

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢

GISD approves 4-day school week

By James Draper

Gladewater ISD will transition to a four-day school week with Mondays off beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

After months of dialogue about calendar options for the district – including internal committees, surveys, research, data, feedback, public comment and closed door debate – the final decision came down to about a minute Monday evening.

Myriad details about the coming switch are still in flux, and GISD administrators have about three-and-a-half months to get all their ducks in a row before the new '24-25 start of school Aug. 6.

"We've got a lot of details to line out," trustee Rickie Blackmon said, "but I think we've got a good team working on it."

The district's school board members kicked off their April 22 meeting as usual at 6 p.m. Monday evening and progressed steadily through a typical agenda in the GISD Administration Building on East Broadway. The seven trustees and GISD Superintendent Dr. Sedric Clark adjourned to 'Executive Session' at 6:51 p.m. and returned from the closed discussion at 7:59 p.m.

Board President Ross Morgan noted the three options for the next school year's calendar – A, the standard 5-day week; B, a 4-day week with Mondays off; and C, a Fridays-off, four-day plan.

At Morgan's prompt, "I make a motion to approve Calendar B," board Vice President Jeff Cook said.

Seconded by board member Chris Thompson, the motion

was unanimously-approved with no public discussion. A subsequent motion to adjourn received another 7-0 before 8:01 p.m. and the meeting room emptied quickly of trustees, staffers and about 40 audience members.

Things are still in development, Morgan confirmed; the board's action Monday begins the planning phase in earnest.

"There's a lot of questions. Part of it administration is going to have to work on," Morgan said, taking input from faculty and staff members. "They will start working on some of that while they are still on campus and before they go home for summer."

The evening's closed session discussion "was really team-building," he added.

Continued on Page 4



Water once again flowing after outage

By James Draper

After another frustrating stretch for residents and workers alike, water once again began flowing to scores of Gladewater homes last week.

Related boil water notices were subsequently lifted, the inciting pressure problem has been identified and, for now, the issue's corrected – interim City Manager Charlie Smith and his team know there will be more surprises in store as they work with contractors on an ongoing upgrade of the community's outdated water and sewer infrastructure.

"It's like a bad Christmas," Smith said Friday, breathing a bit easier once local faucets were functioning again: "When you open that present, you don't know what the heck you're going to find."

Smith's grateful to Miller Construction workers and City of Gladewater employees for their dogged work to diagnose the water cut-off that hit neighborhoods north and near the intersection of Gay and Hendricks Tuesday into Wednesday, April 16-17. The installation of a new 10-inch line instead of an antiquated main finally yielded results mid-week.

"After it was all said and done, the main problem that it ended up being," Smith explained, "is there wasn't enough pressure with the old line to push water on around. When they initiated that new line, we had all the pressure we needed."

"It was nobody's fault. It happened like that... When they turned that other line on, it made a world of difference."

One positive development during the difficult days was the discovery of another out-of-sight, out-of-mind water fixture. In many instances, Gladewater's buried lines are a mystery until they're unearthed for repairs or replacement.

"This was one of those typical deals," Smith added: "They found a valve under all that asphalt that nobody knew was there. It started shooting water straight down pipes. That helped everybody out on 2685. It's a loop now. That was just sheer luck."

Importantly, these recent changes to the water infrastructure will absolutely be logged, and the city's doubling down on its commitment to push information out soonest via social media and news updates.

"Everything that we're doing now is going to go to ETCOG and they're going to do the GIS for us," Smith said, getting maps up-to-date after years and decades of inadequate recordkeeping.

Notably, another project was soon in the works for the same area, rescheduled to April 24 so there would be only one day of interruptions as crews tied more lines into the system.



The Gladewater High School girls won the overall girls regional 3A championship crown Monday after the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams (4X200 - Jerrica Gilmore, Paytin Thompson, Hadassah Balcorta, and Peyton Hunter, 4X100 - Jerrica Gilmore, Paytin Thompson, Kyla Lincoln and Peyton Hunter) both finished 1st and are both going to State, along with Peyton Hunter who finished 1st in 100 meter dash and Peyton Thompson who finished 2nd in the 200 meter dash. Other GHS athletes going to State are Karlee Moses in the shot put and Peyton Hunter in the Triple Jump, as well as Kingston Sheffield in the long jump and triple jump.

White Roughnecks headed to Austin in search of gold include: pole vaulter Kyle Priest, Logan Ludwig in the 200 meters, Jaxsen Ludlow in the 400 meters, Scott Britenberg in the 300 meter hurdles, and the 4x400 relay team of Kyler Williams, Logan Ludwig, Scott Britenberg, Jaxson Ludlow. Also competing will be Ally Tatum in the 1600 meters and 3200 meters, Addison Saccoccio in the 300 meter hurdles, Bella Baker in discus, Addison Clinkscales in the high jump and Lizzy Still in pole vault.

Union Grove's Jace Roberts will compete in the 300 meter hurdles in 2A at state, while Ava Wightman looks for gold in the 200 meters and Rylee Aiken will compete in the 200 and 300 meter hurdles.



Texas Tax-free holiday for emergency supplies begins

A wide range of emergency preparation supplies will be exempt from sales tax April 27-29. The total cost of the items must be less than \$75 for most items on the list, such as batteries, first aid kits, flashlights, tarps, and fire extinguishers.

Higher amounts are allowed for portable generators (less than \$3,000) and emergency ladders and hurricane shutters (less than \$300).

Natural disasters will continue to happen. Prepare yourself during the 2024 Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Holiday for emergencies that can cause physical damage like

hurricanes, flash floods and wildfires. You can purchase certain emergency preparation supplies tax free during the sales tax holiday. There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase, and you do not need to give an exemption certificate to claim the exemption.

This year's holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on April 27, and ends at midnight on April 29.

Some emergency preparation supplies that qualify for tax exemption if purchased for a sales price include: Portable generators, Emergency ladders, Hurricane shutters,

Axes, Batteries, single or multipack, Can openers - nonelectric, Carbon monoxide detectors, Coolers and ice chests for food storage – nonelectric, Fire extinguishers, First aid kits, Fuel containers, Ground anchor systems and tie-down kits, Hatchets, Ice products - reusable and artificial, Light sources - portable self-powered (including battery operated) candles, flashlights and lanterns.

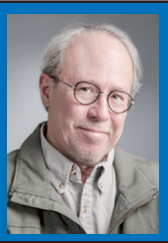
For a complete list of what qualifies for tax exemption and what doesn't, go to the state comptroller's website: <https://tinyurl.com/2c6fn4kp>.



