

DPS offers tips for a safer school year

As students begin heading back to school, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reminds all Texans to exercise heightened caution and adhere to safety measures implemented to protect students, staff and fellow drivers this school year.

This includes tips on how to safely drop off and pick up your child from school, drive cautiously through school zones and talk to your family and loved ones about staying safe this school year and beyond.

“As the new school year begins, we’re asking every driver to slow down, stay alert and be patient—especially in school zones and car lines for pickup,” said Texas Highway Patrol Chief Bryan Rippee. “Children can be unpredictable and it’s our responsibility to keep them safe. A moment of impatience or distraction behind the wheel can have life-changing consequences. Let’s all do our part to make sure students arrive safely every day.”

Driving Tips:

Give students extra room and don’t assume they are paying attention to your vehicle. Students are often distracted by mobile devices, electronic devices or by other students, and they may not be paying attention.

Don’t block crosswalks when stopped at a red light or stop sign.

Follow the directions of school crossing guards.

Watch for children on bicycles traveling to and from schools.

Reduce your speed when you spot a school bus and know children may unexpectedly step into the road without checking for traffic.

Be careful around railroad crossings. School buses are legally required to stop at them.

Know the laws regarding school buses. According to Texas law, if a bus has alternating flashing red signals visible from the front or rear, drivers **MUST** stop before reaching the bus. Drivers can only proceed if the flashing lights are no longer activated, the driver signals you to proceed or the bus has resumed driving. Approaching drivers do **NOT** have to stop for a school bus that is operating a visual signal if the road is separated by a physical barrier or an intervening space. If a highway is only divided by a left-turn lane, it is not

Continued on Page 3



Photos by James Draper

WELCOME BACK!

It was high fives all around Friday evening at Weldon Elementary School as members of the Gladewater Honeybears welcomed students and parents alongside teachers and administrators for the annual Meet the Teacher event before Monday’s start of school.

And at Gladewater Middle School students and parents got the lay of the land during the 2026-2027 Meet the Teacher event July 31.

Friday became a district-wide back-to-school preview for all ages as parents walked their youngsters through Gladewater ISD’s various campuses and classrooms ahead of the start of the 2026-2027 school year bright and early Aug. 3.



City workers turn bend on water losses

By James Draper

Every gallon of treated water costs the community, and every gallon that’s not ‘sold’ is literally money down the drain.

The City of Gladewater’s teams in the Water Treatment Plant and Public Works Department have been tightening the flow, plugging the leaks and putting in extra hours to cut losses and keep the local operation running smoothly.

According to the city’s most recent ‘Water Loss Reduction Report,’ combined efforts by Water Plant Manager Wendy Emmel’s team and Public Works Director Brian Smith’s crew all but halved distribution system losses between 2025 and 2026. Comparing the first six months of the year to the same period in 2025, total losses were tightened by about 58.8 million gallons.

Meanwhile, total system losses – from raw water intake to customer billing – decreased by approximately 41.5 million gallons, a 24 percent reduction.

Key Performance Indicators for Water Loss Reduction

- 47% reduction in distribution system water loss
- 24% reduction in total system water loss
- 58.8 million gallons reduction in distribution losses
- 41.5 million gallons reduction in total losses
- Customer consumption remained relatively stable
- Improved communication between departments
- Faster leak identification and repair response

At the same time, “Customer billed consumption remained essentially unchanged, indicating that the improvement resulted from recovering non-revenue water rather than reduced cus-

Continued on Page 8



Gladewater High School Class of 2027 seniors decorate their parking spaces Wednesday, July 29.

Photo by James Draper

Tax-free weekend Aug. 7-9

The Comptroller encourages all taxpayers to support Texas businesses while saving money on tax-free purchases of most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend.

Qualifying items can be purchased tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

The 2026 sales tax holiday begins Friday, Aug. 7, and goes through midnight Sunday, Aug. 9.

The sales tax exemption applies only to qualifying items you buy during the sales tax holiday. Items you buy before or after the sales tax holiday do not qualify for exemption, and there is no tax refund available.

List of School Supplies:

Only the school supplies on this list priced under \$100 qualify for exemption from tax during the sales tax holiday.

- Binders
- Blackboard chalk
- Book bags
- Calculators
- Cellophane tape
- Compasses
- Composition books
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Folders – expandable, pocket, plastic, and manila
- Glue, paste and paste sticks
- Highlighters
- Index cards
- Index card boxes
- Kits*
- Legal pads
- Lunch boxes
- Markers (including dry erase markers)
- Notebooks
- Paper – loose leaf ruled notebook paper, copy paper, graph paper, tracing paper, manila paper, colored paper, poster board, and construction paper
- Pencil boxes and other school supply boxes
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pencils
- Pens
- Protractors
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Writing tablets

* For kits of school supplies that contain exempt items, as well as taxable ones, the taxability depends on the value of exempt or taxable items in it. There is no limit on the quantity of school supplies in a kit, but if the value of the exempt items is more than the taxable ones, the kit is exempt. If the value of the taxable items is more than the exempt ones, then the kit is taxable.

Clothing and Footwear Qualifying Items:

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy most footwear and clothing (sold for less than \$100) tax free. You do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate.

The exemption applies to each eligible item sold for less than \$100, and there is no limit to the number of qualifying items you can buy.

For example, if you buy two shirts for \$80 each, each shirt qualifies for the exemption because each is less than \$100,

Continued on Page 3

OPINION/COMMENTARY

What a privilege... What a responsibility

The first day of school is magical, mysterious, frightening and the open door through which children discover themselves, the world, and the satisfaction of learning.

We hope.

On the first day of school I always try to capture the moments of a life changing event. The first day of kindergarten.

A couple of years ago my 'first day' experience was a joy and a revelation about what is necessary to educate children in our schools today. Two darling girls were walking down the hall by themselves. I asked them if they were new friends or old friends. "New" they squealed. Then one solemnly informed me that at lunch she was going to share her hand sanitizer with her new friend.

I just as solemnly replied that I thought that was a very good thing to do.

One darling little boy ran up to me and asked if I liked his new haircut. I told the handsome young man that I thought he looked "very cool". He jumped in the air and high-fived me before skipping on to class.

I laughed my way down the hall until I saw two very small Hispanic boys get off what must have seemed to them an absolutely huge bus, only to go in the wrong door. They gently received kind directions from a hall monitor that they didn't quite seem to understand. Eventually I ran into them at the other end of the building looking lost. A lovely mom who had just dropped her child off in his new kindergarten class dropped to her knees in the hall and began to speak to them in their native language. I saw their shoulders drop in relief.

I wanted to cry.

Every child should come to school with food in their tummies, and the knowledge of numbers, colors, letters and...English. The children should be excited to enter a world of bright colors, interesting lessons and nurturing support.

And many do.

The Best of
Suzanne
Bardwell



But some are confused. Or battered. Or neglected. Or lost.

Some have never opened a book until they get to school. Nor have they seen an adult read a book.

And then we expect teachers to work miracles bringing them all up to state mandated standards immediately.

I will tell you this, our communities' children need our support and encouragement. So do our teachers.

So, to the eager young minds out there... godspeed! Enjoy the journey, be a sponge and learn as much as possible; for your future depends on your ability, adaptability and dependability. All skills that can be learned at school.

Teachers you are the shoulders upon which these children will stand. You mold the future. There is no more noble career than teaching.

None.

You, my friends, challenge minds, touch hearts and write the future.

So to all the little Bear and Lion cubs and little Roughnecks out there starting on this adventure, I pray that your days are filled with laughter and learning. And for their teachers, I pray for strength, wisdom, patience and insight.

You will need it all and more.

After all, you are holding the door to success open for these precious children.

What a privilege.

What a responsibility.

