

Gladewater Mirror

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50¢

New GW Fire Chief named

Tim Basham prefers a one-to-one approach. He's not keen on making speeches in front of groups, but he's eager to bring out the best in each individual of the team.



BASHAM

The former GFD Fire Captain is now Fire Chief, officially accepting the lead role Monday and signing

the necessary documents to succeed outgoing chief Mike Simmons in the driver's seat.

"I think this is the best fire department ever," Basham said simply March 23. "These people here, nothing but love, help... everybody's on board. There's a great bunch of firemen here right now."

"I hope I can just follow suit and keep moving us forward. That's the plan: Just make it better. That's what I'm going to try to do."

Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith appointed Basham to the role Friday, announcing the promotion Monday morning ahead of the 'changing of the guard' at the Tyler Street emergency services HQ.

Basham's distinguished by his years of experience, Smith said, as well as his solid working relationship with the entire roster at GFD and Gladewater City Hall.

A firefighter at the City of Irving from 1983 to 2018, Basham joined GFD as a Driver/Operator on June 1, 2023, and was later promoted to Fire Captain.

"He's got several certifications that make him qualified for the position," Smith added. Basham will serve on an interim basis for the first six months: "Probably it will be a permanent position for him. That will give him time to get settled in."

With Basham stepping into the position March 23, it marked Simmons' final day with GPD after coming on-board with the city as chief in January 2022. He's now serving as Training Chief at Sabine FD/Emergency Services District No. 2, wishing his successor and colleague well Monday before heading down the road.

Smith thanked Simmons for all his efforts the past four years and for making himself available to the GFD team moving forward.

That's been a theme, per Smith: Simmons moved the department forward in his time here.

"One of the things I have seen is that the fire department is extremely committed to the citizens and go out of their way as far as assisting with other projects throughout the city," Smith added.

WILLKOMMEN



to Gladewater

By James Draper

A swarm of bugs flew into downtown Gladewater and buzzed out after a brief breather and stretch of the legs Thursday.

It was all part of the 2026 Texas European Vacation VW Road-Trip as the Spring Break-ing Volkswagen Beetle and Bus enthusiasts breezed into town on their third annual statewide caravan. While most of the stops on the trip are tied to cities that share names with locales in Europe, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed rolled out the Willkommen wagon to persuade the group into stopping for lunch here.

The group rolled into downtown with a police escort and quickly lined up throughout the event corridor south of the railroad trucks. From cute to quaint to quirky, each vehicle's signature VW brand was polished and shining in the afternoon sun.

"They met them out on the north side of town, led them all the way through," Reed told council members that evening. "It was an amazing



More than 50 vintage Volkswagen Beetles and Buses rolled into downtown Thursday as part of the 2026 Texas European Vacation VW Road-Trip. Thanks to Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's invitation, the group stopped for lunch here before moving out mid-afternoon. Photos by James Draper

day. We had over 50 of the Volkswagen buses and bugs downtown. They were very complimentary."

Buck Henderson, accompanied by four-legged copilot CeCe, soon went in search of the best local burger as residents descended on the trove of vintage vehicles downtown, including the Lakeway resident's "Sludge," a 1985 Volkswagen Vanagon GL.

"When I bought it, it was a piece of junk. It runs and looks good now," Henderson said, crediting his son, Shannon, for keeping the camper-van running.

Henderson was impressed at the local turnout and the friendly welcome to downtown.

"Glad to be here. Really great hospitality."

The chamber partnered with Longview's Gorman

McCracken VW dealership to greet the group in style.

"They brought a brand new bug out. They also had gift bags for those participants," Reed noted, praising Gladewater's Public Works employees for setting up the necessary traffic controls and helping prime downtown for the Volkswagen cruisers' March 19 pit stop. "They want to come back, which I always like to hear."

Council opposes utility increase, considers road projects for FY27

By James Draper

Another utility 'rate adjustment' is in the works, and the City of Gladewater will once again partner with other municipalities to keep any increase in check.

City council members unanimously approved a resolution to that effect last week amid a range of action items during their March session.

Some developments are immediate (i.e. cancellation of the city's portion of the May 2 municipal election with no opposed candidates on the ballot) and a number of projects are ongoing.

Further down the road, the city is considering the \$257,000 purchase of a 'Street Zipper' that will streamline local road repairs.

"I may be looking at this for our next budget," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said. "Seguin bought one, and they've saved thousands of dollars doing their own streets now."

Grinding, mixing cement, pouring the base—the machine handles it all, Smith said.

"That would allow us to go in and do some of these major repair streets on our own, especially the smaller ones," he added. "For our internal streets inside the city, that would save us a ton of money."

With budget season still ahead, the council took no action. They also put a pin in a planned waterline repair on Rodeo Drive.

The long-term plan is to install a new line within an easement on the Round-up Rodeo grounds all the way to Hwy. 80, adding new connections to the houses across the street along the way.

"This would be a nice upgrade for the city to do that and put in essential fire hydrants also," Smith said, but it will have to wait until at least the next budget year considering the resources that had to be allocated to the EZ Mart project.

A planned discussion regarding a housing development on Loop 485 was postponed for a future meeting.

As far as the rate adjustment, as a member of the Alliance of CenterPoint Municipalities (ACM) the City of Gladewater is once again taking a stance against the utility's planned rate increase.

