

# Gladewater Mirror

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Thursday, May 16, 2024

Vol. 96, No. 20

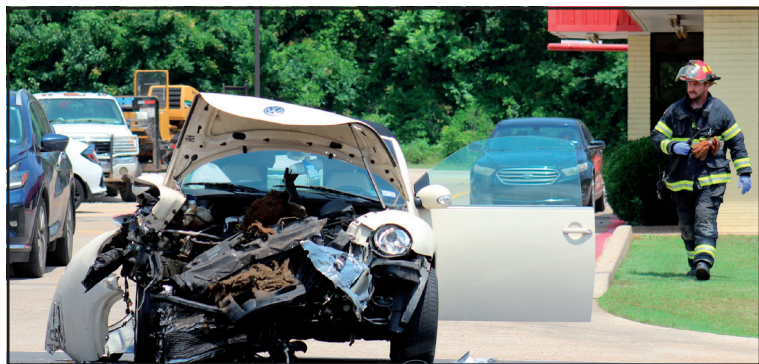
1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



Gladewater Fire Department Driver/Engineer Aaron Brandt comforts little Daniella May 9 after her family was involved in a collision in the 1100 block of Broadway Avenue – a Volkswagen reportedly turned out of Chicken Express and struck a westbound Honda Accord, sending the second car careening across the eastbound lane and into a neighboring parking lot where it collided with a parked Chevy Tahoe, leaving several individuals with minor injuries.

Photos by James Draper



## Councilwoman takes oath as Gladewater Mayor Thursday

There's a milestone meeting set for Gladewater City Council this week.

Current Place 3 Councilwoman Brandy Flanagan became Mayor-Elect Saturday, May 4, and Thursday night marks the swearing-in of Gladewater's first female mayor, with Gregg County Judge Bill Stoutd coming in to administer the oath.

It's the third item on the council's agenda after outgoing Mayor Scott Owens calls the session to order at

6 p.m. May 16 with the standard invocation and pledge. The evening's second bullet point is a presentation to Owens before the oaths of office – Gladewater Municipal Court Judge (and Gregg County Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace) Tim Bryan will swear-in returning Place 2 Council Member Michael Webber and incoming Place 3 Councilman Stoney Stone.

Next up will be the election of the council's Mayor Pro Tem – Sonny

Anderson currently holds the post – then Agenda Item 6 is Flanagan's first 'Mayor's Comments' before the City Manager's Report by Charlie Smith, touching on administrative and project updates, announcements and department updates.

In addition to Citizen Comments and the standard Consent Agenda, the night's agenda lists discussion of a container home ordinance, a throwback to a discussion that began in March. Notably, there's no

'consideration' listed to the item, i.e. no official action or vote on the table.

The night's action items (set for the council to 'Discuss and Consider') include the annual audit for fiscal year 2022-2023 (another holdover from prior meetings) and an "allowance of GISD antenna on the Allison Street Water Tower."

Council members will also consider a delinquent tax waiver (valued at less than \$250), a reso-

lution to sell property at 2810 Hendricks Street and action to award a \$396,240 bid for construction of the 2024 Water treatment Plant ARPA upgrades to C.E. Marler & Assoc.

With no planned Executive (closed) Session on the night's agenda, the final agenda item for the evening echoes last month: the council will consider appointments of their members as ex officio participants on local advisory boards before adjourning for the night.



Truman W. Smith Children's Care Center employees, administrators, and Nexion Health executives welcome local lawmakers for a 'Thank You' tour and lunch May 7, expressing their gratitude for support from State Sen. Bryan Hughes, State Rep. Jay Dean, Rep. Cole Hefner and Upshur County Judge Todd Teffeller.

Photo by James Draper

## Union Grove women arrested by Upshur SIU deputies

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested 13 suspects in April on various charges, many of them drug-related, Sheriff Larry Webb announced last week.

Details of the arrests were as follows, and all suspects were taken to the county jail in Gilmer, he said. (In some instances where the suspect was charged with the possession of a controlled substance, the unit's report didn't identify the drug.)

Kenneth Klima, 38, of Ore City, was arrested April 1 on multiple charges from Upshur and Marion counties.

The Upshur allegations include felony possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor failure

to identify himself.

He was also charged in three outstanding Marion felony warrants with manufacture/delivery of controlled substance, possession of controlled substance and bail jumping.

The patrol division of Webb's office contacted the special unit to help with a traffic stop at an unidentified location, resulting in drug-detecting K-9 dog "Marco" being deployed and alerting on the vehicle Klima occupied.

Methamphetamine and marijuana were then found inside.

Two men were arrested on charges of felony possession of controlled substance April 2 as result of a vehicle stop at the intersection of north Texas 155 and Wisteria Road.

They were the driver, Ryan Winderweedle, 39, of Ore City, and Matthew Winderweedle, 35, of Harleton.

The unit was performing drug interdiction in the area where they were stopped. While investigating, the SIU got probable cause to search the vehicle, leading to seizing methamphetamine.

Two Union Grove women were arrested on unrelated charges April 3 after their vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation while the unit was performing narcotics interdiction in the Upshur County portion of Gladewater.

Methamphetamine was found in the vehicle, leading the passenger, Christie Walls, 45, to be charged with felony possession

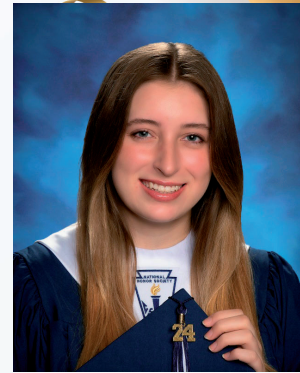
Continued on Page 3

## UGHS GRADUATION 2024

Saturday - 10 a.m. - Moberly Baptist Church



**ADDISON MARIE SMITH**  
Valedictorian



**KATHRYN ANN KING**  
Salutatorian

The Union Grove High School Class of 2024 will walk across the stage Saturday at 10 a.m. at Moberly Baptist Church in Longview.

