

THE SKY IS FALLING

Not really, but this really needs everyone’s attention

By James Draper

The Lake Gladewater Dam is going to fail.

For more than 15 years, the mantra has been “the clock is ticking.” Now that regular inspections are happening, it’s possible to track the steady deterioration of the 73-year-old structure, which was constructed with an effective 50-year lifespan.

Without substantial intervention in the near-future, the projected timeline antici-

pates an emergency situation in the next five to 10 years.

There’s no cause for panic, but preparation is absolutely necessary, now. Authorities are working simultaneously to prevent a catastrophe by shoring up the dam for decades to come and to prepare for a catastrophe if certain triggers are met or the dam begins deteriorating rapidly and failure becomes imminent.

Multiple lives would be lost.

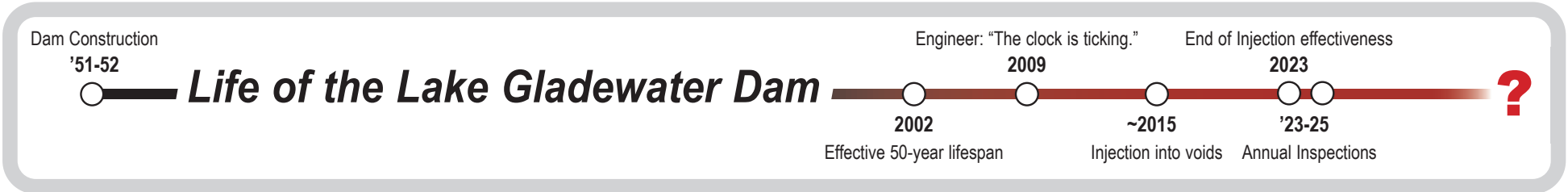
Failure also means hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and in lost revenues. It could wipe out Gladewater’s only water source. Local infrastructure will be wrecked. Major transportation routes will be inundated, possibly washed out. Flooding will have impacts downstream in Gregg County.

City of Gladewater officials are aware and actively working on a solution. They’re closely-monitoring the dam. They’re coor-

minating with partners in Gregg and Upshur County, across the state and at the federal level. They’re pursuing grant funding to cover the significant costs that will be required fix the structure long-term.

An initial estimate puts the price tag at as much as \$15 million.

Gladewater doesn’t have funds on hand to begin the engineering and repairs today. The hope is that if enough people here speak out, someone will listen.



Regular dam inspections show ongoing deterioration

By James Draper

The good news: As of early 2025, the City of Gladewater is in compliance with state regulations for the necessary maintenance and monitoring of the Lake Gladewater Dam.

However, that due diligence revealed the extent of the bad news: After many years of sub-par preservation, annual inspections since 2023 have tracked the deterioration of the concrete spillway, in particular.

“We are seeing a steady progression toward failure of the dam,” Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons told fellow emergency management officials and personnel in early October. And, later: “Based on current assessments of the inspection reports we have, we anticipate the potential of something happening within 10 years.

“It could be just one concrete panel falls off, and we lose a small portion. It could be the

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Now that annual inspections have resumed, City of Gladewater officials are tracking year-to-year deterioration of the concrete spillway portion of the Lake Gladewater Dam. (Below) Erosion has steepened the slope on the downstream side of the dam’s earthen embankment, requiring regular spraying to mitigation vegetation that could penetrating and weaken the 73-year-old structure. (Courtesy Photos by Mike Simmons)

INSIDE: Work for the Best, P8 • A National Problem, P5 • What Can You Do? P8



Dam creates city’s sole water source

Secondary supply becomes greater priority for City

Beyond the immediate impacts of a failure at the Lake Gladewater Dam – the deluge itself, loss of life, property damage – it will likely spark a second catastrophe.

After the first flood, “Our biggest concern is loss of water,”

Gladewater Fire Chief and Lake Warden Mike Simmons told colleagues in early October. “It’s the only water source for the City of Gladewater.”

It’s why the dam was built in the first place. Construction began in 1951 to create a municipal water supply while also factoring in stormwater management, flood control and recreation, too.

Almost 75 years later, Gladewa-

ter has no redundancy in its water system, and a large enough failure of the dam will cut-off flow for approximately 2,000 households.

The city’s water infrastructure has been a top priority for years – developing a secondary water supply is a significant part of the discussion.

“Our best plan of action would be to connect to an adjacent water

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Plan for the Worst...

By James Draper

“The big question isn’t ‘What if?’ It’s ‘When?’ There’s no way to predict when it’s going to fail.”

While the City of Gladewater and its partners work to rectify the problems at the Lake Gladewater Dam, they must concurrently plan for everything up to and including total failure of the concrete spillway and/or earthen embankment.

“Right now, we have identified issues with the dam,” Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons said. “We’re working with an engineering firm and TCEQ and others to try to come up with a plan to mitigate the issues before something happens.

“In the meantime we’re monitoring the dam on a regular basis. If we see any further issues we will alert the community through our Genasys activation system.”

That’s a key step on the city’s notifications flowchart. There’s a number of triggers tied to the dam, whether it’s extensive rainfall, flooding, earthquake, sabotage or other circumstances.

Last month, emergency management personnel from across the area, including representatives from state agencies, gathered at Gladewater City Hall to review and update the procedures. Everyone’s on the same page for both ‘Watch Condition’ and ‘Evacuation Condition.’

“With us being a ‘high hazard’ dam, that means potential loss of life is three or more,” Simmons told the crowd. “Ideally, we gauge it long before it fails, and we get people out.”

For Simmons, it’s important never to create a panic regarding the dam or any other situation. That said, it’s also important residents take the

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White Oak’s Regiment of Roughnecks Band brought home a silver medal at state marching competition last week. We are extremely proud of these students and all they accomplished this year. Gladewater High School placed 7th.



Sports roundup

Bears capture District Title with win

By Tyler Sutton

It was all treats on Halloween night as the Gladewater Bears made the trip to Atlanta seeking a district championship and that is exactly what they came home with as they defeated the Rabbits 34-18.

Gladewater got the ball to begin the game but couldn't do much and turned the ball over on downs. That was followed by Atlanta doing the same.

But on the next drive, the Bears went down the field and punched it in when Jeremiah Flannigan ran it in for a 3 yard TD. The two point try was unsuccessful and it was 6-0 Gladewater. After another Rabbits turnover on downs, the Bears once again took advantage and Flannigan again found the end zone for a 1 yard TD and it was 13-0 Gladewater with ten minutes left in the 1st half. Atlanta got on the board with a field goal to make it 13-3 game.

