

# Gladewater Mirror

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"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



## Bardwell earns 'Firefighter of the Year' honors

Josh Bardwell was awarded "Firefighter of the Year for the Northeast Texas District." This award is given as recognition to the selflessness he exemplifies. His knowledge, love for others, bettering all aspects of the fire service, and leadership radiate from him to all those he encounters. Josh, who lives in West Mountain and is a graduate of White Oak High School and Stephen F. Austin University, will now go on to compete at the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas annual conference for FFOY for the entire state.

He is now working with the Texas A&M Forest Service as a Deputy Chief Aviation Officer to help build a new and effective statewide fire-aviation program. Prior to that he has served not only his community and county, Josh was a county firefighter, engineer and most recent Lieutenant with Smith County ESD2, served as the Regional Fire Coordinator with the Texas Forest Service in Northeast Texas for years assisting area volunteer fire departments with much needed grants and equipment, and served as a federal firefighter as an engine boss and helitack firefighter on national incidents with the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service. He and his wife Jennifer have volunteered on three mission trips to Africa to train our fellow African firefighters on fire safety and new fire suppression tactics.



Firefighters spray down spreading flames at a home in the 700 block of East Lake Drive May 6. Gladewater Fire Department, with assistance from Clarksville City - Warren City personnel and Gladewater Police, worked to contain the blaze away from the home, whose occupants were shepherded to safety by neighbors and passersby.

Photo by Gladewater Mirror & Councilman Stoney Stone

## Gladewater gains, White Oaks dips in sales tax

By James Draper

The City of Gladewater continues its steady sales tax climb with May's \$181,000 check from the state comptroller's office. The latest allocation, based on sales from prior months, puts the community at \$773,000-plus for the year, a year-to-year increase of 8.29 percent.

Down the road, White Oak continues to see its sales tax shorted: the check for May arrived at \$147,345, a decline of almost 10 percent from the same time last year. Its total YTD is \$708,201, 3.74 percent than January through May 2025.

On the whole, Gregg County saw a 3.68 percent increase in this month's allocation, up 4.70 percent for the year. Upshur County's also in the black - 6.27 percent for the month and 4.71 year-to-date.

Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced last week his office would be sending \$1.4 billion in local sales tax allocations back to the cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts that collect the revenues. The total for May is

7.7 more than the same point in Spring 2025.

The allocations are derived from March sales by businesses that report tax monthly as well as sales from January, February and March reported by quarterly filers.

Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said he's unaware of any particular elements factoring into Gladewater's steadily increasing sales tax returns. All of the community's "major payers" are unchanged, there's just apparently-steady growth.

There is some likely new revenue coming in for certain businesses, he added, but not to a degree that would show in the monthly sales tax allocations from the state.

"The baseball stuff has

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Pmt. Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
<b>GREGG CO.</b>	0.500%	\$2,018,799.09	\$1,946,997.56	3.68%	\$9,173,511.53	\$8,761,299.88	4.70%
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$9,460.40	\$11,736.80	-19.39%	\$41,120.70	\$47,594.15	-13.60%
Easton	1.000%	\$5,026.72	\$6,956.36	-27.73%	\$24,908.85	\$21,057.64	18.28%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$180,966.51	\$173,018.27	4.59%	\$773,710.79	\$714,471.33	8.29%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$1,034,577.60	\$941,623.83	9.87%	\$4,380,194.42	\$4,269,427.22	2.59%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$31,447.26	\$30,890.38	1.80%	\$142,382.57	\$128,051.78	11.19%
Longview	1.500%	\$4,596,077.49	\$4,454,439.65	3.17%	\$20,540,531.55	\$19,443,787.38	5.64%
Warren City	1.000%	\$2,889.07	\$2,112.05	36.78%	\$12,642.76	\$31,962.79	-60.44%
White Oak	1.500%	\$147,345.36	\$163,397.32	-9.82%	\$708,201.78	\$735,762.39	-3.74%

<b>UPSHUR CO.</b>	0.500%	\$179,479.60	\$168,879.11	6.27%	\$857,968.95	\$819,366.01	4.71%
Big Sandy	1.250%	\$33,892.18	\$33,036.71	2.58%	\$130,208.00	\$137,981.08	-5.63%
East Mountain	1.000%	\$18,259.35	\$5,628.77	224.39%	\$38,829.94	\$24,955.97	55.59%
Gilmer	1.500%	\$255,424.48	\$244,406.71	4.50%	\$1,183,996.86	\$1,195,905.76	-0.99%
Ore City	1.500%	\$24,076.49	\$25,453.24	-5.40%	\$112,812.71	\$107,694.36	4.75%
Union Grove	1.000%	\$846.99	\$1,260.37	-32.79%	\$3,769.97	\$4,001.80	-5.79%

kind of kicked off," Smith said, drawing more and more activity to the community ballparks. As for March, "We had several tournaments at that time. That does bring some additional income into the city."

## Library tunes up with new music lesson scholarships

Youngsters will be reading more than books at Lee-Bardwell Public Library this summer - sheet music's on the score for summer 2026.

It's coming in a partnership between the library and the Suzanne Bardwell Music Foundation, hosting area musicians Andrew & Kate Kirby to bring music lessons for interested kiddoes.

Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell is fronting 10 scholarships for the summertime musical outreach beginning in June.

According to Library Director Brandy Winn, the husband-and-wife musical duo who also own of Big Sandy Music Hall will offer three sets of music

lessons for children in two age groups, 3-to-8 years-old and 9-and-older.

"I think it's a fantastic idea," Winn said. "The 3-to-8 will be a general music class that will incorporate different music instruments and singing and all that. The 9-plus will be guitar-only." The first five applicants in either age group will have their tuition paid for by Bardwell in memory of his late wife, who died in January 2022.