They will be led by Valedictorian Addison Smith, Salutatorian Kathryn King and Historian Sydney Pritchett.

Valedictorian Addison Smith, with a grade point average of 101.43, is the daughter of Justin and Brandy Smith, and the sister of Allie Smith and Carter Smith.

Throughout her high school career, Addison has been actively involved in various leadership roles, serving as the historian of the Na-



**SYDNEY BROOKE PRITCHETT**  
Historian

Continued on Page 3

See the entire UGHS graduating class and the 2024 graduates from Gladewater High School and White Oak High School in next week's Gladewater Mirror 2024 Graduation Commemorative Publication.

## Gladewater, White Oak sales tax numbers slip

Well, the streak is over.

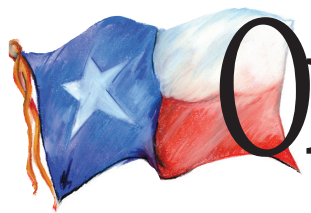
The latest sales tax announcement from the state comptroller's office shows the City of Gladewater's revenue allocation for May 2024 didn't quite keep pace with the 2023 number, ending about 30 months of consecutive year-to-year gains for the community.

May's sales tax check from Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office is based on March sales by businesses that report monthly along with revenues from sales in January, February and March made by quarterly filers.

Gladewater's allocation this month is \$168,274.54, 6.51 percent less than May 2023's payment (4179,999.94). For the year, the total of Gladewater's five sales tax allocations is still ahead of '23 by 5.18 percent at \$699,652.15.

Most of the municipalities in Gregg County saw some degree of decrease, including a 4.85 decrease year-to-year decline for Longview, a 0.79 percent decrease for Kilgore and a 1.77 percent May-to-May dip for White Oak.

The only comparative gains were experienced by Lakeport (13.59 percent) and 8.8 percent for Warren City (\$1,893.71).



# 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



### Phelan issues priorities for next session — if he is speaker

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, has issued his legislative priorities for the next legislative session in January, while facing a tough re-election battle and an impending May 28 runoff election.

Phelan directed his committee leaders to take a look at the use of school vouchers in other states and also consider new ways to further reduce property tax bills for homeowners, The Texas Tribune reported.

Attempts to pass a voucher program backed by Gov. Greg Abbott failed several times in past legislative sessions, leading to largely successful attempts to defeat voucher opponents in the March Republican primary. Phelan faces challenger David Covey, backed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and other of his political foes, in the runoff.

As is customary with House speakers, Phelan did not cast a vote either way for the various voucher proposals but later said he would have supported a scaled-down version of vouchers.

During the last sessions, Phelan and his House allies backed a proposal to cut the cap on annual property taxes from 10% to 5%, which was opposed by Patrick. The lieutenant governor favored an increase in the homestead exemption instead and ultimately prevailed.

Moving forward, Phelan has directed the House Ways & Means Committee to explore “whether to further reduce the limit on appraised value of homesteads.”

### New teacher residency certificate approved

The State Board of Education recently approved a new certificate — the enhanced standard certificate — for aspiring teachers who complete a residency on their way to earning a teaching license in Texas, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The board hopes such yearlong programs will create better trained first-year teachers and improve teacher retention — a major issue for Texas public schools.

“The residency prep route creates a path to the classroom that’s akin to the medical model for preparing doctors,” said Emily Garcia, associate commissioner for educator certification and enforcement at the Texas Education Agency.

Student teaching is common among college-based teaching programs, but the residency is longer and more intensive, Garcia said. The residency has a 750-hour minimum requirement, while a typical student teaching program usually involves a minimum of 490 hours in the classroom.

One out of eight Texas public school teachers left their jobs during the last school year, according to TEA, while just 58% of entry-level teachers hired in Texas five years ago are still working in public education.



**On Monday, May 13, at approximately 1 a.m., officers with the Gladewater Police Department responded to an aggravated robbery at EZ Mart, located at 400 W. Upshur Avenue. Upon arrival, officers learned that the suspects, whose identities are currently unknown, took merchandise and an undisclosed amount of money from the premises. The suspects were described as being approximately 5'10" to 6' tall, dressed in black ski masks, hooded sweatshirts, gloves, and jeans. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Gladewater Police Department at 903-845-2166.**

## Perspective ...

A sense of wonder is one of the greatest gifts we are given. I have worked hard to hold on to mine throughout my life. It was easy growing up in the country on a ranch to experience that wonder. In the spring the mounds of clover were the sweet smelling mattress of choice while cloud gazing.

Of course at night the absolute best place to be was the old backyard swing my dad had welded and attached to our old swing set’s frame. You could stretch out on it with your leg pushing the chain and slowly swing and watch the stars travel the dark night sky. I could see the Milky Way and constellations and planes and satellites.

It was awe inducing and faith inspiring.

This summer when my boss man sweetie takes me to the West Texas Press Association convention in Cloudfroft, New Mexico I hope to go in search of dark skies again because they have disappeared from our neck of the woods. I need, really need, a little more star shine in my life.

What moves you to wonder? My list is only limited by my imagination and the ability to see, really see.

The intelligence and unconditional love of a dog has got to be one of the greatest gifts given to us. Dogs inspire my faith in God because of the qualities of limitless love, loyalty and warmth they share with us.

I just don’t understand folks who don’t like dogs...or wildlife for that matter. I love them all, except maybe snakes. Although I do appreciate the round-eyed, non-venomous fellers that take care of the rampant East Texas rodent population. I am fascinated by insects, except for pestilent mosquitos and those gosh-awful fire ants.

