

Gladewater Mirror

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

Voters choose Flanagan for mayor, Stone for Place 3

By James Draper

The Fourth was with Brandy Flanagan Saturday – Gladewater voters selected the six-year city council veteran to step up into the center spot on the dais at City Hall.

According to unofficial results released at 8:06 p.m. May 4, at least 435 locals cast ballots in the Spring election cycle between Early Voting April 22-30 and Election Day polling Saturday.

In other decisions, newcomer Stoney Stone secured the Place 3 seat against incumbent Mayor Scott Owens, and voters approved most of the proposed amendments to the city's charter. Place 2 council member Michael Webber was uncontested in his re-election bid.

Notably, the initial tally Saturday night does not include late mail, Military/Overseas, Cured Ballots, and Provisional Ballots, but with fewer than 20 votes outstanding, they will not change the end results.

In the mayor's race (Place 1), Flanagan netted 229 votes to 206 for Jim Valentine. Support for Stone totaled 300 ballots to Owens' 134 for Place 3 (currently held by

Flanagan until the Gladewater council canvasses votes and swears the winners into office later this month). Webber received 351 supporting votes.

Regarding the changes to the city charter, most were solidly-approved by voters except for Amendment A, aimed at updating the charter's preamble with a note that male pronouns in the document's language accounted for women as well. Voters rejected the change 235 to 192.

The approved changes include:

- Amendment B. A small date-oriented update to election code.
- Amendment C. Adopting consequences for council members with excessive absences.
- Amendment D. Extending the city judge's appointed from one year to two and officially including language about the city prosecutor.
- Amendment E. Adding a provision that city managers may live within 30 miles of the Gladewater city limits.
- Amendment F. Clarifying the city's chain of command to reinforce the city manager's supervisory authority over all other council-appointed department

heads and officials.

- Amendment G. Updating language on fines to allow for change

over time.

- (A proposed eighth amendment, stripping outdated language about

how to use voting machines, was discussed but dropped before the May 4 ballot was finalized.)



Officers and jail trustees escort Gladewater City Clerk Judy Von Houten and the 2024 Spring Election ballots into the Gregg County Courthouse Saturday evening. Von Houten hand-delivered the secured ballots at 7:51 p.m. and sent out an announcement of unofficial results 15 minutes later. Photo by James Draper

Gladewater welcomes first woman as mayor

By James Draper

Gladewater's first female mayor-elect is ready to seize the momentum and get to work.

May 4 marked a community milestone a long time coming. It was also a long Election Day to cap a hard-fought campaign, and Brandy Flanagan identified plenty of opportunities and challenges along the way.



BRANDY FLANAGAN

"I'm excited that we've crossed that barrier in Gladewater. It's something that we needed to do," Flanagan said. "I'm honored to be it and take it very humbly and seriously, to carry it well for future generations and to set the tone of what a female mayor in Gladewater looks like."

"It's a strong message demonstrating progress toward the equality and inclusiveness we want in our community and we want and need in our local government. For a lot of people, it just represents a shift toward more diversity in representation in key leadership for our city," hopefully bringing new perspective and

priorities to the table.

It's a positive step forward, something to celebrate, but she admits some disappointment that the only proposed charter amendment to fail

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Council newcomer ready to get up to speed

By James Draper

Throughout his campaign for Gladewater City Council, Stoney Stone was very clear about one thing in particular.

"I still got a lot to learn," he repeated one more time Monday after May 4's Election Day saw voters choose him for Place 3 on the council dais. Likewise, Stone has one particular goal for the community after his first term: "I hope it looks better."



STONEY STONE

The retired firefighter and small business owner campaigned on his 'newcomer' status in city politics, ready to bring a fresh perspective to his new seat at City Hall.

"I don't what they got cookin' or anything," he said. "It's going to be a learning process, a learning curve to begin with, then we'll see how it goes."

Definitely, he wants to push improvements to the water system and to city streets. Projects are underway in both areas, but more attention, time and resources will be necessary to get the work done long-term.

Stone also spent some of his campaign bandwidth spotlighting the lack of local opportunities to engage and entertain young people.

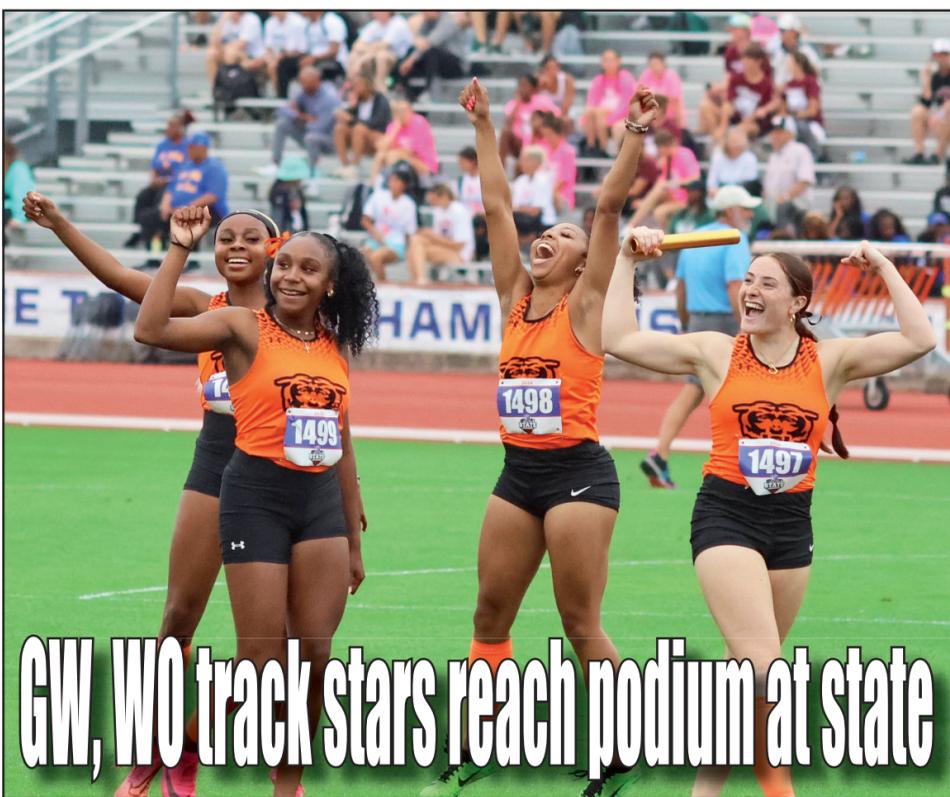
"I just want the kids to have places to go, things to do," he says. "When I was growing up, there were swimming pools, there were activities for us to do. Now there's nothing for kids."