The Bears offense stalled and turned the ball over on downs and the Rabbits took advantage of it as they scored

on a 65 yard TD to make it 13-10.

The Rabbits stopped Gladewater on 4th down but on the very next play, they fumbled and gave the ball right back to the Bears and they took advantage of it as Achillies Hess took a option pass and Carson Cooper took it to the house for a 65 yard TD and it was suddenly 20-10 Gladewater at the half.

The Bears forced a quick three and out by Atlanta to begin the 3rd quarter and the Bears then when on a 11 minute, 17 play drive that took almost the entire quarter and capped it with Cooper took it in for a 3 yard TD and it was 27-10 Bears.

Atlanta had a solid drive but Gladewater's Amaron Minter stepped in front of Atlanta's Brayden Thompson's pass and returned it 65 yards for a pick 6 and Gladewater had blown it open at 34-10 heading to the 4th quarter.

The Rabbits got a touchdown and a 2 point conversion to cut the lead to 34-18 midway through the 4th quarter but the Bears got the stop on one final 4th down attempt from Atlanta to end it and clinch their first district championship

since the 2020 season.

"Our motto all season was Make them believe and we did that tonight.

"So proud of all these kids and coaches for putting in the work to achieve something I knew all summer we could do.

"But this is just step one. Have to finish strong next week against White Oak and celebrate all the work our seniors have put in these last four years then get ready for the playoffs," said coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Bears improve to 8-1 and 5-0 in district. They will wrap up their regular season with one more game at the Jack for the season as they host rival White Oak on senior night. Kick off is at 7 PM.

Roughnecks fall in OT

The White Oak Roughnecks had to win out their final 2 games to have a shot at a post season birth and that started with hosting the Tatum Eagles at Roughneck stadium.

And in a absolutely thrilling game, the Roughnecks saw their post season hopes be dashed as they fell 50-49 in overtime.

Jaxsen Ludlow threw for 290 yards and a pair of touchdowns. He also had 13 carries for 115 yards and returned a kick 70 yards for a touchdown. Kenny Poul also had 10 carries for 60 yards and a touchdown. Through the air, Logan Ladwig had 3 catches for 60 yards and a touchdown. Tyson McKinney had 2 catches for 30 yards and a touchdown. White Oak drops to 5-4 and 1-4 in district play and will wrap up their season making the short trip to Gladewater to take on the Bears. Kickoff is at 7 PM.

Lions edged by Bearcats

The Union Grove Lions needed to win out and get some help to win a district title and unfortunately that didn't happen as they fell in overtime, 20-17 on the road to the Beckville Bearcats. Hudson Wightman's rushing TD late in the 2nd quarter tied the game at 7. But Beckville answered with a touchdown in the final minute of the half and the Bearcats lead 14-7 at halftime. Wightman continued his big night with a 22 yard TD run to tie the game at 14 with 9 minutes left. The score would stay deadlocked until OT.

The Lions would get a 25 yard FG from Luis Fernandez but Beckville would find the endzone when they got the ball to win it. The loss drops Union Grove to 6-3 and 3-3 in district play.

They will wrap up their regular season with senior night against Big Sandy before getting ready for the postseason. Kickoff is at 7 PM.



White Oak's Brady Prazak (8) connected on field goals of 41, 38, and 28 yards during the Roughnecks' 50-49 overtime loss to Tatum. Photos by Mike Peery



White Oak's Peyton Thompson lunges forward to keep the ball in play during the Ladynecks' 21-25, 23-25, 21-25 playoff loss to Eustace, ending their season.

Volleyball, X-country

White Oak Volleyball began their playoff run making a trip to TJC's Wagstaff gym in Tyler to take on a very talented Eustace team and saw their season come to an end in a 3-0 sweep. The Lady Bulldogs took set one, 25-18, took set two 25-23 and finished off the sweep with a 25-21 set three win.

The Ladynecks finish their season at 19-20.

The Union Grove Lady Lions made the trip to Redwater High School to open their playoff run against a very good Detroit Lady Eagles team and even though they battled in three tough sets, saw their season come to a close falling 3-0.

Detroit took set one, 25-23, set two 25-13 and closed it out with a win in set three, 25-12.

Union Grove finishes their season at 16-15.



White Oak Band Director Jacob Ramos stands with Band Beau Shawn Richardson and Band Sweetheart Bayla Weston on Senior night at Roughneck Stadium. The Roughneck Band finished 2nd in state at the State Marching contest in Waco last week.

Automotive
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White Oak
(903) 295-8883
automotiverestorationsystems.com

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

ACROSS

1 acronym for Texas tax assessor org.
5 TXism: "get your ducks in _ _"
6 film made in Texas: "The Thief Who _ _ to Dinner"
7 Houston AM radio
8 TXism: "let sleeping dogs _"
9 Houston's "The Old Violin Man" (2 wds.)
16 TXism: "still wet behind the _"
18 TXism: "you don't need much sleep if you _ _"
21 Longhorns are to UT what Buffaloes are to this sch.
22 coach Parcels predecessor, Campo plane of noted Texas pilot Wiley Post: "Winnie _"
24 TXism: "speechifier"
30 Grand Prairie has annual pickled quail _ _ _ _ contest
34 Cotulla is seat of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
35 TXism: "sticks like _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ road"
36 Houston Museum of Fine _ _ _ _
37 medicine quantities
39 TXism: "he cooks with _ _ _ _ _"
43 TXism: "ain't got a lick of _ _ _"
44 Humble festival: " _ _ _ _ Days"

45 TXism: "his age is higher than his _" (dumb)
46 discount store found in Texas: _ _ _ _ Club
47 the belly over the belt
49 Spanish word for "our"
52 gull-like bird
53 dir. to Elgin from Pleasanton
54 TXism: "active as a fox _ _ _ _ house"
55 indisputable
58 put in another lawn
59 TXism: " _ _ _ _ wrangler" (CPA)
60 this Blab played four seasons for the Mavericks (1985-89)
61 comfy shoe maker in San Antonio

