#### **TxDOT: Keep kids** safe by driving kind and courteous safety tips for driving in school zones and around buses

AUSTIN - As children across the state gather school supplies, say goodbye to summer and prepare for a new year of classes, Texas drivers are also getting ready for school traffic to return. That's why the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is sharing driving tips to help keep kids safe in school zones and around school buses. By treating children, bus drivers and each other with kindness and respect, we can prevent crashes.

School zones can be hectic places with students hopping on and off buses or darting between cars to cross the street, and drivers may become distracted or impatient. Tragically, crashes can and do happen. Just last year, there were 781 traffic crashes in school zones and 2,480 collisions involving school buses in Texas.

Most of these crashes involved driver inattention or speeding, and some were deadly. Two people were killed in Texas school zone crashes last year and another 11 were killed in crashes involving school buses.

To prevent these tragedies, TxDOT is launching its "Be Safe. Drive Smart" Back to School safety campaign to urge drivers to slow down, avoid distractions and follow all traffic laws. As school starts again, it's also a great time for parents and guardians to share school zone safety tips with young

#### Tips for driving in school zones

- Look for flashing school zone lights in the morning and afternoon. Be aware that traffic patterns around schools may have changed since last year.
- Stay alert and put your phone away. Using a handheld electronic device while driving in an active school zone is against the law.
- Stop and yield the right of way to pedestrians, cyclists or other vulnerable road users in a crosswalk. The Lisa Torry Smith Act of 2021 enhanced the penalties for failing to follow the law and protect people in crosswalks. Seriously injuring someone who is lawfully in a crosswalk is now a state jail felony.
- Obey school zone speed limits. Traffic fines increase in school
- Know where to go. Drop off and pick up your kids in your school's designated areas, not in the middle of the street.
- Be on the lookout for children gathered at bus stops.
- Watch out for children who might dart across the street or between vehicles.

#### Tips for drivers sharing the road with buses

- Follow school buses at a safe distance. Remember they make frequent stops.
- Stop for school buses. Do not pass a school bus if you see flashing red lights or an extended stop sign, regardless of which direction you're headed, unless the bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway. Continue once the bus has moved, the lights stop flashing or the bus driver signals it's okay
- Look out for children around buses and remember that they may not always look for vehicles before crossing the street.
- Violations can result in a fine of up to \$1,250 for a first offense.

#### Tips for kids walking or biking to school

• Use sidewalks. If there's not **Continued on Page 5** 









BACK-TO-SCHOOL & AIN'T IT GRAND -**Gladewater Primary School faculty members** and staffers welcome their 2025-2026 crop of kiddos Tuesday morning with GISD Supt. Rae Ann Patty on hand to help the youngsters navigate the halls.

**Photos by James Draper** 



## Would-be alcohol retailers haven't shelved pursuits of package stores

#### **By James Draper**

Two developers hope to find a way forward for their proposed 'package stores' after council

members voted against the projects last month.

It's been several weeks since the elected officials unanimously denied separate Specific Use Permits for Gokarna KC and Sam Patel's ventures. According to the general consensus July 17, the current five liquor stores are sufficient.

It's an expensive 'No' for Gokarna KC, who says there's a \$600,000 investment on the line and no local ordinance that would have steered him away from opening his Nebula Vape & Liquor store in Suite 100 of 807 S. Tyler St.

The developer followed-up with city staffers July 31 and hopes to plead his case to Mayor Brandy Flanagan in the week ahead. He already has the essential licensing in-hand after submitting the requisite paperwork, including city documentation and paying the necessary fees to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

"I have a permit right now," he said. In addition to the city's nominal \$175 fee, "I've already spent around \$40,000 for all the signs, the inside racks, all the licensing. I've already ordered the merchandise."

Sam Patel says he's still eager to open "a very high-end spirit and wine store" at 1004 E. Broadway Ave. He wasn't especially surprised by the council's July 17 denial following a cool reception and split vote by the city's Planning & Zoning Commission.

"The planning and zoning did approve, and they did mention this would be the last liquor store Gladewater would have. I said I would make it count," Patel recalled last week. "I think the city council had a different idea. Their concerns weren't, I wouldn't say, unreasonable. I could see having too many stores of a particular kind would cause a problem.

That said, "I will try to see if there's another way we can still go through with this project, if there is a way."

**Continued on Page 8** 

Taxes

Sales Tax Holiday/Tax-Free Weekend

## State sales tax-free weekend coming up

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend. Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

The 2025 sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 8, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 10.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

## City keeps water, roads infrastructure atop list of priorities for FY26 budget

#### **By James Draper**

City leaders don't anticipate significant changes between the municipality's current budget for Fiscal Year 2025 and the still-developing financial plan for

"My opinion is that we have caught up to the point that we can be more proactive now than we were in the past, instead of just reactive," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said Monday. "In saying that, I also realize that we've got a long ways to go with a lot of things."

Even with no change in the tax rate, local coffers will see a gain from increases in appraised values and new properties on the tax rolls.

"We finally got our numbers, and our numbers came back really high," Smith told Gladewater City Council members during their first budget workshop of the season July 31.

According to local appraisal districts' end-of-July releases, the municipality's certified taxable values total \$321,964,681 between Gregg County and Upshur. It's a 9.2 percent increase compared to last year's figures.

"We came back good with our ad valorem taxes," Smith said. "That's what everything works on here; and the sales tax.

"We just have to make those numbers fit our budget with everything we've been working on the past three years especially."

Parks will likely see upgrades in the coming year, and the city will continue to devote a healthy portion of its resources to maintaining, upgrading and replac-

Employee retention is another priority, Smith said this week.

ing aging water and roads infrastructure.

'We're looking at an across-the-board raise for employees," he confirmed. "I think what we're looking at is probably 2.5 percent right now."

There's no tax rate change anticipated, but many local taxpayers will be paying more following increases in their appraisals.

The proposed tax rate for FY2026 will be the subject of a public hearing during the council's regularlyscheduled monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug.

"This proposed budget will decrease total taxes from last year's budget by \$20,628 (0.69 percent)," according to the city, "and \$39,986 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year."

The city's tax rate data arrived Thursday, hours before the budget workshop. Consequently, many of last week's budget numbers were still in flux.

That said, "I usually go off an average of current

**Continued on Page 4** 

# GISD implements strategy to corral students' devices

Gladewater ISD's 2025-2026 school year kicked-off Tuesday morning, long before official guidance arrives for schools on how to comply with House Bill 1481.

From the day it was signed into law, districts had 90 days to come up with a plan to for the legislature's still-new prohibition on student cell phones. GISD went back-to-school Aug.

5 with a practical, non-punitive plan in place.

The simple version: the vast majority of students must keep all electronic communication devices off and out of sight from 7:10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Tuesday through Friday school week. If a device is spotted, it'll be taken up and held in the office for a parent or guardian to pick up. After three violations, a student will be required to store the phone in the office

every day during instructional hours. There's an essential exception for students with medical plans, such as diabetes, who utilize their phones to regulate blood sugar or monitor

other conditions. They'll be permitted to use a device on that limited basis.

**PATTY** 

Texas lawmakers dropped the mandate on schools statewide after their regular legislative session. With only limited information available in the law, interpretation and application was tasked to Texas Education Agency.