OPINION/COMMENTARY

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



Early voting underway in local elections

Early voting began Monday, April 22 for municipal, school board and various bond elections. It ends on April 30 with Saturday, May 4 being election day. What is on the ballot depends on where you live.

There are various ways to learn what is on the local ballot. One way is by going to the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/nhbyhnyu>. This takes you to the Texas Tribune's election center, where voters can type in their address to find out what is on their ballot.

In addition, most local newspapers and county election websites post notices of local elections.

Book-banning law gutted by appeals court

The key provisions of a law signed by Gov. Greg Abbott requiring booksellers to rate books for sexual content were gutted after the full 17-member court 5th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to reconsider an earlier decision, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The vote was 9-8 to let the earlier decision stand.

A group of independent booksellers joined with book associations to challenge the law, passed in the 2023 regular legislative session. The booksellers contended the law violated the First Amendment and would cause considerable harm to their operations. One owner said the law already has caused a chilling effect and resulted in lost orders.

"The damage to us is mitigated by the fact we don't have to review every book and rate every book that we've sold to the school library," Valerie Koehler, owner of Houston's Blue Willow Bookshop and a lead plaintiff, said of the court's decision. "But the damage has been done in terms of the libraries across the entire state have changed their policies in a way that makes it hard for new books to get in."

State Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, sponsored the bill and disagreed with the court's decision.

"It's incredibly disappointing that a majority of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with book vendors who push pornography on unsuspecting children in our public schools," he wrote in a statement posted on social media.

\$100K daily fine for state halted

A \$100,000 daily fine levied against the state for failing to implement fixes to the state's foster care system ordered by a federal judge was temporarily halted by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Statesman reported.

U.S. District Judge Janis Jack levied the fines last Monday after finding the state Health and Human Services Commission repeatedly failed to fully investigate abuse allegations in the foster care system.

Jack issued a 427-page ruling that listed dozens of cases where mistakes or delays in investigations resulted in children going without treatment for physical and sexual abuse.

Houston attorney Paul Yetter, who has represented the plaintiffs since the case was filed in 2011, condemned the state's appeal. The stay means the fines will not be levied until the 5th Circuit Court considers the merits of the state's appeal.

\$6.4 billion for Texas chip factories

The Biden-Harris administration announced last week that it would grant \$6.4 billion in direct funding for Samsung Electronics to expand its computer chip manufacturing and research cluster in Texas, the Associated Press reported. The money comes from the CHIPS and Science Act signed by President Joe Biden into law in 2022.

"The proposed project will propel Texas into a state-of-the-art semiconductor ecosystem," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said on a call with reporters. She predicted the project in Taylor will create at least 17,000 construction jobs and more than 4,500 manufacturing jobs.

The funding will also expand an existing Samsung facility in Austin. The two factories being built in Taylor, about 45 miles northeast of Austin, are expected to become operational in 2026 and 2027.

Senator John Cornyn commended the measure in a statement Monday.

"By investing in leading-edge semiconductor manufacturing, we are helping secure this vulnerable supply chain, boosting our national security and global competitiveness, and creating new jobs for Texans," Cornyn said.

Planted in love ...

My Blackland Prairie roots are calling me.

It is a beautiful spring day and I am stuck behind a computer with huge plate glass windows in front of me which frame the trees swaying in the wind. Even the dandelions growing through the cracks in the sidewalk in front of our office look beautiful to me.

I want to put on my softest, oldest, holey jeans, my most well-washed t-shirt, and grab a spade and start digging. I want to plant rose bushes, caladium bulbs and anything bright. I want to bask in the sun and turn from a pasty-faced office drone into the golden girl I used to be from hanging in the sunshine with dirt under my fingernails.

When I was a toddler to about 8-years old I spent a lot of time at my great-grandparents' farm and I remember the flowering plum trees, the huge fern that grew next to the house that survived winters that had snow drifts, the chinaberry tree over the chicken house that was the arsenal to the chinaberry wars my cousins and I enthusiastically fought with one another.

I remember my grandmother's (Mam'maw's) Day Lillies bloom- ing beside her home. When my grandparents passed away I dug up those bulbs and brought them to East Texas and planted them in what was our lawn next to a tree our son planted.

The Day Lillies had been planted on my grandparents' farm way down in the mud, south of Mexia and moved with them to Retreat outside of Corsicana. I imagine that before that they were brought from Illinois in a covered wagon.

My Nanny Brown, the homemaker who became a widow at 50 and a career nurse a short time later, always had Mimosa trees and a Magnolia, so I do as well. Nanny's 'people' came to Texas by way of Oklahoma from Mississippi. I wish I had that accent. You know, the one that sounds like this: "I went down to the rivah but the watah was too cold to take a swim."

So genteel.

I sound like a field hand from the back 40 with my country

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



accent. This wilted southern flower is so sad that she didn't get the accent to go along with her grandmother instilled southern manners.

My Momma's irises succumbed to drought before I could liberate them to East Texas although I do have a few of Mam'maws which were Mom's Iris source as well, so maybe I do 'have' them after all.

I remember the fragrance of what my Great-Aunt Spike called tea roses. I have substituted Knockouts near my sidewalk which remind me of their perfume. Aunt Spike's real name was Ida but my Daddy nicknamed her Spike when he was a kid in bib-overalls made out of flour sacks. That nickname stuck through four generations. Everyone should be so lucky as to have an Aunt Spike.

The dirt I dig in here is red, not black.

But the memories remain regardless of the soil they are planted in. Roots cultivated by loving hands across the decades and generations. Roots that grow deep, deep, wherever they are planted.

The heirloom plants are just a reminder of where, and more importantly from whom, I came. From Illinois, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Virginia they made their way to Texas. Before that my people came from England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Germany as immigrants who came here to make a better life for their children.

And they did.

For those roots I am very, very grateful.

THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

Suburban Surge

New Census data confirms what many people around the state have observed – Texas metropolitan areas and the surrounding counties are seeing a notable population surge. The data (which reflects estimated changes between July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023) provides an overview of the changes for local areas, and it is eye-opening!



Only about 60% of US counties gained population from 2022 to 2023. The Northeast continues to have more counties losing than gaining, and, for the first time since 2020, the Midwest finally had more gainers than losers. The West is doing okay (led by Arizona), but it's the South where growth is greatest and momentum is building.

There are three components to population change. The rate of natural increase reflects births minus deaths, and in about 69% of US counties there was a natural decrease due to the aging population and historically low fertility rates. International migration is another important component, and 80% of counties saw at least some increase in this category. The big game changer is domestic migration, which is simply people moving around the country. Many of these folks are headed to Texas.

