

PAWS helps shelter look out for animal population

By James Draper

Some of Gladewater’s four-legged locals will be easier to ID in the future, thanks to the free microchip clinic for Gregg County pets Sept. 21 at Gladewater City Hall.

The chipping event was spearheaded by Longview Animal Care & Adoption Center with help from the volunteers of Longview PAWS, Pets Are Worth Saving.

“Our mission is to raise awareness in our community of the shelter’s immediate and long-term needs, fundraise for the benefit of the shelter animals, recruit volunteers and new supporters, facilitate donation drives, implement community outreach efforts, and serve as an animal welfare resource for the residents of Gregg County.”

Saturday’s free event was part of the ‘PAWS & Effect Project’ encompassing community outreach initiatives to enhance the lives of animals in Gregg County.

“Every dollar donated directly supports these vital programs,” according to the group, “helping animals lead happy, healthy lives while reducing unwanted and stray populations in our community.”

Log on to longviewpaws.org for more information or email longviewpaws@gmail.com to learn more and contribute.



Animal advocate Brooke Fritz displays one of the tiny microchip IDs being implanted in local pets at no cost Sept. 20 at Gladewater City Hall.



White Oak’s Tyson McKinney (5) and Cal Jester (10) celebrate McKinney’s 48-yard touchdown grab from quarterback Jaxsen Ludlow during the Roughnecks’ 69-6 rout of Queen City on Friday night at Roughneck Stadium.
(See more on Page 3.) Photo by Mike Peery

Gladewater Town Hall meeting features city, school, GEDCO Oct. 7

Mark your calendars (again).

After an initial date mix-up, the next Mayor’s Town Hall event is, in fact, set for Tuesday, Oct. 7, beginning at 6 p.m. at Gladewater High School.

“All of our team will be there,” Mayor Brandy Flanagan told audience members at the city council’s regular meeting last week. In addition to city staffers and officials standing by to field questions, “What’s exciting about this one is we’ll also be joined by the new superintendent of the school along with our EDC director.”

Gladewater ISD Supt. Rae Ann Patty marks ten months in her post in October. Gladewater Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Anna Conlan is wrapping up her first year on the job.

It’s Flanagan’s third town hall event. She and her council colleagues are eager to share the podium – city, school, EDC.

“Just really highlighting how all these entities are working together to be able to do things quicker,” Flanagan said. “Please come out. There will be open discussion there,” with fewer restrictions on the elected officials than they experience in their typical monthly sessions.

“It is very much interactive. There will be panel discussions where you’re able to ask any question that you would like and we are there to answer them for you.”

For more information, contact Gladewater City Hall at 903-845-2196.



RAEANN PATTY
GISD
SUPERINTENDENT



BRANDY J. FLANAGAN
MAYOR



ANNA CONLAN
GEDCO EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council Awards \$21.2 Million, 109 Grants to Combat Statewide Opioid Crisis

AUSTIN — Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock today announced the Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council (OAFC or the Council) has voted to award 109 grants totaling \$21.2 million to entities across Texas responding to the opioid crisis.

This vote marks a major accomplishment for the program.

“Today represents a significant milestone,” said Hancock, who chairs the Council. “For the first time, the Council has awarded grants to communities in every region of our state. We look forward to seeing how these resources will change lives, as local organizations put them to work supporting individuals and families impacted by the opioid crisis across Texas.”

These funds were made available through the Short-term Community-based Opioid Recovery Effort (CORE) grant opportunity, which allocates the funding to each of the 20 Regional Healthcare Partnerships (RHP) in Texas.

OAFC awarded grants to proposals that aligned with Council-approved strategies in the following categories: treatment and coordination of care, prevention and public safety, recovery support services, and workforce development and training. This grant opportunity is for short-term projects, and the maximum grant award is \$250,000 or 20 percent of the total funds

available in each region. Once the OAFC finalizes grant agreements, it will distribute the funds on a reimbursement basis.

A list of entities receiving awards can be found on the Comptroller’s website.

“I am honored, as part of the Council, to support organizations across the state that are working tirelessly to confront the opioid crisis,” said Dr. Pedro Fernandez, a member of the Council. “By awarding these grants, we are empowering communities, expanding access to lifesaving care and building the capacity needed to bring hope and healing to the Texans most affected — a central goal of the Council’s mission.”

The Texas Legislature formed the OAFC in 2021 to ensure money recovered through the joint efforts of the state and its political subdivisions from statewide opioid settlement agreements is allocated fairly and spent to remediate the opioid crisis using efficient, cost-effective methods. The OAFC is made up of 13 appointed experts and administered by Hancock, who serves as the non-voting presiding officer.

For more information about the work of the OAFC, including settlement agreements and other related documents, go to the Comptroller’s website.

City of Gladewater honors former mayor, first lady’s ongoing gifts to community

By James Draper

“Tonight we have the privilege of recognizing two people whose generosity and love for Gladewater have touched nearly every department of our city.”

When Mayor Brandy Flanagan began her remarks honoring John Paul and Beverly Tallent Sept. 18, the couple’s total donations to the City of Gladewater in the past five years alone stood at more than \$155,000.

By the time the presentation was finished, the tally had grown by another \$10,000.

“Beyond the dollar amount,” Flanagan said, “their gifts present a legacy of care, generosity and dedication to the City of Gladewater.

From \$5,000 for new carpet at City Hall, \$8,500 for a new ceiling and flooring for Gladewater police and fire, \$10,000 for Lee-Bardwell Library to seven Briar Wood lots valued at \$105,000 to extend Everett Park for the sake of a new dog park, the contributions add up quickly. They’re ongoing, though, such as through the annual Thanksgiving dinners the couple funds for city personnel.

“John Paul and Beverly Tallent have faithfully invested in projects that strengthen our community, support our employees and enrich the lives of our citizens,” Flanagan said. “They come tonight bearing more,” including another \$5,000 donation dedicated to the developing dog park, “ensuring that future growth and enjoyment

Continued on Page 7



Annual Arts & Crafts a big success

The Broadway School grounds exploded with craft and color over the weekend as scores of artisans and patrons descended on the 52nd annual Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival. Spearheaded by Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, the event drew vendors and participants from across the region for a wide assortment of handmade goods.

Photos by James Draper



Gladewater Mayor Brandy Flanagan (left) presents a plaque to John Paul & Beverly Tallent Sept. 18 “in grateful appreciation for decades of dedicated service and support to the City of Gladewater and our citizens.”