Gary Borders
Capital Highlights



Cyclosporiasis mostly in two regions

Nearly three-fourths of cyclosporiasis cases detected in Texas have been confined to two regions, The Dallas Morning News reported. The Texas Department of State Health Services provided numbers for each of the state's eight public health regions. Most cases this year, from the beginning of May until late July, have been reported in two regions: Region 11 and Region 6/SS.

Region 11 includes Corpus Christi and the southernmost part of Texas. Of the 106 lab-confirmed cases statewide, 48 were reported from that region — or 45%. Region 6/SS includes the city of Houston and Harris County, and an additional 29 cases were reported in that region. Together, the two regions account for roughly 73% of the state's cases.

The diarrhea-inducing parasite has hit other states hard. Michigan, for example, has reported thousands of cases. Texas thus far has seen cyclosporiasis cases at about the same level as in the past few years.

THC hemp products again banned

Effective July 31, products containing cannabinoids such as delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC and THCP are banned in Texas, following a years-long legal fight over state hemp regulations, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

The Texas Supreme Court on May 1 upheld the authority of the Texas Department of State Health Services to adopt rules that in effect ban those THC products. The Texas Hemp Business Council warned businesses on July 15 to prepare for the change.

"Businesses should evaluate their inventory and prepare to remove or sell through products containing more than trace amounts of delta-8, delta-10, delta-6, THCP, and other cannabinoids that fall within the reinstated definition before the July 31 effective date," the council said.

Texas consumers are now largely limited to ingestible and topical hemp products made with compliant delta-9 THC. Gummies, edibles and beverages containing no more than 0.3% delta-9 THC by dry weight remain legal.

Paxton says he will debate Talarico

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said last week that he will debate state Rep. James Talarico, D-Round Rock, in the state's U.S. Senate race, though no date has been set, The Texas Tribune reported.

Talarico, the Democratic nominee, said he had accepted invitations from Texas media groups for three debates. The Paxton campaign confirmed it had received the same debate invitations and said the attorney general plans to debate but did not commit to specific dates.

"Of course, we are going to debate James Talarico, and we look forward to engaging with potential debate hosts," Paxton senior adviser Nick Maddux said in a statement.

Talarico has agreed to televised debates on Sept. 22 in the Rio Grande Valley; Oct. 6 in Dallas; and Oct. 13 in Austin.

Maddux said the Paxton campaign was "close to terms with one outlet now and expect an announcement to be forthcoming shortly."

Meanwhile, a new Fox polls shows Talarico with a slight lead, according to the Houston Chronicle. The poll shows him leading Paxton by three points, 51-48, boosted by strong leads among independent voters and other key constituencies.

Measles outbreak in Montgomery Co.

The Texas Department of State Health Services issued a health alert after four cases of measles were reported in Montgomery County. All were members of the same family, were unvaccinated, and became infected after a person with measles traveled to Texas from out of state.

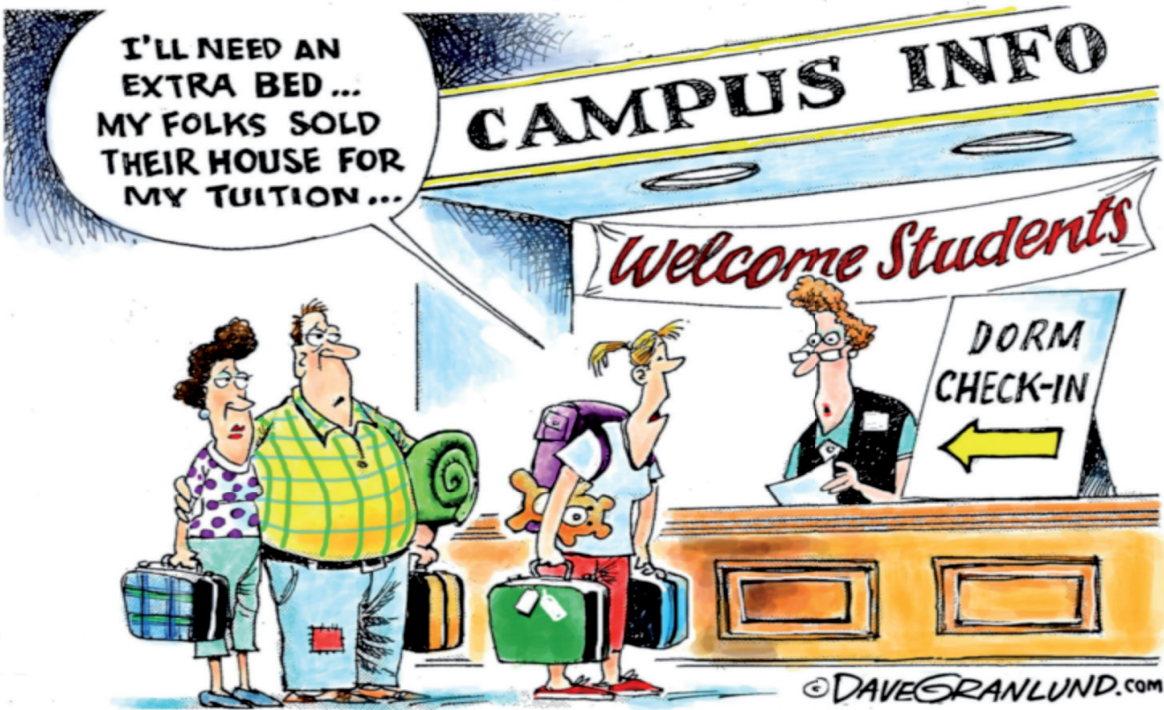
Because measles is highly contagious, DSHS is warning that additional cases could occur among unvaccinated people in the area. The agency encouraged health care professionals and the public to remain vigilant to the signs and symptoms.

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing. It can be caught by simply being near someone who is infected.

Voters wrongly flagged as noncitizens

Election officials across Texas should immediately reinstate some voters who were incorrectly flagged as possible noncitizens through a federal program, according to The Tribune. Christina Adkins, the state elections director, told county officials in a phone call that Texas Department of Public Safety records have confirmed the citizenship of some of the 2,724 registered voters singled out as potential noncitizens. The voters were flagged after the state checked its voter roll through a federal program called Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements, or SAVE, that is used to verify the citizenship of registered voters.

COLLEGE TUITION



Tariffs are taxes

Despite what you may have heard, tariffs are taxes on imported goods which the domestic importer usually pays at the border or point of entry. It's no surprise that some of this additional cost is then passed to consumers (a percentage that typically increases over time). When most people think about this process, it is in relation to finished goods. However, tariffs also affect imported inputs used by US manufacturers, reducing their competitiveness and further raising costs.

Consumer electronics, machinery, and industrial equipment manufactured in the US rely heavily on imported components and assembly. The supply chain in the automotive industry is complex and global. Steel, aluminum, lumber, and specialty products are used in construction and home appliances. In other words, even if final assembly is happening domestically, tariffs are affecting prices.

Information regarding import inflation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) sheds light on recent patterns in prices of goods from abroad. Import costs advanced 7.1% from June 2025 to June 2026, the highest rate in several years. Import prices from China (one of our largest trading partners) increased 0.9 percent in June alone, the largest monthly advance since January 2008.

The increase in import prices is significant for the economy. While the US is very competitive in producing many types of goods, there are others that we need to purchase from other countries for a variety of reasons. In some cases, such as labor-intensive production, it is far more expensive to manufacture domestically. Raw materials may also be needed from other areas. It has been established for centuries that we all do better when we specialize and trade.

