion.

Stay safe!

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## **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM? YES AND NO**

I am thankful that we in America enjoy religious freedom i. e., the guaranteed right by our government, to worship as we so choose, in keeping with what we believe. But does God permit us to worship and serve gods other than Him, and does He accept our worship of Him, based solely on what we choose to offer Him? In other words, does He demand that we worship Him as He directs? I submit to you, that we cannot worship and serve God acceptably unless it is done according to His commands. Jesus said: "But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15: 9). On another occasion, He said: "God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4: 24).

For example, will He accept our "Joining the church of our choice," and worshipping Him "as we see fit?" Notice: Jesus said "I will build MY church" (singular); not "churches" (plural) (Matt. 16:18). He is the Head and Savior of His church, which is His body (Eph. 1: 22-23; Eph. 5; 23), which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20: 28), hence, there is "one body" (Eph. 4: 4). Since there is one body and the body is the church, and the church is His, doesn't it follow that there is but one church? That eliminates the church of MY choice, don't you think?

Do we have a choice as to how we will be saved? Since Jesus is the Savior, doesn't He have the right to tell us what we must do to be saved? Do we have a choice in the matter? Are we free to live as we so choose, or must we live as God directs? (Gal. 2: 20; Phi. 1: 21).

Our only choice in these matters is to obey the Lord, or not obey the Lord! You see, Jesus shed His blood on the cross, not us (Matt. 26: 28). Jesus is the way to God, not us (Jn. 14: 6) Jesus will be our judge, not us (2 Tim. 4: 1). Think on these things

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ P. O. Box 454 - White Oak. Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathv845@gmail.com.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING



White Oak High School's 2024 UIL One-Act Play, Deborah Brevoort's THE WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE, is advancing to the Regional finals on Thursday, April 25th, at Tyler Junior College. The play is now one of only 24 plays still competing in the 3A classification. They advanced from the Area competition last Friday, with several students earning individual honors. Vivian Scurlock was honored with a technical award for her work on lights. Honorable Mention All-Star Cast medals went to Eliana Johns and Mykey Feldhauser, Rilee Brittain won an All-Star Cast award, and Seth Anderson was named as one of the Outstanding Performers. Best of all, though, is the honor of telling such a wonderful story on a very challenging topic.....and the redemption, and healing, that follow when people are committed to love, rather than hate. The story is built around the Pan Am 103 disaster in Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Company members include Seth Anderson, Rilee Brittain, Layla Hidalgo, Jack Allen, Eliana Johns, Lucas Watson, Kenna Stewart, Vivian Scurlock, Mykey Feldhauser, Holly Whitley, Julia Lawrence, Addisen Morris, and Claira Burkett. If you are not able to make it to see the play at the Regional competition, you will have two chances to see it between now and then. This Thursday night, April 18th, the play will be part of the "Roughneck Fine Arts Showcase" at the White Oak High School Auditorium beginning at 5:30. The event will include WOHS art class displays, music and vocal performances from the band and choir, dance team routines, and the one-act play will conclude the evening's festivities. And if circumstances don't allow you to join the fine arts showcase, THE WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE will be on the boards again on Friday night, April 19th, at Longview High School's Mickey Melton Performing Arts Center, as they join together with the Lobo Theatre Department for a double-shot of one-act plays, beginning at 6:30. Longview will begin the evening with a performance of their Areaqualifying play, AMADEUS, by Peter Shaffer. And White Oak will follow with their play. Admission is only \$5 to see both plays!





**Texas Bank and** Trust announces officer promotion in **Gladewater Branch** 

Shari Perry has been promoted to administrative officer and operations manager in its Gladewater location, according to an announcement from Texas Bank and Trust Company.

Mrs. Perry has worked in the financial services industry for thirty years, the last fourteen with Texas Bank and Trust. She began her career with the bank in the accounting division and was promoted to Gladewater branch operations manager in 2020. A graduate of Winona High School, Mrs. Perry holds an associate degree in social science from San Jacinto Junior College and a bachelor of business administration degree from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Texas Bank and Trust Company operates 21 fullservice branches throughout East Texas and the DFW Metroplex.



## **GEDCO** executive director resigns

Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Palmer is moving on to her

larger, similar opportunity in the Gulf Coast community of Port Arthur.

**GEDCO Board Members** accepted Palmer's resignation April 10 "with regrets," according to John Paul Tallent.

Palmer joined the local EDC in early 2022 and steered the organization through a myriad of developments in the past two years, such as helping land Floridabased manufacturer Premix Marbletite's expansion to Gladewater.

According to Mike Venturelli, General Manager and Divisional Vice President for QEP Company Inc. / PMM Products, "The reason that we ended up with Gladewater was primarily due to the amazing efforts and work and commitment and help that we got from GEDCO, primarily Michelle Palmer, the city council and chamber of commerce."

Among the key developments during Palmer's tenure was Gladewater's first job expo in Fall 2022 alongside the chamber and Workforce Solutions East Texas. She also spearheaded an inaugural Job Shadow Day in partnership with Gladewater High School and local businesses and, in early 2023, launched the Grow Gladewater Grant Program to assist the community's businesses in revitalizing their properties.

A prime focus for Palmer during her time in Gladewater was strengthening the community's connections with other EDCs, cities, organizations and businesses. She also emphasized education, working to keep the public informed about the economic development corporation's activities and to give residents a behind-thescenes look at how their tax dollars are being invested to fuel further growth here.

The GEDCO Board unanimously approved Palmer's resignation after a brief executive session during their regular April meeting last er will be closed April 23-26

"Unfortunately, we do have to accept that," said Board President Luke Kimbrough.