Seeing a great cowboy or cowgirl manage a spirited horse is phenomenal. When a rider and horse become one it is a thing of great beauty. Frankly, I think that anyone doing any job with passion and dedication is a thing of beauty and power.

But, the ocean pounding the sand in the middle of the night or at sunrise never ceases to move me. The sheer power and

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



majesty of our world should fill us with wonder and gratitude every single day of our lives.

Then there are the gifts of music, art, good food and relationships that transcend the humdrum routine of days that we allow to become all too common.

Music is a gift I don’t personally possess. I can play the piano and read music but I can not sing or play masterfully. But every day I listen to either Big Band, classic rock, outlaw country music or... it’s all good. But when music is performed live with passion, oh man oh man, what a gift.

To read a book or article written by a truly good or great writer takes us places that planes, trains and cars never will. There isn’t a day that goes by that there isn’t a book in my hand that feeds some aspect of my mind or soul.

Here’s the point friends and neighbors, the creation we have been gifted is filled with infinite variety. If we are bored we are dooming ourselves to mediocrity and “sense-less” days. Lift up your eyes to the night sky, to the butterfly resting on a flower, the red-breasted Robin on the low-hanging branch, and know deep down that our weary old world is really quite wonderful.

Then, share that insight. Share kindness and joy and appreciation. Share music and books and ideas. Live life with passion.

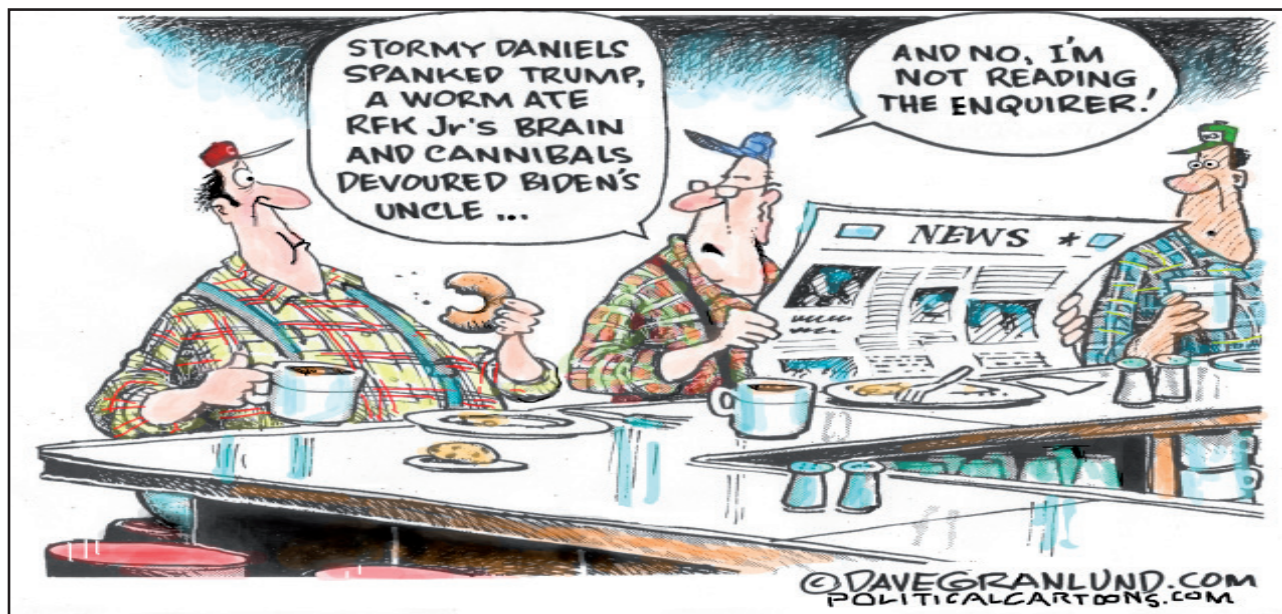
The stars will shine brighter, colors will be more vibrant and the music you hear will be sweeter.

Breathe...give thanks...share...

It doesn’t get any better than this...

And THIS is pretty dog gone good.

After all, it really is just a matter of perspective.



## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### All of the Above...

The dynamic Texas economy and its growing population (and hot summers) require increases in electric generation and transmission capacity well beyond what was expected even a few years ago. Basic patterns of business expansion have been in place for decades. However, there are profound and unanticipated changes underway which are shifting power demand growth into an entirely new gear.

There has recently been a surge in electricity-intensive industries. Data centers supporting remote work, streaming, and now AI need massive megawatts to operate. Crypto mining is another major user. Electrification of cars and other machines further increases demand. Emerging industries, such as Tesla’s gigafactory and LNG facilities across the Gulf Coast, also need a lot. Developments on the horizon to deal with climate issues, such as hydrogen production and carbon capture, will require enormous resources.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) manages the flow of power to more than 26 million Texas customers (about 90% of the total state load) and is fully aware of what’s coming. During the past legislative session, changes were implemented enabling ERCOT to consider additions to grid requirements that are known to be coming. Previously, until new customers were added, the related increase in power needs couldn’t be counted.

New planning documents project an additional 40 gigawatts

(GW) of load growth by 2030 compared to the prior year’s forecast. For context, ERCOT’s all-time peak demand was just over 85 GW on a broiling day in August 2023. The impetus for this staggering upward movement is significant increases in large loads being considered (crypto mining, hydrogen and hydrogen-related manufacturing, data centers supporting AI, and greater electrification).

Obviously, Texas will need both generation and transmission capacity – and fast! Currently, ERCOT has 1,775 active generation interconnection requests totaling 346 GW planned for the next few years, including 155 GW of solar, 35 GW of wind, 15 GW of gas, and 141 GW facilitated by battery capacity. Benefits of this diversity of sources are that they can be built faster and with more location options. However, given that 190 GW is dependent on wind or sun, the batteries (as well as additional gas-fired capacity) will be crucial in the dog days of summer. It will necessitate an “all of the above” approach, and policy should accommodate all types of power resources.