Beyond that, "From what I've read in the law, it says the child cannot be using it and it cannot be seen during the day," GISD Superintendent Rae Ann Patty confirmed. From cellular phones and smartwatches to earpods, headphones and everything in between, the gadgets must be powered off and tucked away in a backpack throughout instructional time. "At the end of the day, they can turn them back on... Students will still be able to use them on the school bus; that's not part of the instructional day. They can use them coming and going – that way they can make any arrangements they need to make with their parents. "I think right now we have the best policy we can possibly have to

manage our expectations for academics and the safety aspects of having a cell phone if something should happen."

Updates on all the recent legislative changes are rolling out in regular commissioner calls, but details on the smartphone prohibition haven't

**Continued on Page 8** 



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.

#### "What will your verse be?"....

Insatiably curious kids should be the goal of every parent and teacher. Those are the kids who grow up to solve problems in unique ways. Whether the kid is entering kindergarten, or their senior year, the rites of passage in public school are unique to American children and their development.

I don't know how teachers are going to navigate learning when they have to distance kids from each other and from the teacher. I would be figuring out the answer to that question if I were still in the classroom...and figure it out teachers will. That is what teachers do.

This week I watched teachers enthusiastically welcome little ones to their first day of school. They ushered the babies into a new kind of learning environment. One I pray is a glitch and not to become typical.

A great deal of learning is relational. It is more about the buy-in to the teacher than the methods used to convey information. I taught two sections of psychology classes for seniors and the first day was one of the most important in our year. I walked into class and reminded them that 'today was their last first day of school'. That was a gut punch for many kids. I then asked them to stand and to follow me without talking. When I got them into the first hall I would turn and say something like: "Here we are in the Senior Hall on your last first day of school. This year will be what you make it. We are going to walk the halls of the high school and listen, really listen to the sounds and take in this moment that will never happen again."

And then we did. We passed classes laughing, classes being reprimanded, classes deep into what their teachers were saying, classes with kids debating. And the kids heard, really heard the sounds of high school. When we got to the Freshman Hall we would stop and I would remind them what their first, first day of high school was like.

The numbers of outfits tried on by the girls, the anxiety of dressing rooms, band halls and upperclassmen. We would stop at a few favorite teachers' rooms and they would come out and give a few words of wisdom. Often, by this time, a few tears were in evidence.

Next we would make our way to the gym where a PE class would already be shooting baskets. There I told my seniors to listen to the sounds of the gym. I told them to take it in...the games, the pep rallies, the special moments because once they graduate that gym would never sound the same way again, nor would the football stadium. By

# The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



now, the entire class was still. We passed trophy cases and memorials on the way back to our classroom. We looked at pictures of past classes and the realization that these current seniors too, would soon be alums would sink, deeply, in.

Often, on the way back to our room the entire class would be holding hands, some tearful, some quiet, some guys with arms over each other's shoulders. They had bonded on that last first day of school in a way that would set a foundation to build their last new year on.

And then they got their assignment...to write their goals for their senior year. The goals would be read by no one but them. Once written they were sealed in an envelope with the student's name and I kept them locked up until graduation when they were placed in the seniors' graduation envelopes, still sealed ready for them to measure their year, their achievements, themselves by what they had written.

I like to think that their goals were more deliberate because of that first last day of class. I believe they often were because the kids told me so. Some of the kids would share their ability to reach a particular goal. Often those goals were deeply personal.

I envy our teachers in the trenches...even during this pandemic. The gift of teaching often brings much greater rewards to the teacher than the taught. This week I am remembering those last first days of those I taught, as well as those of my own child.

Life is too short, too precarious and too unpredictable to not choose to live with deliberation, passion and a curiosity that surpasses any lesson taught. We should all continue to aspire to those goals throughout our lives. If we do, life will be richer, deeper and more meaningful.

I often reminded my students, with a little help from the old movie "Dead Poet's Society" some form of the following: "Carpe Diem! (Seize the Day.) We each have a 'powerful verse to contribute to the play'. The trick is to figure out what your verse will be."

It's not too late my friends. It's never too late to contribute a verse.

What will YOURS be?

# A Matter of Degree The US Census Bureau recently released some interesting ew data related to the demographic social, and geographic

THE ECONOMIST



new data related to the demographic, social, and geographic characteristics of bachelor's degree holders in the country by field of study. The report indicates that almost 36% of US adults aged 25 and over had a bachelor's degree (or higher) in 2022. The field of study chosen affects potential occupations, opportunities, and economic returns.

The new information is unique in that, for the first time, it is disaggregated into 30 categories rather than the five in prior releases. This more granular level of detail provides additional insights, particularly when combined with relevant demographic and income data.

The most common degree was business management and administration (4.8 million), followed by psychology (3.7 million), general business (3.7 million), nursing (3.6 million), and general education (3.1 million). Educational choices between men and women varied markedly. Engineering, computer science, finance, and economics degree holders were primarily men (between 67% and 90% across these fields of study). On the other hand, most (71% to 92%) people who held degrees in psychology, education (general and elementary), social work, nursing, and family and consumer sciences were women.

Relatively high earnings were observed in electrical engineering (\$121,600), computer science (\$108,500), and, believe it or not, economics (\$101,400). Degrees with median annual earnings under \$60,000 included general education (\$58,000), social work (\$55,060), and fine arts (\$53,450). Note that these estimates cover the waterfront from newly minted grads to workers with decades of experience who tend to earn more. Wages also vary significantly across geographic areas; differences in the specific industrial mix as well as cost of living are major driving factors.

Some 40% of bachelor's degree holders had also obtained

# an advanced degree such as a master's (28%), professional degree such as a doctor of medicine (almost 7%), or doctorate (about 5%). The tendency toward advanced degrees varied significantly by field of study, with chemistry and biology (typical undergraduate paths toward an MD) among the highest with 64% and 60%, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, only 12% of commercial art and graphic design and 18% of marketing majors pursued additional degrees.

Adding an advanced degree tends to enhance earnings significantly, increasing median annual earnings from an average of \$68,410 for a bachelor's degree only to \$86,120 with an advanced degree. However, the level of incremental income varies widely by degree field.

Decisions related to which degree to pursue (or whether to undertake another education/training option or enter the workforce) are complicated, and individual skillsets and interests must obviously be considered. Nevertheless, datasets of this nature provide insights from both an individual and economy-wide perspective, facilitating choices of avenues to be pursued, geographic locations, and other helpful information. Stay safe!

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.

# Gary Borders Capital Highlights



## GOP legislators unveil redistricting map as Dems flee

Texas Democrats left the state Sunday in hopes of derailing a mid-decade redistricting plan, The Dallas Morning News reported.

State Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, announced the Democrats had left the state to break the quorum and stymie a vote in that chamber.

"This is not a decision we make lightly, but it is one we

make with absolute moral clarity," Wu said in a statement. "Governor [Greg] Abbott has turned the victims of a historic tragedy into political hostages in his submission to [President] Donald Trump."

Wu was referring to bills pending in the special session

addressing the July 4 floods that killed at least 137 people in the Hill Country.

Democratic advisers told The News the lawmakers will

Democratic advisers told The News the lawmakers will use Chicago as their base but plan to travel across the state to rally supporters to their cause.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton blasted the fleeing Democrats.

"Democrats in the Texas House who try and run away like cowards should be found, arrested, and brought back to the Capitol immediately," he wrote on X.

