

Gladewater Mirror

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Year in REVIEW

After 52 issues, there's one story that stands out from 2025: "Gladewater team backs galavanting 'gator."

It's all in the headline. A 9-foot alligator decided to take a Sunday night stroll across Hwy. 271, creating a once-in-a-lifetime memory for Gladewater Police officers and Game Warden Todd Long.

That's how June kicked off in the Antique Capital of East Texas, following Class of 2025 graduation exercises for Gladewater, White Oak and Union Grove then followed quickly by the 88th annual Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo.

Like every year, 2025 was a busy one.

Early on, local artist Hillie Shirley braved the cold in January to execute a 'Greetings from Gladewater' postcard mural on the wall of the downtown restrooms, a love letter to the community commissioned by the city from an idea by Mayor Brandy Flanagan. In her Jan. 30 Business Town Hall, the mayor emphasized the "total team effort" in Gladewater: "It's when we work together that we're able to see bigger changes."

The Gladewater MLK/Juneteenth Committee hosted its annual Celebration Brunch in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that month. This year's Gospel Brunch is set for 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, at Antique Capitol RV Park.

A measles outbreak in West Texas in late January became a simmering public health issue statewide (part of a larger measles resurgence nationally) with more than 750 confirmed cases statewide, including about 20 near Gilmer. None of those Upshur County cases were critical or required hospitalization. State health officials declared the outbreak over in mid-August.

In February, Upshur commissioners unanimously opposed a Dallas-area water district's proposal to buy water rights to Lake O' the Pines. Several of the year's headlines touched on Texas water resources, and it'll be a major discussion topic here and at the state level in the coming year and for years to come.

A young pilot escaped major injuries when his plane missed the runway at Gladewater Municipal Airport following an apparent mechanical failure Feb. 17. Meanwhile, 2025 saw the adoption of a new master plan for the facility. The city also pursued security and amenity upgrades at Lake Gladewater, including the re-opening of the lake store and the development of the city's 'Dockside Eats' food truck space, put to use quickly for the annual Fourth of July celebration.

Nearby, in early 2025 the 'high hazard' Lake Gladewater Dam was officially brought into basic compliance with maintenance, inspections and reports necessary to qualify for public mitigation funds. City officials are awaiting the release of the latest engineer's report on the dam, which will help determine steps forward to fund costly repairs for the aging structure long-term.

The City of Gladewater continued its investment of money, resources and time into improving and upgrading

Continued on Page 8

Big Sandy 15-year-old teen killed in one-vehicle wreck

By Phillip Williams

A 15-year-old Big Sandy area youth was killed and his 18-year-old cousin was critically injured in a one-car crash on rural Chipmunk Road Sunday night, said Upshur County Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Rhonda Welch.

She said she pronounced Rylan Joseph Reneau dead at the scene near Union Hill School, and that Steven Fisher Reneau was airlifted to Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport hospital in Louisiana.

The driver, Steven Reneau, lost control of a westbound older model Chevrolet Impala, which ran off the roadway's left side, jumped a ditch, plowed through a barbed wire fence,

and overturned several times, Welch said.

The brothers, who weren't wearing seat belts, were ejected from the auto, which had no air bags, the judge said. Welch also said she understood that Stephen Reneau suffered burns from the car's exhaust when he was pinned beneath it.

The younger Reneau was found beside the vehicle, she said. Welch said she was notified of the incident at 10:20 p.m., and that emergency personnel ceased attempting CPR on the victim at 10:36.

The Reneaus resided at the same address on Aspen Road, and Rylan's body was taken to McWhorter Funeral Home outside Gilmer, said the judge.

Christmas week carjacking sends 1 to hospital

A Gladewater woman allegedly carjacked a driver's truck and hit the gas Dec. 23, throwing the victim from the vehicle to the pavement below.

Law enforcement tracked the stolen Ford, and the suspect was soon apprehended and charged with a second-degree felony. Izabel Elise Osteen, 28, added another third-degree felony the next day when she reportedly escaped from custody while being transferred from the city jail to the county lockup.

According to a Christmas Eve press release from Gladewater Police Chief Kyle Ready, the incident began when the victim was stopped near the intersection of North Main Street and East Shepperd Drive for a child custody exchange.

At that time, "a suspect entered the individual's 2020 Ford F-150 without consent," Ready reported. "A physical struggle occurred as the victim attempted to prevent the theft. The suspect then drove away with the victim partially inside the vehicle, resulting in the victim being thrown from the truck as it accelerated northbound on North Main Street."

Continued on Page 8



OSTEEN



OPINION/COMMENTARY

...joy for the journey

The cookies in the tin, the apple pie and fudge are wooing you from two rooms away. You can't imagine having the space for one more bite but the excess of delicious goodies left over from Christmas is just too, too tempting.

What is to be done?

We talk ourselves into believing we will keep our New Year's goals for better health, as if we had kept them in the past. But today and for the next week or so, stretchy warm-ups and PJ pants are our out-of-office wardrobe so we give in to the siren song of just...one...more...bite. Until we are more stuffed than any turkey ever was.

The last week of 2018 has come and gone. For a lot of folks they are just happy to see Grandfather Time take this old year away so they can start fresh. Once again.

This should be a good time to reflect on what really matters and it is not those too tight pants.

Time is fleeting. A trite truth but undeniably true. Those long ago childhood Christmases that required a great deal of patience in the eternally long countdown to Christmas are a thing of the distant past for most of us. The exception of course are parents or grandparents who are counting down the long, looong days until school starts back and the sugar-fueled wild little darlings can begin to apply that energy to something productive, like education.

Now in our too busy, never quiet world we are running from work to shop to clean to take care of every day needs. Somewhere in the mash-up came Christmas when we hopefully made the time to stop. To rest. To remember. And to share our memories and love with those around us.

Most of us were Tasmanian devils in a hurricane trying to get all our 'jobs' done. So it is even more important that we stop as soon as we can as 2019 sneaks up on us. Catch a breath. Carve some time out just to be still...and grateful.

Of the roughly 3,000+ kids I have taught over my career at three different school districts, the vast majority know that the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" is my favorite. You may know it as well if you walked by the Gladewater Mirror windows and saw that our Christmas Village display was really George Bailey's hometown of Bedford Falls.