Granted, "I don't really know what kids do anymore besides sit at home and play video games."

Stone's not sure yet what form a city outreach to youth would take, but he's paying attention.

"The pickleball courts are exciting," he said, noting a recent grassroots effort aimed at re-crafting and revitalizing tennis courts at Lake Glade-

Continued on Page 4



Gladewater's 4x100m Relay Team won the silver medal in a time of 47.48, while sophomore Peyton Hunter won the silver medal in the 100m dash in a time of 11.91 and the 4x200m Relay finished fourth in a time of 1:42.24. Freshman Paytin Thompson finished in fifth place in the 200m dash in a time of 25.05.

White Oak Pole Vaulter Junior Kyler Priest won the bronze medal in the pole vault with a jump of 14' 0".

Photos by Mike Peery





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



Spate of tornadoes far outpaces the average

April was a busy month for tornadoes across the United States with 373 recorded, bringing the total for the year to 549, the Austin American-Statesman reported. That is nearly double the average at this point in the year, the National Weather Service says.

Texas, as usual, is a leader in tornadic activity, with 14 tornadoes reported within a 24-hour span in Central and East Texas during a spring storm in late April. Luckily, none resulted in injury or fatality. All of the tornadoes reported on April 26 fell within a 70-mile stretch along Interstate 35 and Texas Hwy. 31, around Corsicana, McGregor and Hillsboro.

The weather service reported that tornadoes have nearly reached half the annual average recorded over the past decade, with April alone accounting for more than one-fourth of the annual average.

Flooding prompts disaster declarations

A total of 59 counties thus far are under state disaster declaration after severe weather and flooding swept much of Central and East Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott announced. More counties could be added as conditions warrant.

The counties added to the disaster declaration include: Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Cherokee, Colorado, Comal, Coryell, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Gillespie, Gonzales, Gregg, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hardin, Hays, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Mason, Medina, Milam, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Travis, Van Zandt, Waller, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson counties.

Texans from the Panhandle to the Piney Woods are not out of the woods yet when it comes to severe weather, the Texas Standard reported. Of particular concern is the area north of Houston, with evacuation orders in place in Polk County. The Trinity River overflowed following as much as 23 inches of rain in parts of the Lake Livingston watershed.

Power lines caused Panhandle wildfires

A House committee investigating the deadly Panhandle wildfires concluded the most destructive blazes were caused by power lines that "had not been effectively maintained or replaced by a utility provider and an oil and gas operator," The Dallas Morning News reported.

The findings were released in an interim report last week. The Smokehouse Creek fire started Feb. 26 in Hutchinson County and rapidly became the largest wildfire in state history.

The fire scorched more than a million acres. It killed at least two people and more than 15,000 head of cattle and destroyed an estimated 138 homes and businesses.

The committee's findings included ineffective monitoring of utility, oil and gas providers in the area; a lack of funding for volunteer fire departments; and lack of coordination among first responders and government agencies.

"Volunteer fire departments, which the Panhandle region largely depends on, are grossly underfunded, making it virtually impossible for them to obtain the equipment and resources needed to fight wildfires of this magnitude safely and effectively," the report stated.

Both the Smokehouse Creek and the smaller Reamer Creek fires were caused by downed Xcel Energy power poles, while the Windy Deuce Fire was caused by tree limbs rubbing against power lines on a pole.

Paxton to block closing 'gun show loophole'

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing to stop the Biden administration's bid to close what is known as the 'gun show loophole.'

Paxton was joined by Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach in suing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to attempt to block a new rule requiring all gun sellers to be federally licensed and to conduct background checks of purchases – including weapons sold at gun shows or in private transactions. Steven Dettelback, ATF director, said requiring firearms dealers to have federal licenses to sell guns and conducting background checks on buyers closes a loophole, since licensed gun sellers are already required to keep records of sales.

Let that bluebird of happiness fly...

Are you tired of feeling caged?
Tired of people being angry?
Tired of people ignoring science and choosing a political agenda (left or right) over commonsense and facts?
Me too! We have a lot in common no doubt.

I want to laugh. I want to ride with my hubby on our aging motorcycle and feel the sun on my shoulders. I want to go to a concert, movie or play that is not happening on the TV in my den. I want to jump in a pool and dunk my COVID-19 stripped hair that hasn't yet been a part of the eligible 25 percenters at the hairstylist.

I am now used to not having professional looking nails and a well kept appearance. I have taken to T-shirts, jeans and ball caps as my daily office attire.

There really is a lot to like about that. Not very professional but oh, so comfy.

King the plus-sized 80 lb. Collie needs to see a groomer. His new look reminds me of Einstein's wild hair. I wish King had Einstein's brains... or a brain. Whenever that King Kong of a dog sees a cat he has one thought...chase and bark.

He hasn't caught one yet and probably never will, but he is a one-note feller. If he can see a cat he barks until he doesn't see the cat anymore.

Do you know how patient and nefarious cats are? Especially when they see King in the den window watching them...and barking... That weird barking can last longer than his master's patience. King's vocal cords were clipped by a previous owner and he sounds like a dog a quarter of his size which is odd to say the least. It does seem to entertain the cats who are taunting him.

That barking is not conducive to relaxing while feeling trapped. Maybe my brain needs a jumpstart too. I am not chasing cats, at least not yet, but I do find myself chasing worries or idle thoughts. The worries are probably similar to yours. I worry about my 92-year old mother or my frontline Nurse Practitioner Hospitalist daughter-in-heart catching the dreaded 'Corona'.

I worry about business. I worry about all the unfinished tasks that never get completed. Nothing new there. Your worries are probably much like mine.

So let's focus on the sunny side of life. Whaddaya say?

Here are a few of my recommendations:

1. Just be nice to everyone. You don't have to agree with people to be nice to them. It will make Jesus happy, the other people happy, and I promise you might find that you feel happier too.

2. Please wear a mask when you are out in public places. It may save my Momma's life, or my daughter-in-heart's,

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



or even your own. A lot of folks like having you around. Let's keep them happy too. Be smart, wash those hands and continue to practice social distancing.