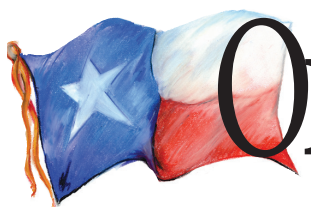
"I think it's going to be neat. Suzanne really loved music. She's like me, she couldn't carry a tune in a bucket, but she appreciated music," Bardwell quipped. "It'll be something to get kids in the library who don't normally come to the library. Once they're

Continued on Page 4



Gladewater community members celebrated the 75th National Day of Prayer at lunchtime Thursday at the Veterans' Memorial Plaza downtown, featuring prayers from local clergy and officials, including: Master of Ceremony Pastor Kelton Wilson, Body of Believers Church; National Day of Prayer Proclamation, Mayor Brandy Flanagan, City of Gladewater; Prayer for Our National Leaders, Pastor Phillip Phelps, Happy Cabbage Owner; Prayer for U.S. Military/Veterans, Rev. Rickey Moore, New Vision MBC; Prayer for Our Churches & Businesses, Pastor Brian Zappa, Union Grove Baptist Church; Prayer for Our Schools, Pastor Charlie Ashby, Church of the Nazarene; Prayer for Our Families, Pastor Wade Harmon, First Methodist Church; Prayer for Our EMS, GPD, GFD, Supt. Rae Ann Patty, Gladewater ISD; Prayer for State of Texas, Pastor Stacy Price, Fellowship Community Church; Prayer for Everyone, Pastor Calvin Wallace, New Home Baptist Church; Prayer for Peace, Pastor Kelton Wilson, Body of Believers Church. Thank you to Gladewater Chamber Of Commerce's Lois Reed for coordinating the annual ceremony.





# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## This summer...



## Boys of summer...

The album cover of my youth sits on my desk mocking my aching joints, now frizzy hair and intensely stressful, hamster wheel adult world. It is a black and white picture of my sweetheart and partner of almost 44 years, our childhood friends Steve Nash and Eddie Lile. The boys have that laid-back cool look one can only pull off at 20 or so.

We were camping at Lake O' the Pines and I snapped the pic of the guys in an unguarded moment. That moment captured their youth, their vitality and just a level of self-awareness and cockiness that would eventually be chipped away by life's slings and arrows.

Life has a way of doing that.

But at least a couple of times a day I look at that picture of Jim in his hat, Steve and Eddie with those half-smiles, and I am reminded of a host of memories.

I met the boys at Disciples Crossing in Athens when I was 13 years old. How I determined which one I thought was the cutest? It was Jimmy's eyes. If ever there was a window to the soul it is my hubby's eyes. Plus, at the camp dance he chose Iron Butterfly's "In a Gada da Vida" for our first dance, an epic rock song lasting 17 minutes.

We were bonded by the time we finished that wallapalooza and ready for a rest in the moonlight down by the lake. I think we held hands while we sat on the diving board with the moonlight behind the cross creating a mirror image on the lake. We shared idealistic dreams and a budding young romance.

I saw the boys every summer at camp and occasionally at a youth rally over the next four years. At 19 I married the boy with the beautiful eyes and off we went together for our last two years of college and the rest of our lives.

The boys grew up and we went our separate ways but there was something about our time together, the way we felt about each other that was always there, one of the sweet undercurrents of our lives. We lost Steve unexpectedly a few years ago. A sense of lost youth and opportunity are a part of getting older. Somehow I blithely made it to this phase of my life without realizing the depth of love and loss one can feel even when separated by time and common experience.

What I remember from those church camp days and time with the

FOR STARTERS...  
TWENTY BUCKS  
JUST TO COVER  
THE GAS...

## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



boys are so many memories they can not be contained. Memories imbedded with crystalline clarity that can not be compartmentalized. I remember...

...canoe races, campfires, fighting for lost causes, fast cars and backroads, falling leaves, mud fights, playing in the spillway, roadside bouquets, prayer, laughter and rock music, and so much laughter.

Later in life we would all reunite with more buddies from that time to kick back in lawn chairs and learn what we had missed, only to find it was the 'who' we had missed not the what.

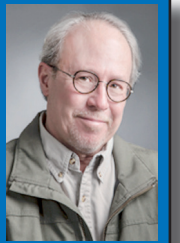
From all the memories of youth, the good and the bad, we grow into who we become. Our lives are built on the lives of those we shared the sunlight and the shadow with along our journey of becoming.

To my 'boys' of summer...thank you for the love, the laughter and the joy of sweet, sweet memories.



**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



### Top lawmakers back lifting camp safety law

Top Texas legislators are pushing to waive a new state law that requires camps to install broadband fiber optics in order to legally operate this summer, The Dallas Morning News reported. Scores of camps are struggling to meet the deadline. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dustin Burrows released a statement last week saying they support lifting the law.

Nearly 20 camps have sued to block the law requiring them to install a fiber-optic network, arguing that it does not make their properties safer and would cost millions of dollars. So far only nine Texas summer camps are licensed to open, with fewer than two weeks before the season begins. Nearly 300 are still working to obtain licenses. The Department of State Health Services said last week that camps will be allowed to operate under existing licenses while their applications are reviewed.

The laws were passed in the aftermath of last year's July 4 flooding, which killed more than two dozen campers at Camp Mystic along the Guadalupe River. In addition to fiber optic networks, camps must install emergency warning and public address systems and provide safety training for campers.

### Patrick backs Middleton in attorney general runoff

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is backing state Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, in the GOP runoff for Texas attorney general on May 26. Early voting runs from May 18 to May 22. In the runoff, Middleton faces U.S. Rep. Chip Roy, R-Austin.

"Mayes Middleton has established a record as one of the most conservative senators in Texas history," Patrick said on social media.

The News quoted Patrick as saying Middleton will make the post "the strongest and most impactful AG office in the nation."

Democrats Joe Jaworski, a former Galveston mayor, and state Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, are in a runoff for their party's attorney general nomination. Incumbent Ken Paxton opted not to run and is locked in a primary runoff with incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn.

