

Gladewater Mirror

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Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026

Vol. 98, No. 3

1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

Texas flu levels 'very high' with new strain

Flu activity in Texas has reached a "very high" level, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Austin American-Statesman* reported that in the last week of December, the state recorded 25,000 flu-related emergency room visits, with children ages 5 to 11 accounting for more than a quarter of all ER visits statewide.

"It's been really, really startling," said Dr. Jeff Shilt, president of Texas Children's Hospital in Austin. "What's most startling to us is the number and the severity."

The surge is fueled by a rapidly spreading H3N2 subtype of influenza A. Although the flu vaccine has been less effective against this strain, doctors emphasize that vaccination still helps protect against severe illness.

Other respiratory illnesses, such as COVID-19 and RSV, remain at low levels in Texas, according to the CDC.

Shakespeare Fest awarded National Endowment for the Arts Grant

The Texas Shakespeare Festival at Kilgore College has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support its 2026 season as part of the federal initiative Celebrating America250: Arts Projects Honoring the National Garden of American Heroes.

"As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, the National Endowment for the Arts is honored to support communities across the country in recognizing the individuals whose contributions have defined our history," said Mary Anne Carter, NEA senior adviser. "The Texas Shakespeare Festival plays a significant role in commemorating these heroes' legacies while affirming the enduring role of the arts in shaping America's future."

The NEA was named a key partner in President Trump's Executive Order 13978, Celebrating America's Birthday, which calls for the establishment of the National Garden of American Heroes.

GW council kicks off 2026 with new projects

Multiple times, Gladewater council members have talked about their eagerness to replace the fallen pavilion out at Gladewater Memorial Park Cemetery – it'll be one of their first votes of 2026.

During their 6 p.m. meeting Thursday night they're also set to officially sign off on a 20 percent increase per animal that's taken to the Longview Animal Care & Adoption Center and, likely, to join other municipalities opposing new costs levied by SWEPCO.

The Jan. 15 session at Gladewater City Hall will also include the council's consideration of a recommendation by the city's Parks & Rec Board regarding where to place the south entrance gate at Lake Gladewater Park. Another gate was installed during the Christmas holidays.

In addition to action on roof replacements at Gladewater Municipal Airport, Thursday's meeting also includes public hearings and votes on two items approved last week by the city's Planning & Zoning Board. (See separate story in today's issue.)

The animal control fee issue is tied to council consideration of the latest interlocal agreement between the City of Longview and the City of Gladewater for animal shelter services.

In executive session, a closed door meeting permitted for select exceptions to the Open

Continued on Page 3

Candidate filing opens Jan. 14 for Spring 2026 election cycle

The New Year brings a new local election cycle – with filing opening Jan. 14, would-be candidates have until Feb. 13 to get their name on local ballots for nearby cities and school districts.

The Spring 2026 Election Day is Saturday, May 2, for local races.

Three Gladewater City Council spots are up in the rotation this year: Mayor (Place 1) along with Places 2 and 3. At Gladewater ISD, it's Place 4 and Place 5.

Gladewater Mayor Brandy Flanagan confirmed Monday she'll be running for a second term this election season. Place 2 council member Michael Webber has said he won't be running for re-election, but Stoney Stone says he'll seek a second stint in seat 3.

For GISD, Places 4 and 5 are currently held

by Chris Thompson (school board president) and Cori Arevalo, respectively.

In White Oak, Places 3, 4 and 5 are up in the rotation this year at White Oak ISD, currently held by Stephanie McKinney (board vice president), Lance Noll (president) and David Trest, respectively.

For the City of White Oak, the mayor's seat (currently held by Kyle Kutch) is up along with Place 4 (John Frazier) and Place 5 (Kevin Hood).

In Gladewater, city secretary Judy Van Houten posted the requisite filing announcement Dec. 11. Candidate applications for City of Gladewater are available at City Hall at 519 E. Broadway Ave. and due back to the same spot; office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:45

Continued on Page 3

East Texas 'Metal Detective' reunites colonel's dog tags with surviving family here

Col. Dan Merritt's dog tags are back in a place of honor thanks to another fortunate find by Steve Smith and his trusty metal detector.

Gladewater's long-since proved to be fruitful territory for the Mabank treasure seeker and relic wrangler, and Smith's recent excursion was no exception.

According to Gladewater Museum volunteer Kathy Shipp, "The item he presented held significant personal and historical value for the family of a former Gladewater resident."

Born in 1948, the late Daniel Merritt (known to his loved ones as 'Danny') finished Gladewater High School in 1967 and became a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1972.

In a 24-year career, the armor officer eventually led soldiers in combat in Desert Storm. The "Desert Duke" was ultimately awarded the Silver Star for his actions there. Other honors during his military career included the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, five Meritorious Service Medals and the Army Commendation Medal.

Merritt retired from the Armed Forces as a colonel after 24 years in the service. Returning home to East Texas, Merritt died in 2004 and was interred in Gladewater's Friendship Cemetery.

Family members speculate the dog tags Smith recently found on the property of the former Gladewater High School building on Melba were likely the originals issued to him in the late 1960s.

Once he made the discovery, the 'metal detective' contacted Gladewater museum Director Elaine Roddy to uncover the story behind the find and to get them in the right hands.

"I think it's marvelous," Roddy said this week.

Smith had another big find locally in Fall 2024 when a clump of dirt and metal he discovered was revealed to be a metal seal that once belonged to banker LJ Everett.

The longtime Gladewater banker and railway commuter founded two area Citizens National operations in the early 1900s. At some point, his custom-made personal stamp fell from his possessions and was buried for decades near the local Union Pacific Railroad tracks – until Smith and his Garrett Ace 250 metal detector came along. After restoring the seal as best he could, Smith entrusted it to the Gladewater Museum.

Roddy praised Smith for the discovery and credited her volunteers for helping craft a happy ending: Gladewater Chamber's Lois Reed

connected Smith with Merritt's sister, Cynthia while

Shipp is helping spread the good news.

"We were wondering how

those dog tags got on the

Sabine FD taps Gladewater chief for new role

By James Draper

Gregg County ESD No. 2, aka Sabine Fire Department, has recruited Mike Simmons to become its chief of operations and training chief.

It's why the Fire Chief is on the Gladewater City Council's agenda Thursday night. Municipal leadership and GFD personnel are already in the loop, but details are up for discussion.

"I'll be announcing to the council in executive session that'll I'll probably be taking another job," Simmons confirmed Monday. "It's an opportunity that came up for a new position with a new and upcoming department that needs training and coaching and mentoring. Those are my passions."

The local task is to develop Simmons' exit strategy to ensure continuity of operations. Notably, in addition to serving as fire chief, he is also Lake Warden and Emergency Management Coordinator. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the Lake Gladewater Dam falls under those roles along with a myriad of other duties.

