# State's proposed property tax reforms tighten reins on local decisionmakers

#### **By James Draper**

When the Texas Senate targeted the Voter-Approval Tax Rate in SB10's property tax reform, the proposed limit would have only impacted cities and counties with populations of 75,000 or more. Among the changes proposed by the House last week, the legislation will affect all cities and counties, regardless of population.

If the changed rules are adopted, the City of Gladewater won't be able to increase its tax rate by more than 1 percent without a vote by taxpayers. The same goes for White Oak, Gilmer, Upshur County, Gregg County and their Emergency Services District, such as Gregg County ESD No. 2 in nearby Sabine.

Supporters contend the legislation holds taxing entities accountable to constituents. Opponents argue the measure could cripple the ability of cities and counties to raise the necessary revenue to cover increasing costs, i.e. for police and firefighters.

"I don't see how there's not a public safety hit that our local governments are going to take and then they're going to have to go to the voters every year simply to approve maintaining existing fire and police staffing levels," Rep. Chris Turner told the Texas Tribune.

Initially, it seemed Gladewater wouldn't be impacted by SB10. Immediately, at least: City Manager Charlie Smith predicted smaller communities would be in the crosshairs down-the-road. With the House's changes, that may be sooner rather than later.

"I feel like it's another hurdle for cities to have to jump to be able to fulfill their budgetary needs for a year," he said. Smith doesn't love paying his tax bills either, but "They are a necessity to make a city function. I wish there was another way around that."

Taxing entities have been feeling the crunch for years already

**Continued on Page 6** 

# More than 800 new laws went into effect Sept. 1

#### **By Alex Nguyen Texas Tribune**

More than 800 new laws took effect in Texas Sept. 1, bringing sweeping changes to the state's education systems, water infrastructure and more.

Gov. Greg Abbott signed 1,155 bills that came out of the regular legislative session, including more than 200 laws that went into effect immediately such as the school cellphone ban, the abortion ban clarification, property tax cut and increased oversight over the energy grid. Meanwhile, some won't activate until next year or until voters approve constitutional amendments in November, such as stricter bail policies and a \$3 billion dementia research fund. In addition, there are 140 bills that the governor didn't take action on, including 34 that took effect immediately.

Most, however, started Monday, Sept. 1, the traditional date for laws passed during the regular session. Here are some notable measures taking effect:

Senate Bill 1 lays out the state's new \$338 billion two-year spending plan, with over 70% of the budget

being reserved for education and **Continued on Page 8** 



FBC Gladewater Youth and Club 252 participants celebrate the start of the new school year with a 'Food, Foam, & Fun' event at the church Aug. 20.

# Father, daughter death investigated

LIBERTY CITY - A 16-year-old Sabine High School girl and her father were fatally shot Mon-Sheriff's Office reported.

Hailey Nicole Blake and Shawn Glen Blake, 49, died at the scene at Hugh Camp Memorial Park.

Sheriff's officials said a man believed to be the and our community in your prayers. Hicks Jr., was taken to the hospital with life- suspect at press time.

threatening injuries that appeared to be self-inflicted.

Sabine ISD issued this notice Monday to the Cardinal day afternoon at a park in Liberty City in what is Community: "We are saddened to share that there was believed to be a targeted attack, the Gregg County an incident today (Monday) in our community that resulted in the passing of a Sabine High School student.

"We will have additional support and counseling on campus tomorrow. Please keep the families, our school,

girl's boyfriend, identified as Christopher Wayne

No further details were available on the deaths and

# Liquor store developers get green-lit, but it's a flashing yellow for future

#### **By James Draper**

There are no official obstacles keeping two 'package stores' from getting their businesses open in Gladewater, and they received well wishes during a city council session last week.

Moving forward, though, Gladewater's officeholders do want discretion on certain business developments, i.e. liquor and vape stores, and they're coordinating with lawmakers outside the community on how to make that happen.

In July, council members unanimously denied 'Specific Use Permits' to the separate teams of developers behind projects at 1004 E. Broadway Ave. and 807 S. Tyler Street. After conferring with the city attorney in August and learning the city's decades-old practice of SUPs isn't actually in local codes for liquor stores, the elected officials rescinded their votes Aug. 26.

According to Mayor Brandy Flanagan, "We welcome these two new businesses into our community, and we want to make clear that they will have the full support of this council to succeed and thrive in Gladewater," she read from a prepared statement. "At the same time, we remain committed to exploring every responsible option to protect the value, safety and reputation of our city."

During the meeting, council members considered information from former councilman Teddy Sorrells regarding their ability (as private residents and/or collectively as a council) to file a protest with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission before a retailer permit is issued.

No action could be taken that evening (the relevant agenda item was focused on rescinding the prior votes), but the group's consensus was to research options and bring the issue back for further consideration.

Ultimately, Flanagan said, she doesn't want to use the protest process to block anyone immediately - the current developers have done everything that's required of

**Continued on Page 4** 



First responders from several local agencies work to clear the scene of a collision involving multiple vehicles on Main Street (Hwy. 271) just north of Gay Avenue Aug. 28. INjured but apparently ambulatory, the vehicles' occupants were treated at the scene by Christus EMS prior to transport. The wreck was reported at 3:26 Thursday afternoon and drew emergency personnel from Gladewater Police Department, Gladewater Fire Department, CHRISTUS Health EMS, and Pritchett VFD, assisted by passersby and **Photo by James Draper** employees from nearby Lay Low Automotive.

## GW's first fee overhaul since 2017 will cover infrastructure costs

#### **By James Draper**

The actual numbers are still under consideration, but it's a foregone conclusion the City of Gladewater's fees will be increasing this Fall - city leaders aren't happy about it either.

"Trust me, if there was any way not to, we wouldn't," Mayor Brandy Flanagan said. "We've tried as long as we could not to go up on them. "We're just at that point that we have to get to industry standard on those things. The cost of everything has just went up."

With so many fees being impacted, there's no simple multiplier or percentage that applies across the board. Administrative charges (i.e. copies) will increase along with the solid waste schedule of fees. Building permits and inspection fees will increase along with lake charges, water rates and more.

Council members discussed the extensive rundown of fee increases during a special session last week. No action was taken Aug. 26 - the revised fee schedule will be up for a vote during the group's next meeting Sept. 18.

Find the current proposed increases online at GladewaterMirror.com.

"We went through every rate that we have - water, sewer, water taps, sewer taps, everything," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said. "Even our fees for instruction and things like that, trying to get up to the area standards."

Notably, the recommended increases were developed after examining similar charges at comparable communities in the area and aiming for middle-of-the-road.

"I think for what we've done here, with the research we've done, this is where we need to be right now."

Cherry-picking from the proposed rate increase: copies at City Hall will double from 10 cents to 20, a certificate of occupancy for a commercial building increases from \$75 to \$125 per permit and \$25 to \$75 for residential. A boat ramp permit moves from \$25 to \$30 for residents inside the city limits and \$50 to \$60 for those outside. Most of the billing for Allied Waste carts and collections increases by about 36 percent.

Water costs rise from \$25.25 to \$30.25 for the first 2,000 gallons and from \$4.50 per thousand gallons to \$5.67 for everything between 2,001 and 5,000 gallons. Tap costs double across the board (i.e. \$550 to \$1,100 for a 3/4" tap, dirt).

Texas Municipal League surveys municipalities statewide on water costs: "Of all cities across the state that responded to the survey, the average water rate for 5,000 gallons of water was \$90.53," Smith noted. "We're way under that."

