9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at KC to honor aviation's first responders

Kilgore College will hold its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 11, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom on the Kilgore campus. Guests are asked to arrive by 9:45 a.m. The program will begin at 10 a.m. The ceremony will highlight the role of aviation's first responders and present a program placing attendees in the symbolic seats of passengers aboard the four flights involved in the attacks. The event will recognize those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as others who lost their lives in the years that followed.

"Kilgore College is proud to host this important remembrance," said Johnny Zackary, KC's associate dean of public safety. "It is our duty to honor the courage, sacrifice and resilience shown on that day, and to ensure that future generations never forget the impact of 9/11. The community is invited to attend this solemn event of reflection, unity and remembrance."

The ceremony is open to the public.





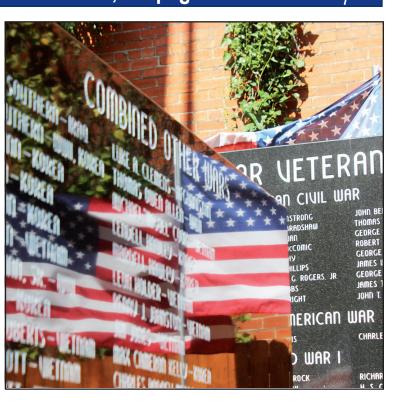




Gladewater Homecoming Queen Candidates for 2025 include Seniors - Ella Williams, Emma Williams, Ally Albright, and Peyton Hunter. Also in the homecoming court are: Freshmen - left - Tinsley Aldredge and Victoria Flanagan; GHS Sophomore - center - Ayanah Celestine and Lily Childress; and GHS Junior - right - Adyson Evans and Zoe Fossan. Homecoming will be held prior to Thursday's game against West Rusk at Jack V. Murphy Stadium. **Photos by Audra Thomas**



Union Grove announces their 2025 homecoming court: senior queen nominees Mallorie Cannon, Kaki Pharr and Natalie Woodard, junior Danica Vestal, sophomore Natalie Spruell, freshman Susanna Sturkie, prince Luke Woodfin and princess Emberlee Parsons. Homecoming events will be held Friday prior to the contest with Cushing at Glyn Johnston Stadium. **Photo by Charlotte Wright**



Half-a-dozen teenage suspects face Class A misdemeanor for house party

By James Draper

Whoever put out the original call on social media, six teenagers will answer for the scores that descended on an East Lake Drive home for an unapproved, underage house party seven weeks ago.

Gladewater Police Department is referring six juveniles to the Upshur County District Attorney's office this week. Each will face a charge of Class A Criminal Trespass of a Habitation after they allegedly drew about 100 teens from across the area to an unoccupied lake house Saturday, July 19.

The incident spawned multiple calls to 911, underage drinking and driving, a sprawling mess and someone being threatened with a handgun, which was abandoned on site when the suspect fled. Social media erupted when teenage attendees' pictures were posted to local feeds by the former homeowner.

GPD investigators aimed to bring in their final suspect Tuesday after coordinating with all the youths' parents and wrapping up the case for consideration by Upshur DA Billy Byrd.

"We're doing a referral on four additional juveniles right now. There are going to be a grand total of six that will be charged," GPD Chief Kyle Ready said Monday. "We don't have them all in yet, but we're in contact with the parents, and they're all coming in."

It wasn't the first (or last) illegal gathering of the type here or elsewhere in the area – organizers reportedly used Snapchat to blast out an invitation and price of admission.

GPD's investigators, Lt. Freddie Fitzgerald and Sgt. David Burrows, ultimately narrowed the broad field to a core group of teens, Ready confirmed. The early pool included adult suspects, as well, but weeks of interviews and leads culled the number.

"The further we dug, it turns out they were not the people who started the party," he said, just juveniles. "They've worked on this thing a month-and-a-half now. It's all culminated to this. We don't have any other leads, actually."

The home was on the market at the time of the party and has since sold while the investigation was still underway. Final consequences for the juvenile suspects are in the DA's hands.



Paige Gumm, left, visits with Kim Frederick of Longview, mother to 16-year-old Kyndall, one of three young cancer survivors who received donations from the Brock's Blessings charity in honor of Gumm's son, who died at 9-years-old following a battle with osteosarcoma.



Sixty teams pitch in for second annual Brock's Blessings baseball tournament

By James Draper

The Gladewater Youth Sports Complex was bursting at the seams Saturday and Sunday, overflowing with Brock's Blessings.

It was the second annual charity baseball tournament in honor of the youngster, who died at age 9 after being diagnosed with osteosarcoma three years before.

"His saying that he said throughout his journey was 'God's got this.' That's something we continue to say when we're giving back to others and we're praying with them throughout their journeys," said mom, Paige Gumm.