Cornyn, Paxton in tight runoff race

Paxton is locked in a tight race against incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn for the GOP nomination, the Texas Standard reported. The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston recently conducted a poll that showed Paxton leading Cornyn, 48% to 45% with 7% still undecided.

The poll of those indicating they were likely to vote in the GOP runoff had a 2.83% margin of error.

In the first quarter of this year, Cornyn raised nearly \$9 million, including \$3.4 million after the March primary. Paxton raised \$2.2 million. Democratic nominee state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, raised a record \$27 million in the first quarter, the largest-ever sum for a Senate candidate in the first quarter of an election year in any state.

### Texas has biggest teacher workforce, but they get paid less

Texas has the country's largest teacher workforce but lags behind the national average in teacher pay and per-student spending, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman.

A National Education Association report said teacher pay in Texas is about \$10,700 below the U.S. average. Texas public school teachers earned an average of \$63,749 in 2024-2025, which put it 33rd among states and Washington, D.C. The national average was \$74,495.

Texas had nearly 370,000 public school teachers in 2024-2025, the highest number in the country.

### Smokable hemp again pulled from Texas shelves

Smokable hemp products such as flower buds and rolled joints must again be pulled from store shelves as the state appeals the latest court ruling, according to The Texas Tribune. The ban was set to take effect on March 31, but lawyers for the hemp industry filed suit challenging the plan. A Travis County district judge temporarily halted imposition of the ban, but with the 15th Texas Court of Appeals agreeing to hear the state's appeal of the lower court ruling, the ban is now back in effect.

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE GAY LIFESTYLE AND THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

How many times have you been told that homosexuals are "born that way?" "They are born that way" is a defense used to normalize homosexuality. Of course, such is without any proof whatsoever. But people bent on doing what they please are not really looking for proof, only acceptance. When arguments for aberrant and immoral conduct are presented and accepted, people don't always perceive, and are not ready, to accept the consequences of their arguments.

For example, "If they are born that way" is justification for homosexuality, why isn't pedophilia justified on the same grounds? In an article in the book: The New Absolutes, Dr. John Money, professor emeritus of Johns Hopkins University said that "ten-year-old boys ought to be allowed to develop erotic relationships with older men." P. 148. British publication: The Guardian, in an article entitled: "Pedophilia: Bringing Dark Desires To Light," said: "Experts disagree about what causes pedophilia, and even how much harm it causes." The article further states that: "Childhood sexual experiences, willingly engaged in with an adult result in no identifiable damage...the real need is a change in the attitude which assumes that all cases of pedophilia result in lasting damage." The article further says attitudes toward pedophilia have changed dramatically in the past three decades. In summation, the article says: "There is astonishingly, not even a full academic consensus on whether consensual pedophilic relations necessarily cause harm." Sounds like he is saying that in sexual ethics, familiarity breeds acceptance! In the above quoted article in The Guardian, Sarah Goode said: *We outlawed homosexuality, and we were wrong. Perhaps we're wrong about pedophilia.* Nothing seems to shame some people. In pursuit of "freedom" they have embraced license, now licentiousness, and are content with throwing off all restraints!

Under the guise of not denying someone's freedom, what aberrant behavior will become legal next? After all, we are told: "They are born that way!" Don't forget that slippery slope. Think on these things.

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

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Press Association



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# Tennis advocates lob new try for local development

By James Draper

A new grassroots tennis effort aims to sow the seeds of the sport at Gladewater ISD again and cultivate the skill more broadly within the community.

A score of Gladewater residents and officials gathered in the GHS cafeteria Monday for a run-through from Katy Rogers, Director of Community Tennis Associations (CTA) and Facilities through U.S. Tennis Association.

It often begins as a component of Physical Education, with free training available for PE coaches and curriculum for K-12. USTA can provide three sets of equipment for the school, regardless of facilities.

“You can do everything you need to do in a school program in a gym,” Rogers said. Granted, “If we’re going to plant that seed in Physical Education, they do need to have other places to go.”

That’s where a nonprofit CTA comes in.

According to USTA, “Many CTAs are run entirely by volunteers. Some grow to have paid staff. But all are fueled by their love for the game and a desire to serve their community.”

USTA has extensive resources, Rogers said.

For example, “We give grants to middle school and high school coaches so they can get equipment for their teams.”

Per Rogers, Gladewater is eligible to receive \$15,000-plus via a 50 percent reimbursement grant to improve the exist-



GISD Superintendent Rae Ann Patty and GHS alumni Johnny Tallent discuss tennis' future here.

ing Butch Clay Tennis Center at GHS. Later projects could improve wind screens, lights, shade structures and more.

“You can keep coming back and drawing from the well over and over again.”

The initial focus is on school programs, laying groundwork to expand to a community-wide outreach.

It’s largely facilitated via passionate community partners. She highlighted GHS alumni Johnny Tallent and sister Cindy, standout players in the ‘80s.

“We’ve got to have the people who can teach this great sport,” she added. “We have to recruit more players and get them into the sport. Then infrastructure; we have to have a place for them to go.”

“I love the fact this school keeps their courts open to the public because people need places to go.”

Mayor Brandy Flanagan represented the City of Gladewater Monday, indicating public facilities are on the table as the effort develops and grants manifest. GISD Supt. Rae Ann Patty attends for fact-finding alongside Athletic Director Jermaine Lewis and Tennis Coach Tiffany Lewis.

“What’s the dollar figure? Can you give us a ballpark?” former Mayor John Paul Tallent asked. “Let’s get this started.”

A rough number of \$80,000 was floated to get existing facilities in shape, offset by grants and private sponsors in addition to public funds.

And what’s the catch for the USTA cash?

“You can’t paint pickleball lines on the tennis courts,” Rogers quipped, “or any other lines, for that matter, and they have to be open to the public.”

