

# Gladewater Mirror

facebook

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"



Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026

Vol. 98, No. 9

1 Section, 10 pages

50¢



## WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

42% of all U.S. businesses are owned by women  
(nearly 13 million)

Special Supplement to the Gladewater Mirror 2026

## Look Inside ...

Join the Mirror and our many great partners in celebrating all the women who keep business running and our lives on track.

## Gladewater city manager anticipates internal promotion for fire chief

By James Draper

Two current Gladewater Fire Department standouts are in line to become fire chief in the weeks ahead.

"Both of them are good candidates for the position," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith reported last week. "I've got some information that I'm awaiting from the fire commission. Once I get that, we'll be moving forward."



There's been no final decision on who will succeed outgoing GFD Chief, Lake Warden and Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Simmons. Tapped for a post with Gregg County ESD No. 2 / Sabine Fire Department, he's remained in the leadership role here during the transition

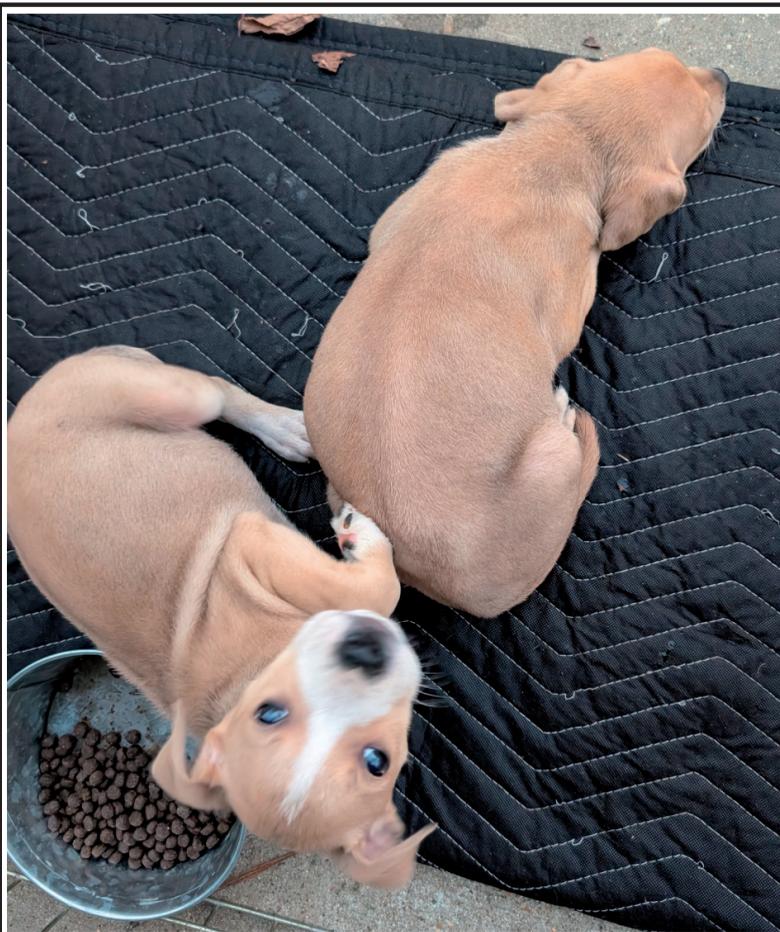
period since council members accepted his resignation at their regular meeting in mid-January.

"Mike is still working to keep things going as they have been going," Smith confirmed, glad for the time to determine the best candidate moving forward. "We're doing our due diligence to fill the position."

Smith updated council members on the status during their Feb. 19 meeting.

It should take only a few more weeks, if that much, to wrap up the process and appointment Simmons' successor.

Per Smith, "I think it'll be at next month's council meeting."



They look pitiful in their first pet pictures, but an on-the-loose litter of five mix puppies is heartier and healthier and happier now. Thanks to the combined efforts of residents James Beavers and Jeff Haley, working with Gladewater Animal Control Officer Shelly Godwin, the dogs are bound for new homes via the North Shore Animal League in New York. (Courtesy photos from James Beavers)

## Local animal control officer gets help saving little lives (and tax dollars)

By James Draper

No animals have been sent to the local shelter since Shelly Godwin came on board as Gladewater's Animal Control Officer.

That's zero surrenders since late-September, says Gladewater Police Chief Kyle Ready.

"She has taken none," he said proudly.

Godwin's relying on other destinations instead. Earlier this month, she entrusted five mixed puppies to the North Shore Animal League in Portland, New York. This week, it's an older furry fella who's outbound for Oregon.

Vinny, an adult mix, is headed for a re-home center in the Pacific Northwest: "It's an outstanding facility, just amazing," Godwin says. His transport is donation-funded, courtesy of Decorate Ornate's Stephanie Chance footing the bill: "That helps tremendously, too, to get sponsors for the animals that are going."

More than a week on the road now, the 3-month-old pups have already had their fair share of adventures, and Gladewater resident James Beavers is eager to tell the story with kudos

Continued on Page 8

## GPD equipment upgrade helps spot predators in the pack

The camera's lens notes each plate it passes, but only suspect vehicles get noticed.

Gladewater Police Department's fleet is now rolling out with license plate readers (LPR) following a broad equipment and software upgrade to keep up with the times. The system's linked directly to the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) along with the National CIC for real-time tracking of red-flagged vehicles.

It's basically an always up-to-date 'Be On the Lookout' for specific, hotlisted vehicles. They may have been reported stolen, are tied to a missing or endangered person or are suspected of being in the active commission of a crime – whether that's drug smuggling, human trafficking, robbery, burglary or some other imminent situation.

The system's not "running" every license plate it passes, Gladewater Police Chief Kyle Ready confirmed, it's just comparing the details against a dynamic database of known targets.

It's useful when law enforcement is looking for a specific vehicle or ensuring a flagged car isn't somewhere it shouldn't be – i.e. a registered sex offender stopped in a restricted area.

"It identifies potential threats. Predators," Ready said. "This is not average citizens."

GPD's latest upgrade isn't just LPRs, he noted. The catalyst for the update was the slow failure of the department's body camera systems (mandated statewide) and in-car systems due to, basi-

Continued on Page 8



Gladewater Police Department's fleet is now equipped with license plate readers and other in-car systems to identify red-flagged vehicles on the road. Also, a broad equipment and software upgrade replaced aging body cameras and added Computer Aided Dispatch to decrease response times and streamline operations.

## Council finalizes regs for short-term rentals

By James Draper

The goal is to regulate short-term rentals, allowing them to continue on the shores of Lake Gladewater but with restrictions in place that shield neighbors from negative experiences.

That was the general thrust of Gladewater City Council members' public discussion on the issue Thursday evening. That's the form new guidelines will take when they're present in the form of an ordinance for an upcoming vote.

During their Feb. 19 meeting, the elected officials' key notes on draft regulations from City Attorney Ronald Stutes include an initial cap on lake property rentals at five percent. That's about 10 out of 200 spots.

Likewise, the council members' generally agreed to a 60-day window for current short-term rentals operators to apply for a permit to continue their activities.

The city's elected officials spent just shy of 15 minutes behind closed doors with Stutes to discuss the contract he had drawn up after taking note of various Lake Gladewater residents' feedback Dec. 18.

Returning to open session, councilman Milton Anderson pointed to Section 156.04, Exemptions.

"I would like to have that section removed."

Next, Mayor Brandy Flanagan emphasized the shores of Lake Gladewater is a residential area. The city owns the lake lots on the community's water source and leases them to homeowners.

"I know there needs to be some discussion concerning how many we do allow at a lake-owned property," she said. "Currently, there are six that are out there."

Notably, council member William Blackmon said, the properties under question are on the water.

"I wouldn't a large percentage of the lake to be a business," Anderson said. "A lot of these properties are owned by people who don't live here."

This is strictly an investment for them.

"Understanding that investing in Gladewater is a good thing, a lot of people have saved a lot of money their whole life to buy this property and move out to the lake. I think we need to be respectful of that."

Per Flanagan, "There's definitely a balance, for sure."

Councilman Stoney Stone agreed with setting the initial cap at five percent.

Continued on Page 9

## Early voting ends Feb. 27

Early voting in the March 3 primary ends on Friday, Feb. 27. Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson announced that Texas has 18.7 million registered voters for the primary.

"Nearly 19 million Texans are registered to vote, and my office and election officials across the state are working to make sure all Texas voters who want to participate in the primary election are confident in the process and ready to cast a ballot," Nelson said.

When casting a ballot in person, voters are required to show identification. Cell phones are prohibited in a room in which voting is taking place. However, voters can bring written notes and printed sample ballots into the polling location for reference.

During the primary elections, voters must indicate which party's primary they wish to vote in, though Texas law does not require voters to register with a party before casting a ballot.

Crossing over during primary season is not allowed. For example, if a voter casts a ballot in the Democratic primary, that person cannot vote in a runoff election in the Republican primary, and vice versa.

In Upshur County, where five county offices are contested on the Republican primary ballot, 15 polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. election day.

Under "countywide" voting, any Upshur County voter can cast his/her ballot at any polling place, although not in precinct races which don't involve the precinct where they actually reside.

No Democrats are seeking county office.

In-person early voting for the county's GOP and Democratic party primaries continues from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Friday at the Gilmer Civic Center at 1218 U.S. 271 N. However, no voting will be held at that site, nor at the temporary county courthouse, on election day.

Contested races for county posts include appointed District Attorney Barry Clark Wallace, opposed for his office by Joey Fenlaw, and three candidates for retiring County Judge Todd Tefeller's seat. They are L. Brandon Dodd, Brandon T. Winn and Trace Hudgins. In addition, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jay W. Miller faces Mike Spencer, while Precinct 2 Commissioner Dustin Nicholson opposes Brian Davis. Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Rhonda Welch is opposed by Cindy Marie Walls.



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## Pouting like Jonah...

I am going to sit by Job...or under the shade with pouting Jonah. Yes, it is pity party time. My beloved laptop that I have held together with bailing wire and duct tape is biting the dust... on deadline.

