

# Gladewater Mirror

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## Proposed \$8.1M bond won't impact local tax

After paying down principal on 2014 bond, GISD calculates no increase for voters

By James Draper

"We've got about 90 days or so to get out and really educate how you can add \$8.1 million without increasing the tax rate."

Explaining Gladewater's proposed bond isn't a simple task, Gladewater ISD Supt. Rae Ann Patty says, but there's time to get the word out before voters head to the polls this spring.

"We can educate our community and our population, 'This is not going to change your rate,'" Patty told trustees Monday ahead of their unanimous vote to call a May 2 bond election to cover a variety of projects: "We do have some needs. I just believe our kids deserve what we can do for them and to provide them with learning environments and school buses."

Back in 2014, GISD voters signed off on a 30-year, \$35 million bond to fund the construction of Gladewater Middle School and renovate Weldon Elementary. Locking in an interest rate of just 2 percent, for the past 12 years a substantial portion of the district's payments have been applied to principal, not interest.

Like paying down a credit card balance, there's now enough breathing room at the top to take on a similar amount of new debt that won't impact the current Interest & Sinking rate of \$0.25336 per \$100 valuation.

So, no tax increase.

If approved in May, the new issue will be paid off within 15 years, respectively. It will not change the payment schedule for the 2014 bond, with payments continuing through 2045 as planned.

Through the 2026 bond proposal, the district is asking vot-

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## Two die in house fires

By Phillip Williams

Foul play is not suspected in two recent rural house fires which each killed one person, Upshur County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Russell Washburn said Monday.

Lue Nell Burnett, 71, died in a Jan. 15 afternoon blaze at her Latch community area home at 218 Private Road 3078, while Paul Christopher Wooten, 64, perished in a Jan. 31 pre-dawn blaze in a home at 348 Hawthorne Road, according to the sheriff's office and Gilmer Fire Department.

The latter blaze, in the Pritchett community area, also injured two people, Sheriff Larry Webb's office said.

Although foul play is not suspected, sheriff's investigator Shane Guthrie was still probing the fires' causes Monday since they resulted in fatalities, said Washburn.

Gilmer Fire Chief Jerry Taylor said last week neither home had a smoke detector, and urged residents without one to get a free one by calling the American Red Cross. He said the fire department will install them free of charge.

"If you've got one over 10 years old, they need to be replaced," Taylor added Monday night.

He said the first blaze, which the sheriff's office listed as reported at 4:49 p.m., involved a small wooden frame house and that he believed it was determined that a faulty propane heater caused it.



Gladewater High School's Aubry Floyd hands a gift crafted by GHS Ag Mechanics students GISD Board Vice President Jeff Cook Monday evening.

## GISD bolsters pathways for students' career readiness

By James Draper

Gladewater ISD is stepping on the gas when it comes to Career & Technical Education, adding more pathways to connect students with post-secondary careers.

"CTE is going to be very important to the district," GISD Supt. Rae Ann Patty says.

February is Career & Technical Education Month nationally and statewide, and program instructors gave GISD trustees an overview of their TEA-aligned efforts Monday evening.

Praising the staffers, Patty noted "They are responsible for 40 percent of the high school's accountability rating."

Business Management's a still-new option for Gladewater high schoolers along with an Education focus through the Teaching & Training Program of Study. Other GISD CTE Programs range from Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (encompassing Animal Science, Ag Mechanics & Technology as well as Floral Design) to Culinary Arts, Graphic Design & Interactive Media, Health Science and Fire Science.

"These kids are getting a practical application of life," board member Garth Cockerell said, tipping his hat to the various educators and their young charges. "This overwhelms me. You are vital. You are crucial."

A task right now is to revamp the choice sheets both for current high schoolers and for eighth graders pondering the next four years. The younger group will have an opportunity this spring to explore the GHS facilities, read through a guidebook of programs of study and see what piques their interest. In addition to coursework, students participate in practicums tied to their concentrations.

"We did a survey last year for the kids to determine what we would add," Patty said.

It ensures the students get the options they're looking for and that there's enough interest to support specific paths – and the requisite equipment purchases necessary for them.

"We have a great department at Gladewater, and thank you for your support," CTE Director Jennifer Moore said to the trustees. "It does take a lot of money to keep the programs going."

Something new this year: parents and students alike need to understand what it means to be a 'completer.'

From freshman through senior year, "Did the students take all the courses in the pathway to be a completer? If they're not a completer, we can't count them on the accountability side."

Statistically, between 60 and 70 percent of GHS students go directly into the workforce. The remainder proceed into college or military.

"We have a really high percentage of students who get a CCMR point," she said, for 'College,

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## GISD sticks with status quo on accommodating prayer

By James Draper

Every school day, Gladewater ISD students are invited to take a moment to pause and, if they wish, to pray.

That won't change.

Monday night, GISD trustees considered and, ultimately, voted down a new policy handed down from on high in Austin. In particular, local elected officials opted to follow Supt. Rae Ann Patty's recommendation to put Senate Bill 11 to the side and stick with the status quo here.

"We have always allowed students to pray in schools when they want to. We have never told a child no, you cannot pray, or no, you cannot have your quiet time," Patty said. "We just want to continue the way we've been going."

"We have a moment of silence every day in our schools. It's an appropriate amount of time for them to sit, reflect, meditate, pray, whatever they want to do."

Under the 89th Legislature's SB 11, elected officials at Texas school districts (as well as open-enrollment charter schools)

have until March 1 to give their public thumbs up or down on policies that would build a time of prayer and/or the reading of religious texts during the school day.

It was a unanimous 'No, thank you' from GISD as trustee Rickie Blackmon's motion, seconded by Garth Cockerell was approved 6-0 (in the absence of board president) in a rare vote in favor of denying an issue. There was no trustee discussion prior to the vote.

Under SB11, Patty noted, the school would be required to provide a formal space and opportunity for prayer or reflection before school. Administrators would have to obtain parent permission for students to use the space and track student use via sign-in sheets.

"I am for vetoing this," Patty reiterated moments before. "What I would like to do is continue with what we already do on the campuses... They can pray. We can still have student-led prayer. They can have See You At The Pole."

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Gladewater ISD Trustee Rickie Blackmon votes on an issue Monday evening to vote down the adoption of a new 'daily prayer time' policy set out by state legislators in Senate Bill 11. Instead, Gladewater ISD will continue providing students with the same broad opportunities for prayer and reflection.

## Local school races shape up ahead of Friday the 13th filing deadline

By James Draper

Incumbents at both Gladewater ISD and White Oak ISD will face challengers in the Spring 2026 election cycle.

The Place 5 seat at GISD will see incumbent Cori Arevalo and candidate Emily Anderson on the ballot on Election Day. Likewise, WOISD Place 5 will have a choice between David Trest (incumbent) and Mason Stone.

The filing deadline for a spot on the May 2 ticket remains open until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

Gladewater ISD Board President Chris Thompson has filed for re-election. In White Oak, school board President Lance Noll (Place 4) and board VP Stephanie McKinney (Place 3) are both on the ticket.