## GLADEWATER POLICE/FIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

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Sent To Dispatch- 05/03/2026 11:56:39				
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Sent To Dispatch- 05/03/2026 13:31:38				
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Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
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Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 09:10:07				
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Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 11:36:14				
05/06/2026	12:25:06		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 FM 2685 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 12:25:20				
05/06/2026	13:40:55	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1616 N RODEO DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 13:41:08				
05/06/2026	14:04:52	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	701 EAST LAKE DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 14:05:14				
05/06/2026	14:55:12		MISCELLANEOUS	305 W UPSHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 14:55:25				
05/06/2026	15:13:37		MISCELLANEOUS	618 W QUITMAN AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 15:13:56				
05/06/2026	15:25:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GREGG COUTNY JAIL
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 15:26:16				
05/06/2026	16:29:20		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 VESTA AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 16:29:56				
05/06/2026	17:01:52	GLADEWATER	MISCELLANEOUS	1024 CHEVY CHASE STREET
05/06/2026	21:02:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	BUMBLE BEE PARK
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 21:02:46				
05/06/2026	23:14:37	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 23:14:50				
05/06/2026	23:44:02	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	524 QUEEN GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 23:44:25				
05/06/2026	23:52:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1207 E SHEPPARD DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/06/2026 23:53:44				
05/07/2026	00:10:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	300 W UPSHUR AVENUE
05/07/2026	14:56:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WARRANT SERVICE	GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 14:56:31				
05/07/2026	15:09:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	HARASSMENT	511 S TYLER ROAD 1 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 15:09:28				
05/07/2026	16:51:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1515 EAST LAKE DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 16:51:34				
05/07/2026	18:57:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	HIT AND RUN	LOBBY GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 19:32:50				
05/07/2026	20:22:51	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	FOLLOW UP	524 NORTH STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 20:25:08				
05/07/2026	20:37:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	2403 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 20:37:46				
05/07/2026	21:11:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WANTED PERSON	BUBLEBEE PARK
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 21:12:29				
05/07/2026	22:14:15	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	1005 RICHEY DR APT 6
Sent To Dispatch- 05/07/2026 22:16:50				
05/08/2026	10:51:51	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	7133 FM 1844
Sent To Dispatch- 05/08/2026 10:52:34				
05/08/2026	11:01:21	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ESCORT	CROLEY 401 N CENTER ST GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 05/08/2026 11:05:44				

## GPD Arrest Report

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Address	Charges
5/5/2026	THOMAS, CLIFFORD DONAVAN	2201 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	UNL POSS FIREARM BY FELON
5/7/2026	SPANGLER, RONNIE ALLEN	100 S DEAN STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	POSS MARIJ<20Z DFZ IAT 481.121 WARRANT- LOCAL
5/7/2026	Patton, Dion Don	2201 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT- LOCAL AGG ROBBERY
5/8/2026	KISKADEN, TIFFANY MICHELLE	100 W GAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT- OTHER AGENCY (MISD) WARRANT- LOCAL
5/9/2026	WASHINGTON, HILTON W	303 COOPER STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY FAMILY MEMBER - SIMPLE ASSAULT
5/9/2026	TOLBERT, MARCENIA LAGAIL	303 COOPER STREET	ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY FAMILY MEMBER - SIMPLE ASSAULT



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# WHITE OAK POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

For the reporting period of May 4th through May 10th, 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, Disturbances, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Three traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period; One with reported injuries.

White Oak Officers made two arrests during this reporting period:

Cmajae Turner, 20, of Longview, for Driving While Intoxicated.

Francisco Contreras-Megadan, 25, of White Oak, for Driving While Intoxicated.

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

-Driving While Intoxicated.  
-Driving While Intoxicated 2nd.

## Library tunes up with new music lesson scholarships

Continued from Page 1

there for the music, maybe they'll be introduced to books."

The music lessons are open to more than the first 10 students, Winn emphasized, at a cost of \$25 per child, per class. To sign-up a young would-be musician for the lessons, contact Winn at 903-845-2640 to put the child on the roster for the Kirbys.

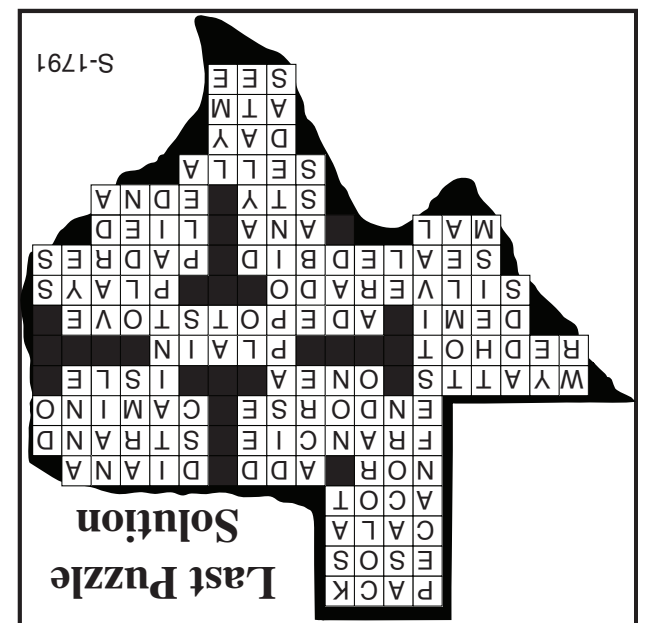
"They'll be at the Summer Reading Sign-ups to do a demonstration and show how their teaching works," Winn added.

That summertime kick-off is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at Lake Gladewater's Ferguson Park.

"There will be a children versus fire department Revolutionary War re-enactment," Winn said excitedly, eager to incorporate the America 250 semiquincentennial celebration by having the kids square-off against the emergency responders, water "cannon" vs. water guns. "I predict absolutely chaos, and I love it."