It typically takes 3-5 years to plan, permit, and build transmission lines in Texas, which is about half the time needed in many areas (but challenging nonetheless). With current expectations, these projects must receive priority status.

Texas no doubt faces a daunting task, but the seeds of a solution are present. Acknowledging the scope of the effort is the first step – now the work begins. Stay safe!

### DOES IT MATTER WHAT ONE BELIEVES?

Does it really matter what you believe as long as you are honest and sincere? We hear this sentiment, either stated or implied, over and over again. People offer this as justification for practices and convictions for which they have no other justification. But such actually flies in the face of the revelation of God. It makes subjective determination the standard of belief in serving God, and effectively undermines the idea of any true standard of authority. The last thing we need today is the rejection of God’s standard found in His inspired Word. Our country and society, as well as religion, is growing increasingly corrupt, because people no longer believe in any uniform code of ethics or morality. And the cry continues: “It doesn’t matter what you believe just as long as you’re honest and sincere.” Such a sentiment can be translated as “I’ll do what I want to do” dressed in ecclesiastical garb!

Suppose a person mistakenly boards the wrong airplane. We all know his honesty and sincerity will not guarantee that he will go where he wants to go. Examples of like nature can be multiplied. As long as there is true and false, a genuine and a counterfeit, it WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE what we believe. First John 4: 1 says: “Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” Hebrews 13: 9 says: Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings.” Colossians 2: 8 tells us to “beware lest anyone take you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men.”

Dear friend, does it make a difference what you believe? Yes indeed! It not only makes a difference what you believe, but it makes an ETERNAL difference! Think on these things.

**Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ**  
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North & East Texas  
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**Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com**

**Public Notice**

Gladewater ISO will be accepting Requests for Proposals for its Property and Liability insurance coverages. A proposer's questionnaire may be obtained from the District's consultant Robert V. Reim Company, by e-mailing bobreim(@)robertreim.com. Completed Questionnaires must be returned by 2:00 p.m., May 29, 2024. Proposers will be qualified, and insurance companies will be assigned. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Reim at (512) 345-8921. Final proposals will be due July 2, 2024. The District's current coverage expires September 1, 2024.

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**CITY OF WHITE OAK PRIDE TRADITION**

## RESOLUTION 2024-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK, TEXAS AUTHORIZING WHITE OAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO ENTER INTO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE LUNDGREN AGENCY.

WHEREAS, White Oak Economic Development Corporation ("WOEDCO") believes it will promote economic development within the City of White Oak to enter into an Economic Development Performance Agreement with the Lundgren Agency; and

WHEREAS, WOEDCO proposes a grant incentive of \$20,000 to the Lundgren Agency; for the purpose of completing the build-out of 102 W White Oak Rd, Suite 4.

WHEREAS, authorization of the City Council of White Oak is required for WOEDCO to enter into such agreement pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 505.158.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK, that White Oak Economic Development Corporation is authorized to enter into an Economic Development Agreement with the Lundgren Agency in accordance with the terms described above.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of May 2024.

Kyle Kutch, Mayor

ATTEST:  
 Kristine Toon, City Secretary

**ORDINANCE 2024-10**  
**ORDINANCE 2024-11**  
**ORDINANCE 2024-12**  
**ORDINANCE 2024-13**

ORDINANCE 2024-10 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 7, 2024 AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE II, SECTION 82-45(B), OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING THE PRESENT WATER RATES FOR THE MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICE; PRESCRIBING AND FIXING NEW WATER RATES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. FOR A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x7024.

ORDINANCE 2024-11 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 7, 2024 FOR AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE II, SECTION 82-47(1), OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING THE PRESENT SEWER RATES FOR THE MUNICIPAL SEWER SERVICE; PRESCRIBING AND FIXING NEW SEWER RATES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x7024.

ORDINANCE 2024-12 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 7, 2024 FOR AMENDING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE II, SECTION 82-46(2)(a&b), WATER SERVICE CONNECTION FEES, AND 82-47(2)(b), SEWER SERVICE CONNECTION FEES; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x7024.

ORDINANCE 2024-13 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 7, 2024 AMENDING THE CITY OF WHITE OAK'S ZONING ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x7024.

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# Sports Roundup ...

## Ladynecks knocked out of 3A softball state playoffs

By Tyler Sutton

The White Oak softball team continued their drive for a state championship as they took on Mount Vernon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the playoffs.

Game one took place on Thursday and White Oak jumped out to an early 2-0 lead with rbi's from Tristyn Cox and Madi Baker. But the Tigers answered back with Cameron

Pope driving in two with a double to tie the game at 2 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Mount Vernon then took the lead with 3 runs in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning to take a 4-2 lead and held on to win. Larkin Daniels had another great game with 8 strikeouts. Then on Friday, the LadyNecks season sadly came to an end as they fell in game two 8-0. Mount Vernon took control

with a 5 run fifth inning and never looked back. White Oak finishes their season at 29-10 with a undefeated district championship, a bi-district championship, and area championship, and a appearance in the regional quarterfinals. They have set the foundation for future Ladyneck teams on what the standard is for White Oak softball.



(ABOVE) White Oak Coach Nineveh Blankenship addresses her Ladyneck Softball team after their season ended in the Regional Quarterfinals, losing to Mount Vernon 2-4 and 0-8 at Grand Saline High School. They finished the season with a 29-10 record. (BELOW) Jaiden Marshall steals second base in game one of the Ladynecks Regional Quarterfinal series with Mount Vernon.

