

# Gladewater Mirror

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"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

## GPD officers bring locals' porky pets all the way home

By James Draper

A pair of Gladewater Police officers wrangled some swag- gering swine Wednesday, crack- ing all the requisite jokes along the way.

Officers Sean Smith and Nicole Cowan saved the bacon of a pair of porkers on the loose from local Tasha Dixon's house. They're Kune Kune pigs, and the live- stock's brush with law enforce- ment ended on a leash – and on camera – as the officers brought 'Wendy' and 'Squints' home to their fenced-in yard Jan. 28.

"Thank you Gladewater Police Department for being patient and getting my piggy back home after they busted out the gate today!" Dixon praised in a social media shoutout to GPD and its officers. "Squints came home on his own, but Wendy had to be convinced."

The footage quickly warmed hearts online as Smith led Wendy, a stout animal, following Cowan back to the Dixon's residence. Squints, dwarfed by his big sister, rushes to greet them. Find the video linked on GladewaterMirror.com

Naturally, GPD Chief Kyle Ready and his team have heard all the punchlines. He's just glad the local livestock ended up safe and sound and that his personnel were none the worse for wear after corralling the critters with a little snack.

"Yeah, they came back to the PD and grabbed some cabbage and carrots," Ready said Friday. "They liked the carrots, not the cabbage."

Typically, such calls fall to Animal Control Officer Shelly Godwin, but last year the ACO system was brought back under the police department umbrella. Officers are quick to lend a hand, albeit on rare occasions.

"It doesn't happen that often. Every three or four months, cows get out, maybe horses. Pigs are rare," Ready said. "Domesticated, potbellied pigs are very rare."

Last year, in June, officers wrangled a 9-foot alligator that took a stroll far from its home on the Sabine River bottoms. Need- less to say, this week's call was a breeze by comparison.

"They said these pigs have gotten out a couple of times the past several months," Ready said, but Wendy and Squints knew where they belonged: "They were not a problem at all."



Gladewater Police Officers Nicole Cowan and Sean Smith recover Tasha Dixon's Kune Kune pigs Jan. 28. After wee Squints and big sister Wendy flew the coop from their fenced in yard last week, the GPD personnel lured them back with carrots (the animal's turned their noses up at the cabbage) to get the pair safely back home.

(Home security footage from Tasha Dixon)

## City of Gladewater earns \$150,000 TPW grant for equipment, sidewalks at Garland P. Ferguson Park

Gladewater will receive \$150,000 for playground equipment and sidewalks at Garland P. Ferguson Park thanks to a small community grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife.

According to Jan. 29 release from the state agency, "The TPW Commission approved more than \$21.2 million in local park grants, a new record, to help create and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities."

Among East Texas communities, Daingerfield, Center, Port Arthur and Teague received funding alongside Gladewater.

"These competitive grants are allocated to local government entities on a 50/50 reimbursement match basis. Once funded, the sites must remain a park- land in perpetuity, properly maintained and open to the public. Fifty community parks statewide will gain nature trails, native landscaping, playgrounds, splash pads, sports fields, kayak launches, piers and other park amenities."

Central Texas cities received approximately \$7.85 million grants along with \$7.06 million for North Texas and \$5.11 million bound for South Texas.

According to TPW, the grant commission awarded funds in 26 communi- ties statewide based on population and the scope of projects.

"Small Community Recreation Grants serve towns of less than 20,000 and were awarded to 14 communities," TPW reported. "Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants are reserved for local units of government with populations of more than 500,000. Two communities received this grant. Non-Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants fund park projects in municipalities under 500,000. The commission approved awards for projects in 26 communities."

For more information about the local park grants program, visit the TPWD local park grants page.

East Texas

• The City of Center received a \$250,000 non-urban outdoor grant for phase two renovations of American Legion Park. The project includes walking trails, a nature viewing area, shade structures and pavilions, lighting, demolition of existing ball field, native landscaping and signage.

• The City of Daingerfield received an \$88,659 small community grant for improvements to Irvin Park. The project includes the addition of ADA- accessible playgrounds with two play sets and surfacing, replacing deteriorated fencing and backstop and chain-link fencing for five ballfields.

• The City of Gladewater received a \$150,000 small community grant for improvements at Garland P. Ferguson Park. The project includes playground

equipment and sidewalks.