## 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. For more information, call

318-465-4149.

## County library hosts storytime

Two books by Lizi Boyd will be read to small children Thursday (April 18) at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer.

"I Love Grandpa" and "I Love Grandma" will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings.

For more information, contact the library at (903) 843=-001 or visit its website at www.youseemore.com/ upshur.

## 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.

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

## **Cherokee Rose** Festival slated

The Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking sponsors and vendors for the May 18 annual Cherokee Rose Festival on the downtown square.

The event is set from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call 903-843=2413.

### Appraisal office closed April 23-26

The Upshur County Appraisal District office in Gilm-

## Gladewater men arrested on drug-related charges

#### **By Phillip Williams**

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested six suspects, including three Gladewater residents, on various charges in March, Sheriff Larry Webb said Monday.

Details were as follows, and all suspects were taken to the county jail in Gilmer, said Webb:

Dennis Ray Allen, 52, and Tracy Jo Duncan, 36, both of Gladewater, were arrested March 27 on a felony charge of possession of controlled substance (1-4 grams).

The unit was performing drug interdiction in the Union Grove area when it stopped the pair's vehicle for a traffic violation in West Mountain community, and discovered 5.4 grams of methamphetamine and a methamphetamine pipe.

The stop occurred at the intersection of U.S. 271 and Silk Tree Road. Allen was driving.

A 57-year-old Gladewater man, who was a passenger in a vehicle the unit stopped in the Gladewater area, was arrested March 28 when he fled on foot and was taken into custody following "a short foot pursuit."

The man was charged with misdemeanor evading arrest or detention, and was also found to have an outstanding warrant from Upshur County for bond forfeiture on a misdemeanor reckless driving charge.

The unit was working drug interdiction when it stopped the vehicle at the intersection of Hendricks and Culver Streets. Nothing about the vehicle's driver was mentioned in the SIU report.

A 45-year-old Gilmer man was arrested on two misdemeanor charges March 20 when the unit stopped his vehicle at the rural intersection of FM 726 and U.S. 271.

The SIU observed the man driving and knew his driver's license had been suspended. An inventory of the vehicle turned up prescription medicine that hadn't been prescribed to the man, who was charged with driving while license invalid and possession of dangerous drug.

The SIU report didn't name the prescription medication.

A 44-year-old Gilmer man and 26-yearold Gilmer woman were arrested March 20 on unrelated misdemeanor charges after the unit stopped their vehicle in the 1700 block of Briarwood Street in Gilmer.

The unit had been given a description of a possibly intoxicated driver. Upon stopping the vehicle, the SIU found drug paraphernalia and illegal dangerous prescription drugs.

The male driver was arrested on three traffic charge warrants from the city of Gilmer, while the woman was charged with possession of dangerous drugs. The SIU report didn't name the drugs.

next posting, accepting a for office training. week.



Gladewater Rotary Club's Students of the Month from Gladewater **ISD** include Vanessa Trejo and (not pictured) Julius Maddox.



Interim Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith (center) and Mayor Scott Owens update members on the city's looming charter amendment election, welcomed by Rotary President Darla Ferguson April 11.





Gladewater's Gold Medal 4x100 relay team of Kyla Lincoln, Peyton Hunter, Jessica Gilmore, Paytin Thompson pose on the winners stand at the Area Track Meet at West Rusk. The four Lady Bears are now headed to the Regional Track Meet held Friday and Saturday in Whitehouse.



West Rusk's Isabella Mata and White Oak's Addison Saccoccio simultaneously clear the final hurdle in the 300 meter race at the Area Track Meet held in West Rusk. Mata would go on to nip Saccoccio at the finish line for the gold medal.

Photos by Mike Peery



Gladewater's Kingston Sheffield won the gold medal in the triple jump while taking third in the long jump at West Rusk in the Area Track Meet. Sheffield leaped 43' 10.5" in the triple jump and 20' 4" in the long jump.



Addison Clinkscales of White Oak leaped 5 feet in the High Jump to finish in second place at the Area Track Meet.



Jaxsen Ludlow cruises to victory in the 400 meter dash in the Area Track Meet. The Sophomore recorded a winning time of 52.11 on a windy day in West Rusk.





Peyton Hunter crosses the finish line in first place in the 4x100 relay in a time of 48.86 in the Area Track Meet held at West Rusk High School. Hunter also won the 100 meter dash, was on the winning 4x200 relay team, and finished in 2nd and 3rd place in Long Jump and Triple Jump respectively.

Kyler Priest goes high in the sky to clear 14' 0" and take home the gold medal for the Roughnecks at the Area Track Meet.



These were some busy bears at the Area Track Meet held at West Rusk as they combined to compete in 12 events. From left to right: Jessica Gilmore, Hadassah Balcorta, and Peyton Hunter.



Bella Baker threw the discus 100 feet 1 inch to place second in the Area Track Meet for White Oak.



Johanna Pennington pole vaults 9' 0" to secure second place in the event at the Area Track Meet for the Ladynecks.

# **Sports Roundup**

#### **By Tyler Sutton**

Wet weather once again wrecked havoc over the baseball and softball week for Gladewater, White Oak and Union Grove had multiple games that were started on one day and finished on another or moved all together.

Gladewater baseball was originally scheduled to play against Sabine on Tuesday in Sabine but the game was moved up to Monday night with the threat of rain in the forecast.

The game got to the bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning before the rains came and the game was suspended and was not finished until Friday afternoon in Gladewater where the Bears won easily 11-1.

Then later that night in a back and forth contest in the originally scheduled game, Gladewater held on to win 3-2. The Bears are now 12-9 on the season and 4-3 in district play which ties them with Daingerfield for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Bears will play a home and home series with rival White Oak this week in Gladewater.