OPINION/COMMENTARY

...it's just life

Life in the fast lane is too fast...and a little bumpy. Last Sunday Jim's step-dad fell and dislocated a finger. Our angel of mercy nurse practitioner daughter-in-heart took him to the ER. She didn't want us exposed to COVID if it could be avoided. On Tuesday Jim's mom fell and broke her hip. I spent the next four days at the ER and hospital. Now she is in rehab and recovering nicely.

Daughter-in-heart is a hospitalist with a heavy case load and a much clearer understanding of the dangers of COVID-19 than the typical Facebook expert. So all I am going to say is, wear a flipping mask and keep your hands clean. I have personally known three people who have died from it. And do NOT give me that "underlying condition" garbage. People live a LONG time with underlying conditions when not exposed to DEADLY viruses.

On Saturday our son went to California for a 2-to-3 week fire assignment. He will be managing helitack (helicopter) aviation on one of the big fires. This is his calling and he is passionate about what he does, just as his precious wife is called to a medical career, just as I was called to teach and my sweetheart to journalism. Callings drive us. Love motivates us.

I planned to go to my childhood home on the ranch last week and troubleshoot stuff I have had on the back burner for far too long. This Friday I was supposed to be headed to Lubbock to surprise my Mom for her 93rd birthday. But I can't after possible exposure in the hospital. And by the way, my brilliant medical doctor who is a former high school journalism student of mine said the COVID fast test is extremely unreliable. Daughter-in-heart agrees 100 percent. Just sayin'.

So here is what I have learned in the last week or so: My son chose not only a wonderful wife who is gifted at what she does, he chose the daughter I cherish. My son is courageous, smart, funny and driven to

The Best of
Suzanne
Bardwell



make a difference. I knew all of that already, but to say I am proud of him pales in light of his service.

The staff at Christus GSMC is phenomenal almost to a person whether they are delivering meals, cleaning, nursing or in transport. Gifted orthopedic surgeon Dr. Littlejohn ain't no slouch either. The Christus spiritual support is not surprising, but it most certainly is uplifting.

And, I know with every fiber of my being that hot, hot baths are never ever to be taken for granted...especially after five days. I truly am thankful for the gift of hot water and my spa tub.

Finally, I am homesick for black dirt, front porches and coffee, cattle at early evening grazing near the house. Life changes. Our lifestyle changes. We may not change as much, at least not on the inside. I will get to the ranch. I will get out to see my Mom and West Texas family in Lubbock. And it will be the right time when it happens.

When I look at the last week I see how good life really is. Family to love and support and encourage us. Family to help carry the load. People who care...whether they are pushing a mop or a syringe. And the sunsets out our west facing hospital room window were phenomenal. A reminder, along with the prayers over the intercom that there is a plan, there is peace in the midst of chaos and there most definitely is love.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of all the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Gary Borders
Capital Highlights



DPS officers arrest thousands of undocumented immigrants

In an operation being called "Lone Star 2.0," more than 3,000 undocumented immigrants have been arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety officers this year, according to records obtained by The Texas Tribune. As illegal border crossings plunge, state police are shifting their energies toward aiding the Trump administration's mass deportation effort.

From late January through early September, DPS recorded 3,131 arrests by specialty teams created at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott and previously unreported. Nearly all those arrests were for allegedly violating federal immigration laws, a role once performed exclusively by federal authorities.

"Operation Lone Star 2.0 is underway statewide — with DPS personnel working to combat and interdict criminal activity with a nexus to the border," DPS spokesperson Sheridan Nolen said in an email.

Only the federal government has the authority to enforce immigration violations. State and local police cannot arrest someone solely for being undocumented without agreements made with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the agencies under its umbrella, The Tribune reported.

Unlike the original Lone Star initiative along the border, DPS officials have remained tight-lipped about its deportation efforts in the state's interior.

Nearly half of Texas counties are maternal care deserts

A recent report concludes that 47% of Texas counties are "maternity care deserts, The Dallas Morning News reported. The report from the nonprofit March of Dimes concludes those counties have no obstetric providers, birth centers, hospitals with obstetric units, and no OB-GYNs or family doctors who practice obstetrics. Further, another report indicates that 93 of the state's 160 rural hospitals do not have labor and delivery units.

Shortages of obstetric care occur throughout the state, regardless of geography, though rural areas are most affected. As a result, rural mothers are at much higher risk of death than mothers in urban areas. In some areas, maternal death rates in rural areas are nearly double the rates of urban areas.

The Texas Legislature approved more than \$300 million in funding for rural health care in hopes of boosting rural hospitals.

"Anything in the positive helps," said Dr. Kia Parsi, executive director of Texas A&M's Rural and Community Health Institute,"but we are not at the point where we have stabilized rural maternal health care."

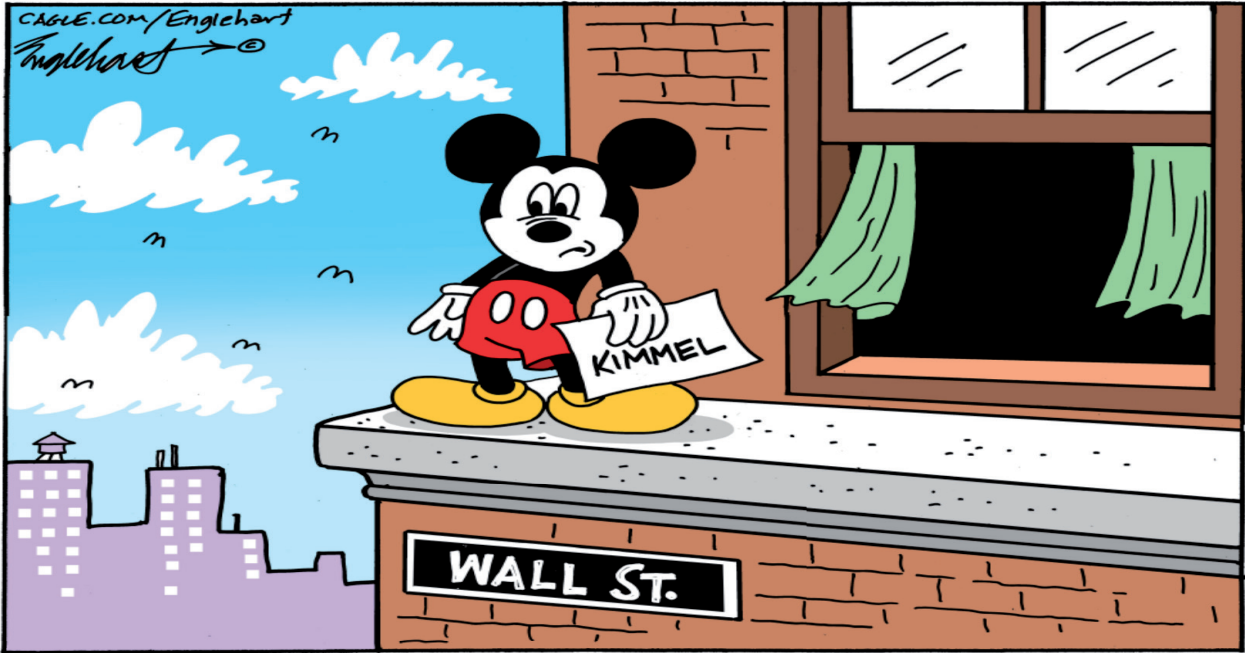
Media organizations want Paxton divorce records unsealed

Eight Texas news organizations are asking a state judge to unseal records in the divorce case of Attorney General Ken Paxton and his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney.