My former students know it is my favorite because I shared the movie every year before Christmas break as my gift to them...along with the gift of illegal sweets that I smuggled to those 15- through 18-year old kiddos. Some rules are just meant to be bent if not broken. Besides, most of us grew up knowing that nothing says love like sugar.

Since 2010 one of my former yearbook editors, who is now a theology professor, emails or texts: "All you can take with you is what you have given away". My former student's annual short message reminds me that relationship is what matters when you get down to

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



the brass tacks of life and that the Christmas Spirit does not end on Dec. 26. That short, sweet message reminds me to try and be a better friend and a better person.

So, now that the mad dash to Christmas is over we need to remember the things that matter every single day of the year and give thanks for family, work that matters, and dear friends for the journey.

A great big thanks to all our readers and neighbors who not only read the Gladewater Mirror but share treats with Jack and Jim, magazines and books with us, music stories, commiseration and laughter day after day throughout the year.

Thank you to all of our advertisers whose support makes the paper in your hands or on your iPhone possible. Support the Gladewater Mirror by buying local and at home as much as possible.

Thank you, thank you to all of our friends and our family of readers. You remind us daily, that life is just flat-out stuffed with goodies and that indeed, as the guardian angel Clarence wrote in a note to George Bailey..."No man is a failure who has friends".

We count you among our greatest blessings.

May your new year be filled with many friends and much joy for the journey!



Dr. Ray Perryman

THE ECONOMIST



In compiling the research for this assessment, we found a number of supporting facts including that only 4% of kids who read at grade level by the third grade fail to finish high school, and that 16% without early childhood education don't finish (poverty dramatically compounds the problem). Texas-specific studies have found positive gains in third grade reading level associated with early childhood education for disadvantaged children. The National Academies of Sciences has determined that brain development is also positively affected.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, Texas ranks 35th in State funding, 40th in overall funding, and only meets two of 10 critical milestones. Committing resources to effective early childhood education (particularly for vulnerable students) can greatly enhance opportunities for improved success in school and the quality and quantity of the current and future workforce as well as their quality of life. It's also one of the highest-return investments the State can make, helping to foster improved health, reduced social costs, and multi-generational prosperity.

When these major categories of benefits were quantified, the analysis indicates that \$1.00 invested in early childhood education yields \$60.04 in aggregate net benefits over time. This return on investment includes the total effects (direct, indirect, and induced) associated with increased lifetime earnings of the children and their parents, benefits to future generations, reductions in crime, enhanced health outcomes, and other reduced social costs measured in 2025 dollars on a net present value basis (for additional detail, see <https://www.perrymangroup.com/publications/brief/2025/12/9/essential-early-education/>).

The gross product generated per dollar invested in early childhood totals \$32.36, which is a return on investment much higher than the return on virtually all other types of public and private investments, including any form of infrastructure. In addition to these results, I also estimated the fiscal benefits per dollar invested (tax revenue associated with the increase in economic activity as well as reduced social costs), and they are substantial.

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.

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.

Jim Bardwell



You can learn a lot, or not ...

I'm starting my 52nd year in this journalism business and a lot has changed over that time.

I started in "hot type," where words were pounded out on manual typewriters and then formed by molten lead typed out by gruff old men in a smoke-filled corner of the pressroom. Then we moved to "cold type," which was space age to us - computers cut the workload and led us what we have today - laptops and digital news formats.

And while the business of getting the news out to our readers has changed greatly - the people are about the same.

Most are good and appreciative of the hard work it takes to bring you this weekly news product, but some are ... well ... you know what I'm thinking To those folks and anyone else who needs a little kick in the rear from time to time - here's 20 words of wisdom an old editor once waved in my face when I was young and thought I knew everything.

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me the heck alone.

2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.

3. Its always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.

4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

5. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.

6. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

7. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

8. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

9. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is probably not for you.

10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

11. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably a wise investment.

12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

13. Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.

14. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

15. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

16. A closed mouth gathers no foot.

17. Duct tape is like 'The Force.' It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

18. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

19. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

20. Never miss a good chance to shut up.



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THE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF BAPTISM

There is no indication in the New Testament whatsoever that baptism was put off or that it was considered unimportant or unnecessary. It was an urgent matter, and people were baptized immediately, straightway or even the same hour of the night (*Acts 16: 33*). That is why Ananias asked Saul of Tarsus "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (*Acts 22: 16*).

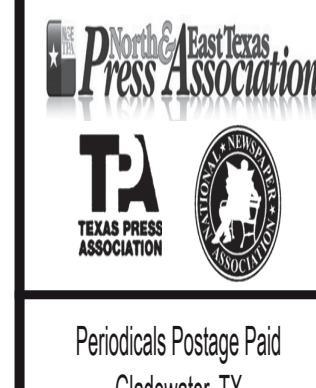
Having one's sins washed away by the blood of Christ is a very urgent matter (*Rev. 1: 5*) and such occurs when one is baptized. Also, by being baptized into Christ the Romans had been made "free from sin," and their old man had been "crucified with Christ, that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (*Rom. 6: 3-4, 5: 6, 17-18*). And further seriously consider that "baptism doth also now save us" (*1 Pet. 3: 20-21*).

The Scriptures plainly teach baptism is "for the remission of sins (*Acts 2: 38*); that baptism "washes away sins (*Acts 22: 16*); and puts one "into Christ" (*Rom. 6: 3-4; Gal 3: 26-27*) and it doth also now save us" (*1 Pet. 3: 21*). On the contrary men teach baptism is NOT necessary for salvation, it is Not for the remission of sins, that it does NOT wash away sins, that it does NOT put one into Christ, and it does NOT save!

My friend, who are you going to believe? Who do you trust? Who do you love? This is not a light and frivolous matter. Belief in Christ and baptism into Christ is the most urgent and important matter you will ever consider. Men may ridicule and try to refute it, but the Bible still rings loud and true. Baptism is "for the remission of sins" and not because sins are already remitted! Please think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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What's Happening

2026 MLK Gospel Brunch set for Jan. 19th

Christmas and New Year's get all the focus at end-of-year, but more holidays are ahead, and the Gladewater MLK/Juneteenth Committee is spreading the word about their annual Martin Luther King Day Gospel Brunch.