Photos by Mike Peery



# UGHS Sports Awards

Lady Lion Legacy Award: Jenna Scott  
 Lion Legacy Award: Will Wilson  
 Female Athlete of the Year: Ava Whitman  
 Male Athlete of the Year: Jace Roberts

**2024 UG Baseball Awards:**

CO-MVP: #1 - Jr. - Judson George / #3 - Jr. - Jacob Griffin  
 Offense MVP: #23 - Sr. - Jax Daniels / #33 - Jr. - Kayden Day  
 Defense MVP: #3 - Sr. - Peyton Laake  
 Pitcher of the Year: #8 - Soph. - Carter Cooper  
 Most Improved: #11 - Jr. - Jesse Fulmer / #5 - Soph. - Wrigley Roberts  
 PTP: #35 - Jr. - Morgan Mayhan - #34 - Jr. - Cason Cowan  
 Cub Award: Fr. - Hudson Wightman

**2024 FCA NETX ALL-STAR: #4 - Sr. Rylan Roberts**

**Softball:**

All District Infielder--Kaki Pharr  
 All District Outfielder--Jacyce Mullins  
 2nd Team Pitcher--Allie Calhoun  
 2nd Team Infielder--Lizzy Gregg  
 Honorable Mention - Daytona Vaughn, Jamie Webb

**Powerlifting- Regional Qualifiers**

Isaiah O'Neal  
 Gary Dacus  
 Savanna Clark  
 Macei Boland  
 Daytona Vaughn

**Boys Basketball:**

Grove Hoops PTP: Will Wilson & Lane Turner  
 Grove Hoops Most Improved: Morgan Mayhan & Peyton Laake  
 Grove Hoops Teammate of the Year: Rylan Roberts  
 Grove Hoops Defensive MVP: Wrigley Roberts  
 Grove Hoops Offensive MVP: Jax Daniels  
 Grove Hoops Overall MVP: Jace Roberts  
 Grove Hoops Management Award: Owen Matthew  
 TABC Academic All State: Will Wilson & Lane Turner

**Boys Track Regional Qualifier Awards:**

Gary Dacus- Pole Vault  
 Lane Turner-Pole Vault  
 Rylan Roberts- 4x200  
 Will Wilson- 3200  
 Judson George- 4x200  
 Jace Roberts- 110h, 4x200, 4x400, Long Jump  
 Jesse Fulmer- 110h  
 Cason Cowan-4x200  
 Jacob Griffin- Discus, 4x200  
 Carter Cooper- Pole Vault  
 Wrigley Roberts- 110h, 300h, 4x400  
 Preston Travis- 4x400  
 Kody Nutt- 4x400

**BASKETBALL: District 21AA-**

Hon. Mention Allie Calhoun Dnaica Vestal Rachel Potter  
 2nd Team Keira Taylor Mallorie Cannon

1st Team Sarah Prince Jenna Scott  
 Newcomer Jamie Webb  
 OMVP Ava Wightman  
**Academic All District-**  
 Rachel Potter Ava Wightman Sarah Prince  
 Allie Calhoun Jenna Scott Keira Taylor Mallorie Cannon

**Academic All State-**

Ava Wightman Jenna Scott

**TABC All Region III 2A-**

Ava Wightman

**Autism and Azalea All Star-**

Ava Wightman  
 Shout out to Taylor and dealing with injury but supporting her team

**TOP MANAGER- Katherine Potter**

NEWCOMERS- Danica Vestal and Rachel Potter

LION PRIDE- Allie Calhoun

MOST COACHABLE-Keira Taylor

MOST IMPROVED- Mallorie Cannon

DMVP- Sarah Prince and Jenna Scott

OMVP- Jamie Webb

MVP- Ava Wightman

**LADY LIONS GOLF:**

Most Improved -Averi Cook  
 MVP- Sydney Pritchett (placed 15th out of 72 golfers)

**LIONS GOLF:**

Most Improved- Carter Cooper  
 (Jax 9th out of 91 golfers)  
 MVP- Kayden Day (placed 4th out of 91 golfers)

**ACADEMIC ALL STATE-**

Sophie Pyle Sarah Clowers Sydney Pritchett  
 Will Wilson

**Girls track**

Overall MVP Ava Wightman  
 Most Valuable Runner Rylee Aiken  
 Most Valuable Fird event Addi Smith  
 Newcomer Danica Vestal

Lion Heart Sophie Pyle

**THSCA First Team All State Academic**

Addi Smith

**TFCA All State Academic**

Ava Wightman  
 Addi Smith  
 Jenna Scott  
 Sophie Pyle  
 Keira Taylor  
 Sarah Prince  
 Hannah Coulter  
 Rylee Aiken  
 Natalie Woodard  
 Karen Chavez  
 Jill Taylor  
 Rachel Potter  
 Lilly Hutton

# WOHS Sports Awards



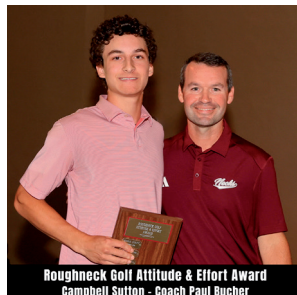
Joe Roughneck Award  
 Coach Richard Burks - Caleb Maxted



Ladyneck Award  
 Coach Morgan High - Addison Clinkscales



Roughneck Basketball Attitude & Effort Award  
 Caleb Sarge - Coach Brett Cloud



Roughneck Golf Attitude & Effort Award  
 Campbell Sutton - Coach Paul Bucher



Roughneck Powerlifting Attitude & Effort Award  
 Coach Clay Hedges - Jackson Thorp



Roughneck Tennis Attitude & Effort Award  
 Coach Tammy Cloud - Braine Vaughn



Roughneck Track Attitude & Effort Award  
 Logan Ludwig - Coach Richard Burks - Jaxsen Ludlow



Cross Country Attitude & Effort Award  
 Ally Tatum - Coach Desiree Boyett - Logan Langwisch