The tourney drew dozens of teams to town in Brock's memory to help kids in the midst of their own cancer

"I just want to give back to other families, just to help them, because I know the struggles they've been

through, because I've been through them myself."

Osteosarcoma was located in Brock's left humerus.

"We did limb salvage surgery at first but ultimately had to amputate his arm," Gumm said. It didn't slow down the budding ballplayer: "Brock played centerfield once his arm was amputated from the cancer." Last year's inaugural tournament was a success, she said, with 47 select teams descending on Gladewater's

ballpark. "This year we've grown to 60 teams," ranging from 7U to 13U. The furthest-travelled team came in from

The tournament was delayed Saturday morning due to weather, but things got underway as soon as possible Sept. 6, opening with a prayer and the U.S. National Anthem performed by Denver Thomas.

This year, the first pitch was thrown by Hagen Phillips, one of three childhood cancer survivors who received

donations from Brock's Blessings. Brock's brother, Brody, stepped in as catcher. This year's other honorees were Caston Stewart and Kyndall Frederick.

"We've helped throughout their cancer journeys," Gumm said. "I want to help as many people as possible in honor of my son. He was just adamant:

"God's got this."



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.

May we never forget ...

Just a few weeks ago our son Josh, our only child, was leading helibase attacks on three major wildfires out West. He is waiting now for his second assignment. In November he will travel with a national group of firefighting volunteers who will go to Kenya on a fire mission to train firefighters who have little training and

How this all started has deep roots in East Texas, in American tragedy, and in the character of our son and many more young people like him. Josh was a junior volunteer firefighter in high school. He enjoyed helping out our neighbors and he learned a

As a senior he was the Photo Editor for my high school journalism program. He won his fair share of state and national awards including being named to the ILPC All State Journalism Staff. On 9/11 in 2001, as I was teaching a class full of eager young minds, Josh ran from my staff room into my classroom shouting that a plane had flown into one of the World Trade Center Towers in New York. Every morning Josh watched the news as he worked on his photos. That day, he broke the news to White Oak High School.

Within minutes we were all watching the scars of American history being slashed into a generation's consciousness. It impacted many of them profoundly, including our precious son.

At Christmas a cousin was on a business trip to New York. She stopped an NYC firefighter, thanked him and told him eloquently about the impact their courage and sacrifice was having on young people all across this nation, including, specifically Josh. Whatever she said touched this man who had survived so much that he reached into his pocket and pulled out a small silver coin with an angel stamped on it. He turned to our cousin and said, "This angel was in my pocket that day. My Angel protected me. Give it to the kid in Texas to watch over him to do the same."

My child who had a journalism scholarship to TCU and a promised CNN Republican Presidential Convention internship chose instead to go to Stephen F. Austin University and become a Forester with a wild land firefighting specialization. He has fought fire all over America from mountains to marshland. I am often asked how I handle the danger he is in when he is on assignment. I pray ... a lot. I also know that he has an angel watching over him wherever he goes, whatever he does.

A hero is an ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances. We need to remember that. We all have the capacity to be heroic whether it is in the stairwell of a collapsing building, in a combat

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



Josh recently was on fire assignment in Idaho, surveying the fires from the air. Josh has had many angels waching over him over the years and now has his mother watching, as well.

zone, on a medical frontline during a pandemic, in a raging wildfire, or on the streets of our hometown. We all need an Angel in our pocket and we all need to honor and pray for those who serve us. More importantly, we all need to seek ways we can serve and to do it with humility and gratitude.

This 9/11 I continue to pray for the families who lost so much on that day whether it was at the Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon, or on a plane flown by terrorists and filled with everyday heroes. Many on 9/11 in 2001 gave their all and we honor their sacrifice and that of their families. We honor those who have fought in lands not their own for decades. We honor those who live a life of service and most humbly remember those who sacrificed all in that service.

"Greater love has no man than this..." John 15:13. May we never forget.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Second special session gaveled to a close

The second special session of the Texas Legislature ended last Thursday with a new congressional map, flood relief and safety measures but a stalemate on whether to ban or regulate THC. The Dallas Morning News reported that lawmakers approved most of the legislative priorities Gov. Greg Abbott listed for the special session.

In addition to those mentioned above, lawmakers made ivermectin an over-the-counter medication available in pharmacies, agreed to replace the annual STARR education test, authorized the Texas attorney general to prosecute election fraud, and further tightened the availability of mail-order abortion pills.

The original reason the first special session was called came after Abbott vetoed a ban on THC, the psychoactive ingredient in many hemp-derived products. Instead, the governor wanted lawmakers to come up with regulations on its sale. However, the Senate again passed a ban that went nowhere in the House.

"I'm proud of all of you," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick told senators before closing the session. "I know we didn't always agree on every issue or between parties or within a party, but everybody always was respectful to the other members on the floor, and I'm proud of you."