It's the first overhaul of the fee schedule in almost a decade, he added. The last came in 2017.

"I think your citizens should never be your first source, and they don't need to be your only source of income in a city," Flanagan said. Developing legislation would implement a threeyear gap between such rate increases: "I think, honestly, that's adequate. I don't think it really needs to be done more than that. With inflation how it is, that's usually about that cycle."

She praised Gladewater Building Inspector Al Harrison and other employees for keeping the proposed rate increases low while also ensuring they're adequate for coming years.

"We're no longer just BandAid-ing things," Flanagan said, but ensuring there's enough revenue to keep funding the community's needs.

The municipality is striving to repair aging infrastructure and replace it when necessary, Smith agreed.

"These fees are necessary to continue the infrastructure updates that the city has recognized," he said. "It's something that the council has said they want to keep an eye and make sure that we stay current on from this point forward."



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.

#### Climb down, move on ...

"It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness."

ChuckPalahniuk

We have all been 'pole-axed' on occasion with a crystal clear confrontation of a truth that convicts. In the October edition of Reader's Digest an author who is a cancer survivor wrote of the need to "climb down off her cross".

She wrote of how individuals, including her, have embraced a disease or trauma, or the sheer maddening difficulty of life as a martyr. We wear our survivorship like a Purple Heart. Perhaps we enjoy the attention we receive as a survivor to the point that we stopped...there...without ever moving beyond the disease, the trauma, or the responsibilities that overwhelm, so that we become defined, self-defined by those events.

In other words we become defined by our pain instead of our blessings and gifts.

Of course most of us grow during these painful experiences

If we don't, instead of better we become bitter. Often our faith deepens, our strength increases and our wisdom grows. But... sometimes we begin to wear our traumas or illnesses, or scars, like we wear a T-shirt, for all the world to see.

Being a survivor of something, anything, be it cancer or divorce should not overtake the living of your life or the lives of those who love you.

I have a very dear friend who is God's gift at holding up a mirror. She always says: "Check your motives". From some

# The Best of Suzanne Rardwell



of the experiences of her life as well as my own and others, I have learned the value of letting go, of forgiving, of moving beyond the trauma baggage.

Life is tough and we are surrounded by hurting people and sometimes self-absorbed people. But we owe it to our families, friends and co-workers not to "cling to our crosses" long after we should have laid them down.

We must allow ourselves to fully receive 'healing'. According

to the author of "Down Off the Cross" Debra Jarvis, "We have to let our old story go so that a newer, truer story can be told about who we are".

So, starting today let's quit replaying the hurts of the past. We need to put them where they belong. In the past. And if the beams of your cross were nailed together with anger, betrayal or neglect...quit making a list of wrongs and live your life. Do not let pain define who you have become. Do not let pain take today away.

Life is far too short not to embrace joy.

And peace.

And grace.

And move on...

#### HURRICANE KATRINA 20TH



### Money Matters!

The US financial landscape is seismically shifting, and it's surging toward Texas. The establishment of NYSE Texas, NASDAQ's regional headquarters in the state, and the new Texas Stock Exchange (TXSE) are indicative of the ongoing decentralization of financial activities and the emergence of Texas as a major competitor.

The combined presence of these exchanges elevates Texas, particularly Dallas, to the ranks of top-tier money centers alongside New York and Chicago. The result will undoubtedly be an influx of financial firms, investment banks, and fintech companies. Texas has been outpacing the growth in other states in these industries for a while now, and that pattern should only intensify.

The exchanges will also likely draw more corporate headquarters and private equity-backed firms, leading to job creation and additional capital inflows. While the direct number of jobs from the exchanges themselves may be small, the indirect effects such as new law firms, financial services companies, and support businesses will be substantial, as will enhanced opportunities for industries across the spectrum.

One of the key events in this progression was the formation of the TXSE, which is seeking to be a viable alternative to the NYSE and NASDAQ and is backed by major market players. By offering lower regulatory costs and a more "CEO-friendly" listing environment, the exchange may appeal to companies dissatisfied with the compliance costs and other challenges often associated with listing in New York. Recognizing the changing preferences, NYSE and NASDAQ have also set up shop in the state.

Exchanges are almost entirely electronic, and a physical location is less about a trading floor and more about serving a regional base of clients and attracting talent. The move to

# Dr. Ray Perryman THEECONOMIST



Texas reflects the reality that financial hubs no longer need to be geographically concentrated.

The exchanges desire a physical presence to serve the large and growing number of companies already based in Texas, helping protect market shares and capitalizing on the dynamic and diverse Sun Belt economy.

The state's business-friendly climate compared to New York and California has been a primary driver for the relocation of numerous Fortune 500 companies as well as mid-sized and emerging firms which may be seeking additional resources. The new financial infrastructure enhances the competitive mix.

While Wall Street's established brand and vast ecosystem will remain dominant for the foreseeable future, Texas is positioning itself as a legitimate alternative, especially for companies in the southern and western United States. This competition will likely lead to innovation and potentially lower costs for businesses in accessing public markets.

Texas has consistently imported capital to support expansion since the days of the Republic and will continue to do so. The task is getting a lot easier. 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



# Abbott signs redistricting bill; lawsuit challenges it

Gov. Greg Abbott signed legislation redrawing Texas' congressional map on Friday. A lawsuit challenging the redrawn districts as being racially discriminatory was filed even before the bill became law.

The Texas Tribune reported that the redrawn map, which could give Republicans five additional congressional seats in 2026, has been challenged by two law firms filing on behalf of 13 Texas residents collectively called "the Gonzales plaintiffs."

In addition, the NAACP, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Mexican American Legislative Caucus have joined LULAC in two additional suits against Abbott that call the maps unconstitutional and "intentionally discriminatory."

Abbott's office defended the maps. Andrew Mahaleris, the governor's press secretary, said they allow "more Texans to vote for the candidate of their choice," noting that Hispanic Texans are increasingly moving away from Democrats.

A 2021 suit filed by LULAC over the maps drawn after the 2020 census is still pending in court.

# House passes bill requiring sirens in some flood-prone areas

Flood sirens will be required in areas identified by the Texas Water Development Board under a Senate bill approved by the House last week. Under the measure, TWDB would have to identify areas that have a history of severe flooding. In those areas, either the county or city would be required to install and regularly test warning sirens, The Dallas Morning News reported.

SB3 allocates \$50 million over the next two years to help cities and counties pay for the sirens, but they must submit a proposal to receive funding. The move comes after the July 4 Hill Country floods killed at least 137 people, including 27 campers and staff members at Camp Mystic along the Guadalupe River.

"We must rely on proven technology like outdoor warning systems," said state Rep. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown.

# Certain foreign nationals now banned from buying land in Texas

As of Sept. 1, people with ties to China, Iran, North Korea or Russia have been banned from buying most Texas property, including farmland, homes and commercial property, the Texas Standard reported. People in the state on student or work visas from those countries may buy a single home to live in but are barred from purchasing additional properties.

Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, authored the bill and called it "the strongest protection national security bill of any state passed."

If a person violates the law, they could face a state jail felony and fines.

Two Chinese nationals living in Texas filed suit in July, arguing the ban violates constitutional protections.

"It's discriminating against Chinese people, it's discriminating against immigrants," said Justin Sadowsky, legal director at the Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance and attorney for the plaintiffs.

The suit was dismissed by a federal judge in August, but the plaintiffs have taken the case to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

#### New proposed ban on THC has stalled

A bill to ban hemp-derived THC products in the state has stalled with the state's top two officials at loggerheads over the issue. The Houston Chronicle reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is still pushing a ban after Abbott vetoed a similar bill in the regular session. Abbott called the first special session after vetoing the THC ban, arguing instead for a more regulated approach.