3. A little bit of ice cream goes a long way in improving one's outlook. Scientifically proven by the Bardwell Institute of Thinkology.

4. Puppy dogs, no matter their size, make you smile. You make them so happy that can't help but put a smile on your face.

5. Good coffee in the morning is one of the great pleasures of life. Enjoy a cup outside if the weather permits and be still, even if just for five minutes, watch the birds and you might just come across the Bluebird of Happiness.

6. Get in your car, crank up the radio, roll down the windows and ride baby, ride. Remember when you were a teenager and just going for a ride with your friends with the music playing made you happy? If you are lucky enough to have satellite radio you can recapture your youth by dialing your decade from the '50s to the '90s. Personally my favorite station is Classic Vinyl. Yep, I'm THAT girl. By the way, balance your bass. Making the local business windows rattle does not mean your music is good. It means it is too loud and that when you get to be my age you will be deaf than a door nail.

7. Those folks in your house that you can touch, well, give them a hug and hold hands when you can. I miss hugs and handshakes, so I have to go to that tall, dark and handsome guy I live with for my only daily hugs. Hugging the people you love most is guaranteed to put a smile on your face and theirs.

8. Realize that you can only fix what you can. Then fix what you can. It is amazing what a little forward momentum can do for the psyche.

9. Get lost in a good book or movie. Great writing and acting can take us to other places and times. Sometimes we need out of THIS time and place.

10. Don't get overwhelmed or lost in loneliness. There are a ton of good folks just waiting to let you know they care. I know that is so because of the good people in my life just like you.

Found that Bluebird yet?

It's flying right there beside you.

Efficient Election Day tally included enhanced ballot security measures

Even Gladewater's ballots got the maximum security treatment this election day.

In past years, local officials would collect, verify and tally votes before posting the results for the public. Legislation in recent years, however, created new standard operating procedures to ensure ballot fidelity – adopted by Texas lawmakers in 2021 and effected in 2022, the new regulations add more controls for transporting votes and put the public into the counting room via livestream feeds.

It made Election Night a bit longer and a bit more complicated, says Gregg County Elections Administrator Jennifer Briggs, but she and her team were ready to do it right.

"It's not real crazy," Briggs said Thursday, ahead of key Election Day voting set for Saturday in Gladewater, Longview, Kilgore and elsewhere. "There's a few things in the law that kind of changed. As long as the cities and schools are going to contract with me to do their election, I'm going to follow all the laws."

For Gladewater, City Clerk Judy Von Houten dropped off the secured ballots at 7:51 p.m. and announced results 15 minutes later – the city's smaller size put it first in line for word of the 'Unofficial Results' in its two contested races for city council along with seven proposed charter amendments on the ballot for voter consideration.

"Gladewater only has around 2,600 registered voters," Briggs noted, compared to 54,000 combined in Longview's various elections.

More than 250 people turned out for early voting in Glade-

water, and another 180-plus cast ballots on election day. Once polls closed at 7 p.m. May 4, election officials had a variety of tasks to follow to secure the ballots (including those cast by Upshur County residents) for transport to Gregg County.

After collecting, without counting, the ballots into a secured container, Von Houten transported them to the courthouse along with a police escort. They were subsequently taken to a secured room with a surveillance feed piped to the County Elections website.

"People can look at it at any point," Briggs said. "If they want, they can log on at 3 a.m. and look at a dark room."

"Once those ballot bags come in and are received by Central Count, they have to be under that video surveillance. Those ballot bags have to sit in that secure room for 60 days before I can touch them again and move them into storage."

A series of tests, tasks and tallies proceeded quickly.

"All of those have to prove nothing has been altered," Briggs said.

Once the unofficial results were ready, she passed them to Von Houten, who informed the candidates, officials and local media via text message at 8:06 p.m. before returning to Gladewater City Hall and posting the results on the door in addition to the city website.

Some select ballots are still under consideration this week, though the number will not substantially impact the unofficial election results.

"We canvass the election on the 15th," Von Houten said. "That's when it will be official."

FAILING FORWARD

Have you ever heard of "failing forward?" That's how John C. Maxwell described a failure that we learn from and profit by, in his book Failing forward. Sometimes we call that "learning from our mistakes."

A story about Thomas Edison illustrates this. Reportedly, he performed thousands of experiments before succeeding at one of his inventions. However, after another day without success, he enthusiastically said, "I had a good result today-now I know one more way it can't be done." Prior to dazzling the world with his athletic skill, Michael Jordan was cut from his sophomore basketball team. Even though he captured six championships, during his professional career, Jordan missed over 12,000 shots, lost nearly 400 games, and failed to make more than 25 would-be game-winning baskets. Failure didn't stop Edison from experimenting or Michael Jordan from playing basketball. At some point, all great achievers are tempted to believe they are failures, but in spite of that, they persevere. In the face of adversity, shortcomings, and rejection, they hold onto self-belief and refuse to see themselves as failures.

"Failing forward" is not as gratifying, of course, as succeeding, but it's much better than wallowing in self-pity or indulging in excuse making or refusing to realize we have failed. This is especially true of failures in serving God. In spiritual matters, it is important for us to recognize our failures, and to grow through them. One goal all Christians should have, is to have God's word so hidden in our hearts that we do not sin against God (Ps. 119: 11). But we are all painfully aware that we do sin. When we thus sin, and fail, we should, at least "fail forward" by admitting what we have done wrong, and learn from it, while seeking God's forgiveness. Of course, this requires us to admit our sins. Remember, you can't learn from sins you won't admit!

Let me say again, that our duty is to live above sin. But none of us always do that. Thank God He is so forgiving and merciful. And thank God, that through Jesus Christ and the forgiveness He makes possible, even when we fail, we can "FAIL FORWARD." By admitting our sins, and repenting of them, we are ready to obey Him who is the "Author (Source) of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb.5: 9). Can we help you understand what you need to do? Think on these things.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Mirror wins at NETPA convention

The Gladewater community keeps producing first place news.

Late last month, the 93rd annual North & East Texas Press Association Convention in Granbury yielded more plaques for *Gladewater Mirror's* wall at 211 N. Main St. including 1st Place General Excellence in the 'Small Weekly' category (Division 5).