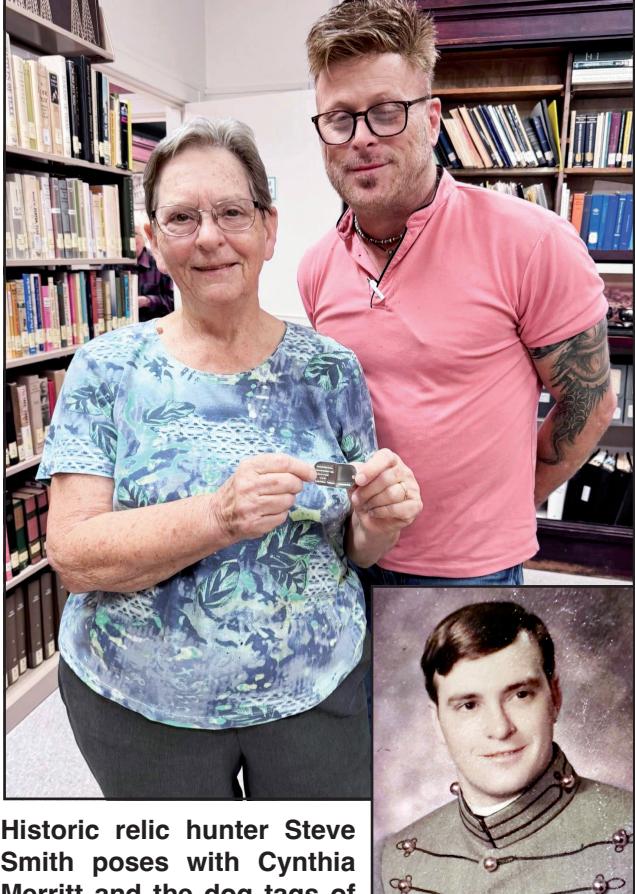
Simmons reached Kilgore Fire Department from Garland, then went on from KFD to serve as director of the Kilgore College Fire Academy before transitioning into leadership in Gladewater.

Along the way, he began working with Sabine Volunteer Fire Department, supporting Chief Richard Sisk's efforts to create Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2. Simmons served as president of Sisk's board during that time, and he's excited about the chance to continue the operation's development in the Liberty City area.

Primary construction on Gregg County ESD No. 2 / Sabine Fire Department Station 1 was completed in Fall 2025.

"It's a cool opportunity to be able to go to a department that I was kind of part of helping build and to come in now when they're advancing with fulltime staffing and 24-hour coverage," he said, "to be able to help build up the department."

Continued on Page 3



Historic relic hunter Steve Smith poses with Cynthia Merritt and the dog tags of the late Col. Dan Merritt.

ritt's sister, Cynthia while Shipp is helping spread the good news.

"We were wondering how those dog tags got on the

Free soil and litter testing on tap

By Phillip Williams

Upshur-Gregg Soil and Water Conservation District No. 417 is conducting a free soil and litter testing drive through Feb. 7, announced District Clerk Technician Joyce Williams.

Participants may submit up to two soil and litter samples to be tested at the district's expense, but must themselves pay for testing any additional ones. The soil testing includes regular test only. The drive has three pickup-and-drop-off points. They include:

• the district itself, located in the USDA Service Center at 1259 Hwy. 271 S. in Gilmer.

• the Upshur County office of the Texas

A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 301 E. Butler in Gilmer.

• the Gregg County office of the extension service at 405 E. Marshall Ave. (which is also U.S. 80) in Longview.

Samples left at the USDA center are best dropped off during normal business hours between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, but a container or table will be out front to collect samples at other hours, said a spokeswoman for the Upshur-Gregg SWCD.

For more information, contact the SWCD at

734-8732, extension 101, or the Gregg County extension office at 903-236-8429.



Union Grove Lady Lions basketball coach J.B. Littlejohn picked up his 500th career victory recently with a 75-43 win over West Rusk.



OPINION/COMMENTARY

Feel the burn...

Help me!
Help me, help me.

I don't think cries for encouragement and support are going to come my way for a healthier new year as I sit at my computer drinking a coke after having a burger, fries and a small dipped cone for lunch. Yes, I did get the small. My rationalization was the fact that the meal deal was a wallet, if not waist, pleasing \$5.99.

I don't see myself the way the mirror does. At least, not until I went shopping to purchase a new outfit for the Texas Press Association's mid-winter convention this week. My sweetheart is 2nd Vice President and I will have to sit at the head table a time or two. After hours of shopping and the purchase of two sweaters to wear with jeans to work I am without stylish wear...once again.

I do adhere to the comfort rule. Pretty much always have. But, once upon a time...my, my once upon a time I had beautiful shoes with heels not orthopedic inserts. I had flowing Gunny Sack dresses. I had cool gypsy tops. I had...heck, who am I fooling. I was a size 4-7.

My clothing sizes are now classified. As in 007 classified. That's right. I consider myself to be in possession of "a license to kill" if you find out my size or weight. None of this County Fair weight guessing either.

I am going on record here and now to tell you after this coke I will try to...try to...try to...overcome my addiction. Hey, I don't smoke. I don't chew. And I really am not a sugar addict like someone I live with is...BUT I have this thing for the bite of a good Coca-Cola. One that burns all the way down. Pepsi I will not drink. Too sweet. Same for RC, too syrupy. Dr. Pepper? Sorry fellow Native Texans, not my thing.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



So what will I replace Cokes with? I like water. I like unsweetened tea. Oh, who am I fooling? The best that can be said is that I know the dangers of artificial sweeteners and will under no circumstances drink diet drinks. If you don't believe me look it up. Seriously. Research shows that recovering stroke and trauma victims recovery time is slowed or hampered by the use of aspartame.

Besides my aging brain doesn't need anything, and I mean anything else besides the stress of deadlines and newspapers to slow it down. Time to start reading labels my friends.

Notice how I diverted your attention from my woeful lack of self-discipline?

Well, the remedy should be here next Wednesday when we adopt King the Rescue Collie. I expect King to take over my training and weight management program by walking me at least two to three times a day. I have bought flavored tea bag drop ins for my water bottle. I know that I need to eat more salads, and I love salads. After all, I went to DQ for the grilled chicken salad. Could I help it if the devil put that \$5.99 special with the dipped cone on that big old poster?

Time to repent of my ways and turn over a new leaf.

As soon as I finish this scrumptious Coke.

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

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



White drops bid to take on Abbott

Andrew White has dropped his bid for the Democratic nomination for governor and has thrown his support behind state Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, who is widely seen as the frontrunner, according to the Houston Chronicle. The crowded Democratic primary has 10 candidates vying to take on Gov. Greg Abbott, who is seeking an unprecedented fourth term.

Abbott has \$90 million in his campaign war chest and faces only token opposition his party's primary.

Besides Hinojosa, who has served in the Legislature since 2017, the primary field also includes Chris Bell, a former Houston congressman and gubernatorial nominee, and Bobby Cole, a rancher and retired firefighter.

White is the son of former Gov. Mark White. He ran for governor in 2018, coming up six percentage points short in his Democratic primary race against former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez. She lost handily to Abbott that year in the general election.

500 miles of buoys for Rio Grande

In a move to increase border security, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security plans to add floating buoys along more than 500 miles of the Rio Grande, The Texas Tribune reported. Secretary Kristi Noem announced the deployment last week while visiting Rio Grande Valley.

The state of Texas deployed 1,000 feet of the water barrier along the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass in 2023 and added another 1,000 feet in January 2025.

"Texas finally has a partner in the White House," Andrew Mahaleris, press secretary for Abbott, said in a statement Wednesday. "The floating marine barriers deployed by Texas have been a resounding success, and Gov. Abbott is proud to work with the Trump Administration and Border Patrol to expand the program."

Under the Biden administration, the federal government sued Texas over the buoys, citing migrant safety and saying that they violated water treaties between U.S. and Mexico. That case is still before the courts.

"They'll create a safer environment for agents on patrol, and securing our waterways not only protects Americans, it saves the lives of illegal aliens by deterring them from daring to attempt to cross through this treacherous water," Noem said.

Teachers' union sues TEA

One of the state's leading teachers unions has sued the Texas Education Agency in an effort to block investigations into public educators who commented negatively about conservative activist Charlie Kirk after his assassination, the Chronicle reported. The lawsuit said the probe has "unleashed a wave of retaliation and disciplinary actions against teachers" by their local school districts.