Lawyers for the news organizations argue that the Paxtons are both public officials, the Houston Chronicle reported. Hearst Newspapers, owners of the Chronicle and several Texas newspapers, is one of the groups suing. They argue that the public has a legitimate interest in information regarding allegations of adultery and requests to disproportionately divide the couple's property.

"The public has a compelling and legitimate interest in understanding the conduct of these public officers, the nature and extent of assets held by these long-serving public officers, and any allegations of fault, misconduct, or abuse of trust—particularly where such issues may bear on the performance of official duties, the ethical obligations of office, or AG Paxton's service in current or future public office," reads the filing by Tyler J. Bexley and Joel W. Reese of law firm Reese Marketos, LLP.

Angela Paxton filed for divorce in July after 38 years of marriage, citing adultery as the reason. The case was sealed by a Collin County judge at her request. Ken Paxton is running in the GOP primary next March against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.



Global Markets

For much of the past decade, the US stock market has dramatically outperformed its global counterparts. A major reason is the emergence and dominance of the US technology sector and the rapid expansion of "mega-cap" companies such as Alphabet (Google), Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, Tesla, and Nvidia. However, there are signs that international equities may be making a comeback.

Thus far this year, international stocks are enjoying higher returns than those of US firms by some measures. This phenomenon has not been limited to a single region, as numerous markets have shown impressive gains. Historically, the performance leader has swung from the US to the rest of the world and back multiple times, and several key factors are contributing to this current shift.

One reason is the high values of US stocks, particularly in the technology sector, which have been trading at a significant premium compared to international equities. Price-to-earnings ratios for US stocks have been higher for quite a while. In fact, the valuation gap is the widest that it has been in decades. As a result, other major markets are becoming a more attractive proposition for value-seeking investors.

In addition, many countries began easing up on monetary policy before the United States. The Federal Reserve has not yet reduced interest rates this year (following three moves in 2024), while central banks elsewhere (particularly in Europe) have implemented cuts. Much of this pattern stems from the potential inflationary effects of tariffs and the resilience of domestic growth. Nonetheless, this approach has put US economic prospects and corporate earnings at a comparative disadvantage.

Another factor is that, while US market strength has been

Dr. Ray
Perryman
THE ECONOMIST



highly concentrated in relatively few technology-oriented stocks, other sectors, such as financials and industrials, are now showing some momentum. These segments are more heavily represented in international markets, thus enhancing the attractiveness of global investments.

Despite the performance of international stocks, investors have been slow to shift until recently. There is growing acknowledgment of the risks associated with concentration in the US market due to high valuations and the importance of a small number of firms to overall returns. Additionally, US firms are affected by various domestic policy issues which have brought unprecedented uncertainty and notable volatility of late (though many nations face significant challenges).

International markets are gaining significant ground due to more attractive valuations, favorable monetary policy, and a different mix of companies. The underlying driver of stock markets is expected firm profitability which is in turn dependent on economic conditions and innovation. While the US equities markets will remain the gold standard, there are definitive signs that global dynamics are shifting. The coming months should be quite interesting to watch. 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.




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THE SERIOUSNESS OF SIN #4

What is needed to solve the problem of sin? Our worst-case scenario is that man has sinned and stands condemned (*Rom. 3: 23*). The penalty is physical death on earth (*Heb. 9: 27*) and spiritual death as everlasting punishment for sin in eternity (*Matt. 25: 46; Isa. 59: 1-2*). This being true, is there any hope for man?

Search as we may, we will find that money and wealth are not enough to take care of the problem of sin. The apostle Peter wrote: *"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty (aimless) life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God"* (1 Pet. 1: 18). [New Living Translation](#). While money and wealth can be a great tool for good if it is used wisely, God who owns all things does not need our money and will not receive it as a bribe nor a ransom for our soul.

We also learn that the works of man's own righteousness are insufficient to pay the price for sin. Titus 3: 5 says: *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit."* [The New Testament in Modern English](#) has *"Not by virtue of any moral achievements of ours."* Man's works, however sincere will not take away sin. But still, many still believe that man can save himself. This is one of the delusions of the "New Age" philosophy. It teaches that salvation comes not from without (someone else coming to our rescue) but from within (as we discover ourselves and our own resources. So *"Look unto yourself"* Shirley MacLaine urges us. *"Explore yourself, for all the answers are within yourself."* In her book which is revealingly titled *"Going Within,"* she writes that *"The New Age is all about self-responsibility, i.e. tasking responsibility for everything that happens, since the only source is ourselves."*

Old Testament animal sacrifices cannot solve the sin problem. Though they were accepted under the Law of Moses, such were not enough to rescue man from his sin problem Heb. 10 :4 says: *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins."* If something is not possible then it is impossible! But consider this: It is just as impossible for man to achieve salvation from sin by the *"five pillars of Islam,"* or, by *"Hindu resolutions or renunciation,"* or, by *"Buddhist ethics,"* or, by the nuances of the *"New Age philosophy,"* or by the teaching of *"Joseph Smith, Jr."*

What then, is the answer for man's sin-problem? We will address this next week. Stay tuned. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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Sports roundup

Bears slam Panthers, ‘Necks win big

By Tyler Sutton

It was another beautiful night at Jack V. Murphy stadium as the Gladewater Bears closed out their non district portion of their schedule by hosting the Spring Hill Panthers. And it got ugly quick and the Bears never looked back as they dismantled the Panthers 56-7.