Roughneck Football Attitude & Effort Award  
 Coach Michael Ludlow - David Watson



Ladyneck Basketball Attitude & Effort Award  
 Coach Brittany Edney - Grayson Sipes



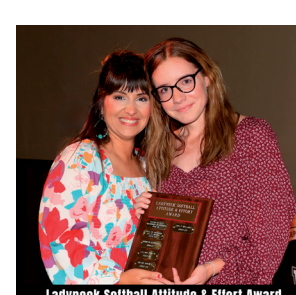
Ladyneck Volleyball Attitude & Effort Award  
 Addison Clinkscales - Coach Morgan High - Caloe Carter



Trainers Attitude & Effort Award  
 Trainer Matthew Dyson - Paxtyn Stith



Above and Beyond Roughneck Service Award  
 Jack Parker - Coach Michael Ludlow



Ladyneck Softball Attitude & Effort Award  
 Coach Nineveh Blankenship - Emily Wallace



Ladyneck Track Attitude & Effort Award  
 Addison Clinkscales - Coach Richard Burks



Roughneck Baseball Attitude & Effort Award  
 Caleb Maxted - Coach Charles Feshee



Ladyneck Tennis Attitude & Effort Award  
 Coach Tammy Cloud - Fiona Rolland



Ladyneck Golf Attitude & Effort Award  
 Londyn Bodovsky - Coach Paul Bucher



## Above and Beyond Cheerleader Award

From L to R: Jessica Lowery, Sponsor Dana Mizell, Kylie Dugger, Addison Clinkscales, Sponsor Stacey Hall, Aubrey Saccocchio, Kynlee Bright

## "Coot's Corner"

By Coot Putley

## No A's on this report card

"Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" is a bizarre movie from 1998, but it might be a phrase used to describe the latest scheme announced by John Fisher, owner of the Oakland A's. Major League Baseball has approved relocation of the team to Las Vegas. Be careful what you wish for Sin City. There are still a lot of details to be finalized, and things aren't always what they seem when dealing with Mr. Fisher.

One major consideration is where the team will play when they move. Sketches have been released that show a futuristic 33,000 seat ballpark located on the Strip. It is a tiered, fixed roof concept that provides views of the city skyline and looks like a giant armadillo from the outside.

One thing that hasn't yet been determined is the issue of who will pay for this project. Bet it won't be John Fisher - that would be a good wager in Vegas.

The next matter in question is where the A's will play in the interim. Their current lease expires at the end of this season. The new stadium is scheduled for completion in 2028, so where will they play in 2025-2027? You might think a good solution would

be to share the existing Las Vegas baseball stadium with their AAA franchise, the Las Vegas Aviators. That is far too logical. They have announced they're going to play in Sacramento, where the San Francisco Giants AAA affiliate River Cats are located. Who will devise that schedule? Which franchise will have authority? And what type of fan base can be maintained or developed in a three-year lifespan?

Management has decreed that the team will simply be known as the Athletics while they play in Sacramento. Seems like they are missing an opportunity to display some creativity. They could be called Oakramento (sounds like a tasty snack) or Sacraland (might be confused with an amusement park). Some have suggested they honor the Northern California region by adopting the name Nocal, but that sounds too much like a diet soda. Since Sacramento is the state capital, a great name would be the Great Offenders. Or they could combine the Sacramento name with the A's moniker and be known as the Sacra's. It would be pronounced sack race, and that contest could replace

the traditional dot race in the middle of the sixth inning.

In spite of their pronouncement that they will be in this temporary location only three years, it has been disclosed that the terms Sacramento A's and Sacramento Athletics have been trademarked by the Oakland franchise. Could this be another of John Fisher's ploys? Certainly seems a little fishy. The new slogan is "what doesn't happen in Vegas...stays in California."

Let's accept for now that the team is really moving to Nevada to play in the shiny new stadium. They would have to leave behind the name Athletics, the official Kelly Green and Fort Knox Gold colors, and the "White Elephant" logo and start over. The most obvious new name would be the Las Vegas Aces, but they might want to consider their ballpark design and adopt the name Las Vegas Armadillos. Marketing opportunities would be unlimited!

If John Fisher is able to make all this happen and retain ownership of the franchise, I would propose the team be called The Riverboat Gamblers or the Sin City Swindlers.

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



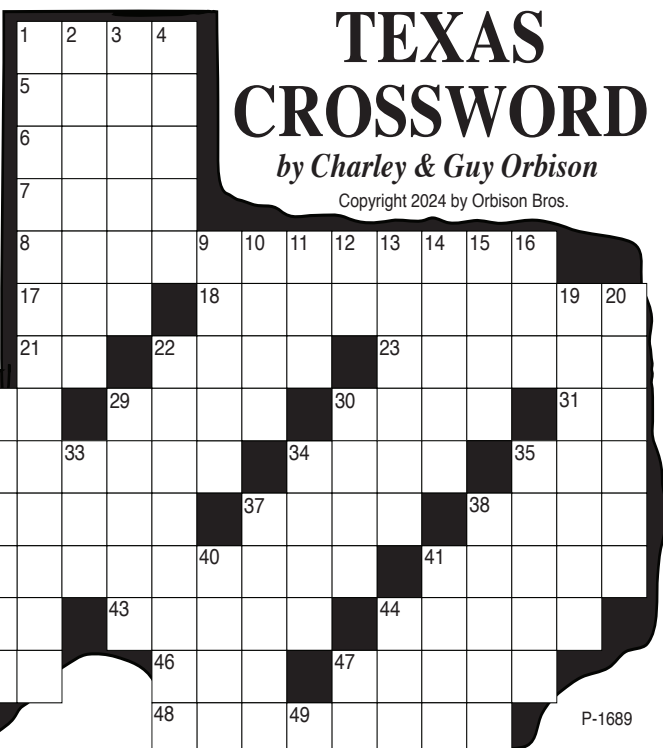
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- ACROSS**
- 1 TXism: "changes his mind as often \_\_\_ does socks"
  - 5 a star in Texas-filmed "Silkwood"
  - 6 Houston has a big \_\_\_ nautics industry
  - 7 early slavery case plaintiff: \_\_\_ Scott
  - 8 one impeachment charge against "Pa" Ferguson in 1917
  - 17 Fort Worth spring festival: "\_\_\_ fest"
  - 18 reparations for wrongs
  - 21 TXism: "big biscuit \_\_\_ the pan" (boss)
  - 22 river movement
  - 23 TXism: "weak \_\_\_ \_\_\_-day-old kitten"
  - 24 TXism: "attracted like a \_\_\_ \_\_\_-chew toy"
  - 29 car horn sound
  - 30 Palestine AM radio
  - 31 hosp. trauma area
  - 32 TXism: "numerous \_\_\_ in Texas"
  - 34 canal or great lake
  - 35 TX George Jones' "\_\_\_ Name Is"
  - 36 caused to be loved
  - 37 TXism: "\_\_\_ a line" (go fish)
  - 38 Lubbock has the highest crime \_\_\_ in Texas (2024 statistics)
  - 39 the only NHL team in Texas (2 wds.)
  - 41 belly button
  - 42 TXism: "heap of"