"Come and join us as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King," featuring a new theme for 2026: "The Power of Unity Begins With us."

This year's event will be hosted at the Antique Capitol RV Park Event Center at 500 S. Loop 485. The 2-hour brunch and celebration begins at 10 a.m. Monday, January 19, on the federal holiday for the famed civil rights leader.

The guest speaker for the 2026 event is the Rev. Frederick Tennison of Gilgal Baptist Church in Gilmer, and the celebration will also feature a performance by the congregation's youth choir.

Taxpayers urged to mail payments early in Upshur

Upshur County Tax Assessor-Collector Luana Howell's office warns taxpayers that waiting till or even near the Jan. 31 deadline to mail property tax payments could cause the payer to risk being assessed a penalty for late payment.

That's because the United States Postal Service has changed its procedure for postmarking mail, and doesn't always postmark it on the day the USPS picks it up, said the office's chief deputy, Johnny Villanueva. Therefore, a payment sent Jan. 31, or soon before that date, may be postmarked past Jan. 31, he explained.

Since a payment is considered late if postmarked after that date, the taxpayer must thus pay a penalty even if he/she actually dropped the payment in the mail by Jan. 31, the chief deputy warned.

Villanueva recommends mailing no later than Jan. 26, although he cautioned that even sending payments that soon doesn't guarantee they will be postmarked on time since mail from this area is now postmarked in Shreveport, La.

In a press release, he said experts recommend paying taxes online as an option for those who are worried about mailing them too close to the deadline and want to ensure the payments aren't delinquent.

To pay Upshur County taxes (including county, city and school taxes) online, Villanueva said, take these steps:

Visit <https://www.countyofupshur.com>.

Click on the "find it fast" portion of that home page, then "go down to tax information and select online tax payments."

"Search for your property by owner name, property address or account number." The tax office suggests using the account number as the "quickest and easiest way to find your account information."

Those paying online with a credit or debit card are charged a 2.5% fee, but those using echeck instead pay a flat \$2 fee.

For more information, contact the main tax office in Gilmer at 903-843-3085.

January plans for county library announced

Although the Upshur County Library in Gil-



Gladewater Middle Schoolers put their robots through the paces Dec. 16 in the Christmas Robotics competition. "Students designed the board, engineered tasks for the robots to complete and assigned points to each task," receiving two minutes to accomplish as many as possible.

er will be closed Jan. 1-5 and several other days next month, it has several activities scheduled in January.

The Friends of the Upshur County Library organization will meet at the library, 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154) at 6 p.m. Jan. 6.

The library's book club for adult readers will meet there at 6 p.m. Jan. 13.

"Teen game night" for ages 12-18 is set for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

As detailed elsewhere in this issue, the format for the "Storytime" readings to young children on Thursdays is changing, and that activity won't be held due to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays until Jan. 8.

The library closes at noon Jan. 16 and remains closed through Jan. 19, which is the Martin Luther King birthday holiday. The facility will also close some other days next month.

For more information, contact the library at 903-843-5001.

Also, the "Storytime" readings to young children, normally scheduled for Thursdays at the Upshur County Library in Gilmer, won't be held this week since the New Year's Day holiday falls on Thursday.

In addition, the format for "Storytime" will change when it resumes Jan. 8, said Amy Allred, children's coordinator for the library. Instead of two books being read to children, only one will be, and a short story, song or rhyme will be held with the craft following the reading, she said.

The library will be closed from noon Wednesday, Dec. 31 through Jan. 5. (It is normally closed Mondays).

Storytime book to be read at two sessions Thursday, Jan. 8, is "The Mitten" by Jan Brett. A "Little Mitten song" and mitten-related craft will follow.

The readings Jan. 8 and 15 are set for 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

The book to be read Jan. 15 is "Be Brave, Little Penguin" by Giles Andreae. A "waddling penguins rhyme" and a penguin-related craft will follow.

The library is at 702 W. Tyler, which is also Texas 154. The events are free to the public with no advance registration required, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the library at 903-843-5001.

Kick off 2026 with a 'First Day Hike' at State Park

AUSTIN — Celebrate the beginning of a new year and the start of America's semiquincentennial (America 250) with a First Day Hike at a Texas State Park.

This annual tradition is a

Gary Borders Capital Highlights

Five big moves from the Lege in 2025

The Texas Legislature made a host of major decisions in 2025, as The Dallas Morning News reported. Here are the highlights:

- Homeowners received a break on their property taxes after approving a proposed constitutional amendment in November. The homestead exemption was increased to \$140,000 from \$100,000. People 65 and older were given an additional \$60,000 exemption on top of that.

- A major public school funding bill was passed, pumping \$8.5 billion into raises for teachers and support staff and additional operational funding. Lawmakers also approved a statewide school voucher plan with \$1 billion in initial funding. Eligible families can use public funds for private schools.

- The Texas Lottery Commission was abolished, with oversight moved to the Department of Licensing and Regulation. Online ticket sales were banned, as were courier services.

- After devastating floods in the Hill Country, especially along the Guadalupe River, killed at least 135 people, lawmakers approved funding to strengthen flood warning systems, expand river and rainfall gauges, and speed updates to flood-risk mapping.

Warm, dry holiday weather elevates wildfire risk

Texas A&M Forest Service is warning that unseasonably dry and warm weather conditions are raising the risk of wildfire as the New Year approaches.

"We have seen above-normal grass production across large areas of Texas, especially near Abilene, Wichita Falls, Lubbock, Childress and Amarillo," said Luke Kanclerz of the forest service. "These grasses are now dormant and freeze-cured, which means they dry quickly and can support wildfire activity when wind speeds increase."

About 90% of wildfires in the state are caused by human activity, with debris burning and equipment use accounting for the majority. Before traveling, drivers are urged to inspect their vehicles to make sure tires are properly inflated and trailer safety chains are secure to prevent creating sparks that can cause wildfires. A total of 103 Texas counties are currently under a burn ban. A list of counties under a burn ban can be found at <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/>.