Then they will switch to White Oak on Friday night. The Lady Bears softball team also had their schedule for this week interrupted by weather as the game that was scheduled for Tuesday was moved up to Monday and the Lady Bears fell 14-4. Then on Friday Gladewater made the trip to Sabine and fell to the Lady Cardinals 18-8. The Lady Bears now sit at 5-16 on the campaign and 0-9 in district play. They will wrap up their season on Tuesday with their senior night game vs rival White Oak.

Moving over to White Oak, the Roughnecks baseball team had to also make changes to their schedule this week because of the wet weather in the area as their game scheduled for Tuesday was postponed till Friday when the Roughnecks played a double header with New Diana where they fell in both games 5-1 and then 5-0 to the first place Eagles. White Oak is now 12-9 on the season and 5-2 in district play.

The Roughnecks will have a home and home district series this week with rival Gladewater, beginning with a trip to Gladewater on Tuesday with the series shifting to White Oak on Friday.

The Ladynecks softball team continued to dominate in district play. Their game against Hughes Springs scheduled for Tuesday was postponed until April 15th because of the rain in East Texas this past week.

The Ladynecks were able to finally get on the field on Friday against Daingerfield and came away with a 2-1 victory. Larkin Daniels had another great game as she went the distance with 16 strikeouts.

White Oak is now 22-5 on the season and a perfect 8-0 in district play.

They will wrap up their regular season with two games this week. The previously mentioned home game on Monday against Hughes Springs where White Oak will honor their seniors on Senior night and then the next night with a road game at Gladewater.

Union Grove baseball continued to fight for a postseason berth as they did just that as they fell to Overton 8-4 in a game that was originally scheduled for Tuesday but was postponed because of rain.

The Lions rebounded as they pounded Big Sandy on Friday night on the road 14-2. Seven different Lions players drove in runs and three players had multiple hits.

The Lions are now 10-8 on the season and 7-7 in district play. The Lions will host Harleton on Tuesday for the annual Youth night game. That is followed by a road game at Hawkins on Friday. The Lady Lions softball team continued to play out their district schedule as they fell to Hawkins on Friday night 22-3.

Jamie Webb had two singles and Allie Calhoun drove in two with a double. The Lady Lions are now 3-18 on the season and 1-8 in district play.

Union Grove will wrap up their season this week with games on Tuesday with their senior night and their final home game of the season against New Summerfield and then on Friday in Carlisle.

In 2023 the Texas Rangers adopted the old Texas Revolution Motto "Come and Take It" referring to their pursuit of a championship. After they shocked the world and won the World Series, they changed the slogan to "Went and Took It". This year, their rallying cry is "Run It Back" as they look to repeat. Can they do it? I'll give you three reasons

they can't - and three reasons they can.

They can't:

1. Degree of difficulty – It is extremely hard to accomplish. No baseball team has repeated a championship since the Yankees went back-to-backto-back in 1998, 1999, and 2000. Everything must fall into place for a team to win two or more years in a row. 2. Competition – Other teams have gotten better. The Orioles added ace starter Corbin Burns. The Yankees traded for top hitter Juan Soto. Public enemy number one Houston signed the game's best reliever - Josh Hader. Not to mention the billion-dollar Dodgers, the always dangerous Braves, and teams like the



The White Oak Roughneck Baseball Alumni held their annual game with

White Oak JV team at City Park last Saturday. The Alumni and their class

are Front Row: Arron Watson '08, Nathan Skeen '06, Jason Wragg ' 94, Zach

Elder '02, Brandon Cook '17. Back Row: Luke Orms '19, Tyler Terry '02,

**By Coot Putley** 

## Run It Back ....

from the National League. 3. Pitching-General Manager Chris Young often says you can't have too much pitching. The Rangers have Jacob DeGrom, Max Scherzer and Tyler Mahle - but they're all on the injured list until the middle of the season. Do they have enough starters to hold the fort down until the rest are ready? Or will they dig a hole too deep to get out by then?

They can:

1. Lineup - Last year their lineup was awesome. They led the league in almost every offensive category. They may be better this year! The only starter missing from last year's World Series winner is Mitch Garber and the Rangers have replaced him with top hitting prospect Wyatt Langford, and they will have Evan Carter for the whole season. From one to nine they should again have the best lineup in the league.

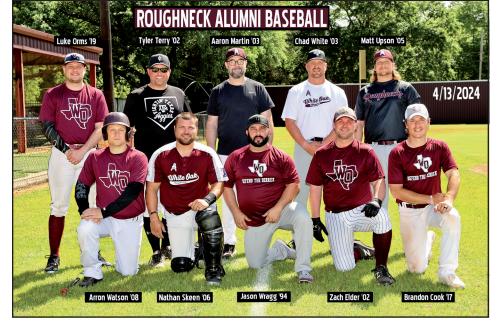
2. Culture – There is a winning atmosphere like never before. A supportive ownership group who lets the baseball people run the team. (Are you watching Jerry Jones?) A general manager

sion statement: Dominate the fundamentals. Compete with passion. Be a good teammate. And they followed it. They are led by a future Hall of Fame manager. Bruce Bochy is one of the most successful field leaders ever, with four World Series Championships on his resume'. Coaches and front office staff are on the same page. The Texas Rangers have transformed from an organization that always fell short into a model franchise.