As rates go up and up, Mayor Brandy Flanagan said, cities are banding together more and more.

"We faced this with SWEPCO before, and now we're dealing with it with CenterPoint Energy."

Local man arrested on drug charges

By Phillip Williams

The Special Investigations Unit of the Upshur County Sheriff's Office arrested five suspects on various charges in February, Sheriff Larry Webb said Monday.

Details of the cases were as follows, and all suspects were taken to the Upshur County Jail in Gilmer, Webb said:

James E. Choate III, 51, of Gladewater was arrested Feb. 19 on an Upshur County warrant charging him with manufacture/delivery of 4 to 200 grams of a controlled substance, which wasn't identified in the SIU report on the incident.

Investigators spotted him at a game room on U.S. 271 near Silk Tree Road in the West Mountain area, and knew there was a warrant for him.

Gary Floyd Brooks, 60, of Gilmer, was arrested Feb. 4 on a charge of possession of controlled substance--1 to 4 grams of suspected methamphetamine.

Brooks was driving a vehicle which investigators stopped as he was leaving the aforementioned game room. The unit found 4.6 grams of suspected methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in the vehicle.

Jeanna D. Nichol, 50, of Holly Lake Ranch was arrested Feb. 13 for possession of a controlled substance--suspected methamphetamine.

The patrol division of the sheriff's office had asked the SIU to bring drug-detecting dog Marco to the Gilmer Starplex skating rink, located outside Gilmer city limits on south U.S. 271. The patrol unit was there in regard to a person who appeared intoxicated.

After Marco gave an alert indicating drugs were in the person's parked vehicle, the SIU found less than one gram of suspected methamphetamine, and methamphetamine paraphernalia, inside.

Jason S. Knight, 49, of Gilmer, was arrested Feb. 18 on an Upshur County warrant charging him with felony evading arrest with vehicle.

The unit had received a tip that a wanted suspect was possibly in the 2000 block of Texas 154 east, where the SIU went and arrested Knight.

A 42-year-old Abilene man was arrested Feb. 23 on a charge of misdemeanor driving while intoxicated.

The unit was working drug interdiction in the area of Locust Road and U.S. 80 near Gladewater when it stopped the man's vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver showed signs of being intoxicated and the unit performed field sobriety tests.



OPINION/COMMENTARY

Stress & sunshine...

I am working on deadline and thinking ahead to tomorrow's newspaper deadline, a tax appraisal protest in Corsicana and my Mom's taxes to her CPA, also BOTH tomorrow. AND, I need to find four more documents in her morass of a white expandable file folder that somehow screams "Moby Dick" at me. That makes me Ahab... fighting to conquer that whale of a job.

Today is Jimmy's birthday and the sun is shining and we should be on our Harley Electra-Glide riding the backroads with the spring sunshine rejuvenating us. Instead I am playing John Denver's "Sunshine on My Shoulders" and we are gazing longingly out the plate glass windows of our office as our hardworking little fingers type away. At 4 p.m. Jack goes to the Vet. We are working to see if he has more good days ahead of him or not. And that is all I am going to say about that. Jim has a Gusher Days meeting after business hours and I will go and make sure Mom has a nutritious dinner. Okay, to tell the truth, just make sure she has dinner. Jim will be lucky if he gets a dinner much less a 'birthday' dinner.

I need to be making ad calls because that is what allows you to read about your city council, school board, school sports and news, my meandering columns and everything else. But there aren't enough hours in this day.

The cherry on the top of all this is that we are also dog sitting our son and daughter-in-heart's Mort and Dozer who are about the size of miniature horses and are deeply afraid of storms. Last night they jumped in the middle of our bed during that heck of a storm and refused to budge. Poor 6'3" hubby was the middle of a nervous, shaking doggy sandwich. I was on the floor trying to get Jack's heart to quit racing. Mom's hearing aids were out and she

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



The fun just never stops does it?

Last fall I committed to judge district UIL this Wednesday and I am looking forward to those hours that allow me to see the talent our area kids have...or don't.

But here is the kicker. What would I get rid of? All I can do is check the immediate heavy tasks off and move forward. And give thanks that I have the opportunity to do what I do. I know that I am preaching to the choir. Your little wagons are just as full as mine. So if you are trapped looking out at the sunshine while reading this let's count our blessings together.

At the top of mine is the Birthday Boy...mine for 43 years and counting. How much better can it get than to work for and with the person you love most in this world. (Even when you want to throw your stapler across the room at his handsome head.)

Life makes me smile so much more than it makes me cry.

So here you go my dear friends and neighbors, John Denver's lyrics just for you on this gloriously bright day:

"If I had a day that I could give you

I'd give to you the day just like today

If I had a song that I could sing for you

I'd sing a song to make you feel this way..."

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



Islamic schools admitted to voucher program after suit

Four Islamic schools have been admitted to the Texas voucher program after a federal judge ordered the state to invite the schools to apply, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The judge also ordered the application deadline for families be extended to March 31, citing concerns that no Islamic schools had been approved for the program.

"We received an invitation to register yesterday from Odyssey. We were able to register, and we got approval immediately upon finishing the registration form," Hamed Ghazali, principal of the Houston Quran Academy, said. "In addition, our school appeared on the parents' portal and some of our parents were able to register, choosing our school."