Judge blocks app store age verification law

A federal judge temporarily blocked a new state law that would require app stores to verify the ages of users and restrict use by those under 18, the San Antonio Express-News reported. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman granted an injunction against the law, which was set to take effect Jan. 1, saying it likely violates free speech rights under the First Amendment.

"The act is akin to a law that would require every bookstore to verify the age of every customer at the door and, for minors, require parental consent before the child or teen could enter and again when they try to purchase a book," Pitman wrote.

Attorney General Ken Paxton said he would appeal the ruling.

The law would require app store users to be over 18 or to have parental consent before downloading or purchasing an app. Tech companies such as Apple and Google objected, calling it a violation of privacy and saying it would affect all apps, including those dedicated to news, sports or weather.

Paxtons' divorce files unsealed

After months of legal wrangling, the files in the divorce case of Angela and Ken Paxton have been released. The files show Angela Paxton contended the marriage has become "unsupportable" in part because of his infidelity, the Houston Chronicle reported. Several media companies sued to force the release of the files, contending the public had a right to know since both parties are public elected officials. Angela Paxton is a Republican state senator from McKinney. Ken Paxton is leaving his attorney general post in a bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in the March GOP primary.

The couple in mid-December agreed to make the files public just before a scheduled hearing on whether the records should remain sealed. In her motion for divorce, Angela Paxton said the 38-year marriage had become unsupportable and asked for a larger portion of their assets. Ken Paxton responded that his wife should "take nothing."

South Texas builders:

ICE arrests upend industry

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have arrested more than 9,100 people in South Texas, The Texas Tribune reported, and builders say the arrests are slowing construction of new homes. The arrests account for nearly one-fifth of all ICE arrests in the entire state.

Mario Guerrero, executive director of the South Texas Builders Association, said ICE agents were operating without arrest warrants — which they can do legally — but are also detaining people who have proper authorization.

"It's what's happening across the Rio Grande Valley at construction sites," he said. Data from the Federal Reserve of Dallas indicates a 5% drop in construction jobs during the third quarter of 2025.

New refuge for whooping cranes

Conservation groups have purchased more than 3,000 acres of prairie on an isolated stretch along the Gulf of Mexico to preserve as habitat for the endangered whooping crane, The Tribune reported. The \$8 million purchase of two tracts in Calhoun County provides winter grounds for the world's last wild flock of whooping cranes.

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Donations for cannon sought

By Phillip Williams

Three Gilmer-based veterans' organizations are seeking donations to restore the wartime cannon which has long been displayed on the Upshur County Courthouse's south lawn in Gilmer.

About half of the estimated \$6,000 needed for the project has been donated or pledged, said Thad Barr, commander of American Legion R.E. (Peppy) Blount Post No. 320.

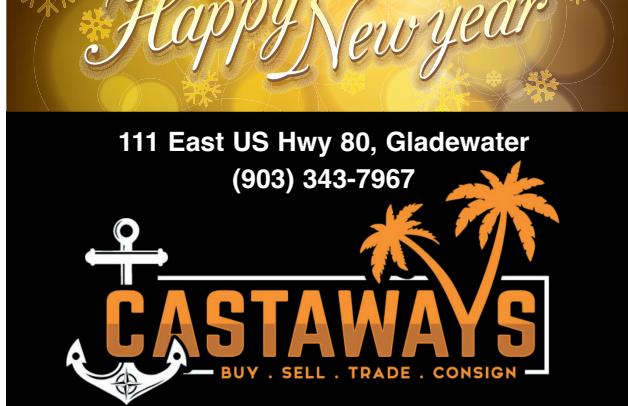
The cannon was donated to the county many years ago by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6715, also known as the Lewis E. Breames Post. Plans call for stripping and repainting it, researching its history, and obtaining a state historical marker for it, said Barr.

The Legion, VFW and Disabled American Veterans Post No. 204 are jointly participating in the project.

The weapon has a "data plate" with such information as the serial number and possibly the manufacturer, Barr said. The plate will be uncovered when the cannon is stripped in Shreveport, La., for re-painting, Barr added.



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Gladewater Lions Club's Judy Van Houten recognizes the group's Gladewater High School Students of the Month for December, Kylie Faye and Caleb Balcorta. "Congratulations and keep up the excellent work!"



Gladewater ISD's Samantha Brown and Jeremiah Flanagan were recognized Dec. 18 as Gladewater Rotary Club's final Student of the Month pair for 2025.



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Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768
New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894
Olde Tyme Baptist Church • 903-806-2411

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

CATHOLIC

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

CHARISMATIC

New Life Church • 903-845-8108

LUTHERAN

Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019

CHURCH OF GOD

Elevate Worship Center • 903-374-2064

NAZARENE

Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425

METHODIST

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McCrory's Chapel United Methodist

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Starville Methodist • 903-877-4040

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First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922

Northside Pentecostal

Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043

Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905

Full Gospel Fellowship

Gladewater Revival Church

Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023

Love of God Church • 903-845-2623

Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050

OTHER

Starrville Church of the Living God • 903-877-3220

Friendship Community Church

Full Faith Holiness • 903-845-8195

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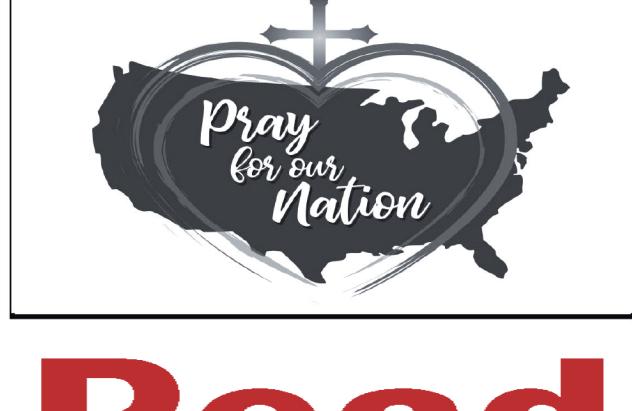


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JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF GREGG §

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE DATED the 15th day of December, 2025, and issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the County Court At Law of Gregg County, Texas, 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 15th day of December, 2025, seized, levied upon, and will on the 6th day of January, 2026, at the 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