3. Resilience – This team has proved they know how to handle adversity. Last year they had to overcome injuries to key personnel and win when no one gave them a chance. Their bullpen was historically bad at times but came through at the end of the season. They had to defeat four great teams in the playoffs, and they won eleven straight games on the road to secure the World Series win. This year the "experts" are picking them to be no better than fifth most likely to win the championship. Maybe they will once again defy the odds ..... and Run it Back.

That's one man's opinion -





The Ladynecks Softball Seniors were honored on the last home game of the year at City Park in White Oak. From LtoR: Graycen Sipes, Emily Arnold, Emily Wallace, Larkin Daniels, and Tristyn Cox.

Photo by Mike Peery

# Adams returns to lead **Union Grove athletics**

**Continued from Page 1** coordinator and his offense was a key part in the Bobcats ending a 20 game losing streak that season. He was also the head track coach at Hallsville as well.

"My future goals for Union Grove athletics are centered on building strong relationships with the students and coaches. I believe that fostering these connections is key to success. My aim is to champion for our students and coaches, providing support and guidance as they develop essential life skills such as work ethic, teamwork, and resilience.

"Additionally, I want to prepare our students for life beyond sports, instilling values that will serve them well in their future endeavors."

His first season as Lions head football coach will kickoff in August when the Lions open the season at Bishop Gorman. He is replacing previous head coach and athletic director Bobby Chadwick who is departing

for Tatum where he will help run the junior high program.

Coach Adams comes to Union Grove after 1 season as head coach at Ore City where he lead one of the biggest turnarounds in East Texas this past season as he lead the Rebels to a 5-5 record and a fourth place finish in their district which got them into the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

This was after the Rebels went 2-8 and winless in district play in the 2022 season. Union Grove athletics will now be in great hands as it starts its run for the next 2 seasons in a new district after realignment back in February.

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Phillies and Diamondbacks

who established a team miswhat's yours?



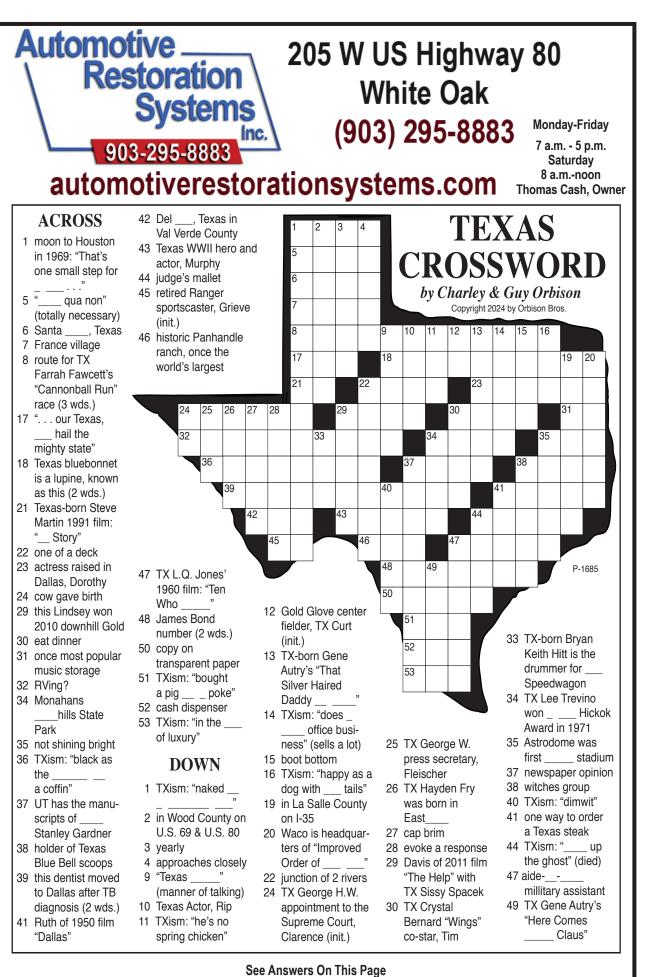
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## **WOPD** Activity

For the reporting period of April 8th through the 14th, 2024, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to, or initiated, 189 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were; Burglar Alarms, Investigative Follow-ups, Traffic Issues (collisions, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), Suspicious Activities, and Community Relations (burn permits, welfare checks, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Two traffic collisions were investigated which resulted in two injuries and no continuing criminal investigations.

No one was arrested by White Oak Police during this reporting period.

Two cases were filed through the Gregg County District Attorney's office: Assault - Family Violence and Indecent Exposure.





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212 E. George Richey Rd., Gladewater Schedule of Services									
Sunday		Wednesday							
Sunday School Morning Service	10 a.m. 11 a.m.	Prayer and Bible Study 7 00 p.m.							
Evening Service	6 p.m.	903-845-6440							
Pastor Steven Zanjter									

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St. James Missionary Baptist Church Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 pm for ABF/SBF and 7:15 pm for Bible Study and

> each Sunday at 9 am. 2800 W. Commerce Street Gladewater, Texas 75647 903-845-5028

## **GPD Activity Report**

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## MAYO

## **Brandy Flanagan**

As a 1995 graduate of West Rusk ISD and earning a bachelor's in business communications from UT-Tyler, I moved

to Gladewater in 2003, founding my first business, Gym 101 Fitness Center. Gladewater quickly became our adopted hometown with all my children attending Gladewater ISD. Transitioning

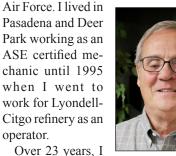


from entrepreneurship to consulting, I joined UT Tyler-Longview SBDC in 2019, aiding over 400 businesses throughout East Texas, including Gladewater, while developing key relationships with regional stakeholders and becoming a keynote speaker/ published author in the business realm.

I've been a proactive member of the community as well served as your City Councilwoman since May 2018.