Friday I called 911, my version is hubby's cell number, with the news that the oven was on fire. He had sent me home early to recuperate from a hectic week and I wanted to return the favor by preparing a home-cooked meal (for a change). Instead I caught the oven on fire. No kidding.

In between frantic calls as he raced to the house, he told me to throw the 'big' breaker. I did but the element still had to burn itself out. My smart-aleck hubby once gave me a t-shirt that said "when the fire alarm goes off we know dinner is ready". Isn't he cute...and prophetic.

The AC isn't working properly at our house, my windshield wipers need replacing and I keep driving in the heavy rain. I had an almost flat last week. Aging Jack the Wonder Rescue Dog costs more than our monthly utility bills with prescription food and medicine daily.

I haven't even started on the human medical bills.

Between my complicated eyeglass prescription, our soon to be dental bills that include several root canals in our future, and Jim's need to have his old roofing/plastering (I didn't think I really needed those kneepads) knees shot up, wait...there is more...while thanks to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and the senators he had corralled in the last session, my Teacher Retirement Health Insurance that we are both on has gone from good insurance to high deductible, catastrophic insurance for a heck of a lot more money and MUCH less coverage. I guess you now know why I have been sporting the Scott Milder for Lt. Governor sign on my car.

I mean really! Their insurance is FREE. Mine is holding my earned retirement completely hostage. I loved teaching and I wouldn't change a thing, but dang boys and girls of the legislature, surely you want to support your public school employees after a lifetime of service. One other thing beloved readers, you DO KNOW that you can't base your vote on flyers that come in the mail. Surprise! You have to do your homework.

My 90-year old Mom has been in the hospital in Lubbock and

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



darlin' daughter in East Texas has pestered West Texas Baby Brother with suggestions.

At the same time it is getting hot and heavy in the fight to save the ranch from high speed rail AND I have been working hard to campaign for pro-education candidates.

Now, let's get some perspective. My faithful laptop goes back to my teaching days and has been wagged over 10 years everywhere I have gone. I have ordered a new MacAir, which is supposed to be here Wednesday. Please Lord!

Mr. Fix-it, AKA Jim Bardwell found our oven element in Tyler Saturday and fixed it himself for \$40. Isn't he handy? My eyeglasses are still going to cost \$800 but I have needed them for over a year and I finally gave in because, well... driving and reading are necessary to my life. Care Credit will help me hang with all the dental and medical bills. And goodness knows we want to keep our teeth in our mouths not on the nightstand.

Our 10-year old cars are chugging happily down our East Texas Roads despite the fact that Jim is working on well over 250,000 miles and I have the little Buick, just like the little engine, that could. And, our beloved dentist doesn't believe in pain. Sedation dentistry is our friend despite the expense. And most importantly, Mom is on the mend thanks to Baby Bro's watchful care.

In other words dear readers, it is just life. Probably just like yours...except for that high speed rail devil of a thing. Tell you what, don't forget to subscribe and buy ads when you can and remember, we are all in this thing together. As mu wise old Daddy used to say, "You have to laugh to keep from crying."

Job had the right attitude and Jonah got the Lord's attention. I think I will start being grateful, very grateful for everything I have. And I am going to keep laughing and get out from under that pity party shade with Jonah.

Smoke alarm's going off! Time for dinner.

**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



### Talarico gets boost from Colbert drama

Both Democratic U.S. Senate candidate James Talarico and his primary opponent, U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett, agree that Talarico got a boost from the brouhaha stemming from the refusal of CBS to allow talk show host Stephen Colbert to air an interview with him. The interview was instead posted on YouTube, where it has, to date, garnered more than seven million views. Talarico reported raising more than \$2.5 million in fundraising off what he called an attempt to censor him, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Talarico trailed Crockett by eight points in a University of Houston poll released earlier. No polling has been released since the video went viral.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr said in January that he was considering requiring TV talk show hosts to offer equal airtime, but that has not been made official. Talk shows have long been exempted from that rule.

Crockett said last week the attempt to ban the interview only amplified it.

"It probably gave my opponent the boost he was looking for," Crockett said.

The winner of the Democratic primary will face the winner of the GOP primary, which pits incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt.

### Most Texans arrested by ICE have no convictions

The Trump administration's deportation campaign promised to target gang members, murderers, and other criminal offenders. However, a review of federal data shows a lower percentage of people targeted had criminal convictions than in former President Joe Biden's final year in office, according to the Chronicle.

Federal agents arrested about 54,000 people in Texas during Trump's first nine months of office, more than double the number during a similar period under Biden. But the share of those with criminal convictions fell from about 60% under Biden to under 40% under Trump.

Over a third of the arrests made by ICE under Trump involved people with no criminal convictions and no pending criminal charges, compared to 13% under Biden.

"The statistics show the indiscriminate nature of the Trump administration's policies around trying to meet its self-defined quotas of 3,000 arrests per day," said Adriel Orozco, senior policy counsel at the American Immigration Council.

Texas' weekly ICE arrests increased by 135% during that same time frame.

### Texas sues Dow, claiming 'habitual' pollution violations

The Texas Attorney General's office has sued Dow Chemical Co., alleging hundreds of water pollution violations at its industrial complex at Seadrift, across from the Aransas Wildlife Refuge.

The Texas Tribune reported that Dow, North America's largest chemical manufacturer, has been in "habitual non-compliance" with pollution permits.

A spokesperson for Union Carbide Corp., which operates the Seadrift complex for Dow, said the company "works closely with state and federal regulators to ensure compliance with all existing laws and regulations."

The state's lawsuit follows a 60-day notice of intent to sue filed in December by a local environmental activist. The state's suit could supersede that pending litigation, according to The Tribune.

### January drier, warmer than normal

Two thirds of Texas is now in drought, according to hydrologist Mark Wentzel with the Texas Water Development Board. That is up 13 percentage points from late December.

"The small improvements in temperature and precipitation we saw in January weren't enough to end drought expansion in our state," Wentzel wrote.

Meanwhile, both the 2026 Old Farmer's Almanac and the Farmers' Almanac's long-range spring outlooks for Texas are calling for warmer and wetter weather in Texas.

## 1,072 New Texans Every Day

New population estimates were recently released by the US Census Bureau, and the results indicate that the pace of growth has slowed significantly, driven (not surprisingly) primarily by a drop in international migration. For the United States, population grew by 1.8 million (0.5%) between July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, with international migration dropping to 1.3 million from 2.7 million in the prior year.

While the pace of growth slowed in Texas as well, the increase was far larger than any other state at more than 391,240 – about 1,072 new Texans every day. Rounding out the top five were Florida (196,680), North Carolina (145,90), Georgia (98,540), and South Carolina (79,958). In terms of the pace of expansion (fastest rather than largest increase), South Carolina led the way, followed by Idaho, North Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

The pattern among states was quite uneven, though all but five expanded. California experienced the largest decline, with a loss of almost 9,470 residents; Hawaii, New Mexico, Vermont and West Virginia also decreased.

Taking a closer look at the Texas changes, the 1.25% rate of increase was substantially larger than the national pace of 0.52%. However, the most recent uptick (391,240) represents significant slowing from the previous years, when it was approximately 599,330 (2024) and 601,250 (2023). As with the nation, the primary reason for the drop

## Dr. Ray Perryman THE ECONOMIST



is international migration, which fell from over 354,860 for the year ended July 2024 to 167,480 last year. In-migration from other states was also down (from 86,070 to 67,300).

A few key takeaways are worthy of note. First, the opportunities in Texas continue to draw new residents to the state. These people represent workers essential to the ongoing expansion of the economy. It's a sharp contrast to some areas, such as California, where people continue to exit due to high costs of living, slower job creation, and other problems.

Second, reasonable paths for people from other countries to live and work legally in the United States (and, especially, Texas) are crucial to future growth in the workforce. While border security is clearly essential, there are industries already facing severe worker shortages (construction, agriculture, and hospitality, for example), and without international migration these problems will worsen.

Third, with well over a thousand people arriving in Texas every day (even after things have slowed), we need to remain on top of the needed investments to maintain quality of life, productivity, and, indeed, sustainability. From education to highways, water, and electricity, a growing population requires expanding infrastructure.

Growth in the Texas population has slowed, but it remains significantly more robust than most parts of the country. It's an important competitive advantage, setting the stage for future economic expansion.

Stay safe!

**Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perryman-group.com), which has served the needs of over 3,000 clients over the past four decades.**

## 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



## The Gladewater Mirror

Periodicals Postage Paid  
Gladewater, TX  
USPS 575-140  
ISSN Number 1045-5671

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday

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

Telephone: 903-845-2235

Email: gladewatermirror@aol.com

Owners:

Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell

Reporting: James Draper

Advertising: Darla Ferguson

POSTMASTER:

Send PS3579 to

The Gladewater Mirror  
P.O. Box 1549  
Gladewater, TX 75647

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



## THE TROUBLE OF TALKING TOO MUCH!

It has been well said that one way to save face is to keep the lower part of it closed! Now, that's not in the Bible, but the Bible does have something to say about the common tendency to get ourselves into trouble by talking too much, and the Bible talks about the wisdom of being careful to control the tongue. Have you ever had any trouble with that?

Take, for example, the following statements from the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. Proverbs 10: 19 says, "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise." The intelligent person recognizes the danger of words and so speaks them sparingly. Proverbs 29: 20 says, "There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking." New Living Translation. Impulsiveness frequently creates problems that could have otherwise been avoided through exercising restraint. One who does not pause or hesitate before speaking lacks discipline because holding one's tongue requires self-control. We need to be sure our brain is engaged before putting our mouth in gear. Proverbs 21: 23 says, "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles." A person guards his soul from troubles when he takes care with the words that the mouth speaks. Proverbs 13: 3 says, "The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin." One's misuse of the tongue has led many to ruin, because "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18: 21). Proverbs 17:28 says, "Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent (intelligent)." Proverbs 18: 6-7 says, "A fool's lips bring strife (conflict), and his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare of his soul." Unbridled lips and a loose tongue lead to strife and conflict and show one's true foolish colors. We should learn two things about our tongue-how to hold it and how to use it! These statements from the book of Proverbs show the need to control our tongue and illustrate why the book of Proverbs is called a book of practical godliness and sanctified common sense.