022313-CCL2

Gladewater Independent School District v Earnestine Tyron et al

Lots 4 & 5, Block 7, Mallock Addition and part of alley (V1602/P549) Acct #53708

022404-CCL2

Gladewater Independent School District v Bruce Earl Daniels

All of Lot 27 & the North 12.5' of Lot 28, Block 1, Bellwood Addition (V658/P388) Acct #000036082/ G655209

022471-CCL2

Gladewater Independent School District v Rick Dwayne Jackson et al

8.64 Acres, more or less, out of the W. W. Avery Survey, Abstract 231, being only that portion of 9.971 Acres (Inst #201011308) Acct #000011049

022800-CCL2

Pine Tree Independent School District v Revenge of Lands, LLC

0.536 Acre, more or less, out of the I. C. Skillern Survey, Abstract 4, and being part of Block 4, Key Bunt Addition (Inst #202123403) Acct #000184128

023117-CCL2

Pine Tree Independent School District v Wolfe Creekside LLC

All of the properties listed below are located in the Creekside Townhouse Subdivision (Inst #202215142):

TRACT 1: Lot 1, Block 1, Acct #000039446

TRACT 2: Lot 2, Block 1, Acct #000039447

TRACT 3: Lot 3, Block 1, Acct #000039448

TRACT 4: Lot 4, Block 1, Acct #000039449

TRACT 5: Lot 5, Block 1, Acct #000039450

TRACT 6: Lot 6, Block 1, Acct #000039451

TRACT 7: Lot 7, Block 1, Acct #000039452

TRACT 8: Lot 8, Block 1, Acct #000039453

TRACT 9: Lot 9, Block 1, Acct #000039454

TRACT 10: Lot 10, Block 1, Acct #000039455

TRACT 11: Lot 11, Block 1, Acct #000039456

TRACT 12: Lot 12, Block 1, Acct #000039457

TRACT 13: Lot 13, Block 1, Acct #000039458

TRACT 14: Lot 14, Block 1, Acct #000039459

TRACT 15: Lot 15, Block 1, Acct #000039460

TRACT 16: Lot 16, Block 1, Acct #000039461

TRACT 17: Lot 17, Block 1, Acct #000039462

TRACT 18: Lot 18, Block 1, Acct #000039463

TRACT 19: Lot 19, Block 1, Acct #000039464

TRACT 20: Lot 20, Block 1, Acct #000039465

TRACT 21: Lot 21, Block 1, Acct #000039466

TRACT 22: Lot 22, Block 1, Acct #000039467

TRACT 23: Lot 23, Block 1, Acct #000039468

TRACT 24: Lot 24, Block 1, Acct #000039469

TRACT 25: Lot 25, Block 1, Acct #000039470

TRACT 26: Lot 26, Block 1, Acct #000039471

TRACT 27: Lot 27, Block 1, Acct #000039472

TRACT 28: Lot 28, Block 1, Acct #000039473

TRACT 29: Lot 29, Block 1, Acct #000039474

TRACT 30: Lot 30, Block 1, Acct #000039475

TRACT 31: Lot 31, Block 1, Acct #000039476

TRACT 32: Lot 32, Block 1, Acct #000039477

TRACT 33: Lot 33, Block 1, Acct #000039478

TRACT 34: Lot 34, Block 1, Acct #000039479

TRACT 35: Lot 35, Block 1, Acct #000039480

TRACT 36: Lot 36, Block 1, Acct #000039481

TRACT 37: Lot 37, Block 1, Acct #000039482

TRACT 38: Lot 38, Block 1, Acct #000039483

TRACT 39: Lot 39, Block 1, Acct #000039484

TRACT 40: Lot 40, Block 1, Acct #000039485

TRACT 41: Lot 41, Block 1, Acct #000039486

TRACT 42: Lot 42, Block 1, Acct #000039487

TRACT 43: Lot 43, Block 1, Acct #000039488

TRACT 44: Lot 44, Block 1, Acct #000039489

TRACT 45: Lot 45, Block 1, Acct #000039490

TRACT 46: Lot 46, Block 1, Acct #000039491

TRACT 47: Lot 47, Block 1, Acct #000039492

TRACT 48: Lot 48, Block 1, Acct #000039493

TRACT 49: Lot 49, Block 1, Acct #000039494

TRACT 50: Lot 50, Block 1, Acct #000039495

TRACT 51: Lot 51, Block 1, Acct #000039496

TRACT 52: Lot 52, Block 1, Acct #000039497

TRACT 53: Lot 52-A, Block 1, Acct #000039498

TRACT 54: Lot 53, Block 1, Acct #000039499

TRACT 55: Lot 54, Block 1, Acct #000039500

TRACT 56: Lot 55, Block 1, Acct #000039501

TRACT 57: Lot 56, Block 1, Acct #000039502

TRACT 58: Lot 57, Block 1, Acct #000039503

TRACT 59: Lot 58, Block 1, Acct #000039504

TRACT 60: Lot 59, Block 1, Acct #000039505

TRACT 61: Lot 60, Block 1, Acct #000039506

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 15th day of December, 2025, at Longview, Texas

MAXEY CERLIANO
Sheriff, Gregg County, Texas

By: /s/ Shawn McFadden
SHAWN MCFADDEN, Deputy Sheriff

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

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— Margaret Sullivan, *“ Ghosting The News”*

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Sports roundup

By Tyler Sutton

The White Oak Roughnecks wrapped up their pre Christmas schedule as they made the trip to Longview to take on the East Texas Home school's Chargers where they fell 64-49. Campbell Sutton scored 23 points in the loss for White Oak. Cal Jester added 16 points and six assists, Andrew Rector six points and Tysen McClain four points.

The loss drops White Oak to 6-11 and they will next be in action when they head to Bogata to take part in the Rivercrest tournament.

The White Oak Ladynecks also had one final game before Christmas as they hosted Linden-Kildare and came away with a 42-30 victory. The win improves the Ladynecks to 10-14 on the season. They have one final non district game as they head to Prairiland before getting back into district play on January 6th when they head to Sabine.

The Union Grove Lions wrapped up their pre Christmas break as they hosted Harmony and came away with a 45-35 win.

The victory improves the Lions to 6-10 and they will have one last non district game at Joaquin before starting district play at home vs Hawkins.