Other 1st Place finishes for the *Mirror* included Column Writing (for pieces by publisher Jim Bardwell and reporter James Draper) as well as Headline Writing.

The newspaper also received 2nd in the Sweepstakes category (totaling points from other awards) and for News Photography (from photos by Draper and Christian Allen). Photographers Kim Hill and Mike Peery shared a 3rd Place for their sports shots, Bardwell and Aiden Keller shared a 3rd Place award for Sports Writing and the paper earned 3rd in Feature Photo, 4th in Advertising and 4th for Draper's feature stories on local Antarctic explorer Robert Early and ongoing efforts to preserve the grave of Medal of Honor Recipient Travis E. Watkins.

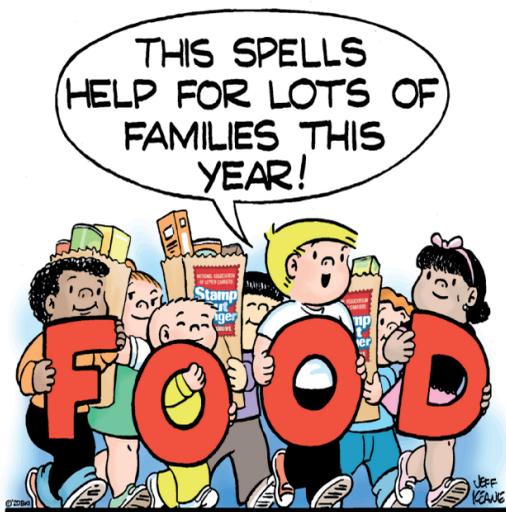
The *Mirror* also received 2nd Place in the combined Community Service division for its ongoing coverage of the city's efforts to maintain the Lake Gladewater Dam.

County library hosts storytime

Two books will be read to small children Thursday (May 9) at both of the Upshur County Library's "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer.

"Just Like Mommy" by Lucy Freegard, and "My Mom Has X-Ray Vision" by Angela McAllister (illustrated by Alex Smith) will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. gatherings.

A craft will follow each Storytime at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas



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

For more information, call the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www.yousemore.com/upshur.

GHS Class of '84 holding reunion

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

For more information, call 318-465-4149.

Area Agency on Aging free meeting in Pittsburg set

As we embrace Older Americans Month this May, ETCOG's Area Agency on Aging of East Texas proudly announces its upcoming conference, "Power in Community," dedicated to empowering and celebrating the senior

community. This event will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at the Douglass Alumni Community Center in Pittsburg, from 9:30 AM - 2 PM. It will gather esteemed healthcare professionals and advocates to explore crucial topics surrounding Medicare and the well-being of older adults.

With the "Power in Community" theme, the conference aims to provide invaluable insights, resources, and strategies to help seniors optimize their healthcare experiences. From understanding Medicare coverage options to navigating healthcare challenges, attendees will gain actionable knowledge to enhance their quality of life.

"As we honor Older Americans Month, it's imperative to recognize the invaluable contributions and wisdom of our senior population," said Colleen Halliburton, ETCOG's Director of Aging. "Our Power in Community conference serves as a platform to not only celebrate their achievements but also to address the unique healthcare



Rev. Stacy Price prays for local schools during the community's National Day of Prayer Commemoration, relocated to the Gladewater Museum's Rodeo Annex May 1. With former Mayor J.D Shipp hosting the event organized by the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, other prayers were offered by Pastors Joe Chase, Teddy Sorrells, Kelton Wilson, Brian Zappa, Farrell Alexander and Bailey Harris alongside council members Rocky Hawkins, Michael Webber and Sonny Anderson. Photo by James Draper

needs they face."

The event's joint focus is celebrating our seniors during Older Americans Month and empowering them with community resources. The agenda will include fun activities such as bingo, door prizes, a Tai Chi demonstration, and interactive workshops led by the Area Agency on Aging of East Texas, the Area Agency on Aging of Ark-Tex Region, and the Texas Legal Services Center. The conference is geared toward seniors, children of aging parents, and caregivers.

Registration for the Medicare Conference is now open. To ensure their meal, guests are asked to RSVP to Nellie Spencer-Henry at 903-747-1319 by May 9th. For more information, please visit www.easttexasaaa.org.

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.

May food bank distribution canceled

For this month only, there will be no East Texas Food Bank grocery distribution at the Gladewater

Round-up Rodeo Arena. Organizers say the regular outreach will return, as usual, in June.

New constable named for Pct. 3

Upshur County Commissioners Court last week appointed Gilmer police officer James Casey as the county's Precinct 3 constable after accepting the resignation of his predecessor, Ronnie Mitchell. Casey, who remains in his

current police job, was immediately sworn into office by County Judge Todd Tefteller at the court's April 30 meeting in Gilmer.

Casey was unopposed for the post in the March 5 Republican primary, and has no Democratic opponent in this November's general election.

Mitchell resigned as "his health is not real good," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley. The commissioner praised Mitchell's performance in his 31 years on the county payroll, much of that time as a juvenile probation officer and including two separate stints as constable.

TRADES DAYS THIS WEEKEND

Longview Trade Days will be held May 11-12 at the Longview Fairgrounds

1123 Jaycee Drive Longview

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

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

www.greggcountyfair.com

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Mechanical engineer Garrett Klein shares insight into 3D printing and traveling the world with students who attended Union Grove's May 6 Career Day event. Klein 3D-printed keychains for the students.

Photo by Kimber Smith

Man indicted for murder using maul

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury recently indicted Craig Allen Smith on a charge of murdering his wife Feb. 26, District Attorney Billy Byrd's office announced Monday.

The May 2 indictment against Smith, 40, of Gilmer, alleges he struck Vennessa Smith, 41, "with a splitting maul multiple times" in the face or head, official sources said.

Gilmer Police Chief Lana Davidson said the suspect was arrested after the woman's body was discovered at her home. Vennessa Smith's mother, Ruth Ann Hughes, has said on social media that her daughter was attacked with a log splitter.

Davidson said police responded about 1:43 a.m. Feb. 26 to the 800 block of North Street "in reference to a suspicious person." They made contact with Craig Smith, who matched the description of the individual, the chief said.

"Through the course of the officers' investigation," Vennessa Smith's body was found at her home at the nearby intersection of Walnut and Allen streets, the chief said.

Craig Smith remained in county jail in Gilmer under \$1 million bond.