Dr. Ray
Perryman



THE ECONOMIST

A major reason for higher costs is tariffs. Although they have come down significantly since early 2025, US tariff rates remain much higher than they were previously. Before 2025, the effective tariff rate was about 2.5%, compared to current estimates of 11-12%. Empirical evidence indicates that the vast majority of these cost increases have been borne by importers and, therefore, US firms and consumers. The effects of these increased costs are notable. Real gross domestic product is 0.5-1.5% lower than it would be otherwise, and consumer prices are 1-2% higher. Household budgets are also affected, particularly for certain categories such as appliances, furniture, clothing, home improvement materials, and vehicles. Moreover, it appears that additional tariffs are once again on the horizon.

The US economy is facing challenges on many fronts, including geopolitical uncertainty and conflicts in the Middle East, the aging of a key demographic group which has historically been essential to the workforce, and the adjustment to AI and all that it entails. Adding yet another headwind is an unforced error that is both unfortunate and unnecessary.

Stay safe!




The
Gladewater Mirror

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

News & Advertising Deadlines: Noon Monday
Office Hours - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Telephone: 903-845-2235

The Gladewater Mirror is published weekly by Bardwell Ink, LLC
211 N. Main Street
Gladewater, TX

POSTMASTER:
Send PS3579 to
The Gladewater Mirror
P.O. Box 1549
Gladewater, TX 75647

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

Email: gladewatermirror@aol.com

Owners:
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

Publisher/Editor: Jim Bardwell
Reporting: James Draper
Advertising: Darla Ferguson



CONVERSION OF LYDIA-TRUTH VS. ASSUMPTION

In Acts 16 a certain woman named Lydia, who was meeting with a group of women by the riverside, where Paul was preaching, was listening (Acts 16: 13-14). "The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul." It is obvious that God "opened the heart" of Lydia through the preaching of the gospel, because she was "listening to the things spoken by Paul." Verse 15 says: "And when she was baptized, and her household" (v. 15). Thus, Lydia and her household heard the Word of God, and the Word of God touched her heart, and faith was produced, and obedience followed. Calvinists use this verse to prove their doctrine of the "direct operation of the Holy Spirit" on the heart of the alien sinner. They believe that one is born in sin, and is unable to respond to the gospel until the Holy Spirit performs a miracle on his heart. But it is clear that Lydia listened attentively to Paul BEFORE her heart was opened, and it was the preached Word of God that God used to open her heart.

The assumption is, that these verses also prove infant baptism. It is explained like this: Lydia's household was also baptized, and it is assumed that surely there was at least one infant in Lydia's household. Albert Barnes, in his Notes on Acts, p. 241, said the following: "No mention is made of Lydia's household having believed, and the case is one that affords a strong presumptive proof that this was an instance of "household" or "infant" baptism for: (1) Her (Lydia's) "believing" is particularly mentioned. (2) It is not intimated that "they (her household) believed". (3) It is manifestly implied that "they (her household) were baptized because "she (Lydia) believed". It was the offering of her family to the Lord. It is just such an account as would now be given of a household or family that were "baptized on the faith of the parent." Wow! Talk about presumption!

It is assumed that Lydia was married, and had children, and at least one of her children was an infant, and it is assumed that her infant was baptized as were the others in her household, in spite of the fact that everywhere in the New Testament that one must believe before being baptized (Acts 2: 37,38; 8: 36-38; Mk. 16: 16). That is a lot of assumptions. Allow a person to assume whatever he wishes, and he can "prove" anything! That is not the way to discover truth. 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.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

What's Happening?

Lady Bears alumni game set Aug. 8

The Lady Bears annual Alumni Game is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8.

It's also a pop-up shop event with vendor spots available for \$25 each. All proceeds benefit Gladewater High School's volleyball program.

For more information, contact LaPortia Montgomery at 903-720-1287.

White Oak Library welcomes watercolor artists next month

The White Oak School & Community Library will host a 'Watercolor Collectives' art session from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, in the learning lab.

Participants should bring their own paint, watercolor paper and favorite brushes to participate in the free-to-attend event.

"Calling all local painters! Looking for a relaxed space to work on your art? Bring your watercolor supplies and current projects to the library for a casual, drop-in Watercolor Meet-Up," the library announced. "Free, low-pressure, and open to all skill levels."

Get more event updates via facebook.com/roughnecklib

Library's American history lecture series wraps Aug. 6

The final installment of Lee-Bardwell Public Library American history lecture series will include some throwback snacks to the Revolutionary War.

The third part of a trio of talks by Dr. M. Rhys Dotson will focus on 'After the Revolution.'

"We're basically going to conclude the Revolution and talk about the politics, which is not something people often think about – how things came about, how much animosity there was," library director Brandy Winn says. The young republic won the war, the battle began: "It could be considered the fight for freedom.

In other words, she quipped, "Let's have some fun and talk about who hated who and what they did to each other."

Set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, it's the final lesson from Dotson, adapted from his lectures as an associate professor at the University of Texas at Tyler. Previous talks include 'Precursors to the Revolutionary War' and 'The US Revolution War: Independence & Ramifications,' coinciding with this year's semiquincentennial America 250 celebrations.

Blood drive scheduled today

Carter BloodCare of Tyler will hold four blood drives in Upshur County in August, announced Donna Russell, a drive recruiter for the agency.

A community blood drive, sponsored by the Upshur County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is set Thursday, Aug. 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 101 E. Cass in Gilmer.

The address is site of the old Gilmer National Bank drive-through facility, now a county-owned building in a county-owned parking lot.

For more information on that drive, email County Extension Agent Julie York at julie.york@ag.tamu.edu.

A Big Sandy High School community and staff drive is scheduled Monday, Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 401 Wildcat Drive.

For more information, email kfields@bigsandyisd.org.

The same day, a Union Grove High School community and staff drive is set from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 11377 Union Grove Road.

For more information on it, email Mayhanj@ugisd.org

The final drive is set for 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at Walmart, 1923 N. Wood (which is also U.S. 271) in Gilmer.

For more information on that drive, email Drussell@carterbloodcare.org.

"Community support is especially important right now, as local hospitals continue to rely on volunteer blood donors to ensure lifesaving blood is available for patients when they need it," Russell said in a news release.

For more information on donating, contact her at 903-574-4998.

Roughnecks have days left for summer 2026

The back-to-school countdown's shifted to White Oak, and the Roughnecks' annual Meet the Teacher event is fast-approaching.

This year's campus tours are set for Monday, Aug. 10, running from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. overall.

The various campuses have staggered start times for the hour-long events with White Oak's primary school students set for 4:30 p.m. followed by intermediate at 5 p.m. and middle schoolers at 5:30 p.m.

White Oak High School's Meet the Teacher activities run 6-7 p.m. the same evening before classes kick-off Wednesday, Aug. 12 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Per the district calendar, Thanksgiving Break runs Nov. 25-27, Winter Break is set for Dec. 21 to Jan. 1, 2027, Spring Break is schedule March 8-12 and the Last Day of School will be May 20, 2027.

Treasure hunters show set

Four organizations will sponsor an "East Texas Treasure Show" on Saturday at the Gilmer Civic Center on U.S. 271.

Admission is free for the family-friendly event from 9 a.m.



Gladewater Rotarian Scott Owens welcomes luncheon speaker Stan Dulaney to the group's weekly meeting July 30. The local civic organization's members meet regularly at noon Thursdays in the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce conference room.

to 4 p.m.

Members of the sponsoring organizations "go all over the country and find stuff" such as native American artifacts, coins, very old tools, and military-related items, said Lisa Long, director of the civic center.

The items will be exhibited. In addition, children can pan for artificats in a sandbox and do sand art, she said.

Sponsoring groups are Smith County Treasure Hunters Association, Relic Hunters, Wood County Metal Detectors Club, and East Texas Treasure Hunters Association.

Sales Tax Holiday/Tax-Free Weekend

Continued from Page 1

even though the total purchase price is \$160.