• The City of Port Arthur received a \$552,147 non-urban outdoor grant for revitalization of Washington and Pioneer Parks. The project will include an inclusive playground with safety surfacing and shade, native landscaping, paver pathways, and a multi-sport court at Pioneer Park. At Washington Park, the project will include a playground and renovation of the tennis and baseball courts.

• The City of Teague received a \$150,000 small community grant for improvements at 8th Avenue Park. The project includes a trail, new swing set with surfacing for swing set, pickleball court, two ADA-compliant parking spaces and solar trail lights.

## Politics pause funding package for city's dam

A whopping \$1.5 million in funding for the Lake Gladewater Dam is in limbo at the moment, waiting on the whims of Washington.

"That's where it's at," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said simply Monday.

Allocated funds in Department of Homeland Security appropriations were officially put on hold late last week, including a portion for Gladewater initially earmarked for key maintenance at the community's 73-year-old earthen dam and concrete spillway.

More than a year of coordinated effort by the City of Gladewater, Lone Star Consulting, officials and area politicians netted the significant and much-needed allocation of funds from the DHS Federal Emergency Management Agency Subcommittee. The relevant appropriations bills cleared the U.S. House of Representatives in mid-January, waiting for Senate approval.

Soon after, though, upheaval in Minnesota tied to federal law enforcement efforts derailed passage of DHS funding in the Upper Chamber of the Capitol.

U.S. Senators signed off on five funding bills Jan. 30 minus appropriations for DHS, passing a two-week continuing resolution while they debate reforms to immigration enforcement operations the deaths of two civilians by ICE

Continued on Page 3

## Bears, Roughnecks maintain rivalry in latest UIL alignment

By Tyler Sutton

It is time for district realignment which means fresh new school's to play for the 3 local teams starting in the fall of this year for the next two years. When it comes to the Gladewater Bears and White Oak Roughnecks, they once again will be in the same district when it comes to football, volleyball and basketball. For football that is district 8 3A division one consisting of:

Gladewater  
White Oak  
Sabine  
Atlanta  
Tatum  
Liberty-Eylau

Pretty much the same district as the Bears and Roughnecks have been in these last two seasons with the exception of dropping Jefferson and going from a 7 team to a 6 team district.

Volleyball and Basketball is where the big changes come. In volleyball, it will be district 13 3A which will consist of:

Gladewater  
Sabine  
White Oak

West Rusk  
Tatum  
Arp  
Troup

Basketball wise it's a big shake up as the Bears and Roughnecks are the only two same teams that are in their same district as now. This will be district 12 3A which will include:

Gladewater  
White Oak  
Daingerfield  
New Diana  
Hughes Springs  
Jefferson

When it comes to Union Grove the Lions in Football, their new district will be 2A district 11 which will consist of:

Union Grove  
Beckville  
Elysian Fields  
Harleton  
Paul Pewitt  
Ore City  
Waskom

### DISTRICT 8 ALIGNMENT



ATLANTA



GLADEWATER



GLADEWATER SABINE



TATUM



TEX. LIBERTY-EYLAU



WHITE OAK

For volleyball, it will be a short five team dis- trict of:

Union Grove  
Big Sandy  
Como-Pickton  
Hawkins  
Alba-Golden

And for basketball, the district will be made

up of:

Union Grove  
Cayuga  
Frankston  
Big Sandy  
Hawkins  
La Poynor  
Martins Mill



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## ...the hard places

It is the hard places that either make us who we are or show others who we are. Recently I have had a few people reach out to me because of a particular column I wrote about the 'hard places' that spoke to them. That touches my heart, but it also reminds me that words matter. That got me to thinking about what words have been spoken to me that continue to shape the words I use, the words I write, and the life I try to live.

Perhaps the most powerful words spoken to me came from my mother. My older brother, by four years, was severely handicapped. He could say only a bare handful of words, maybe five or so. And even those disappeared eventually. He could not walk or talk, but he had the gift of sight and hearing. It was evident that Donnie was extremely intelligent. He followed everything with his deep, brown eyes. He laughed. He cried.

His misshapen body made some feel uncomfortable. Others tended to put our family on a pedestal because of the perceived burden of having such a handicapped child. I don't remember how old I was, but I was young, forever questioning and wanting to know the 'why' of as much as possible. So, I asked my Mom one of the 'hard' questions... "Why did God make Donnie the way he was?"

"To teach us how to love" was my Mom's response. And at my young age I took that answer to heart. I'm not sure why I have never

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



really questioned that answer. Maybe because it turned out to be true. Donnie's life shaped mine as surely as my parents' response to his situation did. I watched them do the truly hard things with love and perseverance and faithfulness.