Winn is currently recruiting food trucks for the event in addition to families. The food truck fee is waived for any operation already signed up with City Hall. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 903-845-2640.

"We're going to open registration June 1 online," Winn said. Find the sign-up via <https://tlt.ad/B>



## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 TXism: "tall dog in the \_\_\_\_\_"

5 "those" south of the border

6 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ boose" (jail)

7 Bowie's Alamo bed (2 wds.)

8 TXism: "neither here \_\_\_\_\_ there"

9 TXism: "it don't \_\_\_\_\_ up"

12 Lynn of film "Texas, Brooklyn & Heaven"

17 UT runner \_\_\_\_\_ Larriou-Smith made five Olympic teams

19 Galveston historic district street

21 sign over a check

22 historic Texas trail: "El \_\_\_\_\_ Real"

23 former Texas cafeteria chain

28 Texas 6-man football class (2 wds.)

29 small island

30 some Texas chili (2 wds.)

31 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ as the top line on an eye chart"

35 this Moore starred with TX Swayze in "Ghost" (1990)

36 TXism: "hot as \_\_\_\_\_"

42 Chevy truck

44 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ his cards close to the vest"

46 method of some land auctions (2 wds.)

48 "fathers" in Mexico

49 TX Whitfield who won five Olympic medals

50 "Santa \_\_\_\_\_ National Wildlife Refuge"

51 told a "windy"

52 pig's casa

53 Jackson County seat

54 TXism: "she could \_\_\_\_\_ furnace to the devil" (persuasive)

56 TXism: "another \_\_\_\_\_, another dollar"

57 modern bank teller (abbr.)

58 TX Johnny Nash sang "I Can \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly Now"

**DOWN**

1 San Saba event (2 wds.)

2 TXism: "rough \_\_\_\_\_ cob"

3 \_\_\_\_\_ City, TX

4 San Antonio TV (ABC affiliate)

9 Texas land measure

10 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a coyote with a rubber chicken"

11 Sandra of 1974 TV film "Houston, We've Got a Problem"

12 a combat medal won by TX Audie in WWII (abbr.)

13 TXism: "if the saddle squeaks, \_\_\_\_\_ for"

14 TXism: "he has short \_\_\_\_\_ and deep pockets"

15 TXism: "fought tooth and \_\_\_\_\_"

16 Texas 1940s "scream queen," Gwynne

18 \_\_\_\_\_ sequitur

20 TXism: "that'll \_\_\_\_\_ nicely"

23 Cowboy CeeDee Lamb pos.

24 "\_\_\_\_\_ Olde Shoppe"

25 TXism: "do my sums" (plural)

26 belief in God

27 "The King Ranch" author (2 wds.)

32 Yo \_\_\_\_\_ Digo Creek

33 TXism: "grabbin' \_\_\_\_\_ straws"

34 TXism: "get while the gettin' \_\_\_\_\_ good"

36 TXism: "his facts \_\_\_\_\_ elastic" (liar)

37 poppa

38 Fort Worth billionaire (2 wds.)

39 in Eastland County on I-20

40 Hebrew word for "rose"

41 TXism: "beats a poke in the \_\_\_\_\_ with a sharp stick"

43 western ballad by Marty Robbins in 1959: "\_\_\_\_\_ Paso"

45 Corey Seager's position on the Texas Rangers (abbr.)

47 TXism: "a \_\_\_\_\_ and a dollar short" (tardy & insufficient)

48 DA's bargain

55 tick bite disease

See Answers on this page.



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# Sports roundup

**By Tyler Sutton**

The Gladewater Bears baseball team headed to Longview to Pine Tree's Pirate field to open their 2<sup>nd</sup> round playoff series vs New Diana and in game one, it was New Diana that struck first with a run in the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> to go up 1-0. But the Bears answered right back tying it up with a run in the bottom of the first to make it 1-1 after one inning after a Landon King RBI double. But a 4 run 3<sup>rd</sup> inning by the Eagles was the difference as New Diana took a 5-1 lead and never looked back in a 10-2 victory. Maddox Vasquez went 4 innings giving up 5 runs with 4 strikeouts and 3 walks. Mason Budro also drove in a run. In game two, the Bears jumped out to a 2-1 lead after two innings behind a pair of RBI hits from Budro and Aubry Floyd. But the Eagles had an answer with a 4 run third inning to take a 5-2 lead and never looked back. A 7 run 5<sup>th</sup> inning blew the game open as New Diana ended the Bears season with a 15-5 win. Budro in his final start of his high school career gave up 5 runs in 3 innings with a pair of strikeouts. King drove in 2 and Floyd also drove in a run. The Bears finish their season at 16-13 with a bi-district championship.

The White Oak Ladynecks softball team ran into a buzzsaw in their 3<sup>rd</sup> round playoff series with Whitesboro as they were swept 2-0. In game one, it was the Ladynecks that jumped out to a 4-0 lead after an inning and a half but it was all Whitesboro after that as they put up a 7 run 2<sup>nd</sup> inning to take a 7-4 lead. They would add 3 more in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning to go up 10-4 and tack on more in route to a 14-4 victory. In Game 2,

White Oak again jumped out to a 1-0 lead after half an inning but Whitesboro again had an answer as they put across 2 in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> to lead 2-1. White Oak had an answer with a 3 run Nicey Potts homer in the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to take a 4-2 lead. But once again Whitesboro had an answer as they put up 2 runs in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> to take a 5-4 lead and they were able to close it out for a 5-4 win. The Ladynecks end their great season at 33-8 with a district championship, bi-district championship and area championship.