"The regulated market would be very comprehensive," Abbott said. "It would regulate it at the farming-based level, the wholesale level, the distributor and the retailer."

A total ban would affect more than 8,500 businesses across the state that sell hemp-derived products, some of which contain amounts of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis.

# Press Association The Control of th

# The Gladewater Mirror

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# THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN

All mankind faces the problem of SIN. In the first three chapters of Romans the apostle Paul describes man's descent into sin, finally concluding: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3: 23). That all have sinned is well attested in the Scriptures. Genesis 6: 5-6, 11-13 tells us that the wickedness of man was great in the days of Noah. Isaiah tells us: "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calls upon Thy name that stirs up himself to take hold of Thee; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us, because of our iniquities" (Isa. 64: 6-7). Even Solomon recognized the prevalence of sin when he wrote: "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and does not sin" (Eccl. 7: 20).

Though we may be committed to obeying God's precepts, we will always fall short. Some may fall short a little, and others may fall short by far-but we ALL fall short! One term used for sin speaks of falling short, another emphasizes going too far. Can any of us say that we have never failed to do what we should do, or that we have never done things we should not do. Indeed, all of us must admit that we are sinners. There is one common denominator of all mankind. It is not nationality, race, or similar cultures. The one thing we have in common is our unworthiness before God! We are all SINNERS!

A well-known preacher had a practice of writing to the mayor of the next city he planned to visit. He would ask the mayor for a list of people with spiritual problems, those who needed help and prayer. On one occasion, he was surprised to receive a copy of the city's entire phone directory. The official who sent it understood what many do not: "ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Scripture is replete with references to the problems sin will cause. First, sin will cause God to forsake us (READ 2 Chron. 24: 17-22). Second, sin will cause the Lord to be against us. Read Samuel's instructions to Saul at his coronation as king (READ 1 Sam. 12: 14-15). Third, sin brings death (Ecek. 18: 4; Rom. 6: 23). Fourth, God's wrath will be upon those that do evil (READ Rom. 2: 6-9). In other words, every benefit that man can enjoy with God is lost and only sorrow will follow. As the parable of the Prodigal Son so aptly demonstrates, sin will take you farther than you wanted to go, cost you far more than you wanted to pay, and make you stay longer than you wanted to stay. Yes, my friend, sin is destructive and takes us away from the source of real joy and happiness. Think on these things. More to follow.

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

P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

# **Sports roundup**

# Bears, Lions, 'Necks open season with wins

#### **By Tyler Sutton**

The Jermaine Lewis era at Gladewater got off to the perfect start as the Bears went on the road to Mickey Maine stadium in Daingerfield and came home with a 21-7 victory over the Tigers. The game started a few mins late after a brief weather delay. And it did show as both teams were a bit rusty to start off. Neither team could get anything going on offense as it was 0-0 after 1 quarter. But on the first play of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Bears quarterback Achillies Hess punched it in from two yards out to give the Bears a 6-0 lead as the two point try was no good. The Gladewater defense quickly struck as two plays into the Tigers drive, quarterback Isiah Parker was intercepted by Gladewater's Landon King. The Bears offense had a good drive going but a fumble ended it and Daingerfield quickly took advantage as Mason Williams took a sweep and took it in for a six yard TD run and a 7-6 Tigers lead into the half.

A scary situation unfolded to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter as Tigers receiver Ja'Kyrin Craver took a hard shot on a catch over the middle and fumbled. He laid motionless for a while until a ambulance was able to show up. He was able to give a thumbs up as he was stretchered off. When play resumed, the Bears run game took over and it was capped with Carson Cooper took it in from 1 yard out to give the Bears a 12-7 lead as once again the two point try was no good. Then the Bears defense took control

as they forced a three and out and on the punt, the snap went over the punters head and out the back of the endzone for a safety and a 14-7 Gladewater lead after three quarters. The Bears offense was again going down the field, but a Gladewater fumble at the Tigers 2 yard line gave Daingerfield life still. But Bears defense once again stood tall forcing a Daingerfield punt. Gladewater's offense then put the game away with a long, run heavy drive capped off when Hess found the endzone again with a 6 yard TD run to make it 21-7 Bears with 1:50 left in the game. The Tigers had one last chance but a 4th down pass was incomplete and that was the ball game. " So proud of these kids" "We worked so hard over the summer putting in rep after rep for situations like tonight. " "Made me so happy to see everything they worked for come together " said coach Lewis. The Bears start the season 1-0 for the second year in a row and will now come home for their home opener and the first of three straight home games at Jack V. Murphy stadium as they host the New Diana Eagles. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

#### Roughmecks beat Bulldogs, 58-7

The White Oak Roughnecks hit the road to begin their 2025 season as they traveled to Eustace to take on the Bulldogs and brought home a convincing 58-7 win. Jaxsen Ludlow finished with six total touchdowns. Ludlow completed 11 of

15 passes for 277 yards and three touchdowns, carried eight times for 100 yards and two scores and caught a TD pass for the Roughnecks. He also had two tackles and a tackle for loss in limited action on defense. Levi Sipes finished with 10 tackles, three tackles for loss, three QB hurries, two fumble recoveries and a pass breakup. He returned one of his fumble recoveries 92 yards for a TD. White Oak will now head back home for their home opener at Roughneck stadium when they host the Paul Pewitt Brahams. Kick off is at 7 PM.

#### Lions defeat **Eagles**, 28-12

The Union Grove Lions kicked off their 2025 season at home as they hosted the Como-Pickton Eagles and the Lions had the momentum all night and easily came away with a 28-12 victory. Brycen Porter passed for a couple of touchdowns and rushed for another score Porter completed 8 of 12 passes for 76 yards and tossed TD strikes to Carter Cooper and Wrigley Roberts. He also carried 14 times for 58 yards and scored once. Kohl Sirmans added 11 carries for 51 yards for the Lions. Cooper had three catches for 26 yards, and Roberts caught three passes for 23 yards. Cooper also recorded 12 tackles. Kolby Nutt led with 13 tackles, and Kaden Polen added 10 tops. The Lions will hit the road in week 2 when they head to Cumby. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

**ACROSS** 

Library (abbr.)

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7 TXism: "out \_\_

(not working)

kilter"

9 TXism: "

in the pan"

16 headlong rush

(2 wds.)

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27 TX Kelly Clarkson

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22 popular Fort

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19 TXism:

on U.S. 96







# Volleyball roundup ...

#### **By Tyler Sutton**

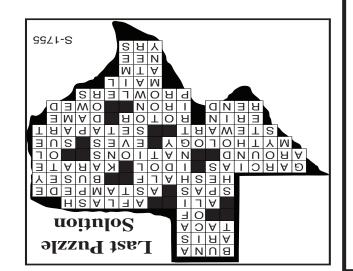
Gladewater Volleyball for the first time this season had a true road game as they began the week heading to Ore City to take on the Lady Rebels and came away with a 3-0 sweep. The Bears got nine kills from Adyson Evans, seven aces from Beatrice Nosados and nine assists from Janiah Strickland on the way to a 25-20, 25-14, 25-18 sweep.