Eventually Donnie had to be institutionalized because of his fragility. And then I saw on a regular basis the families who were like ours. Some of them were broken by their journey. Some were elevated by it, and some were enslaved.

All I know is that I learned to love more deeply, to accept more freely, and to recognize the hidden gifts from the hard places of life for what they are, blessings. I know what I want carved into stone when I leave this earth, "...the greatest of these is love" I Corinthians 13:13b. I know that to be true because my Momma told me so. More importantly, she and Daddy showed me.

I hope you know these words to be true as well because I think they may just be the most important words ever written.

## THE SELF-PORTRAIT



## Slowing the Flow

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) recently released projections indicating little or no growth in US oil production for 2026. While still near 2025's record level of 13.6 million barrels per day (b/d), it's a notable shift from the expansionary pattern of the past few years. For 2027, a slight decrease is expected. The Permian Basin, Alaska, and offshore production in the Gulf may increase slightly, but these gains are projected to be offset by decreases in other areas.

The issue is certainly not available supply. There are billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of gas in the ground, with much more yet to be found. The EIA estimated, as of 2023, that there were some 21 billion barrels of oil in the Permian Basin alone, just counting "proved" reserves. In addition, only a fraction is produced using current methods, and future technological advances will ultimately generate greater yields.

New wells coming online (including completing ones that are drilled, but not yet producing) is essential to increasing total production, as decline curves (the falloff in output from a well over time) can be fairly steep. Rig counts in Texas are about 229, down from 277 a year ago. A survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas found that 39% of oil and gas executives expected capital spending to decrease in 2026, with many of those anticipating significant forbearance. Another 24% expect to maintain current levels, with 37% seeing increases.

The essential issue is simply the fact that the current price

## Dr. Ray Perryman



THE ECONOMIST

level is not incentivizing as much activity as in the past. Survey data from the Dallas Fed indicates that oil prices needed to profitably drill a new well in the Midland or Delaware areas of the Permian Basin or the Eagle Ford average about \$61-\$62 per barrel, with higher requirements in other areas. It can take \$45 per barrel just to cover costs for existing wells. The EIA is projecting oil prices to fall from a 2025 average of \$65 per barrel to \$52 or less in 2026.

Keep in mind, however, that this sector is highly volatile and impacted by myriad global factors. As a result, things can quickly and unexpectedly change. Just a few years ago, prices exceeded \$120 per barrel. We could see significant increases if tensions in the Middle East escalate, OPEC+ cuts supply, or uncertainty in the global economy decreases sufficiently to spur faster economic growth. Once we are past the recent spate of adverse conditions, expanding populations, emerging economies, and rapid adoption of energy-intensive technologies will require substantial additional resources, and forecasts indicate that the need for conventional fuels will increase for decades to come.

Stay safe!

**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



## 11 dead in state winter storm

At least 11 people have died in Texas, nearly half of them children, after Winter Storm Fern swept the state last week, the Texas Standard reported. Among those killed were three young brothers who fell through ice on a private pond near Bonham, about 60 miles northeast of Texas. In the Dallas suburb of Frisco, two teens died after a sledding accident. They were riding on a sled being pulled by a vehicle.

Several unhoused people died of exposure in Austin, Houston and Fort Worth, according to reports. Nationally, the storm has killed at least 50 people.

Nearly five years after Winter Storm Uri overwhelmed the state's power grid and left millions without electricity, officials with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas noted the grid held, though localized outages were reported, especially in East Texas, where at one point more than 91,000 customers were without power. Those outages were largely due to ice accumulation and downed lines. The storm forced nearly 2,400 flight cancellations at airports in Dallas, Houston and Austin.

## H-1b visas for universities

Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered universities and state agencies to stop asking for new H-1B visas until next year, the Houston Chronicle reported. The visas are used to hire foreign workers who possess skills in a specialized field. The visas typically last for three years.

Abbott said the H-1B program has "too often been used to fill jobs that otherwise could — and should — have been filled by Texans." The order says no state agency of public university or college can petition for new H-1B workers with the written permission of the Texas Workforce Commission. It does not apply to public schools in Texas, which rely on the visas to fill teacher vacancies. The order is in effect at least until the Texas Legislature meets next January, when it is expected to consider "guardrails" for the program.

## Population grows at slower rate

Census data released last week shows the state's population growth slowed significantly, though Texas still led the country in adding new residents, The Texas Tribune reported. The state added 391,243 residents in 2025, a 1.2% growth rate — the slowest clip since 2021.