Patrick and Abbott remained at loggerheads concerning the THC ban while agreeing on nearly all the other agenda items in the special session.

The first special session went nowhere after Democratic lawmakers broke quorum by leaving the state to block passage of a new congressional redistricting plan. They returned for the second session, where a redistricting map that would likely give the GOP five additional congressional seats was passed on party lines. That map was quickly challenged in

In addition, lawmakers passed four bills requiring increased safety measures after the deadly Hill Country flooding in July.

GOP roll back voting bill they helped pass

A voting bill that allowed some voters to update their addresses on Election Day went into effect Sept 1. However, after an outcry by some Republicans, the Legislature during the second special session voted to undo that provision and sent the bill to the governor's desk.

The San Antonio Express-News reported the now-undone law affected voters who changed addresses within the same county. Abbott added the call to reverse the legislation after members of the State Republican Executive Committee and some conservative activists expressed concerns the change would lead to voter fraud.

State Rep. Matt Shaheen, R-Plano, authored both the original bill amendment adding the same-day provision and the bill last week to reverse it.

"A lot of the questions were raised during the convention of the elections administrators," Shaheen said. "So I took it upon myself and thought it would be prudent to reverse the amendment and then hold interim hearings and have all the different stakeholders come to the Capitol and work through all the different scenarios."

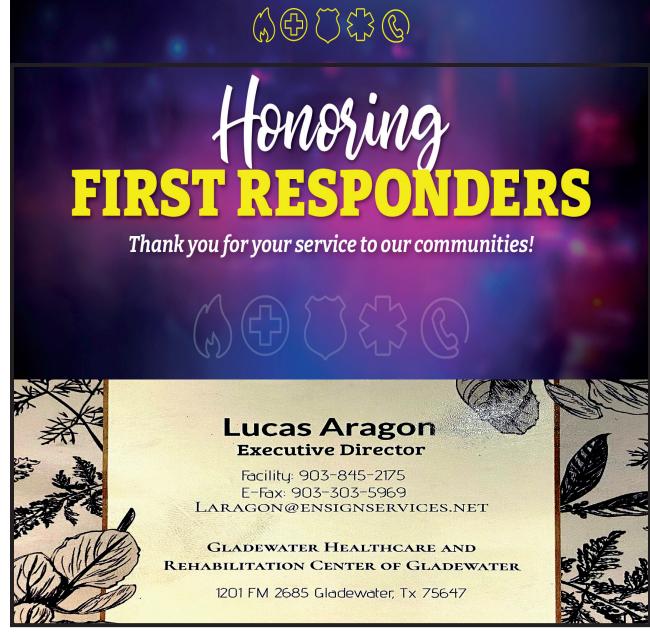
Cruz warns NASA risks losing ground to China

The United States is at risk of losing dominance in space exploration to China, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and a bipartisan group of senators warned last week. The Houston Chronicle reported that delays continued to plague NASA's planned mission to the moon. China plans to land on the moon by 2030, according to Cruz.

NASA's Artemis moon mission aims to put U.S. astronauts back on the moon by 2027. However, experts say that timeline is unlikely given various technical setbacks. Cruz said China aims to control space between the earth's atmosphere and the moon.

"Space is no longer reserved for peaceful exploration," Cruz said. "It is a strategic frontier with direct consequences for national security, economic growth, and technological leadership. Make no mistake: we are in a new space race with China.

President Donald Trump has proposed slashing NASA's \$24 billion annual budget by 24%.



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THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN # 2

Three words in the New Testament help us understand the nature and meaning of sin. Sin is <u>Lawless</u>ness. "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness" (1 Jn. 3: 4). Sin is translated from the Greek word "hamartia" and means "to miss the mark." The picture is of a target at which one is aiming, but misses. When we sin, we have failed to measure up to the standard and we have veered away from what is right (God's target) which He has set before us. Sin is not inherited, nor is one born a sinner, but it is a practice or behavior that we choose to do. Sin is not something that happens to man without a choice on man's part. Thus, whoever practices sin is a lawless person and by his sinful life he becomes a violator of the law for "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 Jn. 3: 4) ASV). As we said last week: All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3: 23). Iniquity refers to lawlessness or wickedness. The term "iniquity" in the Greek language means "without law." It is a rejection of the law or will of God and the substitution of the will of self. Transgression means to "overstep." It is a breach of law. Adam and Eve overstepped God's law when they are of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Romans 5: 12 says: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." 1 Tim. 2: 14 says: "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."