Evans also had three blocks, five digs and two aces, Nosados three kills and two assists and Tinsley Aldredge five assists and two aces. They then headed to Beckville to take part in the Beckville tournament where they went 2-4 and lost in the silver bracket championship game with wins over Cross Roads (2-0) and Elysian Fields (2-1) and losses to Beckville (2-0) the Beckville JV twice (2-0 and 2-0) and Elysian Fields (2-0). The Lady Bears are now 4-9 on the season and will next be in action when they travel to Hearts Bluff then head over to Overton to take part in the Overton Tournament

The White Oak Ladynecks made the long Nacogdoches to take on a state ranked Central Heights team and fell 3-0 ( 25-18, 25-15, 25-15). Londyn Baker finished with six kills and eight digs in the loss for White Oak. Andee Bridges had five kills, eight receptions and five digs, Peyton Thomas eight digs and eight receptions, Addy Young 14 assists and Carrington Watson two kills and five blocks. They then hosted the annual Shirley Atkins tournament where they went 3-2 and finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. With wins over Henderson (2-0), Pittsburgh (2-0) and Pleasant Grove (2-1) and losses to Texas High (2-0) and Madisonville (2-1). White Oak is now 12-10 on the campaign and will next have road games at Gilmer and Elysian Fields.

Union Grove Lady Lions volleyball continued their non district schedule as they hosted Overton and fell in a five set thriller 3-2 (25-22, 18-25, 23-25,25-22, 12-15). They then traveled to Hawkins tournament where they went 3-4 with wins over Bishop Gorman (2-0), Jefferson (2-0) and Rains (2-1) and losses to North Hopkins (2-0), Waskom (2-1), Troup (2-0) and Tyler Heat (2-0).

The Lady Lions set at 6-10 on the season and will next be in action when they have road matches at Waskom and at West Rusk.





205 W US Highway 80 White Oak

(903) 295-8883

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-noon

**TEXAS** 

**CROSSWORD** 

by Charley & Guy Orbison

45

48

11

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12 13

automotiverestorationsystems.com

# 1 in Jasper County 5 archives division of the Texas State county auditors 42 V-22 is tilt-8 this boxer beat TX Foreman in 1974 "Jungle Rumble" 15 therapeutic baths of a cattle herd a bubble out of 45 Notre portrayed Buddy

- twice ended a UT perfect season in the Cotton Bowl 46 tear or split apart 47 TXism: "shootin' \_" (gun) 48 was indebted
- "American 28 martial art of Texas rancher, Norris 29 TXism: "don't beat
- the bush' 30 most of the mohair is from Texas
- 32 TXism: "good \_\_\_ boy" 33 Texas folklore,
- e.g. 36 December 24th and 31st
- 37 Linda Gray was Ellen on TV's "Dallas"

- 38 this Jimmy starred with TX Audie in "Night Passage" 39 Texas Constitution
- land for the University of Texas 41 character Hardesty in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"

built

- by Texas Bell Helicopter 23 24
- 49 stealthy burglars 52 TXism: "wish book" (\_
- 53 money machine 54 formerly called (maiden name) 55 ten of 'em make

order catalog)

#### **DOWN**

a decade (abbr.)

- 1 Astro or Ranger lumber
- 2 TX Ima Hogg's fictional sister 3 St. Lakes in Refugio County

4 TXism: "boring

30

42 43 44

49

- with a game warden' 8 primates 9 TXism: "natural \_
  - \_melon" 10 \_\_ Worth, TX (abbr.) 11 TXism: "hasta
  - vista" (see ya later) 12 TX Anne Armstrong was
  - England (1976-77) 13 horse goader on a cowboy's boot
  - 14 TXism: " few bricks shy of a load'
  - 15 TXism: "joined his dirt" (fell)
  - 16 TXism: "got \_
- 17 sent around the main route

54

39

- 18 shoe hole made for a lace 20 TXism: "call
- it \_ \_\_\_\_" (quit) 22 Texas-born film cowboy, Autry (init.) 23 TXism: "he'd
- \_ wrestle King Kong" (brave) 24 Texans Orbison and Judge Bean
- 25 Coast Guard boat 26 opposite of

32

P-1755

- "out there" 28 classic hits AM in Palestine, TX 31 TXism: "just
- \_ yonder" (not far) 34 East\_\_\_\_, TX 35 TXism: "come hell
- \_ high water" 37 TXism: "cut from the
- bolt" (alike) 40 TXism: "hands"
- 43 hockey star, Bobby 44 TXism: " irons in the fire"
- 50 citrus fruits grown in the Valley
- 51 \_\_ Campo, TX

See Answers On This Page

of corn to shuck"

## **GPD Activity Report**

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
24/25	ALARMIOTHER	20254053		MCDONALDS	1100 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254054	0.26		316 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20254055	0.55		1620 N LYNN LYNN ST
	CRIM MIS	20254056	1:22		1210 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20254057	2:32		1109 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	ASSIST	20254063	853		223 TEXAS TEXAS
	ALARMIOTHER	20254064		ZEE MART	227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	CRIM MIS	20254065		ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254066	9:42	EGONOM I INN	678 N MAIN MAIN ST
	ASSIST	20254067	11:50		506 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS DR
	ASSIST	20254068	13:31		2205 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20254069	14:42	AOS LIADDINADS	711 CLAIR CLAIR
	ASSIST	20254070		ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254071		BUMBLE BEE PARK	705 S MAIN MAIN ST
	FIRE DEPT	20254072	17:14		10198 LOCUST LOCUST
	TERROR THREAT	20254073		GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20254074		GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
25/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20254075		BUMBLE BEE PARK	705 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ABANDONED 911	20254076	5:38		1520 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	THEFT	20254077	7:12		504 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	EMS	20254080	10:44		803 EAST LAKE DRIVE EAST LAKE DRIVE
	FIRE DEPT	20254081	11:26		301 VICKY VICKY LN
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20254083	13:22		GAY GAY
	EMS	20254085	16:25	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	HARASSMENT	20254087	18:05	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	HARASSMENT	20254088	19:26		208 EDDY EDDY
26/25	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20254089	0:16	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 W LAKE LAKE
	EMS	20254090	2:11		506 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	EMS	20254091	6:46		402 MARSHALL MARSHALL W
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254092	7:23		HWY 80 HWY 80
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254093	7:31		1709 ARMSTRONG ARMSTRONG RD
	FIRE DEPT	20254095	8:37		701 MELBA MELBA AVE
	EMS	20254096	8:58	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254097	9:53		1001 W GAY GAY
	FIRE DEPT	20254098	10:55		2684 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	EMS	20254099	11:41		2684 HENDRICKS HENDRICKS
	EMS	20254101	12:43		42 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	FIRE DEPT	20254103	14:18		214 OAK OAK DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254104		ZEE MART	227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS		17:34	ZLL MPI()	
		20254105		LAVE CLADENATED	519 W GAY GAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20254106		LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254107	20:10	TOURAN ONTU OUR DOOM OF VETT	943 SANDERS SANDERS
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254109		TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	20254110	22:06		813 W PACIFIC PACIFIC
	MISSING PERSON	20254111	22:20		608 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20254113		LAKE GLADEWATER STORE	LAKE SHORE LAKE SHORE DR
8/27/25	FIRE DEPT	20254114	3:41		00 HICKORY HICKORY
	EMS	20254115	8.59		1208 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20254116	10:14		943 SANDERS SANDERS ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20254117		AEP SCHOOL	700 MELBA MELBA ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254118	11:37		1905 CHESTNUT CHESTNUT ST
	FOUND/LOST/RECOVERED	20254119	11:44	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20254120	12:09		1001 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	EMS	20254121	12:20		1117 RICKS RICKS CIR
	10-50 MINOR	20254122	13:35		MAIN MAIN
	ASSIST	20254123	14:26		608 CANFIELD CANFIELD
	EMS	20254124	16:43		400 WHITE PINE WHITE PINE RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254125	17:23		319 E EDDY EDDY AVE
				<u> </u>	
		20254126	19:02	JULIAWOOD HOMES	56.JULIAWOODS.JULIAWOODS
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20254126		JULIAWOOD HOMES	56 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS 1511 SHELL CAMP SHELL CAMP RD
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE MISCELLANEOUS	20254127	19:51		1511 SHELLCAMP SHELLCAMP RD
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE				1