The Panthers won the toss and deferred to the second half so the Bears got the ball first and went right down the field with a 7 play drive that was capped off when Tra Watts punched it in for a 7 yard TD run. They then went for two and were successful and just like that it was 8-0 Gladewater. After a Spring Hill 3 and out, their punt was blocked and the Bears had great field position and took advantage when Aubry Floyd took it in for a 10 yard TD run and got the two again and it was 16-0 Bears. After a Panthers turnover on downs, Gladewater again took advantage to start the 2nd quarter when Floyd took it again once again, this time from 6 yards out and it was 23-0 Gladewater. After yet another punt from Spring Hill, the Bears offense went to work again when Tra Watts found the end zone for a 3 yard TD and the blowout was on as it was 30-0 Bears.

Gladewater would add to that lead one more time before the half when Achillies Hess found Jakobe Crosby for a 6 yard TD pass and it was 36-0 Gladewater at the half.

The Bears picked up where they left off to begin the 3rd quarter when Kayson Harris broke free for a 40 yard TD run and it was 42-0 Gladewater. After a Panthers fumble, Harris again found a hole and took it the distance for a 42 yard TD run and it was 49-0 Bears. The Panthers finally got on the board early in the 4th quarter to end the shutout and made it a 49-7 game. The Bears would cap the scoring when Ethan Alvarez took it in for a 3 yard TD run and that was the game at 56-7. “We played as good as could possibly be asked tonight.” “All sides of the ball was clicking and it was awesome to see.” “Perfect way to end non district and now we move on to district play next week” said coach Lewis. The Bears improve to 3-1 on the season and will begin district play with a road trip to Jefferson. Kick off is at 7 PM.

Roughnecks nail Queen City, 69-6

The White Oak Roughnecks wrapped up their non district schedule as they

hosted Queen City. And it wasn’t much of a contest as White Oak dismantled QC 69-6. Kenny Poul carried eight times for 63 yards and scored three times for White Oak. Jaxsen Ludlow completed 5 of 11 passes for 103 yards and three touchdowns, rushed for 76 yards and two scores and caught a pass. Levi Sipes had seven carries for 48 yards and a TD. Tysen McClain caught two passes for 41 yards and two TDs. Tyson McKinney hauled in one pass for 42 yards and a score, and Logan Ladwig filled the stat sheet with two carries for 67 yards, two catches for 22 yards, a blocked punt, an interception and a fumble recovery. Poul and Branton Wood recovered fumbles. Jose Garcia recorded a sack, and Angel Mejia and Cameron Venable intercepted passes with Mejia returning his for a touchdown. The Roughnecks improve to 4-0 and will begin district play next as they host Atlanta. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

The Union Grove Lions made the long trip to Waskom to kick off district play against the Wildcats and it didn’t go as they wanted as they fell 54-21. After falling behind 14-0, the Lions offense woke up when Brycen Porter found Carter Cooper wide-open for a 16-yard catch and run touchdown to cut Waskom’s lead to 14-7. After another quick Wildcats score, Union Grove responded after Kohl Stevens went untouched for a 16-yard run



Jose Garcia disrupts the Queen City quarterback’s release, leading to an interception by teammate Cameron Venable in White Oak’s dominant 69-6 victory over the Bulldogs on Friday night at Roughneck Stadium.

Photo by Mike Peery

to cut the lead to 21-14. But it was all Waskom after as their offense continued to go up and down the field. Union Grove did find the end

zone one more time when Porter found Cooper for a nine-yard touchdown reception to cut Waskom’s lead to 40-21. The Lions fall to 3-1

and 0-1 I district play and will next have their district home opener when they host the Hawkins Hawks. Kickoff is at 7 PM.



Volleyball roundup ...

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Lady Bears volleyball team continued district play as they headed to West Rusk and they fell in 3 sets (25-11, 25-5, 25-6). That was followed up by a historic night as the Lady Bears picked up their first district win under head coach Madison Fite as they knocked off the Arp Lady Tigers 3-1 (8-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-19). Ki’Zyah and Adyson Evans combined for 21 kills to lead the Gladewater Lady Bears past Arp on Friday. Miles had 11 kills and three blocks and Evans 10 kills and three aces. Paytin Thompson finished with eight digs, Tinsley Aldridge two aces and 19 assists, Aryana Jones five kills, Janiah Strickland three digs and five assists, Kamila Turner two kills and two blocks, Ma’Khya Boone three aces and three digs, Khera Lincoln four digs, Akeelah Stevens one kill and Lilia Sanchez one ace. The Lady Bears are now 12-16 and 1-3 in district play and will next be in action with matches at home vs Sabine and the a rare bye

White Oak volleyball continued district play as they hosted state ranked Tatum and fell in 3 sets (25-13, 25-17, 25-9). White Oak was paced by Andee Bridges with 10 kills and seven digs and Addy Young with 16 assists. Londyn Baker had five kills and eight digs, Peyton Thompson eight receptions and seven digs and Carrington Watson four kills. That was followed by falling 3-0 to Troup (25-21, 25-20, 25-17). The LadyNecks sit now at 14-14 and 1-2 in district play. They will next be on the court when they travel to West Rusk and host Arp.

Union Grove Lady Lions volleyball had just a single match as they hosted Jefferson and they came away with a 3-2 hard fought win (23-25, 18-25, 25-15, 25-22, 15-12). They were scheduled to take on Elysian Fields but that match was cancelled. Union Grove is now 9-12 on the season and will next be in action when they open up district play with a home match with Hawkins and then make the short trip to Big Sandy.

Automotive Restoration Systems Inc. 903-295-8883

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Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m.-noon Thomas Cash, Owner

automotiverestorationsystems.com

ACROSS

- 1 Ottine, TX named from combining names of this man and his wife Christine
- 5 former Odessa AM country music radio station
- 6 ___stone County
- 7 TXism: “small fish in ___ pond”
- 8 Paul Newman Texas-based 1963 film
- 9 ___Angelo, TX
- 12 TX Los Lonely Boys sang Johnny Cash’s song “_ the Line”
- 17 TXism: “loud as boot heels ___ _ floor”
- 19 “Old Yeller’s” disease in TX Fess Parker film
- 21 a partnership of Texas wheeler dealer T. Boone Pickens (2 wds.)
- 22 these Texans didn’t didn’t hear about emancipation until “Juneteenth”
- 23 nonTexas oil producer: Saudi
- 28 opposed
- 29 TXism: “you’re barking up the wrong ___”
- 30 historical records
- 31 deception for gain
- 35 TX Janis Joplin backing group: “Full-___ Boogie Band”
- 36 abodes

- 42 Abilene’s Dyess AFB was once part of ___Air Command
- 44 TXism: “wipe the ___ clean” (erase)
- 46 not a stick shift
- 48 TXism: “critter”
- 49 dir. to Nacogdoches from Trinity