Sin is not something that happens to man without a choice on man's part. We can blame society, those around us, the circumstances of life, and a host of other factors in an effort to justify our sinful behavior, but, ultimately we are responsible for our sins. James wrote: Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts He any man; but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away (allured) of his own lusts (passions, desires) and enticed (beguiled). Then when lusts has conceived, it brings forth sin; and sin, when it is finished (has run its course), brings forth death" (Jas. 1: 13-15). Thus, man is drawn into sin when his own lusts and desires go unchecked and he seeks satisfaction. Therefore, James places the responsibility for sin squarely upon man! 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, Roughnecks win 2nd straight

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears opened up the home portion of their season as they hosted the New Diana Eagles at Jack V. Murphy stadium and it was a good one as they came away with a dominant 43-15 win.

The Bears won the coin toss and deferred to the second half so the Eagles got the ball to start. New Diana had a good drive going but turned it over on downs. But the Bears gave the ball right back when the fumbled. The Eagles took advantage and went down the field and punched it in to give New Diana a early 7-0 lead after the 1st quarter. But the Bears answered right back as on the first play of the 2nd quarter as QB Achilles Hess took it in for a 2 yard TD run to tie the game at 7. New Diana would again go down the field but stalled and a fake field goal was unsuccessful and Gladewater got the ball back. And just a few plays later, Hess found a wide open Aubry Floyd for a 27 yard TD pass and the Bears took a 14-7 lead. The Eagles took the ball right down the field but Gladewater's Maddox Vasquez intercepted Eagles QB Dejuan Johnson's pass and Gladewater took a 14-7 lead into the half.

The Bears offense picked right back up where it left off to open up the 3rd quarter as Carson Cooper broke off a 55 yard run that set up Hess finding Grafton Morgan for a 7 yard touchdown and it was quickly 21-7 Bears. Johnson was again intercepted by Vasquez and the Gladewater offense took no time add-

ing to their lead as Kayson Harris broke off a 21 yard TD run and the rout was on as it was 28-7 Bears. New Diana wouldn't lay down as they quickly marched down the field which was capped off when Johnson ran it in for a 15 yard TD run and the two point try was good making it a 28-15 game. But Gladewater pretty much put the game away when Carson Cooper found paydirt with a 3 yard TD run to make it 35-15 Bears.

Then the knockout blow when a Eagles punt was blocked in the endzone for a TD. The extra point snap was botched but scooped up for the two point conversion and a 43-15 lead and that ended up the final score. " Just a amazing effort from these kids tonight. We came out clicking on all cylinders in every facet and couldn't have asked for a better start at home. So so proud of everyone " said coach Jermaine Lewis. The Bears improve to 2-0 on the season and will be back at home again for week 3 when they host the West Rusk Raiders at the Jack. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

Ludlow leads 'Necks to win

The White Oak Roughnecks looked for a second straight 2-0 start as they had their home opener for the 2025 season as they hosted the Paul Pewitt Brahams at Roughneck stadium and they did just that as they came away with a 30-26

Quarterback Jaxsen Lud-

low had another great game as he went 15-25 for 200 yards and 2 touchdown passes. He had a even bigger game on the ground with 11 carries for 149 yards and 2 more touchdowns. Kenny Poul had 13 carries for 62 yards and Levi Sipes had 12 carries for 72 yards. Logan Ladwig had 4 catches for 29 yards and a touchdown, Cal Jester had a huge night through the air hauling in 7 catches for 86 yards and a touchdown. The Roughnecks improve to 2-0 on the season and will next be back on the road next when they head to Quitman. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

Lions grab win

It was a short but successful night for the Union Grove Lions football team as weather played havoc all night as they traveled to Cumby to take on the Cumby

The Lions jumped out to a 7-6 lead after 1 quarter but then the rains and bad weather came and the game was called after a long delay and the Lions got the 7-6 victory.

In the short night of action, Lions QB Bryce Porter was 8-8 for 107 yards. He also had 10 carries for 60 yards. Kohl Sirmans had the lone TD in the game for Union Grove as he had 6 carries for 32 yards. Through the air, Wrigley Roberts hauled in 5 passes for 56 yards. The Lions improved to 2-0 on the season and will next be back at home to host Cushing. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

ACROSS

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Roughneck Quarterback Jaxsen Ludlow scrambles eight yards for the go-ahead touchdown in the final two minutes, lifting White Oak past Paul Pewitt 30-26. Ludlow accounted for four scores, rushing for two touchdowns **Photo by Mike Peery** and throwing for two more.



Wrigley Roberts runs the ball in Union Grove's Sept. 5 game against Cumby. The Lions were up 7-6 when the game was called after halftime due to lightning. Photo by Olivia Dabreu

Volleyball roundup

The Gladewater Lady Bears wrapped up the non district portion of their schedule as they first headed to Hearts Bluff where they were swept 3-0 (25-11, 25-21, 25-19). They then made the trip to Overton to take part in the Overton Mustangs Tournament where they went 2-3. The Lady Bears are now 4-9 on the season and next will be in action when they open up district play with home matches with Tatum and Troup.