Items That Don't Qualify: The following items do not qualify for exemption during the sales tax holiday:

- items sold for \$100 or more
- clothing subscription boxes
- specially-designed athletic activity or protective-use clothing or footwear

For example, golf cleats and football pads are usually worn only when people play golf or football, so they do not qualify for the exemption.

Tennis shoes, jogging suits and swimsuits, however, can be worn for other than athletic activity and qualify for the exemption.

- clothing or footwear rentals, alterations (including embroidery) and cleaning services
- items used to make or repair clothing, such as fabric, thread, yarn, buttons, snaps, hooks and zippers

- jewelry, handbags, purses, briefcases, luggage, umbrellas, wallets, watches and other accessories
- computers
- software
- textbooks
- certain baggage items (see below)

Unspecified supplies:

Face Masks

Cloth and disposable fabric face masks meet the definition of an article of clothing and are exempt from sales tax during the upcoming Sales Tax Holiday.

The statute specifically excludes special clothing or footwear that is primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use and that is not normally worn except when used for the activity. Industrial or medical grade masks (e.g. N95 or other masks designed as personal protective equipment) or other similar personal protection equipment are not exempt during the sales tax holiday.

If a cloth or disposable fabric face mask is sold with a filter, the mask is exempt during the holiday; however, replacement filters are taxable.

For additional information about the upcoming sales tax

holiday see Rule 3.365, Sales Tax Holiday—Clothing, Shoes and School Supplies.

Backpacks

During the sales tax holiday, student backpacks sold for less than \$100 are exempt from tax.

The exemption includes backpacks with wheels and messenger bags. You can buy up to 10 backpacks tax free at one time without giving an exemption certificate to the seller.

Baggage Items That Do Not Qualify:

The following items do not qualify for this exemption:

- framed backpacks
- luggage
- briefcases
- athletic, duffle or gym bags
- computer bags
- purses
- School Supplies

Only specific school supplies sold for less than \$100 qualify for the exemption, and an exemption certificate is not required.

Special Purchases:

School Supplies Purchased Using a Business Account – Exemption Certificate Required

If you buy qualifying

school supplies under a business account, you must give a properly completed Form 01-339, Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate (PDF), to the seller.

"Under a business account" means you are:

- using a business credit card or business check and not a personal credit card or personal check;

- being billed under a business account maintained by the seller; or

- using a business membership at a membership-based retailer.

Layaways:

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying items tax free when you:

- make the final payment on an item already on layaway; or
- choose an item and place it on layaway

Special Orders and Rain Checks

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying items tax free, even if the items have to be ordered.

For example, if you pay for an \$80 shirt that must be special-ordered or is on back order, and you pick up

considered divided, and drivers must stop for school buses.

Drivers who illegally pass a school bus face fines up to \$1,250 for the first offense. For people convicted of the offense more than once, the law allows for the person's driver license to be suspended for up to six months. Criminal charges are possible if a driver causes someone serious bodily injury.

Always obey speed limits and traffic laws in school zones.

Remember, texting while driving is illegal in Texas.

In addition to driver safety tips around school zones and near school buses, it is imperative to have regular conversations with your children about school safety and situational awareness during an emergency or severe weather event. DPS reminds Texas families of critical safety tips to ensure parents, guardians and children are prepared to navigate any potential emergencies or natural disasters that may arise this school year.

Safety tips:

Make sure your school has up-to-date emergency contact information, including phone numbers for parents, guardians and alternate contacts.

Keep a current, up-to-date picture of your child throughout the school year on your mobile device that shows identifying information. In the event of an emergency, law enforcement can quickly distribute the photograph of your child.

Talk to your child about what to do in case of emergencies, such as fire, active shooter or tornado drills, as well as other lockdown drills.

Remind your child to never talk to strangers or accept rides from anyone not previously approved by you.

Familiarize yourself and your child with their school's safety policies and procedures.

Ensure your child knows which adults at school (teachers, counselors, etc.) they can go to if they need help.

Continue to cultivate conversations throughout the school year on practicing smart safety at school.

DPS also reminds students, parents, teachers and school administrators about some other valuable safety resources:

The iWatchTexas program is a critical resource for reporting suspicious activity in schools and communities to help prevent dangerous attacks. Everyone is urged to download the free iOS or Android iWatchTexas mobile app before the start of the school year. Tips can be reported via the website, the mobile app or by calling 844-643-2251. All reports are confidential. For information on how to use iWatchTexas, you can view this how-to video.

Remember, iWatchTexas is not for emergencies. If there is an emergency on a school campus or in a community, call 911. Also, the program can be used to report suspicious activity in areas in addition to schools.

the shirt after the sales tax holiday, then it still qualifies for the exemption.

If you buy the qualifying item after the sales tax holiday, a special order made or rain check given during the sales tax holiday does not qualify the item for exemption.

For example, if you place a special order (or receive a rain check) to buy a \$50 shirt and do not pay for the shirt during the sales tax holiday, then the shirt is taxable.

Online Purchases and Telephone Orders:

During the holiday you can buy qualifying items in-store, online, by telephone, mail, custom order, or any other means. The sale of the item must take place during the specific period. The purchase date is easy to determine when the purchase is made in-store but becomes more complicated with remote purchases.

The purchaser must have given the consideration for the item during the period even if the item may not be delivered until after the period is over.



Electric Bikes (Scooters) ARE HERE TO STAY!

WATCH OUT FOR THE KIDS!

PLEASE

ACROSS

1 a house sits on this

5 this McEntire was
"Ma Tex" in "North"

6 "null and ____"

7 a TX Gatlin (init.)

8 TXism: "he couldn't
____ through a
barbed wire fence"
(bad eyesight)

9 ex-Cowboy tight
end, Billie Jo

15 this Lionel was
Texas Commis-
sioner of Education
(1991-95)

16 Terrell County seat

19 TX Gary Morris'
"____ Is All
It Takes" (1991)

21 Orange _____, TX

22 how to test your
raft? (2 wds.)

27 TXism: "____ your
heels" (relax)

28 TX Lefty Frizzell's
"Always Late With
Your _____"

29 this Emmylou
sang with TX Roy
Orbison

30 Astro/Ranger
"walk": "bases ____
____"

32 TX Rip of "Men in
Black" films (init.)

33 Weatherford library
has "Peter ____
____" in honor
of TX Mary Martin

36 TXism: "cold as an
outhouse ____ in
January"

37 TX Buck Owens
show: "____ Haw"

38 Joan Crawford was
born in Texas as
Lucille _____

39 hatless (2 wds.)

41 near El Paso:
"Ysleta del ____
Pueblo Museum"

42 15-month-old
Angelina Dickinson:
"____ the Alamo"

45 "R" of Boot Hill
acronym "RIP"

46 TXism: "take a look
____" (quick peek)

47 lavish social event

48 stats for Ranger
and Astro pitchers

49 Mesquite is on
the _____
of Dallas

52 safety agcy.

53 JFK assassin?
(init.)

54 late Texas actor
Joe ____ Baker

55 female sheep

DOWN

1 noted late guitarist,
TX Vaughan (init.)

2 Texan born 'tween
July 23 & Aug. 21

3 Taylor County seat

4 TX Audie starred
in Civil War film
"Red _____"
(1951)

8 TXism: "____ up
the river"
(imprisoned)

9 big marine event
in "Big D"
(3 wds.)

10 prefix meaning
"the reverse of"

11 three-time Texas
governor, Price
(init.)

12 ready to vote

13 makes mistakes

14 TX Vikki Carr
1988 album:
"____ Hombres"

15 something West
Texas often
doesn't have
enough of?

16 TXism: "a walkin',
talkin' tub a lard"

17 takes in too much
grub

18 young birds at
home?