Eight of the 10 counties leading the nation by numeric change in 2023 were in Texas, including the top three. Harris County saw the largest gain, adding 53,788 residents, fol-

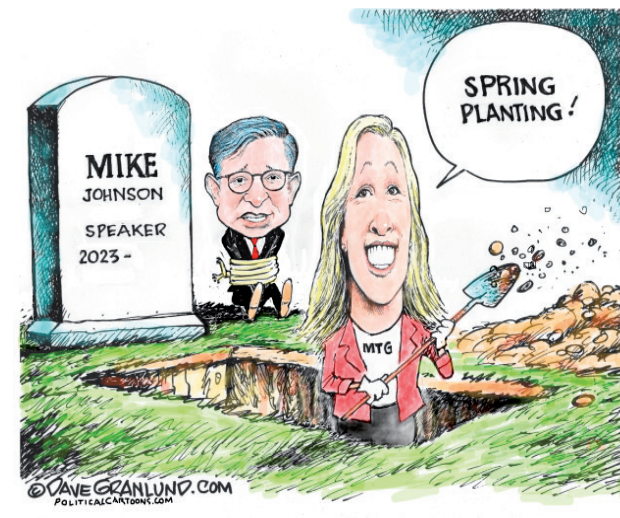
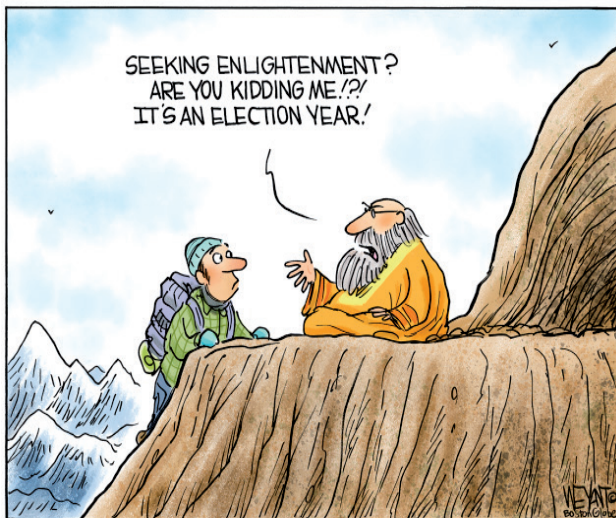
lowed by Collin County (36,364) and Montgomery County (31,800). Maricopa County, Arizona was fourth and Polk County, Florida was fifth. The remainder of the top 10 were in Texas including Denton (29,943), Fort Bend (27,859), Bexar (27,488), Tarrant (27,301), and Williamson (24,918).

Several of these counties (Collin, Denton, Williamson, and Fort Bend) also made the list of the highest level of net domestic migration. The suburban counties surrounding dynamic Texas urban centers are seeing substantial expansion. Kaufman, Rockwall, Liberty, Chambers, Comal, and Ellis counties were among the 10 fastest growing in the US in percentage terms (for counties with populations of 20,000 or more), with growth rates ranging from 7.6% to 4.9%.

Taking a slightly larger geographic view, the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metro area grew more than any other in the nation, up 152,598 for the year to top eight million. Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands was second with 139,789 new residents to exceed 7.5 million; this gain was twice that of third-ranked greater Atlanta.

It's a vastly different story in many parts of the country including the Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago areas (among others), where people are leaving by the tens of thousands. An exodus of residents makes it almost impossible to sustain a vibrant economy offering opportunities for advancement, which in turn leads more people to leave. Although growth certainly brings challenges that we must address, their loss is Texas' gain.

Stay safe!



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WORSHIP WEARINESS

Malachi said Israel was weary, bored, and tired of worship. (*Mal. 1: 13*). It was too demanding and had become a grievous chore, rather than an exalted privilege; a burden instead of a blessing.

Fast forward to today. Many want shorter sermons, with less Scripture and more wit; less identification and exposure of sin, and smooth speech with less doctrinal content. People don't want to be reminded of their sins. Calls for modesty, faithfulness, and godly living are held in disdain. Social drinking is justified, sexual immorality is becoming the norm, and gambling is becoming epidemic. Entertainment has become our religion, and religion our entertainment! Many avoid Bible classes and worship services to do other things they desire. Instead of "seeking first the kingdom of God" (*Matt. 6: 33*), such is way down the priority list.

The prophet Isaiah echoed the same theme in Isaiah forty-three. In verse 22, God said: "But you have not called upon Me...and you have been weary of Me, O Israel." Sadly, many of God's people today have become weary of God's ways and of the exertion and effort necessary to serve Him. But, the sad thing about "worship weariness" is, it wearies God. In verse 24, God said: "But you have burdened Me with your sins, you have wearied Me with your iniquities."

The Psalmist said: "I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (*Ps. 122: 1*). How much better off we would be today, if our attitude toward worship and service to God, was the attitude expressed in this psalm. Worship should not be a weariness or burden, but a joy, and an attitude of gladness for the opportunity to worship our God, the Creator of the world. Think on these things.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING



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.

Oil Patch TRTA to meet

Oil Patch TRTA's April meeting is set for 1:30 p.m. today at First Methodist Church, 217 W. Quitman Ave. in Gladewater, "as we come together to celebrate our collective years of dedication to education. We're thrilled to announce that we'll be hosting a special guest speaker, Deann Lee from Raise Your Hand Texas, to inspire us on our continued journey of making a difference in our schools and communities. Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect, share experiences, and explore new ways to contribute to the field we're so passionate about."

County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children Thursday (April 25) at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gil-



Interim Gladewater Police Chief Kyle Ready presents the Life Saving Award to Officer John Freer April 18 during council members' monthly meeting at City Hall. The night also included a Life Saving Award for GPD's Kenan Laza, plus 5 Year Service Recognition for Freer and Jairo Arteaga.

The Gladewater Area Ladies Association (GALA) met April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce for their monthly meeting. The guest speaker was Nettie Patterson, a women's conference speaker, author, singer, local baker and farmer. She spoke on community, service, rest and taking time to have a little fun. Mrs. Patterson also shared her faith and how the death of young-adult son, although a tragedy, was used by God to bring blessings and healing to many.

Each month, GALA presents programs with guest speakers to educate, encourage and challenge members and guests. GALA welcomes women from all walks of life to join them at monthly meetings, the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information, you may call Lois Reed at the Chamber at 903-845-5501



er. "A Bad Case of Stripes" by David Shannon, and "That's What Dinosaurs Do" by Jory John (illustrated by Pete Oswald) will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings, said County Librarian Cynthia King. A craft will follow each

Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154). For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit www.yousee-more.com/upshur.