TEA launched the inquiry last fall and has yet to issue any disciplinary action. AFT represents about 66,000 educators in Texas. The agency said in December that it received more than 350 complaints from the public, of which 95 are "open and undergoing further investigation and review." The remainder have been dismissed.

TEA Commissioner Mike Morath warned soon after Kirk's death that educators who posted or shared "vile content" would be investigated for possibly violating the educator's code of ethics.

At a press conference last week, Randi Weingarten, the president of AFT, called the TEA investigations a "state-sponsored attack on teachers." She noted only Texas and Florida launched probes of this type.

"Mr. Morath decided to exploit the strategy of Mr. Kirk's senseless murder," Weingarten said. "His actions were a transparent effort to smear and shame educators, divide our communities and deny our kids opportunities to learn and thrive."

ARE YOU PUTTING OFF OBEDIENCE GOD?

Recently I read the witty observation that some people who planned on being saved at the eleventh hour, die at ten thirty. Well, what that means is that some people planning to be saved just before they die end up dying before they planned.

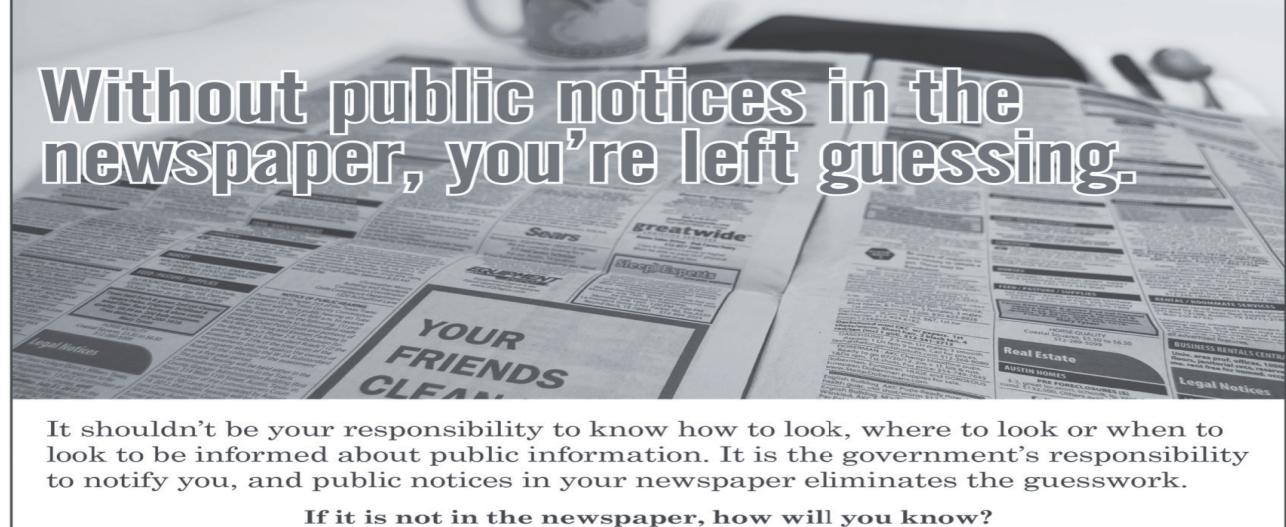
Now, if you are familiar with the Bible, you know God warns us in the Scriptures not to arrogantly think we have a guarantee on tomorrow. Proverbs 27: 1 says "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for you do not know what a day may bring forth." We have the faculties for knowing the past and experiencing the present but none for discerning the future. To count on tomorrow so as to neglect the duty of today is the greatest practical error among men. Each day has its own twists and turns, bringing unanticipated events and the most carefully laid plans can suddenly be rendered worthless. Jesus said "Do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself."

Each day has enough trouble of its own (Matt. 6: 34). Behind the dark curtains of the future, tomorrow lies concealed. Therefore, we should focus on today and yet do everything we can to prepare for our future. For example, if we have never obeyed the gospel of Christ or if we have strayed from God's will, we ought to realign our plans with Him today. Waiting is foolish because we have no guarantee that tomorrow will arrive. James 4: 14 says, "Whereas you know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." So, yes, it is true: None of us are assured that we will have another tomorrow to make our lives right with God. We may plan to be saved tomorrow and we may die today!

Furthermore: it is willfully sinful to put off obeying God today. Although we seldom think of it this way, it is true nevertheless that the person who says: "I'll obey God someday" is silently saying "I won't obey God today!" So yes, the person who says, "I'll become a Christian someday before I die" is really saying: "I'll become a Christian when I get good and ready, and God can just wait until I get ready." The fatal problem with such procrastination is that they may plan to be saved before they die and die before they planned! Please remember there is no better time than now to make your life right with God, and there may be NO OTHER TIME! Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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The Year Ahead

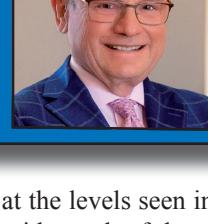
Although only a few days into 2026, we've already seen notable events, some of which have the potential to profoundly affect long-term patterns. Our latest projections indicate expansion during the year, but there are a lot of things that bear watching.

First, the good news. We are seeing some recent improvement in inflation (though it remains an issue), and the Federal Reserve has engaged in a round of rate cuts. There are some signals that the housing market will also begin to unstuck, helping both buyers and sellers. The future pattern in interest rate reductions will likely be somewhat more measured, however, and there remain forces putting upward pressure on prices.

Geopolitical tensions are fostering significant uncertainty. Conflicts in Russia-Ukraine and the Middle East continue, and while there is currently hope for progress, there is also potential for additional disruptions. The recent raid to arrest Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro is another situation to watch. Conditions in Venezuela are very difficult, and it is impossible to know how things will emerge at this early stage. Depending on the leadership pattern going forward, the country's vast oil reserves may become available to help rebuild (though it will almost certainly take decades to meaningfully ramp up production).

The global economy and supply chains are shifting somewhat to account for tariff levies and the related fallout, and we will continue to see this process unfold. Although there is modest onshoring in some sectors, there are also US manufacturers facing difficulties due to increased prices of

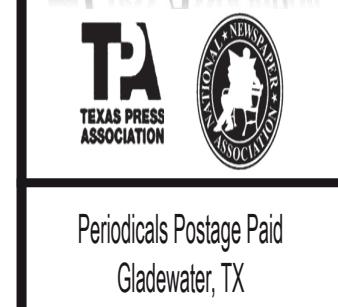
Dr. Ray Perryman THE ECONOMIST



imported inputs. Bankruptcies are at the levels seen in the aftermath of the Great Recession, with much of the spike in goods-producing industries. As long as disruptive tariffs are in place, economic expansion potential will be curtailed. Workable solutions would offer a brighter picture.

The job market remains weak, particularly for white-collar and manufacturing jobs, though it has been remarkably resilient. Companies are embracing AI and using it to enhance worker productivity, with the inevitable outcome of decreasing the near-term need for certain kinds of employees. When combined with the ongoing global economic uncertainty, it's tough out there for some fields. Simultaneously, there are shortages in occupations such as skilled trades, mechanics, and hands-on healthcare workers. We will likely see job market shifts throughout the year, though a reduction in uncertainty could boost hiring.

Tax cuts and deregulation have the potential to lead to increased investment across a spectrum of industries. Conversely, major escalation of conflicts, tariff hikes, and other destabilizing patterns could slow future gains. More productive implementation of AI could boost the trajectory (particularly for gross product). Needless to say, it will be an interesting ride. Wishing you all the best in 2026! Stay safe!



The Gladewater Mirror

Periodicals Postage Paid

Gladewater, TX

USPS 575-140

ISSN Number 1045-5671

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

Office Hours - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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POSTMASTER:

Send PS3579 to

The Gladewater Mirror

P.O. Box 1549

Gladewater, TX 75647

Subscriptions are \$36/year in Gregg, Smith & Upshur counties and payable in advance.