- 43 San Antonio NBA team
  - 44 "\_\_\_ all my bases"
  - 45 TX Betty Buckley was on the last three seasons of this HBO prison drama
  - 46 pub brew
  - 47 TX Zina Garrison won tennis gold in 1988 at Olympics in South \_\_\_
  - 48 TV western for TX Patricia Blair: "The \_\_\_"
  - 50 Col. Travis drew \_\_\_ in the dirt at the Alamo
  - 51 "\_\_\_ riot, one Ranger"
  - 52 peculiar blues guitarist, TX Stevie \_\_\_ Vaughan
- DOWN**
- 1 UT comic strip by Berkeley Breathed, with "The" (2 wds.)
  - 2 seat of Grayson County
  - 3 notary words in Texas: ". . . I \_\_\_ certify that . . ."
  - 4 to gradually wear away a Texas beach
  - 9 jewelry retailer based in Texas



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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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- 10 Houston rock band if it was missing a "Z" (2 wds.)
- 11 "I searched high and \_\_\_" (looked everywhere)
- 12 Rangers announcer, Nadel (init.)
- 13 TXism: "just cause a chicken has wings don't \_\_\_ can fly" (looks can be deceiving)
- 14 TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"
- 15 tidy
- 16 explosive letters
- 19 treble speaker
- 20 stallion base of the King Ranch quarter horses: "Old \_\_\_"
- 22 rock-forming mineral
- 24 impeached Gov. "\_\_\_" Ferguson
- 25 "got no \_\_\_ for it"
- 26 TXism: "big frog in the \_\_\_" (VIP)
- 27 exceptionally large \_\_\_ wave
- 28 Sam Houston's Cherokee chief: \_\_\_-te-ka
- 29 "\_\_\_ you!" (said after a sneeze)
- 30 Texas singer/actor Kristofferson
- 33 historical period
- 34 TXism: "still wet behind the \_\_\_"
- 35 TXism: "does a cat \_\_\_ climbing gear?" (yes)
- 37 uncarpeted (2 wds.)
- 38 Sam Houston's Cherokee name
- 40 seat of Swisher County
- 41 singer, TX Jones (without the "h")
- 44 TXism: "y'all \_\_\_ back, ya hear?"
- 47 in Karnes County on highway 72
- 49 actress, TX Darnell

See Answers On This Page

**ROSIE JAGGERS**

Funeral services for Rosie Jagers, 94, of Gladewater, will be held at 11 am, Friday, May 17, 2024, in the Chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home with Brother Mike Morrow officiating. Interment to follow at Gladewater Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at 10 am, prior to the service.



Rosie was born on October 25, 1929, to M. T. Paul Hogue and Violet Alberta Coburn Hogue in Durant, Oklahoma, and passed from this life on May 9, 2024, surrounded by her family.

Rosie married James T. Jagers, on August 3, 1947, in Gladewater, Texas. She was the owner of Merle Norman Cosmetics and co-owner of Syndi-Cut Beauty Salon in Gladewater. Rosie was a member of Cross Brand Cowboy

Church in Tyler.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Kathy Jagers Kidd (Jerry) and Paula Daniel (Ronnie); grandchildren, Jaime Jagers, Amber Griffith, Monica Kidd, Paul Jagers, and Andrea Bennett; and 8 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James T. Jagers; son, James A. Jagers; and her brother, Billy Paul Hogue.

Pallbearers will be Lacy Hogue, Paul Jagers, Ryan Tant, Billy Hogue, Michael Bennett, and Garrett Donaldson.

Honorary pallbearers will be Mark Barnhill and Jerry Stone.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to HeartsWay Hospice, 4351 McCann Rd., Longview, Texas 75604

Please visit Rosie's online registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.



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  - Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050
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## GISD celebrates 'Exceptional Educators' with Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment

Sixteen outstanding Gladewater ISD educators will receive the prestigious Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment.

"This recognition underscores the exemplary commitment and dedication of these educators to fostering excellence in education," according to a May 7 press release from Kimberly Dolese, TAP Executive Master Teacher and Chief Academic Officer at the district.

Initiated by the Texas Legislature, the allotment "aims to recognize and reward the efforts of high-performing teachers who demonstrate exceptional dedication and effectiveness in their classrooms. This distinction not only acknowledges the hard work of educators but also serves as a testament to their significant impact on student success."