County cleanup set for April 27th

The Upshur County Com-

missioners 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.



Gladewater Rotary Club's Union Grove Students of the Month are Jenna Scott and Rowdy John Williams.

BONE IDOL: Far-flung 42 players go home with top trophy

Seven-and-a-half hours is a long way to go for a 42 tournament, even for veteran player Dick Holland.

He made the trek to Gladewater, however, one of forty players in twenty paired teams who signed up for Saturday's Nancy Burks Memorial 42 Domino Tournament in the Gladewater Museum's Rodeo Annex, part of East Texas Gusher Days 2024.

"When you live in Amarillo, you're four hours from every tournament," Holland quipped, "so you get pretty used to driving.

He understands the value a good 42 counterpart, though.

"When Anthony Williams, former mayor of Abilene, calls you and says, 'I need a partner,'" Holland said, "here we are."

The play paid off: the longest-traveling team notched first place April 20, followed by (2nd) Trey Newsome & Jennifer Newsome in second, (3rd) Darrell Morgan & Jared Austin,

(4th) Gene Bennett & Ronnie Smith, (5th) Scott Kemp & Barbara Kemp and (6th) Charlotte Wyche & Trish Martin.

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed was tickled at the turnout, especially after foul weather dampened other festivities on the Gusher Days schedule.

"To me, this collection of people, there's no telling who they are!"

In fact, Holland said, 42 is officially the state table game of Texas as of legislative action in May 2011.

"It originated in Garner, Texas, just outside Mineral Wells," recounted the visiting domino aficionado and player of 60-plus years. "Two Presbyterian boys got in trouble because they were playing cards. Cards were sinful, so they went and figured out a card game with dominoes because dominoes were not sinful.

"I believe that it spread across Texas with the railroad."



Rain can't stop CASI Chili contest

In spite of the heavy rains on Saturday, the CHILI APPRECIATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC. conducted its annual Gusher Days Chili Cook-Off in downtown Gladewater and Morris Moss of Garland took home the top prize.

Other Top 10 places went to John Daniels of Winona, Jerry Hunt of Shreveport, Richard Wallace of Jacksonville, David Trice of Hallsville, Pnut Trice of Hallsville, Ricky Powell of Shreveport, Pat Anderton of Roysse City, Michael Webber of Gladewater, and Janet Nash of Shreveport.

Showmanship Winners included: Team Blu Bonnett of Winona with Cap-

tain Pam Daniels, Team Cherry Bomb of Shreveport with Captain Cherry Pow-

ell, and Team Dr. Dave's Voodoo Stew of Shreveport with Captain David Trice.



GUSHER DAYS CAR SHOW WINNERS

JUDGES' CHOICE

'74 Volkswagen MP

Tyrone DeHass, Trinity

BEST 1950-1979

'56 Chevrolet Nomad

Bud Mahaffey, Gladewater,

BEST 1980 & UP

2000 Corvette C-5

Charles Farmer, Krum

BEST PICKUP 4x4

'48 F1 Ford Truck

David Bowling, Big Sandy

White Oak Primary School

Pre-K and Kindergarten Round-Up and Family Fun Night

May 9th 4:30-6:30

Who: All Future Pre-K & Kindergarten Students

Where: WO Elementary Gym and Playground

What To Bring: completed packet, child's birth certificate, shot record, social security card, parent drivers license

- Join us on May 9th to pre-register Pre-K or Kinder students for the 24-25 school year.
- Meet our Pre-K and Kinder teachers and have a fun night with your family!
- Bring a lawn chair and enjoy free hot dogs and treats on the playground.

Registration Packets for incoming Pre-K and Kinder will be available to be picked up, May 1-9, outside Elementary doors from 8:00-2:00 and 3:30-4:30.

Sports Roundup ...

By Tyler Sutton

Gladewater, White Oak and Union Grove baseball and softball continued to make their playoff pushes or ended their seasons this week as they once again had to dodge the rain drops.

Gladewater baseball had one great week as they completed a series sweep of rival White Oak and clinched a spot in the playoffs.

Starting on Tuesday night as the Bears offense exploded in a 12-2 win. Mason Budro worked five innings on the hill for the win, striking out four, walking three and giving up one earned run. Aubry Floyd walked three times and drove in three runs for Gladewater. Hayden Torres singled and added two RBI. Preston Bohanon had two walks and two RBI, and Sean Burke singled and plated one run.

Then on Friday night, it was a pitchers duel throughout but the Bears came away with a 4-2 victory. And with that win, Gladewater clinched a playoff birth and could finish as high as second in the district depending on the results of their final regular season game.

The Bears are now 13-10 on the season and 4-3 in district play.

Gladewater was set to

wrap up the regular season on Tuesday with their senior night game against Hughes Springs. They then will learn of their playoff opponent later in the week.

The Lady Bears softball team wrapped up their season with one final home game on Tuesday on senior night as they hosted rival White Oak and fell 17-0.

Gladewater finishes the season at 5-17 and 0-10 in district play.

White Oak baseball had 2 pivotal games this week against rival Gladewater as seeding in district was up for grabs and it didn't go the RoughNecks way as they lost both games.

On Tuesday the Bears jumped out early and didn't look back in a 12-2 win. Moving to Friday, it was a back and forth contest but Gladewater pulled it out at the end 4-2. The two losses drop White Oak to 12-11 and 5-4 in district play and into third place.

The RoughNecks were to wrap up their regular season on Tuesday as they make a trip to Daingerfield.

The LadyNecks softball team were able to accomplish one of their season goals on Tuesday as they wrapped up a perfect district record and district championship as they easily

defeated rival Gladewater 17-0 on the road.

Coach Blankenship's team finishes the regular season 24-5 and 10-0.

They will now open up the playoffs with a best of 3 series vs Tatum starting on Thursday at 6 p.m. at Spring Hill's Panther park.

The Union Grove baseball team continued to fight for a playoff spot this week with 2 crucial games in district play. On Tuesday, the Lions fell behind early and never could rally as they fell to Harleton 14-0.