Much of the slowdown comes from a steep reduction in the number of immigrants moving to Texas, driven in part by the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. The number of newcomers from other countries dropped by 48% from the previous year, with 167,475 moving to Texas.

"I think the implication is our economic growth isn't probably going to be as hearty as what we've seen historically," said Lloyd Potter, the state demographer. Texas ranked fourth in pace of population growth in 2025, trailing South Carolina, Idaho and North Carolina.

## \$44 million for rural hospitals

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has made \$44 million in grant funding available to hospitals that serve rural communities.

The Rural Health Financial Stabilization Grant provides support for rural hospitals determined by HHSC to be at moderate or high risk of financial instability. Each award amount will depend on the hospital's need.

"Rural hospitals are an integral part of the Texas health care infrastructure," HHSC Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth said. "These grants will strengthen long-term stability while expanding access to care and improving health outcomes in rural communities statewide."

## SBOE takes up Bible-infused

### required reading list

The State Board of Education last week tabled a proposed reading list presented by the Texas Education Agency, deciding instead to seek public input, The Dallas Morning News reported. The TEA list includes passages from the Bible to be taught in public schools. Several teachers at the meeting said the reading list "was overloaded and doesn't include enough contemporary works or a wide enough array of author perspectives."

Board member Will Hickman of Houston proposed a pared-down version of the list, which the board will also consider after receiving public input. Hickman said his shorter list would give teachers and school districts more time to select their own books.

## DO YOU CARE WHAT'S RIGHT OR WRONG-IT'S YOUR CHOICE

I'm reminded of the lyrics of a once-popular old song that said, "I don't care what's right or wrong, I won't try to understand, Let the Devil take tomorrow." Well, when that song was popular, I often thought how those lyrics really do describe the attitude many people have toward God, toward sin, and toward Satan. It is certainly true that many people really don't care "what's right or wrong"—they just want sinful gratification right now, and they'll leave the consequences for tomorrow.

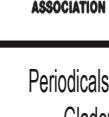
This may surprise you, but, in one sense, that's their right. That's part of the freedom God gives people as free moral agents. You see, if someone doesn't care what's right or wrong, and chooses to sin, and says, "Let the Devil take tomorrow," God will let them! No, not because God doesn't love them, but because God created human beings with the ability to choose to serve Him, and that necessarily means they also have the freedom to choose not to. In Deuteronomy 30: 15 God says, "I have set before you today life and good, death and evil," and then He says in verse 19, "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life." It is certainly true as Joshua said, we must "choose ourselves this day whom we will serve" (Joshua 25: 15). So, if someone says "I don't care what's right and wrong...Let the devil take tomorrow," God will allow them to sin—and God will also allow them to pay sin's penalty!

In Romans 6: 23 the Scripture says "The wages of sin is death," and James 1: 14-15 says, "Each one is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire hath conceived, it gives birth to sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death." So yes, if we choose to do so, God will allow us to sin—and God will allow us to pay the penalty for the sin we have chosen to commit!

Of course, the good news of the gospel of Christ is that God sent His only begotten Son to die for us, and God will forgive our sins if we turn in obedience to Him. So, we can choose to keep sinning and eventually die in our sin, or we can choose to turn away from sin and turn to God for His forgiveness and gift of eternal life. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and will you repent of your sins, and confess with your mouth what you believe in your heart and be baptized "for the remission of your sins" Acts 8: 37; 2: 38, Rom. 10: 9-10. It's your choice and my prayer is that you will make the right one. Think on these things.

**Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ**

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Philanthropist and Remember the Alamo Foundation board member Susan Naylor has donated \$2.5 million to build the Will Naylor Smith Outdoor Classroom, named in memory of her son, at the future Texas Cavaliers Education Center, scheduled to open this spring. This dedicated outdoor space for school children will provide a tranquil spot on Alamo grounds for classes to learn from Alamo experts, enjoy lunch, and reflect on what they've learned on their Alamo field trip. It will feature built-in stairs for seating and the lush greenery that is the hallmark of the Alamo Gardens. Currently, more than 155,000 school-aged children visit the Alamo each year. When the Texas Cavaliers Education Center opens its doors, the Alamo anticipates the number to climb to 250,000 school-aged children. The state-of-the-art facility will feature safe school bus access, a STEAM Lab, a Distance Learning Lab, and a vibrant agricultural garden.