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TEAM	TIME	NOTE
Saturday, November 5	Waskom	UG	V	10:00 AM	
Tuesday, November 8	Harmony/ETHS	UG	IV/V	5:00 PM	Harmony/IV/ETHS VG
Wednesday, November 9	Calallen	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, November 10	Kilgore	Away	IV/V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, November 20	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	IV/V	TBA	
Friday, November 21	West Rusk	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Saturday, November 22	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	IV/V	TBA	
Tuesday, November 25	Beckville	UG	IV/V	10:00 AM	
Wednesday, November 26	Calallen	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, December 4	Christian Heritage Town	Longview	V	TBA	
Friday, December 5	Christian Heritage Town	Longview	V	TBA	
Saturday, December 6	Christian Heritage Town	Longview	V	TBA	
Tuesday, December 9	Alto (cancelled)	Away	V	5:00 PM	Cancelled by Alto
Thursday, December 11	Cushing Tournament	Cushing	V	10:30 AM	30/30 AM Martinsville
Friday, December 12	Cushing Tournament	Cushing	V	TBA	10:30 AM Martinsville
Saturday, December 13	Cushing Tournament	Cushing	V	2 games TBA	
Tuesday, December 16	West Rusk	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Friday, December 19	Christmas Caroling	UG	V	5:00 PM	Christmas Caroling
Dec. 20 - Dec. 27	CHRISTMAS BREAK	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
Monday, December 28	West Rusk	UG	V	10:00 AM	
Tuesday, December 29	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Friday, January 2	Hawkins*	UG	IV/V	4:00 PM	
Friday, January 9	Big Sandy*	UG	IV/V	4:00 PM	VRB/VJ/VB/JVG
Friday, January 12	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Friday, January 16	Ore City*	UG	IV/V	4:00 PM	
Tuesday, January 20	McLeod*	UG	IV/V	4:00 PM	Teacher Appreciation
Friday, January 23	Ore City*	UG	V	4:00 PM	
Tuesday, January 24	Hawkins*	Away	IV/V	4:00 PM	
Friday, January 30	Harleton*	UG	IV/V	4:00 PM	
Saturday, January 31	Big Sandy*	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Friday, February 6	Linden-Kildare*	UG	V	4:00 PM	SR NIGHT
Tuesday, February 10	Ore City*	Away	IV/V	4:00 PM	

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TEAM	TIME	NOTE
Monday, November 3	BYE	Away	V	5:00 PM	
Monday, November 10	Harleton	HOME	V	5:00 PM	
Monday, November 11	Harleton	Away	V	5:00 PM	
Monday, December 1	Harleton	Away	V	5:00 PM	
Monday, December 8	Big Sandy	HOME	V	5:00 PM	
Wednesday, December 10	Union Grove/Yourment	Away	V	5:00 PM	All Day Round Robin Town.
Monday, December 15	Linden-Kildare	Away	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, January 8	Ore City	HOME	V	5:00 PM	
Friday, January 9	McLeod*	UG	V	4:00 PM	
Friday, January 13	Harleton*	UG	V	4:00 PM	
Thursday, January 22	Christian Heritage	Away	V	5:00 PM	JHG/JB/H4 games
Monday, January 26	Hawkins	Away	V	5:00 PM	

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Wednesday, November 12	Calallen	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, November 13	Kilgore	Away	IV/V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, November 18	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	V	TBA	
Friday, November 19	West Rusk	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, November 20	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	V	TBA	
Friday, November 21	West Rusk	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Saturday, November 22	Union Grove/Yourment	UG	V	TBA	
Tuesday, November 25	Beckville	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Wednesday, November 26	Calallen	UG	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, December 4	Christian Heritage Town	Longview	V	TBA	
Friday, December 5	Christian Heritage Town	Longview	V	TBA	
Saturday, December 6	Christian Heritage Town	Longview	V	TBA	
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Friday, December 19	Christmas Caroling	UG	V	5:00 PM	Christmas Caroling
Dec. 20 - Dec. 27	CHRISTMAS BREAK	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
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Tuesday, January 27	Hawkins*	Away	IV/V	4:00 PM	
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Saturday, January 31	Big Sandy*	Away	V	4:00 PM	
Friday, February 6	Linden-Kildare*	UG	V	4:00 PM	SR NIGHT
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Monday, December 1	Harleton	Away	V	5:00 PM	
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Wednesday, December 10	Union Grove/Yourment	Away	V	5:00 PM	All Day Round Robin Town.
Monday, December 15	Linden-Kildare	Away	V	5:00 PM	
Thursday, January 8	Ore City	HOME	V	5:00 PM	
Friday, January 9	McLeod*	UG	V	4:00 PM	
Friday, January 13	Harleton*	UG	V	4:00 PM	
Thursday, January 22	Christian Heritage	Away	V	5:00 PM	JHG/JB/H4 games
Monday, January 26	Hawkins	Away	V	5:00 PM	

GLADEWATER BASKETBALL

2024-2025 Schedule

Nov. 25 (M)	@ Pittsburg	Away	JV/Varsity	12/1/30pm
Nov. 26 (T)	Vs Gladewater	Home	JV/Varsity	12/1/30pm
Dec. 3 (T)	Vs Lindale	Home	F/J/Varsity	4/5/15/7pm
Dec. 5-7 (T/F/S)	@ White Oak Tournament	Away	Varsity Only	TBA
Dec. 5, 7 (T, S)	@ JV Sabine Tournament	Away	JV Only	TBA
Dec. 10 (T)	Vs Union Grove	Home	JV/Varsity	5/30pm
Dec. 13 (F)	Vs Daingerfield	Home	JV/Varsity	5/30pm
Dec. 17 (T)	Vs West Rusk (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Dec. 20 (F)	@ Troup (*)	Away	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Dec. 27, 28 (F, S)	@ Van Tournament	Away	Varsity Only	TBA
Dec. 31 (T)	Vs Rusk	Home	JV/Varsity	12/1/30pm
Jan. 3 (F)	Vs Tatum (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 7 (T)	@ White Oak (*)	Away	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 10 (F)	Vs Sabine (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 14 (T)	Vs Arp (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 17 (F)	Vye (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 21 (T)	Vs West Rusk (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 24 (F)	Vs Troup (*)	Home	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Jan. 31 (T)	Vs Sabine (*)	Away	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Feb. 4 (F)	@ Sabine (*)	Away	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Feb. 7 (T)	@ Arp (*)	Away	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm
Feb. 11 (F)	Vye (*)	Away	JV/Varsity	4/5/15/730pm

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Continued from Page 1

the community's aging water and sewer infrastructure as well as local roads. Often, that included utilizing public funds from the Texas Water Development Board and other sources to ease the burden on local taxpayers; that said, Fall 2025 brought the city's first extensive fee overhaul in almost a decade to cover costs long-term.