DOWN

1 Cowboy Bob Lilly's defensive position
2 a non-Texas oil producer: Saudi _ _ _ _
3 home of East Texas A&M University
4 Dublin description? " _ _ _ _ lad" (small)
9 "Neon Deion" (init.)
10 TXism for antiquated (3 wds.)
11 tidy
12 jeans inventor, Strauss
13 turns over
14 TXism: " _ _ _ _ he's a rooster, he'll crow"
15 president and governor of Texas, Houston
17 in Fort Bend County on U.S. 59 (2 wds.)
19 TXism: "snake oil _ _ _ _"
20 makes fun of another person
24 extra play when the score is tied (abbr.)
25 definitely not country music
26 TXism: "snug as a bug in _ _ _"
27 TXism for "also" (2 wds.)
28 TX Ginger Rogers 1933 horse-betting film: "Don't Bet _ _ _ _"
29 Texas Tech athlete: "Red _ _ _ _"
31 grad. sch. exam
32 DFW arrival guess
33 TXism: " _ _ _ _ whole hog" (no holding back)
38 trap
40 TXism: "rough as a _ _ _ _ cob"
41 Rangers SS, Benji (1993-97)
42 dates when the sun crosses the equator
48 look intently
50 OK town
51 TXism: "cowboy bath day" (abbr.)
56 unborn baby
57 "I taut _ _ _ _ _ puddy tat"

TEXAS
CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1764

See Answers On Page 4A

GPD Activity Report					
CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFW	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
10/2/25	MISCELLANEOUS	2025532	1:53	BUMBLE BEE PARK	705 S MAIN MAIN ST
	ALARMOTHER	2025333	8:42		1034 FARVIEW FARVIEW
	THEFT	2025534	9:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	ALARMOTHER	2025335	10:03	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	2025339	10:25	JULIAWOOD HOMES	53 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS
	10-SI MAJOR	2025337	10:59	TOBACCO JUNCTION	709 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025336	11:35		208 EDDY EDDY
	SEXUAL ASSAULT	2025346	12:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 S TYLER TYLER RD
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	2025341	12:39		303 S MAIN MAIN ST
	FIRE DEPT	2025342	14:08	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	2025343	14:38	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	2025344	15:38	CHRISTUS TRINITY CLINIC	1600 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	2025345	15:43	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	ESCORT	2025346	16:30	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	2025347	16:51		S TYLER S TYLER
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	2025348	17:39		2011 OLD LONGVIEW HWY OLD LONGVIEW HWY
	EMS	2025349	18:14	WELDON HOMES	83 EDDY EDDY ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025351	20:01	SHIPS MARINE SERVICE	4120 E HWY 80 HWY 80 E
	FIRE DEPT	2025352	20:08		1901 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE DR
	RECKLESS DRIVING	2025353	20:42		W UPSHUR W UPSHUR
10/2/25	FIRE DEPT	2025355	22:21		930 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS
	FIRE DEPT	2025356	22:32		2654 FM 2865 FM 2865
	FIRE DEPT	2025358	7:06	FAMILY DOLLAR	801 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	EMS	2025359	7:39	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	2025365	10:21		GAY GAY
	EMS	2025361	10:48		1072 FM 2865 FM 2865
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	2025362	10:51		BROADWAY BROADWAY
	CREDIT/DEBT ABUSE	2025364	12:50	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ASSIST	2025365	12:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	2025369	15:50		WILLOW OAK WILLOW OAK
	ASSIST	2025368	16:25	TEJAS CAFE	1414 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	2025366	17:01	TELES MEXICAN RESTAURANT	401 S TYLER TYLER RD
	10-SI MINOR	2025370	17:22	ACE HARDWARE	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ASSIST	2025371	17:48		MAIN MAIN
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025372	20:07		271 PLYATT PLYATT DR
	EMS	2025373	20:20		408 JEANETTE JEANETTE AVE
	EMS	2025374	20:43		1601 UNION GROVE UNION GROVE RD
	ABANDONED #11	2025375	21:18		1600 N HWY LEAN LEA ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025376	21:42		FERRY FERRY
10/2/25	MISCELLANEOUS	2025377	23:27	TEXAS BANK AND TRUST	1620 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025379	1:30		SABINE SABINE
	EMS	2025380	7:42	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2865 FM 2865
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025381	7:54		N LOOP 485 LOOP 485
	EMS	2025382	8:34		1210 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025383	8:51		1409 E VOLA ST VOLA ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	2025384	14:23	SKIPPERS PIER	103 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	2025385	14:32		1620 N LYNN LYNN ST
	EMS	2025386	15:31	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDRENS CENTER	2200 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	ALARMOTHER	2025387	17:11		2038 NELLYN AVE NELLYN AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025388	18:25	CAPITAL ONE	201 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025389	19:52		318 AMES AMES ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025390	20:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025391	20:31	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 S TYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025392	21:09		207 JEANETTE JEANETTE
	TERROR THREAT	2025393	21:37	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025395	22:35		COACH COCKEY COACH COCKEY
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	2025396	22:48		95 JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS
10/2/25	FIRE DEPT	2025397	2:22		1018 CHEVY CHASE CHEVY CHASE
	FIRE DEPT	2025398	2:39		716 W CLAR CLAR ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025399	8:25		HWY 275 HWY 275
	EMS	2025400	7:38		1198 WHITE FIR ROAD WHITE FIR ROAD
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025401	9:54		1210 NORTH ST NORTH ST
	ALARMOTHER	2025402	10:09	SMOKE CENTER GLADEWATER	105 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
10/31/25	MISCELLANEOUS	2025403	11:48		1207 E SHEPPARD SHEPPARD
	RECKLESS DRIVING	2025407	17:53		HWY 80 HWY 80
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	2025408	18:24		1208 NORTH ST NORTH ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025409	1:47		1105 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	ASSIST	2025411	7:28		BARROW BARROW LN
	ALARMOTHER	2025412	8:15		2128 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	ALARMOTHER	2025413	8:16		1716 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	EMS	2025414	8:44		1108 WHITE FIR WHITE FIR
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025415	9:11		5763 SWEET GUM SWEET GUM
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025416	9:59		301 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025417	9:59		500 MUSTANG MUSTANG
	EMS	2025418	10:07		591 BRAWWOOD BRAWWOOD
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025419	10:10		1200 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	FIRE DEPT	2025420	10:33		137 VILLAGE NORTH VILLAGE NORTH
	EMS	2025421	11:29	WELDON HOMES	86 EDDY EDDY ST
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025422	12:01		402 N LIVE OAK LIVE OAK
	ASSIST	2025423	13:09	PRAYER ROOM	1104 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	EMS	2025424	13:48	LEGEND OAKS NURSING HOME	1201 FM 2865 FM 2865
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	2025425	15:19	GLADEWATER FIRE TRAINING TOWER	400 E PACIFIC PACIFIC AVE
	EMS	2025426	16:24		1208 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
11/1/25	CRIM TRESPASS	2025427	16:38	AJ'S FAST STOP DIXON	1708 N MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	2025428	17:19		E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	RECKLESS DRIVING	2025429	18:38	THE BAR	2627 COUNTRY CLUB COUNTRY CLUB RD
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	2025430	19:10		211 S CENTER CENTER
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	2025431	19:19	PIZZA HUT	1210 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	2025432	19:38	LAKE GLADEWATER	1602 LAKESHORE LAKESHORE DR
	EMS	2025433	22:59		1100 N LYNN LYNN
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	2025434	23:43		75 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	2025435	0:01		127 JUSTIN JUSTIN
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025436	2:43		75 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	2025437	5:33		3082 N POINT PLEASANT POINT PLEASANT
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	2025438	6:49		ANDERSON ANDERSON
	ANIMAL CONTROL	2025439	8:53	GLADEWATER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	515-489 AIRPORT AIRPORT RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025440	9:41		100 WALNUT WALNUT
	EMS	2025441	11:19		1210 N OLIVE OLIVE ST
	ALARMOTHER	2025442	13:09	CASH AMERICA PAWIN 582	207 S MAIN MAIN ST
	EMS	2025443	13:11		894 W COMMERCE COMMERCE AVE
	CREDIT/DEBT ABUSE	2025444	15:59		309 TAYLOR TAYLOR
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025445	18:06		911 PHILLIPS PHILLIPS
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025446	19:22		710 WOOD WOOD ST
11/2/25	FIRE DEPT	2025448	20:17		238 N DEAN DEAN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025449	22:41		
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025450	23:25		DEAN DEAN
	FIRE DEPT	2025452	23:39		2316 W GAY GAY AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025453	0:22		218 MCNEESE MCNEESE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025454	0:36		106 N LYLE LYLE ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025455	1:22		3005 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025456	1:33		MELBA MELBA AVE
	ASSIST	2025459	12:23		2005 WEST LAKE WEST LAKE
	RUNAWAY	2025459	13:05		2224 SHERROD SHERROD
	EMS	2025460	13:12		9401 US HWY 80 US HWY 80
	EMS	2025461	14:18		2107 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	WARRANT	2025462	14:32	GLADEWATER P	911 S TYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	2025463	15:53		2214 PINECREST PINECREST
	ASSIST	2025464	17:31		FM 2865 FM 2865
	CRIM TRESPASS	2025465	17:53		678 SHEPPARD SHEPPARD LN
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025467	20:19		HWY 80 WB HWY 80 WB
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025468	20:57		DEAN DEAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025469	21:24		100 MORGAN MORGAN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025470	23:38	PUBLIC RESTROOMS	98 S MAIN MAIN ST
11/3/25	FIRE DEPT	2025471	0:07	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025472	0:19	SUBWAY	106 E UPSHUR UPSHUR
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025473	1:44		
	MISCELLANEOUS	2025474	2:19		JULIA WOODS JULIA WOODS