## WOISD hires Thiel as new Athletic Director

Tanner Thiel joined White Oak ISD's roster as Athletic Director with time to spare before Monday's UIL Reclassification & Realignment for 2026-2028.

"He's hit the ground running," WOISD Supt. Jack Parker said Jan. 30, with the Roughnecks' new Head Coach primed for a booster club meeting Monday night. "We're super excited to have Tanner on board."

White Oak trustees officially welcomed Thiel as HD and head football coach during a specially called meeting the evening of Jan. 27.

Parker's jazzed considering Thiel's success through eight seasons at Grape Creek High School, taking the team to the playoffs three out of the last five years and winning a first-round playoff last Fall.

"That's huge," the superintendent said. "We're looking forward to that same thing here. He's a man who's going to come in to deliver."

"He's also very mindful of all our other programs. New chapter for White Oak athletics, that's for sure."

It's familiar territory for Thiel: he worked with the 'Necks a few years back as an assistant coach under Kris Iske, 2014-2017.

"A West Texas native raised on a cotton farm outside of Lubbock, Coach Thiel brings a blue-collar work ethic and a proven track record of success to the Roughneck program," according to a Jan. 27 release from WOISD. "Prior to returning to White Oak, he spent eight years at Grape Creek High School, where he led the Eagles to historic achievements, including the school's first Bi-District Championship, district title, and the most wins in program history. He also previously coached at Northwest High School, gaining valuable experience across multiple districts."

WOISD drew more than 60 applications in its search for a new AD, narrowing the field to a dozen candidates at the beginning of the new year.

"Coach Thiel earned his Master's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he spent two years as a graduate assistant with the Roadrunner football program under legendary head coach Larry Coker, best known for leading the University



New White Oak ISD Athletic Director Tanner Thiel poses with WOISD Supt. Jack Parker alongside the new Head Coach's wife, Cara, and their children, Tatum and Bode at a specially called school board meeting Jan. 27.

(Courtesy photo from WOISD / Amanda Frazier)

of Miami to a national championship in 2001. Known for his leadership, integrity, and commitment to developing student-athletes on and off the field, Coach Thiel has built a reputation as a respected leader across Texas high school athletics.

"Guided by his core values of Grit, Discipline, and Character, Coach Thiel brings a student-first philosophy focused on building relationships, uniting the school and community, and developing young men of integrity. His vision is to create a culture centered on the process, attention to detail, hard work, accountability, and love – one that consistently outworks its opponents and is known statewide for toughness and class."

"Coach Thiel and his wife, Cara, along with their children Tatum and Bode, are excited to be back in White Oak and to help build a program rooted in tradition while raising proud Roughnecks."

## Politics pause funding package for city's dam

Continued from Page 1

agents in Minneapolis.

Congressman Nathaniel Moran is keen to see the dam allocation reach Gladewater. Last week, his office confirmed the effort's still underway, albeit at the mercy of politics in the nation's capital.

Smith isn't discouraged, crossing his fingers the necessary talks will be solved in short order.

In the meantime, Lone Star Consulting's Steve Hofmann is keeping in close touch with city leaders, strengthening the foundation of the local request for funding.

Once the necessary dollars hit city coffers, "On this initial phase we're going to try to get the planning out of the way and then work on the construction side of it," Smith said.

There weren't any concrete updates as of this week's press deadline, funds still in limbo.

That said, "I feel like it's pretty secure," Smith added, he just has to wait-and-see with everyone else in and outside D.C.

## Fat Tuesday pancake stacks fill student food backpacks Feb. 17

You had us at 'pancakes.'

The Backpack Program of Gladewater will get an injection of funds later this month – how much the food outreach receives depends on how hungry the community is for pancakes right in time for Shrove Tuesday.

It's the second annual all-you-can-eat pancake benefit for the grocery giveaway to students and their families via Gladewater ISD and Union Grove ISD. The two-hour dinner fundraiser's set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Jeter Hall at First Methodist Church Gladewater at 217 W. Quitman Ave.

The event's a service project by Gladewater's Celebrate Recovery Program.

"Through the abundance of God's blessings, who can you bless?" the group announced. "This year's event will be on Fat Tuesday with a Mardi Gras theme with pancakes, sausage, coffee, orange juice, tea or water."

Admission is \$10 per plate, ready to piled high on-site or available to-go. Children 5 years-old and younger eat free.

"As always, all money raised will go to send food home every school year weekend with kids in need in the Gladewater and



Union Grove ISDs," per organizer Dean Hanssen. "Last year we were serving 150 kids a week and that has grown to just over 225 kids a week in four schools in this our tenth year.