As of press time, there are no contested races for the City of Gladewater: Mayor Brandy Flanagan has filed for re-election to Place 1, Stoney Stone is seeking a second term in Place 3 and returning council member Teddy Sorrells has filed for outgoing council Michael Webber's Place 2 spot.

At White Oak City Hall, Mayor Kyle Kutsch is seeking another term and council member Kevin Hood (Place 5) filed Monday. There's no word yet on councilman John Frazier (Place 4) as of the Mirror's print deadline.

Gladewater ISD's ticket also includes an \$8.1 million bond election following a 6-0 vote by trustees Monday evening.

(See Story on Page 1)

## Texas shatters record for student applications in new school choice program

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced today that more than 42,000 students applied for Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) on Feb. 4, the first day of the program's launch.

The total represents a nationwide record for most enrollments for day one of a new school choice program, surpassing Tennessee's 33,000 student applications in 2025.

"Texas families made history yesterday," Hancock said. "This record-breaking response shows a powerful groundswell across our state of parents who are excited about the freedom to choose the best possible education for their child, and we're proud to deliver a program that puts students first."

Of the students who applied on the first day, 80.3 percent indicated they plan to attend a participating private school next year, and 19.7 percent said they plan to choose another option, such as homeschooling.

Of the students with verified information:

- 34 percent have household incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$66,000 for a family of four).

- 38 percent have household incomes between 200 percent and 500 percent of the federal poverty level (\$165,000 for a family of four).

- Nearly three in four have been placed in one of the three top priority groups established by Senate Bill 2:

- 10 percent have been placed in the top priority tier for students with disabilities and household incomes below 500 percent of the federal poverty level.
- 29 percent have been placed in the second priority tier for students with household incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- 33 percent have been placed in the third priority tier for students with household incomes between 200 and 500 percent of the federal poverty level.

The number of applicants will continue to climb. As of 11 a.m. today, more than 46,000 students had applied.

Applications will remain open through March 17 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Families have plenty of time to apply, and the program is not filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Details on how to apply are available at EducationFreedom.Texas.Gov.



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## Words can be the best gift of all ...

The jewelry store ads have been telling the guys that the best way to show their love is with a nice hunk of ice, for a very hefty price of course. Hallmark says to 'say it with a card'. Those cards can now cost \$5 and up. Roses exceed some utility bills.

Words however are priceless. And they can last a very long time tucked away in a special place or in our hearts.

A few weeks ago when I was at the family ranch, my childhood home, I was sitting in the living room when I picked up a Bible our son had given his grandparents for Easter in 1996. Josh inscribed it with "Love y'all a lot. God Bless!" And he had drawn a tractor beside those words.

Inside that Bible I found a late-in-life love note from my ailing father to his sweetheart.

In part it read: "You my Darling are my life, wife and Sweetheart. I miss you so much. I could not live without you. Yours forever...Daddy"

Written in pencil on yellow legal pad the gift of these words are worth more to my Mom, and now me, than any expensive necklace or ring. So much more.

Of course, Mom had to learn to live without her sweetheart. She misses him every single day. And those words of love still matter.

Also inside this Bible I found a recipe card with my name on it and a list of scriptures my Mother had apparently prayed over me. Another love letter of a different sort.

What a gift to find in a quiet moment alone. Priceless gifts. Gifts for a lifetime.

Love can write the story of our lives.

If we let it. If we live it. If we mean it.

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



In between those two pieces of paper is a lifetime of troubles, trials, illnesses and heartbreak. In between those two pieces of paper is a lifetime of joy, celebration, accomplishment and wisdom. In between those two pieces of paper are lives lived in love. In ways that mattered.

On this Valentine's Day take the time to write the loves of your life words that matter. Sometimes, often, those words, and certainly those actions will long outlive you.

And to my sweetheart, my partner and my best friend, no words can improve upon our wedding vows, "I love you as I love no other. All that I am I give to you. Now and forever."

To my precious son and daughter-in-heart, you are blessings who bring me the greatest joy.

To my Daddy in heaven and my prayer warrior Mother, thank you for the rock solid ground I stand on.

To my sweet baby brother, darlin' thanks for being the perfect brother. Always.

To my Mother- and Father-in-heart thank you for always being there. And of course, happiest of Valentine birthdays to Jim's Mom Carol, the most talented woman I know.

To you Valentine readers, thank you for your loyalty, your support and your encouragement.

And finally, Happy Valentine's Day to all the loving sweethearts out there.

Share your love with words. It can be the best gift of all.

**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



### Early voting begins Feb. 17

Early voting in the March 3 primary begins Monday, Feb. 17 and concludes on Friday, Feb. 27. A full slate of contested races will be on the ballots in both Republican and Democratic primaries. The deadline to request a mail ballot is Feb. 20, according to votetexas.gov.

One of the most closely watched statewide races for both parties are the primary races for U.S. Senator. Incumbent GOP Sen. John Cornyn faces two challengers: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Houston. On the Democratic side, U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Dallas, faces state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock. There are many other contested races on the ballot as well. Voters can access election information, find out if they are registered to vote, and obtain other pertinent information at votetexas.gov.

### More than 30K voucher applications on first day

More than 30,000 school voucher applications were submitted last week on the first day of the state's new program to give families taxpayer-funded accounts for private school tuition and homeschooling expenses, the Houston Chronicle reported. The applications will be accepted until March 17 and are not first-come, first-served.

The Legislature provided \$1 billion in funding for the program's first year, which is projected to support up to 100,000 accounts. If it receives more applications than can be funded, an income-and disability-based lottery will be held to determine which families receive vouchers.

"When parents have more options, students have more opportunity — and that's a win for Texas," acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock said in a news release.

Officially called Texas Education Freedom Accounts, the program is being administered by the state comptroller's office and Odyssey, a New York-based tech contractor.

### School walkouts could trigger TEA probes

A rash of student walkouts in Texas to protest the ongoing ICE crackdown in Minnesota has prompted the Texas Education Agency to warn school districts they could face investigations and possible loss of funding, The Dallas Morning News reported. In a letter sent last week to school districts, the agency warned that students must be marked as absent, with schools risking loss of daily attendance funding. It stated that teachers or school systems who "facilitate walkouts" will be subject to investigation and sanction.

After thousands of students from 14 campuses in the Austin ISD left class to protest ICE activity, Greg Abbott called on Education Commissioner Mike Morath to investigate.

"AISD gets taxpayer dollars to teach the subjects required by the state, not to help students skip school to protest," he wrote on X. "Our schools are for educating our children, not political indoctrination."