The White Oak Ladynecks continued their non district schedule as they hosted Gilmer and in a five set thriller, pulled out a 3-2 victory (25-20, 25-20, 24-26, 19-25, 15-12). They were scheduled to host Elysian Fields but do to a scheduling conflict, that game was cancelled. The Lady-Necks improve to 13-11 on the season and will wrap up their non district schedule when they host Bullard. Then head on the road to open district play at Sabine.

The Union Grove Lady Lions continued their non district portion of their schedule as they made the long trip to Waskom and came back with a hard fought 3-2 win (24-26, 25-14, 25-22, 23-25,15-11). That was followed by another road trip over to West Rusk where the Lady Lions fell 3-0 (25-21, 25-11, 25-16). Union Grove now sets at 7-11 and will next be in action as they continue with non district play as they host New Diana and Union Hill.







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45 Ranger/Astro leag. **TEXAS** 46 TXism: "_ bear it" **CROSSWORD** 47 TXism: " trade" (specialty) 49 Texas Davis by Charley & Guy Orbison Mountains park Copyright 2025 by Orbison Bros. caution: "Do 12 13 14 the wild animals" 52 TXism: "___ sack" 16 (burlap bag) 30 32 33 42 43 44 48 52 53 household elec. 54 Nebraska and 58 Oklahoma Indians 11 Texas City was first 55 face Louisiana home of U.S. First (2 wds.) Squadron 60

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15 Gulf tide receding

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center of Sharpstown scandals (init.) _ Park, Texas

in Bexar County 57 some warriors at 1874 "Battle of Adobe Walls"

See Answers On This Page

CITY OF GLADEWATER

FALL 2025 CLEAN UP

Saturday, October 11th from 8am - Noon E. Commerce Street, Gladewater, Texas 75647

JOIN TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteers Needed! Help us make a difference at the City-Wide Clean Up. Your time and effort will go a long way in keeping our community clean and beautiful-come lend a hand!



OBITUARY

JIM THOMPSON

Memorial services for Jim Thompson, 89, of Gladewater, Texas, will be held at 2:00 pm, Monday, September 1, 2025, in the Chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home. The family will

receive friends at 1:00 pm prior to the service.



Jim was born on October 8, 1935, to Andrew William Thompson and Lorene Rowe Thompson, and passed from this life on August 26, 2025, at home surrounded by his family.

Jim proudly served our country in the United States Air Force. He married Evelyn Brunner on November 23, 1966, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jim was a Baptist

minister at Stanley Union Church for over 20 years. He enjoyed spreading the word of God through pastoral visitations, teaching Sunday School, Bible studies, and mission trips. Jim was most proud of baptizing his grandchildren. Those left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Andrea

Briscoe (Scott), and Roxanne Piatt (Andrew Mitchell); 9 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Evelyn Thompson; son, James Allen Thompson; three brothers, and two sisters.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made to Stanley Union Church, 14 Kinsell Avenue West, Stanley, New Mexico, 87056.

Please visit Jim's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.



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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

Olde Tyme Baptist Church • 903-806-2411

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

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run 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. that

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tsandcrafts.com to down-

load a vendor application,

including standard rules and

Storytime set

brary in Gilmer will host two

activities for youngsters this

The Upshur County Li-

p.m. Sunday.

regulations.

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 third Town Hall Meeting.

Featuring Gladewater ISD Superintendent Rae Ann Patty and Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director 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 participants include Gladewater City Council members, City Manager Charlie Smith and more municipal personnel.

According to the organizers, "This Town Hall will begin with brief presentations, followed by a panel discussion format that will allow citizens to ask questions directly."

Planned discussion items include:

- A six-month progress report for the city
- · Ongoing challenges and 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 you are an integral part of Team Gladewater. The Mayor encourages everyone to be part of the conversation as we continue to move Gladewater forward."

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 Glade-

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 month.

"STEM--Make and Take," in which children ages 5-11 create an educational craft, is scheduled from 11 a.m.-12 noon Saturday, Sept. 20.

Those planning to attend it are asked to make reservations by calling the library at 903-843-5001 to ensure enough food is on hand.

The library is located at 702 W. Tyler, which is also Texas 154.