Untold blessings are attached to words, but with words we speak comes the potential for untold pain. Words have power for healing and power for endless pain. Words can endure us to one another, and they can build walls that separate even those we are the closest to for a lifetime. Therefore, our words can cause a lot of damage and thus, we should do as Psalms 39: 1 says, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue, I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle." Jesus said, "A good person produces good deeds from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil deeds from an evil heart. Whatever is in your heart determines what you say." New Living Translation. How we talk reveals the kind of person we are!

Yes, we can talk too much and often when we do, it brings troublesome consequences. Read James 3: 1-12 for needed admonition. We all make mistakes but controlling our tongue can help us control our life and save us many headaches. Think on these things.

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

P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

# What's Happening?

## Church safety seminar set

The Upshur County Sheriff's Office will hold a "church safety seminar" for area churches at the Graceton Church of Christ near Diana community on Saturday, March 7.

The free event, at which Sheriff Larry Webb will speak, is set for 8 a.m. to noon at the church at 9830 FM 1972. The building is at the intersection with Lazy Daisy Road in eastern rural Upshur County.

Participants are invited to come early for coffee and pastries and to a free lunch afterward.

The program comes in the wake of several shootings at churches in the United States in the past several years.

On its website, the sheriff's office said it is "calling all sheepdogs committed to the physical security and defense of their church's congregation and property. This event is designed for those who take situational awareness, threat mitigation and protective responsibility seriously, while operating under biblical authority and moral restraint."

Those wishing to attend must RSVP by March 4 by contacting one of the Graceton church's elders, Johnny Willeford, at 903-431-6540 or signing up at the church building by that date.

## Fourth annual 'Trades' event fuels GW Museum, small businesses

The first day of Spring will bring the 4th annual Trades at the Museum vendor event back downtown.

Set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 21, it's a small business-friendly effort that also raises funds for Gladewater Museum.

"Shop from a variety of local vendors and enjoy a great day while giving back," per the organizers, Scrubby Love Gladewater. "Support local small businesses while helping preserve our town's history.

"All vendor fees go directly to support the museum, making this their only fundraising event of the year. Your participation helps keep this important piece of our community alive."

For more information or to sign up as a vendor, contact Scrubby Love at 903-917-4326 to reserve a spot.

## 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.



Union Grove High School juniors Parker Johnston and Bailee Hosak were selected to represent Union Grove at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) Camp. They were sponsored by the Gladewater Rotary Club.

## GW Chamber weaves America's birthday into plans for banquet

This year marks the United States Semiquincentennial – it made things quite a bit easier in picking the theme for the 95th annual Gladewater Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

"We're celebrating America's 250th, obviously," Lois Reed said on President's Day.

The event's set for 6:15 p.m. to 8 on Thursday, March 26, in the Former Students Building at 2509 W. Hendricks.

Plans are still developing, and the chamber dynamo is still hammering out key details, like arranging patriotic entertainment for the event. The night's keynote is already set.

"I just had confirmation this afternoon that Judge Bill Stoudt's going to be our speaker," Reed said. "I think it'll be great.

"Gladewater has always played an important part in Gregg County. He thinks the same way. He is such a great proponent of all the communities in Gregg County."

Stoudt will provide an update on county goings-on after guests settle in with the evening's meal.

"I want the menu to be All-American food," Reed said, fancier than hot dogs and hamburgers, "but it will include apple pie and cherry pie. You can't get more American than that."

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person or \$150 for a table of six.

"If you need a table, let me know. I've already sold 10 or 12," Reed said excitedly.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call 903-845-5501.



Gladewater Mayor Brandy Flanagan welcomes 'Mayor for the Day' Benjamin, son of Brittany and Blane Bonilla. After winning a school auction at Union Grove ISD, Benjamin got the chance to wield the mayor's gavel during Gladewater City Council's regular meeting Feb. 19.

## Council welcomes miniature 'Mayor for the Day' from Union Grove

Mini-Mayor Benjamin Bonilla kept a close eye on the clock during Gladewater City Council's meeting last week, ready to bang the gavel if speakers went over time.

And, it turns out, Gladewater's first responders were also ready to drop in at a moment's notice.

Sitting beside Mayor Brandy Flanagan during the council's regular session Feb. 19, midway through the evening the youngster discovered a button in reach and, as you do when you're seven, pushed it.

For the record: the 'Panic Button' on the council dais is fully functional.

Gladewater Police arrived soon after and departed soon after, leaving parents Brittany and Blane Bonilla with a story they'll be telling on their son for years to come.

Thanks to a school auction at Union Grove, Flanagan introduced the elementary schooler to kick-off the night's meeting.

"He is joining us today and will be helping with the proceedings tonight," she said.

"We are super excited for him to come tonight. He is very excited about the gavel. If anyone gets too loud or anything like that he is going to bang the gavel, because he really wants to do that.

"He's got ideas to share as well."

Per Mini-Mayor Bonilla, there are two key planks in his platform. Parents get to sleep in, he insisted, and first and foremost:

"That we don't have to have school on Fridays."

## Firefighters tackle difficult brush fire in Sabine River bottoms amid wildfire risk

A Sunday evening blaze off South Loop 485 is a fresh reminder wildfire season is ahead.

The cause is unknown, and the impact was swift Feb. 22 as the 3- to 5-acre brush fire started to spiral out of control shortly after 7 p.m. in the Sabine River bottoms.

"It really wasn't a huge fire, but it was hard to get to," Gladewater Fire Chief Michael Simmons confirmed.

First responders arrived from GFD, West Mountain and Clarksville/Warren City.

"It was in a wooded area and difficult to access," Simmons said. "The forest service sent a bulldozer – to be safe, they went ahead and put a fire line around it.

"Due to the current conditions with the high winds, we wanted to make sure it didn't leave that area."

Per the National Inter-agency Fire Center, debris burn escapes are one of the leading causes of wildfires.

Texas A&M Forest Service recently put the wildfire preparedness gauge at Level 3.

"Wildfire activity is impacting several regions of the state as the result of drought, dry vegetation or frequent fire weather events," the agency reported. "Last Tuesday the service responded to nine wildfires affecting more than 18,000 acres.

"As of Sunday burn bans were in place in 151 Texas counties, covering all of the Panhandle and most of Central and West Texas. The wildfire potential is expected to increase this week as dry, windy conditions continue."

## Local entrepreneurs egg-cited to host annual hunt April 4

The community's annual egg hunt is taking shape for the first weekend in April.

Hosted this year by Gladewater Thrive & Connect, the free-for-all 2026 Gladewater Egg-Stravaganza is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at Lake Gladewater.

"We want to make sure this is for the community," James Reese told council members Feb. 19. Speaking for the Thrive & Connect networking group of entrepreneurs, "We want to bring the community out, make sure the families are having a great time.

"We want to make sure it's safe as well. If there's anything that anyone could do to help us, it would be great."

Admission is free for all comers, and there are three age-specific egg hunts planned. The first, at noon, is tailored for children 3-years-old and younger; ages 4-7 will hunt eggs at 12:45 p.m. followed by 8-years-and-older at 1:30 p.m.

"Bring your baskets, invite your friends and come make sweet memories with us at Gladewater Lake," the organizers announced. "This is one event you won't want to miss."

In addition to the egg hunts, the day will include local vendors, food trucks and a live DJ plus a variety of games for kids and photos with the Easter Bunny.

The organizers are recruiting vendors and sponsors for the event. There are a total of 40 vendor spots and five food truck spaces available; the sign-up deadline is March 20. For more information, email GladewaterThriveAndConnect@gmail.com.

## Health Expo on tap

"Putting You on a Highway to Health" will be theme of the 43rd Upshur County Health Expo Saturday in Gilmer

The Upshur County Health Coalition, led by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is hosting the free event from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Yamboree Event Center at 181 Bob Glaze Drive.

More than 40 vendors who deal with topics ranging from prenatal to hospice care are slated to attend, and the Gilmer Lions Club will provide vision screenings, said Julie York, an Upshur County extension agent. Intended for persons of all ages, the "expo is intended to educate citizens and connect them with health-related resources," she added.

Topics include "drug and alcohol education, gun safety, mental health in teens, military veteran support, water conservation, nursing care options, and a variety of topics from governmental agencies supporting mental and physical health," she added.

In addition, the Texas Department of Transportation will perform checkups on child safety seats, offering free replacements for those which don't pass inspection.

The Credit Union of Texas' Gilmer branch will provide a food truck offering lunch, but only to persons who visit the inside exhibits. For more information, contact the extension office in Gilmer at 903-680-8128.



**SAVE \$250 ON ALL TOURS!**  
MORE THAN 50 GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE



## Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour

**12 DAYS INSIDE CABIN STARTING AT \$3,549 \$3,299\***  
BASED ON JUL 8, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Marvel at Alaska's natural beauty in Denali National Park
- Visit Alaska's the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Cruise Glacier Bay and Wrangell St. Elias National Park
- Travel through the legendary Inside Passage



## Historic Route 66 – 100th Anniversary

**16 DAYS STARTING AT \$4,099 \$3,849\***  
BASED ON APR 18, 2026 DEPARTURE

- Visit must-see sights like the historic starting point of Route 66 in Chicago, the famous Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, and the "End of the Trail" sign in Santa Monica
- Explore natural wonders of the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest National Park, and the Painted Desert
- Discover Seligman, known as the "historic birthplace of Route 66," and visit the vibrant Hotel El Rancho in Gallup, where Golden Age movie stars once stayed

**CALL US: 1-877-402-3496**

*\*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees. Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.*

**Automotive Restoration Systems Inc.**  
 903-295-8883

205 W US Highway 80

White Oak

(903) 295-8883

Monday-Friday

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday

8 a.m.-noon

Thomas Cash, Owner

automotiverestorationsystems.com

**WHITE OAK POLICE**

For the reporting period of February 16th, 2026, through February 22nd, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 175 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Burglar Alarms, Disturbances, Advice Calls, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

One traffic collision was investigated during this reporting period; no injuries were reported.