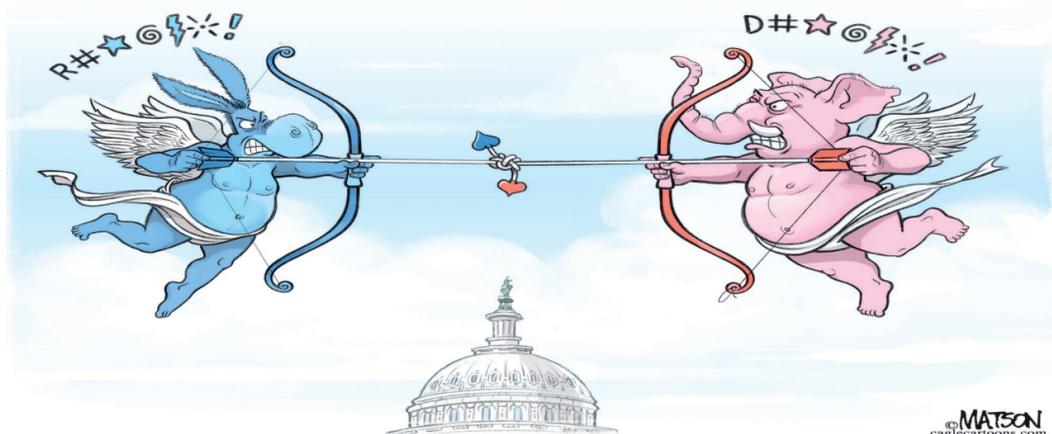
Besides Austin, several school districts in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area experienced student walkouts. Organizers pointed out that protests are protected speech, with the harshest consequence being an unexcused absence.

### State back in court soon over no AC in prisons

Texas will soon return to federal court to defend not providing air conditioning in many of its prisons, according to the Texas Standard. The plaintiffs include advocacy groups and incarcerated individuals, who claim that the heat levels in un-air-conditioned prisons constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice argues that the prison system needs more funding and resources. Two-thirds of the state's 103 prison facilities lack air conditioning in cell blocks and dorms. Temperatures inside those prisons often rise above 90 degrees, according to readings now required by law.

"There is no mitigation measure other than air conditioning that can protect people from death or sickness due to the heat," attorney Erica Grossman said. "People living in Texas prisons should not be subjected to conditions we won't even subject animals to." County jails are required to keep temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees. Animal shelters also have heat rules.



## Gone to Texas

Since at least the Panic of 1819 more than two centuries ago, "Gone to Texas" has been linked with those coming to make a fresh start (at that point, Texas was a part of Mexico). Some things never change!

Another set of data confirms what has long been occurring — Texas continues to attract new residents at a solid pace. The [U-Haul Growth Index](#) measures one-way customer transactions, and provides a unique look at migration from state to state. Rankings reflect net gains (or losses) based on rentals of trucks/trailers in one state which were dropped off in another. More than 2.5 million such transactions occurred in 2025.

Texas ranked number one in the Index for the seventh time in the past 10 years, with arriving customers comprising 50.7% of one-way traffic in or out of the state. The numbers were up 3% over 2024.

Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee round out the top five. These states have been atop the list for years now (though the order has varied), consistently experiencing in-migration. At the other end of the spectrum, the greatest out-migration was in California (for the sixth consecutive year), with Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois also ranking in the bottom five.

The top three growth metropolitan areas are also in Texas (Dallas, Houston, and Austin). Several others were in the top 25, including Brownsville-McAllen (10), San Antonio (21), and College Station (23). For specific cities, McKinney ranked number six, with Seguin, New Braunfels, and Conroe in the top 20.

## Dr. Ray Perryman THE ECONOMIST



One reason for this trend is job opportunities. Although growth has slowed recently, Texas has long been generating far more new positions than anywhere else, and the other top states have also seen notable gains.

A second factor is the cost of living. Texas and Florida are among the few states without a state income tax. Rankings of state tax burdens generally place Texas relatively well with regard to the overall tax structure (although there is always room for improvement), whereas the worst three are typically California, New Jersey, and New York. High taxes affect people across the income spectrum; in fact, recent headlines have described billionaires leaving California in advance of new levies.

Business-friendly environments and lower costs in terms of operating expenses are proving to be attractive. The data also reveals an ongoing shift toward southern states, with eight of the top ten locations.

Many factors go into any moving decision, and Texas is well-positioned for continued in-migration. That's great news for the potential of the economy in light of national workforce shortages, as long as the requisite infrastructure investments of all types (including education) occur in a timely manner. Stay safe!

## EXAMINE YOUR MORAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

Do you ever think much about how we ought to live? Perhaps you won't be surprised to hear that polls today show that in matters of moral and ethical behavior many churchgoers do not differ very much from non-churchgoers.

Unfortunately, that's not because non-churchgoers have unexpectedly high morals, but rather it's because many churchgoers have worldly morals. Instead of the world becoming more "churchy," what has gradually happened is that many church people have become more worldly!

Basically speaking, what is happening is that religious people have gradually become "conformed to this world." Romans 12: 1: 2 tells Christians not to "be conformed to this world" but to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind." The New English Bible says, "Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world." The New Living Translation says, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world." J. B. Phillips translation has, "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." Renewing your mind refers to one's attitude or way of thinking. Thus, this transformation comes from within. Changing the outside without changing the inside is like putting clean clothes on a boy who plays in the mud. Therefore, to change the outside, we must first change the inside because as one "thinks within himself, so is he" (Prov. 23: 7).

Actually, this religious and moral degeneration in many churches is not really surprising. It is the result decades of handling God's Word in loose and careless ways. As someone pointed out, "preachers in many churches have left the Bible and slid into ever-increasing apostasy, and now, when they try to hit the brakes, they can't even find the pedal."

We will be formed into the image of the world if we follow the thought patterns, values, and attitudes of the world. Once we start doing what the world does, it is only a matter of time until we begin to look like the world. What is my point? No matter how religious and devout we claim to be, if we pattern our lives after the world, we cannot help but look like what we have patterned ourselves after! Truly, we must live in this world, but we must not be "of this world!" (1 Jn. 2: 15-17).

Well, we're not claiming perfection at the White Oak Church of Christ, but we are trying to stick with the Bible. For example, we're staying with the Bible on moral and ethical issues, such as its teaching about marriage and divorce and remarriage. We also stand with the teaching of the Bible in its condemnation of sexual sins-including homosexuality. When it comes to our speech, social drinking, modesty, and what the church should be in its work, worship, and organization we accept the Bible as our guide.

I know that many people, even church people, will think the things we have mentioned are outdated and old-fashioned, but the White Oak church of Christ is still trying to follow all God tells us in His Word. Please think on these things.

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

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## OBITUARY

### NELDA GAY WILSON TUCKER

A celebration of life for Nelda Gay Wilson Tucker, 92, of Big Sandy, Texas, was held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, February 7, 2026, in the chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home with Mike Ford and Richard Vaughn officiating. The family received friends an hour before the service. Private interment followed at Hoover Cemetery.



Born on October 16, 1933, in Big Sandy, Texas, Gay was the daughter of Artie B. "Bus" and Ada Lenora "Nona" Gage Wilson. On September 14, 1951, she married the love of her life, Andrew Gene Tucker, with whom she built a beautiful life centered on faith and family. A devoted member of New Hope Baptist Church in Big Sandy, her

life was a testament to her loving spirit and kind heart.