White Oak Police Activity Report

For the reporting period of October 20th through October 26th, 2025, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 211 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Suspicious Activity, Advice Calls, Scam Phone Calls, Animal Complaints, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Five traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period, one with reported injuries.

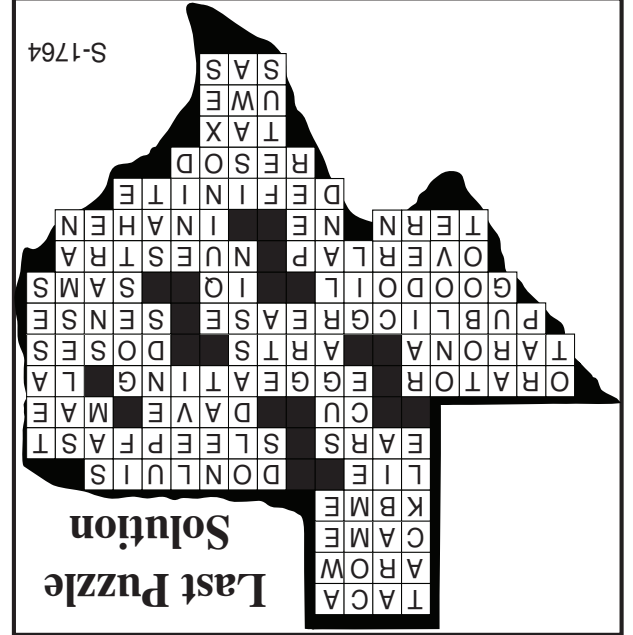
White Oak Officers made two arrests during this reporting period:

Dbravian Black, 27, of Longview, for Driving While Intoxicated 2nd.

Jesse Dominguez, 26, of White Oak, for 3 warrants- #1 Theft \$100-\$750, #2 Theft <\$2500 with 2 or more previous convictions, #3 Violations of Bond/Violation of Protective order.

No cases were presented to the Gregg County District Attorney during this reporting period.

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
10/30/25	10/30/25	13:12	KELLEY, JENNIFER INEZ	W	F	PUBLIC INTOXICATION	1104 W UPSHUR
11/1/25	11/1/25	3:08	WATSON, JERCORY DESHUNN	B	M	ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY (FAMILY VIOLENCE)	75 WELDON HOMES
11/2/25	11/2/25	15:20	FLOYD, DENNIS CHARLES	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	911 S TYLER ST
	11/2/25	13:43	WEBB, CALVIN CRAIG	B	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	98 N MAIN ST
	11/2/25	20:28	CAMPBSE, CARLO JOSEPH JR	W	M	WARRANT (LOCAL)	100 DEAN ST
	11/2/25	1:28	WELLS, IVANNA DELOVA	B	F	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED	300 MILRED
	11/2/25	1:28	WELLS, IVANNA DELOVA	B	F	UNLAWFUL CARRYING WEAPON	300 MILRED



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Regular dam inspections show ongoing deterioration

Continued from Page 1

whole thing goes, the whole concrete structure. There's no way to know until it happens."

Prevention and preparation are the name of the game.

Simmons also wears the local 'Emergency Coordinator' hat as well as Lake Warden. Since he took the reins in early 2022, it's been a personal and professional priority to get the dam back into the good graces of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Previous assessments put the Lake Gladewater Dam in the 'high hazard' category, but the lack of requisite checks and ongoing maintenance meant the community didn't qualify for key funding until recently.

"There definitely is a gap. That's what hindered us from putting in (for grants) three years ago." After checking all the right boxes for several years and working closely with TCEQ representatives, "We've done everything we can to get back and caught up. We're now in full compliance."