The voucher program gives as much as \$10,400 for tuition reimbursement and other fees to parents who send their children to private school next year, up to \$30,000 for parents of children with disabilities, and up to \$2,000 for homeschooled children.

Chávez observance scrapped after abuse accusations

Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state agencies to no longer observe César Chávez Day and said he plans to ask lawmakers to remove the holiday from state law, The Dallas Morning News reported. The move came after The New York Times reported Chavez, the co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, groomed and sexually abused girls and women who worked in the movement.

In addition, many Texas cities and school districts are considering renaming streets and schools and removing monuments to the famed labor leader.

"Let me be clear – no political affiliation, legacy or historic contribution should ever shield sexual predators from scrutiny or excuse the harm inflicted on survivors," Dallas City Council member Bazaldua said in a Facebook post.

The co-founder of the UFW, Dolores Huerta, now 96, said Chavez forced her to have sex and raped her at one point. Huerta said that she kept silent to protect the farmworker movement.

Drag show ban finally takes effect

A ban on certain public drag shows passed in 2023 finally took effect last week after a federal appeals court reaffirmed its constitutionality, The Tribune reported. The law prohibits performers from performing on public property or where children are present.

Paxton cheered the ruling in a news release, writing "I will always work to shield our children from exposure to erotic and inappropriate sexually oriented performances."

The plaintiffs and the ACLU of Texas, which represents them, said they plan to continue fighting the ban.

\$16 billion gas power plant planned in East Texas

One of the nation's largest energy projects is coming to East Texas, according to The News. It is part of a \$550 billion investment package that Japan pledged last October and will be built in Anderson County in East Texas.

The \$16 billion natural gas-fired power generation hub will be able to serve up to five gigawatts of energy demand and will be operated by NextEra Energy Resources, a wholesale electricity provider based in Juno Beach, Florida.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited Trump at the White House last week. The administration has previously said the East Texas project will provide power to meet booming electricity demand, particularly as new data centers come online across the state.

147 measles cases in 2026

The Texas Department of State Health Services has reported at least 147 cases of measles in the state this year, with most occurring in federal detention facilities, The Tribune reported. The largest outbreak, with 99 cases, is at the West Texas Detention Facility, which is privately operated in Hudspeth County.

A DSHS spokesperson said the "state's role inside federal facilities is very limited," so detailed information on contact tracing, vaccine response, or any demographic information on infected individuals is not available. Another 20 cases have been reported in El Paso, Bexar, Bandera, Kendall, Lubbock, and Rockwall counties, according to DSHS.



Natural Gas

The amount of natural gas produced and marketed in the United States reached a record high in 2025, up by 5.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) to average 118.5 Bcf/d, according to [data](#) from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). About two thirds of production occurs in three regions—Appalachia, the Permian Basin, and the Haynesville Shale. These three areas accounted for 81% of the growth last year.

The Appalachia region in the northeastern US produced 31%, followed by the Permian Basin with 23%. Production growth in Appalachia had been slowing due to pipeline constraints, but the situation is improving.

The Permian Basin experienced the largest gain (up 11%), about half of overall gains last year. Most of the growth in the region is due to associated gas produced along with oil, and during much of 2025 crude prices were high enough to support significant activity.

Production is also expanding in the Haynesville region of Louisiana and Texas. Wells are more expensive to develop in that area, but proximity to liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminals reduces transportation costs.

Virtually all LNG facilities are located along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana. [Exports](#) have grown sharply over the past decade, from near zero in 2016 to 569.3 billion cubic feet for the month of December 2025. The US is now the largest source of LNG shipments, and current construction could double capacity over the next few years. It is noteworthy that, even with this growth, natural gas prices have not risen substantially, and, in fact, hit a low not seen in decades in March 2024.

Pipelines from the Permian Basin connect to the Gulf Coast, and the addition of new lines in recent years has somewhat reduced an extreme shortage of takeaway capacity.

Dr. Ray Perryman

THE ECONOMIST



What was once a major problem, having too much associated gas stuck in West Texas (as proven by extremely low and even negative prices at times at the nearby Waha hub), has become a valuable resource.

The rapid growth in US LNG exports is beneficial from a variety of perspectives. It provides access to additional markets for US production, supporting development of resources and infrastructure. It has also been crucial to energy security in Europe and Asia. For example, since Russia invaded Ukraine, US LNG has been crucial to filling the gap in Europe and preventing a major supply crisis. The rapid expansion of energy-intensive AI data centers is also spurring demand for domestic use to generate electricity.

Development of the US natural gas market and LNG capacity stabilizes critical access, thus reducing supply shocks and price escalation during major geopolitical conflicts. As recent events have dramatically demonstrated, that can be very good thing!

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.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

*"Now evil prospers, falsehood reigns
And darkness dims the light;
But we rejoice to know that Christ
Will one day set things right."*

It is true that we are living in a time when evil seems to prosper, and falsehood seems to prevail. Criminals seem to get away with so much today. Even when they are apprehended, they often seem to escape justice from our justice system and courts. We are no longer surprised when evil and wicked people commit crimes, and even admit that they committed them, to see, by some clever legal defenses, they are released to commit new crimes. We are fast becoming a lawless society, reaching a point where instead of having the criminals locked up behind bars, law-abiding people are prisoners in their own homes behind locked doors. Even in religion, God's law is twisted and perverted, and outright ignored by some.