No arrests were made during this reporting period.

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

-Driving While Intoxicated

-Terroristic Threat Causing Fear of Imminent Serious Bodily Injury

-POSS CS PG4 <28G, POSS DANGEROUS DRUG, POSS CS PG 3 < 28G, POSS CS PG 1/1-B <IG

**GPD Arrest Report**

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Address	Charges
2/18/2026	ALLEN, DEBORAH REALE	FLORENCE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	MINOR - PUBLIC INTOXICATION
2/18/2026	GRAHAM, MARQUIZS TREVON	1102 NORTH STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON  ASSAULT FAM/HOUSE MEM IMPEDE BREATH/CIRCULAT - SIMPLE ASSAULT

**ACROSS**

- 1 TXism: "in this \_\_\_ of the woods"
- 5 \_\_\_ vera
- 6 sexual assault in the Texas Penal Code
- 7 meaning of a hollow sound from a watermelon thump
- 8 "\_\_\_ riot, one Ranger"
- 9 book about Texas pilot Edna Whyte: "Rising \_\_\_"
- 16 TXism: "\_\_\_ seein' eye to eye"
- 18 hit by TX Gary Morris: "Wind \_\_\_ Wings"

- 44 "... \_\_\_ the mighty state"
- 45 "yes" south of the border
- 46 this TX Yale was Detroit Lion Hall of Fame DB
- 47 Love Field abbr.
- 48 TXism: "don't \_\_\_ enough to stoke a sparrow"

- 21 TXism: "bend \_\_\_ elbow" (drink)
- 22 transgressions
- 23 TXism: "he shoots seein' \_\_\_ bullets"
- 24 TXism: "\_\_\_ a panhandle prairie"
- 30 New Braunfels water park: "\_\_\_ bahn"
- 34 baseball great Hank (init.)
- 35 TXism: "want it \_\_\_ \_\_\_ could spit"
- 36 what raindrops fell on for TX B.J. Thomas
- 37 this Warren starred with TX Quaid in "Tough Enough"
- 39 TXism: "big enough \_\_\_"
- 43 TXism: "that log won't \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

- 1 TX Larry McMurtry essays collection: "In a \_\_\_ Grave"
- 2 John Steinbeck's Texas wife
- 3 \_\_\_ Cove, TX

- 4 former AM station in Nacogdoches
- 9 a blood type
- 10 TXism: "use your head for something \_\_\_ hat rack"
- 11 TXism: "chew \_\_\_ a while"
- 12 AC outlet
- 13 PCs are designed for "\_\_\_ use"
- 14 TXism: "run \_\_\_ up the flag pole"
- 15 TXism: "hold down \_\_\_ fort"
- 17 chili-topped Tex-Mex entree
- 19 TX Janis Joplin tune: "Piece of \_\_\_"
- 20 bread with too much rise?

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.

See Answers On This Page

**SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**KING PLUMBING**  
 NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELS • SERVICE  
**RMP DENNIS KING**  
 903-539-1716  
 M36233  
 Gas Lines, Water Heaters & Roto Rooter  
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted

**TEXAS REAL ESTATE EXECUTIVES**  
*The Daniels Group*  
**SHARON SMITH HAMMER**  
 903-635-5021  
 sharonsmithrealtor@gmail.com

**HLH DESIGN BUILD, INC.**  
 ARCHITECTURE. DESIGN. CONSTRUCTION.  
 903-757-7202  
 HLHDESIGNBUILD.COM

**Edward Jones**  
 Partnering throughout the years to reach your financial goals.  
 Dallas D Long, CFP®  
 Financial Advisor  
 1420 N Main St Suite 101  
 Gladewater, TX 75647  
 903-845-6680  
 edwardjones.com

**EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK**  
**FREE GROCERY ITEMS AVAILABLE**  
 No eligibility requirements, paperwork or ID required.  
 Gladewater Rodeo Grounds  
 HWY 80, Gladewater  
 Distributions: 3rd Tuesday of each month  
 10:00 am to Noon  
 While supplies last

**Read Local**  
 Local company.  
 Local journalists.  
 Local stories.

**PICKERS**  
 Self-Service Auto Parts  
**WE BUY CARS - RUNNING OR NOT!**  
**CALL NOW: 903-297-4300**  
 Vehicle Purchasing Agent  
 PickersLongview.com | carbuy@pickerslongview.com  
 5910 W Marshall Ave, Longview, TX 75604

**Bud's DISCOUNT TIRES**  
 Highway 80 East Gladewater  
 845-5186  
**YOUR HOMETOWN TIRE STORE**  
 BUD MAHAFFEY  
 Owner & Operator  
 HOURS  
 7:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

**Mamma's Designs**  
 Handcrafted Jewelry ★ Painted Gourds ★ Custom Paintings ★ Pet Portraits  
 Artist: Dorothy Sweet  
 1971 S. Tyler (US 271), Gladewater  
 Follow us on Facebook - MammaDesigns  
 Ph: 903-387-2831  
 dasweat7@gmail.com

**GET YOUR BUSINESS NOTICED HERE!**  
**CALL 903-845-2235 JUST \$15/WEEK FOR 13 WEEKS**

# GLADEWATER POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
02/15/2026	07:37:23	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	2213 OLD LONGVIEW HIGHWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 07:40:02				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	09:59:55	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1602 LAKESHORE DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 10:02:35				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	10:54:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	FIRE	1204 MARY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 10:56:27				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	11:25:34		MISCELLANEOUS	1207 N CULVER STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 11:27:49				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	12:16:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	CAVENDERS
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 12:17:03				
02/15/2026	12:51:56	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1300 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 12:54:37				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	13:56:19		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 13:58:26				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	13:58:43		AGENCY ASSIST	1513 VESTA AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 14:15:52				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	14:31:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	132 N LEE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 14:37:12				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	15:34:19	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	SABINE RIVER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 15:36:11				
02/15/2026	16:34:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	1511 SHELL CAMP
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 16:40:29				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	18:23:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ABANDONED VEHICLE	1602 N DAISEY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 18:23:55				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	19:04:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	807 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 19:06:16				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/15/2026	20:58:47	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	701 MELBA AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/15/2026 21:00:47				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	07:58:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/HWY 135
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 07:58:58				
02/16/2026	08:59:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	UPSHUR/DEAN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 09:00:17				
02/16/2026	10:42:03	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	HICKORY/HWY 80
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 10:42:32				
02/16/2026	12:13:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	MELBA/N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 12:13:32				
02/16/2026	13:33:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	107 COTTON STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 13:34:12				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	13:44:31	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	706 E BROADWAY AVENUE E
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 13:44:52				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	15:53:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD 1
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 15:53:55				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	15:54:29		MISCELLANEOUS	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 15:54:46				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	16:04:51	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	212 W GAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 16:06:22				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	16:19:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S MAIN/SABINE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 16:19:37				
02/16/2026	18:43:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	N MAIN/VESTA
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 18:44:02				
02/16/2026	19:15:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	100 S MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 19:16:48				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	21:02:25	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	300 N LEE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 21:03:01				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/16/2026	21:04:39	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	DOWNTOWN BATHROOMS
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 21:15:47				
02/16/2026	21:15:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	DOLLAR GENERAL
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 21:15:47				
02/16/2026	22:06:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	LEE/GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 22:07:21				
02/16/2026	22:30:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/AIRPORT
Sent To Dispatch- 02/16/2026 22:30:40				
02/17/2026	03:25:17	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1608 SHELL CAMP ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 03:27:51				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/17/2026	07:36:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W UPSHUR/PHILLIPS
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 07:37:03				
02/17/2026	08:18:35	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	E BROADWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 08:19:02				
02/17/2026	08:24:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W UPSHUR/WOOD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 08:24:23				
02/17/2026	08:29:51	GLADEWATER	TRAFFIC STOP	E BROADWAY
02/17/2026	09:11:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/RIVER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 09:11:56				
02/17/2026	09:52:03	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	HALLSVILLE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 09:52:24				
02/17/2026	10:19:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	SABINE RIVER CLINIC
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 10:19:32				
02/17/2026	10:39:23	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	WALNUT/GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 10:39:31				
02/17/2026	12:51:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN/W GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 12:51:27				
02/17/2026	12:58:00	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	314 E SAUNDERS STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 12:58:19				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/17/2026	13:06:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN/OAK
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 13:06:27				
02/17/2026	13:21:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 13:21:37				
02/17/2026	13:25:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	E BROADWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 13:25:24				
02/17/2026	13:38:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ASSIST MOTORIST	UPSHUR/MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 13:38:31				
02/17/2026	14:00:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/DEAN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 14:01:51				
02/17/2026	14:13:46		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	701 GARY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 14:14:04				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/17/2026	15:32:31	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/RB'S LIQUOR
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 15:32:52				
02/17/2026	15:46:41		MISCELLANEOUS	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 15:47:06				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/17/2026	15:47:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	UPSHUR/MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 15:48:03				
02/17/2026	16:05:16		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 FM 2685
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 16:05:26				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/17/2026	16:14:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	TENERY/WALTON
02/17/2026	16:58:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	SUBWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 16:59:14				
02/17/2026	17:33:48	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	8536 LOCUST
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 17:34:15				
02/17/2026	19:54:12	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	DOWNTOWN BATHROOMS
02/17/2026	20:25:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	SUBWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 20:26:15				
02/17/2026	22:04:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	MARY/ SHEPHERD
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 22:05:16				
02/17/2026	22:28:25	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	500 W QUITMAN AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/17/2026 22:29:55				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	00:37:02	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	LOUD NOISE	503 WALTON
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 00:43:22				
02/18/2026	00:53:44	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN/GREGG
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 00:54:27				
02/18/2026	04:29:58	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	222 S DEAN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 04:31:28				
02/18/2026	05:45:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1708 N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 05:47:53				
02/18/2026	06:12:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	1708 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 06:13:45				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	07:37:55	GLADEWATER	TRAFFIC STOP	2000 WEST GAY
02/18/2026	08:52:33		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	515 W GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 09:03:49				
02/18/2026	09:06:24		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	6488 FM 1844
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 09:16:40				
02/18/2026	09:39:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	UNION GROVETX
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 09:40:36				1600 S TYLER RD GLADEWATER TX 75647
02/18/2026	09:49:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/RIVERSIDE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 09:50:47				
02/18/2026	10:00:48		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	515 N FERRY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 10:04:22				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	10:07:13		AGENCY ASSIST	300 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 10:07:46				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	10:12:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	110 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 10:12:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	10:13:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 10:13:35				
02/18/2026	10:21:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 10:21:13				
02/18/2026	10:28:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	AIRPORT
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 10:28:16				
02/18/2026	11:02:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	1088 E COMMERCE AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 11:03:33				
02/18/2026	12:32:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	704 N FIRST STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 12:34:20				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	19:50:49	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	1103 LONG STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 19:52:42				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	19:52:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	705 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/18/2026 19:55:34				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/18/2026	19:55:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	606 N TENERY STREET
02/19/2026	09:33:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN OAK DR
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 09:34:00				
02/19/2026	10:01:09	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	317 SUNSET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 10:05:06				
02/19/2026	11:35:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	5 MCKAIG CIRCLE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 11:37:11				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/19/2026	12:27:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	201 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 12:30:09				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/19/2026	12:44:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 12:44:50				
02/19/2026	13:31:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	1300 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 13:32:31				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/19/2026	13:46:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	OLD ICE FACTORY
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 13:48:35				
02/19/2026	14:53:52		AGENCY ASSIST	1201 FM 2685
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 14:54:29				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/19/2026	14:55:45	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	AIRPORT
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 14:55:59				
02/19/2026	15:10:17	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	705 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 15:11:48				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
02/19/2026	15:23:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	SABINE BRIDGE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 15:25:08				
02/19/2026	16:34:46	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	100 W GAY AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/2026 16:35:33				
02/19/2026	18:44:05	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	1605 N ALICE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 02/19/202				