Republican lawmakers hope to gain five more seats in the U.S. House under a redistricting map unveiled last week during the ongoing special session, which was voted out of committee Sunday and sent to the full House.

The primary changes would be to urban districts in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin-San Antonio, and South Texas regions.

The unusual mid-decade redistricting comes at the behest of President Trump in hopes that the GOP can hold on to a majority in the House after the 2026 general election.

Texas Democrats in Congress called it an illegal attempt to dilute the state's minority voices.

"This map is a disaster — crafted to divide neighborhoods and rig the game for Donald Trump," U.S. Rep. Julie Johnson, D-Farmers Branch, said in a statement. "It's a desperate move from a party losing its grip on a changing state."

Meanwhile, a growing number of Texas Republican legislators are rejecting assertions by the U.S. Department of Justice that the current district maps, drawn in 2021 by a Republican majority, violate voters' rights.

"I want to say right now, I don't think the map that is in place for Congress today is discriminatory," state Sen. Phil King, R-Weatherford, said Tuesday.

The special session ends on Aug. 19. However, Abbott is free to call another special session if he wishes.

Democrats raise money to cover fines for leaving state

Now that the Democrats have left in hopes of breaking quorum, they face considerable expenses. After a similar move in 2021, the Legislature approved a daily fine of \$500 and the threat of arrest if the Democrats flee again. The Texas Tribune reported that deep-pocketed donors appear ready to cover those fines and other expenses.

U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, was part of the 2021 quorum break. She said it might not be necessary to raise money — an estimated \$1 million a month — by launching a legal challenge instead.

"I think that the first step would be to make sure that there are attorneys on deck to actually challenge the legality of these rules," she said.

Crockett and other Democrats say a quorum break would buy time to educate the public of the harms they believe the new maps would create and also allow a court challenge around the current maps to continue to make its way through the judicial system.

## Hill Country flooding survivors recount anguish, neglect

A joint hearing of Senate and House select committees convened in Kerrville and heard from anguished flood survivors who described losing children, going days without contact from emergency management, and calling for more adequate flood warning systems, The Tribune reported.

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# Press Association Texas

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## CALLING EVIL GOOD #8

How can one get their values in order, their warped judgment into line, and stop calling evil good? Is education the answer? Does proving to people that crime is not the answer that illicit sex is psychologically harmful, that excessive drinking and drugs is harmful to the body and brain? Can just knowledge redeem people?

Is science the answer? Think of all the inventions of science that can make a harmless cigarette, that can cope with the problems of alcohol and drugs, endless vaccines, and on and on we can go to supposedly answer the problems of man.

The Bible tells us a different story. It tells us not what, but Who sinful man needs. In Romans 7 there is the bitter struggle of the inner man (spirit) and outer man (flesh) that we all face. H. G. Wells describes a man as "A walking civil war." Jesus said, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26: 41). Human nature does not always measure up to the ideals of the spirit. In Rom. 7: 24 Paul uttered the heart-wrenching cry of a man lost in sin, aware of his dilemma, but unaware of hope: "O wretched man, that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" In verse 25 he moved from the delph to the heights, from the worse news in the Bible to the best. He answered: "Thanks be to God; He will through Jesus Christ our Lord." Thus, our only hope for deliverance from spiritual disaster is found in God through His beloved Son. Our spiritual condition without Christ is futile!

Evil is always present, disguising itself as good, controlling and deceiving people. That's why Christ's atoning sacrifice is essential. Yes, many people's values are confused today. But the Bible's cure for this violent, destructive disposition is not found in education, science, or culture, but in the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 8: 2 says: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."

Before his conversion Paul saw Christ as the greatest evil and breathed out "threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9: 1). But afterward he loved the One he had so fervently hated. He could see evil as evil and good as good. Your life and values can be changed, and you can learn to distinguish between good and evil and be able to call good, good, and evil, evil!

"The other night, from cares exempt, I slept-And what do you think I dream't? I dream't that somehow, I had come To dwell in Topsy-Turveydom! Where vice is virtue-virtue nice, Where nice is nasty-nasty nice, Where right is wrong and wrong is right, Where white is black and black is white."

Think on these things.

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

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# **Sports roundup**

## Pineywoods Timberhogs finish season with 20-40 record

**By Tyler Sutton** 

Taking on the Sherman Shadowcats for the final time in the 2025 season, the Pineywoods Timberhogs made the trip to Sherman for a single game where the Shadowcats jumped out to a early 2-0 lead after two innings. But the Hogs offense came alive in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning when CJ Cipicky smashed a RBI single to cut the lead in half at 2-1. That was followed in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> when Jose Acuna's RBI single tied the game at 2. Charles Chenail would then give the Timberhogs a 3-2 lead with a RBI groundout. Garrett Sheffield would then add to that when Sherman booted his grounder which allowed another run to score to make it 4-2. But the Shadowcats would answer back with a run in the bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> to make it a 4-3 game. They would then take the lead back with two runs in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> to go up 5-4. Sherman would add to their lead in the 6th and 7th innings to take a 7-4 lead. The Hogs would inch closer in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> when Cepicky scored on a passed ball to make it 7-5. But that's as close as Pineywoods got as the Shadowcats slammed the door shut and won it 7-5. Hogs starter Trenton Zarechi went 4 and 1/3 innings giving up 6 runs ( all earned ) with one strikeout. The loss drops the Timberhogs to 17-36 on the season. They now head to Abilene for a make up doubleheader.\

Two final games on the season with the Abilene Flying Byson were on tap for the Timberhogs where in game one, the Flying Bison got on the board first in the bottom of the 1st inning to take a 1-0 lead. But the Hogs took over from there as in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning Alex Everett ripped a RBI single to tie the game at 1. That was followed by CJ Cepicky crushing a three run double to give the Timberhogs a 4-1 lead after 2 innings. They would add to that lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning when Charles Chenail had a RBI ground out, Everett had a RBI double, and Everett scored on a wild pitch to make it 7-1 after 4 innings. Kahle Good then put the game away as he smashed a towering grand slam to make it 11-1 and a run rule victory for the Hogs in 5 innings. Pineywoods starter Robbie Coronado was lights out on the mound giving up just 1 run in 5 innings with five strikeouts. The win improves Pineywoods to 18-36. In game two, it got away from the Timberhogs quickly as Abilene jumped out to a 7-0 lead after 2 innings. Pineywoods attempted a comeback in the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> when Cepicky had a RBI single and Garrett Sheffield brought home a run with a sac fly to make it 7-2. The Flying Bison would add another run in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to make it 8-2. Another Hogs run would score on a pass ball in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning

to make it a 8-3 game. But Abilene would put it away with two runs in the bottom of the 5th as the lead was extended to 10-3. Pineywood went down fighting as in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning when Sheffield drove in two runs with a triple and Jared Hencheck drove in a run to make a 10-6 game. But Abilene closed the door and won it 10-6. Hogs starter Jose Acuna had a rough night as he lasted 1 and 2/3's innings giving up seven runs. The loss drops the Timberhogs to 18-37 on the season. They will now head home to finish out their season with five games in four days against the Texarkana Rhinos. Opening up their final

home series of the season

with a double dip with the

Texarkana Rhinos, The

Hogs in game one the Rhi-

nos took a early 3-0 lead.

Then the rains came and the

game was delayed a hour.