	LINO	2020+100	0.00	TIOOMIPITALITI OLINIO	OUT IT OF GEORGE GEORGE
	WARRANT	20254136	10:09		2011 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	ASSIST	20254137	10:30		E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20254138	10:44		711 W CLAIRE CLAIRE ST
	FIRE DEPT	20254139	11:29		701 MELBA MELBA AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20254140	11:48		151 CARRIE CARRIE
	FIRE DEPT	20254141	13:24	GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	1640 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	TERROR THREAT	20254142	13:38		210 W HURLEY HURLEY AVE
	ASSIST	20254143	14:01	JULIAWOOD HOMES	22 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	TERROR THREAT	20254144	14:20		520 RODEN RODEN LN
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20254145	15:00		N RODEO RODEO ST
	10-50 MAJOR	20254146	15:22		MAIN MAIN
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20254148	16:13		1106 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD LN
	ASSIST	20254150	16:46		N MAIN MAIN ST
				CARDENIC OF CLADENATED	
	EMS	20254151		GARDENS OF GLADEWATER	108 N LEE LEE ST
	ASSIST	20254152	18:07		616A JEANETTE JEANETTE
	ABANDONED 911	20254153	18:18		925 SANDERS SANDERS ST
	HARASSMENT	20254154		ZEE MART	227 S MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254155	19:37		4027 W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254156	19:57		165 VILLAGE NORTH VILLAGE NORTH CIR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254157	20:29		600 N POST POST ST
	ASSIST	20254160	21:34		SLOOP 485 SLOOP 485
8/29/25	EMS	20254161	1:02	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254162	1:42		1520 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD DR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20254163	2:40		901 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	RECKLESS DRIVING	20254164	3:20		271 271
	EMS	20254165	5:23	WALKER PHARMACY	402 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20254166	6:37		201 HICKORY HICKORY ST
	ABANDONED 911	20254167	6:59	BLOCKS IN YOUR SOCKS DAYCARE	318 W QUITMAN QUITMAN ST
	EMS	20254168	7:50		208 E ELEANOR ELEANOR ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20254169	8:51	VITAL EARTH RESOURCES	706 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	FIRE DEPT	20254170	10:01	GLADEWATER PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE	416 S TYLER TYLER ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254171	12:28		138 TEXAS TEXAS ST
	EMS	20254172	12:37		SHEPPARD LN SHEPPARD LN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254173	13:21		501 N AMES AMES
Ì	ALARM/OTHER	20254175	16:11	DONNELLYS LIQUOR	1706 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	20254176	17:24		123 HAYNES HAYNES AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254178	18:40		210 HURLY HURLY
	EMS	20254179	18:42		404 W PACIFIC PACIFIC
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254180	20:51	DOLLAR GENERAL	1621 N MAIN MAIN ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20254181	22:52		VIRGINIA VIRGINIA
	EMS	20254182	23:21		315 N LEE LEE
	ASSAULT CLASS A	20254183	23:54		800 E BROADWAY E BROADWAY ST
8/30/25	ALARM/OTHER	20254184	0:42		1408 E BROADWAY E BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254185	3:06		210 W GAY GAY
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20254187	608		406 N HOWARD HOWARD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254190	12:04		1988 GEORGE RICHEY GEORGE RICHEY RD
	10-50 MINOR		13:22		ION GEORGE MOTIET GEORGE MOTET RU
		20254191		LECEND ONCO MUDORIO COME	4004 EM 0005 EM 0005
	EMS	20254192		LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2685 FM 2685
	THEFT	20254193		GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254194	18:15		2504 WOODBINE WOODBINE DR
	10-50 MINOR	20254195	19:33		3025 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	DEADLY CONDUCT	20254196	20:06		CULVER CULVER
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254197	22:40		TEXAS ST TEXAS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254198	22:50		BERNICE BERNICE
8/31/25	ABANDONED 911	20254199	0:07		222 W GAY GAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254200	0:14	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1009 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	ALARM/OTHER	20254201	0:33		2302 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE DR
L	ASSIST	20254202	0:38		271 271
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254203	125		943 SANDERS SANDERS
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20254205	8-16	HEALTHY PAWS VETERINARY SERVICES	1830 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE

### **GPD Arrest Report**

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS1
8/24/25	8/24/25	10:23	OSTEEN, IZABEL ELISE	W	F	DISORDERLY CONDUCT: VULGAR LANGUAGE IN PUBLI	701 E. BROADWAY AVE
8/26/25	8/26/25	12:34	GREEN, DAYLON QUINTEZ	В	М	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	1620 W LAKE
8/28/25	8/28/25	10:35	PENA, MICHELLE CHRISTIANA	W	F	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	2011 OLD LONGVIEW HIGHWAY
	8/28/25	10:35	HAMMETT, MICHAEL WAYNE	W	М	WARRANT (LOCAL)	2011 OLD LONGVIEW HWY
8/29/25	8/29/25	2:21	GREEN, TIFFANY JO	W	F	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	1520 SHEPPARD
	8/29/25	23:06	RAMIREZ, SAMANTHA ARIEL	W	F	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	1105 W UPSHUR

# Liquor store developers get green-lit, but it's a flashing yellow for future

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

of them, following the city's rules. For the future, though, the council members want to be able to tap the brakes if developments could oversaturate the market or cause other problems for the community.

As for the SUPs, "If this has not been legal what's going on, we're going to stop it now. That's not fair to businesses coming in here," she said. Ordinances can be updated as time goes on, which also ensures future developers know there might be resistance to select businesses: "I think we are at that point where we need to do something concerning that."

There has to be some kind of control, council member William Blackmon agreed, whether that's market control or the council's discretion.

"The only fear of the market controlling it is you end up with more empty buildings," he added. Two new liquor stores will bring the total count to seven locally, one for every 950 people in a town of 6,600. "It seems we did have a pretty positive review on stopping the liquor stores... I think we have to look out for the community as a whole."

For now, the two developments can proceed, and the city will be reviewing ordinances and other issues for the sake of future progress.

Per Flanagan, "We need things zoned correctly for the growth we want to see in Gladewater."

#### WHITE OAK POLICE

For the reporting period of August 25th through August 31st, 2025, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 271 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Burglar Alarms, Suspicious Activity, Vehicle Driving Complaints, Disturbances, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

One traffic collision was investigated during this reporting period; no reported injuries.

The White Oak Police made four arrests during this reporting period:

Jesse Dominguez, 26, of White Oak, for Assault Causes Bodily Injury, Family Violence, and Violation of a Protective Order.

Justin Hidalgo, 43, of Longview, for Driving While License Invalid with a previous conviction, and Displaying Wrong Motor Vehicle Registration. Jesse Dominguez, 26, of White Oak, for Violation of a

Protective Order. Janie Phillips, 36, of Chandler, for Driving While In-

Five separate and unrelated cases were presented to the Gregg County District Attorney for prosecution: Four cases for Driving While Intoxicated, and one case for Driving While License Invalid with a previous conviction.