# Sports roundup

**By Tyler Sutton**

After a historic regular season, the Union Grove Lady Lions basketball team began their postseason run as they traveled to TJC's Wagstaff gym and they took care of business with a 54-30 victory.

Union Grove broke out to a 17-6 first quarter lead and then took a 28-13 halftime advantage.

Three Lady Lions were in double figure scoring, led by freshman Shaniya Roland with 19 points, along with seven steals, two blocks and four rebounds. Danica Vestal added 12 points with 10 from Mallorie Cannon. Also

scoring for UG were Rachel Potter (6), Chloe Hector (3), Aubrie Coulter (2) and Landri Sirmans (2) That was followed up by a trip to Hallsville for the second round where sadly the Lady Lions historic season came to an end with a 39-24 loss to Woden. Vestal had another good game with 10 points. Hector had 5.

Union Grove ends its season at 28-4

The White Oak Roughnecks basketball team finished up their season with a home game with the Tatum Eagles where they fell 67-49.

Cal Jester finished with 13

points, seven rebounds and two blocks in the loss for White Oak. Tysen McClain added 11 points, five rebounds and four blocks, Mac Smith 10 points, Campbell Sutton six points and three steals, Angel Mejia two points, Caleb Watson one point and Andrew Rector six points.

The Roughnecks finish their season at 14-21 and 3-9 in district play.

The Gladewater Bears baseball team opened up their 2025 season with a tough 5-4 loss to Palenstine.

Panola College commit Luke Brown went 5 innings

giving up 3 runs with 5 strikeouts and 1 walk. Sean Burke was 2-4 with a rbi double and rbi single.

They bounced back by going 4-0 in their own Gladewater tournament with wins over Harmony ( 10-3 ), Hawkins ( 8-3 and 9-1 ) and Chapel Hill ( 11-6 ).

The Bears are off to a 4-1 start and will next be in action when they head to Henderson followed by a trip to Carthage for the Carthage tournament.

The Gladewater Lady Bears continued their non district schedule as they made the trip to Daingerfield where they fell 16-9. Katelyn Pugliese doubled, singled and drove in a couple of runs for Gladewater in the loss.

Tinsley Aldredge had two hits and an RBI, and Kennedy Harper finished with two hits and two RBI.

Alayah Gordon struck out two and walked three in 3.2 innings, and Aldredge fanned four and walked four in 2.1 frames.

That was followed by a trip to Henderson to take part in the Henderson tournament where Gladewater went 1-5 with a win over Kilgore ( 7-5 ) and losses to Spring Hill (14-2 ), Cushing ( 4-1 ), Henderson ( 10-6 ), Hughes Springs (20-0 ) and Center ( 16-4 ).

Against Kilgore, Katelyn Pugliese homered and Bailey Childress doubled twice, singled and drove in two runs. Jannah Strickland, Tinsley Aldredge and Puglieseall drove in runs. Aldredge struck out three and walked two in on inning, and Alayah Gordon fanned five with two walks in three innings. Against Spring Hill, Aldredge tripled and drove in both Gladewater runs. Gordon doubled for the Lady Bears.

Gordon and Aldredge both pitched. The Lady Bears are

now 2-12 on the season and will next be in action with a home game against East Texas Homeschools and a trip to Carthage for a tournament.

The White Oak Roughnecks baseball team opened up their 2026 season with a bang with a 15-1 win over Harmony.

Will Thomas doubled, singled and drove in five runs. Braden Callens had two hits and two RBI, Tyson McKinney three hits and an RBI, Ian Owen two hits, Nico Soto a single and an RBI and Carson Rhodes two RBI for the Roughnecks.

Logan Langewisch went five innings on the mound for the pitching win. He struck out 11, walked one and gave up no earned runs on three hits. The win was career coaching victory No. 200 for White Oak head coach Charles Foshee.

That was followed by a trip to Mount Vernon for a tournament where they went 1-2-1 with a win over Quitman ( 13-2 ), losses to North Lamar ( 5-0 ) and Van ( 6-0 ) and a 3-3 tie with Sulphur Springs.

The Roughnecks are off 2-2-1 start. They will next be in action when they head to Grand Saline for a tournament.

The White Oak Ladynecks softball team continued their red hot start as they hosted Henderson and tasted defeat for the first time as they fell 7-1.

Andee Bridges tripled and drove in a run, and Kylie Caraway added two hits for White Oak. Emma White struck out four, walked six and allowed two earned runs in 2.2 innings to shoulder the pitching loss. Addy Young fanned two and walked one in 3.1 innings.

That was followed by hosting their own tournament where they went 4-1 with wins over Hawkins ( 14-0 ), Red-

water ( 7-4 ), Florance ( 14-1 ) and East Texas Homeschools ( 13-2 ) with their lone loss to Redwater ( 14-0 ).

Against Hawkins, Addy Young, Bridges, Rayson and Caraway all doubled. Fisher finished with four hits and three RBI, Baker three hits and an RBI, Rayson two hits and an RBI, Bridges and Young two hits and three RBI apiece, Caraway two RBI and Fobb one RBI. Young struck out four and walked one in three innings for the win.

White Oak is now 11-2 and will open district play hosting Tatum before heading to Franklin for a tournament.

The Union Grove Lions opened up their 2026 season at the Elysian Fields Kip Lewis memorial tournament where they went 1-1-1 with a win over Elysian Fields ( 4-2 ), a loss to Sabine ( 2-0 ) and a 3-3 tie with Queen City.

They will next be in action with a trip to Longview to take on Longview Christian then head to Frankston for a tournament.

The Union Grove Lady Lions softball team continued their non district schedule as they defeated Hawkins 13-3. Jaci Smith doubled twice and drove in a run for Hawkins.

Becca Jordan and Addison Dutton added RBI. UG lead 4-3 after 2 innings but then blew it open with 1 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7 in the 7<sup>th</sup>.

That was followed up by a trip to Lindale and Tyler Legacy to take part in the TASO tournament where they went 1-3-1 with a win over Queen City ( 10-9 ), losses to Tyler Legacy ( 13-3 ), Troup ( 6-3 ) and Lindale ( 17-0 ) and a tie with Brownsboro ( 2-2 ). UG is 3-5-1 on the season and will next be in action with a pair of home games with Frankston and Brook Hill.



The Union Grove Lady Lions opened playoffs on Tuesday at Tyler Junior College's Wagstaff Gymnasium, racing out to a big lead and capturing a 54-30 bi-district victory over the Overton Lady Mustangs



The White Oak Ladynecks were 12-1 for the year after going undefeated in the White Oak Tournament. On Tuesday they entered district play at home vs Tatum.

## Sunday Services

See your helpful hardware folks at... **Bailey's ACE**  
 Store hours:  
 Mon-Fri 7:00-7:00 Gladewater, TX  
 Sat 8:00-6:00 903.845.5787  
 Sun 1:00-5:00

**J.O. Williams** Since 1936  
 300 Hwy. 80 East  
 Gladewater  
 903.845.2222

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 300 West Upshur (PO Box 1444), Gladewater, TX  
**903-845-2171**  
 www.fbcgladewater.org  
**FACEBOOK - FBCGLADEWATER**  
**SUNDAY - 10:15 Morning Worship**

Get your message out for just \$12/week  
 Call  
**903-845-2235**

- BAPTIST**  
 Calvary Baptist • 903-845-6297  
 Clarksville City Baptist • 903-845-3248  
 Cornerstone Church • 903-918-5539  
 East Mountain Baptist • 903-759-2820  
 Eastview Baptist Church • 903-984-8524  
 First Baptist Church • 903-845-2171  
 Friendship Baptist Church • 903-845-4603  
 Gladeview Baptist • 903-845-3842  
 Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174  
 Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440  
 Greater New Hope Baptist  
 Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174  
 Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768  
 New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042  
 St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028  
 Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894  
 Olde Tyme Baptist Church • 903-806-2411
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 East Mountain Church of Christ \* 903-285-1871  
 North Loop Church of Christ • 903-845-2531  
 North Main Church of Christ • 903-845-2816  
 Rocky Church of Christ
- CATHOLIC**  
 St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306
- CHARISMATIC**  
 New Life Church • 903-845-8108
- LUTHERAN**  
 Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019
- CHURCH OF GOD**  
 Elevate Worship Center • 903-374-2064
- NAZARENE**  
 Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425
- METHODIST**  
 First Methodist Church Gladewater • 903-845-2565  
 McCrary's Chapel United Methodist  
 New Mountain CME Church • 903-845-1175  
 Starrville Methodist • 903-877-4040  
 Union Temple CME Methodist • 903-845-1050  
 White Oak United Methodist Church • 281-682-3397
- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**

- New Life Fellowship Church • 903-261-4227  
 Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234  
 Grace Tabernacle Church • 903-309-8801
- PENTECOSTAL**  
 First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922  
 Northside Pentecostal  
 Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043  
 Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)
- PRESBYTERIAN**  
 First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905  
 Full Gospel Fellowship  
 Gladewater Revival Church  
 Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023  
 Love of God Church • 903-845-2623  
 Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050
- OTHER**  
 Starrville Church of the Living God • 903-877-3220  
 Friendship Community Church  
 Full Faith Holiness • 903-845-8195

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**COMMUNITIES  
 DEPEND ON LOCAL  
 NEWSPAPERS**

**1 out of 2 Americans read  
 or access information  
 from their local weekly  
 newspaper every month.**

**Telling Our  
 STORIES**

Source: America's Newspapers 2023 Local Newspaper Study conducted by Coda Ventures.