Once action resumed, the pitching took over until the bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> when the Hogs offense came to life as Jaxson Edwards had a RBI groundout to make it a 2-1 game and then CJ Cepicky ripped a three run single to give Pineywoods a 4-3 lead. The Hogs would add to the lead in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> when a run scored on a passed ball then Alex Everett ripped a two run double to make it a 7-3 Timberhogs lead. The Rhinos would add a run in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> to make it 7-4. But the Hogs would put it away in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> when Eddie Henchek crushed a two run homer to make it 9-4 and that was the final. Pineywoods starter Matt Huey went the distance on the bump for his first career complete game. He gave up 4 runs with six strikeouts. The win improves the Hogs to 19-37. In game two, Texarkana jumped out again to a early lead as they put up two runs in the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning to take a 2-0 lead. They would add to that lead in 3rd inning to take a 5-0 lead. In the fourth inning they would add one more to make it 6-0. The Hogs would get their lone run in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning when Sheffield smacked a RBI single. But that would be it as the game was called in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning for the midnight league curfew and the Rhinos took it 6-1. Jack Hagg was the hard luck loser on the mound for Pineywoods as he went three innings giving up four runs (all earned) with five strikeouts. The loss drops the Hogs to 19-38 and officially eliminates them from playoff contention. They will wrap up their 2025 season with three single games with Texarkana.

The final weekend series of the season continued for the Pineywoods Timberhogs but with one less game as one was cancelled because of rain. In game four, the Rhinos took a early 1-0 lead after one inning. They would add to that lead in

make it 5-0 Texarkana. But the Hogs began to fight back in the bottom of the 4th inning as CJ Cepicky ripped a two run double to make it 5-2. That was followed by a run scoring on a Rhinos error to make it 5-3. Drake Lee would then smack a solo shot to get Pineywoods within one at 5-4. The Hogs would then tie it at 5 when a run scored on a wild pitch. But Texarkana would answer right back in the 7th inning with a three spot to go ahead 8-5. The Timberhogs would go down swinging as they added a run in the bottom of the 9th inning when Kahle Good had a RBI single to make it a 8-6 game. But the Rhinos would then shut the door and take the win by that same score. Hogs starter Robbie Coronado went 5 and 1/3 innings giving up 5 runs but none were earned because of three Pineywoods errors. He also had nine strikeouts. The loss drops Pineywoods to 19-39. They will wrap up their 2025 season with a

the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a three spot to

double header. One last double dip was on tap for the Timberhogs as they wrapped up their second season where in game one, the Hogs offense came out on fire as Jaxson Edwards drove in a run with a sac fly to make it 1-0 Pineywoods after 1 inning. CJ Cepicky would pick it up with a two run double in the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to make it 3-0 lead. Then Garrett Sheffield would crush a two run homerun and it was 5-0 Hogs after two innings. But Texarkana would fight back and tie the game with a three run 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. They would then take a 7-5 lead with two runs in the top of the 4th. Pineywoods would then tie the game back up with a 2 run back in the bottom of the 4th as a run scored on a balk and then Eddie Henchek smacked a RBI single. Texarkana would then take the lead back in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> at 8-7. But Kahle Good would score on a RBI groundout to tie the game at 8 and it would head to extra's. The Rhinos would take a 10-8 lead with a homerun in the top of the 8th. But the Hogs had a little magic left in them as in the bottom of the 8th, Jaxson Edwards ripped a two run single to tie the game at 10 and that was followed by Nick Chavez walking it off with a RBI single. Pineywoods starter Jose Acuna went just 1 inning with two strikeouts. Edwards went 5 innings of relief giving up 5 runs (all earned) with five strikeouts. The win improved the Hogs to 20-39. In game two and their final game of the 2025 season, the Rhinos would jump out to a early 2-0 lead after half a inning. They would then explode for a 10 run 3rd inning to take a 12-0 lead. But Pineywoods would claw back with 8 runs of their own in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> when

Sheffield drove in two runs

with a 2 run single, Kezlin Douglas smacked a two run single of his own, Eddie Hencheck had a RBI single, Good drove in three with a 3 run double. But the Rhinos got 4 runs back to make it 16-8. Henchek would drive in one more run for the Hogs with a RBI single and the game ended at 16-9 Texarkana victory. Pineywoods

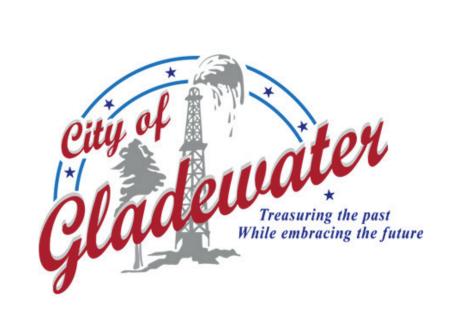
starter Alex Everett went 2 1/3 innings giving up 6 runs (all earned) with three strikeouts. The Hogs finish their second season with a 20-40 record.



White Oak Roughnecks take a break from practice to cool off with popsicles provided by the 'Football Moms' Monday morning.

Courtesy photo from WOISD Supt. Jack Parker





#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Gladewater City Council will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2025-26, and a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26 on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway Avenue, Gladewater, Texas.

This proposed budget will decrease total taxes from last year's budget by \$20,628 (0.69) %, and \$39,986 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in these public hearings.

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## **GPD Activity Report**

CALL DAT	CALL DECC	OFFI	CALL TIME	DITCHIECCHAME	ADDRESS
ALL DAT			CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
7/28/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20253570	1:05		1109 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	EMS	20253571	9:48		1500 E VIOLA VIOLA ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253574	10:58	0.105.01550.000	403 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20253575		GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20253576	12:54		1651 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP RD
	ASSIST FIRE DEPT	20253577	15:57		1213 N LYNN LYNN
		20253579	17:30		506 W PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253582	19:45	DITTA LILIT	305 N MAIN MAIN
	MISCELLANEOUS	2020000		PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253584		LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
29/25	FIRE DEPT	20253585	9:44	0.105.01550.00105.050.050.050.05	1513 N IVY LEA IVY LEA
	CRIM MIS	20253586		GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20253587		LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ASSIST	20253590	13:32		OAK OAK DR
	10-50 MAJOR	20253591		DOLLAR TREE	1107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARM/OTHER	20253592	18:40		1105 NORTH NORTH ST
	ALARM/OTHER	20253593	19:28	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253594	19:59		74 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20253595	21:44		HWY 80 HWY 80
	ALARM/OTHER	20253596	22:42		2128 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20253597	22:57	BUMBLE BEE PARK	705 S MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253598	23:05		135 135
	ABANDONED 911	20253599	23:24		1602 MUSTANG MUSTANG DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20253600	23:25		271 N 271 N
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253601	23:39	GLADEWATER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	1302 S HWY 271 HWY 271
30/25	ALARM/OTHER	20253602	0:48	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253603	4:18	TELES MEXICAN RESTAURANT	401 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253604	5:02	WELDON ALUMNI COMMUNITY CENTER	100 W ELEANOR ELEANOR ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20253605	6:03		370 S CENTER CENTER ST
	ABANDONED 911	20253607	7:47		2099 PHILLIPS SPSRINGS PHILLIPS SPSRINGS RD
	EMS	20253609	7:54	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20253610	8:10	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	10-50 MINOR	20253612	9:49		1202 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD E
	EMS	20253615	12:16		320 W SUNSET SUNSET ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253616	13:51		TYLER TYLER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253617	13:59		1604 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE
	FIRE DEPT	20253618		POST OFFICE	101 N DEAN DEAN ST
	THEFT	20253619		ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253620	16:49	GRANNY BS SHAVED ICE AND MORE	1603 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253621	18:36	GIVINITI DO GIVILDI IGENIDI III GILE	PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD PHILLIPS SPRINGS RD
	ASSIST	20253622	18:51		LAKE SHORE DR LAKE SHORE DR
	EMS	20253623	20:05		206 S CULVER CULVER 1201 N EDWARDS EDWARDS
nuine.	EMS	20253625	22:54	FIRST PENTERSONTH AND DOLL	200 W MELBA MELBA AVE
31/25	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20253626		FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH	
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253627		BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253630	8:20		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253631	8:56		
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20253633	9:59		LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253634	10:18		
	THEFT	20253635	10:31	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253636	10:39		1420 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253637	11:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253638	11:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	THEFT	20253639	11:34	ZEE MART	227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20253640	11:44	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20253642	12:51	GLADEWATER PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE	416 S TYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20253643	13:14	FORGOTTEN TREASURES	111 S MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253644	15:21		
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253645	15:40		809 NORTH NORTH ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253646	17:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FIRE DEPT	20253647	18:16		FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253648	18:37		803 WILLOW BLVD WILLOW BLVD