She is survived by her children, Andrew Paul Tucker and Dana Marie Tucker, both of Big Sandy; son-in-law Cris Stribling of Starkville, MS; and daughter-in-law Terri Tucker of Big Sandy. Her legacy continues through her eight grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Gay was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Andrew Gene Tucker; her daughter, Dawn Elaine Tucker Stribling; her son, Stacey Gene Tucker; and her siblings, Lucy Joplin, Betty Richter, Rose Pearn, Artie Wilson, Lewis Wilson, and Melvin Wilson.

The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to Hospice Plus (specifically her nurse, Kensi) and the dedicated staff at Legend Oaks Healthcare and Rehabilitation for the exceptional care and comfort they provided.

Honoring her as pallbearers are her grandsons: Drew Stribling, Stephen Lucas, Tony Boudreau, Dathan Johnson, and Cole Rushing, along with her great-grandson, Jett Broderick.

Please visit Gay's online registration book at [www.mcwhort-erfh.com](http://www.mcwhort-erfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

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## GISD bolsters pathways for students' career readiness

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Career and Military Readiness.' "This coming school year in '26-27, the Texas Education Agency is going to change some of that criteria. Industry-based Certifications are going to get more difficult to pass.

In the past, state-level authorities wanted schools prepping students for junior college and the certifications they could get at that level.

"Now they want us to have them career-ready when they graduate," Patty said. For example, "They want us to have them ready in high school to weld on an oil rig. There's a much more rigorous test that has to happen when you're an 18 year-old versus a college student."

That, she concluded, requires expensive equipment that's not currently on-hand. And that will require an injection of funds, i.e. the looming bond election.

That said, "Our welding program has done well this year," netting a blue ribbon in competition in Fort Worth. "That's a major show. We're very proud of that and we want to continue that."

## Proposed \$8.1M bond won't impact local

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ers' sign-off on:

- upgrading the school's buses with three-point seat belts (according to Senate Bill 546) at an estimated cost of \$2 million
- replacing air conditioning units
- funding heat exchangers
- painting and beautifying Gladewater High School and Gladewater Primary School
- upgrading safety measures to include keyless entry to the exterior doors of GHS and GPS
- upgrading GISD radio and replacing intercom systems
- replacing GHS chillers and boilers
- building a Pole Barn for CTE Ag

Consultation with the bond steering committee the past month identified more potential projects to enhance Career & Technical Education opportunities (see separate story in this issue) and, perhaps, fix doors and windows at GHS and GPS, depending on the cost of asbestos mitigation.

Numerous costs, especially the state-mandated bus upgrade, are unavoidable.

That said, "We're going to need to educate the population because when they hear that there's no tax increase," Patty added, "they're going to want to see the math behind that."

GISD School Board Vice President Jeff Cook ran Monday's meeting in the absence of president Chris Thompson. Cori Arevalo's motion, seconded by Danielle Budro, was unanimously approved 6-0 with little discussion.

It now goes to the voters May 2.

A subsequent unanimous vote Feb. 9 allocated up to \$65,000 to fund a bond public relations firm for the effort.

"It's really a tax extension of what we're already paying," board member Garth Cockerell said. "It's a continuation of what we've already got."

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## White Oak prepares for costly water tank repairs

The cold snap did come at a cost for the City of White Oak – a fresh leak at one of the city's above-ground storage tanks is pushing up the timetable for repairs.

Right now, the ballpark pricetag is about \$800,000, White Oak City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell told council members Monday. That number could change once the half-million-gallon, 60-year-old structure is drained and inspectors take a closer look inside.

"It sounds like we're going to get into these tanks and do stuff we weren't prepared for."

Water Operator Will Schlinke was making his rounds last week when he spotted an expected flood of water. A seal ruptured, he said, likely weakened by the freeze.

"It's leaking out 40 gallons a minute," Schlinke said. "A tremendous amount."

The city's million-gallon tank will stand in the gap while the

smaller structure is refurbished.

"That's where we're sitting right now. We're just using one tank again and going from there."

The White Oak City Council typically meets on a Tuesday. In other business during the specially-called meeting Feb. 9, council members heard from a duplex owner about a water billing problem and set a meeting to address the issue. They welcomed a pickleball presentation from a local entrepreneur who hopes to partner with the city on future projects at the community's recently-converted courts and briefly discussed the next Yamboree duches from White Oak.

There's currently no official process to choose the participant, Kyle Kutch said.

"We've reached one conclusion: the mayor's not going to pick it," he added, shaking his head. "We upset a parent last year. I don't know how we do it. Y'all be thinking about it."

## Citizens Bank in Kilgore Holding Company Completes Acquisition of Texas National Bancorporation

East Texas Financial Corporation, the parent company for Citizens Bank headquartered in Kilgore, Texas and Texas National Bancorporation, the parent company for Texas National Bank of Jacksonville, Texas have announced the successful completion of East Texas Financial Corporation's previously announced acquisition of Texas National Bancorporation after receiving all required regulatory approvals.

East Texas Financial Corporation will operate as a two-bank holding company with combined assets of \$1.3 billion as of December 31, 2025. Texas National Bank and Citizens Bank will

operate independently until approximately the fourth quarter of 2026, at which time the two banks will merge. After the merger, customers will be able to transact business at any of the combined bank's 20 offices in East and Southeast Texas.

"Citizens Bank and Texas National Bank share deep roots in East Texas and cultures built on community commitment, local leadership, and long-standing traditions in helping East Texas families and businesses thrive through trusted, personalized, relationship-based banking. This merger was designed with our customers in mind, and I'm confident we'll be even better able to serve them as modern, community-focused bank in the future," stated John Mills, President & CEO of Citizens Bank.

Customers of Citizens Bank and Texas National Bank will not experience any immediate changes to their banking experience and should continue to use their existing branches, checks, debit cards, online and mobile banking and other services. Customers will receive information regarding any changes that may occur as a result of the merger of the two banks in the second half of 2026.

Texas National Bank was established in Jacksonville in 1985. The bank has expanded over the years to include nine offices in Bullard, Jacksonville, Lindale, Longview, Lufkin, Marshall, Rusk, and Tyler (2). Citizens Bank was chartered in 1949, and through a combination of acquisitions and branch expansions, operates 11 banking offices in Bryan, Carthage, Center, Gladewater, Humble, Kilgore, Kountze, Sour Lake, Tyler, The Woodlands, and Yorktown.

## GISD sticks with status quo on accommodating

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Choosing to vote down the 89th Legislature's policy will, hopefully, prevent potential bullying behavior tied to children exercising their faith, Patty added.

"It allows students to opt in without being singled out to go to another location," Patty said. When the central issue is making space for students' personal beliefs, "If we're already doing it, why would we change that?"

"We've never had a problem since I've been here. When I spoke to the different administrators on campus, there's not been a problem with it... No one has been denied their religious freedoms. We just want to maintain that here at the local level."

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**WHITE OAK POLICE**

For the reporting period of February 2nd, 2026, through February 8th, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 200 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Advice Calls, Burglar Alarms, Animal Complaints, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Two traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period; one with possible injuries.

White Oak Officers made five arrests during this reporting period:

Keylan Cook, 25, of White Oak, for Driving While Intoxicated 2nd and Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon.