**Pray  
 for our  
 Nation**

**Read  
 Local**

**Local company.  
 Local journalists.  
 Local stories.**

**Croley  
 FUNERAL HOME**  
 "Serving East Texas Families since 1883"  
 GILMER GLADEWATER HAWKINS DIANA  
 903-843-2555 903-845-2155 903-768-2144 903-663-3811  
 www.croleyfh.net

**St. James Missionary Baptist Church**  
 Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 pm for  
 ABF/SBF and 7:15 pm for Bible Study and  
 each Sunday at 9 am.  
 2800 W. Commerce Street  
 Gladewater, Texas 75647  
 903-845-5028

# Local sales tax allocations show early gains this year

The City of Gladewater's sales tax returns are off to a strong start in 2026. This month's allocation from the state comptroller's office showed a 3.1 percent gain on the same time last year. At \$181,961.58, combined with January's \$173,500 it puts the first two months of the year at 12.2 percent more than January and February 2025. White Oak's jump-start is even more substantial – February's allocation was \$191,897.77, a whopping 56.99 percent gain on February 2025. Two months in, the year-to-date total is \$316,167.81, a 25.52 percent increase on the prior year. Earlier this month, Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced his office would be sending cities, transit systems and special purpose districts \$1.5 billion in local sales tax allocations for February. It's a 2.5 percent increase compared to the same month in 2025. "These allocations are based on sales made in December by businesses that report tax monthly; October, November and December sales by quarterly filers; and 2025 sales by businesses that report tax annually."

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Pmt. Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
<b>GREGG CO.</b>	0.500%	\$1,851,609.54	\$1,705,116.52	8.59%	\$21,231,425.84	\$20,434,762.45	3.89%
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$9,344.50	\$8,216.50	13.72%	\$116,041.54	\$113,505.70	2.23%
Easton	1.000%	\$4,034.67	\$6,984.55	-42.23%	\$62,392.13	\$59,352.94	5.12%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$142,865.58	\$134,744.00	6.02%	\$1,751,742.10	\$1,728,341.56	1.35%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$883,375.34	\$857,773.15	2.98%	\$10,370,081.12	\$10,101,982.05	2.65%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$24,882.03	\$21,418.05	16.17%	\$364,621.78	\$287,460.47	26.84%
Longview	1.500%	\$4,012,495.34	\$3,661,109.18	9.59%	\$46,658,350.74	\$44,988,080.62	3.71%
Warren City	1.000%	\$1,539.51	\$3,352.77	-54.08%	\$49,087.59	\$25,350.83	93.63%
White Oak	1.500%	\$145,159.02	\$154,016.11	-5.75%	\$1,773,139.69	\$1,644,966.81	7.79%
<b>UPSHUR CO.</b>	0.500%	\$168,363.72	\$157,494.27	6.90%	\$1,998,433.99	\$1,924,419.84	3.84%
Big Sandy	1.250%	\$22,076.57	\$22,760.93	-3.00%	\$314,634.16	\$295,978.53	6.30%
East Mountain	1.000%	\$4,283.72	\$4,387.15	-2.35%	\$59,181.32	\$56,512.22	4.72%
Gilmer	1.500%	\$233,729.84	\$224,388.34	4.16%	\$2,823,792.53	\$2,766,319.64	2.07%
Ore City	1.500%	\$22,994.10	\$19,249.47	19.45%	\$260,400.07	\$204,593.13	27.27%
Union Grove	1.000%	\$759.60	\$560.30	35.57%	\$9,822.65	\$8,304.32	18.28%

# Texas teens urged to take the pledge to always buckle up

AUSTIN – Skipping seat belts isn't a flex—it's a deadly risk. The new "Saved by the Belt" competition challenges Texas teens to wear a seat belt every seat, every ride. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is calling on high school students to pledge to buckle up every time they get in a vehicle, and always drive like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

### Our future is on the line

Teens and young adults ages 15–20 make up nearly 9% of the Texas population, yet they were involved in 19% of all motor vehicle crashes in 2024. Tragically, 132 of the young people killed in those crashes weren't wearing a seat belt.



Gladewater High School Band's Aleigha McGuyer earned 1st Chair at the All-Region tryouts, advanced to All-Area where she earned 1st Chair again, and then continued on to the prestigious All-State Band.



"Teens will shape our communities for years to come, but the simple choice to buckle up—or not—can be the difference between a bright future or a young life cut short," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "By instilling these habits now, we can help the next generation of Texas drivers make safe driving decisions for the rest of their lives."

### What TxDOT is doing

TxDOT's effort is part of its annual teen-focused Click It or Ticket campaign. Students at more than 1,500 high schools across Texas have been invited to compete in the "Saved by the Belt" challenge. Through Feb. 27, students can go to TexasFootball.com to take the pledge to buckle up every time they get in a vehicle.

### Seat belts save lives

The real winners in the contest will be the students who are safer on the road because they always wear their seat belts, the best defense in a crash.

If you're not buckled up, you could be ejected from the vehicle or even thrown into other passengers. When you buckle up, you protect yourself—and your fellow passengers—from serious injury or death.

Although "Saved by the Belt" is specifically aimed at teens and young adults, it's important to remember that Texas law requires all drivers and passengers to wear a seat belt. Unbuckled drivers and passengers—even those in the back seat—face fines and court costs of up to \$200.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at DriveLikeATexan.com.

# Council OKs 3 percent increase for trash collection

By James Draper

There'll be another slight increase on local bills next month as Allied Waste updates its rates for the coming year.

It's about 3 percent across the board, amounting to a 55-cent increase for monthly garbage pick-up inside the city limits, \$20 to \$20.55.

"Usually every year we get something from Republic regarding the increase on the rates and we pass that through," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith reminded council members last week. "It's at 3 percent, what the CPI was."

It's an across the board increase, affecting roll-off rates as well as the cost for an additional poly cart, rising from \$12 to \$12.18 per month.

The increase will be applied to the first billing cycle following March 25.

"When's the last time the city has done an audit on that charge?" Mayor Brandy Flanagan asked.

"When we just raised the rates in October," Smith replied, which saw city employees compare the local fee schedule to similar communities in the region.

Allied Waste gives back to the communities it serves, Smith noted.

For example, "They provide roll-offs for us for 'Trash Off Days' and things."

From Flanagan, "A neat thing, too, about them is they always do that annual giveback to the city, our downtown, and do all kinds of things for our city." That said, "It's part of our job to make sure that we are being responsible and understand those costs and the standards throughout the industry."

Council member William Blackmon's motion to accept the rate increase, seconded by Milton Anderson, passed unanimously 6-0 (council member Kevin Clark was absent Feb. 19).

# SELL IT IN THE Classifieds

903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladewatermirror.com

**Consumer Cellular®**  
**BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.**  
 Plans start at just \$20/month.  
 Switch & Save Today. **855-493-3803**

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations.

**WE BUY**  
**Oil, Gas, & Mineral Rights**  
 Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)  
 Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.  
**806.620.1422**  
**LOBO MINERALS, LLC**  
 PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408 • LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com

**COYOTE HILLS RANCH BULL SALE**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 • 1 PM**  
 At the Ranch, Chattanooga, OK  
 1 mile west, 2 miles south and 1 mile west of Chattanooga, OK on Hwy 5.  
**SELLING 90 LIMOUSIN & LIM-FLEX BULLS**  
 • 70 FALL YEARLINGS  
 • 20 SPRING YEARLINGS  
 All Black • All Polled  
 • 85 HOMO Black • 82 HOMO Polled  
 • 88 for YW EPD >100  
 Bid LIVE online at [www.LiveAuctions.tv](http://www.LiveAuctions.tv)  
 Call 580-704-6739 or View Catalog Online  
[www.covotehillsok.com](http://www.covotehillsok.com)

**TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK**  
**TexSCAN**  
**TexSCAN Week of Feb. 22-28, 2026**

**Oil & Gas**  
 We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

**Home Improvement**  
 Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-540-0154.

**Cellular Phone Service**  
 Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

**Charity**  
 Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today!

**Energy**  
 Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

**Vacation**  
 YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-877-741-0071.

**Texas Press Statewide Classified Network**  
 184 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads  
 Start At \$250 • Email [ads@texaspress.com](mailto:ads@texaspress.com)

**City of Gladewater**  
*Treasuring the past. White embracing the future.*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Gladewater City Council adopted the following ordinance February 19, 2026:

**Ordinance #O-26-02 to amend §5.03.150 – Schedule of Rates – Solid Waste, of the Gladewater Code of Ordinances. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days following publication as required by law.**

Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from Judy Van Houten, City Secretary, Gladewater City Hall, 519 E. Broadway, Gladewater, Texas.

**SHOP LOCAL EAT LOCAL**  
**READ LOCAL**

When you support your local newspaper, you support your community.