GLADEWATER POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

CALL DATE	CALL DESC	CFS#	CALL TIME	BUSINESS NAME	ADDRESS
1/26	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20260702	09	501 MELBA MELBA	
	EMS	20260703	1027	3781 US HWY 80 (US HWY 80)	
	ABANDONED 911	20260704	1050	1103 HACBERRY HACBERRY	
	EMS	20260707	1107	SENTINEL GARDENS	300 MONEY MONEY ST
	ALARMOTHER	20260708	1215		501 N AMES AMES ST
	ABANDONED 911	20260709	1234		501 NORTH NORTH
	DISTURBANCE-RESIDENCE	20260808	1519		214 EDGY EDDY
	THEFT	20260809	1539	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20260809	1603	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20260809	1604	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	EMS	20260809	1634		501 SWEET GUM SWEET GUM
	ALARMOTHER	20260809	1742		1024 CHEVY CHASE CHEV CHASE
	EMS	20260809	1745		5015 WHITE OAK WHITE OAK
	EMS	20260809	1800		1000 EAST LAKE EAST LAKE
	ASSIST	20260808	1815		1900 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	EMS	20260808	1825		1208 N OLIVE ST
1/26	EMS	20260808	231	231 TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER	2201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	20260809	246		103 N DEAN DEAN ST
	EMS	20260809	328		1210 N OLIVE ST
	CRM TRESPASS	20260809	937		801 N MAIN MAIN ST
	20260809	942	JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS	53 JULIAWOODS JULIAWOODS	
	ANIMAL CONTROL	20260809	1017		1905 CHESTNUT CHESTNUT
	EMS	20260809	1134		1273 S STATE HWY 80 STATE HWY 155
	ASSIST	20260809	1414		1111 N SHELL SHELL RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260809	1559		5015 MARSHAL MARSHAL
	ASSIST	20260809	1518		214 E GADE GADE
	EMS	20260809	1628	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	10-50 MAJOR	20260101	1756	MIKES MINI MART	1324 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260102	1854		LYNN LYNN
	ASSIST	20260103	1855		QUITMAN QUITMAN
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260104	2027		808 N MAIN MAIN ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260105	2238	WILD WEST HAIR SALON	2001 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
1/26	ALARMOTHER	20260107	234	PENNYS FOOD & FUEL	807 STYLER TYLER ST
	EMS	20260108	450	TRUMAN SMITH CHILDREN'S CENTER	2201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR
	FIRE DEPT	20260109	613		97 WELDON HOMES WELDON HOMES
	EMS	20260111	805	ECONOMY INN	701 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	20260112	1027			1208 MELBA MELBA AVE
	THEFT	20260114	1226		804 TENERY TENERY
	THEFT	20260115	1252	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	ASSIST	20260116	1258		
	ALARMOTHER	20260118	1434		300 JORDAN JORDAN ST
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20260119	1450		802 TENERY TENERY ST
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20260120	1516		25 GREENWAY VILLAGE GREENWAY VILLAGE
	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	20260122	1006		482 COMMERCE COMMERCE
	INCIDENT - NO REPORT	20260123	1722		ELEANOR ELEANOR
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20260124	1748	SONIC DRIVE IN	1102 E BROADWAY BROADWAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20260125	1852		1405 N MAIN MAIN ST
	THEFT	20260126	1923		1000 NORTH NORTH
	10-50 MAJOR	20260127	2027		210 GODFREY GODFREY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260128	2141		815 GODFREY GODFREY
1/26	MISCELLANEOUS	20260129	1015		801 N MAIN MAIN
	EMS	20260131	1021	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL	2201 W GAY GAY AVE
	EMS	20260132	1034		807 N POST POST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260133	1051	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT	911 STYLER TYLER RD
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260134	1137		
	DISTURBANCE-OTHER	20260135	1217		917 MELBA MELBA AVE
	EMS	20260136	1352		200 LAFAYETTE LAFAYETTE
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260137	1359		1111 LYNN LYNN
	EMS	20260138	1525	GLADEWATER PRIMARY SCHOOL	100 W GAY GAY AVE
	ABANDONED 911	20260141	1747		502 N FERRY FERRY ST
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260142	2039		1712 PM 288 PM 288
1/26	EMS	20260144	028	REGENCY INN AND SUITE	1000 E BROADWAY BROADWAY
	MISCELLANEOUS	20260145	622		214 EDGY EDDY
	EMS	20260146	823		1208 MARY MARY

GPD Arrest Report

ARREST DATE	ARREST DATE	TIME	FULL NAME	RACE	SEX	OFFENSE	LOCATION ADDRESS
1/126	1/126	1023	ALISON, ROY CHESTER JR	B	M	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN PENAL	2201 W UPSHUR UPSHUR AVE

New World screwworm case reported in Tamaulipas

A new case of New World screwworm was identified in December in a six-day-old calf in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, less than 200 miles from the border. The Texas Standard reported this is the northernmost active detection of the flesh-eating larval parasite.

"The continued detections of New World Screwworm near the Texas border are grim reminders of the serious threat this pest poses to our state," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a five-point plan to address the issue, including building a sterile fly production facility in Edinburg. The parasite was eliminated from the United States decades ago through similar efforts.

"This proven strategy is key to the long-term eradication of New World Screwworm," Miller said.

Talarico, Crockett set first debate

The first debate in the state's Democratic primary for U.S. Senate is set for Jan. 24 in Georgetown, The Dallas Morning News reported. U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Dallas and state Rep. James Talarico of Round Rock are vying for the nomination.

The seat is now held by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, who faces two major opponents in the GOP primary: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt of Houston. Cornyn is seeking his fifth term.

The Georgetown debate is sponsored by the Texas AFL-CIO. Crockett is stressing her standing as the race's progressive and hopes to inspire left-leaning voters to turn out in November if she wins the nomination. Talarico is emphasizing electability, noting he flipped a Republican district to get elected state representative and saying Democrats need a nominee able to compete statewide.

Early voting in the March 3 Democratic primary begins Feb. 17.

GW council kicks off 2026 with new projects

Continued from Page 1

Meetings Act, the council is set to meet with Gladewater Fire Chief Mike Simmons, who is considering a new role with Gregg County ESD No. 2 / Sabine Fire Department. (See separate story on Page 1.) Any related action will be taken in open session.

Other regular items on the agenda include mayor and council comments, citizens comments and updates from Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith.

On their consent agenda (items typically approved with no discussion and a single vote) the council is set to adopt an ordinance setting the city election for May 2 along with a joint agreement to coordinate polling with Gladewater ISD. Find more coverage of the Spring 2026 in today's edition.

Find the meeting's partial packet online at Gladewater-Mirror.com

Sabine FD taps Gladewater chief for new role

Continued from Page 1

ment.

"It's a unique opportunity that's in my wheelhouse."

The questions and answers moving forward fall to city council members and administrators once they've had a chance to confer during their first meeting of Calendar Year 2026. (Find a preview of the agenda in today's edition.)

"Will it be two weeks? Will I stay and help transition the new chief in? All of that will be discussed Thursday, and we'll come up with a plan."

This month marks four years Simmons has led Gladewater Fire Department.

"I was hired during some challenging times and was tasked with rebuilding and reshaping the fire department," Simmons said, and he's gratified it's in great shape today: "We've got good people who are working there. We're definitely strong and moving forward. I'm proud of the guys and gals."

The team at GFD is invested in the department's guiding philosophies, Simmons said, and they take ownership of their role in the broader community.