"The need is great and benefits only kids in our community so if you feel led to add blessings it would be so appreciated. God bless and 'Laissez les bons temps rouler!'"

Get additional updates via @GladewaterCR on Facebook or email Hanssen at deanlhanssen@aol.com for more information.



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## WHITE OAK POLICE

For the reporting period of January 26th, 2026, through February 1st, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 169 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Burglar Alarms, Suspicious Activity, Disturbances, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

No traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period.

White Oak Officers made one arrest during this reporting period:

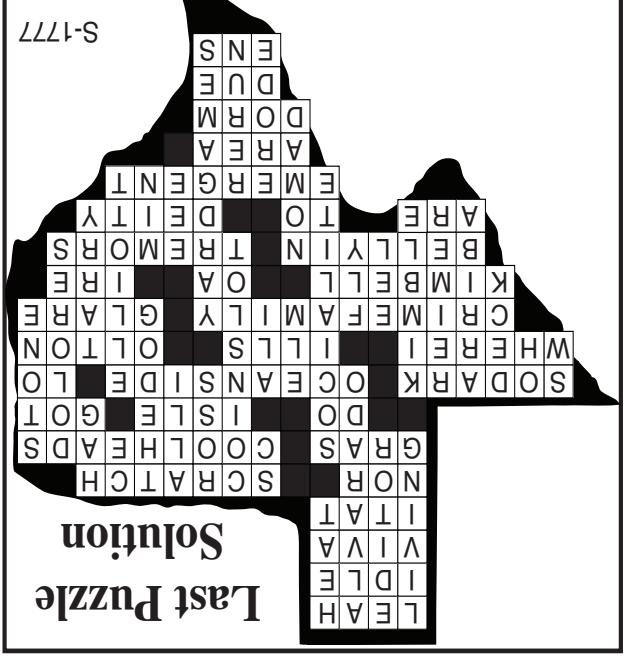
Fernando Cupido Delos Santos, 47, of Longview, for Driving While Intoxicated.

One separate and unrelated case was presented to the Gregg County District Attorney during this reporting period.

Driving While Intoxicated.

## GPD ARRESTS

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Type	Arrest Address	Charges
1/27/2026	WYUE, ALYSON TAYLOR	WARRANT	701 E BROADWAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT- OTHER AGENCY (MIS)
2/1/2026	EVANS, WYATT CHRISTOPHER	ON VIEW	1300 W UPSHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED



See Answers On This Page

## MANNA HOUSE

"God's Store House"

MannaHouseofGladewater.org

903-845-4066

Manna House of Gladewater

P.O. Box 808 • Gladewater, Texas 75647

Off-Hours Drop-Offs: 1710 N. Main St. in Gladewater

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# GLADEWATER POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address	Disposition
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01/25/2026	02:33:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	207 LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD	UNABLE TO LOCATE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 02:35:54				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	02:57:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	601 N MAIN STREET	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 02:59:29				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	08:27:12	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	238 WEST LAKE DRIVE	ASSIST FIRE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 08:27:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	10:58:43	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2201 GAYNEWAY	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 11:00:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	11:39:27	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	2201 OLD LONGVIEW HIGHWAY	ASSIST FIRE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 11:40:16				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	13:08:38	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1619 EAST LAKE DRIVE	ASSIST EMS
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 13:09:59				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	13:53:59		FIRE	1201 PHILLIPS SPRINGS ROAD	
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 13:54:38				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	14:24:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2201 W GAY AVENUE	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 14:24:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	14:39:11	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	1202 PHILLIPS SPRINGS ROAD	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 14:40:59				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	16:03:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	MELBAWOOD	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 16:03:32					
01/25/2026	16:29:14	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2201 E HAROLD STREET	ASSIST EMS
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 16:29:34				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	18:24:30	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISRUPTION	48 GAYNEWAY	INFORMATION REPORT
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 18:26:02					
01/25/2026	18:18:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	MAIN UPSHUR	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 18:19:40				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	09:44:43	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1047 E VIOLET STREET	ASSIST FIRE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 09:45:46				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	09:46:42	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1407 E VIOLET STREET	ASSIST FIRE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 09:47:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	07:23:39	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	300 MONEY STREET	ASSIST FIRE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 07:24:18				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	09:17:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	BURGLARY	807 N LEE STREET	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 09:18:18				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/25/2026	09:18:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	LOOP 465	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 09:18:47					
01/25/2026	22:15:19	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	MAIN UPSHUR	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/25/2026 22:15:34				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/26/2026	02:04:05	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	300 MONEY STREET	ASSIST EMS
Set To Dispatch- 01/26/2026 02:05:08				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
01/26/2026	06:44:43	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	205 PINE RIDGE	ASSIST FIRE
Set To Dispatch- 01/26/2026 06:45:46				GLADEWATER, TX 75647	
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01/26/2026	21:48:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	LEE ST	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
Set To Dispatch- 01/26/2026 21:50:10					
01/26/2026	22:15:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	MAIN UPSHUR	ASSIGNMENT COMPLETE
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## Three council candidates enter Gladewater's ring, another possible as deadline nears