20 TXism: "busy as
____-armed
paper hanger"

22 this Huffman was
a desperate
housewife like TX
Longoria (init.)

23 TXism: "in the
____ of luxury"

24 late Charismatic
evangelist, Roberts

25 "Gunsmoke's"
Marshall Dillon,
James

26 TXism: "snot paper"

28 Laredo AM radio
(Spanish language)

31 TXism: "shaking like
a ____" (scared)

34 a "right smart"
Albert (init.)

35 bath site

37 TXism: "if ____
rooster he'll crow"

40 TXism: "skedaddle
out of ____"
(go quickly)

43 sheep sound

44 Spanish newspaper:
"____ Texas"
(The Sun of Texas)

50 emitted light

51 state where TX
Holly died (abbr.)

TEXAS
CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.

P-1803

See Answers on Page 3

Shelves are bare, in need of fare for Manna House

By James Draper

Gladewater's Manna House food pantry is in dire need of a quick injection of items after assisting a steady stream of families Monday.

The stock's running low, according to Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed, wearing out her shoe leather to help spread the word Aug. 3.

"They gave away 18 boxes today," she said, depleting a substantial amount of key stock. "There's no cereal, no meat and very few canned goods on the shelves."

Any and all donations are welcome and appreciated as the nonprofit's dedicated volunteers work to keep locals in groceries. Any variety of food items help, Reed said, and cash donations go far as well – Manna House's workers will gladly go purchase more stock to keep a healthy flow of helping going out the door.

"If we served 18 boxes today in two hours, you know the need is out there."

Manna House of Gladewater is open 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from January through November at 517-A East Broadway Avenue, attached to Gladewater City Hall. Reach the food pantry at 903-845-3128, and learn more online at mannahouseofgladewater.org.

Digital donations can be made anytime via donorbox.org/manna-house-of-gladewater

Donations of food, clothing and other contributions are accepted during normal operating hours. Checks can also be dropped off at American Canopies on 171 N. Main Street during normal business hours.

The Gladewater Mirror welcomes grocery donations for the operation at 211 N. Main Street.

MANNA HOUSE RULES & GUIDELINES

- Households are eligible to receive 1 food box a month.
- Clothing is available during our usual hours, when helpers are available. Quantity taken is subject to limitation if warranted.
- Picture ID must be presented at each visit.
- Proof of residence in our community is required at registration.
- People living just outside our community and those that are homeless will be considered on an individual basis.
- Larger boxes are issued to larger families. However, there can only be one box provided for each address, no matter how many individuals are living in the home.

DONATE ONLINE

donorbox.org/manna-house-of-gladewater



Gladewater Mirror

facebook

Gladewater Mirror

"Your Hometown News Source Since 1928"



BE SAFE. WALK SMART.

No matter how you travel, following laws helps keep everyone safe.

If you're on foot:

- Use the sidewalk. If there isn't one, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic, unless it's obstructed or unsafe.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals, including at crosswalks.
- Cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks and look left, right, left before crossing.

If you're driving:

- Stop and yield for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians when turning at intersections.
- Obey the speed limit and pay 100% attention to the road.

BE SAFE. DRIVE SMART.



SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

NEED AN AFFORDABLE BUSINESS LOAN FAST?

Stop waiting on bank approval! Get the funding you need to expand now! Cash in as little as 7 business days or Less!

No closing costs if you qualify!

\$50K minimum

Must be in business at least 6 months!

And have \$10K per month in verifiable revenue!

No minimum FICO Score needed!

Call Mark N. 903-500-9343 Your small business loan specialist.





HLH DESIGN BUILD, INC.

ARCHITECTURE. DESIGN. CONSTRUCTION.

903-757-7202

HLHDESIGNBUILD.COM

Edward Jones

Partnering throughout the years to reach your financial goals.



Dallas D Long, CFP®

Financial Advisor

1420 N Main St Suite 101

Gladewater, TX 75647

903-845-6680

MKT-5894N-A > edwardjones.com



EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK

FREE GROCERY ITEMS AVAILABLE

No eligibility requirements, paperwork or ID required.

Gladewater Rodeo Grounds

HWY 80, Gladewater

Distributions: 3rd Tuesday of each month

10:00 am to Noon

While supplies last





Read Local

Local company. Local journalists. Local stories.

Consumer Cellular®

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

855-493-3803

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.



Bud's DISCOUNT TIRES

Highway 80 East Gladewater 845-5186

YOUR HOMETOWN TIRE STORE

BUD MAHAFFEY Owner & Operator

HOURS 7:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.



Mamma's Designs

Handcrafted ★ Painted ★ Custom ★ Pet Jewelry ★ Gourds ★ Paintings ★ Portraits

Artist: Dorothy Sweat

1971 S. Tyler (US 271), Gladewater

Follow us on Facebook - MammaDesigns

Ph: 903-387-2831 dasweat7@gmail.com

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

Sports roundup

Which Bears, Roughnecks and Lions to watch

By Tyler Sutton

Gladewater football is coming off one of its best seasons in the last decade in 2025 in year one of Jermaine Lewis's tenure as head coach as they went 11-2 and a perfect 6-0 in district and a district championship that was followed up by a bi district playoff win over Mount Vernon before falling to Grandview in Round 2.

The Bears will be favorites again this year in 3-A district 8 which this year features White Oak, Tatum, Sabine, Liberty Eylau and Atlanta.

The Bears offense will be high powered once again in year two in Lewis's system. The defense also brings back a lot of fire power as well. The Bears open up their season at home at the Jack vs Daingerfield on Friday, August 28th

Some key returning players include: On offense: Senior QB Achilles Hess, senior RB Tray Watts, senior WR Destin Sheridan senior WR Caleb Balcorta, junior WR Landen King, senior FB Amarion Minter, senior TE Dion Patton, senior OL Cody Bellanger senior OL Braxton Gordon, senior OL Terrell Willis, senior OL Talon Robinson, SR kicker Korbin Sergio

On defense: CB Sheridan, SR free safety Anthony Sanchez, SS Balcorta, SR defensive tackle Marquis Rutherford, defensive end Minter, DE Patton, SR linebacker Ethan Alvarez, middle linebacker Watts, SR cornerback K'havarion Sheppard, defensive lineman Bellanger, SR defensive lineman Demarion Johnson

The Union Grove Lions are coming off finally getting back into the playoffs after a 8 year drought as they went 6-4 and 3-3 in district play.

They lost in round one of the playoffs to Honey Grove.

They will once again be a part of a tough 7 team district in 2A District 11 that features Beckville, Elysian Fields, Waskom, Harelton, Ore City and Paul Pewitt. With a veteran pieces on both sides of the ball, they will be one of the favorites to finish atop the district and complete their destiny of getting back to district champions.

The Lions open up their season on the road on Friday, August 29th at Queen City.

Some key returning players include: Kodý and Kolby Nutt, Hudson Wightman, Cayden Langley, DJ Edwards, Kaden Polen and Tate Salter.

It was a tale of two seasons for the White Oak Roughnecks football team as they had a perfect run through non district play that had them at 4-0 to begin the season.

But a rough 1-5 district record kept them out of the playoffs once again as they finished at 5-5. 2026 will be a new era as Tanner Theil was hired as new head coach and athletic director back in February after previous coach Michael Ludlow resigned.

Coach Thiel hopes to bring a new passion to White Oak and get the Roughnecks back in the postseason. With a mix of veteran and young players, the Necks should battle for a post season birth. They as well will be a part of district 8 along with as mentioned rival Gladewater, Tatum, Sabine, Atlanta and Liberty Eylau. The Roughnecks open the season Friday, August 28th when they host the Spring Hill Panthers.