Smith was among 33 indictments, eight of them sealed, which jurors returned in Gilmer May 2, the prosecutor said.

Defendants, charges, and bond information in the other open indictments were as follows: Shannon Rachelle Bunch, 42, of Gladewater,

was charged in a single indictment with felony injury to elderly individual and misdemeanor assault/family violence.

Accused of committing the offenses March 25 she was freed on \$4,000 bond.

Mikki-Ton Elaine Parker, 43, of Gladewater, possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) on Nov. 22, 2022. She was freed on \$25,000 bond.

William Hughston Anderson, 17, of Gilmer, aggravated sexual assault of a child last Dec. 27. He remained in county jail in Gilmer under \$75,000 bond.

Aaron Wesley Stracener, 43, of Gilmer, possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine) on Feb. 22. He remained in county jail under \$85,000 bond.

Christopher Vanwert, 37, of Big Sandy, possession of controlled substance with intent to deliver (methamphetamine) on Feb. 22. He was freed on \$85,000 bond.

Hope Nicole Wadlington, 26, of Gilmer, driving while intoxicated with child passenger on Feb. 24. She remained jailed under \$10,000 bond.

Matthew Ryan Robertson, 34, of Big Sandy, assault/family violence--occlusion on Feb. 2. He was released on \$25,000 bond.

Michael William Ebnetter, 39, of Gilmer, assault/family violence--occlusion on March 16. He remained jailed under \$25,000 bond.

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Gladewater welcomes first woman as mayor

Continued from Page 1

was an addition that would have noted the male pronouns in the charter were all-encompassing.

"We want to be an inclusive community and always be forward-thinking. We're way past the days when women are not included in the founding documents of our cities and states and counties and country," she said. "I'm hoping that with some rewording of that we can get it passed in the future."

A bit mud-spattered after the campaign, Flanagan hopes her initial term as mayor will help the next election cycle be a bit less acrimonious.

"I honestly think for us to change that culture in our city, we're going to have to go with a middle ground, to be honest with you," she said, making peace with critics and detractors while also holding them to task, "Not pretending everything is normal. These are friends and families and community members. These are people we have prayed with, we have prayed for, when hard times come," yet an election season arrives and things turn cutthroat on rumor and lies.

"There are people in this country who have amazing ideas, but they will not step up into the political realm to get it done because they don't want the slaying that comes along with it. We're going to have to change that culture moving forward."

Later this month – once the votes are canvassed, once the oath of office is administered, once Flanagan takes the center seat on the council dais – she has some key goals to keep, and build, the team's momentum.

"One is to definitely keep us mission-focused in moving forward with the strategic plans that are in place," Flanagan said. Infrastructure was a common theme in conversations throughout the campaign. It's the biggest need of every city in America, she added, and streets, water and related issues remain at the forefront: "As we got out in the community and really conveyed the strategic plan that's in place for our infrastructure, that really settled people and got people excited."

As the first woman even to run for mayor in a 150-year-old community, Flanagan says residents also opened up about their desire for more diversity and representation in leadership roles throughout the city.

"Every spot on council, every spot on our boards is open to everyone. It goes to show you how engrained some of this stuff has become in our city culture, something that we've really got to overcome."

Growth isn't just about thriving businesses and an increasing population, Flanagan added.

"We've got to have some growth of some mindsets, that we don't have taken positions on our boards and in our leadership positions," she said. "We want people who have the ideas and the solutions that our city needs to be able to thrive."

"Whether that is male/female, whether that is a person of color or anything else, it needs to be the people that have the solutions for the problems our city faces. Those people need to be on our boards and need to be in our leadership positions."

Another key goal is enhancing the culture in the city and pulling everyone together – during and between elections.

"I think a lot of that's going to come through the forums – it's really important to me that we have town hall meetings. I want dialogue between our city leadership and citizens."

Three minutes at the podium during the public comment portion of council sessions isn't enough, Flanagan says, especially when the law restricts officials' ability to engage and respond. She's aiming for quarterly town hall meetings during her first year in office.

"The truth is, we're not ever going to be able to move forward if everybody does not get on the team," and Flanagan is angling to bring together citizens, city staffers, school leaders, chamber members, economic development stakeholders and others for the town's benefit. "Everybody's got to work together. We all have a part. It's not ever on one person or one entity."

Part of that group effort is bolstering local businesses, and the fulltime business consultant will bring those insights into the mix as well.

"I want to create thriving business districts in our city, and I want to work with the business owners and the community partners that we have to make Gladewater very business-friendly and a business-thriving city," she said. That extends to all the community's assets: "When you're working with an organization, you don't start adding things to the mix until you've already maximized what you have. It's the same thing with a city – we've got to maximize what we already have."

Help ensure Gladewater Municipal Airport is a fantastic facility, Flanagan said. Help make all the city's parks great. Help ensure downtown stakeholders have everything they need to be successful.

"All these assets we already have, we've got to maximize. We need to make them the very best that we can."

Cultivate excellence, she concluded, now and for the future.

"Another core goal I think we really need to work toward is developing a strong leadership development program for our city to develop the next generation of leaders."

Council newcomer ready to get up to speed

Continued from Page 1

water for pickleball, a pastime exploding in popularity. "I think they're on the right track. They just need things to do."

Grateful to the voters, Stone says he's ready now to put in the work.

"I think they're ready for a change. They're ready for

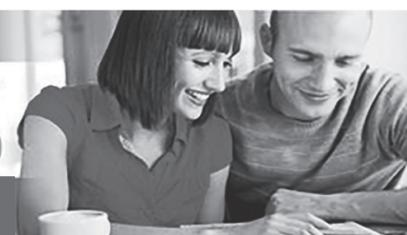
transparency. They want to know what's going on with the city," he said. "I really don't know yet. Just getting elected was the hard part. Now it's time to get in there, get my feet wet, figure out what's going on."

"It's just a matter of where we can get money to do these things, just to build the city back up."