Garrett Tinker, 30, of Miami, FL, for POCS PGI <1g, POCS PG3 <28g, POCS PG4 <28g, Possession of a Dangerous Drug. Stacey Hawthorne, 58, of Longview, for 1 White Oak City Warrant.

Susan Pace, 55, of Longview, for 1 White Oak City Warrant.

James Robinson, 44, of White Oak, for 1 Gregg County Felony Warrant and POCS PGI >=1g<4g.

Two separate and unrelated cases were presented to the Gregg County District Attorney during this reporting period.

-Driving While Intoxicated.

-Indecency with a Child Sexual Contact.

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Bonanza" brother of Texas' "Hoss"
- 5 San \_\_\_\_, TX
- 6 "love" in Mexico
- 7 T-shirt size
- 8 phone company acquired by Verizon in 2006
- 9 Texans are not quick to \_\_\_\_ lie
- 15 this Malouf wrote "Cattle Kings of Texas" in 1991
- 16 endlessly
- 19 junk to a redneck? (2 wds.)
- 21 this TX Gray sang "The In Crowd"
- 22 TX Burnett 1981 film: "The Four \_\_\_\_"
- 27 Muslim ruler
- 28 mezcal worm
- 29 San Angelo was named for this Mexican nun
- 30 Skip Schumaker \_\_\_\_ the Texas Rangers
- 32 TXism: "scared the dickens out of ' \_\_\_\_'"
- 33 De Leon's August event: "Peach \_\_\_\_ Festival"
- 36 TX Meredith MacRae was on sitcom "Petti \_\_\_\_ Junction"
- 37 TXism: "cold \_\_\_\_ banker's heart"
- 38 historic "Texas & \_\_\_\_ Railway"
- 39 aquatic turtle
- 41 El Paso originally: "pass \_\_\_\_ to the north"

- 44 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ the end of my rope!"
- 45 female sheep
- 46 TXism: "hot as \_\_\_\_ of mesquite coals"
- 47 early internet provider
- 48 TX gunfighter Ben Thompson wore a \_\_\_\_ hat
- 51 TXism: "it's good for what \_\_\_\_ you"

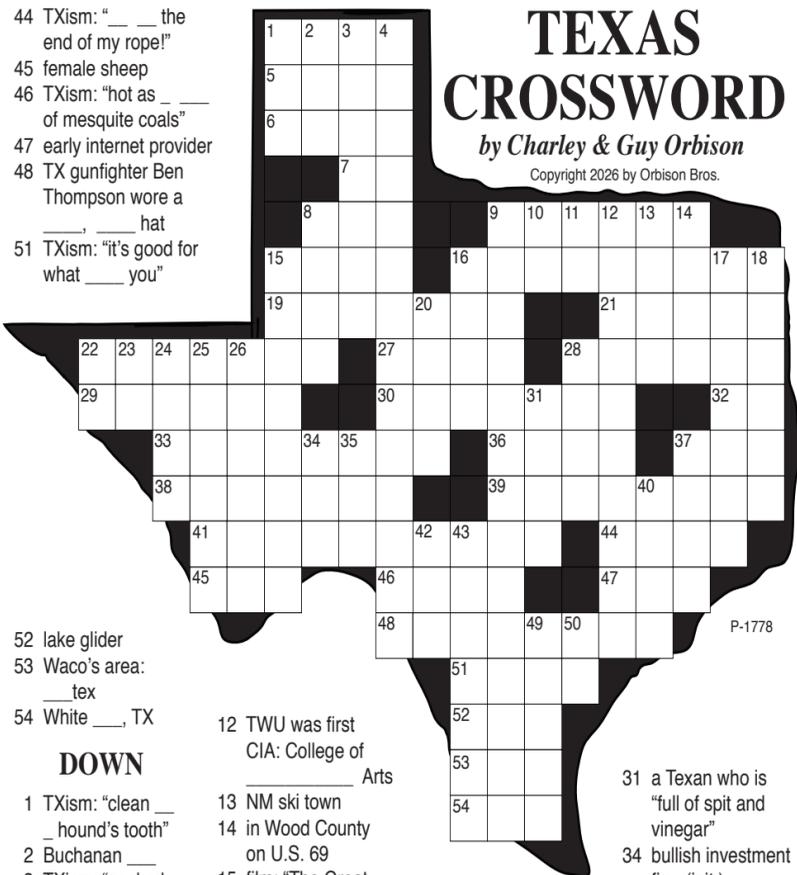
- 52 lake glider
- 53 Waco's area: \_\_\_\_ tex
- 54 White \_\_\_\_, TX

**DOWN**

- 1 TXism: "clean \_\_\_\_ hound's tooth"
- 2 Buchanan \_\_\_\_
- 3 TXism: "packed like cows in \_\_\_\_"
- 4 newspaper in the seat of Falls County (2 wds.)
- 8 missing combat soldiers (abbr.)
- 9 TXism: " \_\_\_\_ hawk to a prairie dog"
- 10 hometown of TX "Hoss": \_\_\_\_ Kalb
- 11 Texas congressman Rayburn: " \_\_\_\_ Sam"

- 12 TWU was first CIA: College of \_\_\_\_ Arts
- 13 NM ski town
- 14 in Wood County on U.S. 69
- 15 film: "The Great Texas \_\_\_\_ Chase" (1976)
- 16 one pen name of romance novelist TX Sandra Brown: \_\_\_\_ St. Claire
- 17 before hitting a putt, a golfer " \_\_\_\_ up"
- 18 this Bill was a successful UH football coach (1962-86)
- 20 Neil Armstrong took a small step for " \_\_\_\_"

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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- 31 a Texan who is "full of spit and vinegar"
- 34 bullish investment firm (init.)
- 35 TXism: "let sleeping dogs \_\_\_\_"
- 37 TXism: "compadre" (2 wds.)
- 40 "run \_\_\_\_" (went crazy)
- 42 ex-TCU coach Moe (1987-94)
- 43 prelude to Texas Revolution: "Battle of \_\_\_\_"
- 49 move furtively
- 50 TXism: "the fat \_\_\_\_ in the fire" (trouble coming)

See Answers On This Page

**GPD Arrest Report**

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Address	Charges
2/5/2026	Covington, Ashton Jacob	2000 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (FELONY)
			WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (FELONY)
2/7/2026	NELSON, WOODIE GENE JR	528 NORTH STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (FELONY)
			WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (MSD)
			WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (MSD)
			WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (MSD)