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7:00-7:00

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**CHURCH OF CHRIST** 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

**CATHOLIC** St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306

CHARISMATIC New Life Church • 903-845-8108 LUTHERAN

Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019 **CHURCH OF GOD** Elevate Worship Center • 903-374-2064 NAZARENE

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First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905 Full Gospel Fellowship Gladewater Revival Church Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023 Love of God Church • 903-845-2623 Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050 **OTHER** 

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

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# lappening



Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb speaks to Gladewater Rotarians Aug. 28, updating the civic club on the recent upgrade of the local Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, a substantial technological advancement for law enforcement patrol units. "It's a wealth of knowledge at their fingertips in their cars," Webb said. "It's actually improved their ability to stay in the field longer and respond to calls better. That's good for everybody."

third Town Hall Meeting.

Featuring Gladewater ISD

Superintendent Rae Ann

Patty and Gladewater Eco-

nomic Development Cor-

poration Executive Direc-

tor Anna Conlan alongside

Flanagan and the team at

Gladewater City Hall, the

public panel discussion and

talkback begins at 6 p.m.

that Tuesday evening in the

Gladewater High School

Cafeteria. Other key par-

ticipants include Gladewater

City Council members, City

Manager Charlie Smith and

more municipal personnel.

According to the organiz-

ers, "This Town Hall will

begin with brief presenta-

tions, followed by a panel

discussion format that will

allow citizens to ask ques-

Planned discussion items

• A six-month progress

• Ongoing challenges and

tions directly."

report for the city

include:

#### September Chamber meeting welcomes GISD superintendent

Gladewater ISD Superintendent Rae Ann Patty will be the featured speaker at the Fall Chamber Meeting later this month.

The event begins at noon Monday, Sept. 15, in Gladewater Chamber of Commerce at 215 N. Main St. All are invited and reservations are requested.

For more information or to RSVP, call Lois Reed at the chamber at 903-845-5501 or email info@gladewaterchamber.org.

#### **Third Town Hall** event brings 3 community leaders to the table Oct. 2

City, school and business will all be in the spotlight Oct. 2 during Gladewater Mayor Brandy Flanagan's

plans to address them

- · Progress and needs for Gladewater ISD
- · Recent GEDCO developments and plans for the
- · How city, school and EDC are working on shared

"Your voice matters, and vou are an integral part of Team Gladewater. The Mayor encourages everyone to be part of the conversation as we continue to move Gladewater forward."

#### Blood drive set for Gilmer Thursday

Carter BloodCare of Tyler will hold a mobile blood drive in Gilmer next Thursday (Sept. 11), announced Carter field recruiter Donna Russell.

Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the county Rock Building, 101 E. Cass. The drive is sponsored by the Upshur County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife

For more information, call County Extension Agent Julie York at 580-370-8786, email her at julie.york@ ag.tamu.edu, or call Carter BloodCare at 800-366-2834 or Russell at 903-574-4998.

#### **GISD's Guardians** program for student safety at central office

Not many students spend time on Gladewater ISD's administrative campus, but those that do need 'guardians,' too.

The Texas Guardian Program is focused on protecting students wherever they receive instruction, tasking and training educators to that goal. This Fall, GISD is implementing an extension for the Central Office at 200 E. Broadway Ave. for the sake of the pupils in Discipline Alternative Education Placement.

After bringing DAEP back from Gilmer this school

year, "We won't ever have more than 10 students here," GISD Superintendent Rae Ann Patty noted. It's not every day, either, but security needs to be in place when necessary: "We want trained staff members to be able to protect students who are on our campus here."

The district's trustees discussed the particulars in closed session last month. Student safety and security measures are a regular exemption to open meeting rules.

Wherever student instruction takes place, "You have to have one of three things," Patty noted. "If you don't have a (School Resource Officer) or a police officer, you can have a Guardian or a Marshal."

#### City Hall hosts pet microchipping event on Sept. 20

Gladewater residents in Gregg County can get their pets microchip'd for free later this month in a pop-up clinic hosted by the Longview Animal Care Adoption Center, Longview PAWS (Pets Are Worth Saving) and the City of Gladewater

Proof of residency is required during the event, running 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at Gladewater City Hall.

For more information, contact LACAC at (903) 297-7387 or reach out via email to animals@longviewtexas.gov.

#### **Organizers** recruit **Arts & Crafts Fest's** event Sept. 20-21

Number one rule for the Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival: Handcrafted items only.

Whether it's ceramics or salsa, clothing or crafts, dolls, decor, artwork or needlework, it must be homemade and handmade to pass muster as the annual event heads into its 52nd year later this month. It's another local tradition spearheaded Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed, and she welcomes all the help she can get.

Set each year on the third weekend in September, the 2025 event makes its bow Sept. 20-21. The festivities run 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. that Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Log on to gladewaterartsandcrafts.com to download a vendor application, including standard rules and regulations.

#### Storytime slated

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Sept. 4). To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. readings are "A Cup of Quiet" by Nikki Grimes, and "Silas' Seven Grandparents" by Anita Horrocks, illustrated by Helen Flook.

# City Hall brings new auditors aboard with FY25 review ahead

#### **By James Draper**

One of Gladewater's still new finance policies requires City Hall consider new auditors at least every three years – the first rotation brings Vail & Park in to audit Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Council members tapped the Metroplex-based firm in a special session last week. The firm succeeds Mays & Associates, which also responded to Gladewater's RFQ after monitoring the books the past three years. The council adopted another key finance policy in mid-

August: moving forward, the city will keep a three-month fund balance in the coffers. "The reason why these policies are important is because all

of us will one day not be up here," Mayor Brandy Flanagan said, focusing on policies that outlast politicians. Three months of regular operating expenses in the city's

proposed FY2026 totals about \$2.8 million for just the general fund. "We're starting off with three. We will not ever go below

three months," according to Gladewater City Treasurer Meghan Davis. That said, "I do want it to get up to 6 to 8 months. We will eventually get there. In addition to having the necessary funding available in

emergencies, "Whatever you do have set aside, you are going to build interest on it." Regarding the auditor rotation, only Mays and Vail re-

sponded to the city's RFQ. From Davis' recommendation, Vail will be a solid follow-up.

"They put together awesome proposals and outlines. I was really impressed with them," she said. In addition to good references from other communities, "I have an estimated start date and ending for literally everything all the way through the process."

Importantly, Davis added, the new auditors' focus on accurate figures – they're not big on round numbers.

"We're penny pinchers and bean counters and that's one of my biggest things."



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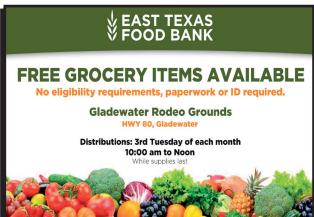
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# State's proposed property tax reforms tighten reins on local decisionmakers

**Continued from Page 1** since the state tightened the VATR from 8 percent to 3.5. Cutting it to 1 percent would make it even harder to take care of business, Smith said, potentially costing citizens in the long-run.

"It affected us back then.

It forced cities to move up their tax rate every opportunity they got because you couldn't go back," he added. "I don't like taxes any better than anybody else, but to be able to provide services that a city does," tax revenues are necessary. For example,

"Our lake is full of sediment that needs to be removed," and it won't come cheap.

"There's a lot of work to do with this city to get it functional properly."

Communities have their local elected officials to keep taxes in check.

"That's why people run for council," Smith said. "What's the goal there? Is it for the state to have all the power to dictate to smaller cities?