A key part of that process was the development and adoption of an Emergency Action Plan for the 1952-year-old construct, a combination of an earthen embankment and concrete spillway.

It was the annual re-

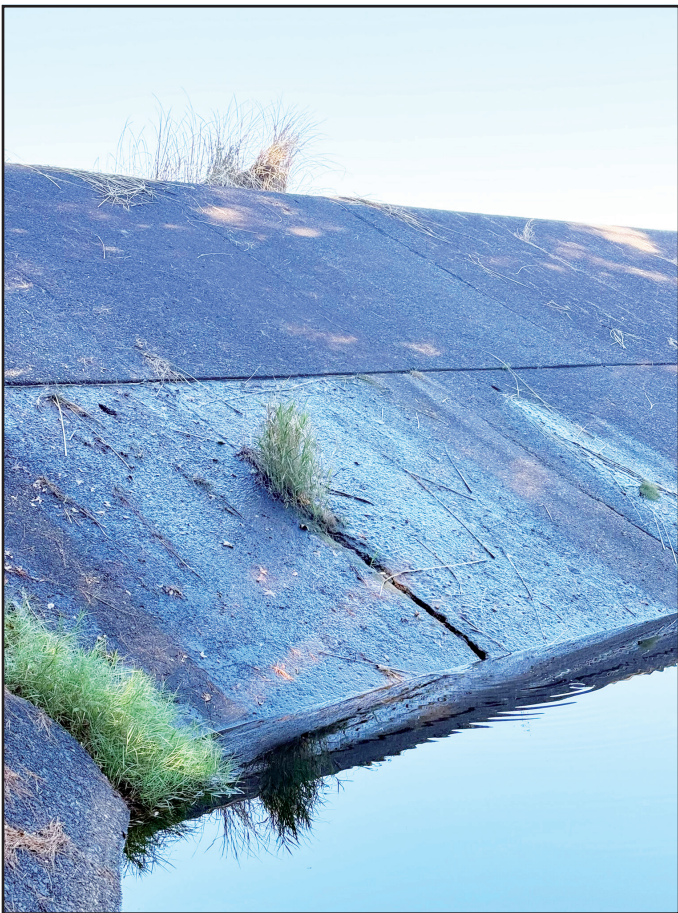
view of the action plan that brought officials from Gregg County, Upshur, Texas Department of Emergency Management and other agencies to Gladewater City Hall Oct. 9.

"We finally got it where it's completed and submitted. We're current in our emergency plans," Simmons reported. "We just finished our annual inspection, and we're waiting on that report to come in."

Multiple times, he's accompanied an engineer into the water for an up-close look at the dam's weak spots, and there are plenty. From a 2024 Landscape Ecology assessment by Emma Simpson as well as recent observations:

- The slabs have settled, their joints no longer flush, water flowing in the gaps.
- Large voids have eroded in and around the structure.
- Vegetation's sprouting from the concrete, rooted in spaces within and between the massive slabs.
- The face of the concrete has pitting and holes, several inches wide, as much as a foot deep.
- The wingwalls are pulling away, creating spaces behind them.

That's just a sampling: "It seems like every time a big storm comes through we see another piece of this concrete move," Simmons said. "We are seeing failure getting worse and worse and conditions starting to



deteriorate.

"This next report is going to emphasize that we've seen changes in the past year."

The last significant work on the dam occurred about a decade ago, when contractors injected filler into existing voids.

"I think we're about four or five years beyond the lifespan of that patch," Simmons said.

The earthen embankment portion of the overall dam is in 'fair' condition, but there are significant erosion

issues. The downstream side's slope is too steep to mow; regular spraying on both sides aims to keep vegetation at bay.

"But, it's holding strong... We're trying to control the weeds and all the stuff that make it hard to see any damage."

From mitigating vegetation to uncovering the dam's untested relief valve, recovering lost blueprints and updating flood maps, many key tasks have been checked off the list the past several years.



They don't change the most significant, evolving problems at the dam, though.

"With the known issues we have in the current annual inspection, we are seeing a decline in the structure," Simmons said. "We've got

two different engineering firms telling us that. You've got to trust what they're saying. It's straight facts.

"Now that we've got those facts, what can we do about it?"

whole thing goes, the whole concrete structure.

Aging dams become common problem for U.S. communities

The Lake Gladewater Dam is exhibiting many of the same symptoms of long-term degradation common to both concrete structures and earthen embankments across the United States.

Gladewater's not alone as far as the age of its dam, either, not by a long-shot.

The American Society of Civil Engineers estimated more than 85 percent of all dams in the United States are than 50 years-old, the typical useful lifespan.

As of 2009, there were more than 13,000 classified as "high hazard" in the United States. At that time – more than 15 years ago, when an engineer declared "The clock is ticking" at Gladewater's dam – approximately 30 percent of those at-risk structures had not been inspected in five years, even though each warrants an annual inspection.

According to L. David Givler, a technical expert in hydrology and hydraulics and the president of Givler Engineering in San Antonio, Gladewater is seeing common problems at

its dam. Needless to say, they're costly to repair, and they'll get more expensive as deterioration continues and more problems arise.

"There are a lot of dams around that are older than this one that are earth embankments," Givler confirmed. "Lots of times when they were built, they didn't meet modern design standards.

"A lot of them, on the slopes, they became unstable over time."

He encounters two particular clusters of dams in the United States very frequently – those constructed right after World I and right after WWII.

"Everybody came home and they were trying to get back to life. They had a new experience for how big the world was, they come home and they build a dam," Givler explained. "There are a lot of early dams from the early '20s and the late '40s, a lot of them, out there. They did amazing stuff."

That said, they're getting older every day.



Mary Kristina Petty, 37, of Gladewater shot this 200-pound buck which had a 14-inch, 11 point rack, in Smith County.