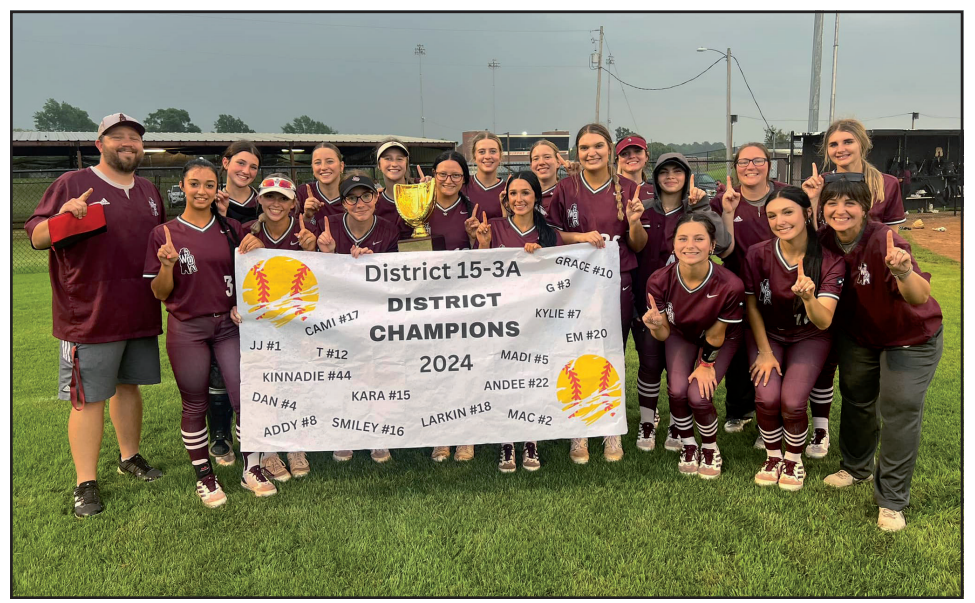
Union Grove's game that was scheduled for Friday against Hawkins was pushed back first to Saturday and then again to Monday because of rain.

Union Grove is now 10-9 and 7-8 in district play.

Besides the game in Hawkins on Monday, they will wrap up the regular season with two home games one on Tuesday vs New Summerfield and one Friday against Leverette's chapel. Which is senior night.

The Lady Lions wrapped up their season on Tuesday as they went 1-1 with a 5-2 win over New Summerfield and a 6-1 loss on Friday to Carlisle.

The Lady Lions finish 4-19 on the season and 2-9 in district play.



**White Oak Ladyneck Softball
15-3A Undefeated District Champions (10-0)**

“Coot’s Corner” By Coot Putley

No wagering, please ...

Baseball is tough to predict. On any given night any team can win. But Major League Baseball has a 162 game schedule, so the full season separates the good teams from the bad.

These predictions will be based on what team rosters look like now but recognizing that midseason trades will take place. We also realized that a key injury can change the picture completely.

Teams are already dealing with season-ending surgeries to players like Shane Bieber and Spencer Strider. With these thoughts in mind, here is the cootradamus forecast for this season.

AL East

1. Baltimore – the best all-around team in the American League.
2. New York – Juan Soto has an MVP quality year, and the Yankees make some big acquisitions in July.
3. Tampa Bay – Every year I think they're going to slide to the back of the pack, but their system works, and they man-

age to stay competitive.

4. Toronto – Last year's biggest disappointment continues to tread water. Some exciting players but can't seem to get it together.

5. Boston – Not really that bad a team but not good enough to contend in this division.

AL Central

1. Minnesota – Best starting rotation in the Central and a decent lineup should keep them at the top.
2. Kansas City – The surprise team in the American League. Led by superstar Bobby Witt Jr., the Royals contend for a wild card berth.
3. Cleveland – This franchise has an uncanny ability to develop pitching. As a result, they are always competitive.
4. Detroit – A good young roster but still not quite ready to take the next step.
5. Chicago – What a mess. This is a bad team that doesn't appear to have a plan to get better.

AL West

1. Houston – Really hope

I'm wrong on this pick. They are finally showing signs of running out of their seemingly unending supply of pitchers, but I have this sinking feeling they've got enough left to win the division one more time.

2. Texas – Still has an awesome lineup but may fall a little short. Of course, remember 2023. They didn't win the west, but it turned out pretty good in the end!

3. Seattle – They keep remodeling their line up but can't get enough offense to support their good pitching staff.

4. Los Angeles – Ron Washington will improve the team's culture and the Angels will be relevant, but Mike Trout still won't be in the playoffs.

5. Oakland – You have to feel sorry for the players on the A's. There is so much to be said about this franchise that it deserves a whole column. Stay tuned.

Next week I'll share my thoughts on the National League.

That's one man's opinion. What's yours?

Grassroots group courts pickleball players with plan to re-craft lake's tennis complex

By James Draper

Pickleball, the country's fastest-growing pastime, is poised to put down roots at Lake Gladewater, and city council members seem ready to pick up a paddle.

No action was taken during their monthly meeting April 18, but the group gave an unofficial nod to pending renovation of the tennis courts at Garland P. Ferguson Park following a presentation from Ofc. Tyler Sorrells. He was representing both the Gladewater Police Officers Association and the newly-formed Gladewater Pickleball Club to publicize their partnership on the plan.

"I've only recently begun my obsession with this sport... There's an extremely high demand for places to play," said Sorrells, son of council member (and fellow pickleball player) Teddy Sorrells. The officers are keen to pick up the project as an outreach to residents, he added: "I want to show the community that we care about the people here, and I also want to encourage active and healthy lifestyles."

The game's been around since the late-1980s, Sorrells noted, but it's seen an incredible surge in interest.

According to a range of statistics, the participation in the sport has grown by 50 to 150 percent annually in recent years. Approximately 36.5 million Americans played the game at least once in the past year according to the 2023 APP Pickleball

Participation Report.

"Pickleball is a game played with a wiffleball and a paddle that is similar to both tennis and ping pong," the 31-year-old Sorrells explained, proposing renovation of the existing 118- by 58-foot slab at the lake park into four 20x44 pickleball courts. Once completed, it's aimed to be the second-largest professionally-crafted complex of its kind in this area: "People will come from all over the area to play at our courts."

The project has a fundraising goal of \$15,000, with several thousand already committed from the police association and private donors. Sorrells anticipates construction can be completed in the next couple of months.

"We don't want to just renovate the court, we want to make it look nice as well. I believe we are ready to get started whenever the blessing is given."

He got as much Thursday night, with Mayor Scott Owens noting no action was set for the council as the grassroots project can be handled in coordination with interim City Manager Charlie Smith.

"Sounds great to me," Owens said. "Thank you for spearheading this and bring it to Gladewater," council member Brandy Flanagan added. "It's going to be great."

With tennis courts still available to the public through Gladewater ISD, council member Rocky Hawkins said, "If they're open, I say go for it."