	THEFT	20253655	10:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	10-50 MINOR	20253656	11:52	BROOKSHIRE GROCERY	1300 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ALARMIOTHER	20253657	17:57	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	3043 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	ALARMIOTHER	20253658	18:11		2128 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	EMS	20253659	18:16	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	FIRE DEPT	20253660	18:25	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253661	18:49		271 271
	EMS	20253662	20:09		1005 E MARY MARY
	FIRE DEPT	20253663	20:38		2600 WOODBINE WOODBINE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253664	21:08		411 W GODFREY GODFREY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253665	21:58	ROSEDALE CEMETERY	E ARMSTRONG ARMSTRONG RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253666	22:16	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20253667	22:52		14 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
8/2/25	FIRE DEPT	20253668	1:14	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20253669	1:33	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253670	1:39		13 GREENWAY GREENWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253671	3:01		14 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253673	10:34		2630 EAST LAKE DRIVE EAST LAKE DRIVE
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20253675	12:28	CASH AMERICA PAWN 552	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20253676	16:58	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20253677	19:27		3007 E LAKE LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253678	20:18		LAFAYETTE LAFAYETTE
	EMS	20253679	21:09		6 GARDEN GARDEN LN
	EMS	20253680	23:50	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
8/3/25	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253681	0:13		13 GREENWAY GREENWAY
	RUNAWAY	20253683	1:06		511 S TYLER TYLER
	EMS	20253684	1:19	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	ALARM/OTHER	20253685	5:25		314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS
	FIRE DEPT	20253686	10:22		1000 FOREST HILL FOREST HILL ST
	CRIM MIS	20253687	10:30	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253688	10:55		503 W QUITMAN QUITMAN AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253689	14:36	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	10-50 MINOR	20253690	15:17	SEYMORES WILCO	1298 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	THEFT	20253691	18:43	OREILLYS AUTO PARTS	901 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20253692	18:57		401 QUITMAN QUITMAN
	EMS	20253693	20:49	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	EMS	20253694	21:20		1214 W GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20253695	22:04		1812 OLD LONGVIEW OLD LONGVIEW
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253696	22:58		2103 E HAROLD HAROLD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253697	23:01	AJ S FAST STOP EXXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
8/4/25	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20253698	1:34		912 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253700	3:30		208 ELEANOR ELEANOR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20253701	3:25		
	ALARMIOTHER	20253702	5:15		2302 W LAKE LAKE
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20253703	6:20	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR

#### City keeps water, roads infrastructure atop list of priorities for FY26 budget

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

and the last three years to come up with my numbers," City Treasurer Meghan Foster reminded the council.

Notably, the City of Gladewater's sales tax for the current year performed over expectations.

"It spiked with all the businesses coming in, especially Starbucks," Foster noted. That doesn't mean the coming year's will be as robust: "I want to be real conservative and not overshoot my budget."

One-third of the city's collections funds Gladewater Economic Development Corporation's activities.

Much of the next budget workshop will focus on selfsustaining water fund. Meanwhile, city staffers continue seeking additional ways to supplement local resources beyond taxpayer dollars.

"We have a lot of grants working right now that are going to help with a lot of these problems we've had and are having with replacement of waterlines and sewer lines," Smith said. "We've spent a lot of money doing the right thing for the city."

## **OBITUARY**

#### **DEBRA RENE CLOUATRE**

After a long and courageous battle with cancer, Debra Rene Clouatre passed away peacefully on July 27, 2025. Debra was born on July 14, 1954, to Mel and Joyce Duvall

in Mamou, Louisiana.



After graduating from West Monroe High School, she attended Louisiana Tech University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary and special education. She pursued graduate studies at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where she obtained her master's degree in the same fields. Debra later completed her education mid-

management degree at Texas A&M University-Commerce. In 1980, she moved to Texas and began working at Glade-

water ISD, where she served as the elementary counselor for 26 years. The impact she had on her students was lasting and remarkable. After retiring from the school district in 2006, she worked as a consultant for Wireless Generation, traveling and training others on educational software for ten years. She later consulted for Tyler ISD.

Debra loved to travel, watch birds, garden, and spend time with her friends—but her greatest joy was watching her granddaughter Ivy sing and dance. She faced her long battle with breast cancer with bravery, resilience, and determination. Debra leaves behind a legacy of deep friendships and will be profoundly missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lionel Clouatre; her parents, Mel and Joyce Duvall; and her brother, Mike Duvall. She is survived by her daughters, Jessica Kimbrell and Natalie Clouatre (Brandon), granddaughters, Rilee Bowden and Ivy Ebey; sister, Sherry Meeks (Mike); brother, Rick Duvall (Heike); and her beloved dog, Athena.

Memorial services for Debra Rene Clouatre, 71, of Gladewater were held at 11:00 am Thursday, July 31, 2025 at the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home in Kilgore with Rev. Dan Vickers officiating.

The family wishes to express profound gratitude to AccentCare Hospice and Visiting Angels for the compassionate care they provided to Debra in her final days.

Honorary pallbearers were Hilton Johns, Clay Hinson, Ronnie Taylor, Mike Lambert, Danny Matherene, Dr. James Repasky, Larry Davis, Bruce Williamson and Jim Thompson

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations be made to American Cancer Society.





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East Mountain Church of Christ \* 903-285-1871 North Loop Church of Christ • 903-845-2531 North Main Church of Christ • 903-845-2816 Rocky Church of Christ

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Starrville Church of the Living God • 903-877-3220 Friendship Community Church Full Faith Holiness 903-845-8195

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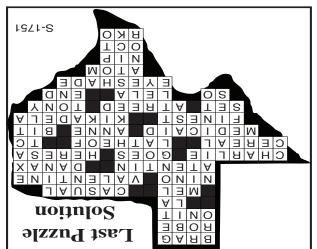
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before crossina.

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

one, it's best to walk on the left side of the street, facing traffic.