"The Gladewater Fire Department's a really strong group of people who make the decision to lead tough. They're professionals at what they do and proud of what they do. They certainly make the chief's job easier."

Candidate filing opens Jan. 14 for Spring 2026 election cycle

Continued from Page 1

p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 11:45 Fridays. Applications can also be emailed or faxed to Van Houten via jvanhouten@cityofgladewater.com or 903-845-6891.

Likewise, applications are available from the GISD, WOISD and UGSD administrative offices as well as White Oak City Hall.

Applications can be filed until 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13, at every entity.

This year, the last day to register to vote is Thursday, April 2. Early voting by personal appearance begins Monday, April 20, and ends Tuesday, April 28, before Election Day May 2.

Notably, Union Grove ISD goes to the polls in the fall. Places 1, 2, 4 and 5 are on the slate this year come Nov. 3. Those spots are currently held by Karey Barbee, Justin Smith (board vice president), Tim Turner (secretary) and Brian Cox, respectively.

At UGSD and similar entities, filing opens July 20 and closes at 5 p.m. Aug. 17. The last day to register to vote will be Oct. 5 and early voting will run Oct. 19-30.

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— Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"



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ACROSS

1 in Montague County on U.S. 82 (abbr.)
5 TXism: "lower than a snake's belly in ___"
6 he ___ me money when I needed it
7 Tex-Mex tasty
8 superlative ending
9 TX Jim Reeves label: ___ Victor
12 Texas' King Ranch has 825,000 of 'em
17 teenagers' goal at Six Flags over Texas? (3 wds.)
19 Texas stock fraud: "___ town Scandal" (1971-72)
21 TXism: "doesn't know enough to come ___ the rain" (dumb)
22 "Eagle," TX Don
23 TXism: "blind ___"
28 TXism: "stirred up a hornet's ___"
29 "___ out a living" (barely got by)
30 Travis Tritt's "___ - Quarter"
31 it ain't "tails"
35 milk is ___ material for Texas' Blue Bell
36 this Anna Maria was in 1955 Alamo film "The Last Command"
42 "___" Choir" is located in Fort Worth
44 paint layers

46 a light Texas boxer
48 this Skeeter won a Pulitzer for photography at the Dallas Times Herald
49 former Cowboy Jason Witten's pos.
50 fly high
51 Olajuwon as a Cougar
52 DA evidence (abbr.)

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1774

53 Rockport is "where the fun never ___"
54 TXism: "he could shoot the eye out of a ___"
56 TXism: "___ bien" (good)
57 ___ Grande
58 pig casa

DOWN

1 TXism for "saved money" (3 wds.)
2 in 1862, 40 Unionists were hanged in north Texas for this crime
3 Kimble County seat
4 this Preminger directed TX Gene Tierney in "Laura"
9 barn rodents
10 closet items (2 wds.)

11 TX Jim J. Bullock was on this TV "alien" sitcom (1989-90)
12 fire residue
13 popular product from New York, Texas (now from Athens)
14 TX Chester W. Nimitz's ___ in WWII was admiral
15 UT has ___ Stanley Gardner's complete study
16 drove fast
18 election day (abbr.)
20 this Young created storied "Curtain Club" at UT (init.)
23 ___ Belo started The Dallas Morning News in 1885

24 dir. to Azle from Springtown (abbr.)
25 TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"
26 desolate by death
27 TXism: "unnecessary ___ grease on a jackrabbit"
32 TXism: "let '___ rip!"
33 Ken Paxton pos.
34 22-across init.
36 "Honest ___"

See Answers On Page 5A

Twentieth Century Club welcomes Upshur Co. seniors' applications

The Twentieth Century Club is pleased to announce the opening of applications for the 20th Century Club Scholarship, designed to support outstanding Upshur County students pursuing higher education.

Any graduating senior from an Upshur County high school planning to attend an accredited college, university, technical or trade school is eligible to apply. Awards of \$500 each will be given.

Applications may be picked up from high school counselors. All applications must have a postmark of April 1 or earlier to be considered.



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- Yield the right of way to pedestrians when turning at intersections.
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OBITUARIES

DEBORAH ELAINE GAGE

Mrs. Deborah Elaine Gage, 68, of Pritchett, transcended from this life on January 8, 2026, at her home residence. She was born on January 31, 1957, in Marshall, Texas. Born a



daughter to Dewey Flarity and Jewel Juanita Flarity. She lived a life of servitude to both her community and to her Lord. She consistently showed this dedication to God by being an active member of the Cross Brand Cowboy Church and her dedication to the community by serving the Gladewater Independent School District for over twenty years.

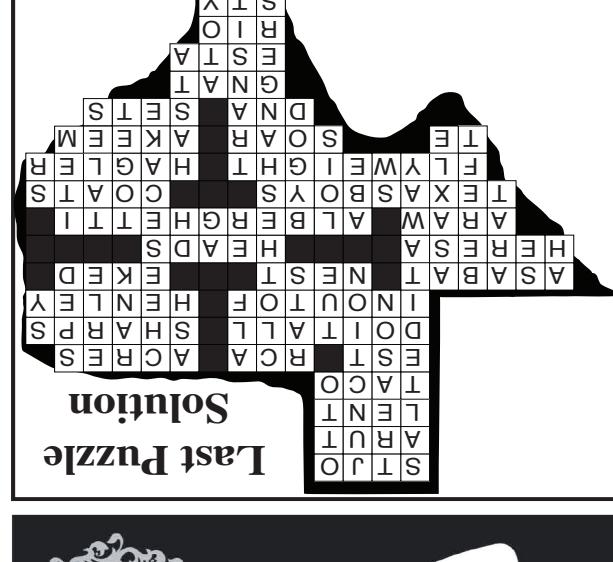
She was a wonderful wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. She took great joy in her seven grandchildren, great-grandchildren and additional family members that she took immense joy in spoiling - nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

She was preceded in death her father, Dewey Flarity, mother, Jewel Juanita Gage, and beloved stepfather, Ira Gage.

She is survived on this world by her loving husband of forty-three years, Thomas "Tommy" Gage, children, Sam and Catrina Hopper of Pritchett, Garret Gage of Pritchett, and Tomi Johnson of Gladewater. She is also survived by four brothers and one sister, Norman Silvertooth and Adriane, Dennis Gage and Mary, Kenneth Flarity and Dorothy, Gregg Silvertooth, and Felicia Bravam and Christian. Grand Children that remain beloved are August, Kali, Alex, Lilah, Austin, Chloe, and Alyssa, followed by great-granddaughter, Wednesday and multiple nieces and nephews.

With love and care, pallbearers are Sam Hopper, Garrett Gage, Alex Milam, Austin Johnson, Clay Oney, Cevin Oney, and Dennis Gage.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 12, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 PM at Croley Funeral Home in Gilmer. Funeral Services will follow, January 13, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. in the Chapel of Croley Funeral Home in Gilmer with burial to follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in the Pritchett Community.



DONALD RAY CLEMENTS October 16, 1944-December 30, 2025

Services for Donald "Donnie" Ray Clements, 81 of Gladewater, TX will be held at 2:30 PM on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Brazzel-Oakcrest Funeral Home in Hope, Arkansas with Reverend Gladney Hunt officiating. Interment will follow at Anderson Cemetery in Springhill, Arkansas. The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 1 PM until 8 PM at Brazzel-Oakcrest Funeral Home.

Born October 16, 1944, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, he entered into eternal rest to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

Donnie's life was a living testimony of his deep love, unwavering faith and devotion to his Lord and Savior. He was a devoted and loving husband and father who cherished his family.