- 50 TXism: “does a cat have a climbing ___?” (yes)
- 51 TXism: “beats anything _ ___ saw”
- 52 Texas-based “Steak & ___”
- 53 TXism: “___ in the wool” (permanent)
- 54 TXism: “___ as a lap dog”
- 56 Colorado Indian
- 57 Bonnie & Clyde used to ___ Texas banks
- 58 TXism: “busier than a one-armed ___ cook”

DOWN

- 1 Jimmy Johnson’s first head coach job (2 wds.)
- 2 Valley newspaper
- 3 TXism: “___ _ whipped pup”

TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison Copyright 2025 by Orbison Bros.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

P-1758

- 4 TX Gene Tierney was married to this Cassini
- 9 TXism: “___ some away” (save)
- 10 Texas Stadium surface (2 wds.)
- 11 Beatty in “Big Bad John” with TX Jimmy Dean
- 12 TXism: “exciting as a fire at the ___ office”
- 13 producer of 2013 “Lone Ranger” film (2 wds.)
- 14 TXism: “busy as _ tender on payday”
- 15 ___ Oak, TX
- 16 former Nacogdoches AM and FM

- 32 TX actor Rip (init.)
- 33 Junction High class
- 34 Longhorn univ.
- 36 TXism: “___ and haw”
- 37 practical joke (2 wds.)
- 38 TXism: “wouldn’t ___ biscuit” (tame dog)
- 39 TX Duvall’s “Oyl”
- 40 titled
- 41 Lone ___ State
- 43 TXism: “I aim _” (intend)
- 45 ___ Paso, TX
- 47 TX Howard was ___ of “Conan the Barbarian”
- 48 General’s assistant
- 55 TX Rodriguez hit: “Pass ___ _”

See Answers On Page 4A

GPD Activity Report					
CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
9/15/25	FIRE DEPT	20254511	5:49		305 N COTTON COTTON
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20254513	10:08		1206 E MARY MARY
	EMS	20254514	10:14		220 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254517	17:04		714 W QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254518	17:43	STARBUCKS	1006 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20254519	18:04		811 W GAY GAY AVE
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20254520	18:32	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	20254521	20:52		104 PLYATT PLYATT DR
	ALARM/OTHER	20254522	22:33	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254523	22:37		512 S TYLER TYLER RD
9/16/25	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254524	23:48		7 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254525	0:57	EVERETT PARK	801 N LEE LEE ST
	EMS	20254526	7:03		1820 N LYNN LYNN ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20254527	9:37	LEE PUBLIC LIBRARY	312 PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	THEFT	20254528	9:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20254529	10:14	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2865 FM 2865
	EMS	20254530	10:48	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	ASSIST	20254531	11:19		328 MELBA MELBA
	EMS	20254532	12:59	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	EMS	20254533	12:13		328 MELBA MELBA
9/17/25	EMS	20254534	13:01		321 W SUNSET SUNSET AVE
	EMS	20254535	13:56	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1800 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	20254536	14:24		100 E UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	ASSIST	20254537	15:21	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	10-50 MAJOR	20254538			3 TYLER S TYLER
	FIRE DEPT	20254540	19:32		337 N FERRY FERRY ST
	THEFT	20254541	20:25		319 W MARSHALL MARSHALL ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254542	22:58	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254543	23:09	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20254544	23:23		715 CANFIELD CANFIELD
9/17/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20254545	3:27	LAKE GLADEWATER	1802 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	20254546	5:32		225 TEXAS TEXAS ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254548	7:16		801 N MAIN MAIN
	ALARM/OTHER	20254550	8:01		801 S TYLER TYLER ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20254552	8:51	EAST GATE APARTMENTS	1070 RICHEY RICHEY RD
	BURGLARY/HABITATION	20254554	14:21		338 W WALTON WALTON ST
	EMS	20254555	15:10		1100 SHERWOOD SHERWOOD ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254557	16:31		235 HAYNES HAYNES AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254558	20:17		HWY 80 WB HWY 80WB
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254559	21:20	GREGG COUNTY'S O	101 E METHYNN METHYNN ST
9/18/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20254560	21:41		821 MELBA MELBA AVE
	SUSPICIOUS NOISE	20254561	21:46		103 N DEAN DEAN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254563	0:34	GRANNY BS SHAVED ICE AND MORE	1803 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254564	1:05	O WILLIAMS FORD	415 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254566	6:26		HWY 271 SB HWY 271 SB
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254567	8:08	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	511 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20254569	9:32		54 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20254571	11:38		707 MELBA MELBA AVE
	THEFT	20254572	11:46		16 GARDEN LANE GARDEN LANE
	THEFT	20254573	14:35		308 W WALTON WALTON
9/18/25	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	20254574	15:59	WELDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	314 E SAUNDERS SAUNDERS ST
	EMS	20254576	18:18	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2865 FM 2865
	FIRE DEPT	20254577	20:06		1069 UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254578	20:14		271NB 271NB
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254579	20:18		COTTON COTTON
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254580	20:47		
	FIRE DEPT	20254581	21:07		2838 GUY GUY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254582	21:20	ALU FAST STOP EXON	1768 N MAIN MAIN ST
	FIRE DEPT	20254583	21:51	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254584	22:26		416 MAIN MAIN ST
9/19/25	MISCELLANEOUS	20254585	23:04		N LOOP 485 N LOOP 485
	MISCELLANEOUS	20254586	0:01	ANTIQUE CAPITAL RV PARK	500 S LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	20254587	6:32		1968B CR 3110 CR 3110
	10-50 MAJOR	20254588	7:12		S TYLER TYLER ST

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GPD Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
9/15/25	9/15/25	19:58	BROOKS, JACQUELYN LENORA	B	F	RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT	1405 E BROADWAY AVE
9/20/25	9/20/25	9:21	BENNETT, JACOB AARON	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
	9/20/25	9:21	WELBORN, MATTHEW ELIAS	W	M	WARRANT (OTHER AGENCY)	201 W UPSHUR AVE
9/21/25	9/21/25	23:15	HOWARD, COURTNEY C	B	M	CRIMINAL TRESPASS HABIT/STRIP/PELVIS/INSTR	303 OLIVER
	9/21/25	23:15	WEEKS, CRYSTAL GAYLE	B	F	CRIMINAL TRESPASS HABIT/STRIP/PELVIS/INSTR	303 OLIVER
	9/21/25	23:15	WEEKS, CRYSTAL GAYLE	B	F	FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE IDENTIFICATION	303 OLIVER

White Oak Police Activity Report

For the reporting period of September 15th through September 21st, 2025, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 213 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Disturbances, Suspicious Activity, Burglar Alarms, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

One traffic collision was investigated during this reporting period resulting in a criminal investigation. No injuries were reported.