Born James Robert Valentine Jr in Pasadena Texas. Married to Betty Valentine since 1991 with two sons that served in the



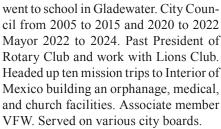
qualified through 10 areas including Turnaround planning, Maintenace planning, special projects and supervisor roles. I retired in October 2018 to call Gladewater my home.

## PLACE 3

## Scott Owens

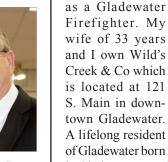
Graduate Monahans High / Associates Automotive Management TSTC Waco 1974. Worked at Pegues Hurst Ford after Graduating TSTC.

Managed seven different departments since 1976. I have extensive Managerial and budget experience. Lived in Gladewater for 50 years. My successful children



## **Stoney Stone**

My name is Stoney Stone. I retired from Longview Fire Department with 33 years of service with 5 of those years





in Gladewater Municipal Hospital in 1963 and graduated Gladewater High School in 1981. After completion of a degree in Electronics I began my career as a firefighter in Gladewater in 1983. I would like to serve the community that has served me so well over the years and do my part to make a difference.

## Assess the community: What is the 'State of Gladewater' to you?

Progressing. Strategic plans are now in place addressing infrastructure needs. Although an inherited issue, our team took responsibility of and worked with available resources to implement a solution.

Collaboration between City, GEDCO, Chamber, and the private sector has fostered a thriving business environment increasing our sales tax revenue. Once a haven of vacancies, downtown is now a mixture of retail, restaurants, and entertainment.

With 40+ new home builds, there's an increase in home ownership and property tax revenue. Regionally, Gladewater is gaining influence through projects like the Sabine Paddle Trail and Toll 49, poised to stimulate our local economy.

While spending time downtown I volunteered to bring the Gladewater Trolly back to life for the City and the Chamber of Commerce.

It took about two years to get it where it can pass a state inspection every year. Since I live at the lake I was asked to join the lake Board. Serving on the lake board got me more involved in the city.

I attended city council meetings off and on when Lake Board issues would be discussed.

I also watch online when I can't attend.

Financially in good shape because. (1) Tight budget control. (2) Sales tax revenue is very positive. Driven by new businesses and addition of 100 new residences. Over 20 years I bought 13 lots in my neighborhood, demolished 4 substandard houses put the lots on the tax roll. In 2021 I made them available for a developer to build homes. (3) The current Council has gone after Grants/Loans from the Texas Water Development Board receiving a total of \$5 Million for water and are in the process of Grant/Loan for \$4.7 million for sewer. We MUST replace what is under the street before we pave it. As a proud citizen of Gladewater I drive our streets every day and feel like our city has been in a state of decline for many years.

The streets in some areas are unacceptable, but some of our neighborhoods have vacant run-down property that needs to be condemned and torn down, and overgrown lots that need to be cleaned up.

It makes the community look dirty and unkept. I feel Gladewater would be much more attractive to potential home buyers if we offered them clean and wellmaintained neighborhoods.

We need to stop the decay of our city and offer our citizens a safe and clean place to live.

## What is theme for your campaign, and what does it mean to you?

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER. In the past 6 years, effective strategies have been implemented promising positive benefits for future generations. However, there's more to be done. This forward momentum can only continue one way...TOGETHER!

Citizens, City Leaders, City Staff, GEDCO, GISD, Chamber of Commerce, Advisory Board Members, and the private sector must collaborate to identify, solve, and implement successful solutions in a respectful manner. The moment we allow division to come back in, we will move backwards again. We have to continue working for progress in a unified manner I'm running for Mayor.

This is something I didn't see coming but could not dismiss. I have made a lot of good friends while living here in Gladewater.

Like most small towns there are a lot of issues that have people upset. Until moving here I never heard of a boil water notice, not even in the refinery where the water is treated like a small town.

The condition of the streets is another sore spot along with traffic issues. I understand there is only so much money in the budget to get things done.

Action Moving Forward. Moving Forward means preparation financially, capable personnel, proper equipment, thorough planning, properly timed implementation. I have helped shape a very capable staff at City Hall, Police, Fire department, Public Works, Library and work with GEDCO and the Chamber. Through ETCOG we have instituted an aggressive GIS mapping system for public works all while taking care of emergencies of day to day operation and laying plans for infrastructure upgrades. Action now means implementing those plans after careful preparations while planning and helping create future opportunities. Action is knowing when to implement after My theme is "Let's Grow Gladewater". As a 60 plus year resident of Gladewater I have watched the surrounding city's grow and some even flourish, but Gladewater for some reason has been in a state of decline.

Gladewater has a unique old downtown area that gets traffic from other cities and states. As a store owner we see a lot more traffic from tourists and very little from citizens.

For some reason we can't seem to attract industry, so I feel like we should find out why and focus our efforts on solving those issues.

preparation.

## Name one current challenge for the community – how will you address it?

Infrastructure. We've initiated a plan to address most issues. Phase one focuses on optimizing water and wastewater plants to avoid fines and breakdowns while providing better quality, with support from TCEQ and Texas Water Development Board grants. Phase two involves identifying and upgrading water lines citywide, followed by phase three which focuses on road replacements after laying waterlines. These phases operate cohesively, demonstrated by our initial project, Hendricks Street. Preservation of upgrades will be maintained, and progress will continue incrementally within budget constraints, prioritizing one pipe and road at a time. A plan for dam maintenance infrastructure is currently underway.

I am a citizen and a taxpayer first. I'm not a politician or socialite. I'm not here for Facebook. I'm here for the people of Gladewater.