The City of White Oak's 2025 included the installation of new water registers throughout the community and, in July, a major water main repair caused by an errant fiber construction crew. That incident came on the heels of new rules to regulate digs in public rights-of-way following a string of similar costly incidents.

White Oak also said 'Goodbye' to retiring Police Chief Terry Roach last spring and welcomed longtime Lt. Brannon Robertson to the post. At Gladewater ISD, longtime educator and coach Jermaine Lewis became the school's athletic director and head football coach March 17. Later in the year, Shelly Godwin became the City of Gladewater's new Animal Control Officer, Barry Wallace was appointed Upshur County Criminal District Attorney following Billy Byrd's retirement then Dr. Greg Bower was tapped as the 'lone finalist' to succeed Kelly Moore as Union Grove Superintendent.

Kyler Priest became White Oak High School's first pole vaulter to clear 16 feet in late March. Priest later became the Class 3A State Champion in Austin while Gladewater's Kingston Sheffield clinched the 3A state title in the triple jump at the UIL Track and Field Championships, soaring 49 feet, 2 3/4 inches. The Lady Bears 4x100 Relay team captured gold in Austin as well between Kizyah Miles, Paytin Thompson, Peyton Hunter and Adyson Evans. Gladewater City Council

Year in REVIEW

members went step-by-step to develop a new Parks & Recreation Board in 2025, crafting the necessary ordinance, appointing the first group of board members and charging them to develop a long-term plan for the effort.

The Parks & Rec Board presented the plan in November with 'big vision and big dreams' for future projects.

Gladewater ISD adopted the Bluebonnet Curriculum in Spring 2025 and, a few months later, joined White Oak, Union Grove and school districts across the area in state in abiding by the legislature's broad ban on student use of "communication devices" during school hours. That new rule was one among more than 800 laws that went into effect statewide Sept. 1.

Lee-Bardwell Public Library utilized grant funds to develop a new collection of independent Texas authors in 2025. The facility also installed new planters on the library grounds, welcoming community members to partake in the fresh-grown fruits (and veggies) of volunteers' labors.

Bullriding legend Don Gay headlined the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's 94th annual Membership Banquet in late March for 'Legends Round-up,' returning for the 88th annual Round-Up Rodeo in early June.

The chamber's honorees for 2024 included:

- Educator of the Year Christy Carter, Gladewater ISD
- Youth of the Year Astrid Alvarez, Gladewater HS
- Volunteer of the Year Dr. Margo Bell (not pictured)
- Business of the Year Jackson's Cozy Theatre, Jackson Folty
- Woman of the Year Tam-

my Jeter Kessler, Texas Real Estate Executives

- Man of the Year Brian Smith, City of Gladewater Public Works Director
- Special Award Winner Todd Clifton

- Outstanding Community Involvement Award Winner Gladewater Fire Department
- Bradley Award Winner Harold Wells

- Bradley Award Winner Jim Bardwell
- Past President Jon Keller

Gladewater emergency responders hosted local disaster drills in late April including a river rescue and downed aircraft, working with the Gregg County Composite Squadron of the Civil Airport Patrol (CAP) on a full-scale exercise.

Throughout the year, thousands of residents and visitors descended on downtown Gladewater for a variety of events ranging from the GHS Band Booster Car Show to Gusher Days 2025, the inaugural two-day Jazz Festival at Jackson's Cozy Theatre, Juneteenth, the 50th annual Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival, the annual holiday open house, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's yearly Christmas parade and more.

The 2025 Easter Egg drop on the Broadway School grounds drew a huge crowd hunting 12,000-plus eggs while the year's Emergency Services Fall Fest had to be shifted under the downtown derrick due to weather, deemed a success by organizers as the event was paired with Living Water Church's Trunk or Treat event.

Gladewater City Council saw three contested races on the May 2025 ballot, drawing a bit less than 8 percent of local voters. In addition to Place 7 Council-

man Kevin Clark's unchallenged re-election, challengers William Blackmon and Milton Anderson won Places 4 and 6, respectively, while Mayor Pro Tem Sonny Anderson earned a seventh term in Place 5. There were no changes on the White Oak City Council while voters in White Oak ISD returned Dr. David Ummel to the school board in Place 1 alongside unchallenged Jessica Hughes unchallenged bid for another term in Place 2.

Former Gladewater Mayor Harold Wells became a bookseller, taking on the mantle of the late Pete Adams at Gladewater Books.

Gladewater Museum celebrated 20 years in 2025, and White Oak celebrated the crowning of Kylie Caraway as Miss Gregg County 2025 in mid-September.

(Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell was also celebrating in 2025, marrying a fellow publisher, Abigail, in a private family ceremony Oct. 17.)

In November, White Oak applauded the Regiment of Roughnecks Band's silver medal at state marching competition while Gladewater celebrated the Bears' district title – they clinched Bi-District Nov. 14, but the run ended in Kaufman Nov. 21 in the area round.

White Oak's currently in search of a new athletic director and head coach following Michael Ludlow's departure in November.

Six juveniles were ultimately referred by Gladewater Police Department to the Upshur County District Attorney's Office, facing a Class A misdemeanor for Criminal Trespass of a Habitation following an underage house party that drew scores to a private home on Lake Gladewater. In another of the top crime headlines from 2025, an 18-year-old ultimately pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in prison following a break-in and vandalism spree at Union Grove High School.

The Texas Rangers were called into Union Grove in September to investigate a \$100,000 embezzling allegation at the local water supply corporation.