Gladewater Police Department Ofc. Dennis Jordan, Ofc. Elizabeth Chacon and Sgt. Investigator David Burrows assist a couple whose trailer came unhitched as they traveled southbound on Hwy. 271 toward Gladewater Municipal Airport Sept. 4. Photo by James Draper

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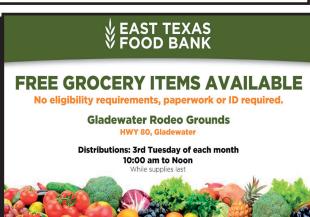
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 59)

SPECIALTY SHOPPE

SJR 59 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish two special funds in the state treasury to provide a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. The proposed amendment requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to manage the funds, including managing any investment activities related to the funds and making the funds available for use by the TSTC System. The proposed amendment authorizes the TSTC System Board of Regents to use amounts distributed by the Comptroller to the available fund to acquire land, construct and equip buildings and other permanent improvements, make major repairs and rehabilitations of buildings or other permanent improvements, acquire capital equipment, acquire library books and materials, make payment of the principal and interest due on any bonds or notes used to finance permanent improvements, or for any other purpose authorized by law. Under the proposed amendment, the TSTC System could not use the appropriated funds to construct, equip, repair, or rehabilitate buildings or other permanent improvements that are to be used for intercollegiate athletics or auxiliary enterprises.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 18)

SJR 18 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust. This prohibition would include a tax on the sale or transfer of a capital asset that is payable by an individual, family, estate, or trust selling or transferring the asset. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate of an ad valorem tax on property; a sales tax on the sale of goods or services; or a use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of goods or services.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The

constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 6pm.

Proposition Number 3 (SJR 5)

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the denial of bail pending trial for persons accused of certain criminal offenses. The proposed amendment would apply only to a person accused of committing one or more of the following offenses: murder; capital murder; aggravated assault if the person caused serious bodily injury to another, as defined by law, or the person used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by law, during the commission of the assault; aggravated kidnapping; aggravated aggravated robbery; sexual assault; indecency with a child; trafficking of persons; or continuous trafficking of persons. Under the proposed amendment, a person accused of one or more of these offenses must be denied bail pending trial if the attorney representing the state demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; or the attorney representing the state demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. A judge or magistrate who grants bail to a person accused of one or more of these offenses under the proposed amendment must set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court and ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. The judge or magistrate must also prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the justification for the grant of bail. The proposed amendment specifies that it may not be construed to limit any right a person has under other law to contest a denial of bail or to contest the amount of bail set by a judge or magistrate or to require any testimonial evidence before a judge or magistrate makes a bail decision with respect to a person to whom the amendment applies. A judge or magistrate who determines whether a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence exists under the proposed amendment shall consider the likelihood of the person's willful nonappearance in court; the nature and circumstances of the alleged

offense; the safety of the community,

law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense; and the criminal history of the person. A person is entitled to be represented by counsel at a hearing described by the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 7)

HJR 7 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to allocate and transfer funds to accounts administered by the Texas Water Development Board. The proposed amendment also allows the legislature to suspend allocations of funds to these accounts during a state of disaster declared under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."

Proposition Number 5 (HJR 99)

HJR 99 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt animal feed held by the owner for retail sale from ad valorem taxation. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."

Proposition Number 6 (HJR 4)

HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from enacting a law that imposes an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on a securities transaction conducted by a registered

securities market operator. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition of a general business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on insurance premiums, a sales and use tax on tangible personal property or services, or a fee based on the cost of processing or creating documents. The proposed amendment would also not prohibit a change in the rate of a tax in

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions."

Proposition Number 7 (HJR 133)

HJR 133 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to give surviving spouses of United States armed services veterans a property tax exemption on their residence homestead. The proposed amendment would exempt all or part of the property tax on the spouse's residence homestead if the veteran died from a condition or disease presumed under federal law to be service-related. The exemption would apply only to a surviving spouse who has not remarried since the veteran's death. proposed amendment appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected."

Proposition Number 8 (HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on a deceased individual's estate because of the individual's death, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax. The proposed amendment would prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust, including generation-skipping transfers, if the tax was not in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the legislature from

(CONTINUED)





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PUBLIC NOTICE (CONTINUED)

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

(CONTINUED)

increasing the tax rate or expanding the applicability to new parties of a transfer tax that was in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate or applicability of a general business tax measured by business activity; a tax on the production of minerals; a tax on the issuance of title insurance; a tax in existence on January 1, 2016; a tax on the transfer of a motor vehicle by gift; or an ad valorem tax on property.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent's property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift."

Proposition Number 9 (HJR 1)

HJR 1 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the amount of tangible personal property held or used for the production of income that the legislature could exempt from property taxes to \$125,000 rather than the minimum amount sufficient to recover the costs of property tax administration.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income."

Proposition Number 10 (SJR 84)

SJR 84 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to create a temporary property tax exemption for the appraised value of an improvement to a person's residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire. The proposed amendment authorizes the legislature to prescribe the duration of the exemption and to establish additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely

destroyed by a fire."

Proposition Number 11 (SJR 85)

SJR 85 proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from property taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is 65 years of age or older or a person who is disabled from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled."