"I think that's probably the goal. I think they don't like municipal government. Especially as a home-rule city, we have the freedom to make decisions for our-



Jessie and James Kaye visit the 50th annual Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival in September 2023. Returning each year on the third weekend in September on the Broadway School Grounds, the 52nd annual event is set for Sept. 20-21 at 200 Broadway Ave.

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF GLADEWATER**

The 2026-2030 Five Year Plan for the Housing Authority of the City of Gladewater, TX is available for review and comment at the Authority's management office located at 777 S. Tyler, Gladewater, TX during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, closed Noon to 12:30PM. A public meeting will be held at the Housing Authority of the City of Gladewater Texas, 777 S. Tyler St., Gladewater, TX at 12:00 PM on September 04, 2025 at 12:00 PM to review and approve proposed activities.



#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of White Oak will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed tax rate for the fiscal year 2025/2026, and a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025/2026 on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Rd, White Oak, Texas.

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

# **SUPPORT** LOCAL **JOURNALISM**

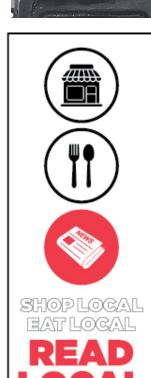
The newspaper ties a region together, helps make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square whose boundaries

— Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"



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# **Notice of Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit** East Texas Salt Water Disposal Company, 1209 Industrial Blvd., Kilgore, Texas 75662 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Woodbine, Suman Lease, Well Number 7. The proposed injection well is located 2.5 miles Northeast of Gladewater, in the East Texas Field, in Upshur County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3625 to 3800 feet.

AMERICA NEEDS JOURNALISTS

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of

the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).



TexSCAN Week of Aug. 31-Sept. 6, 2025

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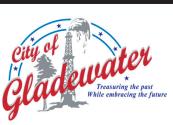
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#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a public hearing before the City of Gladewater Planning & Zoning Commission on September 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request to rezone the properties located at LTS 1 THRU 10 BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS, LTS 16 THRU 30 BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS, NORTH ½ ALL BLK 129 WOOD HEIGHTS, LTS 11 & 12 BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS, LT 13 BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS, LT 14 BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS, LT 15 BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS (N 57; LT 15), LT 15A BLK 132 WOOD HEIGHTS (S 113' LT 15); more commonly known as 700 W Melba Ave, Virginia Dr, 100 W Upshur Ave, 802 Melba Ave, 806 Melba Ave, 808 Melba Ave, 406 Howard St, 810 Melba Ave, from multi-family and/or two-family to heavy commercial.

There will be a second public hearing held by the Gladewater City Council

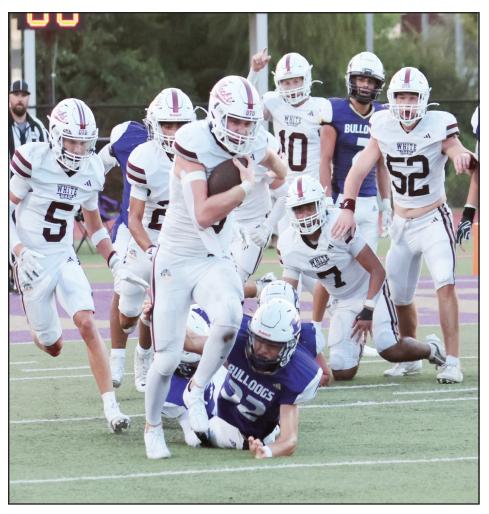
on September 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in these public hearings. If you are unable to attend these meetings you may send written comments to Judy Van Houten, City Secretary, City of Gladewater, PO Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647.



Jaxsen Ludlow delivered a spectacular performance in the Roughnecks' season-opening road game, accounting for six touchdowns (2 rushing, 3 passing, 1 receiving) to lead a 58-7 thrashing of the host Eustace Tigers.

Photo by Mike Peery



In the season opener, Levi Sipes scooped up a Eustace fumble and sprinted 92 yards to the end zone, contributing to the Roughnecks' dominant 58-7 victory over the Eustace Tigers.

Photo by Mike Peery

per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of

# Upshur to vote on tax hike Sept. 15

#### **By Phillip Williams**

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday set Sept. 15 as date to finally approve the 2025-26 fiscal year property tax rate and county budget.

The court, which held a brief public hearing on the proposed budget in Gilmer Friday, also set a public hearing on the proposed tax rate for 10 a.m. Sept. 15. That hearing is expected to immediately precede the court's regular semi-monthly meeting, at which the court would vote on the rate and budget.

The court has proposed raising the tax rate by 1.5 cents, from the current rate of 49.9 cents per \$100 valuation to 51.4. The proposed increase isn't enough to trigger the possibility of an election for voter ceiving pay raises.

approval.

With Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson presiding in County Judge Todd Tefteller's absence Friday. the court's four-minute public hearing on the proposed budget drew no public input other than questions from the press.

County Auditor Connie Williams said the proposed budget for general and insurance funds combined is \$23,968,480, up \$1,647,157 from the current 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

Of the increase, she pointed out, \$500,000 is for Road and Bridge Department equipment, while \$400,000 is for

elected officials are also re-

#### higher costs for insurance. All county employees and

## Manhunt ends in self-inflcted shooting

#### **By Phillip Williams**

A man who was the subject of a manhunt by Upshur County authorities fatally shot himself in Smith County early Friday, Upshur Sheriff Larry Webb said Monday.

Media reports quoted authorities as saying Lucas Stevens, 31, had gone on a multi-county crime spree, breaking into houses, stealing guns and UTVs, carjacking a vehicle, and killing a homeowner's dog.

Officers found him barricaded in a home off FM 2767 near the Gregg County line and he was cooperative with them, but wouldn't surrender and eventually cut off communication and shot himself, reports said.

Media reports, which quoted Smith County Sheriff Larry Smith, said a Texas Department of Public Safety officer tried to stop Stevens, who had several felony warrants, about 10 a.m. Thursday in Gregg County, but the suspect evaded the officer and wrecked his auto upon crossing a railroad track at high speed.

He carjacked another vehicle, and fled to the Gladewater area, Big Sandy and Pritchett community, committing the home invasions all the way, media quoted authorities as saying.

Reserve deputy (and former Chief Deputy) David Hazel of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office had sent out two news releases to area media, including The Mirror, Thursday concerning the manhunt, showing a picture of Stevens and informing the public of the search.

Hazel said he had last been seen in the Upshur area of Scrub Pine and Weeping Willow roads and, describing him as "armed and dangerous," appealed for anyone seeing him to contact authorities.

Hazel noted the suspect was wanted for several felonies, and "his actions today indicate that he is desperate. He has broken into homes and stolen firearms and vehicles at differ-

The nearly \$24 million budget for general and insurance funds doesn't include a separate budget for "dedicated" funds, which Williams said are raised by grants and fees rather than tax revenue.

The auditor said she didn't recall the proposed amount for that particular budget, but it was a "substantial increase" from the current

The budget hearing immediately followed the court's 14-minute regular semi-monthly meeting, at which commissioners set the aforementioned Sept. 15 voting date.

Nicholson, who joined Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller in recently voting against proposing the tax increase (which passed by a 3-2 vote) presided as Tefteller was at a conference.

Tefteller had joined Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle and Precinct 3 Commissioner Michael Ashley in voting to propose the tax hike. Miller and Nicholson, who are up for re-election next year, have said they favor keeping the current 49.9-cent rate.