Donald graduated in 1969 from what is now known as

Louisiana Tech University, in Ruston, LA with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer, building roads, bridges, buildings and many other projects for 26 years before retiring. A few years later, he went to work for Mayhan Fabricators in Union Grove, TX, as their first and only engineer, where he worked for the next 24 years before finally retiring for a second time in 2021.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lonnie and Bonnie Conley Clements; and his in-laws, Don Dolvin and Mamie Lee Arnett Stevenson.

Donald is survived by the loving wife of 60 years, Donna Jane Clements of Gladewater, TX; sons Jeffrey Fredrick Clements and his wife Carol of East Mountain, TX; Jonathan Ray Clements of South Bend, IN; siblings Harmon Clements, Hulene Rogers, Jimmy Clements, and Charlie Joe Clements; four grandchildren, Sara, Joseph, Rachel, and Ginger; six great-grandchildren, Jayden, Nicole, Grayson, Liam, Madeleine, and

Nolan Jeffrey; and numerous nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers will be Charlie Joe Clements, Joseph Bryant, Rodney White, Joshua Pennington, Lane Farthing, and Raymond Richardson.

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Judge denies capital murder suspect's request to replace lawyer

By Phillip Williams

A judge in Gilmer on Friday set Alvin Charles McKnight Jr.'s capital murder trial for April 2027, scheduled a June 22 hearing on his request for a change of venue, and denied McKnight's request to replace his court-appointed lawyers, according to court records and the Upshur County district clerk's office.

State Attorney General Ken Paxton's office, which is prosecuting the case, is seeking the death penalty for McKnight, 43, of Gilmer. He is charged with fatally shooting two women, Dermetrica Waters and Mandy Ray, Nov. 4, 2023, at a home outside Gilmer.

McKnight was captured in San Bernardino, Calif., where he had fled by bus, several days after the shootings. He remained in the Upshur County Jail at Gilmer under \$5 million bond Monday.

115th District Judge Dean Fowler, who will leave office before the scheduled trial date, issued the rulings in the case Friday.

Jury selection for the trial, wherever it is held, is scheduled April 6, 2027, to be followed by a week-long break before testimony begins, court records show.

McKnight's attorneys filed a motion last Nov. 10 seeking to move his trial to another county, arguing that "pretrial publicity" had created so much "prejudice against (the) defendant that a fair and impartial trial is rendered either impossible or highly unlikely."

The attorneys, Natalie Anderson of Longview and Lalon C. Peale of Dallas, presented signed statements from three Upshur Countians supporting their contention.

McKnight's case file shows he hand-wrote Fowler two letters last year asking the judge replace his attorneys for various reasons. The district clerk's office said Fowler announced at Friday's hearing that McKnight could hire a lawyer, but that he (the judge) wouldn't replace Anderson and Peale with other court-appointed attorneys.

In his first letter, the defendant said he did "not trust (Anderson and Peale) nor do I believe they have my best interest in mind."

The letter was written before longtime Upshur County District Attorney Billy Byrd retired Oct. 31. McKnight had written that he believed his lawyers "are working with the (DA) Billy Wayne Bird (sic) to ensure he gets a conviction..."

McKnight also charged Anderson had a "clear conflict of interest" because she formerly worked as an assistant district attorney to Byrd.

In addition, the defendant alleged he had been "intentionally misrepresented because of my charges and my race." (McKnight is black).

In one of the letters, McKnight said that when he stated he wanted to seek a change of venue, Peale would "down play it as a bad request and tells me no one is even paying attention to my case anymore (which I fail to believe that)."

McKnight's second letter was dated Nov. 4, only six days before his lawyers filed the motion to move the trial.

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APPLEGATE, OLIVIA F. APPLE, SADIE B. APPLEGATE, CAROLINE E.

BARNES, ANNA E. BARTLETT, CASSIDY A. ARRENDELL, RHETT B.

BENTON, TUCKER L. BARTLETT, HANK A. BAUDAT, LOGAN V.

BONNER, EMMALYN E. BEALL, KALENA J. BAUDAT, LUCAS W.

BOWDEN, MCKYNNA N. BLUE, JAELYNN D. BEAL, CAIDEN A.

BRADLEY, BLAINE D. BOWDEN, LOGAN W. BLANKENSHIP, CORA L.

BRECHEEN, GERTIE G. BRAND, AURORA L. BLANKENSHIP, FANNIN S.

BROOKS, BARRETT W. BRECHEEN, JAMES P. BLOW THOMASON, TRA'VONTE D.

BROWN, AVERY H. BROWN, MALLORY L. BODOVSKY, BAILEY E.

BUCKRELL, LAINY C. BUSH, MICAH L. BODOVSKY, EMERSYN G.

BURT, ZOEY G. BUTLER, KINSLEY A. BONNER, DANIEL B.

BUSA, MAYCIE R. CANNON, LAYKEN G. BROWN, MADDOX W.

CALDERON, LIAM T. CATES, KARSYN B. CARPENTER, ERIK T.

CATON, KORLYN M. COFFEY, EMMA K. CLENDENING, PEYTON T.

CLAYTOR, JAYLYNN M. COMBS, ANNA C. CLOUD, AIDEN B.

COMBS, AUBREY G. DANG, EMILY COTTRELL, LIAM B.

COSPER, ANZLEE M. DAVIS, MILANI M. CUTLER, LYDIA D.

COX, CORA J. DELANEY, CHARLOTTE L. DANIELS, FAITH N.

CUNNEEN, RIGGINS C. DESANTIS, XANDER J. DOLLISON, SKYLAR F.

CUNNINGHAM, BRYLEIGH A. DUNAWAY, JACE E. DYSON, MAX A.

DEBACKER, JACOB H. EVANS, PEYTON M. EDGE, AUBREE A.

DELANEY, JETT A. EVENSON, LANDON E. EDMONDSON, PARKER A.

DIXON, AMELIA C. FAUVER, PAYTON B. FAYE, CARTER W.

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APPLEGATE, OLIVIA F. APPLE, SADIE B. APPLEGATE, CAROLINE E.

BARNES, ANNA E. BARTLETT, CASSIDY A. ARRENDELL, RHETT B.

BENTON, TUCKER L. BARTLETT, HANK A. BAUDAT, LOGAN V.

BONNER, EMMALYN E. BEALL, KALENA J. BAUDAT, LUCAS W.

BOWDEN, MCKYNNA N. BLUE, JAELYNN D. BEAL, CAIDEN A.

BRADLEY, BLAINE D. BOWDEN, LOGAN W. BLANKENSHIP, CORA L.

BRECHEEN, GERTIE G. BRAND, AURORA L. BLANKENSHIP, FANNIN S.

BROOKS, BARRETT W. BRECHEEN, JAMES P. BLOW THOMASON, TRA'VONTE D.

BROWN, AVERY H. BROWN, MALLORY L. BODOVSKY, BAILEY E.

BUCKRELL, LAINY C. BUSH, MICAH L. BODOVSKY, EMERSYN G.

BURT, ZOEY G. BUTLER, KINSLEY A. BONNER, DANIEL B.

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CLAYTOR, JAYLYNN M. COMBS, ANNA C. CLOUD, AIDEN B.

COMBS, AUBREY G. DANG, EMILY COTTRELL, LIAM B.

COSPER, ANZLEE M. DAVIS, MILANI M. CUTLER, LYDIA D.

COX, CORA J. DELANEY, CHARLOTTE L. DANIELS, FAITH N.

CUNNEEN, RIGGINS C. DESANTIS, XANDER J. DOLLISON, SKYLAR F.

CUNNINGHAM, BRYLEIGH A. DUNAWAY, JACE E. DYSON, MAX A.

DEBACKER, JACOB H. EVANS, PEYTON M. EDGE, AUBREE A.

DELANEY, JETT A. EVENSON, LANDON E. EDMONDSON, PARKER A.