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# GLADEWATER POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
02/02/2026	00:53:57		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 00:55:49				
02/02/2026	01:13:47		EXTRA PATROL	103 N DEAN STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 01:15:11				
02/02/2026	01:43:38	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	ALARM	326 MELBA AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 01:45:36				
02/02/2026	01:59:45		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 02:01:10				
02/02/2026	04:13:15		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 04:17:12				
02/02/2026	05:55:20	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	600 W UPSHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 05:57:21				
02/02/2026	06:11:02	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	326 MELBA AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 06:13:35				
02/02/2026	07:42:42	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 07:43:24				
02/02/2026	10:29:39	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	ALARM	326 MELBA AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 10:30:07				
02/02/2026	11:11:03		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 FM 2685 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 11:11:30				
02/02/2026	12:42:59	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	56 JULIA WOODS STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 12:43:36				
02/02/2026	14:35:53	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	511 S TYLER ROAD 1 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 14:36:35				
02/02/2026	16:30:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	S TYLER/S MAIN ANDERSON
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 16:30:44				
02/02/2026	17:47:45	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	ANDERSON
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 17:47:53				
02/02/2026	19:06:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RECKLESS DRIVER	1625 n main
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 19:14:06				
02/02/2026	20:26:30	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	MCDONALDS 600 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 20:27:04				
02/02/2026	20:51:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	600 S TYLER ROAD GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 20:51:51				
02/02/2026	21:21:39	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	BURGLARY	503 MLK
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 21:22:54				
02/02/2026	21:58:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	607 E BROADWAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 22:00:32				
02/02/2026	22:32:39		REPOSSESSION	1106 FOREST HILL STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 22:36:23				
02/02/2026	22:51:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	VIOLA/N LYNN 705 E BROADWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/02/2026 22:51:45				
02/03/2026	01:01:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	705 E BROADWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 01:03:04				
02/03/2026	02:57:05	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	11377 UNION GROVE RD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 02:58:24				
02/03/2026	07:38:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	CENTER S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 07:38:24				
02/03/2026	08:08:54	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER S TYLER/HWY 135
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 08:09:11				
02/03/2026	08:20:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/HWY 135 3920 W UPSHUR
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 08:20:33				
02/03/2026	08:42:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL CARCASS	3920 W UPSHUR 1201 FM 2685 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 08:42:51				
02/03/2026	10:07:58		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 FM 2685 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 10:08:33				
02/03/2026	10:31:14	GLADEWATER	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN/GAY 100 S MAIN STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 11:32:08				
02/03/2026	14:05:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	905 CANFIELD STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 14:06:15				
02/03/2026	14:11:11	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	300 MONEY STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 14:11:26				
02/03/2026	14:53:51		THREATS	511 S TYLER ROAD 1 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 14:54:21				
02/03/2026	15:08:40		MISCELLANEOUS	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 15:08:57				
02/03/2026	16:40:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	700 BLOCK OF N MAIN ST GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 16:41:54				
02/03/2026	17:31:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	508 N POST GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 17:32:07				
02/03/2026	19:32:22	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	300 MONEY STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 19:36:21				
02/03/2026	19:52:41		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 19:57:51				
02/03/2026	20:06:54	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	302 PINE RIDGE RD GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 20:08:58				
02/03/2026	20:05:25		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 20:10:19				
02/03/2026	20:11:53		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 20:15:24				
02/03/2026	22:53:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	SHELL CAMP / HWY 80 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 22:53:44				
02/03/2026	23:31:29		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/03/2026 23:32:54				
02/04/2026	03:11:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 03:58:46				
02/04/2026	03:58:46		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 04:07:39				
02/04/2026	07:42:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	VIRGINIA AND WEST GAY GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 07:42:52				
02/04/2026	07:50:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	EAST LAKE AND WEST GAY GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 07:50:34				
02/04/2026	07:54:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	WEST GAY AND PACIFIC GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 07:55:11				
02/04/2026	08:00:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	1300 E BROADWAY DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 08:03:47				
02/04/2026	08:16:15	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S DEAN AND S TYLER GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 08:17:06				
02/04/2026	08:14:45		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 08:21:36				
02/04/2026	08:36:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	2100 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 08:38:01				
02/04/2026	09:12:50		ANIMAL CARCASS	1620 VESTA AVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 09:17:25				
02/04/2026	09:31:28		AGENCY ASSIST	1576 N RODEO DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 09:40:17				
02/04/2026	12:11:06		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 12:13:48				
02/04/2026	13:17:59	GLADEWATER	SUSPICIOUS	905 CANFIELD STREET
02/04/2026	17:42:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1111 N SHELL ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 17:43:51				
02/04/2026	18:23:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	DOWNTOWN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 18:25:13				
02/04/2026	18:48:25	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	326 MELBA AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 18:49:20				
02/04/2026	19:32:32		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 19:34:18				
02/04/2026	19:53:23	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	MCNEESE / S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 19:53:39				
02/04/2026	20:31:04		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 20:32:45				
02/04/2026	20:40:19	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	10856 HWY 271 S
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 20:43:07				
02/04/2026	20:43:23	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2215 PINECREST DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 20:49:44				
02/04/2026	21:02:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	403 HOWARD STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 21:11:56				
02/04/2026	21:11:56		AGENCY ASSIST	701 E BROADWAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 21:13:36				
02/04/2026	21:21:38		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 21:38:01				
02/04/2026	21:55:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RECKLESS DRIVER	206 EMPIRE STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/04/2026 21:58:34				
02/05/2026	03:13:05	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	E BROADWAY / ICE DISPENSER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 03:13:05				
02/05/2026	07:26:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN BY GRANNY B'S N RODEO
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 07:26:45				
02/05/2026	07:40:30	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N RODEO
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 07:40:46				
02/05/2026	07:50:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	2200 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 07:51:21				
02/05/2026	08:06:22		DISORDERLY CONDUCT	100 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 08:10:19				
02/05/2026	08:24:11	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	TRAIN TRACKS N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 08:26:28				
02/05/2026	09:49:48	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1298 E BROADWAY AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 09:50:46				
02/05/2026	11:13:17		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 11:15:29				
02/05/2026	13:03:36	CWC - FIRE	AGENCY ASSIST	2217 OLD LONGVIEW HWY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 13:04:35				
02/05/2026	15:25:22	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 15:27:16				
02/05/2026	16:22:57	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 16:25:00				
02/05/2026	17:10:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	520 ANDERSON LANE 120 E LOOP 281 LONGVIEW REGIONAL
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 18:17:03				
02/05/2026	21:56:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	500 BLK S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 21:56:49				
02/05/2026	22:20:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RECKLESS DRIVER	HWY 271 / N LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 22:25:20				
02/05/2026	22:42:11		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 22:47:32				
02/05/2026	22:48:12	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	901 VESTA AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 02/05/2026 22:49:59				
02/06/2026	10:11:36	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	SHELLCAMP/ARMSTRONG 100 LANE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/06/2026 10:11:56				
02/06/2026	10:34:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	100 LANE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/06/2026 10:34:35				
02/06/2026	10:41:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN/PYEATT W UPSHUR/AVALON
Sent To Dispatch- 02/06/2026 10:41:52				
02/06/2026	11:10:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W UPSHUR/AVALON W GAY/PHILL

# Sports roundup

**By Tyler Sutton**

The Gladewater Bears basketball team continued their fight to clinch a playoff spot as they welcomed in the Tatum Eagles to Bill Waters gym for a pivotal district contest and despite a tough fight, the Eagles pulled away at the end and won it 84-63.