White Oak Officers made four arrests during this reporting period:

Adam Massingill, 23, of White Oak, for two White Oak traffic warrants for Speeding and Fail to Maintain Financial Responsibility.

Brittany Martin, 31, of Gladewater, for one Upshur County Warrant for Abandon Endanger Child Without intent to return and two Gregg County Warrants, both for Assault Causing Bodily Injury.

Justin Cominsky, 34, of White Oak, for Assault Causing Bodily Injury Family Violence.

Shakarrious Harper, 31, of Longview, for Driving While Intoxicated.

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

- Driving While Intoxicated
- Assault Causing Bodily Injury Family Violence
- Assault Causing Bodily Injury Family Violence and Unlawful Restraint

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Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174
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Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
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Olde Tyme Baptist Church • 903-806-2411

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Northside Pentecostal
Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
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Full Gospel Fellowship
Gladewater Revival Church
Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
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What's Happening?

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."

"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."

Teen Game Night slated in Gilmer

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer will host "Teen Game Night" for ages 12-18 Saturday.

The event is set for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the library at 702 W. Tyler, which is also Texas 154.

It involves board games, video games and card games, said library cataloger Hannah Hooser.

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



Gladewater Rotary Club President Sam Cloud (left) welcomes District 5830 Governor Damon Donnell and Assistant Governor Donna Koerner as the local group's featured guests Sept. 18.
(Mirror photo by Darla Ferguson)

The library will also be closed Monday.



ETCADA featured GALA speaker

The speaker for the GALA September luncheon meeting held last Tuesday was Shannon Jones, a representative of E.T.C.A.D.A. (East Texas Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse) who gave a professional, yet personal presentation highlighting the increasing problem of drug overdoses, largely due to the increasing potency of illicit drugs, as well as unsanitary back-street manufacturing of these drugs.

As a 10-year recovering addict, Mrs. Jones makes presentations in area schools as well as community organizations. She also warned that not every overdose is from addicts on the street, but could be due to prescription medications. She distributed boxes of Narcan to keep on hand in case of accidental overdose of prescribed pain pills or in the case of anyone who may need to reverse an overdose.

GHS Bear alumni gather Saturday

The 2025 Gladewater All-School Reunion kicks-off at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Former Students Building.

Hosted by the 50th Reunion Class of 1975, the event welcomes students from all GHS graduating classes, beginning with a Meet & Greet at 2509 Hendricks St.

The opening message and invocation is set for noon, followed by a meal and social time before the reunion's program and presentation of outstanding alumni at 1:15 p.m.

Residents asked to pitch-in for cleanup Oct. 11

Gladewater's Fall 2025 Citywide Cleanup is just a couple of weeks out, and this year's event will once again take a multi-prong approach to sprucing up the community.

Along with Gladewater Chamber of Commerce and volunteers, City Hall's spearheading the Oct. 11 effort: "Together, let's show some hometown pride and keep our community looking its best."

Downtown, city personnel and helpers will be on-hand to transfer residents' car, truck and trailer-loads of trash into roll-off containers. Running 8 a.m. to noon that Saturday morning, residents are invited to drop-off their accumulated junk at the city's collection site on East Commerce Street.

Meanwhile, "The City of Gladewater will be offering curbside pick-up for our disabled and senior residents," per City Hall's event page. To schedule a pick-up, call the Water Utility Billing Department at 903-845-2196 no later than noon Thursday, Oct. 9.

Concurrent to the collections, the city is recruiting volunteers to spread throughout the community for an autumn litter round-up: "We need you to help us make a big impact."

Helpers will gather at 7:45 a.m. Oct. 11 at the Ken Bennett Pavilion on East Pacific.

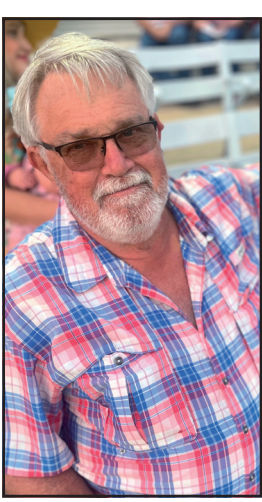
"From there, we'll head out to neighborhoods and parks across the city to roll up our sleeves and get Gladewater shining."

OBITUARY

RONALD "RONNIE" KEITH ALLEN

Ronald "Ronnie" Keith Allen, born December 31, 1956, in Gladewater, Texas, entered into eternal rest on September 11, 2025, at the age of 68.

On July 9, 1988, Ronald married the love of his life, Brenda G. Allen. Together they built a beautiful life filled



with love, laughter, and family. Ronald was a proud owner of B&L Cabinets, where he dedicated his talent and craftsmanship to creating quality work that reflected his strong work ethic and passion. He was respected not only as a businessman, but as a man of integrity who built lasting relationships with his customers and community.

Outside of work, Ronald enjoyed spending time at the family farm, operating his "big boy toys" - his excavator, bulldozer, and dump truck. He loved hunting, watching NASCAR, and fulfilled

a lifelong dream with a memorable hunting trip to Africa. He was also a proud supporter of ETBA, TABA, NAHB, NRA, and BBB, reflecting his dedication to his community, industry, and values.

Ronald was known for his contagious belly laughs, which could brighten any room and brought joy to all who knew him. He will be remembered for his warm heart, and the love he shared with family and friends. His kindness, generosity, and strength leave a lasting legacy for all who knew him. He is survived by his devoted wife, Brenda; two beloved sons, Ryan Allen and William Allen; his sister, Sandra Carpenter, and her husband, Tem Carpenter; his brother, Larry Allen, and his wife, Renee Allen; and his beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bobby and Bertress Allen.

Services were under the direction of Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to Ronald's charity of choice, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Ronald's courage, laughter, and love will be deeply missed but forever cherished by those who knew him.

WOHS FFA Farmer's Market fields Fall's finest flora next month

Fresh honey produce, plants, flowers, pumpkins and more – White Oak ISD's Horticulture Department is hauling out a harvest Oct. 11.

The group's Fall 2025 Farmer's Market is set for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. that second Saturday.

Centered on White Oak High School, booths will be set up around the greenhouse. The event's set in conjunction with White Oak FFA's annual Fall Plant Sale.