Will things get better? I surely hope so, but I don't see any convincing evidence that things are going to change much in the foreseeable future. But I know this: there is a great Day coming when ungodly and lawless people will stand before the Judge that cannot be deceived, bribed, or overruled. On that day our great God will pass sentence upon all who have thumbed their noses at Him. There will be no clever defense, and there will be no appeal. *"Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption" (Gal 6: 7-8).* On that Day the righteous Judge will *"declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me; you who practice lawlessness" (Matt. 7: 23).* Yes, the day is coming when Jesus will set things right! That last great Day when *"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor. 5: 10).* The chorus of a hymn we sing is appropriate here:

*"Careless soul, O heed the warning,
For your life will soon be gone;
O how sad to face the judgment,
Unprepared to meet thy God."*

Friend, are you prepared for that Day? Have you obeyed the saving gospel of Christ? (*Rom. 1: 16*). I implore you to please think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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What's Happening?

Chamber marks 95 years Thursday night

As the United States of America celebrates 250 years in 2026, Gladewater Chamber of Commerce is getting a jump-start Thursday night.



It's the 95th annual Membership Banquet for the cornerstone organization, and the Gladewater Former Students Building will be bursting with red, white and blue for the shindig.

The patriotic affair runs 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 26 and, in addition to an 'All-American Feast,' it will include accolades for some acclaimed local Americans as well as remarks from one of Gregg County's key figures.

It's a challenge each year to pick the community's honorees "of the Year" including business, teacher, youth, volunteer, woman and man. This round proved particularly difficult, according to chamber dynamo Lois Reed: Too many solid candidates from which to choose.

"There were so many great names mentioned that needed to have an award," she said last week. "It made it hard for the committee."

They made their choices, though, and the spotlight's getting warmed up for Thursday night.

"Gladewater is a wonderful community that works together to make things happen," Reed said. "It is not magic, it is teamwork, and I'm glad to be part of the team."

The night's award winners will share the spotlight with Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt, guest speaker for this year's celebration and its sesquicentennial theme.

Per Reed, "He's going to be talking about how Gladewater plays an important party in the Gregg County picture."

For more information or to reserve seats, call Reed at 903-845-5501.

Spring's city wide trash collection set April 11

Roll up your sleeves and start the Spring Cleaning now – Gladewater's semi-annual City Wide Clean-up is set for the second Saturday in April.

Each Fall and Spring, City Hall sends workers and volunteers to help residents drop off their accumulated stuff at a downtown collection site on East Commerce Avenue by the railroad tracks, and the Spring 2026 collection is a few weeks away on April 11.

Utilizing roll-off trash containers courtesy of Republic Services, locals are invited to drive up and drop-off so long as they show proof of residence within the city limits and ensure their detritus doesn't check one of the wrong boxes.

Per CityofGladewater.com, the following items are prohibited during the community clean-up:

- Loose garbage
- Dirt, rock, sand
- Glass
- Tires
- Construction materials
- Concrete
- Pallets
- Ceramic
- Tile
- Sheet Rock
- Roofing Materials
- Any materials resulting from contractual work or commercially related activities
- Hazardous Materials
- Paint
- Batteries
- Motor Oil

Items that contain refrigerant are generally a no-go as well, including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units and similar items. Only refrigerant units that have been tagged by a certified technician and confirmed to free of CFCs are permitted.

Senior center benefit event set

The auxiliary of American Legion R.E. (Peppy) Blount Post No. 320 will hold a yard sale Friday and Saturday to benefit the Gilmer Area Senior Center, said Gilmer Legion Adjutant Shirley Parnell.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. behind the Legion and senior center's joint meeting place, which is the former Gilmer fire station on Henderson Street.

Entrance can be made to the sale site from Silver Alley, which intersects with Henderson.

Several items have been added to the list of goods for sale which appeared in a prior article on the event. Available will be clothes, a recliner, other chairs, end tables, a TV stand, dishes, books, exercise bikes, blankets and heaters, Parnell said.

For more information, contact her at 903-440-1224

WOHS seeks vendors for FFA's Farmers Markets

White Oak FFA students kicked off their Spring Farmers Markets March 7, and they're getting ready for the next event April 4.

The markets feature locally-grown produce, plants and honey, and the program is recruiting vendors via a Google For. Log on via tinyurl.com/WhiteOakFFAmarket.

The markets are set at 200 S. White Oak Road behind White Oak High School, running 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to April's event, the final market is set for Saturday, May 9.

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



Gladewater Thrive's March 20th meeting featured soon-to-be Upshur County Judge Brandon Dodd. He pictured here with Gladewater Thrive Vice President Britnie Eads and Gladewater Thrive President James Reese.

& Connect networking group of entrepreneurs, "We want to bring the community out, make sure the families are having a great time.

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.

For more information, email GladewaterThriveAndConnect@gmail.com.

Taste of Oil Patch marks 1/4-century

The 25th annual Taste of the Oil Patch Cook-off is simmering, set for Saturday, April 25, at the Gladewater Rodeo Arena.

Everything gets underway at 11 a.m. that Saturday morning, including food, an auction and raffle as well as live music from Darrin Morris and other entertainment for all ages.

Proceeds from the event benefit Truman W. Smith Children's Care Center.