Recipients include Sakkinah Balcorta, Weldon Elementary; Carrie Ballard, Weldon Elementary, Recognized Teacher; Claudia Barnhill, Gladewater Middle School, Exemplary Teacher; Jennette Branum, Gladewater Primary School, Recognized Teacher; Tracy Cates, Gladewater Middle School, Exemplary Teacher; Kevin Clark, Gladewater High School, Exemplary Teacher; Jamie Cook, Gladewater High School; Renee Ebeling, Gladewater High School; Shona Brewer-Gage, Gladewater Middle School, Exemplary Teacher; Hayley Gonser, Gladewater High School; A. J. Meals, Weldon Elementary School, Exemplary Teacher; Dianna Neal, Gladewater High School; Christy Shelley, Gladewater Middle School, Master Teacher; Jill Smith,

Gladewater Middle School; Jeff Smith, Gladewater Middle and High Schools; and Heather Voss, Weldon Elementary School, Recognized Teacher.

"These educators have consistently gone above and beyond to inspire, educate, and empower the students of Gladewater ISD, embodying the district's commitment to academic excellence and student achievement."

Recognizing the recipients, Gladewater ISD Superintendent Dr. Sedic Clark described how incredibly proud the school is of the group.

"Their dedication to our students and their unwavering passion for teaching are truly commendable. This designation is a testament to their hard work and ability to impact student academic growth."

## WOHS Scholastic Day



Receiving the Etex Telephone Cooperative Scholarships were Noah Fritsche, Kynlee Bright, Keller Lott, Addison Clinkscales



Receiving the I Dare You Leadership Award were Juniors Kate Dusek and Lucas Frazier.



Receiving Eastman Oratorical Scholarships - Gavin Sipes - Kynlee Bright



Texas Bank and Trust award went to Raylee Gajewsky and was presented by Heather Gajewsky

## GEDCO taps outgoing mayor as interim economic development exec

By James Draper

The key role is vacant at Gladewater Economic Development Corporation right now, but board members have tapped a familiar face to fill it – at least on a temporary basis.

Following last month's departure of Executive Director Michelle Palmer for another post, the organization's volunteer board has been considering how to deal with present needs and future plans, specifically how to find a new chief.

Considering the immediate future, last week board members unanimously accepted outgoing Gladewater Mayor Scott Owens' request to helm the organization while they search for a permanent successor.

"We're going to do it temporarily," GEDCO Board President Luke Kimbrough confirmed. "Six months is what we're looking at, or less," depending on how quickly a solid executive director candidate can be tracked down, preferably locally.

For now, "What we really need is someone there just to make sure the phones are being answered."

As a longtime city council member, former mayor and ex-officio board member for the economic development organization, Owens is a convenient stand-in on a temporary basis, according to GEDCO Board Vice President and Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell.

"I was surprised he was interested," Bardwell said. It's a working solution: "He certainly knows the town and knows the area."

It's a transition period, Kimbrough said; in the midst of moving forward, all of the board members have day jobs, and none want to see GEDCO lose momentum with no one person

seeing to the organization's day-to-day business.

"We do have some major projects we are working on right now, and we don't want anything to fall through the cracks," Kimbrough said, especially when it comes to division of labor between five people with other commitments. "We really need somebody to be there for the interim."

The five board members chose Owens following an executive session discussion that took up the majority of their May 8 meeting.

Returning to open session, "We decided not to take action on a couple of items," Kimbrough noted. For example, "We want to hold off on doing a search firm right now for looking for an executive director. We want to get the word out locally to see if we can find someone in this region or this area who has interest."

"We know that's probably going to be a lengthy process."

Prior to the meeting, albeit after the city's election May 4, Owens approached several board members about filling in during the meantime.

With potential personnel action already listed on the agenda last week, "It worked out very easily to get that done. What we decided to do is bring him on-board," Kimbrough added. "We just felt like it would be a little easier transition."

"Scott's got great experience with the city. He knows the inner workings there. He'll be a good fit, I believe. He already knows a lot of this information. Some of the projects we've got are directly because of the hard work he put into it as mayor."



Receiving White Oak FFA Scholarships were Kyndal Langley, Blaine Vaughn, Aleighna Tuttle, Kynlee Bright, Seth Anderson, Barrett Williams.



Top 10 percent of class - Addison Clinkscales, Jessica Lowery, Noah Fritsche, Keller Lott, Kynlee Bright, Aubrey Saccoccio, Gavin Sipes.



Receiving the Red and Janet Hasley Legacy Scholarship Noah Fritsche presented by Jana Hasley McGoldrick.



TEEA 4-H Scholarship - Aleighna Tuttle - presented by Julie York



Receiving the Verabank Scholarship was Graycen Sipes



Texas Real Estate Executives - Sydney Thornton - Presented by Dawn Sims

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## GoBus expands with in-house maintenance facility underway

ETCOG proudly announces the groundbreaking of an in-house maintenance facility for GoBus. This facility will enable staff to implement thorough preventive safety measures on organizational vehicles throughout the 14-county region.

"Following years of research and planning, we are thrilled to be commencing the groundbreaking of construction," stated Transportation Director Vince Huerta.

The decision to establish an in-house facility stems from a comprehensive feasibility study conducted by the GoBus team in 2021. The study highlighted the benefits of such a facility, including a more proactive maintenance program, detailed inspections, and significant cost savings.

The facility construction plan was approved by the ETCOG Executive Committee in FY 23, and the project broke ground last month.

"Having in-house maintenance will reduce turnaround time for vehicle repairs, allowing us to get them back on the road, assisting customers sooner and safer, said Huerta. "Ultimately, this opportunity allows us to continue our mission of providing safe, reliable, and friendly transportation services."

With a projected budget of \$3.2 million, the facility will facilitate staff relocation and incorporate two vehicle bays, training rooms, and additional parking for regional vehicles.

Construction on the maintenance facility is due to wrap up by the end of the year.