I plan to spend time with the city manager, police, and fire chiefs out in the city. I want to see how the city operates.

I believe there should be defined priorities. I believe my experience and background can help make Gladewater a better place to live.

Everyone knows that our biggest concern is our water and sewer infrastructure. While needs at plants are taken care of there is still ongoing maintenance. Streets need extensive repair. Why pave a street and then dig it up for a water or sewer. THAT WASTES YOUR MONEY. Financially we are much better prepared to execute. Hendricks Street Project is underway; we are replacing water and sewer lines then paving street. Scheduling with Gregg and Upshur County for some paving of several roads that will not require water and sewer line. This will cause inconvenience like Highway 80. Results are worth it.

The current challenge that is on everyone's mind is the condition of our streets. The more challenging situation facing our city is the failing infrastructure. The water mains, sewer lines and drainage all must be replaced prior to paving our streets. This is going to be a massive and overwhelmingly expensive project that will take many years to complete. Another challenge that goes along with this is the comprehensive mapping of that infrastructure, so the city knows where every underground line is located. This will be a big job that I look forward to working with city leaders and communicating the concerns of the citizens throughout this process.

## What are three more key challenges/opportunities you see in Gladewater?

Limited revenue resources, employee recruitment/retention, and access to regional opportunities are critical factors shaping our community.

To overcome revenue constraints, we must maintain fiscal responsibility and actively pursue grants to fortify infrastructure and foster economic growth. Competitive compensation packages are essential to attract and retain skilled employees, necessitating alignment with comparable cities. Collaborating with neighboring communities, state, and federal entities is vital to accessing regional opportunities that drive economic expansion.

By prioritizing strategic initiatives and prudent resource management, Gladewater can navigate challenges while maximizing opportunities, ensuring sustainable progress, and improving quality of life initiatives throughout the City. This is a great city with a rich history and a bright future.

It takes constant change to keep moving forward. It takes sacrifice from some time to time. 1. Excited about the Old High School sale and development that is coming from a group that I brought to town then turned over to GEDCO.

2. Transportation corridor from 271 South, including replacing Sabine River Bridge, around loop then 271 North to Upshur County. Followed by Loop 49 connection and George Richey widening. This will open a busy transportation corridor in several directions creating advantages for business and industry.

3. Commercial and Retail development with new infrastructure and road expansion.

4. Current Planning Grant for sidewalk, walking, and biking trails to connect Schools and parks with major streets. Some other challenges/opportunities I see for Gladewater is the need for an audible early warning system to warn in the event of severe weather.

Gladewater needs to invest in our youth with projects that are geared toward activities and places for them to have fun. I believe if kids grow up in places that offer those opportunities, they would be more likely to stay and raise a family here in Gladewater.

Gladewater has a great mix of Antiques and Boutiques in our downtown area that need all the support they can get to survive and keep this area alive.

## As a final message to readers, why should voters choose you?

As Mayor, I'll prioritize community needs; fostering community growth, transparency, and effective policies. With a track record of effective leadership and a vision for progress, I'll collaborate with stakeholders to ensure a vibrant, sustainable future. Your vote for me empowers continued positive change, unity, and a brighter tomorrow for all.

#### My moto: Do right, fear not.

I have no agenda or vendetta except to Move Gladewater Forward. I have the Management, Budget, and Council experience to plan and implement projects. I want to see implementation of projects I along with current Council have planned. I chose to live in Gladewater it's my home we are neighbors. As a finale message to readers, why should voters choose you? (50 words)

As a retired firefighter I have worked with the city government many times and worked with the citizens every day of my career. If elected I will serve as a voice for the community. I understand I am only one vote, but I am not afraid to disagree and use my voice and vote to better our community, Gladewater deserves better.

## **GPD's state-monitored stats** free of anomalies for city

In 1355 traffic stops by Gladewater Police Department last year, 1001 involved individuals classified as 'Other' compared to 354 Black drivers.

Delivering GPD's annual state-mandated Racial Profiling and Use of Force Data to Gladewater City Council members in March, recently-retired Police Chief Gordon Freeman noted the numbers generally align with statistical expectations. (Kyle Ready is serving as interim chief following Freeman's retirement April 8.)

"Demographically, we're a bit low on Black residents and Black non-residents being stopped," Freeman allowed. At 354 incidents out of 1355, "That's a quarter of all the traffic stops. It's looking fine."

What's not immediately evident in the racial profiling data, Freeman added, is that stops more frequently involve non-residents, regardless of race.

Almost 70 percent of GPD's traffic stops in calendar year 2023 involved non-residents, 938 in total including 240 Black non-residents and 698 non-residents classified as 'Other' in the state data (such as Asian American, Hispanic and white, Freeman confirmed).

"This report is very good for us to see," Mayor Scott Owens said, "and to know the fairness of what is going on out there with the police department."

The 'Use of Force' Report also included no real surprises, Freeman told the council.

"Everything is pretty much standard," Freeman said, "as it was last year. This following year that's coming up, the state has added a lot more stuff as far as use of force.

For example, "When we have to dispatch an injured animal on the side of roadway, that's going to be in the use of force."

Consequently, there will be a "big jump" on future reports as far as the total number of 'use of force' incidents is concerned.

That said, "This year stays pretty much solid to last year. From the amount of calls we've covered and the amount of traffic violations we've stopped this year, I think we're doing pretty good."

Council member Rocky Hawkins asked whether the department was fully-staffed currently.

"We are one under on patrol officer," Freeman replied, "and we still have not filled the slot on the (Criminal Investigation Division) Investigation Officer."

From Hawkins, "You all are doing a good job," he said. "Appreciate you."