Some key returning players on offense include: SR WR Tysen McClain, JR WR Cal Jester, SR WR Branton Wood,

SR WR Eli Carr, SR RB Chase Wright, SR QB Mason Wright, SR RB Cameron Vail, JR OL Grayson Dabney, SR OL

Cooper Bridges, SR OL Connor Hodges

Key returners on defense: S McClain, S Jester, junior

defensive end Dominick Jackson, SR DB Wood, SR LB Watson, SR DE Cash Scalia, Chase Carroll, LB Vail, SR LB Jacob Watson, SR LB

Isiah Mayes, SR LB Caleb Watson, SR DE Cash Scalia, JR DR Elijah Pearson, SR DE Kadin Casey



The stands of the Gladewater High School Gymnasium filled quickly Friday night as the Gladewater ISD community turned out to Meet the Bears and cheer on the school's extracurriculars, students and staffers ahead of this week's kick-off of classes.

Photos by James Draper





Sunday Services



See your helpful hardware folks at...

Store hours:
Mon-Fri 7:00-7:00
Sat 8:00-6:00
Sun 1:00-5:00

Bailey's ACE

Gladewater, TX
903.845.5787

J.O. Williams

Since 1936
300 Hwy. 80 East
Gladewater
903.845.2222

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
300 West Upshur (PO Box 1444), Gladewater, TX
903-845-2171
www.fbcgladewater.org

FACEBOOK - FBCGLADEWATER

SUNDAY - 10:15 Morning Worship

Get your message out for just \$12/week

Call

903-845-2235

New Life Fellowship Church • 903-261-4227
Gladewater Bible Church • 903-445-7234
Grace Tabernacle Church • 903-309-8801

PENTECOSTAL
First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
Northside Pentecostal
Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)

PRESBYTERIAN
First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905
Full Gospel Fellowship
Gladewater Revival Church
Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
Love of God Church • 903-845-2623
Union Temple CME Church • 903-845-1050

OTHER
Starrville Church of the Living God • 903-877-3220
Friendship Community Church
Full Faith Holiness • 903-845-8195

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**COMMUNITIES
DEPEND ON LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS**



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

**Telling Our
STORIES**

Source: American Newspapers 2023 Local Newspaper Study
conducted by Coda Ventures

MANNA HOUSE

"God's Store House"

MannaHouseofGladewater.org

903-845-4066

Manna House of Gladewater
P.O. Box 808 • Gladewater, Texas 75647

Off-Hours Drop-Offs: 1710 N. Main St. in Gladewater

*We need your support - monetary
donations and/or food donations
- for Manna House to help fill
the food boxes that we distribute
to our many families.*

Croley

FUNERAL HOME

"Serving East Texas Families since 1883"

GILMER GLADEWATER HAWKINS DIANA
903-843-2555 903-845-2155 903-765-2144 903-663-3811

www.croleyfh.net 

St. James Missionary Baptist Church

Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 pm for ABF/SBF and 7:15 pm for Bible Study and

each Sunday at 9 am.

2800 W. Commerce Street
Gladewater, Texas 75647
903-845-5028

Upshur schools split up \$400,000 from West Texas school land

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday approved disbursing \$400,000 in “county available” school funds among the nine school districts lying partly or wholly in Upshur County, including Gladewater ISD and Union Grove ISD.

The funds, distributed annually, come from leasing land which Upshur County owns in two West Texas counties, Baylor and Throckmorton.

County Treasurer Brandy Vick recommends the total amount to be disbursed, with each district’s pro rata share

based on the ISD’s average daily attendance by students who are Upshur County residents.

(Several of the nine school districts lie partly in an adjoining county, and students living in those counties aren’t counted in determining a district’s allocation).

At Friday’s meeting of the court in Gilmer, Gladewater received \$23,280, or 5.82% of the total \$400,000 disbursed, for 389.210 pupils.

Union Grove was allotted \$36,920, or 9.23%, for 617.122 students.

As usual, Gilmer ISD received the largest share, \$155,560

(or 38.89% of the total disbursement) for 2,599.590 pupils.

New Diana ISD drew the second-highest amount, \$58,800 (or 14.70% of the total allotment) for 982.820 students. Third highest award went to Ore City ISD, \$43,680 (or 10.92%) for 730 pupils.

Other ISDs’ monetary amounts, percentages, and number of pupils included Harmony, \$35,720, 8.93%, 597; Big Sandy, \$33,040, 8.26%, 552; Union Hill, \$12,040, 3.01%, 201; and Pittsburg, \$960, 0.24%, 16.

Total number of Upshur resident schoolchildren included in determining the allocations was 6,684.742.

SELL IT IN THE

Classifieds

903-845-2235 - Ads@Gladewatermirror.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Any person claiming to be, knowing the whereabouts of, or related to, Paul Howard Maxey, please contact Attorney Felicia M. Hamilton, 3304 Lakeshore Dr. Shreveport, LA 71109, (318)424-9424 or law@feliciahamilton.com.

WANTED



Native arrowheads wanted. Point tipped Yuma, Clovis, Folsom, Eden, Midland. Must be old, authentic, unbroken. Top dollar paid \$10.00 to \$10,000 depending on type and condition. Buy 1 or a box full. 979-218-3351



SHOP LOCAL
EAT LOCAL
READ LOCAL

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

America's Newspapers

Find out more at www.newspapers.org

Read Local

Local company. Local journalists. Local stories.

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



TexSCAN Week of Aug. 2-8, 2026

HOME IMPROVEMENT

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

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

CHARITY

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

EVENTS

Port Lavaca — National Lighthouse Day, Aug. 7. Open house at Half Moon Reef Lighthouse, 10 a.m.-Noon and 2-6 p.m., 2300 HWY 35 N, Port Lavaca, TX 77979; Calhoun County Museum open 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., 301 S. Ann St., Port Lavaca, TX 77979.

MEDICAL

Audien Hearing. The world’s first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien, 1-855-717-9854.

WANTED

Native arrowheads wanted. Point tipped Yuma, Clovis, Folsom, Eden, Midland. Must be old, authentic, unbroken. Top dollar paid, \$10-\$10,000 depending on type and condition. Buy 1 or a box full. 979-218-3351.

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network

184 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

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

Audien Hearing

The World’s First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Atom X

Call 855-717-9854 to get your 45-day risk free trial.





Trust the Nation’s #1 Roofing Contractor
Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service

LIMITED TIME OFFER
50% OFF Installation

FREE ESTIMATE
SCHEDULE TODAY!
Call 1.855.565.2452

CALL TODAY! 1.855.565.2452

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homereservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erie/cases/

Visit Port Lavaca for
NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY
August 7th



Open house at Half Moon Reef Lighthouse
2300 HWY 35 N Port Lavaca, TX 77979
10 a.m.- Noon and 2 - 6 p.m.
Calhoun County Museum open 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
301 S. Ann St. Port Lavaca, TX 77979

NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR
AUTHORITY TO RECONCILE FUEL COSTS

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) applied to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on June 30, 2026, for authority to reconcile its eligible fuel expenses and revenues for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025 (Reconciliation Period). SWEPCO’s request, if granted, will affect all SWEPCO Texas retail customers who pay fixed fuel factors. The request has no effect on SWEPCO’s non-fuel base rates.

During the Reconciliation Period, SWEPCO incurred a total of \$397,331,767 in eligible fuel, fuel-related expenses, and purchased-power costs to generate and purchase electric energy for its Texas retail customers, as well as expenses associated with environmental consumables and emission allowance costs incurred by SWEPCO and allocated to its Texas retail customers. As of the end of the Reconciliation Period, SWEPCO calculated that it had over-recovered its Texas retail fuel, fuel related expenses, and purchased-power costs by \$45,293,744, excluding interest. However, subsequent to the close of the Reconciliation Period, as approved by the Commission in Docket No. 59179, SWEPCO implemented a net interim fuel refund of the over-recovered balance as of October 31, 2025, in the amount of \$42,027,369, plus cumulative interest in the amount of \$436,693 through January 31, 2026, during February through April 2026.