DIXON, AMELIA C. FAUVER, PAYTON B. FAYE, CARTER W.

DRENNAN, COOPER R. FERGUSON, HADLEY F. FISHBURN, LEVI T.

DURAN, APRIL B. FORD, AINSLEY I. HAGGARD, RUSTON M.

6TH GRADE</h

Sports roundup

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears basketball team continued their hot start to district play as they hosted the Troup Tigers at Bill Waters gym and came away with a 53-44 victory. Micha Timmons had 25 points. This was followed up by the Bears most impressive win of the season as they went on the road to Tatum and knocked off the defending state champion Eagles 87-79. Led by 32 from Landon King.

The Bears are now 10-8 and 3-0 in district play. They will next be in action when they host rival White Oak then head to Sabine.

The Gladewater Lady Bears continued to make their way through district play as they welcomed in the Troup Lady Tigers and in a defensive battle, fell 27-22. Troup led 8-5 after one period, 15-9 at the half. Gladewater got the deficit down to 3 after three quarters at 20-17.

But Troup did just enough in the 4th to hold on to win. This was followed by a trip to Tatum to take on the Lady Eagles. Tatum jumped out to an early 13-0 lead before the Lady Bears began to claw back into it cutting the deficit to 23-11 at the end of 1 quarter. Tatum added to their lead as they took a 33-15 lead into halftime.

The Bears made it a game in the third quarter as it was 47-32 Tatum after 3 quarters. But the teams traded baskets in the 4th and Tatum was able to win comfortably.

The Lady Bears are now 3-14 on the season and 2-2 in district play.

They will be back home next to welcome in rival White Oak before traveling to Sabine.

The White Oak Roughnecks basketball team was in search of their first district win as they headed to Sabine to take on the Cardinals and fell 52-34. Cal Jester scored 10 points in the loss for White Oak. Campbell Sutton and Mac Smith added seven apiece, and Tysen McClain and Andrew Rector had five each. That was followed by a home game as the Roughnecks hosted the Arp Tigers and fell 49-43. Campbell Sutton scored 23 points in the loss for White Oak. Mac Smith added seven points, Cal Jester and Tysen McClain four apiece, Scout Solis three and Andrew Rector had two points and five rebounds.

The losses drop White Oak to 10-17 and 0-4 in district play.

They will next be in action when they travel to rival Gladewater then host West Rusk.

The White Oak Ladynecks basketball team continued their pursuit of their 1st district win as they traveled the short distance to Sabine and came up empty as they fell to the Lady Cardinals 42-26.

That was followed by a home game where they hosted Arp and lost that one as well 38-17.

White Oak is now 10-17 on the season and 0-4 in district



White Oak's Morgan Gee had a total of 700 lbs which put her well past the Regional auto-qualifying mark of 675 lbs in the 123 lb Weight Class at the Harmony Meet. Also, Marlee Rutland took 1st place - 97lb, Gee took 1st place and auto-qualified for regionals - 123lb, Maddison Tryon Brace was 4th place - 132lb, Alyssa Spurger took 1st place - 148lb, Lilly Cutler placed 3rd place - 148lb, Abigail Blalock was in 5th place - 148lb, Camryn Baldwin placed 1st place - 181lb, and Aubri Ferguson took 2nd place - 220lb.

Courtesy photo

play.

They will next make the trip to Gladewater followed by hosting West Rusk.

The Union Grove Lions looked to continue their hot start to district play as they had a pair of games. First they traveled to Harleton to take on the Wildcats and came away with a 50-37 victory. The Lions lead 14-10 after one period, 27-19 at the half and 45-32 after 3 quarters. That was followed by a home game against the Big Sandy Wildcats where they came away with a back and forth 52-50 victory.

The wins improve the Lions to 8-11 and 2-1 in district play.

They will next be in action with a road game at Linden-Kildare followed by a home game against Ore City.

The Union Grove Lady Lions historic start continued as they made the trip to Harleton and came away with a 46-38 win. Following that up with a home game where the Lady Lions rolled over Big Sandy 67-23. Shaniya Roland and Aubree Coulter both scored 15 points for Union Grove. Mallorie Cannon added 11, Chloe Hector and Landri Sirmans added nine apiece and Rachel Potter rounded out the scoring with eight.

The Lady Lions are now 20-2 and 3-1 in district play.

They will next be in action when they head to Linden-Kildare followed by a home game with Ore City.

White Oak Tri-Meet Results 1/9/26

White Oak won the meet as a team competing against Sabine and Frankston

Landon Hartmann - 1st place 123lb
Austin Fisher - 1st place 132lb
Owen Gee - 1st place 148lb
Logan Trapp - 3rd place 165lb
Cash Scalfia - 1st place 181lb
Thomas Sullivan - 2nd place 198lb
Connor Hodges - 1st place 220lb
Brody Greenwood - 2nd place 275lb

Top lifter on the light platform (114-181) was Owen Gee in the 148lb weight class.



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FIRST PLACE UNEQUIPPED					
LIFTER	SQUAT	BENCH	DEADLIFT	TOTAL	
JORDYN BISHOP 97 CLASS	150	85	205	440	
KYLEIGH BLACKSTOCK 97 CLASS	115	60	135	310	
HAILEY CARTER 138 CLASS	155	90	200	445	
KENNEDY SCHMIDT 138 CLASS	135	75	155	365	
JANAYAH SANTOS 148 CLASS	165	85	195	445	
ADDISON ELLIS 181 CLASS	200	105	205	510	
KINLEIGH BIRLEW 181 CLASS	200	85	195	480	
NATALIE SPRUELL 181 CLASS	170	75	205	450	
MEREDITH JOHNSON 181 CLASS B-TEAM	185	75	170	430	
MAYCI BOLAND 242 CLASS	275	130	280	685	

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ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Gladewater will receive sealed bids for EZ Mart Storm Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Relocation. Bids will be received until 10:00am on Friday, January 23, 2026 at 519 E. Broadway Ave., Gladewater, TX 75647. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00am on Friday, January 23, 2026 at 519 E. Broadway Ave., Gladewater, TX 75647. Bids received after 10:00am will be returned, unopened.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702, and at City of Gladewater, 519 E. Broadway Ave., Gladewater, TX 75647.

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS may be examined without charge at City of Gladewater. Bid forms and plans may be examined or obtained at the office of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., 320 S. Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, Texas 75702. One copy of each set of documents may be obtained from Schaumburg & Polk, Inc., upon payment of \$40.00. No refunds will be made. Plans can also be found online at www.civcastusa.com.

A Bidder's Bond, Certified or Cashier's Check in an amount not less than (5%) of the total bid shall accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the bidder will promptly enter into contract with the City of Gladewater.

This project will include approximately 128 LF of 6" Gravity Sewer Line, 3 Manholes, a 30' x 5' x 6.5' inlet structure, and other miscellaneous items of Construction.

The project is to be substantially complete within 45 calendar days from the notice to proceed, and shall be fully complete within 60 calendar days from the notice to proceed. Liquidated damages of \$300.00 per day shall be assessed for any days in which contract time is exceeded.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The City of Gladewater reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Contact Name: Charlie Smith, City Manager
Publication Dates: 01/08/2026 and 01/15/2026

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what's Happening?

County library storytime set

A book will be read to young children at both of the Upshur County Library's weekly "Storytime" sessions in Gilmer on Thursday (Jan. 15).

In addition, the format for "Storytime" has recently changed, 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 book to be read this week is "Be Brave, Little Penguin" by Giles Andreae. A "waddling penguins rhyme" and penguin-related craft will follow.

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

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.