Notably, a contingent of scammers is spamming the Farmer's Market event page – potential vendors should take care they're coordinating their spot with the event's actual organizers.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Package Store Permit (P) by Shivansh Consulting LLC, doing business as Sam’s Liquor, to be located at 1004 E Broadway Ave, Unit-B, Gladewater, Gregg County, Texas 75647.

Sagar Patel is the sole owner and managing member of said company.



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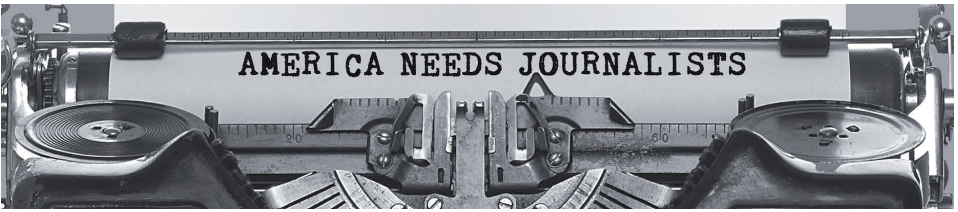
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Gladewater City Council adopted the following ordinance September 18, 2025;

Ordinance #O-25-11 to amend \$5.03.150 Solid Waste Schedule of Fees; §17 Fee Schedule: 17.03 Administration, 17.09 Building/Inspection, 17.11 Cemetery, 17.13 Lake, and 17.17 Water Department of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after publication as required by law.

Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from Judy Van Houten, City Secretary, Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, Texas.



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NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

The White Oak Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, 906 S. White Oak Rd. Regarding a request from Larry Renhquist to change the zoning at AB 38 W H Castleberry SUR TR 23-02 Sec 10 UND INT, and AB 38 W H Castleberry SUR 23 SEC 10, more commonly known as 2209 & 2211 E. Old Hwy 80, White Oak, from local retail to single-family 8.

A second public hearing will be held before the White Oak City Council on October 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact Jimmy Purcell, City Coordinator at jpurcell@cityofwhiteoak.com

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Labor Day weekend marks fewer boating incidents, rise in fatalities

AUSTIN – Texas Game Wardens patrolling water bodies across the state over the 2025 Labor Day holiday weekend reported fewer boating incidents compared to last year, but a rise in boating-related fatalities.

From Aug. 29–Sept. 1, game wardens responded to seven boating incidents, two boating-related fatalities and no open-water drownings.

They also arrested seven individuals for boating while intoxicated. In 2024, wardens reported nine boating incidents, one boating-related fatality and one open-water drowning over the same holiday period.

The two fatalities this year occurred on Lake Buchanan and Lake Conroe. In 2024, the single fatality occurred at Amistad Reservoir.

“We are saddened by the lives lost over the holiday weekend,” said Col. Ron VanderRoest, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement director. “Our wardens work tirelessly to prevent tragedies, but these incidents reinforce that safety on the water is a partnership, and we need the public to always practice safe and responsible boating.”

As in previous years, the busy holiday weekend also coincided with the opening of dove season, requiring game wardens to balance duties on the water with hunting enforcement in the field.

Even though Labor Day typically marks the end of the unofficial boating season, safety should remain a priority for all who continue to enjoy Texas’ lakes, rivers and coastal waters into the fall. Wearing life jackets, operating at a safe speed, avoiding alcohol while boating, and following the rules and regulations in the Texas Water Safety Act can save lives and prevent serious injuries.

“Whether it’s on the water or in the field, Texas Game Wardens are committed to protecting Texans and conserving our state’s natural resources,” VanderRoest said.

If you witness dangerous or illegal activity on the water or observe wildlife crimes in the field, report them anonymously through Operation Game Thief (OGT), Texas’ wildlife crime-stoppers program. Rewards of up to \$1,000 are available for tips that lead to conviction of those who violate wildlife, fishing or boating laws.

Suspected violations can be reported anonymously through multiple channels:

Text your tip: Text the keyword TXOGT and your tip information to 847411

Use the Texas OGT App: Available on iOS and Android Call anonymously: 800-792-GAME (4263)

Tipsters are encouraged to include any information, photos or videos that may be helpful. Tips are reviewed by agency personnel, who may follow up to request additional details and continue the anonymous conversation with you.

Please do not use this form to report emergencies or requests that require immediate law enforcement response. In an emergency, always call 911.



City of Gladewater honors former mayor, first lady’s ongoing gifts to community

Continued from Page 1 for generations to come.”

Tallent praised Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith, Flanagan, her fellow council members and municipal staffers for all they’re doing for the community.

“We love our city employees,” the former mayor said, glad to give back in appreciation of their efforts. “We’ve been blessed.”

Red Rock Historical Association Founder Bennie Moore expressed her gratitude to the Tallents as well for their significant and ongoing support of the Red Rock Museum and Activity Center.

“These people have given us more money than I can keep up with,” she said, not quite joking: Moore hefted a bulging three-ring binder she uses just to keep track of the former mayor’s contributions.

Beverly Tallent said she was glad to support Red Rock and its generations.

“As an educator, I worked with so many children in the Red Rock community, I feel like they’re all my children.”

The Gladewater Former Students Association has benefited from the couple’s

generosity along with the city and Red Rock Historical Association.

“I do know, he looked for ways to help us with the money,” Moore said. “They have done everything humanly possible to keep us afloat. We appreciate you. It has been a great help.”

Community’s candy confab takes over Broadway School grounds next month

The Gladewater Emergency Services Fall Fest lands on Oct. 25 this year.

At just \$1 per person, the Saturday evening event includes the annual Halloween Costume Contest for kids, free hot dogs, music, games and, of course, candy.

Running 5 p.m. to 7:30 on the Broadway School grounds, the event’s made possible through volunteer efforts by Gladewater Chamber of Commerce in coordination with Gladewater Police Department, Fire Department and Christus EMS.

“You can make a donation to help with the candy,” the chamber’s Lois Reed reminded city council members last week.

Cash donations or candy contributions can be dropped off at City Hall, GPD or GFD.

“If you feel so led, bicycles are on sale because it’s the end of the summer,” Reed added. “We traditionally have one or two bikes that we can give away.”

For more information or to contribute, contact Reed at 903-845-5501.

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INCLINED TO HELP ...

Rotarians partner with ramp project for simple builds that change lives

By James Draper

Imagine being trapped indoors by a drop of just a couple of feet.

Imagine an injury, infirmity, illness that turns the front steps into a life-threatening obstacle.

Imagine a loved one, a child or elderly relative, stuck in the home because their wheelchair, cane, or unsteady feet put the world outside beyond reach.