**America's Newspapers**  
 America's Newspapers is a national association supporting journalism and healthy communities in our local communities.  
 Find out more at [www.newspapers.org](http://www.newspapers.org)

**AMERICA NEEDS JOURNALISTS**

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is [www.ftc.gov/bizop](http://www.ftc.gov/bizop).

# OBITUARY

## CAROLYN JO KIZER

Carolyn Jo Kizer, of Gladewater, Texas, passed peacefully January 28, 2026, in Frisco, Texas, surrounded by family. Born December 31, 1946, in Gladewater, she was raised by her mother, Thelma Kennedy, and stepfather, R.B. Kennedy.



Carolyn Weaver-Perry served Upshur County from 1983 to 2006, first as clerk to Justice W.V. Ray and later as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, until retirement. She viewed public service as a privilege and was committed to making a difference in the lives she served. Her life shaped her family in lasting ways, and her influence will carry on for generations.

She is survived by her children, Tammy Jo Weaver-Blodgett, Terry Weaver, and Todd Weaver; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

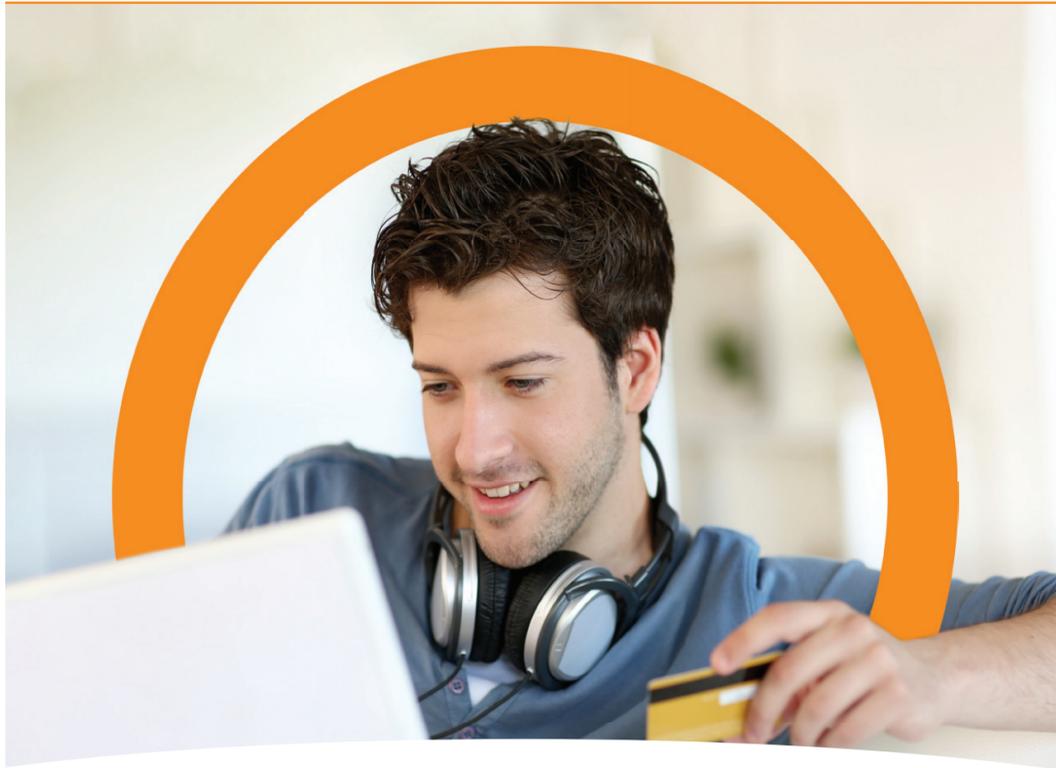
Celebration of Life: 2:00 p.m., February 28, 2026, The Salvation Army Church, Garland, Texas.



The 2026 GALA Officers were installed on Tuesday night, February 17, at the Chamber of Commerce. The theme was "You Gotta Have Heart." Photo From L-R: Judy Van Houten - Secretary, Cheryl Mathews - Membership Chair, Kathy Barrow - Treasurer, Kathy West - Programs Chair, and Rita Osha - President.



Gladewater Police Department's MedReturn Drug Collection Unit sees regular users, according to GPD Chief Kyle Ready. Gladewater residents are dutifully dropping off their expired and unwanted prescription drugs in the lobby of the police station at 511 S. Tyler St.



# Speeds up to 100 Mbps with EarthLink Wireless Home Internet

Cheaper than Satellite. Faster than DSL.

Easy self-installation. Just plug it in and go!

Stop the waiting game — lower lag time than satellite

Download speeds up to 100 Mbps

Multiple plans to choose from

Affordable equipment fees

Connect up to 12 devices



**PLUS!**

Sign up today and get a \$100 gift card!\*



Get More Reliable Internet **NOW!**

**877-417-4999**

\*Terms and conditions apply

## Upshur sheriff's special unit makes 2 arrests

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office made two unrelated arrests in January, Sheriff Larry Webb said Friday.

Both suspects were taken to the county jail in Gilmer, said Webb, who gave these further details:

A 20-year-old Mount Vernon man was arrested Jan. 1 for driving under the influence by minor.

After the unit noticed a vehicle stopped in the middle of the rural intersection of Bobwhite and Goose roads, it made contact with the driver and noticed the odor of alcohol. The man was charged as a minor because the legal minimum drinking age in Texas is 21.

Kimberly Zuniga, 44, of Longview, was arrested Jan. 20 on a charge of possession of controlled substance--between one and four grams of methamphetamine.

The SIU was performing drug interdiction in the Midway community area that day and stopped a vehicle in which she was a passenger in the nearby Bettie community.

After the stop at the intersection of U.S. 271 and FM 2088, Zuniga admitted to investigators to possessing methamphetamine in her backpack.

## Local animal control officer gets help saving little lives (and tax dollars)

Continued from Page 1

for Godwin.

It was initially a trio of newborn strays: "My buddy, he found them in a culvert. They were scared to death," Beavers said, so he and Jeff Haley decided to do a good deed. "We trapped them and caught them; it took a week because they were wild."

A raccoon tripped the trap first.

"We had to catch the dogs in a fishing net," Haley said.

Per Beavers, "We took them to my house. Fed them. Took care of them. Now they're nice and big and healthy and fat."

Godwin soon rounded out the pack with another pair from the same litter.

"The other two were up the road," she said. "They were a little skinnier and probably a little hungrier, so they came running to me for help. The little runt, I named him Bay-bay."

After three rounds of shots (costs covered by North Shore) the little ones were ready to roll out Feb. 15: "Their transport was paid for by the facility that's taking them. They'll all be spayed and neutered and then adopted out. It's a no-kill shelter up there."

Godwin tipped her hat to the locals who were willing to foster the pups while she lined up their inoculations and travel plans.

She's eager to finish more ACO stories with happy endings.

"We're moving along. I'm excited. It just took a minute," she said, now solidly on the beat in Gladewater. "I've had really good luck with re-homing at this point.

"I haven't necessarily done any adoptions, but I have rehomed a lot that I picked up."

Reach out to Godwin at 903-930-8465 to report a lost animal or stray.

## GPD equipment upgrade helps spot predators in the pack

Continued from Page 1

cally, old age.

From planning to execution, the project's taken the better part of 16 months. It's been a work in progress since Ready was brought on as police chief in Fall 2024.

"One of my goals was to upgrade the technology here -- we were a little behind the times," he said. "Body cameras and in-car systems tend to get replaced every 5-10 years, when they outlive their technical lifespan. They were so old the manufacturer at that point was declining to service them any longer.

"We were forced to look at buying new equipment from them or finding other options. Of course, that's not a cheap venture."

Motorola turned out to be the optimal solution for Gladewater, and GPD is now utilizing Vigilant software to integrate multiple platforms including Computer Aided Dispatch.

That will mean faster response times, Ready noted.

"Dispatch can look at a map and see live where our officers are and dispatch the closest one," he said. It adds more in-car features as well: "The officers can actually run their own drivers licenses and car tags, things of that nature, to free dispatch from having to run that while they're taking calls from people."

In prior years, Ready noted, a License Plate Reader (LPR) system was a costly add-on.

"Now it's built into the system, they just have to flip the switch," he said. "It drove the cost down considerably.

"The technology has changed so much since I started 30 years ago. This is something we never dreamed of."

# It's wild out there, says local game warden

By James Draper

Alligators are fast over short distances, Todd Long says. "Zig zag is always good," the local Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Warden told Gladewater Rotarians last week. "They tire out real fast. That's when you go hands-on."

He's still answering questions about the roaming alligator he helped apprehend last Spring near Gladewater's Tele's Restaurant.

Hunting season's a common topic, too. "It's been kind of lame," he told the audience last week. "The processor numbers were down. The taxidermy numbers were down."

There are a lot of theories as to why (more online controversy than fact). Long's more focused on keeping the participants in check.

That includes the human component as well as the scaliere clientele he contends with. Long gave props to Gladewater Police Department's officers as well as Fire Chief Mike Simmons for being good sports about last year's 9-foot-long reptilian rover.

That gator went right back to the river, Long said. The smaller ones he rescues often get a field trip to see their local fans before they're sent home.

"I'll take them up to Weldon and Gay Avenue," so students can get an up-close look. "That is the coolest part of the job."

Meanwhile, lake enforcement's a bit of a challenge at times,



Local Game Warden Todd Long visits with Gladewater Rotarians during the group's weekly lunch Thursday, Feb. 19.

depending on who Long is making contact with. "The worst part of the job would have to be the drownings, which is why we're such sticklers when we're out checking the boats, checking for alcohol, checking for vests," he said. During lake patrols, "We get a lot of attitudes. You're harassing us." If they go with me on one of those drowning recoveries, they'll understand better.

He reminds locals to make a courtesy call the TPW in the event they're night hunting. And, he said, don't break the law.

"The burden's on me to prove you've got a dead deer," Long said, and he'll do the work. "We've got crime labs. Our 'customers,' they get smarter all the time."

It's a rigorous path to become a game warden, Long said, and he welcomes hopefuls.