Micha Timmons had another good game with 22 points and 5 assists. Landon King has 12 points and 6 rebounds. Caleb Balcorta has 5 points as well. That was followed by the short trip to White Oak to take on the rival Roughnecks and they came away with a crucial district win with a 55-50 victory. King led the way with 15 points. Timmons has 13. The Bears sit now at 12-13 and 5-5 in district play.

They will finish up the regular season with a pair of home games when they host Sabine and have their senior night against Arp.

The Gladewater Lady Bears continued to get closer to clinching a playoff spot as they hosted the Tatum Lady Eagles and in a typical hard fought district contest lost a heart-breaker 51-50. Paytin Thompson finished with 25 points, six rebounds and four steals in the loss for Gladewater.

Kamila Turner had 11 points, six rebounds and two steals, Khera Lincoln 10 points, two rebounds, four assists and three steals and Ki'Zyah Miles four points, two rebounds and four steals. That was followed up by traveling to rival White Oak and coming

up with a crucial 41-30 victory over the Lady Roughnecks.

Thompson had another good game with 12 points. Lincoln has 8 and 5 assists. The lady bears are now 8-17 and 7-5 in district play. They will wrap up their regular season with their final home game of the season when they host the Sabine Lady Cardinals.

They will learn of their playoff at some point after then.

The White Oak Roughnecks basketball team were still alive for a playoff spot and they did just that as they defeated the Arp Tigers 52-38 on the road. Cal Jester had a huge game with 20 points and 5 rebounds. That was followed by the loss to Gladewater.

The Roughnecks are now 14-18 and 3-6 in district play.

They will have their final two road games of the season at West Rusk and at Troup.

The White Oak Ladynecks continued to finish out their district season as they made the trip to Arp to take on the Lady Tigers and picked up their 1<sup>st</sup> district win with a 33-28 victory. Sophia Lacy had 6 points and 5 assists. Carington Watson has 7 points and 5 rebounds.

That was followed by the game vs Gladewater where seniors Lauryn Rosado, Lacy and Gentry Whittington were honored. The Ladynecks are now 11-23 and 1-10 in district play.

They will finish up their season with a road game at

West Rusk.

The Union Grove Lions all but locked up a playoff spot as they picked up a pair of important district wins. Starting with a trip to Big Sandy were they picked up a 43-35 win. The Lions led 8-7 after one quarter, 19-15 at the half and 27-21 after 3 quarters. This was followed by senior night as the Lions had their final home game of the season as they hosted Linden-Kildare and came away with a dominant 68-45 victory. Union Grove led 18-8 after 1 quarter, 38-22 at the half and 60-33 after 3 quarters. The pair of wins improved the Lions to 13-15 and 7-3 in district play.

They will wrap up their regular season with a pair of road games at Ore City and at McLeod.

The Union Grove Lady Lions inched closer to a top two finish in district as they had a pair of games. Starting with a road game at Big Sandy where the Lady Lions got up big early and never looked back in a 66-16 rout.

It was 21-4 Union Grove after one period, 39-7 at the half and 54-10 after 3 quarters. This was followed by senior night festivities during the final home game of the season where the Lady Lions hosted Linden-Kildare and came away with a 50-39 victory. Union Grove lead 14-8 after one quarter, 23-20 at the half

and it was 34-29 Lady Lions after 3 quarters.

The pair of victories improves Union Grove to 26-3 and 9-2 in district play. The Lady Lions will wrap up their regular season with a road game at Ore City.

A playoff opponent will be announced at a later date.

The White Oak Boys Powerlifting Team won the Battle For The 903 meet held in Paul Pewitt this past Saturday 2/7. The meet consisted of 10 teams and over 80 lifters in the boys division.

**Individual Results:**  
Landon Hartmann - 1st place 123  
Carter Gilbreath - 2nd place 123 (Carter and Landon actually tied for first and weighed the same so a coin flip was held for the placing/medal).

Austin Fisher - 2nd place 132  
Owen Gee - 1st place 148  
Logan Trapp - 3rd place 165  
Cash Scalia - 1st place 181  
Thomas Sullivan - 1st place 198  
Connor Hodges - 3rd place 198  
Michael Chambers - 4th place 198  
Xavier Henderson - 1st place 220  
Brody Greenwood - 5th place 275

## 2-8-26 Texas Girls Coaches Association State Basketball Poll

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Class 2A</b>        | 20. Jewett Leon            |
| 1. Mason               | 21. Port Aransas           |
| 2. Panhandle           | 22. Skidmore-Tynan         |
| 3. Cisco               | 23. Burton                 |
| 4. Whiteface           | 24. Hale Center            |
| 5. Gruver              | 25. Mumford                |
| 6. Flatonia            |                            |
| 7. Martins Mill        | <b>Class 3A</b>            |
| 8. Collinsville        | 1. Rio Hondo               |
| 9. Honey Grove         | 2. Coahoma                 |
| 10. Lipan              | 3. Fairfield               |
| 11. Danbury            | 4. Wall                    |
| 12. Harleton           | 5. Orangefield             |
| 13. Frost              | 6. Buffalo                 |
| 14. Ballinger          | 7. Texarkana Liberty-Eylau |
| 15. Olton              | 8. Rains                   |
| 16. Chireno            | 9. Paradise                |
| 17. Crawford           | 10. Idalou                 |
| <b>18. Union Grove</b> | 11. Sweetwater             |
| 19. Seymour            | 12. Lamesa                 |

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 13. Bushland             | Carrizo Springs        |
| 14. Little River Academy | Houston Wheatley       |
| 15. City View            | Brock                  |
| 16. Crystal City         | Richland               |
| 17. Columbus             | Fredericksburg         |
| <b>18. Mineola</b>       | 11. Chapel Hill        |
| 19. London               | 12. Manor New Tech     |
| 20. Canadian             | 13. Brownwood          |
| 21. Central Heights      | 14. Sinton             |
| 22. Dalhart              | 15. Sunnysvale         |
| 23. West Oso             | 16. Caddo Mills        |
| 24. Bishop               | 17. LaVernia           |
| <b>25. Winnsboro</b>     | 18. Salado             |
|                          | 19. Liberty            |
| <b>Class 4A</b>          | 20. Frenship Memorial  |
| 1. Decatur               | <b>21. Spring Hill</b> |
| 2. Canyon                | 22. Pleasant Grove     |
| 3. Waco LaVega           | 23. Canton             |
| 4. Bridge City           | 24. LaGrange           |
| Seminole                 | 25. Hereford           |

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Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174  
Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440  
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## Texas A&M Forest Service increases funding to combat oak wilt spread

As Texas enters the most critical window for oak wilt transmission, Texas A&M Forest Service will offer funding to assist private landowners in combating the spread of the devastating fungal disease that attacks trees.

The agency is increasing its Texas Oak Wilt Cost Share program to provide more financial and technical assistance for oak wilt suppression, including trenching and removals, just as the high-risk spring season begins.

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the U.S., killing millions of trees across Central Texas. Springtime represents the period of highest risk, as sap-feeding beetles that spread the fungal spores are most active, and fungal mats full of spores are more likely to occur.