Two teams from White Oak competed in THSBA Regional Tournament on Lake Tawakoni, Saturday, April 13th. The senior team of Shawn Stevens and Masen Riley finished out very successful high school fishing career just shy of qualifying for another appearance in the state tournament. The team of Brayden Elliott and Gavin Burch finished in 48th place out of over 200 teams. Elliott and Burch qualified for the THSBA State Tournament on Lake Palestine, May 18 and 19 next month. Everyone associated with the White Oak Fishing Team wishes them the best of luck as they compete in the two day event.

Courtesy Mike Gilbert



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Texas Girls Coaches Assoc. State Softball Poll April 22, 2024

Class 1A/2A

1. Shiner 19-2
2. Riesel 25-3-1
3. Como-Pickton 28-3
4. Crawford 21-4
5. Groveton 23-4-1
6. Forsan 19-6-1
7. Graford 19-2
8. Three Rivers 26-4
9. Seymour 13-4
10. Electra 17-2
11. Kaufer 17-5-1
12. Evadale 13-0
13. Floydada 22-5-1
14. Italy 23-7
15. Trenton 18-9
16. Bangs 18-8
17. Beckville 24-5-2
18. Brookeland 18-3
19. Haskell 15-3
20. Alba-Golden 18-4-1

Class 3A

1. Coahoma 24-0
2. Hallettsville 31-2
3. Jacksboro 28-3
4. Llano 19-2
5. Franklin 31-2-1
6. Queen City 20-3
7. Rains 25-5-1
8. Grandview 20-2
9. **White Oak 24-5**
10. Kountze 30-5
11. Troy 21-6-2
12. Huntington 18-4
13. Bushland 24-4-1
14. Blue Ridge 21-3
15. Clyde 25-5
16. Hooks 22-5-1
17. Shallowater 20-6
18. Van Vleck 19-3-1
19. Coldspring-Oakhurst 21-4
20. Blooming Grove 20-5

Class 4A

1. Liberty 30-1
2. Godley 25-3-1
3. Nevada Community 27-1-1
4. Cuero 28-1-1
5. Corpus Christi Calallen 25-2
6. Salado 28-1
7. Van 29-2
8. Krum 28-2-1
9. Fredericksburg 29-5
10. Snyder 25-2-1
11. Monahans 20-9
12. Needville 26-6-1
13. Aubrey 26-4
14. Sanger 28-5
15. Bullard 25-5-1
16. Floresville 21-7-1
17. Andrews 16-5
18. Dumas 22-4-2
19. Bridge City 23-10-1
20. Columbia 23-6
21. LaFeria 18-5
22. Caldwell 25-8
23. **Gilmer 18-10**
24. Canton 22-8
25. Sinton 21-7-1
26. Robinson 26-7

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Upshur food pantry needs help

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Shares Food Pantry in downtown Gilmer is seeking more volunteers to serve a growing number of needy individuals seeking help.

The pantry recently held a small gathering of community leaders and others at the Silver Alley Event Center to explain its work, its needs, and its plans for building a new \$150,000 home near the First Methodist Church.

In a written statement, Mel Small, who heads the pantry, said the operation was helping about 300 families monthly at the start of 2022, but that the number leaped to more than 400 by year's end and to about 600 in 2023.

Located on Buffalo Street, one half block west of the Upshur County Courthouse, the pantry is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to volunteer or contribute to it can come by during that time, and its mailing address is P.O. Box 281, Gilmer 75644.

Rick Lively, a volunteer at the pantry who read Small's statement to the recent meeting, expressed concern that current volunteers range in age from 75 to well into their 80s. Said Small's statement, "Many of us have been around a long time and realized we will need to bring in and train new volunteers, including our replacements, as some of us are approaching the point where we may no longer be able to perform the services we have been performing."

The statement said that in addition to needing volunteers and a new location, the 501.c.3 charitable organization is concerned about "the increase in cost of food for distribution"--a 20-30% rise.



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ACROSS

1 ___ Performance Hall in Fort Worth

5 TXism: "best I ever wrapped ___ around"

6 French explorer in Texas: Sieur ___ Salle

7 George H. W. to George W.

8 LBJ's choice for Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court: ___ Fortas

9 TXism: "covered like fur ___"

15 type of Dr. Pepper

16 TXism: "worthless as ___ flush"

19 divided by two (2 wds.)

21 TXism: "never let ___ you sweat"

22 box with perforated top for perfume

27 what Christ said on the cross meaning "My God"

28 unemployed Texan ___ job

29 TXism: "___ shooting" (certain)

30 TXism: "use your head for something besides a ___"

32 TX Janis Joplin died of this (abbr.)

33 TX Larry McMurry wrote "___ Grave"

36 cole ___

37 Larry, Curly & ___

38 TXism: "run it by a ___" (finalize)

39 persistence

41 entrants at Texas Motor Speedway, e.g.

44 TXism: "you're preaching ___ choir"

45 "Giant" actress (init.)

46 roof overhang

47 Gen. Robert ___

48 historic "Opera House" in Columbus

51 fully grown Texan

52 TXism: "busy ___ bartender on pay day"

53 Dallas suburb: ___ Colinas

54 deer-like animal in West Texas

DOWN

1 TX Jimmy Dean's "Big ___ John"

2 TX eatery: "Steak and ___"

3 in Hardin County on U.S. 96

4 TXism: "don't ___!" (hurry)

8 TXism: "thinking ___ doing"

9 Jerry got "right ___" clause in Emmitt's 1993 contract

10 TXism: "___ hill for a stepper" (doable)

11 gold symbol

12 content of small Texas stream (2 wds.)

13 Troy Aikman was spokesperson for Fort Worth based ___ Brick company

14 chore

15 TXism: "___ dog stink?" (yes)

16 TXism: "he's got ___ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)

17 relieve again

18 good shooter, in slang

20 what the Texas legislature can enact (2 wds.)

22 40th governor, Preston (init.)

23 "yep" or "si," in France

24 coffee container

25 TX cowboy Gay, TX infielder Charlie, and actress Patricia

26 fancy appetizer

28 read quickly but not thoroughly

31 dark pub beers

34 Tex Ritter 1948 hit: "___ Whiskey"

35 TXism: "about as clear as ___ River mud" (unclear)

37 small contribution

40 TXism: "playing with a ___ deck" (unlucky)

42 fancy "adios"

43 in Jasper County on U.S. 96

49 flat container for "rot gut"

50 extra play for the Mavericks (abbr.)

See Answers On This Page

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- New Life Church • 903-845-8108
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- Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019
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- Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425
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 - McCrary's Chapel United Methodist
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 - Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
 - Love of God Church • 903-845-2623
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GPD Activity Report

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
4/14/24	EMS	20241936	0:01		201 WALTON WALTON
	EMS	20241937	1:56	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	THEFT	20241938	2:19		1027 SANDERS SANDERS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241939	4:36		1210 E MARY MARY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241940	9:00	D AND S COMMUNITY SERVICES	2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20241941	9:44		1402 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20241942	10:37		805 COUCH COOKSEY COUCH COOKSEY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241943	10:42		943 SANDERS SANDERS
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241945	12:02		943 SANDERS SANDERS
	ALARM/OTHER	20241947	12:31	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241948	14:40		2803 ELJIA ELJIA ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241949	15:26		
	ABANDONED 911	20241951	16:22		158 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241952	17:02		PHILLIPS SPRING PHILLIPS SPRING
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241954	17:33		271 271
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241955	18:56		271 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241958	20:03		
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241959	20:16		
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241960	21:48		506 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241962	22:26		
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20241963	22:41		1215 PHILLIPS SPRING PHILLIPS SPRING
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241964	22:41		595 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20241965	23:26		1407 E VIOLA VIOLA ST
4/19/24	ASSIST	20241966	7:06		MAIN MAIN
	HARASSMENT	20241967	7:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20241968	8:19	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ALARM/OTHER	20241969	9:24		308 S CENTER CENTER ST
	ASSIST	20241970	10:18		410 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241971	13:07		106 N COTTON COTTON ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241972	14:08		2215 PINECREST PINECREST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20241973	15:30		271 271
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241975	16:33		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241976	17:51	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241977	18:55	FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241978	19:10		503 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241979	20:04		710 TENERY TENERY
	EMS	20241980	21:15	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARM/OTHER	20241981	22:19		1050 BROADWAY BROADWAY
	ASSIST	20241982	22:59		1800 SMITH SMITH ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241984	23:24		314 LEE LEE ST
4/16/24	THEFT	20241985	0:58		111 LAFAYETTE LAFAYETTE BLVD
	FIRE DEPT	20241986	3:58		GAY AVE GAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241987	7:07		1210 N OLIVE OLIVE
	EMS	20241991	10:23		114 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	EMS	20241993	12:55	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20241995	14:21		300 511 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ASSIST	20241997	15:02		4791 SWEETGUM SWEETGUM RD
	INCIDENT W/REPORT	20241998	15:53	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20241999	16:27		1103 N OLIVE N OLIVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242000	16:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242001	17:15		1105 N OLIVE N OLIVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242002	17:50	TIRE ROAD	807 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242003	18:00		
	ALARM/OTHER	20242004	22:14	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
4/17/24	ABANDONED 911	20242005	0:07		207 W ELEANOR ELEANOR ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20242006	0:18		900BLK S TYLER S TYLER
	CRIM TRESPASS	20242007	4:46		3200BLK W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20242008	5:30		HWY 135 HWY 135
	10-50 MINOR	20242009	7:09		S TYLER TYLER ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20242010	8:15		E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242011	9:21		ELEANOR ELEANOR
	EMS	20242013	9:58		RODEO RODEO
	FIRE DEPT	20242014	10:56		1400 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20242015	11:01		302 MAPLE MAPLE

	ILLEGAL DUMPING	20242017	12:39		1761 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242018	13:50	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20242019	15:33		1614 N RODEO N RODEO
	EMS	20242020	15:47	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20242021	17:05		UNION GROVE UNION GROVE ST
	RUNAWAY	20242022	17:49	CHURCH OF CHRIST	1000 N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242023	19:09		800 N POST ST N POST ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242025	20:44	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242026	21:27		521 MELBA MELBA AVE
	ALARM/MALFUNCTION	20242027	22:34	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242028	23:33	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
4/18/24	MISCELLANEOUS	20242029	1:18		2400BLK VESTA VESTA AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20242031	2:07	ELEVATE CHURCH	401 N LEE LEE ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20242032	6:21		130 N LEE LEE
	EMS	20242033	6:17	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20242034	11:44		306 S COOPER COOPER ST
	ASSIST	20242035	13:54	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20242036	15:09	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20242037	17:06		114 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242038	18:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20242039	18:45		500 MELBA MELBA AVE
	SIMPLE ASSAULT "C"	20242040	18:49	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20242041	19:27		1006 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	EMS	20242042	21:09	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	EMS	20242043	21:57	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	ALARM/OTHER	20242044	22:32		314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	WARRANT	20242045	22:46		1800BLK E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242046	23:12		GLADE GLADE AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242047	23:21	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
4/19/24	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20242048	3:01	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242049	3:12		803 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242051	3:39		803 EAST LAKE DRIVE EAST LAKE DRIVE
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20242052	7:17		801 N RODEO RODEO ST
	ESCORT	20242053	8:33	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	300 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20242054	8:46		597 BRIARWOOD BRIARWOOD
	EMS	20242055	8:50	JULIAWOOD HOMES	42 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	EMS	20242056	9:25		1102 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20242057	10:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20242058	11:04		403 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK
	EMS	20242059	11:26	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20242060	11:54		1017 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20242061	12:25	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ASSIST	20242062	13:03	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20242063	15:03	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20242065	16:58		1008 CHEVY CHASE ST CHEVY CHASE ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242066	17:00	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	3601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242067	17:27		343 SHEPHERD LANE SHEPHERD LANE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242068	17:40	SECURITY FINANCE	103 E PACIFIC PACIFIC ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242069	18:11		204 EDDIE ST EDDIE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242070	18:31		408 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	RUNAWAY	20242071	18:46		809 NORHT ST NORHT ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242072	19:18		2302 W LAKE W LAKE
	BURGLARY/VEHICLE	20242074	20:00		2302 WOODBINE WOODBINE
4/20/24	EMS	20242078	0:44		1508 N DASEY DASEY ST
	EMS	20242079	3:32		114 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242080	3:58	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ASSIST	20242081	6:13		343 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD LN
	ALARM/OTHER	20242082	8:54		2201 W GAY GAY
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242083	11:32	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242084	11:38		204 EDDY EDDY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20242086	11:56		305 N FERRY FERRY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242088	13:32	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242089	13:52		SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242090	14:31	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242091	14:34		343 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD LN
	EMS	20242092	15:07		60 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242093	15:11		275 MCKINLEY MCKINLEY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20242094	15:18		1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242097	16:59	FAMILY DOLLAR	601 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20242099	18:13	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20242100	18:33	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20242103	20:00		54 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242104	20:47	DOLLAR TREE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242105	21:20		710 TIERNEY ST TIERNEY ST
	FIRE DEPT	20242106	23:00		515 GODFREY GODFREY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242107	23:51		271 271
4/21/24	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242108	0:54		503 MILLER MILLER
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20242111	4:05	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242112	5:31	LAMBERTS LIQUOR	1975 S TYLER TYLER RD
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242113	11:07	WASH TUB LAUNDRY MAT	201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	20242114	11:22		55 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	THEFT	20242115	11:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20242116	11:54	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	217 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20242117	12:27		308 S CENTER CENTER ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242118	13:44		1301 E MARY MARY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242119	14:34		1105 N LYNN LYNN ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20242120	15:47		212 HURLEY HURLEY