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You and each of you are hereby cited, required and commanded to appear before the County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County, Texas, to be held in the County Court at Law #2 court room in the courthouse of said county in the city of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, such appearance to be at or before ten o'clock a.m. of the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of service, exclusive of the day of such service, which day and date of service shall be the date of publication that this newspaper bears, and which appearance shall be at such time on such Monday, which will be the 13th day of May, 2024, by filing written answer to the application hereinafter mentioned, contesting same, should they or any of them desire to do so, which application will, at such 10 o'clock hour and such place be acted on, said application having been filed by Betty Davis in said court on the 26th day of April, 2024, and now pending there, in a proceeding on the probate docket of said court, styled

"In the Estate of Virginia Regan Davis" the file number of which application and the docket number of which proceedings is 2013-0272-P, the nature of such application being for

ACCOUNT FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Witness, Michelle Gilley, Clerk of the County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County.

Given under my hand and the seal of said court, at office in the City of Longview this the 26th day of April, 2024

Michelle Gilley
Clerk of County Court at Law #2
Gregg County, Texas

BY CGARRETT



NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

The White Oak Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Rd. regarding a request from Thompson Builders for a Variance to change zoning from Agriculture to Single Family 8, Requesting a 50ft road easement instead of 60ft, and Minimum lot size of 7,000 sqft instead of 8,000 sqft to be located at AB 92 G W Hooper SUR TR 72-01 SEC 1 GA Use one 9.5 Acres, more commonly known as 1503 N. White Oak Rd., White Oak.

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

For more information contact Jimmy Purcell, City Coordinator at jpurcell@cityof-whiteoak.com

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Sports Roundup ...

Ladynecks make it to the 3rd round of the 3A softball playoffs

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears and White Oak Roughnecks baseball team's began their playoff run and the White Oak Ladynecks softball team continued their quest of a state championship this week. And Gladewater and White Oak track athletes made their way to Austin for the state track meet

The Bears baseball team made the trip to Atlanta to begin their playoff series on Thursday against Elysian Fields. In game one, the game was deadlocked at 3 as it headed into extra innings but the Yellowjackets scored 4 runs in the top of the 9th inning to take a 1-0 lead in the series 7-3.

Trent Jackson, Hayden Torres, Sean Burke and Aubry Floyd all singled for Gladewater, with Burke driving in a run. Luke Brown struck out five and walked five in eight innings on the mound.

Moving on to Friday and game two, the Bears fought back multiple times but sadly saw their season come to a end 4-3. Preston Bohanon had two singles and Jeremiah Flanagan drove in two runs for Gladewater. Mason Budro added an RBI for the Bears, and Budro struck out

one and walked three in six innings pitched. But still it was a great season for Zac Spears and his staff's team as they had an amazing turnaround after winning just 2 games last season to a second place finish in district and their first playoff birth in multiple years.

Moving over to White Oak softball, the Lady Roughnecks were in Marshall to begin their 2nd round area playoff against Hooks

In game one, White Oak got on the board early and held on to win 4-3. Larkin Daniels had another big game on the mound with 9 strikeouts.

On Friday in Game two, Hooks was able to bounce back and even the series at 1-1 with a 7-3 win which forced a winner take all Game 3 on Saturday afternoon.

And in that game Larkin Daniels helped her own cause with a 3 run homerun to put White Oak up 3-0 and they would go on to win 3-1 to advance to the regional quarterfinal starting on Thursday in Grand Saline. Their opponent will be Mount Vernon. Game 1 is Thursday night at 6:30 p.m., Game 2 is Friday night at 6:30 p.m. and a if needed

Game 3 would be Saturday at 2 p.m..

The Roughnecks baseball team began their playoff series against Tatum on Wednesday in Marshall and it got out of hand quickly for them as they fell 10-0.

Then in Game 2 on Friday, the Roughnecks saw their season come to an end as they fell in a pitchers duel 2-0. Jaxsen Ludlow singled twice, Caleb Maxted tripled and Kelton Cates singled for White Oak in the loss. Cates went the distance on the mound with no strikeouts and three walks. White Oak finishes their season at 12-16

Both Gladewater and White Oak had athlete's participating in the state track meet in Austin and medals were brought home. Gladewater's Peyton Hunter brought home the silver medal in the 100 meter dash and the Gladewater 4x100 relay team (Jerrica Gilmore, Paytin Thompson, Kyla Lincoln and Peyton Hunter) brought home a silver medal. The 4x200 relay team (Hadassah Balcorta, Jerrica Gilmore, Peyton Hunter and Paytin Thompson) came home 5th.

White Oak's Kyler Priest captured the bronze metal in the boy's pole vault



White Oak First Baseman Emily Wallace fields a groundball during the Ladynecks' playoff series with Hooks played at Marshall High School. The Ladynecks took 2 of 3 games from the Hooks to advance to the regional quarterfinals, where they will match up with Mount Vernon to be played this week on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., Friday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m., (if necessary) at Grand Saline High School.

Photo by Mike Peery



White Oak third baseman Davis Toliver puts the tag on a Tatum runner in the Roughnecks playoff game with the Eagles at Marshall High School. The Eagles won the series and ended the Roughnecks season.



Union Grove High School's Sophie Pyle signed a letter of intent last week with LeTourneau University to run cross country & track. Congratulations.

"Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

A's Malaise

How would you like to be playing for the Oakland A's? You would enjoy cashing your paychecks – the minimum annual salary in major league baseball is \$740,000.00 – but you would probably be wishing you could be traded to another team, or you're counting the years until you will be a free agent. It has to be a little demoralizing to play in an empty stadium. The cavernous Oakland Coliseum holds 56,782 people, but the average attendance at an Athletics home game this year is 6,243. The facility was built in 1996 and the A's moved there from Kansas City in 1968.

Until recently the team has generally been competitive. They won three World Series in a row from 1972 to 1974 and won another championship in 1989. They have finished first or second in the Western Division 13 times since 2000, but there have never been many fans there to watch them regardless of their record.

The Coliseum was built as a multi-use facility and has never been well suited for baseball. It has not been maintained and is in

a very run-down condition. In recent years, there have been numerous encounters with animals who live in the structure. The large number of possums have at times forced evacuation of the press box and other areas. If you factor in the recurring damp and cold weather a trip to the baseball game isn't very appealing.

Another contributing factor is the style of management used by the team. After a good player has been with Oakland for a while, he is usually traded to another team for younger players who aren't yet eligible for arbitration or free agency. This practice allows the team to have the lowest payroll total in the sport. The salary total for 2024 is just over 60 million. (Shohei Ohtani earns 70 million). Ten teams have payrolls of over 200 million, and fifteen others are between 100 and 200 million. This nonstop shuffling of the roster keeps costs down, but it's hard to sustain long-term fan support with such a constant turnover.