Former Gladewater City Council member Teddy Sorrells is back in contention after filing a candidate application to return to the dais – this time in the Place 2 position.

Another council packet is outstanding at the moment: former Mayor Scott Owens has picked up an application but has not yet filed for any of the three seats up in the rotation this election season.

Applications aren't due to Gladewater City Secretary Judy Van Houten until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

Election Day is May 2 (with early voting running in late April) and the slate of candidates currently includes Mayor Brandy Flanagan, running for re-election to the Place 1 seat, along with fellow incumbent Stoney Stone, seeking his second term on the council in Place 3, in addition to Sorrells.

Serving Place 2 councilman Michael Webber has opted not to run for re-election.

Sorrells, lead pastor of Living Water Church, previously served in the Place 4 spot until he was unseated by William Blackmon last Spring.

Van Houten confirmed she's had four packets picked up, three returned, but they're also newly available for download via [cityofgladewater.com](http://cityofgladewater.com).

"For the first time, this year the packet is available on our website," she said. "It's under 'News' on the very first page."

Meanwhile, at White Oak City Hall, only Mayor Kyle Kutch has filed for re-election. Council seats 4 (incumbent John Frazier) and 5 (Kevin Hood) will also be on the ballot this Spring.



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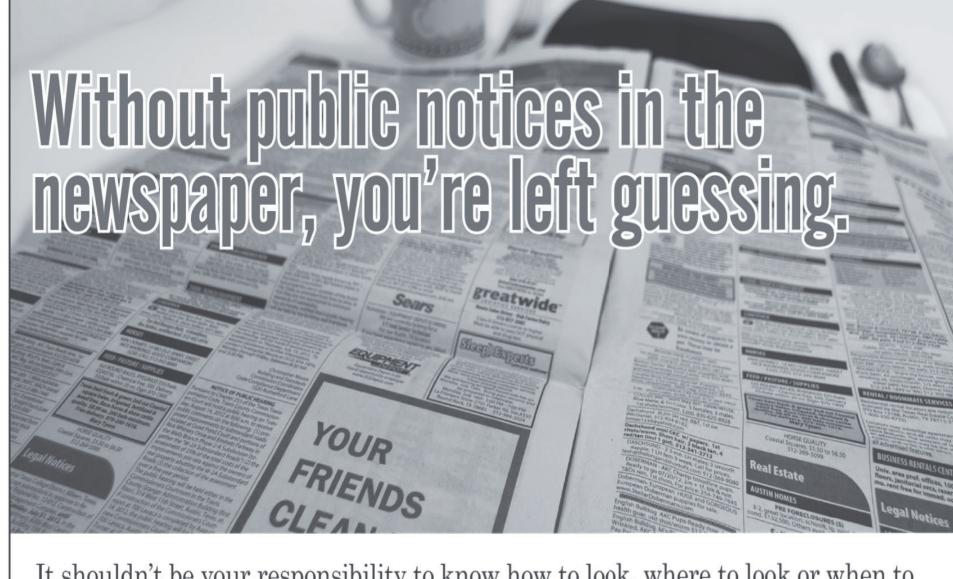
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# What's Happening?

## Library section to celebrate Texas, independent authors

Last year saw a major overhaul to the stacks at Lee-Bardwell Public Library as director Brandy Wynn and her staffers made room for a new specialty collection tied to the Lone Star State.

Now, the team is turning the spotlight on the new shelves, drawing as many of the contributing authors as possible for a 2-6 p.m. celebration Saturday, March 14, at 312 W. Pacific Ave.

"We will have 10-15 authors at the library who will be selling their books," Wynn announced this week, "and I'll be officially opening our Texas Local & Independent Authors section."