The allocated cost-share funds are designed to empower landowners to take proactive measures before the disease can further devastate local canopies and diminish property values.

"The health of our oak trees is a vital component of the Central Texas landscape and economy," said Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service regional forest health coordinator. "With the support of the Texas Oak Wilt Cost Share program, we are able to provide assistance to the private landowners who steward 95% of

our state's forests. This funding allows us to move from reactive management to a more proactive stance against the spread of oak wilt."

Funding can be used to offset the costs of physical containment of the disease center. This can include the installation of trenches to break root-to-root transmission – up to \$5,000, roguing or pushing diseased trees within the boundaries of the trench, and/or the removal of infected red oaks to avoid the formation of fungal mats – up to \$2,000.

Landowners are reminded that from Feb. 1 through June 30, it is critical to avoid pruning oak trees to prevent attracting the beetles that spread the disease. If pruning is necessary, all wounds should be painted immediately.

For more information on oak wilt and how to apply for cost-share funding, visit the website. To qualify for cost-share assistance, landowners must work with Texas A&M Forest Service personnel to verify the presence of the disease and develop a specialized management plan. Applications for cost-shares must be approved before cost-shareable treatment can begin.

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**Notice to Creditors**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JUDITH SMITH MORRIS, Deceased, were issued on February 3, 2026, under Docket No. 2026-0026-E, pending in the County Court in Gregg County, Texas, to CELIA BOWER.

Claims may be presented as follows:  
Celia Bower, Estate of Judith Smith Morris, Deceased  
c/o Courtney Anne Harris, Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 4373, Longview, TX 75606  
All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED February 9, 2026  
By: /s/ Courtney Anne Harris, Attorney for Applicant

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MOWING & CLEAN-UP BIDS**

The City of Gladewater is accepting SEALED BIDS for property cleanup at:

- LT 1 BLK 6 MALLOCH'S ADDN, more commonly known as E Miller Ave. All work should include mowing, weeding, and discarding all trash and debris on premises.
- AB 56 M DILLARD SUR TR 69, more commonly known as E Miller Ave. All work should include mowing, weeding, trimming trees, and discarding all trash and debris on premises.
- LT 13A BLK 1 LAVELLE ADDN (W 8' LT 13), more commonly known as E Miller Ave. All work should include mowing, weeding, trimming trees, and discarding all trash and debris on premises.
- LT 10 BLK 4 SHEPPERD HILLS, more commonly known as 1510 Ivy Lea St. All work should include mowing, weeding, trimming trees, and discarding all trash and debris on premises.
- ABS A8 AUGUSTINE HENRY W TRACT 54, 1.0 ACRES, more commonly known as S Olive St w/sid. All work should include mowing, weeding, discarding all trash and debris on premises and cutting down/removal of the dead pine tree next to the street.

Bidders may contact the Code Enforcement Department for details at 903-845-2011.  
Bids should be submitted to: Wesley Moyers, Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway Ave., Gladewater, Texas 75647 on or before Friday, February 27, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. At that time the bid will be awarded. Insurance or bond required.

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hector Francisco Vancini, Sr., Deceased, were issued on June 23, 2025, in Cause No. 2025-0051-E pending in the Probate Court No. 2, Gregg County, Texas, to: Hector Francisco Vancini, Jr.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Hector Francisco Vancini, Jr.  
712 E. Lynwood Ln.  
Longview, Texas 75604

DATED the 9th day of February 2026.

Respectfully,  
**PARANJPE MAHADASS RUEMKE LLP**

*Raj Mahadass*  
Raj Mahadass  
Texas State Bar: 24050980  
Tej R. Paranjpe  
State Bar Number: 24071829  
3701 Kirby, Suite 530  
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# What's Happening?

## 'Because of Them, We Can'

### Weldon students put key figures of Black history at forefront Feb. 26

Saturday marked a century since Carter G. Woodson's inaugural celebration of 'Negro History Week,' which ultimately became 'Black History Month.'

Later in February, Weldon Elementary School will celebrate that legacy with an open-to-the-public performance spotlighting students in front of their families and community members.

The kids will channel prominent people in America's Black community – 'Because of Them, We Can.'

The commemoration begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at Weldon. A door contest is already underway on campus while the students are researching their historical figure.

"We let the kids pick who they would like to tell everybody about in the program," says Keshia Lewis, Behavioral Specialist for Weldon, spearheading the event. "They're doing inventors, musicians, all the genres."

Gladewater Middle School's Black History Month program is set for 2:30 p.m. the same day, followed by Gladewater High School's event Friday.

A hundred years back, Woodson chose his dates to coincide with the birthdays of former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln Feb. 12 as well as abolitionist Frederick Douglass on Feb. 14.

"In the past we've had a very good turnout for the Black History Program," Lewis said. "Weldon is a part of Black history," Gladewater's only Black school until integration. "We'll have the alumni... They always come out in numbers for the Black History Program."

Parents, too, of course, with the annual third through fifth grade Unity Choir features the diversity of the campus' students in the course of the 45-minute event.



**Congratulations to Gladewater Head Coach Jermaine Lewis, recipient of the THSCA Football Regional Head Coach of the Year awards and Regional Assistant Coach of the Year awards presented by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance!**

"For the elementary, when their kids participate, they want to come," Lewis added. "The grandparents are coming, the family are coming. The Unity Choir is a mix of all races. That brings in everybody."

### 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.

### 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.

### Conservation awards coming

The Upshur-Gregg Soil and Water Conservation District No. 417 will hold its 70th annual Conservation Award Banquet in Gilmer on Feb. 19.

The event, open to the public free of charge, is set for 6 p.m. at its usual location, the Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative auditorium on Texas 154 west.

Award winners to be recognized are Byron Hardin, Forestry Conservationist; Ryan Pickenpugh, Conservation Farmer; and Milton Marshall, Conservation Teacher.

Longhorn Barbecue will cater the banquet.

For more information, call District Clerk Technician Joyce Williams at the district office in Gilmer at 903-734-8732.

### City celebrates volunteers Feb. 24

It takes a village – literally.

Much of Gladewater's behind-the-curtain progress is thanks to local volunteers supporting city staffers and officials in their efforts here. City Hall wants to say thanks-for-the-assist later this month.

It's planned as the first of annual appreciation banquets, set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the Gladewater Former Students Building at 2509 Hendricks. The theme for the event is 'Leading with H.E.A.R.T.'

It puts 'Team Gladewater' in the spotlight, Mayor Brandy Flanagan says, "an evening dedicated to celebrating your service, leadership, and commitment to our community."

In addition to dinner from a local caterer, the 'business casual' gathering will feature a leadership-oriented presentation and recognition of outstanding volunteers and board members.

"The event is our opportunity to say 'Thank you' and to invest in the people who help move Gladewater forward every day."

The night's keynote speaker will be Chad Patterson, focusing on H.E.A.R.T. Leadership – Humility, Engagement, Attitude, Results, Today.

"This message aligns perfectly with the spirit of service and leadership that defines our volunteers and board members," Flanagan announced.

For more information or to RSVP, call 903-845-2196.



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