"We will have a variety of food for you to taste and judge," organizers say, with admission set at \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12-and-younger. Each \$25 raffle entry includes chances to win a designer purse, a diamond necklace or a donated firearm.

Blood drives set for Gilmer

Carter BloodCare of Tyler plans two blood drives in Gilmer this month, said Carter drive recruiter Donna Russell.

The first is at the Credit Union of Texas, 755 U.S. 271 N., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 27.

The second is at Walmart Supercenter, 1923 N. Wood (which

is also U.S. 271), from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, March 30.

Donors at the credit union can enter a drawing for a cooler, said CUTX spokeswoman Jaci Watkins Clemens. For more information, call her at 903-801-9301 or email Jwatkins@cutx.org.

For more information on the Walmart drive, contact Russell at 903-574-4998.

"Every donation writes a life-saving story," she said.

Step into the American West at Fort Martin Scott's Frontier Fest

FREDERICKSBURG - The Texas frontier will come alive April 4 as Fort Martin Scott State Historic Site in Fredericksburg invites visitors to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, and spirit of the American West in the 2nd Annual Frontier Fest.

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., the fort will transform into a bustling frontier outpost, complete with living history interpreters in period clothing demonstrating the skills, trades, and daily tasks that made up the life of early soldiers, settlers, and frontiersmen. Guests can watch blacksmiths at the forge, learn about frontier craftsmanship, and take part in hands-on activities including foam-tipped archery, axe-throwing, and old-fashioned games—and experience the boom of live cannon demonstrations presented at select times throughout the day.



Gladewater's Rotary meeting on March 19 had Rotarian Luke Kimbrough introducing speaker Juanita Beason of the Area Agency on Aging. They are joined here by Rotary President Sam Cloud.

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Parking nuisances draw city's ire, spark ordinance update next month

Another set of City of Gladewater regulations are getting refined for the modern age as local officials target junked vehicles on various streets.

The current rules were codified more than 40 years ago, and they leave wiggle room that city officials say permits clutter on local roadways.

"Myself and Chief (Kyle Ready) have been working on this for quite a while," city council member Milton Anderson told his colleagues on the dais last week. He closed their February meeting with a request to put the issue on the March agenda.

"We're having problems with junk vehicles that are parked on the roadway," Ready confirmed, noting the relevant rules haven't been updated since 1984.

Per city code 9.07.090, a 'Junked Vehicle' (1) "Is inoperative and which does not have lawfully affixed thereto both an unexpired license plate or plates and a valid motor vehicle safety inspection certificate and which is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, or discarded; or, (2.) Remains inoperable for a continuous period of more than 120 days."

Notably, abandoned vehicles can be removed after two days, Ready noted: "They have the option of moving the vehicles themselves or we can get a wrecker after 48 hours."

That said, the qualifiers in the code create problems when it comes to enforcement against some long-term on-street squatters.

"We have vehicles that are parked on the side of the road that have valid registration," Ready noted, and they're permitted to stay in the way for up to three months.

Anderson's motion was unanimously approved 6-0 (councilman Michael Webber was absent) directing city staffers to tighten the ordinance for consideration during the elected officials' next meeting in April.

In the interim, the current codes will be applied as-is to any qualifying vehicles.

"Please move them yourselves before we take that action," Mayor Brandy Flanagan said. "We do ask citizens to please be proactive, to know that this is coming down."

Find the relevant codes at cityofgladewater.com/ordinances under Section 9.07 Junked Vehicles.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

1 this actor Andrews was in "Laura" with TX Gene Tierney

5 Texas-based "Giant" was an _____ film

6 TX Dabney Coleman film: "____ to Five"

7 golf ball holders

8 a state fair month (abbr.)

9 African hunting expedition (2 wds.)

16 TXism: "I _____ that like an armadillo needs an interstate"

18 TXism: "hunkered down and _____ go"

20 Dallas Parkland Hospital's receiving area for the injured (abbr.)

21 A&M started as a _____ grant college

22 Houston Oiler leag. until 1970 (abbr.)

24 _____ E. Myers designed the state capitol

30 bad dream

34 airline headquartered at DFW Airport until 1982 (abbr.)

35 "42" tile piece

36 Texas "Moonraker" actress, Chiles

37 WW II destroyer, USS _____

39 former ABC reporter from Texas (2 wds.)

43 retail event after X-mas (2 wds.)

44 most secure

45 TXism: "cut _____ some slack" (ease up)

46 Mexican music station in California

47 what the faucet did before it was fixed

49 former Texas "Kid 'N _____ Festival" for knitters

52 TXism: "let '____ rip!"

53 Grapeland High football class

54 steam bath

55 TX Gale Storm TV show: "____ Margie" (1952-55)

58 former San Marcos dance hall: "Cheyenne _____ Club"

59 LBJ's party (abbr)

60 _____ whiz

61 road curve

11 male sheep (2 wds.)

12 Texas gas stations before Alon

13 notable UT woman swimmer in 1988 Olympics, Hayes

14 a TX Gatlin (init.)