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JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF GREGG §

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE DATED the 30th day of October, 2025, and issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the County Court At Law of , by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on the 31st day of October, 2025, seized, levied upon, and will on the 2nd day of December, 2025, at public auction on an online platform at www.mvbataxsales.com, at 10:00AM on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, as provided for by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

All of the following properties being located in Gregg County, Texas and each property being more particularly described on an instrument recorded in the Volume and Page (V__/P__) or document number (Doc #) or instrument number (Inst #) of the Deed or Official Records of Gregg County, Texas

Cause No. 19,830-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v William Carl Jones et a
Tract 1: Lot 23, Block 6 (New City Block 3245) George Jones Estate (V371/P602) Acct #000049527

Cause No. 021857-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v Bruce Jeffery Weaver, et al
Lot 6, Block 4, Hillcrest Addition, City of Longview, (Doc #200826646), Acct #000047561

Cause No. 022383-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v U S Bank Trust National Association et al
South 200' of Lot 15 & East 20' of Lot 16, Block B, Pineland Addition, New City Block 3122, City of Longview (201614957, SAVE AND EXCEPT, 201804171) Acct #000060896

Cause No. 022630-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Jimmy R. Brewer et al
Lot 5, Block 5, Mallock AKA Malloch AKA Maloch Addition, City of Gladewater, (V774/P312) Acct #000053698/N00654778/53698

Cause No. 022677-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Galen Clayton Watson et al
2.00 Acres, more or less, W. Friar Survey, Abstract 68 (200722389) Acct #000196143

Cause No. 022742-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Billy Dean Caughron et al
Lot 6, Block 2, Everett Hiland Addition, City of Gladewater (Doc #201101999) Acct #000041577

Cause No. 022757-CCL2
The City of Gladewater, Texas v Raymond Lewis Johnson
Lots 64 & 65, Block 22, Saunders Addition, City of Gladewater (Doc #200302995) Acct #64592/000064592

Cause No. 022758-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Mary S. Green
11.250 Acres, more or less, H. H. Edwards Survey, Abstract 1 (202006741) Acct #000015418

Cause No. 022782-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v Dennis Williams et al
Lot 3, Block 3, New City Block 4118, Helane Village Unit 1 Addition, City of Longview (9907663) Acct #000046525

Cause No. 022802-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Kelly Lewis et al
Lots 15 & 16, Block 4, Frank Collins Addition, City of Gladewater (Doc #201209284) Acct #000038912/38912

Cause No. 022808-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Terri L. Harris
Lot 7, Block 2, C. O. Spencer Addition, City of Gladewater (9828858) Acct #000066505

Cause No. 022809-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Don Ledbetter et al
Tract 1: 8.420 Acres, more or less, S. L. Davis Survey, Abstract 61 (Tract 2, 200426390) Acct #000015015
Tract 2: 6.424 Acres, more or less, S. L. Davis Survey, Abstract 61 (Tract 1, 200426390) Acct #000015026
Tract 3: 8.388 Acres, more or less, S. L. Davis Survey, Abstract 61 (9820209) Acct #000015023

This sale will be conducted to satisfy the judgment(s) for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interests due on the properties described herein, and for all costs of court and sale.

I do hereby verify that true and correct copies of the foregoing Joint Notice of Sale have been delivered by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and by regular mail, to each of the Defendants named in each of the numbered and styled causes.

DATED the 31st day of October, 2025, at Longview, Texas

MAXEY CERLIANO
Sheriff,

By: 
SHAWN MCFADDEN, Deputy Sheriff

You may contact the attorney for the taxing units at (903) 757-5757.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Troy Lee Slaton, Deceased, were issued to Tammy R. Frame on October 13, 2025, in Cause No. 2025-0218-E, pending in the County Court at Law #2 of Gregg County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Executor, c/o Paula G. Hartsfield, Attorney, 3300 S. Broadway, Suite 101, Tyler, Texas 75701, within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

PUBLIC MEETING

(Longview, TX) The Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has scheduled a Public Meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Longview City Council Chambers located in the Jo Ann Metcalf Municipal Building, 300 W. Cotton Street, Longview, TX 75601. The MPO will present a revision to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050 to reprioritize develop authority funding towards an overpass project on State Highway 149 with a target date of 2034, causing the State Highway 31/ Spur 63 widening project target date to be moved to 2040. The meeting will be live-streamed on the City of Longview's Facebook Live, CityView Municipal TV LongviewTexas.gov/CityView, and Longview Cable TV: Channel 10.1 or 215. After the meeting, citizens may view the recorded meeting online in the CityView Video Library. A 30-day public comment and review period for the MTP will be held from November 10, 2025, to December 10, 2025. Comments and questions regarding the Longview MPO's 2050 MTP revision may be sent to the Longview MPO, P.O. Box 1952, Longview, TX 75606, or emailed to MPO@LongviewTexas.gov. The MTP will be available for review online after the meeting, at LongviewTexas.gov/MPO, the Longview Public Library located at 222 W. Cotton St., Longview, TX 75601, and the Longview MPO office located at 933 Mobile Dr., Longview, TX 75604. Persons with disabilities who may need auxiliary aid or services at the meeting and persons needing a translator or interpreter are asked to contact the Longview MPO at 903-237-1062. Para información en español, por favor comuníquese con Marisela Linthicum en 903-237-1300.



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What's Happening?

Meet & Eat on tap

There's a "Meet & Eat for a Good Cause" fundraiser coming up Saturday, Nov. 8, benefiting Hubert "Buster" Harper's medical expenses.

Organized by LaSundra Wilson through her 'I Am My Sister's Keeper' outreach, the 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. event will include a \$10 hamburger plate or \$12 chicken plate that Saturday at 501 South Border St. in Big Sandy.

For more information on the Nov. 8 benefit or the organization, contact Wilson at 903-803-7330.

Blood drive slated

Carter BloodCare of Tyler will hold mobile blood drives this month in Gladewater and Gilmer, announced Carter field recruiter Donna Russell.

One drive is scheduled Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the Gladewater High School faculty parking lot. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A drive is set at Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative in Gilmer this Monday. Hours for that event on Texas 154 are 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Russell at 903-574-4998 or DRussell@carterbloodcare.org.

Holiday happenings arrive downtown soon after October's festivities

Hot on the heels of Gladewater's Halloween hijinks, public works personnel were busy hanging decorations ahead of the Holiday Open House which is this weekend.

Crafted each year by Gladewater Chamber of Commerce, the annual event's set for 5 p.m. to 7:30 Saturday, Nov. 8, downtown.

Chamber dynamo Lois Reed's at the center of the controlled pre-Christmas chaos, and downtown's chief elf is finalizing plans for this season's soiree.

"We'll have the strolling Christmas Carolers. We have the carriage rides returning. There will be a new addition down by the Christmas tree this year," she listed. "I've talked to Santa. He's going to try to come that night and make an appearance. The children can write their letters to Santa – we have that special mailbox.

"One of the important things is the lighting of that 24-foot Christmas tree at exactly 6 p.m."

The Gladewater High School Honey Bears will be participating in the holiday kick-off once again, Reed added, and Little Miss Gladewater Round-up Rodeo is going to make an appearance.

There will be food trucks, as well, to help cover the dinner rush during the event.