The Sept. 15 meeting and hearing will be held at the temporary courthouse at 150 E. Jefferson in downtown Gilmer.

The new tax rate and budget will take effect Oct. 1.

The county's average home valuation is \$160,413. Tefteller's office recently issued a statement saying the proposed tax increase would raise property taxes on a home of that value by about \$37.31.

The statment also said the additional tax revenue would go for road and bridge equipment, increased road and bridge materials, increased staffing for courthouse security, and raising all employee and elected officials' salaries to meet inflation in the cost

### NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

0.557005

A tax rate of \$

A lax rate of \$		_ hei ֆiou	valuation nas	been proposed by the governing body of
CITY C	F GLADEWATER			
P	ROPOSED TAX RATE	\$	0.557005	per \$100
N	O-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$	0.569590	per \$100
V	OTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$	0.557005	per \$100
The no-new-revenue tax rat	e is the tax rate for the	20 (current t	25 1x year)	tax year that will raise the same amount
of property tax revenue for	CITY OF GLAD	DEWATER		from the same properties in both
the 2024 (preceding tax year)	tax year and the	0		ear.
The voter-approval tax rate	is the highest tax rate that	Cl	TY OF GLADE	WATER may adopt without holding
an election to seek voter ap	nroval of the rate		(name of taxing t	mit)
	t greater than the no-new-revenuerty taxes for the 2025 (current tax year)			at <u>CITY OF GLADEWATER</u> is not (name of taxing unit)
A PUBLIC MEETING TO V	OTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX F	RATE WILL	. BE HELD ON	SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
atGLADWATER	CITY HALL, 519 E. BROADWAY	AVE., GL	ADEWATER, T	\
	(meeting place)			
The proposed tax rate is als	so not greater than the voter-appr	oval tax ra	te. As a result,	CITY OF GLADEWATER is not required
to hold an election to seek	oter approval of the rate. However	er, you ma	y express your	support for or opposition to the proposed tax
rate by contacting the mem	bers of the GLADEWATER (name of govern	CITY HAL	L of	CITY OF GLADEWATER at their offices of (name of taxing unit)
by attending the public mee	ting mentioned above.			
YOUR TAXES OWE	D UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RA	TES MEN	FIONED ABOV	E CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

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.

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposed tax rate or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: MAYOR BRANDY J. FLANAGAN, MICHAEL WEBBER, STONEY STONE, WILLIAM BLACKMON, ELIJAH ANDERSON, KEVIN CLARK

AGAINST the proposal: NONE PRESENT and not voting: NONE ABSENT: MILTON ANDERSON

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** ON TAX INCREASE

\$0.07809 per \$100 PROPOSED TAX RATE NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE \$0.07527 per \$100 **VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE** \$0.07809 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 736 Wilkins Rd., Gladewater, Texas 75647.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Board of Commissioners of Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 at their offices or by attending the public hearing

> YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE **CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:**

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

FOR the proposal: Greg Colquitt, Clyde Willoughby, Daniel Patterson, Mike Clements AGAINST the proposal: PRESENT and not voting:

**ABSENT: Jennifer Phillips** 

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your 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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Gregg County Emergency Services No. 2 last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 this year:

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.08203	\$0.07809	Decrease of \$0.00394 per \$100, or 4.80%
Average homestead taxable value	\$203,191	\$226,968	Increase of 11.70%
Tax on average homestead	\$166.68	\$177.24	Increase of \$10.56 or 6.34%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$591,649	\$629,796	Increase of \$38,147 or 6.45%

For assistance with tax calculation, please contact the tax assessor for Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 at (903) 237-2552 or Michelle.Terry@co.gregg.tx.us or visit https://greggcounty.texas.gov/departments/tax-assessor-collector for more information.



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# More than 800 new laws went into effect Sept. 1

**Continued from Page 1** 

health and human services. Some notable parts include spending to maintain and provide property tax cuts, a new school voucher program, additional funding for public schools, as well as investments in the state's energy, water and broadband infrastructure.

The plan also initially included a \$60 million measure that would have let Texas enter a federal summer lunch program for low-income kids, but Abbott vetoed it due to "significant uncertainty regarding federal matching rates for this and other similar programs."

Senate Bill 2 created one of the country's largest school voucher programs, allowing parents to pay for their children's accredited private school tuition or other education-related expenses with public tax dollars. In most cases, each child will receive just over \$10,000 per year, though students with disabilities could receive up to \$30,000 in additional funding. Wealthier families with children already in private schools could also participate.

Texas can spend up to \$1 billion during its upcoming two-year budget cycle, though the program's cost could rise significantly afterwards.

The law's passage followed years of fighting between GOP lawmakers, who framed the issue as providing school choice to parents, and Democrats and rural Republicans who said vouchers would harm public schools. Abbott threw his weight behind the effort to elect more pro-voucher Republicans and succeeded last year. SB 2 takes effect on Sept. 1, but the voucher program itself isn't expected to launch until the 2026-27 school year.

House Bill 2 provides about \$8.5 billion in new money to public schools, as districts across the state tackle long-running challenges following years of stagnant funding. From this pot, more than \$4 billion will go toward raising educator's pay. The additional dollars will also be used for educator preparation, special education, safety requirements and early childhood learning. A significant part of the law activated immediately, while another big chunk will take effect on Sept. 1. Some will roll out in future years.

Senate Bill 10 requires the visible display of the Ten Commandments on donated posters that are at least 16 by 20 inches in public school classrooms, which are attended by around 5.5 million students in Texas. While supporters said Christian teachings are important to understanding American history, critics said this law undermines the separation of church and

law will compel school districts and local law enforcement to meet annually in order to assess their emergency operations plans, resources and capabilities. It will mandate law enforcement agencies and emergency medical service providers to complete training programs on how to respond to active shooters at primary and secondary schools. And following an actual shooting, these responders will also have to file a report detailing and evaluating their actions within several months to facilitate faster public access to information.

Senate Bill 7 will create a framework for funding water projects through the Texas Water Development Board and providing oversight over them, amid a broad effort to tackle the state's looming water crisis. Certain sections of the law would take effect in September 2027, if voters approve the constitutional amendment outlined by House Joint Resolution 7 in November. This ballot measure, if accepted, would allocate \$1 billion each year from the state's sales and use tax revenue to the Texas Water Fund between 2027 and 2047.

Senate Bill 15, which received mixed support from both parties, will allow for certain single-family homes to be built on smaller lots. In particular, the law will ban big cities from requiring these homes to sit on more than 3,000 square feet of land, if they are being constructed in a new subdivision that is at least five acres in size. This is a drop from the 5,000 to 7,500 square feet of land that are commonly required in Texas' largest cities — except for Houston — according to a Texas Tribune analysis. While some lawmakers were wary about interfering in local control over the issue, supporters said the change will allow cities to build more housing and keep costs down.

Senate Bill 17 will ban governments, companies and individuals who legally reside in China, North Korea, Russia and Iran from owning land and properties in Texas.

The governor also has the authority to add countries or entities to the list. The prohibition doesn't apply to U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The law's backers said this is about protecting resources and national security from hostile nations, while critics said SB 17 is discriminatory and will lead to racial profiling.

Senate Bill 33 will ban cities or counties from using their money to support residents seeking abortions outside Texas. The law followed Austin City Council's appropriation of \$400,000 last year to help such individuals, prompting lawsuits from Attorney General Ken Paxton and a former council member.

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SATURDAY, SEPT. 13 4:00 P.M. TO 12:00 A.M.

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY, SEPT 8-10 6:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.