The White Oak Roughnecks baseball team rallied to take the final two games and advance to Round 3 of the High school baseball playoffs with a 2-1 series win over New Boston. In game one, the Lions put up 3 runs in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> and their stellar pitching frustrated the White Oak bats all night in rout to a 4-0 win. But in game two, it was the opposite as it was White Oak's pitching that made New Boston's offense non-existent in a 5-1 Roughnecks win. Starter Logan Langwesich gave up just 1 run on 5 hits in 6 innings with 5 strikeouts. Jaxsen Ludlow had a pair of hits and drove in 2. Tyson McKinney drove in one. In the winner take all game three, White Oak took it 4-2. A 3 run fourth inning was the difference. The Roughnecks move on to round 3 and a matchup with Bells. Location and game dates to be determined.

The Union Grove Lady Lions softball team continued their magical season as they advanced to round 4 and the final 8 in the 2-A softball playoffs as they defeated the Joaquin Lady Rams 2-1 in



**UNION GROVE LADY LIONS - REGIONAL SEMI-FINAL CHAMPS!** The Lady Lions will move on to play Groveton in the Regional Final game later this week - at Rusk High School - Game One: Thursday 6 pm; Game Two: Friday 6 pm; and Game Three: Saturday 2 pm (if needed).

Hallsville. In game one, it was a pitchers duel as it was a scoreless game through 4 innings. Joaquin put across 2 in the top of the fifth to take a 2-0 lead. But Union Grove chipped away getting 1 back in the bottom of the fifth to make it 2-1. Then they tied it in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> at 2-2. Then Noah Delaney walked it off in the bottom of the seventh with a rbi single for the 3-2 Lady Lions win. Game two was the opposite as it was all Lady Rams as they won in a blowout 9-1. 3 runs a piece in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> innings was the difference. That led to the winner take all game. It didn't look good for a while as Joaquin lead 5-0 through five innings. But a remarkable 9 run bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> for Union Grove propelled them ahead 9-5. Olivia D'Abreu drove in two in the inning and Hannah Carter one. The Lady Rams got one in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> but it wasn't enough as the Lady Lions closed it out in a 9-6 victory. The Lady Lions move on to the regional final against Groveton. Times and location to be announced at a later date.



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Photo by Chris Jones

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Pictures: [DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com](http://DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com)

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 2026-0136-E

IN THE ESTATE OF	\$	IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW
WILLIAM SCOTT HUFFHINES, JR.	\$	NO. 2
DECEASED	\$	GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS

**Notice to Creditors**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of WILLIAM SCOTT HUFFHINES, JR., Deceased, were issued on April 30, 2026, under Docket No. 2026-0136-E, pending in the County Court at Law No.2 of Gregg County, Texas, to JASON NIX.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,  
 Estate of WILLIAM SCOTT HUFFHINES, JR., Deceased  
 c/o Courtney Anne Harris  
 PO Box 4373  
 Longview, Tx 75606

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

DATED May 5, 2026.

By *Courtney Annett Harris*  
 Attorney for Applicant




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## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Chapters 501 and 505 of the Texas Local Government Code, notice is hereby published regarding the planned expenditure of Type B sales tax proceeds on an eligible project, as defined in chapters 501 and 505 of the Texas Local Government Code.

The White Oak Economic Development Corporation and the White Oak City Council have approved an incentive to grant \$195,000 to Rick's Sign Company LLC for the purpose of renovation. The grant reimbursement will be made after receipts have been turned in.

The White Oak Economic Development Corporation and the White Oak City Council have approved an incentive to grant \$25,000 to Industrial Lubrication Services, LLC, for the purpose of remodeling office space. The grant reimbursement will be made after receipts have been turned in.

The White Oak Economic Development Corporation and the White Oak City Council have approved an incentive to grant \$50,000 to Jucy's Hamburger, for the purpose of purchasing the building located at 106 U S Hwy 80.

Funding for said project shall occur after the expiration of 60 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

## Who cares about public notices?

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# What's Happening?

## KC offering several youth camps this summer

Kilgore College will host a variety of camps for children and youth this summer, offering opportunities in athletics, fine arts and recreational activities.

Camps scheduled this summer include pickleball, football, dance, softball, basketball and acting.

For more information and registration links, visit [www.kilgore.edu/summer-camps](http://www.kilgore.edu/summer-camps).

- Camps offered this summer:
- Pickleball Youth Camp:  
When: June 1-4 (Mon-Thurs)  
Ages: 7-12  
Time: 9 to 11 a.m. each day
- Football Youth Skills Camp:  
When: June 8-11 (Mon-Thurs)  
Ages: 7-15  
Time: 8 to 11 a.m. each day
- STEM Summer Camp:  
When: July 13-17 (Mon-Fri)  
Ages: 8-12  
Time: 9 a.m. to Noon each day
- Rangerette Summer Dance Camp, Session 1:  
When: June 18-20 (Thurs-Sat)  
Ages: 7th-12th grades
- Rangerette Summer Dance Camp, Session 2:  
When: June 21-23 (Sun-Tues)  
Ages: 7th-12th grades
- Softball Youth Skills Camp:  
When: June 30-July 1 (Tues-Wed)  
Ages: Students entering 1st-7th grades (as of fall 2026)  
Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon each day
- Stephanie Williams Girls' Basketball Camp:  
When: July 6-9 (Mon-Thurs)  
Ages: 5-17
- Texas Shakespeare Festival High School Acting Workshop:  
When: July 14-19 (Tues-Sun)  
Ages: High school students
- Robert Byrd Boys' Basketball Camp:  
When: July 14-17 (Tues-Fri)  
Ages: 5-17  
Time: 9 a.m. to noon each day

## County leaders celebrate new facilities

Two county facilities will be in the spotlight next week. Gregg County Emergency Services District No. 2 will celebrate the opening of a new fire station in the Liberty City area Tuesday followed by the groundbreaking ceremony for the Gregg County Precinct 2 Service Center that Thursday in Longview.

Sabine Fire & Rescue issued a broad invitation to the 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. opening of Fire Station No. 1 May 19 at 4589 FM 1252 W. (a Kilgore address) off Hwy. 135.