Proposition Number 12 (SJR 27)

SJR 27 proposes a constitutional amendment to change the membership and procedures of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC). The proposed amendment would: (1) change the membership of the SCJC so that it is composed of six judges appointed by the Texas Supreme Court and seven citizens appointed by the Governor who are at least 35 years old, with both groups of appointees requiring the consent of the Texas Senate to be confirmed; (2) restrict the SCJC's power to issue a private reprimand (or impose a requirement that the person obtain additional training or education) to a person who has not previously been issued a private reprimand and in response to a complaint that does not allege criminal behavior; (3) require the SCJC to find that a person engaged in willful or persistent conduct that is clearly inconsistent with the proper performance of a judge's duties, or determine that there is other good cause, before issuing a public admonition or punishment; (4) expand the SCJC's power to order suspension without pay as punishment; (5) give the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court the power to select the appellatecourt justices to serve on a tribunal to review the SCJC's recommendation for the removal or retirement of a person from office, without any requirement that each court of appeals designate one of its members for consideration by the chief justice; and (6) direct the Texas Supreme Court and Governor to appoint SCJC members to initial terms of two, four, and six years starting on January 1, 2026, with the succeeding terms to be six years, so that upon completion of the initial terms, the SCJC will be composed of members serving staggered six-year

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct."

Proposition Number 13 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory homestead exemption from property taxation for general elementary and secondary public school purposes from \$100,000 to \$140,000 of the market value of the residence.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000."

Proposition Number 14 (SJR 3)

SJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to establish a new state agency, the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT). The proposed amendment would create the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to be administered by DPRIT. Under the proposed amendment, DPRIT would be responsible for awarding financial grants for research on and the prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders. The proposed amendment would also authorize the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to transfer \$3 billion from the state general revenue fund to the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and

prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue."

Proposition Number 15 (SJR 34)

SJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to affirm that a parent has the responsibility to nurture and protect the parent's child and the corresponding fundamental right to exercise care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to make decisions concerning the child's upbringing.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children."

Proposition Number 16 (SJR 37)

SJR 37 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that only United States citizens are allowed to vote in Texas elections.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

Proposition Number 17 (HJR 34)

HJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt from property taxation, in counties that border the United Mexican States, the portion of a real property's assessed value that arose from the installation or construction of border security infrastructure and related improvements. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to define "border security infrastructure" and prescribe additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements."



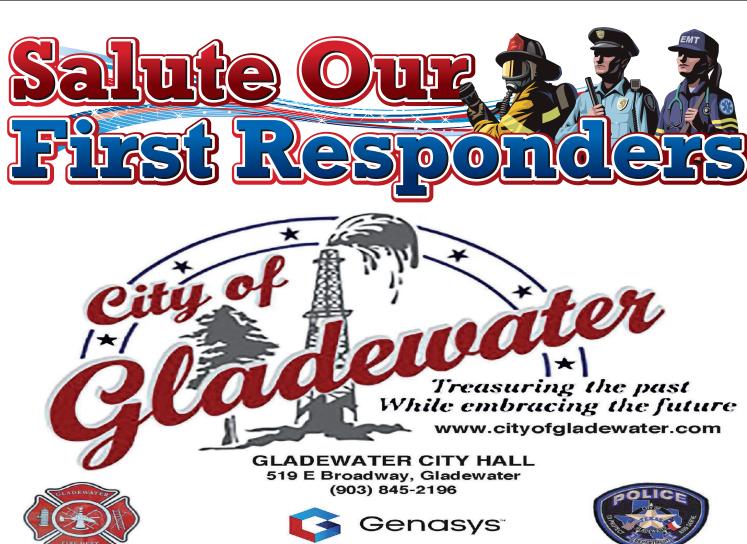
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City Manager



For the reporting period of September 1st through September 7th, 2025, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 226 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Suspicious Activity, Vehicle Driving Complaints, Criminal Mischief, Disturbances, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Five traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period; no reported injuries.

The White Oak Police made one arrest during this reporting period:

Jonathan Radford, 32, of Big Sandy, for Driving While Intoxicated and Possession of Drug Parapher-

Four separate and unrelated cases were presented to the Gregg County District Attorney for prosecution:

-Driving While Intoxicated

-Assault Causes Bodily

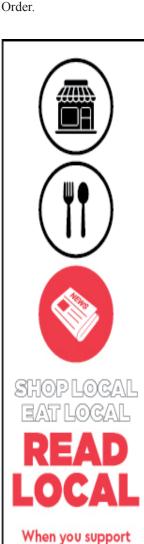
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-Violating bond or Protec-

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-Assault Causes Bodily Injury, Family Violence, and Violating bond or Protective Order







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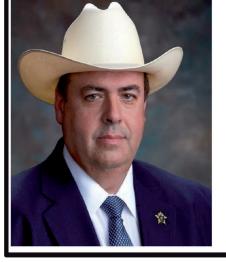
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Maxey Cerliano Gregg County Sheriff









Easy go, easy come back

By James Draper

There's no easy fix for the foundation beneath 500 W. Upshur Ave. Ownership aims to rebuild from the ground up and get E-Z Mart back in business.