Council member Teddy Sorrell's motion to accept the use of force data was unanimously-approved as was Kevin Clark's later motion to approve GPD's Racial Profiling Report.



Gladewater ISD Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark welcomes GISD parents, students, faculty members, staffers, elected officials and community members to the Weldon Middle School Cafeteria April 10 for the district's Town Hall meeting about the challenges and opportunities of potentially transitioning to a four-day school week. Photo by James Draper

## Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar delivers grants to boost law enforcement salaries, hiring in smaller towns

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said his office delivered nearly \$126 million in financial assistance to rural law enforcement and prosecutor offices as part of a grant program that is addressing challenges faced by these groups in counties with small populations.

"About 500 rural law enforcement and prosecutor offices applied to our office for this critical grant money, which allows sheriffs, constables and district and county attorneys to raise salaries and, in some cases, make new hires," Hegar said. "Bigger cities frequently have the financial capacity to offer enhanced incentives, while smaller law enforcement agencies typically must do the same work with considerably smaller budgets. These grants will help the entities that go above and beyond every day to ensure Texans in every corner of our great state feel safe and secure in their own neighborhoods and communities."

Enacted by Senate Bill 22 during the 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, the program provides for qualified counties (on behalf of sheriffs and constables) and prosecutor offices to apply for grants up to 30 days after the start of their fiscal year. But to jump-start the program in its 2024 inaugural year, the Comptroller's office allowed all eligible counties to apply for grants from Jan. 1-31, regardless of their fiscal year start date.

The Legislature appropriated \$330 million for the 2024-25 biennium to fund the grant program. The first-year application period saw 502 grant applications.

"These brave men and women embody the grit, determination and spirit that built our state, and which are hallmarks of these rural communities," Hegar said. "As a sixth generation Texan who grew up farming land in a rural community that relied on law enforcement personnel to wear a lot of different hats, I understand the pressures that these folks feel. It is a privilege to be able to support them through this program, and I'm grateful to the Legislature for trusting me with this."

9A

The grant program allows the Comptroller's office to administer the following to counties with populations of less than 300.000 people:

• The Rural Sheriff's Department Salary Assistance Grant awards grants between \$250,000 and \$500,000. The grant funding must be used to provide specified minimum salaries, give salary increases, hire additional deputies or staff for the department, or to purchase safety equipment for the sheriff's department.

 The Rural Constable's Office Salary Assistance Grant provides financial assistance to constable's offices. The grant funding must be used to provide a minimum salary of \$45,000 to an elected constable who makes motor vehicle stops in the routine performance of the constable's duties.

• The Rural Prosecutor's Office Salary Assistance Grant awards grants between \$100,000 and \$275,000 to increase the salary of assistant attorneys, investigators and victim assistance coordinators, or to hire additional staff.

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## 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 thepersons 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.

## 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).



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## Notice to Creditors

Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Shirley Bradshaw, Deceased, were issued to Theresa Morris and John G. Bradshaw on 03/5/24, in Cause No. 2024-0027-E, by the County Court at Law 2 of Gregg County. All persons having claims against this Estate currently being administered are required to present them to said estate, c/o John G. Bradshaw, 4100 Somerset Court, Grapevine, TX 76051 within the time and manner prescribed by law.



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#### **EVENT**

Lamesa - Chicken Fried Steak Festival, April 26-28, Lamesa, TX. More than 100 booths, live music Fri. & Sat., volleyball tournament, car & motorcycle show, children's story time, pet costume contest, petting zoo, parade, 5K run, worship service, carnival games, team roping, tumblers & dancers, Mister and Miss Chicken Fry Pageant. For registration forms and more information go to www.ci.lamesa.tx.us or call 806-872-2124 ext. 322

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Gladewater City Council candidates Brandy Flanagan (above, left), Scott Owens (center) and Stoney Stone (below) visit with constituents during the Gladewater MLK/Juneteenth Committee's 2024 Meet the Candidate Forum moderated by Jill Clay Friday evening at Red Rock Historical Association. Flanagan (incumbent, Place 3) is running for mayor against Jim Valentine (who did not attend) while Stone and Owens (incumbent, mayor) are vying for Place 3. Early voting runs April 22-30 with Election Day polling set May 4.



# Gusher Days gets ready to blow downtown

#### Continued from Page 1

#### pavilion.

The slate of activities April 20 also includes Gusher Days' annual car show, running from 8 a.m. to noon. Entries will be accepted the day of the event at \$20 per vehicle. There's also the annual chili cook-off spearheaded by the Chili Appreciation Society International.

"That's strictly run by CASI rules," Reed noted.

This year adds the Nancy Burks Memorial 42 Domino Tournament on Saturday. Registration for the competition opens at 8 a.m. with gameplay beginning at 9 .m. in the Gladewater Museum's Rodeo Annex at 112 W. Pacific. The sanctioned tournament's entry fee is \$50 cash per team.

Mayor Scott Owens will be back in the Gusher Days dunking booth, and there will also be two wrestling shows including League of Lions at noon April 20 followed by Texas Elite Wrestling Reunion at 3 p.m.

A week after the main event, the East Texas Gusher Days Big Bass Classic is set for April 27 at Lake Gladewater with a grand prize of \$500 plus a \$250 gift certificate to Skipper's Pier. Other door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.



Crew members from Red River Pump Specialists and other contractors re-install Gladewater Water Plant pumps 2 and 3 Monday under the watchful eye of Plant Manager Wendy Emmel, Operator Nate Palmer and other city personnel. After a week's delay due to rain, the contractors went on to remove pump 1 for maintenance and a bit of TLC – it kept the city's water flowing on its own non-stop since the other pumps went out-ofservice March 4.