"Join us for the grand opening of our new fire station and discover our state-of-the-art facility," organizers announced. "Meet our brave firefighters and telecommunicators and gain insights into the essential equipment that ensures safety for Liberty City and western Gregg County."

Overflow parking will be available nearby in front of First Baptist Church of Liberty City.

Two days later, officials from Gregg County and its Precinct 2 will break ground on the county's latest service center, beginning at 10 a.m. May 21 at 800 Gilmer Road.

"Please join us as we mark the beginning of this important project and celebrate continued growth and service to our community."

## Upshur County library activities

The Upshur County Library in Gilmer has several activities for children, teen-agers and adults scheduled this month.

In addition to the Friends of the Upshur County Library book sale Friday and Saturday (see separate story), the library will hold a "kick-off party" for its summer reading program, and a "mini-golf" game, both on Friday, May 29.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The summer reading program is for children up through age 18.

This Saturday, the institution will hold "STEM--Make and Take" for children ages 5-11 from 11 a.m. to noon.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Children assemble objects related to those subjects from a kit, and get to take their creations home.

Another activity set this month is "Teen Game Night" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 30.

## Draper makes TASB honor roll

Journalists play a valuable role in public education.

The TASB Media Honor Roll recognizes these individuals and media outlets for reporting fair, accurate, and balanced stories on our schools.

Gladeswater Mirror's James Draper was nominate for this award this year for Gladewater ISD coverage.

TASB recognizes media representatives in three categories: print, radio, and television.

Criteria for honorees include the following:

- Make the effort to get to know the superintendent, board president, and district's mission and goals
- Report school news in a manner that is fair, accurate, and balanced
- Highlight positive developments in schools
- Visit campuses in the district
- Maintain a policy of no surprises by sharing information with school representatives.

## Recent rainfall eases drought conditions with cooler, wetter El Niño outlook ahead

Don't buy into the 'Big Mac Meteorology' of mainstream media too much – there's not much weather science underlying a 'Mega' or 'Super' label for El Niño.

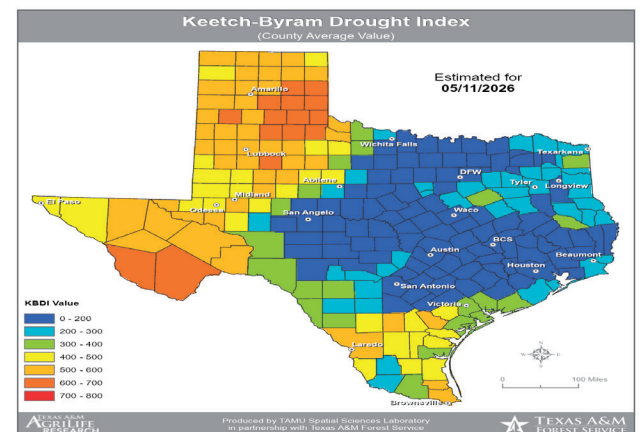
It's just another way of saying 'Strong,' according to Brandon Thorne, a meteorologist out of the National Weather Service's Shreveport office.

It will have an effect, Thorne added, albeit within current expectations and later in the year.

East Texas is currently in "neutral condition" through June, "Then the El Niño is likely to emerge more into the fall and winter months," he said. "This is going to bring cooler and slightly wetter conditions to East Texas.

"It can increase all kinds of things – flood risks, the possibility of more winter weather."

Flood forecasts are something Gladewater officials monitor closely in light of the 'Poor' condition of the Lake Gladewater Dam. City personnel keep a close eye on the lake level and have a standing set of emergency procedures in place should the water start to creep too high for comfort.



## OBITUARY

### Mark E Barnhill Sr.

GLADEWATER — Mark Edwin Barnhill Sr. passed away on May 10, 2026 in Gladewater.

Visitation will take place Sunday, May 17, 2026 at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater from 5 to 7 in the evening. A funeral service will be held Monday, May 18, 2026 at Croley Funeral Home starting at 11 a.m.

# Local drug ring dismantled

By Phillip Williams

An investigation initiated by an Upshur County sheriff's deputy, who was assigned to a federal Drug Enforcement Administration task force, has resulted in several law enforcement agencies' dismantling of a methamphetamine and fentanyl distribution ring, Upshur County Sheriff Larry Webb announced last week.

Seven suspects, including at least one from Gladewater, have been arrested by various agencies on drug-related charges since January, and another figure in the probe was killed by law enforcement in an incident in Gladewater last October, Webb said.

Several of those arrested on the drug-related charges face additional charges which aren't narcotics-related, Webb added.

Four of the suspects remained in the county jail at Gilmer on Monday, while others were in other county jails, and "eventually, there will be more arrests" as the investigation is continuing, said Webb.

The figure in the probe who was killed, 43-year-old Amanda Allen, was slain when Gladewater police and Gregg County officers tried to take her into custody and "she ultimately used her vehicle as a deadly weapon," forcing officers "to utilize deadly force to stop the threat," the sheriff said.

The DEA, Gregg County Sheriff's Office and Gladewater police had arranged a large delivery of methamphetamine from Allen, an associate of Cole Seabolt, 30, of Gilmer, he added.

Besides Seabolt, Webb identified the suspects, saying he didn't know some of them's addresses, as Michael Jones, 38, of Gladewater, Shannon Stouffer, 57, Kelly Ann Miller, 47, of Gilmer, Daetrum Odum, 26, of Gilmer, Seth Seabolt, 31, and Jason Williams, 47.

Cole Seabolt was in Upshur County Jail although arrested in Smith County, while

Jones, Odum and Miller were all arrested and jailed in Upshur County, Webb said Monday.

The sheriff, who announced the initial apprehensions in a May 6 news release, said Monday the case involved a "very lengthy investigation" because "it takes time to put all the pieces together."

Webb wrote that the unnamed Upshur deputy started the probe into "drug trafficking operations" of Cole Seabolt, "known as a drug supplier in Upshur County."