15 TXism: "call _____ day" (quit)

17 Friday night precision dancers (2 wds.)

19 Texas-based film: "Son _____ Starr" (1953)

23 a _____ foot is 12"

24 TV horse: Mr. _____

25 _____ Ebanos Ferry

26 Gov. Hogg's only daughter

27 Texans Bowie, Hogg, and Reeves

28 first "Steak _____" opened in Dallas in 1966

29 TXism for "dancer"

31 "vaya con Dios" (go with _____)

32 TXism: "he's lying through _____ teeth"

33 this Dodge Carl was a signee for Texas Nokona ball gloves

38 TX Trini Lopez sang "La _____"

40 org. for some TX teachers (abbr.)

41 "_____ and ye shall receive"

42 Shepherd, TX newspaper: San Jacinto _____

48 TXism: "never in all my born _____"

50 Texans _____ mess of chili

51 TXism: "he's _____ of spit and vinegar" (energetic)

56 big Texas resort cabin

57 this treat preceded Texas 7-11 slurpees

See Answers On This Page

S-1784

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Sports roundup

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears baseball team began the meat of their district schedule as they had a home and home series with a very good Tatum Eagles team. Game one was on the road at Tatum and it got away from the Bears early as the Eagles added 4 runs in the third inning, two runs in the fifth inning and three in the sixth to win it 10-0. Gladewater was held to just two hits (a pair of singles). In the return game in Gladewater, The Bears got a run in the 2nd inning to take a 1-0 lead after 2 innings. But it was all Eagles from then as they tied it at 1 in the 3rd inning and blew it open with a five run 5th inning in route to a 10-1 win. The losses drop the Bears to 9-8 and 1-4 in district and they will next be in action with a home and home series with cross-town rival White Oak.

The Gladewater Lady Bears softball team continued district play as they played a series with the Tatum Lady Eagles where in game one in Tatum, The Lady Eagles struck first and held on for a 11-7 victory. It was a 3-3 game after one inning and the offensive explosion continued as it was 6-5 Tatum after 2 innings. But the Lady Eagles put it away with 3 more in the 3rd and added on. In the return game in Gladewater, Tatum again got out to a quick lead at 1-0. But the Lady Bears answered with a 3 run bottom of the 1st to take a 3-1 lead after 1 inning. Tatum would claw back into it making it a 3-2 game after three. But the Lady Bears would put it away with a 3 run fifth inning and win it 6-2. Katelyn Pugliese drove in 2 runs, Tinsley Aldredge and Janiah Strickland both also had 2 hits. Aldredge also went 5 innings on the mound giving up just 2 runs.

Gladewater is now 9-17 and 2-4 in district play and next will be in action with a home and home series with rival White Oak

The White Oak Roughnecks baseball team continued district play as they had a home and home series with Arp. Game one in White Oak was a thriller that went to extra innings where the Roughnecks walked it off in the bottom of the 8th to win it 8-7. The game was tied 3-3 headed to the top of the 8th when Arp scored three runs to take a 6-3 lead. Tyson Mckinney had a monster night for White Oak going 5-5 and driving in 3 runs. Jaxsen Ludlow also drove in two runs. In the return game in Arp, the Roughnecks used a 5 run fourth inning to cruise to a 6-2 victory. Braden Callens and Nick Soto drove in 2 runs apiece.

The two wins improves White Oak to 8-7-1 and 2-2 in district play and they will next be in action with a pair of games against rival Gladewater.

The White Oak Ladynecks softball team continued to mow down the competition as they played a pair with the Arp Lady Tigers where in game one in White Oak it was a slugfest in which White Oak prevailed 17-7. White Oak put up 6 runs in the bottom of the 2nd and 5 runs in the bottom of the 3rd to blow it open. In the second game in Arp, the Ladynecks jumped out to a 7-0 lead after three innings and breezed to a 12-1 victory. Allowing just 1 Arp hit. The wins improve White Oak to 23-2 and 5-0 in district play.

They will next have a pair of games with rival Gladewater.

The Union Grove Lions baseball team continued the early portion of district play as they played two with Elysian Fields where in game one in Elysian Fields, the Yellowjackets won a thriller 4-2 where they scored two runs in the 6th inning to break a 2-2 tie. In the return game in Union Grove, it was the Lions who jumped out to a 4-1 lead and held on for a 7-6 win and pick up their first district win of the season. Union Grove is now 7-6-1 on the season and 1-3 in district play.

They will next be in action as they have a home and home with Carlisle.

The Union Grove Lady Lions softball team continued to push through the meat of their district schedule as they played two with the Elysian Fields Lady Jackets where in game one the Lady Jackets jumped out to a 3-1 lead after 3 innings. But Union Grove stormed back with two runs in the 5th and three runs in the 6th and shut the door in the 7th to win it. Olivie d'abreu drove in 2 two runs. In the return game at EF, the Lady Lions jumped out to a 5-0 lead and were able to hold on as EF put up 4 in the bottom of the 7th but it wasn't enough.

The Lady Lions are now 7-9 on the season and 4-2 in district play. They will next be in action with a home and home with Carlisle.

WHITE OAK POLICE

For the reporting period of March 16th through March 22nd, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 157 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Burglar Alarms, Advice Calls, Thefts, Juvenile Complaints, 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.

White Oak Officers made four arrests during this reporting period:

Michael Prince, 44, of Holly Lake Ranch, for Driving While Intoxicated.

Rebecca Vaughn, 44, of Gladewater, for Public Intoxication.