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best

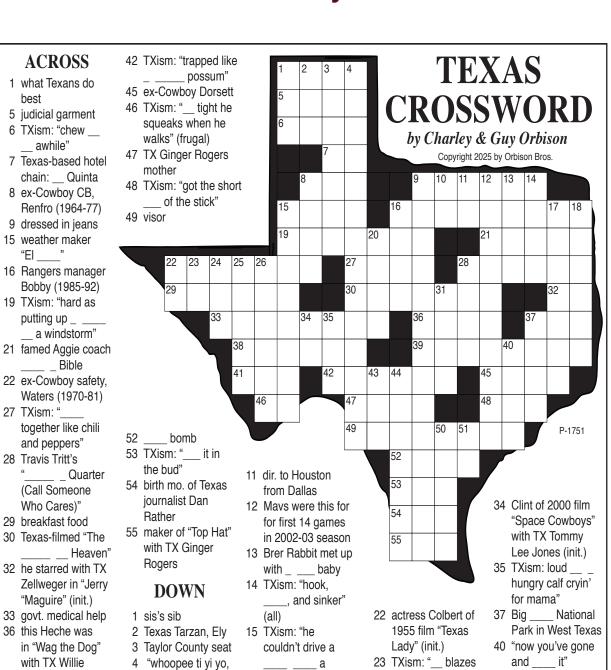
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snow bank" (inept)

fought in \_\_\_\_nam

first and second

horse at Lone Star

16 many Texans

18 bet to pick the

Park race

20 TXism: "horny

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17 meanly

a wide trail" (big)

\_ and a leg"

24 TXism: "costs an

(expensive)

25 ridges of jagged

26 "L" of LPGA

rock, coral, or

28 wild goose sound

31 Oklahoma town

sand in the Gulf

43 "king" south of

the border

44 longest serving

Roosevelt

50 TXism for "get

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First Lady, Mrs.

going" (2 wds.)

and actor, Audie

51 Texas WWII hero

# See Answers On This Page

37 TXism: "chompin'

at the \_\_\_\_

39 longtime Texas

41 TXism: "it ain't

(changeable)

congressman from

the Valley:

\_\_ Garza

in cement"

38 the best

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8 TXism: "got less

than the widow's

9 TXism: "more than

10 Rangers & Astros

league (abbr.)

" (broke)

\_\_ at"

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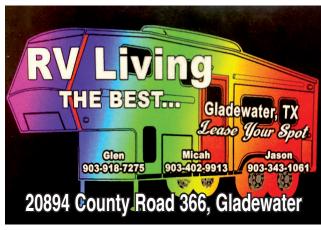


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Thanks to everyone who helped deliver 830 freshly baked cookies to the Gladewater ISD Campuses! The Chamber partnered with Brookshires Manager Gary Wilson so this 20-year tradition could continue on 'Meet the Teacher' day!

# 903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladewatermirror.com

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a PRIVATE CLUB LICENSE by JACKSON'S PRIVATE CLUB, INC. dba THE COZY OLD SOUL to be located at 102 W PACIFIC AVE, GLADEWATER, GREGG COUNTY, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Jackson Foltyn, Officer, Lana Niemann, Officer, Terry Johnson, Officer.



#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of **Independent Administration for the ESTATE OF** ARTURO JIMENEZ JR., DECEASED, were issued on July 28, 2025, in Cause No. 2025-0130-E, pending in the County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County, Texas, to: Mayra Jimenez, **Independent Administrator.** 

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**MAYRA JIMENEZ, Administrator of the Estate** c/o: Courtney Anne Harris, Attorney at Law P.O. Box 4373, Longview, TX 75606 DATED the 29th day of July, 2025.

By: /s/ Courtney Anne Harris

#### ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Gladewater will receive sealed bids for HWY 271 Lift Station Relocation. Bids will be received until 2 P.M. on September 10, 2025, at 519 E Broadway Ave. Gladewater, Texas 75647. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 519 E. Broadway Ave. Gladewater, Texas 75647. Bids received after 2 P.M. will be returned unopened.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, Texas 75702, and at City of Gladewater, Texas, 519 E. Broadway Ave. Gladewater, Texas 75647.

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS may be examined without charge at City of Gladewater. Bid forms and plans may be examined or obtained at the office of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S. Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702. One copy of each set of documents may be obtained from Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., upon payment of \$100.00. No refunds will be made. Plans can also be found online at www.civcastusa.com.

A Bidder's Bond, Certified or Cashier's Check in an amount not less than (5%) of the total bid shall accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into contract with the City of Gladewater.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project includes the demolition of the existing Tyler Lift Station and construction of a new lift station of the same size and capacity outside of TxDOT ROW. Project also includes the removal or abandonment of the existing 6" gravity sewer lines and manholes that discharge into the lift station, as well as a small portion of the existing 4" force main. Approximately 1095 LF of new 6" gravity sewer main, 120 LF of new 4" force main, and 7 new manholes will be constructed within 10 feet of the new TxDOT ROW line.

The project is to be substantially complete within One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days from the notice to proceed and shall be fully complete within One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days from the notice to proceed. Notice to proceed date is anticipated as 10/27/2025. Liquidated damages of \$300.00 per day shall be assessed for any days in which contract time is exceeded.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at the City Hall in Gladewater, 519 E. Broadway Ave., Gladewater, Texas 75647.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Contact: Charlie Smith, City Manager Adv. Dates: July 31, 2025 August 7, 2025

TexSCAN Week of Aug. 3-9, 2025

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#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** City of White Oak

The City of White Oak is soliciting service providers for one or more FEMA Public Assistance (PA)/Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including FEMA Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance. Accordingly, the City seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for disaster recovery management services. Please electronically submit your proposals in .pdf format via email/citysecretary@cityofwhiteoak.com AND submit 03 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: Attn: Kristine Toon, City of White Oak, 906 S. White Oak Rd, White Oak, TX 75693. Proposals must be received by the City no later than 2:00pm on August 19, 2025 to be considered. The City of White Oak reserves the right to negotiate with any and all proposers, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of White Oak is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

#### **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS** City of White Oak

The City of White Oak is soliciting service providers for one or more FEMA Public Assistance (PA)/Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board and/or other sources, including FEMA Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and/or Flood Mitigation Assistance. Accordingly, the City seeks to contract with a qualified engineering/architectural firm(s). Please electronically submit your SOQ in .pdf format via email at citysecretary@cityofwhiteoak.com AND submit 03 copies of your proposal of services to the following address: Attn: Kristine Toon, City of White Oak, 906 S. White Oak Rd, White Oak, TX 75693. Statements of Qualifications must be received by the City no later than 2:00pm on August 19th 2025 to be considered. The City of Whtie Oak reserves the right to negotiate with any and all proposers, as per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of White Oak\_is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por peticion.

# 70

#### **Upshur library hosts events**

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer has several events scheduled for youngsters and adults in August.

The library's Teen Advisory Board, comprised of members ages 12-18, will meet at the library at 2 p.m. Thursday (Aug. 7.) The library is at 702 W. Tyler.

For more information, contact board coordinator Natasha Lindsey at the library.

The book club for adults will discuss the fictional book "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks at the library at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

On Saturday, Aug. 16, the library will host "STEM--Make & Take," an activity in which youngsters ages 5-11 use kits to assemble models of such items as hydraulic excavators and Newton's pendulums.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, said Amy Allred, children's coordinator for the library.