"It's the highest training academy in the State of Texas. We're even training other states, other countries." For someone who's eyeing a career, "Get to know your local game warden," and definitely keep your record clean. "Volunteering is huge. That's stuff that can shine later on."



Nine choir and piano students represented Gladewater High School and GISD in the regional solo/ensemble contest this past Friday (Feb. 6, 2026) at ETBU in Marshall, Texas. Six students received a first division rating for their solos. 3 students qualified to go to the Texas State Solo Ensemble Contest in May. Students receiving a First Division rating and a gold medal include (which qualifies them for the state contest) include:

- Hannah Brandt - Vocal Solo
  - Carson Cummings - Vocal Solo
  - Kyera Orange - Vocal Solo
- Students receiving a First Division Rating along with a bronze medal include:
- Mariah Barksdale - Piano Solo
  - Caleb Budro - Piano Solo
  - Isaiah Thomas - Piano Solo
- Students receiving a 2nd Division rating for their performance include:
- Garrett Kegarise - Vocal Solo
  - Silver Little - Vocal Solo
  - Mackenzie Richardson - Vocal Solo
- Mr. Darren Richardson is their choir director. Mr. Eric Linson from Jarvis Christian University is their student teacher this semester.



Gladewater Rotary Club President Sam Cloud recognizes Student of the Month Jakobe Crosby from Gladewater High School.

## Council finalizes regs for short-term rentals

Continued from Page 1

"We could come back, if everything's going smooth, and raise that," he said. "We've got to start somewhere."

It's a start, Anderson echoed. "I don't want any more people calling the council and telling us how bad their experience was living next to an AirBNB."

The city does have to be mindful of the limited number of hotels available here, Flanagan noted, and that even communities with a sufficient number of inns are seeing people choose short-term rentals over hotels and motels.

"We do have to be mindful of that, that this is the way of the future," she said. "I would not, personally, be in favor of capping it at the ones that are there now."

"I do want to find that sweet spot where it's favorable to both economic development and tourism and the ones who own these properties as their fulltime homes. As a council we can achieve both, but we kind of need to take it step-by-step on doing that. "We'll know when we kind of hit our sweet spot on that."

The lake rules still need work, Anderson added

"I think we need to pay a lot of attention to that as far as the number of properties that an individual can own," he said. "I know that's been overlooked years and years ago, and we've got ourselves in a not very envious situation in a couple of areas."

With no further suggestions beyond the 60-day permit window for existing short-term rental operators, Stutes said he would revise the initial document into a city ordinance and send it back for council consideration at a future meeting.

# RE-ELECT RHONDA WELCH

## UPSHUR COUNTY PRECINCT 3 JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



To the Citizens of Upshur County,

I'm writing to you today not just as your Justice of the Peace for Precinct Three, but as a lifelong neighbor. For 18 years, I've had the honor of serving Precinct Three – the same community where I grew up, went to school, and where Charlie and I have raised our four children over our 50 years of marriage.

As a proud Republican, I hold our conservative values close to my heart. Those principles of hard work, family, and personal responsibility guide me every single day. However, I also deeply understand that when I step into that courtroom, my primary duty is to the law. I was elected by you to serve our community as a whole, and I know the vital importance of presiding over the court in an unbiased manner, ensuring that every citizen – regardless of background – receives fair and equal treatment.

Being your Justice of the Peace is a role I hold close to my heart. My daily duties include:

- 🗳️ **Holding Court:** Handling civil cases, small claims, and traffic matters fairly for everyone.
- 🗳️ **Magisterial Duties:** Working with law enforcement on warrants and setting bonds.
- 🗳️ **Celebrations:** Getting to step away from the bench to perform wedding ceremonies for local couples.
- 🗳️ **Coroner Investigations:** Serving as the coroner to provide answers and closure during difficult times.

To make sure I'm giving you the best service possible, I've completed over 750 hours of continuing education specifically for this office. I often lean on the lessons I learned years ago while working as a nurse at the Hugman Kent Clinic in Gladewater – lessons about patience, care, and being there for people when they need it most.

I'll be honest: this job can be physically and emotionally tough. It often means being "on-call" 24/7 and heading out in the middle of the night to scenes that stay with you long after you get home. But the weight of that responsibility is exactly what keeps me going.

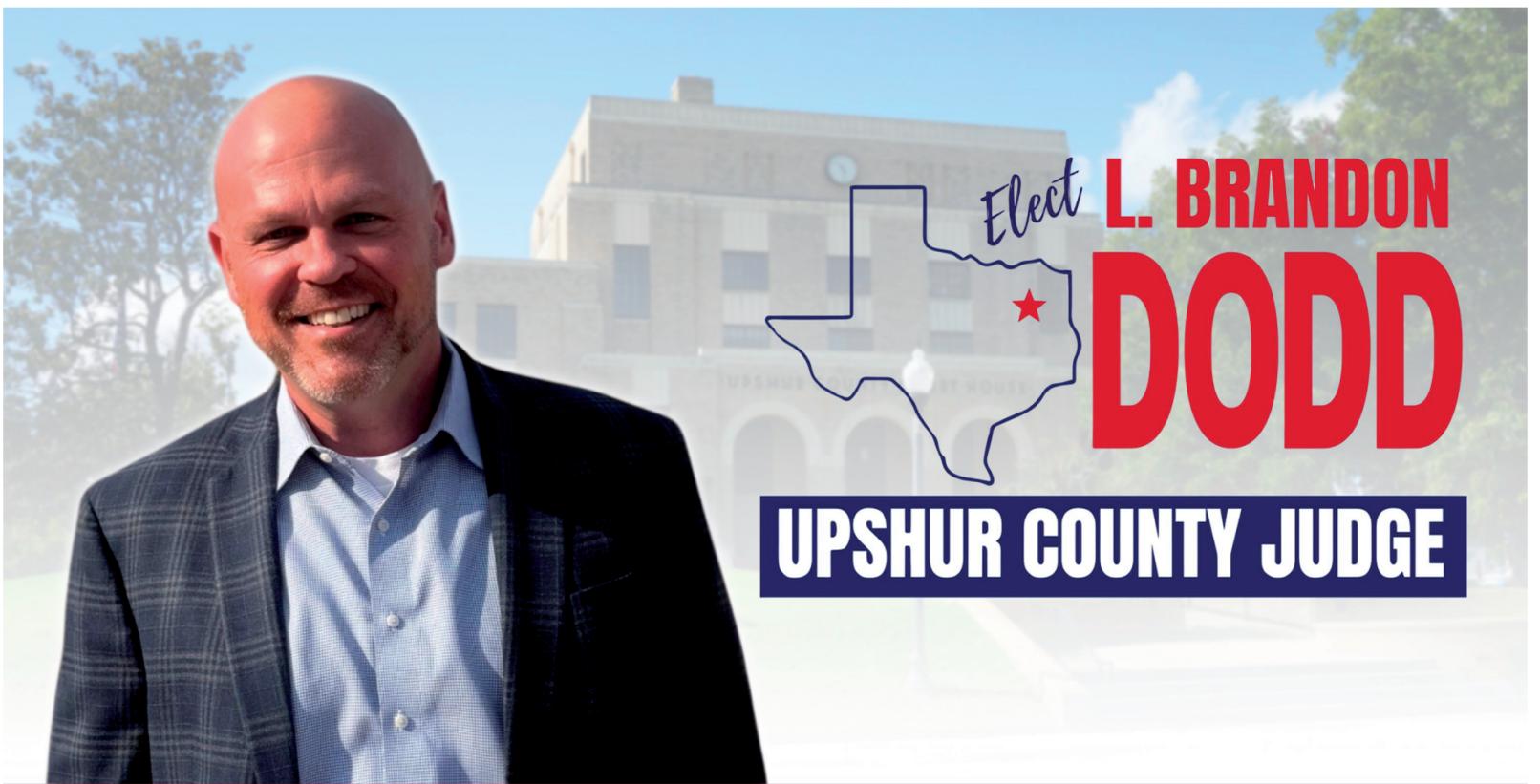
To me, this isn't just a title or a career; it's a calling. It has truly been the highlight of my life to represent you. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to be a part of your lives, especially during your most vulnerable and difficult moments.

I am asking for your vote. I humbly ask for the opportunity to continue serving as your Justice of the Peace for Precinct Three. Thank you for the trust you've placed in me all these years.

Warmly,  
**Rhonda Welch**

POL. ADV. PAID FOR BY RHONDA WELCH

**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY: MARCH 3rd • EARLY VOTING UNDERWAY**



**JOBS | ROADS | LOWER TAXES**

## Jobs & Economic Development

L. Brandon Dodd will focus on bringing quality jobs and new investment to Upshur County so families can earn a good living right here at home and strengthen our local economy.

## Roads & Core County Services

By growing the county's revenue base, L. Brandon Dodd will work to fix roads, improve infrastructure, and strengthen services like animal control—without placing new burdens on taxpayers.

## Lower Pressure on Property Taxes

L. Brandon Dodd believes the best way to protect property owners is smart economic growth that broadens the tax base, helping fund county needs without unnecessarily raising property taxes.

**L. BRANDON FOR UPSHUR COUNTY JUDGE**



L. Brandon Dodd believes the best way to protect property owners is smart economic growth that broadens the tax base, helping fund county needs without unnecessarily raising property taxes. L. Brandon Dodd is a lifelong Gilmer native, Gilmer High School graduate, Army and Texas National Guard veteran, small-business owner, and home builder. He served during the Gulf War era and was in the 1st Calvary Division and supported III Corp Command at Fort Hood during the Iraq War.

After working in the trades and oilfield, Brandon returned home to run his family business, later founding Beyond the Meadow Homes. He has led locally and statewide-serving as president of the Gilmer Chamber and Rotary Club, co-founding the Auto Body Association of Texas, and serving on multiple community boards.

Brandon and his wife Mandy have three children, two grandchildren, and a lifelong commitment to digging wells for the next generation.

**Show Your Support and Vote for L. Brandon Dodd!**

doddforupshurcounty.com  
Pol. Adv. Paid for by L. Brandon Dodd