The local library seeded the collection from a \$7,800 grant awarded by the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust. The current goal is to grow the section to about 2,000 volumes.

During the Spring 2026 event, "We are going to honor J. Frank Dobie because it was that foundation that gave us the money to get so many independent authored books."

March 14 is also 'Pi(e) Day,' landing on 3/14 (fun fact, it's also Albert Einstein's birthday) so the library will be integrating a pie and coffee component to the meet the author shindig.

Follow the Gladewater Mirror and @LeePublicLibrary on Facebook for updates.

## KIA chaplains to be recognized

American Legion Post No. 320 in Gilmer will hold its annual public "memorial service" for four chaplains who were killed when a United States military ship was torpedoed in World War II.

The service is set for 2 p.m. at the rural Faith Baptist Church at the intersection of Texas 155 south and Montgomery Street south of Gilmer.

The chaplains went down with the Dorchester after the attack, which killed hundreds of men.

## UGISD welcomes blood donations

Union Grove ISD will host its final on-campus blood drive for the school year Monday.

The Carter BloodCare Bus will be on-site from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 9 at 11377 Union Grove Rd.

"Seniors need two blood donations during their senior year to earn a red cord for graduation," the district noted.

Students are able to donate beginning at the age of 16 with a signed parent permission form, and donors are able to track their contribution's via Carter BloodCare's online portal at <https://ww2.greatpartners.org>. For more information, contact Jodie Mayhan at [mayhanj@ugisd.org](mailto:mayhanj@ugisd.org)

## County library February events

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer has several activities scheduled this month for small children, teenagers and adults.

"Legos at the Library" for ages 5-11 is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday.

The book club for adults will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The library at 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154) will close early at noon Friday, Feb. 13 and remain closed due to the Feb. 16 President's Day holiday until re-opening Tuesday, Feb. 17.

"STEM-Make and Take" for ages 5-11 is set for 11 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, Feb. 21.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. According to one website, its uses can involve such activities as designing apps, coding and using engineering principles.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, the library will host "teen game night" and a Valentine's party from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

In addition, the library will host its two weekly "Storytime" sessions, involving reading a book to youngsters and a related craft, each Thursday this month. Look for details in each week's Mirror, including this edition.

A Valentine's party will be held for the children in connection with the Feb. 12 Storytime.

For more information on any of the activities, contact the library at 903-843-5001. Amy Allred is its children's coordinator.

## 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@dqtyler.com](mailto:bryan@dqtyler.com)) or Peggy Whiteman (307-216-0517 or [joe\\_peggy@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

Extension Agent Julie York at 903-680-8128.

## WOEDCO helps fund 3 projects

White Oak City Council members last month signed off on a trio of projects endorsed by the community's economic development corporation.

They have a combined value of \$123,752 to be invested back into the town. Two are grants while the largest portion is a 36-month zero interest loan for Mid South Manufacturing LLC.

According to White Oak City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell, White Oak Economic Development Corporation's support will bolster an equipment purchase along with the company's expansion of its facility on Cherokee Trace before the EDC is paid back in full in three years.

The development organization also granted \$19,352 to White Oak Softball Association to fund another batting cage.

"There's two existing batting cages," Purcell noted. "This is basically the school's, but all ages use them; the softball little kids all the way up to the high schoolers use the batting cages."

Unanimously approved by council members in January, "We don't have anything to do with it as far as construction. Basically, it's just a concrete slab they have to get done. The piping and netting is brought in, and they'll put it up."

The final EDC project totals \$4,400 in a similar economic development performance agreement with SnoJoe's. In that instance, grant reimbursement will be made after receipts are submitted.

The project will see the business relocated from the corner of White Oak Road and George Richey Road to the corner of White Oak Road and Blackstone.

"She basically bought a lot that had an abandoned house on it. They tore down the house and have the lot," Purcell added. "She got another portable building to use for all of her storage stuff and a sign for the building itself."

## Vet benefits fair on tap Feb. 21

The Gilmer posts of three national organizations for military veterans will jointly host a Veterans Benefit Fair at the Gilmer Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 21, announced local American Legion member Shirley Parnell.

The event, open free of charge to local veterans and their families, is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1218 U.S. Hwy. 271 N.

It will feature "a variety of veterans' resources," free food from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and "giveaways throughout the day," the flyer said. Sponsors are American Legion R.E. (Peppy) Blount Post No. 320, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6715 and Disabled American Veterans Post No. 204.

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**Saturday**

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Sunday**

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