"Thankfully, we have such a crowd, the restaurants can't handle as many people as are milling around.

DJ Randy will be spinning Christmas carols once again, and there's a chance of 'snow' once more in downtown Gladewater.

"Once Halloween is over, we have to double-time it to get all the decorations up before Saturday, Nov. 8."

Next on the chamber's calendar will be the quarterly luncheon at noon Monday, Nov. 17, then a double-header on Saturday, Dec. 13 – the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony is set for 11 a.m. that day followed by the year's Christmas Parade at 5 p.m. downtown.

This year's theme is 'The Sounds of Christmas.'

"People have been calling and wanting to know the theme. They say, 'Wow, that's hard,' but it's really not once you start thinking about it," Reed said. "What sounds remind you of Christmas? Jingle Bells, the cracking of the fireplace, the crunch of the snow when you're walking on it, the giggles of the children, that deep voice going Ho-Ho-Ho.

"The rest of the year is going to be busy-busy, but it's going to be fun-fun-fun."

Storytime set for Thursday

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Nov. 6). To be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. readings are "How Do Dinosaurs Show Good Manners?" by Jane Yolen, and "Tiny T. Rex and the Impossible Hug" by Jonathan Stutzman. A "dinosaur egg"-related craft will follow each session. For more information, call the library at 903-843-5001. Amy Allred is its children's director.

Salvation Army's red kettles return

The Salvation Army invites the community to Give with Joy this Christmas season as its iconic Red Kettle Campaign returns to Tyler. More than just a holiday tradition, the red kettle is a symbol of hope, compassion and generosity—supporting vital programs that serve thousands of individuals and families in need throughout the year.

While many people in our communities are silently battling hunger, homelessness and hardship, we can find hope in the fact that giving is a source of joy for all. The Salvation Army's recently released national campaign encourages people to Give with Joy and uplift families in need by helping provide



The students of the Gladewater Rotary month for September & October were (left to right) Lizzy Brown, Aubry Floyd, Ayden Diggs and Peyton Hunter.

shelter, food, bill assistance and more. Your generosity offers joyful reassurance that even during our most challenging times, we are not alone.

Scouting for Food returns Nov. 15

Local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will once again be collecting contributions to help feed the hungry this Thanksgiving season.

First, this Saturday, the scouts will distribute door hangers to remind residents to put out contributions the following week. The hunger-helpers include Gladewater - Union Grove Cub Scouts Pack 196 and Gladewater Boy Scout Troop 198.

"We will be passing out flyers on November 8 and then picking up the foods items the following Saturday, Nov. 15," according to Dustin Watson.

Contributors are asked to place nonperishable food items in a bag or box then attach the door hanger to it and place it outside in view of the street on the front porch or by their mailbox by 9 a.m. Nov. 15.

For more information, contact Dustin Watson at 903-399-9347.



Rotarian Rose Owens hosted Jeff Simpson of Outdoor Management Services at October's meeting.

Wallace new Upshur DA

By Phillip Williams

Former longtime Gladewater attorney Barry Wallace was sworn in as Upshur County district attorney Saturday afternoon in Gilmer after Gov. Greg Abbott appointed him to succeed Billy Byrd, who had retired effective at 10 p.m. Friday.

Wallace, 66, joined the district attorney's office Oct. 25, 2017, and has been first assistant to Byrd, who left his post after 18 years to announce plans Thursday (Nov. 6) to run for another office.

Wallace took the actual oath in a private ceremony at the Upshur County Justice Center. Lisa King, who will continue her present position as longtime manager of the district attorney's office, administered the oath since she is a notary public.

The new district attorney then took a purely "ceremonial" oath, administered by Byrd in the 115th District Court at the justice center. It was witnessed by Wallace's family, King, and a representative of The Mirror.

Byrd, pastor of the rural Oak Hill Baptist Church for the past several years, said he administered that in his capacity as a minister. He led a prayer just before doing so.

He submitted his Oct. 31 retirement in a letter dated Oct. 14 to Abbott, who announced Oct. 28 he was appointing Wallace effective Nov. 1.

Wallace said he began his legal career with a private criminal and civil law practice in Gladewater for 25 years, from Nov. 6, 1992 until March 31, 2018. (He retained his private practice for several months after joining Byrd's staff).

"I aspire to keep the bar just as high as he (Byrd) has set it," Wallace said Saturday. "I welcome the prayers of the people of Upshur County."

Wallace, who long went by his full name of Barry Clark Wallace, took the ceremonial oath with his hand on a Bible which was owned by his father, B.C. Wallace, who died when the new district attorney was 16 years old.

Born and reared in Greenville, the 1978 graduate of Greenville High School received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from East Texas State University (now called East Texas A&M) in Commerce in 1989. He earned his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio in 1992.

Wallace once planned to be a history teacher, but said that studying U.S. Supreme Court



New Upshur County District Attorney Barry Wallace, right, takes a "ceremonial" oath of office Saturday afternoon from his predecessor, Billy Byrd, after taking the actual oath earlier from Lisa King, a notary public. Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Wallace last week before Byrd, who had retired effective at 10 p.m. Friday, performed the purely ceremonial oath in his capacity as a Baptist minister. (Courtesy photo)

decisions piqued his interest in becoming an attorney.

He and his wife, Susan, have six children by the couple's previous marriages.

Byrd, meantime, plans to announce his political plans at a 11 a.m. public reception Thursday (Nov. 6) at the Gilmer Civic Center on U.S.271. A provision of the state constitution prevented him from announcing what office he will seek until his retirement as district attorney was effective.

Halloween Fun Downtown



Dam creates city’s sole water source

Continued from Page 1

supply,” according to Water Plant Manager Wendy Emmel. “That way, we could open the valve in the something happens and supply treated water.”

It’s a requirement, she added, one that the city has never fulfilled.

One option would be to coordinate with White Oak toward tapping the neighboring community’s water line from Big Sandy Creek.

Another option, Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said, might be to partner with the City of Longview and run

a line to tie into that system for emergencies.

Currently, the water reserve’s just eight hours. Accepting that land acquisition would be pricey, a raw water reservoir outside Gladewater could make for a short-term solution

“Two million gallons would sustain us for one day,” Emmel said.

Meanwhile, Lake Gladewater needs to be dredged. It hasn’t happened in about 25 years, she noted, but rough plans are already on the drawing board.

It’s one of many projects in the works.

“We’ve been fixing so many broken things,” Smith said,

repairing and, whenever possible, upgrading one section of the water system at a time. The development of a secondary water source is climbing higher up the list: “Honestly, I don’t think it was really taken seriously in the past.”