The solution could be as simple as a few hundred dollars, a few hours of work, a few volunteers pitching in to rescue their neighbor from isolation.

“It’s just one of those things that’s a labor of love,” Leon Word says.

He’s lost track of how many ramps he’s helped craft over the years.

“Probably close to 100,” Word muses, the bulk of them in Gladewater and Big Sandy. Between the Texas Ramp Project and Gladewater Rotary Club, there are plenty of opportunities to pitch in, and Word’s always eager to pass on the necessary skills to another volunteer.

The next chance to help out is coming up Sept. 27. Another local has found themselves on the wrong side of their front steps, and a wooden ramp will make all the difference.

According to the Texas Ramp Project, more than 1.7 million Texans find themselves imprisoned by mobility issues. Most are older adults, and many are unable to afford safe access to their homes.

This year, the nonprofit is celebrating its 40th anniversary and marking more than 30,000 ramps built for free for Texans in need.

“I went to the state convention last year, and you’re always learning new tips and things to do to make it more efficient,” Word says. He’s steadily refined the local process, working with his fellow Rotarians to assemble ramp modules well ahead of their project days. “If I can get the help and pre-schedule the date we’re going to build it, I can get the lumber and pre-cut it.”

It’s not unlike the floor joist on a pier and beam house.

“The modules we build are 4 wide, 8 long, 4x4. Some of the have a 5-degree cut because of the angle – the ADA specs call for one inch per footfall; that’s a 5-degree angle.”

Beyond the pre-assembly, the other key task is assembling a team.

“This is all volunteer help, so I have to coordinate building a ramp when I have enough help,” Word explained. “A six-member team is good, and anyone else is just icing on the cake.”

Right before the project, all the materials are packaged into a kit and strapped to a trailer.

“You get there and lay it out then you get busy putting it together. It’s not simple and easy, but in your mind it’s simple and easy,” Word says, lasting just three hours. Only the temperature slows things down – for water breaks. “When it’s cool weather we just get in there and get it over with.

“We started painting our plywood deck before we take it to the job; that makes it where the cub scout crew doesn’t



Gladewater Rotarians (from left) Leon Word, Sam Cloud and Nathan Burkhalter assemble ramp modules Sept. 11, getting ready for this weekend’s local build in partnership with Texas Ramp Project.

have to come in later and paint. It looks good when you’re finished.”

A short ramp runs \$300 or \$400; a long one, between \$500 and \$600.

Importantly, no costs are passed on to recipients.

Not a penny, Word says: “That’s what Texas Ramps is about. We get our building material money from grants and donations and wherever people can donate.”

Some of the largest sponsors, like Toyota, field build teams as well.

There are recipients who insist on helping out, of course. “It’s passing it forward...”

Everybody loves helping, one way or another, even the referral recipients.

It’s just a good thing. It really is. It’s very efficient. It’s

very heartwarming.”

It’s changing lives.

“When you go out and site-survey a ramp referral, the people actually start crying because they know it’s going to enhance their life, get them out of their house. I

“t nothing else, they can go check the mail or get out in the flower bed.”

It’s a natural outreach for Rotary, Word added, a service organization focused on improving the community by giving people access to a better life.

“It’s just something that I love doing,” he said. “Everybody on my team, I can honestly say, love to build a ramp for someone to enhance their life.

“It’s wonderful. It is.”

To volunteer or make a donation, visit TexasRamps.org

Reward offered in missing person case

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Crime Stoppers is continuing to offer a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to locating either or both of two missing county residents, Crime Stoppers President Cynthia Clark reminded Monday.

Anonymous tips can be left by calling 903-843-3131, and a person can collect a reward without revealing his/her name. Alternatively, informants can call Upshur County sheriff’s

Investigator Rob Bowen at 903-680-8223 or the sheriff’s office at 903-843-2541, but must call the Crime Stoppers number to collect any reward.

Maria (Mary) Magdalena De La Cruz, 31, was last seen in northern Upshur County May 8, with Octavio Munguai Soto, 38, said sheriff’s Chief Deputy Russell Washburn in a mid-May news release. Both have Pittsburg addresses, but live in Upshur County, he added.

Soto, who also goes by the name Enrique Carbajal, and De La Cruz are thought to be in a white 2013 Nissan SENTRY four-door, with a black strip along the bottom and Texas license plate VVV 4013, said Washburn.

De La Cruz’s family has located her car and belongings, he added in the news release. Soto has had no contact with his family, and the woman’s parents are concerned about her whereabouts, Washburn added at the time.

The woman and Soto knew each other, but aren’t related, Washburn added.

As for more details of the situation, Washburn said in May, “We really don’t know what we have at the moment,” and he said Monday no further developments have transpired since the disappearances first surfaced.

Clark said Monday that De La Cruz’s family contacted Crime Stoppers about the case.

End-of-year events start to stack up on schedule

This year’s 52nd annual Gladewater Arts & Crafts festival drew more than 70-vendors to welcome hundreds and hundreds of hunters of handmade goods over the weekend.

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce’s Lois Reed gave council members a final preview Sept. 18 before launching into a rundown of other upcoming events in the community.

Find more details in this issue on the Mayor’s Town Hall Oct. 7, the Oct. 11 Citywide Cleanup and the annual Emergency Services Fall Fest Oct. 25.

Other key events in the coming weeks and months include the Weldon Bumblebee Honor Game (Friday, Oct. 3), the regular October Gladewater City Council meeting (Thursday, Oct. 16) as well as an Oct. 20 community breakfast hosted by Christus Trinity Clinic alongside the chamber.

“They invite everyone to come down to the local clinic from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30, and they’re going to provide breakfast for us,” Reed said.

A few weeks later, this year’s Holiday Open House is set for Saturday, Nov. 8, downtown.

“We have big plans for this year,” Reed said. “If y’all thought the tree was gorgeous last year... thanks to Stoney and Michelle Stone it’s going to be fantastic. She’s going to help with the decorating,” with Gladewater firefighters assisting with hanging the higher items.

The chamber’s next quarterly luncheon is set for noon Monday, Nov. 17, then Shop Small Saturday returns Nov. 29 after Thanksgiving and Black Friday Nov. 27-28.

Come December, the second Saturday brings both Wreaths Across America and the 2025 Gladewater Christmas Parade.

The wreath-laying event begins at 11 a.m. Dec. 13, occurring simultaneously with similar commemorations across the country as volunteers lay donor-funded wreaths on the graves of service members interred in local cemeteries.

The parade begins at 5 p.m. later that day.

CITY OF GLADEWATER

FALL 2025 CLEAN UP

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