SWEPCO also requests a prudence finding for certain fuel-related contracts and arrangements entered into or modified during the Reconciliation Period. Finally, SWEPCO requests recovery of its reasonable rate-case expenses associated with this fuel reconciliation proceeding and a prior fuel refund proceeding, including those expenses paid to reimburse municipalities for their participation.

Persons with questions, or who want more information on SWEPCO’s application, may contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application and related filings are available for inspection at the address listed above or at the following website: <https://www.swepco.com/company/about/rates/tx>.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 59827 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or wish to express their comments concerning SWEPCO’s application should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should refer to Docket No. 59827 and should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120, or toll free at 1-888-782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll free) at 1-800-735-2989. Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, motions to intervene will be due 45 days from the date SWEPCO filed its application with the Commission.

GLADEWATER POLICE/FIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
07/26/2026	00:05:09	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	EVERITT PARK
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 00:05:50				
07/26/2026	01:23:23	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	OLIVE/HENRY
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 01:24:40				
07/26/2026	02:03:05	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	GOODWILL
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 02:03:37				
07/26/2026	02:35:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1640 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 02:35:53				
07/26/2026	07:24:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	301 S OLIVE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 07:24:59				
07/26/2026	07:47:09	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1202 N EDWARDS STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 07:47:46				
07/26/2026	09:42:04	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 609 STARNES STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 09:42:23				
07/26/2026	11:16:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 ELEANOR/AUSTIN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 11:17:33				
07/26/2026	12:08:12	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	S TYLER/S LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 12:08:42				
07/26/2026	13:30:03	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	1620 N LYNN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 13:30:36				
07/26/2026	15:23:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RUNAWAY	68 WELDON HOMES
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 15:23:31				
07/26/2026	17:16:54	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	RECKLESS DRIVER	S TYLER/HWY 135
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 17:17:43				
07/26/2026	18:31:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD 1
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 18:32:14				
07/26/2026	19:54:49	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 1003 N CULVER
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 19:56:24				
07/26/2026	20:23:31	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	1007 WALNUT STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 20:24:51				
07/26/2026	20:36:41	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	1003 N CULVER STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 20:37:43				
07/26/2026	23:43:19	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 601 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/26/2026 23:44:42				
07/27/2026	00:37:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	COMMERCE/ MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 00:37:35				
07/27/2026	02:28:38	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	1 CEDAR BEND
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 02:31:08				
07/27/2026	04:30:02		AGENCY ASSIST	300 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 04:32:21				
07/27/2026	07:05:19		AGENCY ASSIST	881 STEELE RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 07:06:31				
07/27/2026	08:17:20		ANIMAL	522 NORTH ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 14:45:23				
07/27/2026	14:57:20		ACCIDENT	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 2328 FM 2087 N
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 14:58:24				
07/27/2026	15:15:17		AGENCY ASSIST	181 OLD EASTON RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 15:16:39				
07/27/2026	16:57:50		ACCIDENT	5895 FM 1252 W
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 16:58:06				
07/27/2026	18:07:27	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 18:08:42				
07/27/2026	18:33:41		RECKLESS DRIVER	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 135 N
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 18:34:17				
07/27/2026	18:51:52		AGENCY ASSIST	2328 FM 2087
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 18:52:46				
07/27/2026	19:50:49	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SHOTS FIRED	530 NORTH STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 19:51:51				
07/27/2026	20:09:07	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1260 MEDLIN RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 20:10:10				
07/27/2026	20:54:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	100 BLK N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 20:54:46				
07/27/2026	21:24:25	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ASSAULT	512 W PACIFIC AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 21:25:43				
07/27/2026	21:56:38	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2710 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/27/2026 21:57:49				
07/28/2026	09:37:33		RECKLESS DRIVER	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 I 20 WESTBOUND EXIT 533
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 09:38:34				
07/28/2026	09:47:48		911 HANGUP	6241 OLD HIGHWAY 135 N
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 09:57:25				
07/28/2026	09:59:59		AGENCY ASSIST	2398 S MAIN ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 10:00:53				
07/28/2026	10:27:07		911 HANGUP	161 GARLAND RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 10:28:34				
07/28/2026	10:29:49		AGENCY ASSIST	2510 S MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 10:30:47				
07/28/2026	10:36:16		AGENCY ASSIST	2398 MAIN ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 10:37:00				
07/28/2026	10:41:34		AGENCY ASSIST	2398 MAIN ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 10:42:20				
07/28/2026	10:57:47		AGENCY ASSIST	5643 W GOFORTH RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 10:58:26				
07/28/2026	11:25:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	MAIN AND MLK
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 11:25:56				
07/28/2026	11:48:21	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	608 CANFIELD STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 13:53:43				
07/28/2026	14:58:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	140 SUN CAMP
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 14:59:47				
07/28/2026	15:02:05	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	1300 E BROADWAY AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 15:04:18				
07/28/2026	15:23:24		FIRE	BROOKSHIRES
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 15:24:08				
07/28/2026	15:32:42		ACCIDENT	HWY 80
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 15:33:21				
07/28/2026	15:46:30		MISCELLANEOUS	6731 STATE HIGHWAY 31 W
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 15:46:30				

WOPD Activity

For the reporting period of July 27th through August 2nd, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 173 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Investigative Follow-us, Burglar Alarms, Advice Calls, Suspicious Activity, Traffic Issues (collisions, motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

No traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period.

One arrest was made during this reporting period:

Steven Eric Foster, 47, of Gladewater for Driving While Intoxicated and POCS PG 3 <28 grams.

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

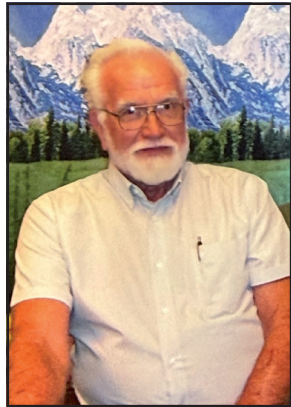
Driving While Intoxicated,
Aggravated Assault w/ a Deadly Weapon