"It wasn't that long ago they put new tanks and everything in," says Gladewater Building Inspector Al Harrison.

The degradation of the base under the property forced condemnation of the building, and demolition's in the works.

"The storm drain underneath it has collapsed," Harrison confirmed, and the floor is following a suit. "Right now they're doing soil samples and stuff like that, the preliminary work to demolish."

The business is currently addressed as 400 W. Upshur Ave. - Gregg County Appraisal District lists the property as 500. Per GCAD, the store was built in 1973 and is currently owned by Texarkana-based Jey Investments Ltd.

The lease on the property lasts through 2035, Harrison reported, and the developers aren't taking the collapse sitting down.

"They don't want to pay for an empty lot, so they're going to tear it down and put in a new store," he said. "They gotta pay their lease whether the store's there or not. Why not put a store there and make some money?"





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Upshur grand jury indicts man for manslaughter

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury last Thursday indicted a man on a manslaughter charge stemming from a 2023 incident in which his pickup fatally struck a woman as she escorted a child to a legally-stopped Big Sandy school bus, officials said.

Jimmy Lee Hewitt, 49, of Mendenhall, Miss., was freed on \$150,000 bond in connection with the Dec. 13, 2023 mishap which killed Maryam Asafarri Marsh, also known as Maryam Jones, officials said.

The victim, 44 and of Big Sandy, was pronounced dead at the scene on Texas 155 about 200 feet north of the intersection with Mulberry Road, the Texas Department of Public Safety said. The site is north of Big Sandy.

District Attorney Billy Byrd said Monday that Hewitt is charged with "recklessly disregarding" the bus, which Byrd said had its caution lights flashing and its "stop" sign out.

Hewitt, then of Newbern, Ala., topped a hill in a 2017 Dodge Ram and disregarded the red stop lights on the

bus, DPS Sgt. Chris Williamson said at the time.

The victim was crossing the roadway when struck, Williamson said.

Hewitt was freed from Upshur County Jail in Gilmer the next day on \$150,000 bond.

The child, who wasn't identified in the DPS accident report, was apparently not injured in the 6:37 a.m. incident, Williamson said.

The indictment against Hewitt was among 23 the grand jury returned last Thursday, Byrd said.



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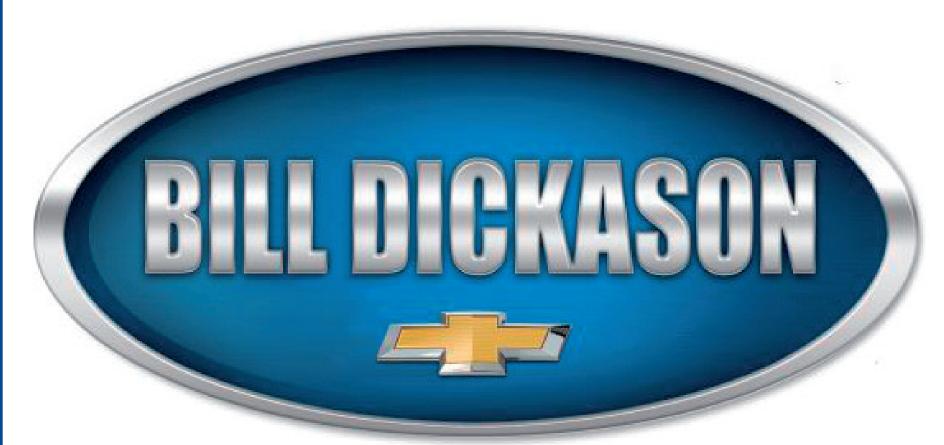
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Jimmy Purcell, City Coordinator











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Gladewater ISD's FFA crew had another successful weekend, taking goats, pigs, and heifers (oh my!) to the East Texas State Fair. According Gladewater FFA, "We had a great day at the East Texas Fair heifer show today. All the cattle placed well," with awards ranging from 4th to 1st. "We also won the Mary Prudhomme Good Herdsman Award for keeping our cattle stalls clean during the show. Very proud of these students." In addition to bringing home the Beef Heifer Herdsmanship Award Sept. 5, at the Pewitt Jackpott Sept. 6, Ty Richev earned **Champion Intermediate** Showman with 1st and 2nd place alongside Bailey Shico, Senior Showmanship finalist, with a 1st place and reserve champion Gray Brahman. **Brody** Vickery notched a first place, and Connor Thompson netted a second.

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