The library will also host "Teen Game Night" for ages 12-18 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23.

The twice-weekly "Storytime and Craft," at which books are read to small children with a craft following each session, are set for 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. each Thursday this month, starting Aug. 7.

#### **National Museum of the Pacific War Announces August Events Focused on Education, Reflection, and History**

FREDERICKSBURG - This August, the National Museum of the Pacific War (NMPW) will host a series of educational and commemorative events designed to engage students, families, and the broader community in meaningful exploration of World War II history. From hands-on learning for homeschoolers to solemn remem-

brance on the anniversary of the atomic bombings, these programs offer a unique opportunity to connect with the past and reflect on its continued relevance today.

Homeschool Day: WWII and 20th-Century Learning for All Ages

Date: Friday, August 8, 2025

Location: George H.W. Bush Gallery Classroom, Main Museum

Admission: \$5 per student

Families looking to enrich their homeschool curriculum are invited to join the museum for its quarterly Homeschool Day. Students of all ages will participate in dynamic lessons that explore WWII through the lenses of history, anthropology, and technology. Programming includes handson activities, crafts, worksheets, and even opportunities to examine authentic WWII artifacts. Pre-registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration: Honoring the 80th Anniversary

Date: Saturday, August 9, 2025

Location: National Museum of the Pacific War Admission: Free and open to the public

On the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the museum will hold a public commemoration to remember the lives lost and forever changed. The event will feature exhibits, interpretive programs, and opportunities for thoughtful reflection. Held each year on the anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, this program offers space for remembrance and dialogue about the global consequences of warfare.

As part of the commemoration, the museum will present a special edition of its free Outpost series focused on the Man-



Gladewater Rotarians Mark Carpenter and Darla Ferguson welcome GISD Superintendent Rae Ann Patty (left) to the club's weekly meeting July

hattan Project. Living History reenactors from Company K will lead this interpretive experience, offering visitors insight into the groundbreaking scientific efforts behind the development of the atomic bomb and the human stories that shaped this pivotal moment in history.

#### Blood supply 'dangerously' low

Carter BloodCare of Tyler, warning that the "community blood supply is dangerously low, and all blood types are needed," will hold three blood drives in Upshur County this month, starting Thursday (Aug. 7).

Donna Russell, a Carter field recruiter who issued the alert, said blood types O negative, O positive, A negative and plateletes are especially needed.

For more information, contact Jaci Watkins at 903-801-9301 or Jwatkins@cutx. org.

State regulations clarify how to measure minimum distance between liquor stores, restricted sites

Liquor stores generally can't be located within 300 feet of a residence, church, public school, private school, daycare, public hospital or social service facility, according to state law and local regulations.

It's a basic rule, but it's hardly common knowledge, and it can create confusion without additional context about how that distance is measured.

On July 17, Gladewater City Council members' held requisite public hearings on two proposed 'package stores,' and Union Grove Baptist Church Pastor Brian Zappa took the podium briefly to voice his concern about another liquor store's proximity to his church.

From a bird's-eye view, yes, there's less than 300 feet between the property line of the 2107 Sanders St. church and of Kerime's Kitchen at 2179 Hwy. 271.

Per Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission guidance, though, "For churches or public hospitals, measure from front door to front door, along the property lines of the street fronts, and in a direct line across intersections."

That's the process City of Gladewater staffers used when Kerime's Kitchen first launched its operations. Following the state's rules, it makes for a substantially longer measurement between the two points.

By comparison, TABC reminds liquor licensees, "Measurements for public and private schools should be from the public entrance of your establishment to the nearest property line of the school."

There are additional regulations (including notifications requirements) varying between public/private schools, residential addresses and other occasions. Guidelines range, too, according to the local municipality's population and other factors.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The White Oak ISD will hold a public meeting at 05:45, August 18, 2025 in 200 South White Oak Rd. White Oak TX, 75693. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

\$0.754200/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations) Maintenance Tax \$0.431900/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness) School Debt Service Tax

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

> Maintenance and operations -2.22 % decrease Debt Service 0.16 % increase Total Expenditures -2.03 % decrease

#### **Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value** (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

**Preceding Tax Year Current Tax Year** \$713,935,448 \$754,592,355 Total appraised value\* of all property Total appraised value\* of new property\*\* \$8,243,460 \$11,139,650 Total taxable value\*\*\* of all property \$381,877,851 \$364,838,389 Total taxable value\*\*\* of new property\*\* \$6,913,794 \$9,011,948

\*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

\*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code. \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Approved by Local Voters

#### **Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$14,317,000

\*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates							
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	<u>Total</u>	Local Revenue <u>Per Student</u>	State Revenue Per Student		
Last Year's Rate	\$0.788300	\$0.397800	\$1.186100	\$3,171	\$9,226		
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.730680	\$0.352680	\$1.083360	\$2,835	\$9,311		
Proposed Rate	\$0.754200	\$0.431900	\$1.186100	\$2,931	\$10,514		
*The Interest & Sinking Fund tay revenue is used to pay for handed indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both							

The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

#### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	<u>Last Year</u>	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$263,697	\$279,204
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$89,204	\$82,523
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.186100	\$1.186100
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,058.05	\$978.81
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-79.24

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.756600. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.756600.

#### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

> Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$2,296,640

\$715,953 Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

# **Gary Borders Capital Highlights**



#### Continued from Page 2

A local contractor who lives downstream from the RV parks on the Ingram-Kerrville border testified he saw more than 100 RVs swept downstream, some still with families inside.

The panel also heard from survivors of the Sandy Creek flood in Travis County, saying county officials didn't deploy emergency resources for days after the early July floods.

"Nobody came, nobody came, nobody came for us," said Auburn Gallagher, a 25-year resident of Sandy Creek.

Survivors from both Travis and Kerr counties said human remains are still unrecovered and faulted the methods used by emergency management teams to identify missing persons.

emergency management teams to identify missing persons. "I found a hip and a leg on my property," testified Ashlee

Willis, who lives near Sandy Creek in Travis County. In response, state Sen. José Menéndez, D-San Antonio, said cadaver dogs should be used.

At the hearing, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick slammed Kerr County Judge Rob Kelly for being absent as flood waters swept his county on July 4, killing more than 100 people.

"I don't know where you were on Day One, on July 4, but you should have been here. You should have been here directing that response. That is your responsibility," Patrick told Kelly at the hearing.

## Abbott hopes to cut taxes by limiting local spending

The Legislature reduced homeowners' property taxes by \$3.5 billion in the last regular session. Now the governor wants to further reduce taxes by capping how much cities and counties can hike spending, The News reported.

Abbott wants to do that by tying local spending increases to population growth and inflation, which would be similar to existing limits on state spending.

He plans to push the issue much as he did with school vouchers and bail restrictions passed by the Legislature earlier this year.

"I'm just thinking, well, it worked with these two strategies, maybe it's time to employ the same strategy as it concerns property taxes," Abbott said in June.

While school districts make up most of the tax bills, cities and counties are being scrutinized for spending practices as well.

"There is a growing recognition at the Capitol that it doesn't matter how much money we put toward tax relief, if we don't do things to control the appetite of local government, they'll just eat it up," said James Quintero of the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Local jurisdictions already must get voter approval to raise property taxes more than 3.5%, and larger cities and counties are also banned from slashing law enforcement spending, which is usually a major part of their budgets.