# Sales tax revenues continue steady climb

#### **Continued from Page 1**

"There's just a lot of traffic that passes through here," Smith said, noting healthy activity at well-placed convenience stores. Similarly, roughly half-a-dozen small retailers are undoubtedly contributing to overall customer traffic, too, with combined sales to rival a 'Big Box' retailer: "There's sales tax right there."

Smith also sees healthy progress in the number of constant free-to-the-public activities that draw outside dollars into the community.

"We have some kind of event every month," he add-

in from all over. There's no telling how many folks from out of town are going to be here just for that, and the tax dollars spent. Then, the rodeo's coming to town.

"I think Gladewater just has a lot to offer, and we're benefiting from that as a city."

Notably, sales tax allocations from the state are based on activity two months prior – returns won't show an impact from Gusher Days, for example, until June.

"We'll see what that does." Statewide, Hegar's office distributed approximately \$1.03 billion in monthly sales tax revenue to cities,

# Interim GPD chief hits the ground running

#### **Continued from Page 1**

Yes, Ready confirmed, he aims to throw his hat in the ring for a permanent posting.

"I've been here for five years in May," Ready said. "I've come to really enjoy working here. I enjoy the people here. This is where I want to finish my career."

"I have 28 years in my career now, and I plan to at least be here another 10."

A Marshall High School alum and 1995 graduate of East Texas Police Academy in Kilgore, Ready began his law enforcement career as a non-paid Reserve Patrolman with Marshall Police Department that year. About six months later, he hired on to Carthage Police Department as a Police Officer on patrol before returning to Marshall PD as a Patrol Officer. In addition to work as a Field Training Officer and member of the Special Response Team (SWAT), Ready moved up to Detective Patrolman in 2001, Patrol Sergeant in 2004 then Sergeant Detective in 2009.

Beginning in 2011, he served the Harrison County Criminal District Attorney's Office as Chief Investigator before joining Gladewater Police Department as Captain in 2019.

Through GPD administration – including helping with budget, human resources, investigations, casework and more – in the past five years, "I've been involved in everything," Ready said, prepping the 49-year-old to move forward immediately: "Everyone is very supportive. They are helping out."

With Freeman's retirement and Ready moving into the interim position, the department is currently under-staffed by three spots, but that will soon be just two: a hire is imminent for the open role in the GPD Criminal Investigation Division, leaving one open administrative spot in addition to a patrol shift currently being covered by GPD's administrative lieutenant.

Ready's confident the roster will be back up to the ideal level of 20 employees in short order -12 patrol officers (three per shift on four shifts), a CID investigator, administrative lieutenant, assistant chief and chief plus four School Resource Officers.

"We're about to be full," he confirmed, "which is a blessing compared to other agencies," such as neighboring departments in East Texas that are short as many as a dozen or a score of officers.

"Us being down three compared to them, we're very fortunate."

Obviously, the game plan moving forward is still in flux, but Ready does have some key priorities.

"Policy is something that has to be revised every so often because of legislative changes," he said. "That's something I'm working with my admin lieutenant and my sergeants. We're all going to take some policy and get it up to standard.

"Second is equipment. We've just ordered some more vehicles. The fleet, when I got here, was in tatters. It's grown by leaps and bounds. We purchased two older DPS vehicles back in October/November of last year; we're in the process of getting those rigged out to get those assigned to the sergeants to leave the newer vehicles with the patrol officers."

Morale is already in good shape at the department, he added.

"All of my guys have pulled together and have been a tremendous help so far," Ready continued. Everyone's eager for the next task, getting a new record management system and dispatch software up-and-running, particularly for patrol officers: "They can actually do the reports from the street. That's a work in progress, but we're working toward that"

The entry fee is \$50 per person. Learn more at Gusher-Days. com or visit Facebook.com/EastTexasGusherDays.

ed, such as Gusher Days this weekend. "That drags people

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counties, transit systems and special purpose districts statewide. Across Texas, April's sales tax allocations (from February sales by monthly-filing businesses) exceeded the prior year by 5.5 percent. following a recent demonstration with Tyler Technologies.

The first week was a busy one, but Ready says he's ready for more.

"I haven't had a lot of time to do a lot of reflection on what visions I have for the department," Ready said, but it's on the list. First things first, though: "We're just getting things accomplished and finishing up some projects that we already had in the works."



A Muscovy Duck shakes water from its feathers at Lake Gladewater in the midst of last week's downpours. Photo by James Draper

## Locals indicted on drug charges

#### **Continued from Page 1**

on Nov. 19, 2022. She was released on \$25,000 bond.

Rory Martin Brundage, 32, of Ore City, aggravated assault with deadly weapon on Dec. 29, 2022. He was freed on \$4,000 bond.

Jackeline Kaluakini, 33, of Longview, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last July 6, released on \$40,000 bond.

Latricia Ann Lee, 53, of Longview, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Jan. 19, 2023, freed on \$10,000 bond Marissa Maria Lopez, 25, of Atlanta, possession of marijuana on Jan. 6, 2023,

released on \$10,000 bond. Terrence Dwayne Jeffery, 39, of Diana, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last April 24, freed on \$10,000 bond

Russell Allen Hindman, 48, of Longview, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last July 2, released on \$10,000 bond Hollon Rebecca Lahti, 41, of Diana, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) last Sept. 26. Although she posted \$10,000 bond, she remained in county jail on other charges.

Jerrad Wayne Jackson, 37, of Gilmer, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Jan. 8, released on \$25,000 bond

The sealed indictment was for delivery of controlled substance (methamphetamine).