In another story from 2025 that continues into '26, Gladewater City Council members hoped to block two liquor store developments in July. Current codes didn't support the action, however, and the council later vacated votes on the issue. In their December meeting, the group generally agreed to pursue the limitations for future developments, aiming to meet with a zoning consultant in the months ahead.

Short-term rentals will also be back on the agenda in the New Year after council members fielded comments from residents on both sides of the issue Dec. 18.

Christmas week carjacking sends 1 to hospital

Continued from Page 1

GPD personnel were dispatched for the stolen vehicle and injured individual at the intersection. Sustaining "minor injuries," the person was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

Investigators tracked the vehicle to multiple locations in Longview. Gregg County deputies located the truck and detained Osteen, returning her to Gladewater for booking.

"On the following day, while being escorted for

transport from the Gladewater City Jail to the Gregg County Jail, Osteen briefly escaped custody and fled on foot," ultimately detained again in the 200 block of Elanore Street.

Gregg County Judicial Records show a history of drug and alcohol charges for Osteen in addition to incidents of theft, criminal trespass and violence.

As of press time, Osteen remains incarcerated in the county jail on bonds totaling \$35,000 for Robbery (\$25,000) and Escape from Custody (\$10,000).

Mayor Kyle Kutch & City Council Members

Jimmy Purcell City Administrator and Staff & Employees

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GISD keeps fueling 'growth mindset' for 2026

By James Draper

Gladewater ISD isn't looking for a new resolution for 2026 – the district adopted a new resolve many months ahead of the New Year.

"We're going to be looking



PATTY

Ann Patty says, "working with coaching teachers and coaching students on how to get better."

Fall's first semester implementation of the Bluebonnet Curriculum was "great," she underscored in mid-December, and administrators are continuing to monitor the school's rising data.

forward to continuing to implement our new curriculum,"

GISD Superinten-

dent Rae

It's been an effort, and the district's faculty have risen to the challenge.

"I can't say enough about our teachers. The teachers have really deepened their knowledge really quickly of this new curriculum and the presentation for instructional purposes. It's taken a lot of change, and they're making some really great strides in student success and achievement."

The district officially adopted the curriculum in Spring 2025 and launched implementation weeks later.

"We started focusing on all the training for it this past summer," Patty confirmed, encompassing reading and math from the foundational grades through Fifth.

The most recent 'D' for Gladewater Primary School and Weldon stung, especially with multiple efforts already

underway for improvements.

"We have worked very, very hard," Patty told attendees at the Mayor's Town Hall in October. "When you see these teachers, please tell them 'Thank you.' You have no idea what they've gone through."

In addition to implementing a new curriculum and all that entails, the district is emphasizing a coaching model, top to bottom, from the superintendent's office to the early grades.

"I want to help every teacher become better at their craft each and every year and help them become better in their class with their students," Patty said. "We're trying to change the whole culture to a growth mindset."

"We're going back to every kid, every classroom, every day. We are increasing our data collection and

implementing a data disaggregation process. We're going to make incremental steps along the way."

Her philosophy: With great instruction in the classroom on an aligned curriculum, testing will take care of itself.

"That's what we're shooting for," Patty said. "We're really trying to focus on getting classroom instruction and curriculum aligned to

the standards Texas tells us we have to teach then we're going to let the testing take care of itself."

In the Town Hall, Patty highlighted the district's gains in ESL – "They're learning English, they're learning how to pass their exams, and they're doing such a good job." – while simultaneously praising GISD's sports programs

and other extracurriculars, spotlighting activities like the Honey Bears, Band, FFA and Ag.

"We want to continue being successful in our extracurricular activities," she said. It's what attracts students to a district. "We want to continue seeing that success. It's been good for us this year both academically and extracurricular-wise."



Gladewater ISD students, parents, educators, administrators and community members participate in the Texas Education Agency's mobile STEM lab activities Dec. 13.

WOISD keeps eyes on 'A' for New Year

By James Draper

White Oak ISD officials spent the final weeks of 2025 vetting candidates for athletic director and head

coach, culling a pile of about 50 applicants.

PARKER

In addition to filling that key position, another essential task on the table in early 2026 is an extensive policy update.

"Like every other school district, the New Year's res-

olution is going to be implementing all this legislation that came out of Austin," WOISD Supt. Jack Parker said last month. "They told me it's 1500 pages."

Looking ahead into the

New Year, Parker says the common focus districtwide is to work hard to maintain the current 'A' Accountability Rating from the Texas Education Agency for 2024-2025.

"That's been a huge push," Parker said in mid-December. "We've been smart with our kids and gathered data. The principals will start reporting

to the board in January, and we'll see where we are headed."

According to statistics compiled by Texas Tribune, White Oak ISD's four-year graduation rate is 99.1 percent, beating the state's 90.3% average.

Regarding White Oak's AD and head coach, Michael Ludlow resigned from the post in late-November after completing his third season with the Roughnecks. The school district launched its search for his successor Friday, Nov. 21, accepting applications through Dec. 19.

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Lee-Library crafts events for all ages

After a packed end of year, Lee-Bardwell Public Library has a host of events planned for the first month of 2026, beginning with Story Time Monday.

The library's closed today, Jan. 1, but it'll be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday then back to normal operating hours.

Weekly Story Time sessions begin at 11 each Monday morning. Cost Crotchet & Crafts are set for 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, and again Tuesday, Jan. 20.

January's Kids Night is set for 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at the 312 W. Pacific Ave. facility, including snacks, board games, movies, and interactive games for youngers. Those younger than 10 should be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Parents Night is set for 6 p.m. to 9 Friday, Jan. 23.

"This will be adults only, and we will have trivia, a movie, and opportunities to either interact with other adults or to just be in a quiet space for a few hours. We will also have finger foods available."

Stay tuned to @leepubliclibrary on



GFD's Tim Basham and Felipe Gomez cook breakfast Dec. 20 during 'Pancakes with Gladewater Fire Department' at Lee-Bardwell Public Library. Gomez was recognized in December as the City of Gladewater's first Black & Gold Award Recipient. "This award represents excellence, leadership, and heart... and Felipe embodies all three."


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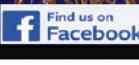

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