The policy director of the Texas Conference of Urban Counties expressed concern about Abbott's proposal.

"We house the state's prisoners, we build the state's roads, we run the state's elections, we care for the indigent population, health care — all of those are state responsibilities that they put down on the counties to do, all the while saying, 'cut your property taxes' — and now, 'cut your expenditures,'" Adam Haynes said.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist.
He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin, and Cedar Park.

Email:gborders@texaspress.com.

## GISD implements strategy to corral students' devices

**Continued from Page 1** 

been announced yet.

A 29-year educator and mother of twins, now adults, Patty

sees both sides of the debate.
"I do know cell phones are distracting in our schools from time to time. It always astounds me how many times a child's phone will buzz," she says. That said, "I want to always put safety first. I know children having a phone makes parents

feel safe in this day and age.

"There's also a convenience," especially for students whose extracurriculars might keep them on campus from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. They need to arrange pick-ups, meal dropoffs and more. "There's a lot of factors that factor into it."

For planning purposes, Patty encourages parents to call their student's front office to arrange any changes of plans for pick-up or drop-off.

"As early as they know they need to make a transportation

change, the earlier they can call the office the better. If we have a bunch of people trying to change at 3:30 or 3:45, that's going to get a little difficult on the office staff."

Gladewater ISD won't be charging a fee after a device is taken up. "The parent just has to come pick it up; or guardian, whoever is on their pickup list," Patty said. There will be standard discipline if a child is insubordinate or disrespectful regarding a device or it being confiscated: "Other consequences can ensue from that."

It comes back to three things: safety, focusing on learning and staying in touch as much as possible within the parameters of the new law.

"I do like that we can have school without having the interruptions, but I also want to find that balance," Patty said, "of how do we keep kids safe, how do we keep them in touch with their parents when they need to be, and how do we keep them focused on learning?"

# New high school culinary program receives generous apron donation

Gladewater High School's brand-new culinary arts program is off to a stylish and professional start, thanks to a generous donation from a local business owner.

Kathleen Adams, owner of Stitches by Kathleen, located at 2910 Gilmer Road in Longview, has donated 30 custom-made aprons to support the launch of the program. The aprons, both functional and beautifully crafted, will be worn by students as they begin hands-on culinary training this school year.

"This donation not only adds a professional touch to our new program, but it also helps instill a sense of pride and identity in our students as they step into the kitchen," said [insert your name or title], Culinary Instructor at Gladewater High School. "We're incredibly grateful to Ms. Adams for her support of local education and for believing in what we're building here."

The Gladewater ISD culinary program was established to provide students with real-world skills in food preparation, nutrition, hospitality, and restaurant management. With community support like this, the program is set to inspire and equip future chefs and food industry professionals.

Stitches by Kathleen specializes in custom embroidery,



Students in the new Gladewater High School Culinary Arts Program will start the Fall 2025 semester in style courtesy of 30 aprons custom-made by Kathleen Adams of Longview's Stitches by Kathleen.

monogramming, and personalized items. Adams, a longtime supporter of education and youth programs, said she was proud to contribute to a cause that combines creativity, life skills, and career readiness.

## SPIRIT'D DEBATE

# Would-be alcohol retailers haven't shelved pursuits of package stores

#### Continued from Page 1

For decades, the City of Gladewater has used Specific Use Permits to control select developments in the community, including so-called package stores selling liquor in addition to beer and wine.

According to local ordinance 15.11.480, "The City Council may, in the interest of the public welfare and to assure compliance with this

chapter, establish conditions of operation, location, arrangement, and construction of any use for which a permit is authorized. In authorizing the location of any of the uses listed as specific use permits, the City Council may impose such development standards and safeguards as the conditions and locations indicate important to the welfare and protection of adjacent property from excessive noise, vibration, dust, dirt, smoke, fumes, gas, odor, explosion, glare, offensive view, or other undesirable or hazardous conditions."

SUPs are explicitly referenced three times in current city regs – for RV parks, mobile food truck parks and the operation of auction houses.

Per Gladewater City Attorney Ronald Stutes, "The specific use permit system allows the City Council to act in the best interest of the city, considering all of the factors, and the Council made the decisions to deny the permits based on all of the factors."

Gladewater's zoning codes also restrict liquor stores to Heavy Commercial zoning. Both 807 S. Tyler St. (adjacent to Penny's Food & Fuel) and 1007 Broadway are located in such areas.

The local regulations copy state rules for liquor licensing, including location restrictions (i.e. not within 300 feet of educational institutions) and requiring an application from manufacturers, distributors, retail dealers and individuals.

According to the code, "Upon such application and proof being furnished, the Council shall grant the application and shall direct that a license be issued to the applicant by the Clerk and it shall be the duty of said Clerk to issue the license upon the payment of the proper license fee."

The City of Gladewater also has regulations on the books for tobacco as well as nicotine, e-cigarettes and similar paraphernalia. Like many communities throughout the state, there are no specific guidelines in place yet for the retail hemp industry, which is currently em-

battled at the Texas capital.

One state-level ban was vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott this summer. Last Friday, the Texas Senate approved another ban on hemp-derived THC, sending it on for a likely fight in the House.

Gladewater's 'package store' debate is in limbo at the moment.

Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith says he's waiting to hear more from the would-be developers and council members.

"They voted to not approve it, so we're still in that mode unless something else changes and it comes back

and the vote has changed," he said Monday.

Gokarna KC says he stands to lose \$600,000 if the Nebula project doesn't move forward at this point, especially after receiving an initial green light from City Hall.

"They have no city ordinance that says they can only have five liquor stores. How can the city council block it? That is not legal, right?"

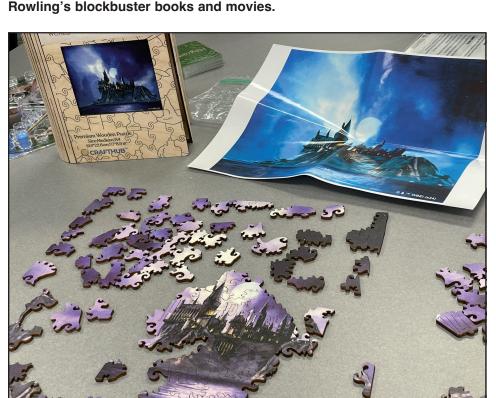
He's hopeful the development will proceed once they have all the details in-hand.

"First, before hiring a lawyer, maybe they can reason with my problem," he said. "I've already spent a lot of money. They have no ordinance. I believe they will be considerate of it in my situation."

With respect for the council members, Patel says his venture won't attract the problems that concern them. After living and working in East Texas for a decade, he's focused on a high-end business and clientele.

"That's the kind of stuff we normally like to build and offer to the community," he said July 30. "I really don't want to draw any kind of customers that make trouble.

"Moving forward, I'm a businessman. I'll be targeting some new areas where I can potentially put something that can grow," and Patel hopes that's in Gladewater: "I will try again."



A throng of mini-Muggles descended on Lee-Bardwell Public Library for

butterbeer, Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans and other Harry Potter-themed

snacks and activities Thursday. The local library staffers always roll out the

red carpet (and fluff their best robes) to welcome fans of author J.K.



Members of the FBC Gladewater congregation welcome GISD employees' for their annual back-to-school luncheon Monday as the local district's staffers counted down to back-to-school Tuesday morning.