Oakland fans have developed a deep-seated animosity for team owner John Fisher, who has a reported

net worth of 3 billion dollars, which he "earned" by being the son of Doris and Don Fisher, founders of the Gap firm, the largest specialty retailer in the U.S. John Fisher bought the A's in 2005 for 180 million. I suppose he saved his allowance for a few years to raise the money. The franchise is now valued at about 1.2 billion, but Fisher refuses to put anything back into the organization. He has repeatedly threatened to move the team if local taxpayers won't foot the bill for a new stadium. The Oakland fans have had enough. Last year chants rang out at every game – "Sell the team...sell the team!" and some that can't be printed in a family newspaper. This year 35,000 fans showed up for Opening Day – and stayed in the parking lot to protest.

Misrepresentations and outright lies about contractual agreements have continued. You might say there is a gap in Fisher's credibility. The latest plans involve Sacramento, Las Vegas, and trademarks. Next week we'll give you an appraisal of those plans.

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

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CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
4/28/24	FIRE DEPT	20242255	0:03		GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242256	0:11		301 SAUNDERS SAUNDERS
	FIRE DEPT	20242257	0:33		311 QUITMAN QUITMAN
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20242258	2:02		320 MELBA MELBA
	FIRE DEPT	20242260	3:07		GAY GAY
	EMS	20242262	6:47		46 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242263	6:49		42 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242264	7:57		1409 PERRIN PERRIN ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242265	8:38		512 RODEN RODEN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242266	8:48		HWY 271 HWY 271
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242267	9:48	PENNY'S FOOD & FUEL	807 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20242271	12:42	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242272	13:23		314 S CENTER CENTER
	EMS	20242273	13:27		910 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20242274	15:26		GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	EMS	20242275	16:06		512 N FERRY FERRY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242276	16:36		E LAKE LAKE DR
	FIRE DEPT	20242277	17:37		204 W GAY GAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20242280	18:11		308 S CENTER CENTER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242281	18:54		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	ABANDONED 911	20242282	18:55		109 N MAIN MAIN
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242283	19:13		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20242284	21:05	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20242285	21:28		NORTH NORTH ST
4/29/24	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20242286	0:42		35 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	CRIM MIS	20242287	1:05		35 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242288	3:24		503 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20242289	3:29	EZ MART	400 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242290	4:38		TENERY TENERY
	EMS	20242291	8:25		2104 PINECREST PINECREST
	EMS	20242292	12:34	NORTH LOOP CHURCH OF CHRIST	1000 N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20242293	13:16		1210 PINE HILLS PINE HILLS
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20242294	13:26		E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20242295	13:52	GREENWAY VILLAGE	13 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	ASSIST	20242296	14:28		2105 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	EMS	20242297	16:00		1508 N DASH DASH ST
	EMS	20242298	23:41		710 MAPLE MAPLE AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20242299	23:45		305 COOPER COOPER ST
	EMS	20242300	23:47		800 WOOD WOOD ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20242301	23:51		WEST LAKE DR WEST LAKE DR
4/30/24	ALARM/OTHER	20242302	7:33	CEFCO 79	1109 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20242303	7:54		2708 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	10-50 MAJOR	20242304	9:02		HWY 271 HWY 271
	ASSIST	20242305	9:42		902 E MARY MARY AVE
	FRAUDULENT USE OF ID INFO	20242307	10:51		1117 ROCKS ROCKS CIR
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20242308	11:05	GREENWAY VILLAGE	19 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242309	11:14	LAY LOW AUTOMOTIVE	801 N MAIN MAIN ST
	THEFT	20242310	12:14		COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	EMS	20242311	12:29	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20242312	14:15	JULIAWOOD HOMES	16 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	10-50 MINOR	20242314	15:13		2104 HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242315	17:47	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242316	17:52		1513 IVY-LEA IVY-LEA ST
	EMS	20242317	18:13	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242318	18:50		16355 CR 373 CR 373
	EMS	20242319	18:51		808 TENERY TENERY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242320	19:13		
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242322	20:21		MARTHA MARTHA
	ASSIST	20242324	23:13	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
5/1/24	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242325	0:37		512 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20242326	0:44		501 N AMES AMES
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20242327	0:58	RX MOTORSPORTS	800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20242329	10:39		225 TEXAS TEXAS ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242330	11:05		308 S CENTER CENTER ST