It’s one more thing to consider in mitigating risks related to the dam, Simmons said.

“We don’t have an alternative source. We don’t have another connection to another city,” he added. A healthy, functional dam is essential until a backup supply is in place. For the immediate future, “We have to make the water out of that lake. If it’s not there, we can’t.”

Plan for the Worst...

Continued from Page 1

potential threat seriously, that they have a plan in place for their safety now and pay attention to any alerts that come along.

In the event of a major failure, the city’s Emergency Action Plan factors in everything from moving people out of harm’s way to bringing bottled water in when streets are compromised.

Based on updated flood maps if the dam fails, “Major roads and railways will probably be shut down,” Simmons reminded his colleagues. “Our city will be essentially shut down. It’s going to affect our ability to provide emergency operations.”

The deluge will overwhelm water/sewer infrastructure. The lake could likely drain below the water plant’s intake.

“Schools are obviously going to be affected. Our nursing homes are going to be affected. Businesses are going to be affected,” Simmons said, with between 75 and 100 buildings, commercial and residential, in the flood path in addition to

the Union Pacific railroad tracks. “The airport is going to be shut down because half that runway is going to be underwater.

“If you think about the economic impact of the failure of this high hazard dam... The city’s going to be cut in half.”

And for how long? Repairs will take months or years depending on the severity.

“They tell you, try to fix it before it happens. We’re talking a \$14-15 million dollar repair versus hundreds of millions on the backside.”

And Gladewater’s cost is a drop in the bucket, with tens of thousands of similar high-value projects seeking the same public dollars. The reality is, there’s plenty of mitigation funding available after a disaster, significantly less to prevent one.

“That’s what the high hazard mitigation funds are for, to target pre-disaster,” Simmons said, and the City of Gladewater is pursuing those monies. “We’re in a better place now where council has a better understanding of it, city officials have a better understanding.

“We’re doing our due diligence.”

“Please be the squeaky wheel for us.”

By James Draper

In a better scenario common for aging dams, the cost to fix the Lake Gladewater Dam would be about \$5 million. As things stand, though, current estimates put the number at about \$15 million.

The City of Gladewater is going to need substantial financial assistance for a long-term solution for the sake of protecting life and property and the community’s future.

“We do have plans. We are working. The connections are being made, we’re seeking funds, we’re doing everything we can do to control the situation as best we can,” Gladewater Fire Chief & Emergency Coordinator Mike Simmons says. “The work that’s being done is to try to secure funds to prevent a disaster from happening.

“It’s going to be a lot cheaper to fix it before it happens than after it happens.”

Gladewater’s not the only municipality in this situation, though.

Thousands of dams in Texas and across the country are past the end of their effective lifespans – by decades. There are a myriad other disasters and priorities that demand emergency aid as well.

Amid local disaster prep and developing solutions, officials here are the first to say they need help catching the attention of the people who can point public funds this way.

The relevant grants are extremely competitive, Simmons acknowledged. Now that the dam is fully-compliant with state regulations, its ‘high hazard’ status qualifies for funding, but there are myriad entities drawing from the same well.

If people in power take notice, he said, if they accept invitations from people on the ground in Gladewater to come assess the situation up-close, maybe they’ll help make a difference.

“It’s about being a squeaky wheel. ‘Have you heard about the Gladewater dam? They need some help.’ The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Being that squeaky wheel and trying to mitigate it before it happens is what I would like to happen.

“Write your congressman. Write your state representative. Let them know we have this issue we need help with.”

U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz. Congressman Nathaniel Moran. State Senator Bryan Hughes. Texas Reps. Jay Dean and Cole Hefner.

“Write to them and let them know. Get them to come talk to us. They’re already in the right place where we need them,” Simmons said. “I’d say, write the governor, too.

“We would like to request their assistance in coming to take a tour of the dam, to understand the situation and to help us secure those funds.”

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Work for the Best

By James Draper

“I don’t want to be the one that waits for it to fail.”

The city currently has an active and ongoing maintenance schedule for the Lake Gladewater Dam, in addition to regular monitoring. Since 2023, it’s inspected annually by an engineer, and the structure gets a visual once-over after every storm. The lake level is checked constantly.

Firm plans to actually and finally fix the dam are still in the works.

There’s a rough cost estimate of \$15 million, but that’s just a placeholder: “We don’t know the cost yet because we haven’t gotten to the engineering phase yet,” Gladewater Emergency Coordinator Mike Simmons confirmed. “Right now, we don’t have any hard, actual numbers.”

With an incident of some degree anticipated in the next five to 10 years, the city’s currently in Phase I of the dam project – design and engineering.

“As we mitigate it, we want to make sure we bring it up to codes and standards for future events,” Simmons said. “That’s kind of a lengthy process because of all the core samples, soil samples, engineering, running all the models.”

Once all that’s complete, Phase II is actual repair and reconstruction.

“Do we completely rebuild the entire dam?”

Technically, the funding portion is already underway – the City of Gladewater is exploring grant opportunities and applying when possible. That’s in addition to pre-qualification for state and federal dollars.

“Anything we do is going to bring it to the modern standard where it’s good for another 50 years,” Simmons said. “We should never really find ourselves in this situation again.”

The fourth and fifth grade students of
Weldon Elementary
invite you to attend our annual ceremony
honoring our

Veterans

Friday, November 7, 2025

9:00 am

We will be joined by the Gladewater High School Choir.
Please join us for this moving tribute to our nation's heroes.
Guests will enjoy musical performances and patriotic readings
from our students.
Please use the auditorium
entrance on the north side of
the building.

314 E. Saunders
Gladewater, TX

Weldon Elementary School is not affiliated with the Department of Defense or any Military Service.

UGISD annual Veterans Day Program will be Friday, November 7th, at the Lions Center Auditorium. We will provide a light breakfast from 8:00 am - 9:15 am. The program will begin at 9:30 am, followed by a luncheon for the veterans and spouses in the high school cafeteria. We extend an invitation to all veterans.

ON BEHALF OF THE WHITE OAK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT,
WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE OUR
VETERANS AND SENIOR CITIZENS
OF THE WHITE OAK COMMUNITY FOR A SPECIAL LUNCHEON.

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: JUDY C. MEREDITH SECONDARY FOOD SERVICES BUILDING.

THIS EVENT IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING YOUR
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY.
WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA FRAZIER
AT 903-291-2201 OR EMAIL FRAZIERA@WOISD.NET.
WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU!