

# Gladewater Mirror

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢



## Crimber wins Xtreme Bulls as Round-Up celebrates 89th rodeo

It's a wrap and it was great! Eric Novoa, won the bull riding competition with a score of 87.5 points and snagged a part of the \$63,442 purse that was up for grabs at the 89th Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo last week. Novoa rode Rafter G Rodeo's Desert Wind and claimed \$2,519.

Stephanie Fryar turned in an impressive time of 16.80 seconds in barrel racing and claimed a chdckl for \$2,057,k while there was a tie in the saddle bronc riding competition with Isaac Diaz, on Rafter G Rodeo's R watson's Walki, and Parker Fleet, on Rafter G Rodeo's Blue Velvet, each earning 80 points and \$1,734 each.

On Wednesday night - John Crimber, of Sunset, TX., won the Gladewater Round-Up Xtreme Bulls "John Quintana Memorial."

Crimber is a cowboy to watch - this year he became the youngest rider in PBR history to surpass \$1 million in earnings and the No. 1 overall pick in the PBR Teams Draft. And he is the youngest rider ever to win back-to-back Live Legendary MVP honors.

Round-Up Rodeo President Kyle Moore said Monday that attendance figures were just shy of 12,000 for the four nights and he felt it was another "awesome" rodeo for area fans. And next year - the 90th anniversary - is sure to be even bigger and better.

Others winners last week include: Bareback riding: 1. Lane McGehee, 87 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Ankle Biter, \$1,700; 2. Brayze Schill, 84, \$1,288; 3. Devin Byram,

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Clay Tryan was presented the "Silver Spur" award Thursday night, joining a stellar group of past recipients like Don, Jim, Neal, Terri and Pete Gay, along with Jim Shoulders, Quail Dobbs, Deb Mohon, Freckles Brown, John Quintana and Joe Beaver.



Paige Winters was honored Saturday night with the coveted "Director of the Year" award for her continued hard work with the Handicapped Rodeo held each year for handicapped youth.



John Crimber, of Sunset, TX., won the Gladewater Round-Up Xtreme Bulls "John Quintana Memorial" Wednesday - June 10. This year he became the youngest rider in PBR history to surpass \$1 million in earnings. The No. 1 overall pick in the PBR Teams Draft. And the youngest rider ever to win back-to-back Live Legendary MVP honors.

Congratulations to East Texas firefighter and White Oak High School alum Josh Bardwell on being named the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas' "Firefighter of the Year!" Josh is a true representation of what the fire service stands for. Through his dedication as a volunteer firefighter, career firefighter, and his service with the Texas A&M Forest Service, he continuously goes above and beyond to serve others. His commitment to training, mentoring and helping those around him become better firefighters and better people has impacted countless individuals across our state.



## City of White Oak shaken by death of public works chief in wreck

White Oak Public Works Director Tracey Fears was killed Saturday in a multi-vehicle wreck that saw another driver arrested for intoxication manslaughter.

Fears was a family man, a 53-year-old father of four and father-figure to many others. He quit the oilfield almost 20 years ago and went to work for the City of White Oak in order to spend more time with his kids, according to a close friend and coworker.

At City Hall, Fears was promoted to superintendent over public works in 2012 and spent many of his off-hours coaching Little League baseball and shepherding local youths.

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## Autopsy pending following man's death at lake

A middle-aged man died at Lake Gladewater Thursday afternoon - an official cause of death has not yet been determined.

An autopsy is pending, according to Gladewater Police Chief Kyle Ready. Witnesses reported the local man (in his mid- to late-50s) collapsed while on an outing with family members at the beach.

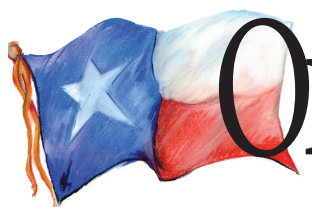
"He was in waist deep water with his granddaughter," Ready said, apparently looking for a lost pair of glasses when he fell forward into the water.

Ready was nearby at the lake warden's residence June

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Gladewater's annual Juneteenth festivities surged through downtown and into Bumblebee Park Saturday morning, commemorating June 19, the day in 1865 that word of slaves' freedom finally reached Texas. The celebration here rolled out on South Main Street with Grand Marshals Deborah Pike and Charles Gordon then Miss Juneteenth 2026, Kinsleigh Gordon, joined by runner-up Cierra Mays. A variety of parade-goers followed with Mayor Brandy Flanagan-Shipp carrying the Juneteenth banner alongside Sandra Smith, a member of the organizing Gladewater MLK/Juneteenth Committee. In addition to cars, trucks, motorcycles and emergency vehicles from Gladewater Fire & Police, the parade lineup included marching youngsters from Ma Bell's Children Inc. (top). Post-parade, attendees gathered for a freedom fest at Bumblebee including food, fun, fellowship and entertainment. (Lower right) Committee President Odette Alexander snaps a picture of the Miss Juneteenth candidates and other honorees. Photos by James Draper



# OPINION/COMMENTARY

## Happy Father's Day

Good dads are hard to come by. You know, the ones who are there for their kids when it matters most.

The ones who teach, guide and discipline. The ones that love their boys into good men and their daughters into the belief that they are worthy of respect.

I had one of the great ones. My rancher Dad did a lot right. First and foremost he loved our mother with tenderness, passion and faithfulness. Now that is not to say he was Prince Charming. He could bellow my Mom's name from the back 40... "JUANITA!" and she was expected to come running to bring a tool, hold a tool or help with whatever dirty job his two hands couldn't manage alone.

One thing I grew up knowing was that Mom was absolutely essential to my father's well-being. For a few years she went to a women's church retreat for two nights and Dad would pout for two weeks. It was sweet and funny to me. I am sure I drove my Mom absolutely nuts but it didn't stop her from going, bless her heart.

My Dad was a workaholic who expected his kids to follow his example. And my little brother Phil and I did just that. The cardinal sin was being found sleeping late. Which, of course, I did as long as Daddy was already in the field. In my sleep I could hear his truck or tractor coming up the road, be dressed with the bed made and look like I had cleaned the whole house. No kidding. I was great at this trick.

When I married Jim, my Dad took him as his son. That was it. Daddy now had three sons instead of two. He taught Jimmy how to plow and work cattle. Jim Bardwell is a fast learner and a hard worker. The thing is, my Daddy didn't just teach Jimmy how to ranch, he taught him so much more by loving him as a son. My Dad was proud of Jimmy.

After Jim and I had been married nine years our son Josh was born. I will never forget Jimmy's eyes and hands as he held Josh for the first time. It is one of my most cherished memories. However, two of my most vivid memories of Jim's parenting was coming home to find my 2-year old son roofing with his Dad...yep, UP HIGH. Baby Boy with his Little Tyke tools on the roof...having the time of his life. Then there was the time I found the dynamic duo on Jim's Shadow motorcycle...he eventually sold it, his choice, my relief.

Josh wrote his first published piece when he was seven years old... "Fishing With Dad" in East Texas Sports Magazine which we owned. Like father, like son. Ink is in his blood.

Jim taught Josh how to fix everything from plumbing to wiring to construction. Jim had learned most of these skills on his own or as an adult working for his step-dad Gary, who is one mighty fine guy. Josh learned it as fun with his dad...at least when he was little. When Josh got big enough to do sheetrock work that ended the 'fun with

## Powering Progress

The phenomenon that is AI, while certainly explosive, can only expand as rapidly as its essential fuel allows. With available land and opportunities to generate electricity, Texas is emerging as a primary center for the massive data centers that enable AI. Approximately one-fourth of all new activity (some 140 projects) is presently ongoing in the state, which is rapidly displacing Virginia as the epicenter of this activity.

Our firm has analyzed dozens of these initiatives. Construction of multi-billion-dollar campuses provides a substantial, though transitory, increase in business activity for communities across Texas. Once in operation, facilities provide well-paying jobs and opportunities for other local firms. Multiplier effects course through the economy.

Unlike many types of corporate locations, data centers require a relatively small workforce once operational and, therefore, are not substantially constrained by population size or training availability. They also do not require proximity to large urban markets. From the perspective of smaller communities, data centers represent a unique opportunity for substantial diversification and additions to the tax base without imposing extensive infrastructure needs such as schools, roads, or housing.

Even when competitive tax abatements are offered, data cen-



## The Best of Suzanne Bardwell

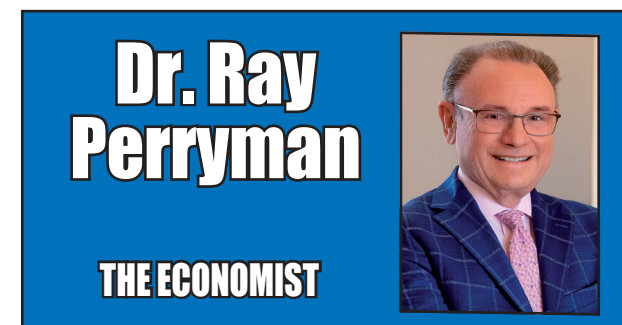


ter's represent major capital investments and invariably generate substantially more tax revenue than open land, which often qualifies for agriculture or timber exemptions. Moreover, any concessions generally expire in 10 years or less, and multiple expansion phases are common.

Indirect tax revenue is also generated by the increase in business activity (in this case, a lot of it). Retail sales and hotel occupancy increase, benefiting many local taxing entities. Higher incomes enhance housing demand, as well as fostering commercial outlets such as restaurants, stores, and personal service operations, thus further growing the tax base. This new activity increases taxes to counties, cities, school districts, and other local taxing entities without burdening existing residents. In some rural areas, the tax base increases several times over its prior level from a single project, thus enhancing the capacity to provide health care and other much-needed public services.

As noted in a recent column, the deployment of AI remains very much underway, and we do not yet know just how it will shape the future. One inescapable fact, however, is that the presence of data centers can be a game changer for local economies throughout Texas. As with any major construction endeavor, there can be short-term disruptions during development, and there have been some past examples of poorly conceived locations. These prior issues (such as water use) have been substantially reduced, and ERCOT is introducing effective new procedures to ensure that the grid is not compromised. Win-win situations should be the goal for all concerned, and they are definitely attainable. Stay safe!

Happiest of Father's Days to all the Dads out there. And guys, just remember the most important thing you can do to love your kids is to love their Mom. And secondly, teach them what you know. It matters. You matter. And the kids will never forget.



## Dr. Ray Perryman THE ECONOMIST

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

**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

### Gains seen in STAAR tests

Texas high school students showed improvement in every subject in this spring's end-of-course STAAR exams, the Texas Education Agency reported.

The results include assessments in Algebra I, English I, English II, biology and U.S. history. The biggest improvement was in biology, with 71% of students meeting expectations, up 9%.

"These results reflect the hard work of Texas students, educators and families and demonstrate that focused instruction and high expectations continue to produce positive outcomes for students across our state," said Commissioner Mike Morath. "These results may also be reflective of the legislature's ban of cell phone use in classrooms, so that students are better able to stay focused on their schoolwork while at school."

Parents and families can access their child's individual STAAR EOC results through their school district's family portal or by visiting [TexasAssessment.gov](http://TexasAssessment.gov) and using the unique access code provided by their child's school.

STAAR results for students in grades 3-8 will be available this week. Schools will begin phasing out STAAR end-of-year testing beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

### Charter school boom could bust

The pace of growth of charter schools in Texas slowed this past school year, with experts warning that the enrollment drops facing traditional school districts could begin to affect charters, The Texas Tribune reported. With declining birth rates, the growth of vouchers, and increased immigration enforcement, experts say the growth of charter schools may soon reverse.

"They're headed to a cliff, for sure," said Bob Templeton, a senior consultant with an Austin-based public policy firm called STRIVE. "And I don't know if it's going to be next year, but it could definitely be within five years."

Texas public schools this past year experienced their first non-pandemic enrollment decline in nearly 40 years, with 76,000 fewer students. The drop was primarily among Hispanic students in traditional neighborhood campuses. Charter schools still increased enrollment, but at a lower rate. They now educate roughly 446,000 students, or 8% of the state's nearly 5.5 million public school students.

"It was the changes in immigration enforcement that caused the enrollment to turn the way that it turned this year, especially as it relates to the Hispanic community," said Templeton.

### Update on screwworm response

Gov. Greg Abbott and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins briefed the public on the state and federal governments' ongoing response to the threat posed by the New World Screwworm. There have been 11 confirmed cases in Texas as of Monday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is importing and dispersing sterile male flies to combat the invasion, and the Texas Animal Health Commission has designated five "infested zones" that include Coke, Edwards, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble, La Salle, Sutton, Tom Green, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb and Zavala counties.

Texans are urged to report any suspected New World screwworm cases in livestock to the Texas Animal Health Commission at 1-800-550-8242 and report suspected wildlife cases to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) at (512) 389-4505.

### Texas leads in solar growth

Texas is leading the nation in new solar capacity, installing 50% more than any other state in the first quarter of 2026, the San Antonio Express-News reported. Across the nation, solar generation and battery storage accounted for 91% of new energy capacity.

"Texas is actually soon to overtake California for the most total installed solar capacity," said Daniel Giese, state director for the Solar Energy Industries Association. California now has 55.5 gigawatts of installed capacity, barely exceeding Texas' 53.5 gigawatts. A separate report from a global energy think tank showed that nationally, solar supplied more electricity than coal in May for the first time. Solar accounted for 12.8% of U.S. energy last month.

## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

“The newspaper ties a region together, helps make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square whose boundaries transcend Facebook's filter bubble.”

—Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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## REJECTING CHRIST'S TEACHING

In John 12: 48 we read: "He who rejects Me, and does not receive my words (sayings), has that (one) that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same will judge him in the last day." To refuse to receive the teachings of Christ (His words) is to reject Him. This is very important due to the disposition of many in the religious world today.

For example, it is by many taught today that one may "believe in Christ," and yet refuse to do what He says in reference to being baptized in order to be saved (Mk. 16: 16), wearing His name, instead of the names of men (Acts 11: 26; 1 Pet. 4: 16), and worshipping Him as He directs (Jn. 4: 23-24). But here Jesus says: "When you refuse to accept My teaching (Word) you refuse, to accept Me, and My Word which you refuse, will be that which will condemn you at the Judgement!" Please understand that Christ's message which proclaims life to the believer is the message which proclaims judgement to the disobedient.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount ends with the affirmation that those who hear His words and does them have a firm and solid foundation upon which to build their lives, while those who hear them and doeth them not are heading for catastrophe! (Matt. 7: 24-27). Jesus did not come into this world to execute judgement, He came to save the world, but judgement is the inevitable effect of His coming for those who turn their backs on Him and His Word. Dear reader, it is the wise man who listens to Christ's Word, because listening to His Word is listening to Him! Heb. 1: 1-2; Matt. 17: 5). Think on these things.

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

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

# GLADEWATER POLICE/FIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
06/07/2026	02:16:12	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	W LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 02:16:20				
06/07/2026	05:28:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	605 E PACIFIC AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 05:29:57				
06/07/2026	12:03:57		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 12:04:57				
06/07/2026	12:10:57	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	710 N TENERY ST
Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 12:13:22				
06/07/2026	12:46:12	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	CHICKEN EXPRESS 1101 E BROADWAY AVE
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 13:18:20				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 22:19:10				
06/07/2026	22:22:11		JUVENILE COMPLAINT	501 PHILLIPS DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 22:23:15				
06/07/2026	23:25:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	315 N LEE
Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 23:26:43				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/07/2026 23:53:45				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 00:02:07				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 06:31:05				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 07:01:23				
06/08/2026	11:40:49	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1918 warren plant rd
Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 11:41:56				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 13:14:55				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 13:21:53				
06/08/2026	14:35:55		MISCELLANEOUS	2104 PINECREST DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 17:37:06				
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/08/2026 17:38:30				
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06/10/2026	07:22:01	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	mikes mini mart
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 07:23:49				
06/10/2026	07:41:47	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	truman smith childrens hospital
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 07:43:44				
06/10/2026	08:18:07	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	1403 W. Lake #1
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 08:18:07				
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06/10/2026	16:20:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	2807 Hedtrichs
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06/10/2026	17:34:35	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	403 W Gay Ave
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06/10/2026	18:35:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	2505 W Gay st
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Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 21:27:06				
06/10/2026	21:33:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ASSIST MOTORIST	N MAIN/MELBA
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 21:34:24				
06/10/2026	21:46:49	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	400 W UP SHUR AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 21:47:16				
06/10/2026	22:24:23	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RECKLESS DRIVER	212 S MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 22:26:40				
06/10/2026	23:53:49		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	LAKE GLADE WATER
Sent To Dispatch- 06/10/2026 23:56:27				
06/11/2026	00:13:44	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W UP SHUR/DEAN
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 00:14:26				
06/11/2026	04:46:45	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	316 N COTTON STREET GLADEWATER TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 04:46:45				
06/11/2026	11:26:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 11:27:26				
06/11/2026	12:13:27	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	1209 N SHELL
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 12:14:56				
06/11/2026	12:44:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	PHILLIPS AND HWY 80
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 12:46:17				
06/11/2026	13:33:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	LAKE GLADEWATER
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 13:34:09				
06/11/2026	14:02:10		AGENCY ASSIST	GREGG CO
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 14:04:08				
06/11/2026	15:03:14	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	2207 W HAROLD ST
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 15:03:40				
06/11/2026	15:27:12		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	GLADEWATER
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 15:31:00				
06/11/2026	17:24:55		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 17:29:07				
06/11/2026	17:30:24		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 E SHEPARD DR
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 17:37:29				
06/11/2026	19:26:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	1400 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 19:26:49				
06/11/2026	19:38:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 S TYLER/FM 135
Sent To Dispatch- 06/11/2026 19:39:13				
06/11/2026	19:58:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	TELE'S
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 12:34:15				
06/12/2026	14:03:33		MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 419 W MARSHALL STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 14:04:15				
06/12/2026	14:10:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	BURGLARY	511 S TYLER ROAD GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 14:14:03				
06/12/2026	15:02:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	1606 SHELL CAMP ROAD GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 15:03:32				
06/12/2026	16:03:23		MISCELLANEOUS	606 W PACIFIC AVENUE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 16:03:39				
06/12/2026	16:48:10	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2205 PINECREST DRIVE GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 16:48:27				
06/12/2026	17:33:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RECKLESS DRIVER	FM 2685/W UP SHUR
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 17:33:40				
06/12/2026	19:22:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	LYLE/GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 19:24:44				
06/12/2026	20:32:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	511 S TYLER ROAD GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/12/2026 20:35:49				
06/12/2026	21:41:50	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	2287 W GEORGE RICHEY RD
06/13/2026	02:05:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	1407 E VIOLA STREET GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/13/2026 02:07:23				
06/13/2026	03:29:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/13/2026 03:30:38				
06/13/2026	05:16:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	3000 BLOCK E LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 06/13/2026 05:20:53				
06/13/2026	07:14:15		MISCELLANEOUS	1201 FM 2685 GLADEWATER, TX 75647
Sent To Dispatch- 06/13/2026 07:14:29				
06/13/2026	09:45:10	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	911 HANGUP	204 S LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 06/13/2026 09:45:34				
06/13/2026	09:55:15	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ESCORT	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 COMMERCE/MAIN

## WOPD Police Report

For the reporting period of June 8th through June 14th, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 155 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Suspicious Activity, Advice Calls, Burglar Alarms, Harassment, 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.

Three arrests were made during this reporting period.

Jose Mejia, 19, of White Oak, for Assault Causes Bodily Injury Family Violence, Evading Arrest or Detention, Public Intoxication.

Milton Braun, 58, of Longview, for Burning without a Permit, Failure to ID, Resisting Arrest, Search, or Transport.

Eris Williams, 37, of Gladewater, for Driving While Intoxicated with a child passenger under 15.

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

-Driving While Intoxicated.

-Driving While Intoxicated.

-Driving While Intoxicated 3rd or more.

## GPD Arrest Report

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Address	Charges
6/9/2026	SHEPHERD, DAJAI ALEXUS	701 E BROADWAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (FELONY)
			FAIL TO ID FUGITIVE INTENT GIVE FALSE INFO - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
6/9/2026	WEBSTER, GREGORY WAYNE	2200 HENDRICKS STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	WARRANT - OTHER AGENCY (FELONY)
			RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
6/13/2026	BALCOMBE, PAUL WANE	314 W SUNSET AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	VIOL BOND/PROTECTIVE ORDER
			CRIMINAL MISCHIEF >=\$100-\$750

# OBITUARY

## JOY PARSONS

Joy Renee Stephens Parsons went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 31, 2026, at the age of 84 at her home in Gladewater, Texas. Born on November 30, 1941, in



Hot Springs, Ark.

Joy lived a life marked by devotion to her faith, family, and community. Joy was a loving wife to her husband, Michael Parsons, and a nurturing mother to her children, Paul (Linda) Stephens, Donna (Calvin) Voluntine, James Stephens, Misty (Ernesto) Medrano, Todd Stephens, and Shannon Stephens. She was also a cherished grandmother and great-grandmother to numerous grandchildren. Joy was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Naomi Brandstrup; her first husband, Don Earl Stephens;

her sister, Shirley Carnley; and grandsons, Danny Stephens and Ethan McCaskill. A committed Christian, Joy was an active member of the Grace Crossing Church of God in White Oak, Texas. Her faith was the cornerstone of her life, guiding her actions and her service to others.

Professionally, Joy was, in her earlier years, the editor of the Kilgore News Herald and a passionate advocate for various causes. She loved to write and she was a teacher on the book of Revelation (end times). She was a missionary to the indigenous people of Northern Canada. She worked with the Red Cross, supporting veterans, and was a CASA agent, advocating in court for abused and neglected children. Joy also served as a chaplain and previously owned the Maranatha Bible Book Store where she continued to impact her community. Joy was a lifelong learner, having studied at Kilgore College. Her hobbies included interior design, gardening, reading, cake decorating, and flower arranging, all of which brought her great joy.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Joy may be made to the International Fellowship of Christians & Jews @ <https://help.ifcj.org/donate>, she deeply loved and supported the Jewish people. Joy's legacy of love, faith, and service will continue to inspire all who knew her. Celebration of life Service will be held at Grace Crossing Church of God 1201 N White Oak Rd. White Oak, Tx June 20, 2026 @ 2:00 pm.

# TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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### ACROSS

- 1 TXism: " \_ \_ \_ \_ hombre" (mean)
- 5 Mexican "house" cable car
- 7 \_ \_ \_ Park, TX
- 8 TXism: "fits like hide \_ \_ horse"
- 9 TXism: "she'd have to stand up twice to cast \_ \_ \_ \_" (skinny)
- 16 Gulf shrimp catchers
- 18 with "The," a John Wayne film (1956)
- 21 actress in Texas epic "Giant" (init.)
- 22 assert as a fact
- 23 " \_ \_ World San Antonio"
- 24 TXism: "got \_ \_ \_ \_ down" (proof)
- 30 spoke too long (2 wds.)
- 34 JFK commanded \_ \_ 109
- 35 TXism: "do-right boys"
- 36 TXism: " \_ \_ \_ as hens teeth"
- 37 TXism: "he could \_ \_ \_ furnace to the devil"
- 39 TX Don Henley song with The Eagles (3 wds.)
- 43 TX John Wesley Hardin alias
- 44 the brothers who drilled Spindletop
- 45 "The King" (init.)
- 46 TXism: " \_ \_ \_ of the litter"
- 47 this Holyfield beat TX Foreman in 1991
- 49 narrator of "Austin City Limits," Terry

- 52 socially inept person
- 53 boot width
- 54 Texas lands on the Gulf
- 55 TV operation
- 58 TXism: "covered like \_ \_ \_ \_ cat"
- 59 Astro headwear
- 60 TX Sly's "Everybody \_ \_ Star"
- 61 \_ \_ Rio, TX

### DOWN

- 1 film genre by late TX rancher Chuck Norris
- 2 former A&M BB coach, Tony (1991-98)
- 3 TXism: "slick \_ \_ \_ \_ melon seed"
- 4 San Antonio Zoo helped the \_ \_ \_ gazelle survive
- 9 TXism: "fat \_ \_ a boardinghouse cat"
- 10 highest point in Texas, Guadalupe Peak, is 8,751 feet above this (2 wds.)
- 11 TXism: "a frog in a skillet would \_ \_ \_ more fun"
- 12 TXism: "mad as \_ \_ \_ -eyed cow"
- 13 \_ \_ \_ Ranches sells high-quality Texas performance horses
- 14 TX Buddy Holly's " \_ \_ Boy"
- 15 this Studi was in 1997 film "The Killing Jar" with TX Brett Cullen
- 17 TX Roddenberry's "Enterprise" is in this group (2 wds.)
- 19 reproductions
- 20 a Texas Kiowa chief
- 24 this Petty was a "Traveling Wilbury" with TX Orbison and others (init.)
- 25 Dallas lane for high occupancy vehicles (abbr.)
- 26 UT grad, Wallach
- 27 rock or tree fungus
- 28 TX Roy Orbison had a four- \_ \_ \_ \_ range
- 29 in Colorado County on U.S.90
- 31 Texas-born Whitfield ran for five Olympic medals (3 gold)
- 32 sis's sib
- 33 USS Houston sub was launched from \_ \_ \_ \_ News, VA
- 38 this Frankie sang the theme song of "Rawhide" in which TX Rocky Shahan played a drover
- 40 TXism: "got a \_ \_ \_ \_ like a steel trap" (very smart)
- 41 TXism: " \_ \_ as dirt"
- 42 "E" of AME churches found throughout Texas
- 48 coral \_ \_ \_
- 50 this Gailey was Cowboys head coach (1998-99)
- 51 Odessa TV (CBS)
- 56 sane or rational
- 57 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

See Answers on this page.

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Last Puzzle

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# Sports roundup

## Timberhogs beat Yard Dogs, improves to 6-13

By Tyler Sutton

The Pineywoods Timberhogs continued their 10 game homestand as they welcomed in the Bryan Yard Dogs for a 3 game series where in game one, it was a successful night as the Hogs won it 4-1.

Second baseman Malik Berrien ripped a RBI single to give White Oak an early 1-0 lead in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning. DH Shemarr Stapleton added to the lead in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning when he beat out an infield hit and Berrien scored from 3<sup>rd</sup> to make it 2-0.

The Yard Dogs got a run back in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> to make it 2-1.

But the Hogs added two insurance runs in the bottom

of the 8<sup>th</sup> when Stapleton crushed a 2 run homer to make it the final of 4-1.

Pineywoods starter David Stich ( In what ended up being his last start with White Oak as he signed a contract with the Lexington Legends of the Atlantic League ) went 5 innings of shutout ball giving up no hits with 5 strikeouts. In the other two games of the series, the Hogs fell 9-6 and 19-6.

That was followed up by the Nacogdoches Niners making the trip to the Pineywoods where in game one, the Hogs scored 3 runs in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup> to steal one 3-1.

It was a scoreless game until the 7<sup>th</sup> when the Niners plated a run to take a 1-0 lead. But Pineywoods tied it up

in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup> when shortstop Trey Clark drove in a run with a RBI fielder's choice.

That was followed up with a 2 run single by catcher Brance Farrell knocking in two with 2 run single to make it 3-1.

Rupert Watson picked up the win in relief for the Hogs going 2 and 1/3 innings of hitless relief with one strikeout. Pineywoods lost the other two games of the series by scores of 15-1 and 11-6.

White Oak is now 6-13 on the season and will now hit the road for a short two game series at Fort Scott followed by returning home for four games with Meridian.



Classic (and quirky) vehicles line Pacific Avenue for Skipper's Pier's annual Classic Truck, Motorcycle & Car Show downtown Saturday, June 13.



**ABOVE:** Dax Adamson, 5, along with his art assistant, Lesa Lynn, paints a picture of Bluey June 13 at Iesha Fluellen's Painting in the Park in White Oak.

**LEFT:** Iesha Fluellen primes a canvas with an outline of Bluey for the one of the 38 children who attended the free four-hour event Friday at White Oak City Park.



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# What's Happening?

## Chamber plans red, white, blue blast with annual extravaganza July 3

Put a little more effort into the Fourth of July attire this year – Gladewater Chamber of Commerce wants to see as much of the red, white and blue as possible come July 3.

Nationwide, the #America250 effort has primed the pump for patriotic celebrations this Independence Day, and the annual fireworks show at Lake Gladewater will be no exception.

"It is the 250th, so we'll really be playing that up in our celebrations," according to Lois Reed, chamber president.

She's gathering gifts to award the best dressed man, woman, boy and girl who's on-hand for judging at 7 p.m. that Friday evening.

"Extra point if you're a historical figure," Reed added, "such as Uncle Sam, George Washington, Betsy Ross, Ben Franklin..."

The overall event kicks-off at 4 p.m. that afternoon – early arrivals will enjoy prime parking alongside food trucks, games, DJ'd music and other entertainment.

The annual skydiver drop-in with the Stars & Stripes is set for 6 p.m. and this year's boat parade will be center-stage on the water at 8 p.m. Fireworks are set for 9 p.m.

Parking on the grass will once again be \$5 per vehicle. For more information, contact Gladewater Chamber of Commerce at 903-845-5501.

## Fundraising fish fry set

The Big Brothers Giving Back organization, a volunteer group of men who mentor boys, will hold a fund-raising fish fry in Gilmer June 26-27.

The event is scheduled for 11 a.m.-3 p.m. both days at the organization's facility at 1002 Texas 154 West, near Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative.

For a \$15 donation, the menu includes one plate of farm-raised catfish, french fries, cole slaw, hush puppies and soda and/or water.

On-site dining and take-out orders are both available.

Kevin Finch, founder and president of the organization which has been honored for its work by the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce, said it mentors boys age 10 and older who are in "need of guidance," possibly lacking a father figure or good role model.

Its forthcoming programs include hearing a representative of the Texas Department of Public Safety discuss distracted teenager driving, a representative of Etex Telephone, and nurses making presentations on self-health care, said Finch.

Finch said he is also seeking a dental hygienist to address the youngsters. For more information on the fish fry or the group, call him at 903-841-8414.

## Upshur eyeing water district

Upshur County Commissioners Court, along with County Judge-elect L. Brandon Dodd, on Monday discussed the possibility of the county "joining a multi-county effort to create a regional groundwater conservation district" which might include 15 other northeast Texas counties.

It was another development in a long-ongoing controversy over what some citizens feel is an attempt by the Dallas area to take away East Texas water.

The item was on the court's agenda only for discussion, not a vote, but County Judge Todd Tefeller said it would be on the agenda of the court's next meeting, currently scheduled June 30.

During the commissioners' meeting Monday in Gilmer, at which a bare quorum was present, Upshur Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle said "I think we need to take a real serious look at it (joining the proposed district)." He added "we've got to do something because" the Dallas-Ft. Worth area is "after our water" and would leave this area none.

Tefeller said the county's joining the district would be subject to approval by both the state Legislature and the commissioners court, but not voters.

"I'm for what y'all (those wanting to protect East Texas water) are trying to do," said Tefeller, an attorney who said he favored hiring law firms with "expertise on this" as "this is our water."

Before the court and Dodd discussed the issue, an Upshur Countian who is a retired public works director, Byron Hardin, told commissioners there were "pros and cons" to joining the district, but that East Texas is "wide open to whoever wants to drill" and draw water from aquifers.

He urged paying attention to Upshur's needs when deciding what to do. After the court discussed the matter, Hardin said he didn't oppose the potential district, but warned that a regional approach to the problem might lead to "property restrictions."

He urged "due diligence" be applied for the county to take precautions for Upshur's interest.

Dodd, who succeeds the retiring Tefeller Jan. 1 and who addressed the court at Tefeller's request, said he favored joining the 15 counties in the district and hiring legal representation to form the group.



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White Oak PD Dispatcher of the year- Laci Pepper



White Oak PD Officer of the year- Officer Matthew Odom.

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City of Gladewater  
Preserving the past while embracing the future  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
There will be a public hearing before the City of Gladewater Planning & Zoning Commission on July 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a Specific Use Permit request for an RV Park at AB 56 M DILLARD TR 57-04 and AB 56 M DILLARD TR 57-02; more commonly known as the vicinity of S. Loop 485 near Roden Lane.  
There will be a second public hearing held by the Gladewater City Council on July 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.  
All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in these public hearings. If you are unable to attend these meetings you may send written comments to Judy Van Houten, City Secretary, City of Gladewater, PO Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647.

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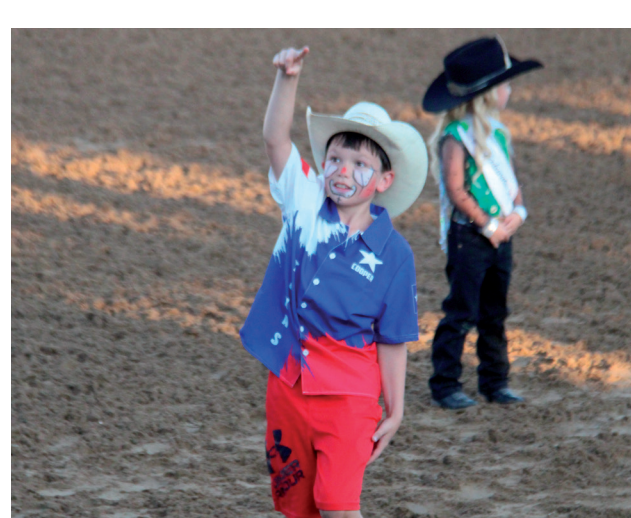
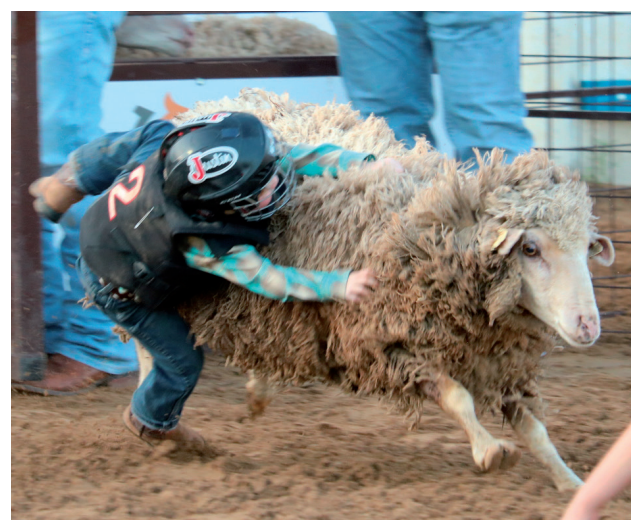
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Gladewater ISD is seeking Request for Sealed Proposals (RFP) for the purchase of 2027 school buses.  
RFP Number: 27-34-001  
Proposals are available at the Gladewater ISD Business Office or online at www.gladwaterisd.com  
Proposal Submission Deadline: June 26, 2026  
Submission Location: Sealed proposals must be submitted in hard copy to Gladewater ISD Business Office  
Attn: Candy Keller, CFO  
200 East Broadway  
Gladewater, TX 75647  
Queries about the project and RFP should be directed to Candy Keller, CFO kellercc@gladwaterisd.com or 903-845-6991 ext 621

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Thanks You To All Our Buckaroos!

# Crimber wins Xtreme Bulls as Round-Up celebrates 89th rodeo

Continued from Page 1

79, \$927; 4. Brent Applegarth, 72, \$618; 5. Connor Griffith, 50, \$361; no other qualified rides.