	EMS	20242331	11:44		204 HURLEY HURLEY AVE
	EMS	20242332	14:34		415 S CENTER CENTER ST
	ASSIST	20242333	14:44	TEJAS CAFE	1414 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242334	16:09		PIERCE PIERCE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242335	16:46		37 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242336	17:15		526 MELBA MELBA
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242337	18:07		207 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	EMS	20242338	18:40		1901 EAST LAKE DR EAST LAKE DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20242339	20:12	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	FIRE DEPT	20242340	20:24		144 FAGGOT FAGGOT
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242341	22:02		317 AMES AMES ST
	EMS	20242343	22:38		2812 RAMPY RAMPY AVE
	ASSIST	20242344	23:29		HWY 135 HWY 135
5/2/24	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20242345	0:04		528 NORTH STREET NORTH STREET
	EMS	20242346	3:58	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20242347	4:05		2708 W UPSHUR UPSHUR ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242348	4:34		2708 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20242349	5:37		1207 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	ASSIST	20242350	6:49		
	EMS	20242351	8:22	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20242352	15:13		1300 OLIVE OLIVE ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20242353	17:15		1604 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242354	18:16		710 TENERY TENERY
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20242355	18:44		405 MELBA MELBA AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242356	18:59		710 TENERY TENERY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242357	19:08		2402 WOODBINE WOODBINE ST
	ABANDONED 911	20242358	19:36		1006 E PACIFIC PACIFIC ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242359	22:44	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20242360	23:39		1708 N MAIN ST N MAIN ST
	WARRANT	20242363	23:00		GAY GAY
5/3/24	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242365	0:35		EDDY EDDY
	THEFT	20242366	5:52	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ILLEGAL DUMPING	20242370	8:47	PMM PRODUCTS	1032 E COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	ESCORT	20242371	8:48	CROLEY FUNERAL HOME	401 N CENTER CENTER ST
	ABANDONED VEHICLE	20242372	9:46	BYRDS NEST	212 S MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20242373	12:01	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242374	15:27		403 W COMMERCE COMMERCE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242375	15:39		224 W PACIFIC PACIFIC ST
	ABANDONED 911	20242376	16:25		1007 RICHEY RICHEY DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20242377	18:01	CHURCH OF CHRIST	1000 N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	THEFT	20242378	18:30		1521 PHILLIPS SPRINGS PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242379	18:33		1404 HOLBERT HOLBERT
	10-50 MINOR	20242380	19:12	MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242382	23:05	GLADEWATER FAMILY DENTAL	406 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20242383	23:20		54 JULIA WOOD JULIA WOOD
5/4/24	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242384	3:13		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242386	8:11		414 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	ASSIST	20242387	8:12		1103 N HALL HALL AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20242388	10:25		2215 PINECREST PINECREST DR
	10-50 MINOR	20242389	10:54		GAY GAY
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242390	11:23		W SHEPPARD SHEPPARD ST
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20242392	13:15	DOLLAR GENERAL	2870 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ALARM/HUMAN ERROR	20242393	13:30	GLADEWATER BIBLE CHURCH	115 MONEY MONEY ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20242394	14:34		3032 GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	ALARM/OTHER	20242395	15:10	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242396	15:43	GLADEWATER YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX	1006 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20242398	16:15		602 MELBA MELBA AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242399	17:03	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242400	17:43		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242401	18:00		PERRY PERRY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242402	18:53		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242403	19:09		203 W COMMERCE W COMMERCE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242404	19:21	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242405	19:34		134 PR 3464 PR 3464
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242406	20:00	GOLDEN DOOR INTERIORS	109 N MAIN MAIN ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20242407	20:58	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
5/5/24	EMS	20242408	0:54		529 W MARSHALL MARSHALL ST
	ABANDONED 911	20242409	2:16		609 TENERY TENERY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242412	9:56	MIKES MINI MART	1334 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242413	11:09		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20242414	13:49		WOOD WOOD
	ABANDONED 911	20242415	15:52		808 CANFIELD CANFIELD

GPD Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
5/1/24	5/1/24	17:16	TOLIVER, TYREKE DEMARCUS	B	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	526 MELBA AVE
	5/1/24	17:16	TOLIVER, TYREKE DEMARCUS	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	526 MELBA AVE
	5/1/24	17:16	TOLIVER, TYREKE DEMARCUS	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	526 MELBA AVE



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WHITE OAK SENIOR CELEBRATION



Game Warden Todd Long laughs with Cierra Mays April 30 while introducing a rescued American Alligator to the Gladewater Middle Schooler and some of her Ag and Science classmates.

Gotcha gator!

By James Draper

A group of Gladewater Middle Schoolers got a bite-sized lesson in wildlife management Tuesday afternoon thanks to a pit-stop by Game Warden Todd Long and a scaly denizen of the local river bottoms.

The American Alligator recently strayed onto a piece of property off Hwy. 271, and Long was all too happy to retrieve it for relocation to a healthier habitat ASAP – after it earned some oos, ahs and a couple of shrieks on-campus.

“We have a sanctuary where some of the wild animals live. This guy will probably go to join some of his kinfolk.”

Naturally, Long made sure the reptile was well-secured in order to give the students an opportunity to get an up-close look and, in most cases, they embraced the chance to hold the leathery critter, albeit briefly.

“I had to hogtie him because he can crawl out of here in a heartbeat,” the local game warden said. Based on the creature’s weight and length, Long estimated the gator’s age at between 4 and 6 years-old: “Depending on their habitat they grow about a foot a year.

“He was found just right here at the Gladewater city limits near the airport. The landowner was just wanting it gone as a nuisance.”

Typically, that kind of request would be handled by someone else, Long added, but it was too good an educational opportunity for him to pass up.

“If it’s in a private lake or private pond we typically just ask the public to leave them alone. They’re on the roam, looking for companions, looking for food. They’ll move on,” Long noted. That said, “This is kind of a segue on wildlife and the importance of Ag.”

Perfect timing – the middle school Ag program is new this year, and GMS Principal Rebecca Lanham is eager to create more Ag education and enrichment opportunities on her campus and across GISD.

“I’ve worked for this seven years before I was principal,” she said. “This year I was gifted with this Ag position that GEDCO pays half of. It gets the kids’ principles class out of the way,” helping them choose a focus between horticulture, Ag mech/metal or wildlife: “When they get to the high school they’re ready to start with their actual pathway.”

Lanham and Long went to school together, both graduating from Gladewater High School.

“He developed a love of all things Agriculture from our Ag teacher, Carl Jackson, which led him eventually down this path,” Lanham said. “Mr. Long is passionate about education regarding wildlife management, and it’s always a treat when he stops by. He has a love for what he does and this area of the country in which he gets to do it.”

Clearly delighted to introduce the kids to the creature, Long was soon on his way to find the alligator a new residence.

“Y’all be safe this summer,” he said, bidding farewell to the swarms of students. “Wear your life jacket if you get out on the lake!”



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Gavin Sipes & Kynlee Bright**



**HALL OF FAME - WHITE OAK HIGH SCHOOL
MOST SCHOOL SPIRIT
Fiona Rolland & James Hinsley (not pictured)**



**HALL OF FAME - WHITE OAK HIGH SCHOOL
MOST TALENTED
Kohl Adams & Katie Hinch**



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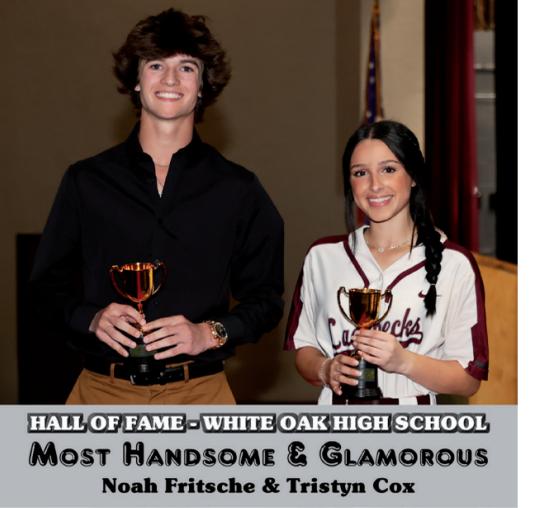
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