Timothy Cregler, 33, of Gilmer, for Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or more; Resist Arrest, Search or Transport; Assault Public Servant; Driving While License Invalid with Previous Conviction/Without Financial Responsibility; Assault of Hospital Personnel on Hospital Property.

Deslond Franklin, 24, of Crowley, for Evading Arrest or Detention with a Vehicle; Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon.

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

- Theft of Property >=\$2,500<\$30k
- Driving While Intoxicated with an Open Alcohol Container
- Theft of Property >=\$100<\$750
- POCS PG1/1-B>=4G<200G



The White Oak Bass Fishing Team finished the regular season strong with all five teams weighing in fish. Brayden Elliott continued his success with 15.26 lbs and a 13th place finish. Mason Colman and Stoney Larison finished 25th with 11.39 lbs. The team of Jackson Betts/Brayden Calhoun finished in 32nd out of 144 teams. Brayden Elliott finished second in the Angler of the Year standings for the THSBA East Division. There are 168 active teams in the East Division. Brayden Elliott, Adam Chandler and Team Betts/Calhoun qualified for the Regional Tournament on Lake Palestine, Saturday, May 2nd. The White Oak High School Bass Fishing Team would like to express our gratitude to all the sponsors, parents, parents and friends who have supported the team all year.

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Incoming letters alert residents to city's past reporting lapses

Every water customer in Gladewater is getting a letter from City Hall – it's tied to TCEQ violations, but they're neither recent nor an ongoing quality issue.

"It's some violations for non-reporting," Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith told council members March 19. "It's reports that weren't made years ago," it just took state monitors time to get to Gladewater's years-old omissions.

The incoming advisories note Texas Commission on Environmental Quality violations in reporting requirements in August 2023 and 2024 as well as September 2024 along with a notice of slightly elevated trihalomethanes (disinfection byproduct) from 2024 and early 2025.

"These levels were only marginally elevated and did not pose an immediate health risk," per a City of Gladewater announcement last week. "After system adjustments and increased flushing, levels were reduced. The city returned to compliance on April 17, 2025."

The city missed an October 2024 deadline for its Lead Service Line Inventory (completion is projected by the end of next month) along with an Operational Evaluation Report for 2024's third quarter (now completed). Another ding from the state is tied to a missed treatment requirement in January '24.

"This was not an acute violation and did not indicate an immediate health emergency. The issue was corrected, and the City returned to compliance on March 1, 2024."

It'll come new information for most people, but despite the grouped notices, everything's functioning normally today.

"The City of Gladewater water system is currently in full compliance with TCEQ requirements, and your water is safe for normal use. There is no need for alternative water sources," per the March 18 announcement. "The city remains committed to maintaining superior water quality standards and providing clear, transparent communication to our residents."

The municipality's no stranger to flags from TCEQ, but steady improvements in the local water system ensure violations are less frequent.

"We've got everything good now, and we're in compliance with TCEQ with our water treatment plant," Smith said, giving kudos to Wendy Emmel for streamlining operations as the facility's manager. "She is a 24/7 type of person. She's doing a fantastic job there," saving taxpayer dollars along the way.

For more information contact Smith or Emmel at 903-845-2196.

City asks for citizens' cooperation

The City of Gladewater's required to submit two batches of water samples to the state every year, and the current trickle won't cut it.

Moving forward, City Hall will be putting extra effort into educating the community about the need to return water samples, Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said.

"We're at the citizens' mercy on those," he added last week. "We have to send out bottles to specific addresses throughout the city."

It's part of regular reporting to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Compliance helps ensure the community doesn't get more slaps on the hand.

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Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of White Oak will receive sealed bids for HMGP Project# DR-4485-0156, Generator for Big Sandy Creek, HMGP Project# DR-4485-0161 Generator for the Public Works Building & HMGP Project# DR-4485-0155 Locker Plant Road Booster Pump Station until 11am on Tuesday April 14, 2026, please address all bids to **Attn: City Secretary, Kristine Toon**, City of White Oak, 906 S. White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 11am on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at the City of White Oak, 906 S. White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows: HMGP Project# DR-4485-0156, Generator for Big Sandy Creek, HMGP Project# DR-4485-0161 Generator for the Public Works Building & HMGP Project# DR-4485-0155 Locker Plant Road Booster Pump Station. Work Includes 200kw diesel generator, 100kw diesel generator and 50kw diesel generator, electrical modifications, concrete pad work and minor chain link fencing.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at SPI, 320 S. Broadway Ave, Suite 200, Tyler, TX 75702, and City of White Oak, 906 S. White Oak Road, White Oak, TX 75693.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained for a non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 with Schaumburg & Polk, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. Plans can also be found online at www.civcastusa.com.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of White Oak or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin.

This project to be constructed pursuant to this contract will be financed with assistance of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

The City of White Oak reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of White Oak for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

Adv. Dates: March 26th, 2026
April 2nd, 2026

City of White Oak
City Contact: Jimmy Purcell
Title: City Manager

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 - 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
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- St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306
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- Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019
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- Elevate Worship Center • 903-374-2064
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- 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
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- First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
 - Northside Pentecostal
 - Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
 - Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)
- PRESBYTERIAN
- First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905
 - Full Gospel Fellowship
 - Gladewater Revival Church
 - Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
 - Love of God Church • 903-845-2623
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PUBLIC NOTICE

(Longview, TX) The Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has scheduled a Public Meeting on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Longview City Council Chambers located in the Jo Ann Metcalf Municipal Building, 300 W. Cotton Street, Longview, TX 75601. The MPO will present a draft Fiscal Year 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (FY 27-30 TIP). The Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has also scheduled a Transportation Policy Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Longview City Council Chambers located in the Jo Ann Metcalf Municipal Building, 300 W. Cotton Street, Longview, TX 75601. The Transportation Policy Board will consider approval and adoption of the FY 27-30 TIP.