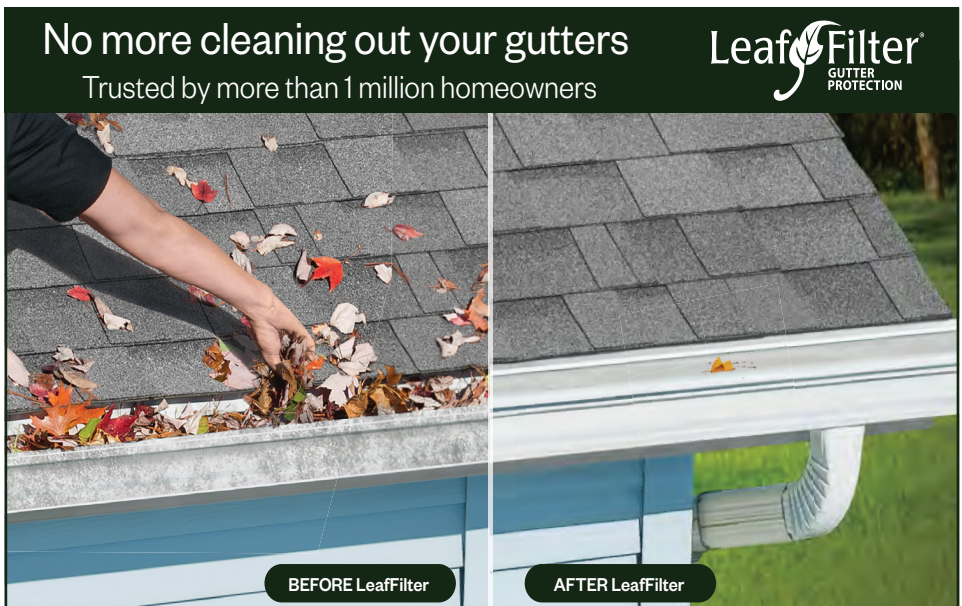
"The investigation quickly revealed a drug trafficking organization with a long-standing issue which has plagued Upshur County and other surrounding counties with a high influx of methamphetamine and fentanyl," the news release said.

The DEA, U.S. postal inspectors and the Gregg County Sheriff's Office "initiated a comprehensive investigation into the drug organization, identifying numerous suppliers to include a couple of DEA priority targets identified as Michael Dewayne Jones, a.k.a. Sleepy, and Daetrum Odum, said the sheriff.

"After years of work, the investigation concluded in January" with the arrests of the two Seabolts, Jones and Odum, Webb added. "The other members of the distribution organization have now been arrested."

Investigators seized nine firearms, 1.2 kilograms of methamphetamine, 344 grams of fentanyl powder, 678 grams of counterfeit oxycodone pills "and more importantly, (accomplished) the complete dismantlement of the organization," the news release continued.

Webb expressed gratitude to the previously mentioned agencies and to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Titus County Sheriff's Office, Mount Pleasant Police Department, Daingerfield Police Department, and a representative of Henderson Police Department.



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## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

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— Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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# New Union Grove superintendent grateful for warm welcome as school years draws to a close

By James Draper

A month-and-a-half has flown by for Union Grove's new superintendent, and Dr. Greg Bower's overflowing with praise for the district. Bower took the reins April 1, and he's eager to see the latest crop of Lion graduates walk the stage May 22.



"The state of Union Grove ISD is it's doing well, it is successful and it is thriving because of the caring, nurturing nature of our staff members and the good families values that our parents have instilled on the children of our community," Bower said last week. "Just today, I walked through about half of the elementary classes. We've got less than three weeks of school left..."

Sometimes school districts will let the leash off and things will start slacking off a bit. Not at UGISD: "I saw teachers teaching and kids learning, kids excited about what they were learning and teachers just really involved and hands-on with the kiddoes."

It's the same state of affairs at the high school, he added. "There's good instruction going on and good learning."

The district's Spring band concert was a great experience, the One Act Play cast and crew did a phenomenal job this semester, baseball and softball are at the top of their game while the track team made a solid stand at Regionals.

"Everybody's just working hard, man. It's a good feeling with good folks, adults and kids."

Bower said he's particularly impressed to walk the halls and be greeted by smiling students with confident handshakes.

"That's indicative of the good foundation of politeness and family morals our parents have instilled on the kids," Bower said. "I'm lucky to be here, I really am."

Early into his tenure leading the school, Bower is still navigating the district's opportunities and challenges.

"There's always room for improvement," he added, but it's a strong foundation: "I'd like to take what we've got going here and make it even better."

"I'd like to make sure we're transparent for the parents – if there's ever an issue, that they feel comfortable calling me and working through whatever those problems are."

It's a priority to continue conversations with local authorities and first responders so they have a close relationship with the district and its leadership.

Meanwhile, "I need to continue developing a relationship with the teachers," Bower said. "I'm instilling what my beliefs are and laying the groundwork for some direction they need to follow."

Budget season is nigh, and school officials are considering minor needs, cleaning and sprucing, alongside major tasks to tackle.

"I think we have an incredible school board that truly is focused on making sure our school is the best it can be for kids," Bower said. "We're starting to push the limits on some of our facilities," with an eye to "expand, grow, fix, build" in the years ahead. "That picture's starting to become a little bit clearer to me."

"Those are going to be some of the tougher conversations I'm going to have with the community in the future if they want this to be an area of pride in this region."

With graduation and other end-of-year activities coming, he hopes to meet more families before school's out for the summer.

"I encourage the parents to come up and introduce themselves to me."



Paytin Thompson and Landon Hogue were selected as the Gladewater Lions Club's May Students of the Month at Gladewater High School.



The Education Foundation Gladewater honored all the GISD employees with a Fabulous Cookie placed in their personal box. We appreciate how each campus and/or department is an important part of the puzzle.

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