Inaugural GHS alumni soup showdown set for Feb. 10

Soup always tastes better in cold weather, so cross your fingers there'll be a chilly forecast next month as Gladewater High School alumni put their best recipes to the test.

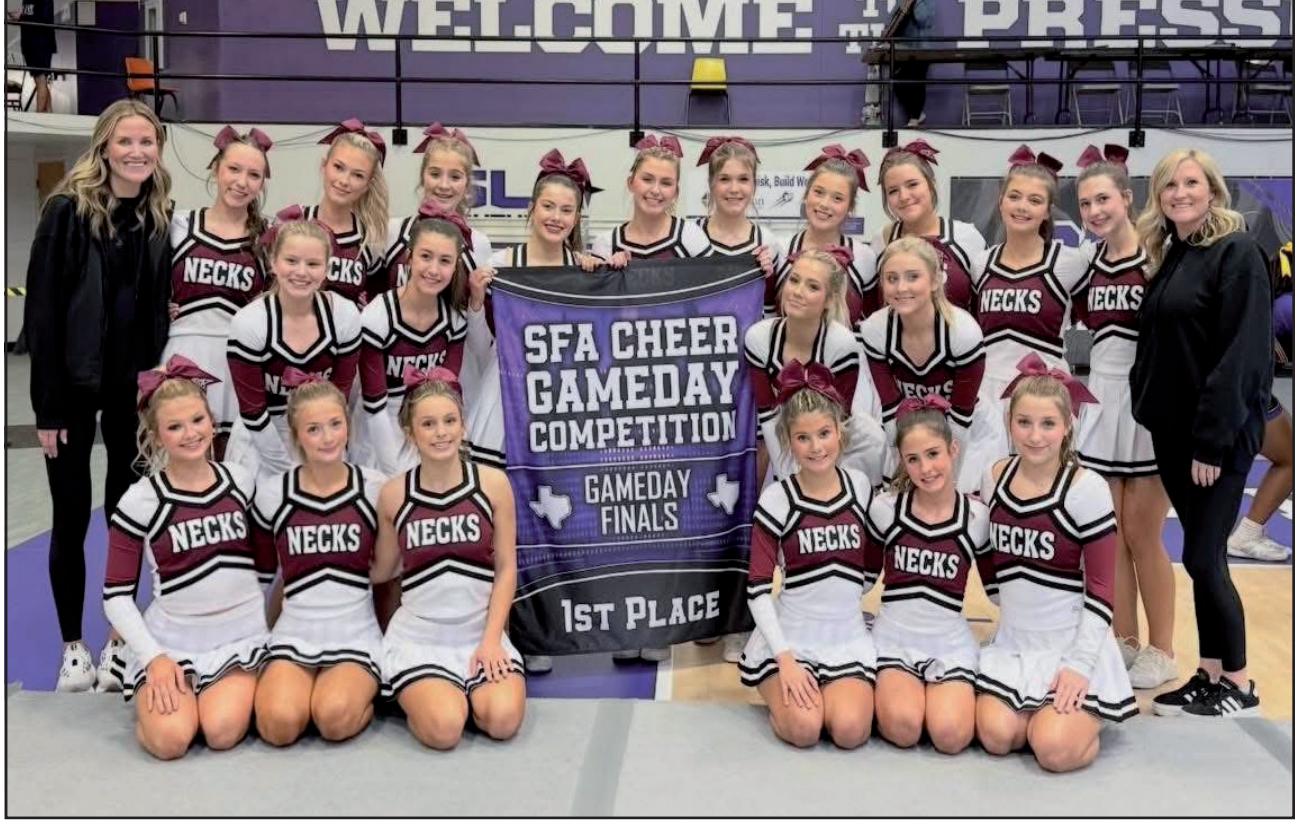
Gladewater Former Students' Association's first Soup-er Stew Cookoff is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the GFSA building at 2509 Hendricks St.

"Teams from different GHS Alumni Classes will prepare their favorite soup or stew," organizers announced, "and we will vote to see who has the best."

In addition to the competition fare, GFSA will provide cornbread, crackers, tea and water.

A fundraising event, tickets are \$10 per person. To reserve a seat, contact Bryan Kelly (903-780-1375 or bryan@dqtyle.com) or Peggy Whiteman (307-216-0517 or joe_peggy@hotmail.com). GFSA board members and associates also have tickets to sell.

Five class-teams are signed up, the organizers announced,



so there will be plenty of soup and stew available to enjoy.

ETCOG requests nominations from the Public for Regional Service Awards

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) invites the public to submit nominations for its annual Regional Service Awards program, honoring the achievements of individuals and organizations that make a positive contribution to the quality of life in the East Texas Region. Nominations are for service recognition during 2025.

ETCOG's annual Regional Awards will be presented at the upcoming 109th Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 19, in Smith County. The five awards to be presented are the Regional First Responders Award, the Regional Citizen of the Year Award, the Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year Award, the Regional Statesmanship Award, and the Regional Committee Service Award. Descriptions of the award criteria are as follows:

REGIONAL FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognizes first responders who have rendered extraordinary service, putting their lives on the line for our safety while performing their duties as peace officers, firefighters, EMS, and dispatchers, as well as DPS officers and troopers.

REGIONAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is designed to honor a citizen of East Texas who has contributed to the well-being of the East Texas Region.

REGIONAL CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Regional Corporate Citizen of the Year award honors a corporate partner in East Texas that has contributed to the well-being of the East Texas Region.

REGIONAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD

The Regional Statesmanship Award recognizes a local, state, or federal official who has demonstrated valuable, dedicated service in support of regional cooperation.

REGIONAL COMMITTEE SERVICE AWARD

The Regional Committee Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a sustained, dedicated commitment to ETCOG efforts and activities.

Nominations may be completed at <https://bit.ly/regionalawards25> and must be submitted by Tuesday, February 10. The ETCOG Special Awards Committee, comprising selected members of the ETCOG Executive Committee, will review nominations and select award recipients.

Local on Texas State University's Fall President's Honorees list

SAN MARCOS - Texas State University congratulates the students who have been named to the President's List for Fall 2025.

The President's List is comprised of students who earned a term grade point average of 4.0 while enrolled in at least 12 GPA hours at Texas State University. This achievement was earned by less than 12% of students in Fall 2025.

David Moreno of Gladewater, Marketing

Also, Texas State University is proud to recognize academic excellence by naming high achieving students to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. This prestigious honor recognizes students who have achieved a term GPA between 3.5 and 3.99 while enrolled in 12 or more GPA hours at Texas State University. Earning the Dean's List is a testament to students' dedication to academic excellence.

Jaylon Jeffery of White Oak, Integrated Studies

Audree Smith of Winona, Biology

SNHU Fall 2025 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH (01/06/2026)-- It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Kaylee Wright of Gladewater (75647)

Torrie Creeach of Gladewater (75647)

Cody Deaver of Gladewater (75647)

Cardarian Lewis of Gladewater (75647)

TEEA chili luncheon cooking

The Texas Extension Education Association will hold its annual fund-raising chili luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Yamboree Exhibit Building in the Yamboree Park off U.S. 271 in Gilmer.

Tickets for the 11 a.m.-1 p.m. event are available at \$14 each in advance from TEEA members or at the door.

"All proceeds benefit the 4-H scholarship fund," said a flyer promoting the luncheon, which is sponsored by the Upshur County EE Association, and the Glenwood and Southern Belles individual TEEA clubs.

The menu includes chili, crackers, homemade pie, tea and water. For more information on the chili luncheon, call County Extension Agent Julie York at 903-680-8128.

GPS Campus meeting set Jan. 22

Gladewater Primary School will host a campus meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, in the GPS Cafeteria. The primary agenda item is to review the GPS Campus Improvement Plan.