Steer wrestling: 1. Trace Harris, 3.7 seconds, \$2,119; 2. Sam Shofner, 4.1, \$1,842; 3. A.D. Davis II, 5.6, \$1,566; 4. Colten Leech, 6.5, \$1,290; 5. Mitch Hutto, 6.8, \$1,013; 6. Cade Goodman, 6.9, \$737; 7. Walt Arnold, 8.4, \$461; 8. Tatum Roberts, 8.6, \$184.

Team roping: 1. Kolter Jackson/Jud Jackson, 4.8 seconds, \$1,997 each; 2. Joshua Torres/Jake South, 5.2, \$1,653; 3. Clint Wallace/Heath Williams, 5.4, \$1,309; 4. Caleb Mitchell/Seth Smithson, 5.8, \$964; 5. (tie) Colton Clayton/Blake Walker II and Clay Tryan/Kelby Frizzell, 6.1, \$482 each.

Saddle bronc riding: 1. (tie) Isaac Diaz, on Rafter G Rodeo's R watsn's Walki, and Parker Fleet, on Rafter G Rodeo's Blue Velvet, 80 points, \$1,734 each; 3. Hunter Great-house, 79, \$1,076; 4. Ross Price, 75, \$717; 5.

(tie) Quay Lloyd, Warwick Southern and Tom Webster, 73, \$239 each.

Tie-down roping: 1. Luke Coleman, 8.0 seconds, \$2,540; 2. Kaleb Bedsole, 8.7, \$2,209; 3. Spence Barney, 8.8, \$1,878; 4. Spur Valdez, 9.3, \$1,546; 5. (tie) Polo Bacque II, Cameron Crow and Tater Jordan, 9.7, \$884 each; 8. (tie) Chris McCuiston and Lane Webb, 10.2, \$110 each.

Barrel racing: 1. Stephanie Fryar, 16.80 seconds, \$2,057; 2. Rainey Skelton, 17.15, \$1,748; 3. Kaycee Killingsworth, 17.29, \$1,440; 4. Ari-Anna Flynn, 17.34, \$1,234; 5. Billie Harmon, 17.38, \$1,028; 6. Lindsay Sears, 17.41, \$720; 7. Faith Nolte, 17.50, \$514; 8. Maggie Wright, 17.51, \$411; 9. Kenna Kaminski, 17.56, \$360; 10. (tie) Dina Allred, Madison McCaffity and Delaney Siebert, 17.61, \$257 each.

Bull riding: \* 1. Eric Novoa, 87.5 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Desert Wind, \$2,519; 2. Kaiden Loud, 85.5, \$2,078; 3. Taylor Allen, 81, \$1,700; no other qualified rides. \*(all totals include ground money).



Ashton Culberson was honored Friday night with the coveted "Wrangler of the Year" award for her continued hard work behind the scenes to make the rodeo run smoothly.



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## City of White Oak shaken by death of public works chief in wreck

Continued from Page 1

"He wasn't just my boss. He was like a brother to me," says longtime colleague and cohort Dale Tuttle. "He was a good Christian man. He was a devoted family guy. He was extremely proud of his kids and everything that they did. He talked about them night and day.

"Best boss I ever had. He was fair. He cared about his employees and would bend over backwards to get them where they needed to be."

Fears was killed and multiple people were injured shortly after 3 p.m. June 13. His wife and son were taken

by helicopter to a hospital in Tyler.

According to an ongoing Texas DPS investigation, Fears was northbound on FM 3053 outside Kilgore when his vehicle was struck by a westbound driver on FM 1639 who reportedly ran a stop sign. Fears' pickup was pushed toward the southbound lane into a head-on collision with another vehicle.

Tanner Griffin Templeton, a 22-year-old Hallsville resident, was arrested Saturday and booked into the Rusk County Jail on charges of Intoxication Manslaughter with a Vehi-

cle (\$200,000 bond) and Intoxication Assault with a Vehicle causing Serious Bodily Injury (\$75,000).

Per DPS, Templeton failed field sobriety tests on the scene before he was taken to a hospital for treatment. Passengers in Templeton's vehicle were reportedly injured as well.

Stephanie Fears and Braden Fears remain hospitalized in Tyler with serious injuries.

Officials and employees at White Oak City Hall are reeling from the news, City Coordinator Jimmy Purcell said Monday.

"We still really can't believe it happened. It's a horrible deal," he said. "All of us are coming together to put our thoughts and prayers together and send them out to the family."

Fears was dedicated to his wife and kids, his department, his workers and his community. Baseball was a passion.

"He had been an umpire for many years," Purcell added, "and saw a bunch of White Oak kids grow up and become adults."

No matter what, the man was fair, Tuttle praised, committed to speaking truth. Fears opened his heart and his home to his ball players and any other youngster in need.

## Autopsy pending following man's death at lake

Continued from Page 1

11. A Gladewater Public Works employee raced up to the house about 1 p.m.

"He saw the commotion going on down on the beach," Ready added. "I took off from the house, running down there. They had already gotten him out of the water."

Relatives were performing CPR as Ready approached, and an ambulance was soon en route.

"They transported him, but no avail. Tragic"

More details will be released following the autopsy.