The meetings will be live-streamed on the City of Longview's Facebook Live, CityView Municipal TV LongviewTexas.gov/CityView, and Longview Cable TV: Channel 10.1 or 215. After the meeting, citizens may view the recorded meeting online in the CityView Video Library. A 13-day public comment and review period for the TIP will be held from March 27, 2026, to April 8, 2026. Comments and questions regarding the Longview MPO's FY 27-30 TIP may be sent to the Longview MPO, P.O. Box 1952, Longview, TX 75606, or emailed to MPO@LongviewTexas.gov. The TIP will be available for review online after the meeting, at LongviewTexas.gov/MPO, and the Longview MPO office located at 933 Mobile Dr., Longview, TX 75604. This public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comments on the TIP development process will satisfy the FTA's Program of the Project requirements. Persons with disabilities who may need auxiliary aid or services at the meeting and persons needing a translator or interpreter are asked to contact the Longview MPO at 903-237-1062. Para información en español, por favor comuníquese con Marisela Linthicum en 903-237-1300.

Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

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In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin.

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The City of White Oak reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

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All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

Adv. Dates: March 19th, 2026
March 22nd, 2026

City of White Oak
City Contact: Jimmy Purcell
Title: City Manager

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.


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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Ordinance O-26-04 Amending §15.03.020 Building Regulations Schedule of Permit Fees, §17.09 Building/Inspections Fee Schedule, and §17.17 Water Department Fee Schedule of the City of 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.**



Notice of Virtual Public Meeting with In-Person Option Texas Department of Transportation 2027 – 2030 Rural Transportation Improvement Program Tyler District

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) – Tyler District will conduct an online virtual public meeting for the 2027 – 2030 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (Rural TIP). The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive comments on which transportation projects may be coming to your area. The Tyler District includes Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, Van Zandt, Wood counties. The Rural TIP includes both grouped projects and individually listed projects that include added-capacity projects and regionally significant projects to be funded outside of MPO boundary, and within a TxDOT district during the next four years, including those eligible for federal funding. This meeting offers the public an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed priorities. The Rural TIP is the first step on the road to producing a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Learn more about projects in Anderson, Cherokee, Gregg, Henderson, Rusk, Smith, Van Zandt, Wood counties by participating in the virtual public meeting.


Table 1 - Virtual Meeting Information

Meeting Date	Time	Webpage Link
April 8, 2026	9:00 am	Visit www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html and look for Tyler District

The Rural TIP meetings are being held pursuant to *Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Section 16.102*, which calls for an opportunity for public comment concerning the Rural TIP. The same information including a short presentation, exhibits explaining how the Rural TIP operates, and projects that are included in it will be available to view online.

All community members are encouraged to attend any of the virtual public meeting options and provide written comments on the proposed program. Comments must be postmarked or otherwise received by 04/29/2026 to: TxDOT Tyler District, Attn: Rural TIP; 2709 W. Front St. Tyler, TX 75702 or by email to Adrienne.Leach@txdot.gov.

Special Accommodations: The virtual public meeting will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language, or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services, or you are a person with a disability who requires accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting, please contact Adrienne Leach, Tyler District at 903-510-9128 no later than 4 p.m. CT, April 1, 2026. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodation may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.




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The Gladewater Bear Band welcomed the change in season with gusto Saturday, filling downtown with eager vendors, Spring vibes and shining vehicles as part of the second annual car show benefiting the program. From early morning and into the afternoon, guests flocked to the party, and 60 of the rolling participants left with trophies. Photos by James Draper



Spring Gladewater CITY-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY

APRIL 11th, 2026
8AM-NOON

GLADEWATER RESIDENTS may deposit bulky, household garbage and items into dumpsters located along E. Commerce St, downtown Gladewater.

Prohibited items include paint, shingles, batteries, chemicals, refrigeration items and commercial waste. These Items will not be accepted.

The City of Gladewater will provide curbside pick-up for any disabled and senior citizens, as available. To schedule this complimentary service please call: Gladewater Public Works - 903-845-2196 no later than 12 noon on Friday, April 10th.

Your help is needed to keep our community clean. Volunteers will be meeting at the Ken Bennett Pavilion on E Pacific at 8 AM where they will be dispersed to help in parks and neighborhoods in Gladewater. Trash bags will be provided.



Gladewater Public Works employees Sam Loy and Jacob Glass check a copper and lead service line downtown March 19. All services in town will be checked as part of a regular report to the state.



Gladewater Garden Club elected a new slate of officers Monday including (from left) outgoing president Michelle Askew, parliamentarian; Diane Richardson, president; Diane Whaley, vice president; Nancy Holly, secretary; and Kathy Kendall, treasurer. For the March 23 meeting, Elizabeth Waldren spoke on 'The Language of Flowers.'



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