GPD Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
4/17/24	4/17/24	0:56	BRIDGES, CHRISTOPHER DEE	W	M	TAMPER FABRICATE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE W/INTENT TO	900 S TYLER ST
	4/17/24	0:56	BRIDGES, CHRISTOPHER DEE	W	M	MANUFACTURE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PENALTY	900 S TYLER ST
	4/17/24	0:56	BRIDGES, CHRISTOPHER DEE	W	M	POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	900 S TYLER ST
4/18/24	4/18/24	1:47	OAKLEY, CALVIN RASHAR	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	2400 VESTA AVE
	4/18/24	1:47	OAKLEY, CALVIN RASHAR	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	2400 VESTA AVE



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Congratulations to the Gladewater Education Foundation grant winners, who were recently presented with checks by members of the Gladewater Education Foundation board. The winners were:

- Weldon's Jaci Cloud won \$1,500 for Phonics Based Reading Intervention
- Middle School's Kacy Rodgers earned \$2,982.21 for Communication is Key to Learning
- Primary School's Primary Campus scored big with \$10,000 for Nature's Nook: Creating Safe Outdoor Seating Along the Trail of Discovery
- Kelsey Omdahl secured \$3,250.09 for Rolling Toward Success: Sphero Indi for Playful Learning
- Jennifer Madding shined with \$2,633.42 for Science and STEAM Learning



Upshur okays info tech position for sheriff's office

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court last week approved creating a new information/technology worker position for the sheriff's office, a post which a state grant will fully fund.

While the county uses Gilmer Computer Tech for its IT services, Sheriff Larry Webb said numerous IT systems operate in the county jail and his office has "several operating systems that we have to operate 24/7." The new IT worker, to be paid a \$45,000 base salary, would thus be on call and "stay busy the whole day," Webb said.

"We don't have anybody there than can do this," the sheriff added at the April 15 meeting in Gilmer. "It is a need."

Webb also said his office had just purchased four new autos for its Criminal Investigation Division, and cited the types of new computers those vehicles will contain. Webb's chief deputy, David Hazel, added that when an auto's computer malfunctions, it needs immediate repair.

County Judge Todd Tefteller said he had "been riding" Gilmer Computer Tech and "(We) need their efforts up here (at the county's temporary courthouse) and not at the sheriff's office." (Several county offices are in temporary quarters because the 87-year-old nearby courthouse has been vacated for an ongoing major renovation.)

County Auditor Connie Williams also supported Webb's proposal as "beneficial," noting it is fully grant-funded.

In another matter involving the sheriff's office, the court approved allocating \$1,000 from his office's federal forfeiture account for "investigative drug interdiction 'buys.'"

The court also adopted a "Upshur County Court Confidentiality Policy," authorized by the Texas Government Code and required by the Texas Rules of Judicial Administration.

The action, aimed at preventing the stalking of jurors and witnesses, ensures confidentiality of certain information on individuals involved in legal matters.

In other business, the court approved letting the maintenance department install a drop-box/pick-up box in the ground outside the county Rock Building in Gilmer.

The action is designed to benefit the county's Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office, housed in that building.

The county's two extension agents, Julie York and Tina Rosenbalm, addressed the court with Rosenbalm saying the box would primarily be for 4-H Club members' families needing to pick up or drop off certain forms.

York noted the county extension service (which works with 4-H) has no office help and that the box, which Rosenbalm said would be funded by a grant, would be accessible 24 hours a day. It would also be "really high-security," York added.

In another matter, the court approved 3-1, with Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller absent, to purchase five chairs for the court members.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley successfully proposed buying the chairs from Sam's at \$369 each, but his motion at the court's March 29 meeting to purchase such items had failed on a 2-2 tie vote.

He and Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle voted to make the purchase then, but Miller and Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson voted no.

Council votes open tap on state water funds

By James Draper

Crossing the Ts, dotting the Is, signing the checks – in a series of votes last week, Gladewater City Council members took the community four steps closer to filling the coffers with almost \$2.8 million earmarked for water infrastructure projects.

During their regular April meeting in chambers at City Hall, the group also heard good news on the municipality's annual audit and gave an unofficial blessing to the conversion of tennis courts at Lake Gladewater for pickleball (see separate story on Page 8).

Gladewater Mayor Scott Owens queued up four consecutive votes on Texas Water Development Board funds with a brief recap of the long-term strategy to fund waterworks here.

Out of approximately \$2,791,000, \$850,000 is a loan (the council first voted to approve issuing Certificates of Obligation to the TWDB), while \$1.9 million is a combination of loan forgiveness

and grant (all unanimously-approved). The third unanimous vote authorized new separate bank accounts for the funds (along with a sinking fund account) while the final unanimous action awarded \$410,000 to Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. "for planning, design and construction phase services for the TDWB Phase 3 Drinking Water System Improvements Project."

According to Owens, "We have been dealing with this in stages over the last two-and-a-half years. It's been awarded. This is actually us receiving the money."

The council postponed adoption of the city's annual audit report – only the draft version is currently available, delayed in part because of City Hall's software conversion in the past year.

"We're still working on a couple of line items. This year's definitely been unique with some turnover and a software conversion," said Albert Garcia of Mays & Associates. All things considered, though, "The city's

finances are in good shape. We're seeing increases across the board. The general fund is a healthy fund balance, the debt service fund as well, the utility fund..."

"A lot going on, but I can't say anything negative about the city's finances. I have to say, kudos to the city."

In other business, the council members approved a slate of re-appointments and new appointments to various community boards – airport, beautification, board of adjustments, Gladewater Economic Development Corporation, the lake board and the Planning & Zoning Commission.

"We'd like to appeal to everybody out there that if you'd like to be involved with the city," Owens said, "there are different ways to do that... If we appoint and reappoint everybody on this, we still have seven vacancies out there on various boards."

For more information about opportunities to serve, contact Gladewater City Hall at 903-845-2196.

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Gladewater firefighters, along with East and West Mountain VFDs, battled a fire on N. US 271 near Union Grove April 17, where an 18-wheeler loaded with wood caught fire. It took several hours for the truck and its load to be removed from the scene and normal traffic flow to resume.