07/28/2026	20:45:28	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	2818 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 20:46:23				
07/28/2026	21:36:01		AGENCY ASSIST	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 269 MORNING START DR
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 21:36:59				
07/28/2026	22:18:43	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	1072 FM 2685
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 22:21:14				
07/28/2026	22:29:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 1110 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 22:29:49				
07/28/2026	22:49:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 2870 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/28/2026 22:52:17				
07/29/2026	01:17:51		ASSAULT	122 S MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 01:20:18				
07/29/2026	04:57:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SHOTS FIRED	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 2101 OLD LONGVIEW HIGHWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 04:58:14				
07/29/2026	06:14:47		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 06:16:19				
07/29/2026	06:38:50	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 3016 E LAKE DR
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 06:39:47				
07/29/2026	09:16:51	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	GLADEWATER, TN 75647 807 S TYLER ROAD 100
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 09:17:28				
07/29/2026	09:19:28	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 212 S MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 09:19:46				
07/29/2026	14:01:20		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 206 EMPIRE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 14:01:39				
07/29/2026	14:30:12		ANIMAL COMPLAINT	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 MARTHA
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 14:31:00				
07/29/2026	15:17:52	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	ALARM	300 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 15:18:08				
07/29/2026	16:15:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	FORGERY	511 S TYLER ROAD 1
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 16:16:12				
07/29/2026	16:35:02		MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 300 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 16:35:14				
07/29/2026	18:25:45	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 511 S TYLER ROAD 1
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 18:25:56				
07/29/2026	18:38:33	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ACCIDENT	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 1604 LAKESHORE DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 21:09:52				
07/29/2026	21:09:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	COMMERCE/RODEO
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 21:09:58				
07/29/2026	21:15:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	1700 B LOCK S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 21:15:48				
07/29/2026	21:31:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	227 S MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 21:33:22				
07/29/2026	21:42:49	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	DEAN/ TRAIN TRACKS
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 21:43:26				
07/29/2026	21:44:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	E BROADWAY / LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 21:44:39				
07/29/2026	22:14:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	S LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 07/29/2026 22:15:06				
07/29/2026	22:51:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W PACIFIC / N CENTER
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 03:25:48				
07/30/2026	03:25:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	205 S MILL STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 03:27:27				
07/30/2026	08:29:38	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	524 QUEEN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 08:29:56				
07/30/2026	08:39:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 GREGG COUNTY
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 08:39:49				
07/30/2026	11:17:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL COMPLAINT	N LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 11:18:10				
07/30/2026	11:35:15	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	504 PHILLIPS DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 11:35:35				
07/30/2026	12:22:18		MISCELLANEOUS	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 ELANOR/AUSTIN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/30/2026 21:50:38				
07/30/2026	22:01:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	HIT AND RUN	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 912 E SHEPPARD DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 03:56:06				
07/31/2026	04:05:54	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	STARBUCKS
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 04:05:57				
07/31/2026	04:07:37	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/ LAMBERTS
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 04:51:46				
07/31/2026	06:20:26		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 06:22:26				
07/31/2026	06:51:45		AGENCY ASSIST	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 200 VALENTINE ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 06:53:41				
07/31/2026	07:21:19		AGENCY ASSIST	200 VALENTINE ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 07:22:13				
07/31/2026	07:42:04		AGENCY ASSIST	2865 ALPINE RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 07:42:36				
07/31/2026	08:29:08		ACCIDENT	I 20 EASTBOUND BEFORE 31 EXIT
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 08:29:49				
07/31/2026	08:37:07	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ESCORT	GREGG CO
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 08:37:21				
07/31/2026	09:23:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	1616 VESTA AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 09:25:17				
07/31/2026	09:51:26		ESCORT	GLADEWATER, TX 75647 1884 FM 1844 ROSEWOOD PARK
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 09:55:08				
07/31/2026	09:55:15	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1616 N RODEO ST
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 13:40:36				
07/31/2026	13:40:36		AGENCY ASSIST	706 PLEAS COCKE RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 13:44:06				
07/31/2026	14:17:54		911 HANGUP	131 PRIVATE ROAD 3447
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 14:18:26				
07/31/2026	15:09:15		AGENCY ASSIST	181 OLD EASTON RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 15:10:15				
07/31/2026	15:33:58		FIRE	DENNARD AND SAM PAGE
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 15:34:29				
07/31/2026	15:36:42		AGENCY ASSIST	674 PLEAS COCKE RD
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 15:38:59				
07/31/2026	15:47:45		FIRE	4867 FM 2087 S
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 15:49:04				
07/31/2026	15:46:05		AGENCY ASSIST	127 DIESEL LN
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 15:49:31				
07/31/2026	15:50:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	63 WELDON HOMES
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 15:52:44				
07/31/2026	15:59:40		AGENCY ASSIST	2347 STATE HIGHWAY 31W
Sent To Dispatch- 07/31/2026 16:00:43				
07/31/2026	16:02:47		RECKLESS DRIVER	4452 ESTES PARKWAY

OBITUARIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE JOHN KYLES

John left this life at the age of 87 on Thursday, July 23, 2026, to be with our Father in Heaven for all eternity. John was born September 27, 1938 in Dallas, Texas to Richard William Kyles, Sr. and Ruth Farrar. John was preceded in death by his



parents, his brother Richard and two grandsons, Mance and Cody Martin. After graduating from Sunset High School in Dallas he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served four years. He met and married his wife of 64 years, Rachel, in 1961 and lived in Dallas until moving to Longview in 1976. While in the Navy and at Ling Temco Vaught in Grand Prairie, John was a hydraulic mechanic on jet airplanes, later on front-end loaders at LeTourneau, Inc

in Longview. He retired after 23 years at LeTourneau then worked for *Gladewater Mirror* for 18 years.

John loved life, loved meeting people and agitating them for fun. He never met a stranger and enjoyed talking with everyone. He treated everyone equally and without favor. He laughed with everyone he was around and loved to joke with waitresses. He embarrassed us for sure at times, but we didn't try to change him; that was our John.

John was a passionate, joyful, loving and fun grandpa. He showed his love well. John also loved his church family dearly and sang hymns in church with a low, monotone voice but with gusto. I repeat – he embarrassed us at times, but we didn't try to change him; that was our John!

John is survived by his beloved and devoted wife Rachel and loving family, sister-in-law Severine Kyles of Kilgore and niece Kimberly Miller and husband Jim of Illinois. He and Rachel had two daughters, Karen Kyles of Longview and Karol Terry and husband Jay of Longview, two sons, Kevin Kyles of Warren City and Kenneth Kyles of Pritchett. He is also survived by his eight grandchildren Summer Martin and husband Kyle Graae of Marlinton, West Virginia, Quinlan Martin and wife Ruth of Flower Mound, Serenity Delaney and husband TJ of White Oak, Miranda Lett and husband Bryan of Longview, McKinley Terry and wife Sarah of Tyler, Zackery Kyles and wife Lierin of Gladewater, McKayla Logan and husband Colton of Lake of the Pines, and Zane Terry currently of St Andrews, Scotland. John's eighteen great-grandchildren include Lia, Camden, Flash, Ace, Crickett, Kage, Jett, Charlotte, Katelyn, Alivia, Ian, Delilah, Owen, Rowan, Luna, Lorelai, Rex and Heath.

We definitely miss John's jovial personality here but know the angels in Heaven are loving it!

City workers turn bend on water losses

Continued from Page 1

tomers demand.”

What's it add up to?

“That's a lot,” Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith said, simply.

It's a substantial, strategic change from increasing losses the past six years.

According to this month's report, from 2020 through 2025 the City of Gladewater's water accountability data showed a steady increase in non-revenue water – treated water that went unused, wasted in some way, be it leaks, overflow or other factors.

“Every gallon of treated water lost through distribution system leaks has already incurred production costs,” ranging from initial pumping to coagulants, disinfection chemicals, electricity, laboratory testing, operator labor, equipment maintenance and chemical feed equipment operation. “Consequently, increasing water loss results in higher production costs without generating additional revenue. Reducing non-revenue water improves both operational efficiency and long-term financial sustainability.”

See the data and learn more from the complete report online at GladewaterMirror.com

“Historical records indicate that deferred maintenance within the distribution system allowed numerous water main leaks to remain active for extended periods,” per July's reduction report. “As treated water escaped from the system before reaching customers, non-revenue water steadily increased despite relatively stable billed consumption.

“Unaccounted-for water increased from approximately 55.6 million gallons in 2020 to 212.9 million gallons in 2025 representing nearly a four-fold increase over five years.”

City of Gladewater's employees implemented a variety of operational improvements, from timely maintenance to better coordination between departments, to manifest this year's progress.

“Continued investment in leak detection, infrastructure maintenance, and interdepartmental communication will further improve system reliability, conserve treated drinking water, reduce operating costs, and enhance long-term sustainability for the City of Gladewater.”

It boils downtown to teamwork and leadership, Smith said.

“The main thing is better management. That's the big part right there,” he said. “When Wendy came along, we started fixing stuff, number one. A lot of things got fixed out there at the plant.

“The chemical percentages got adjusted, and we were treating what we needed. There was no waste out there.”

Simultaneously, Brian Smith and his Public Works operation were on top of Gladewater's aging infrastructure with rapid response and repair.

“We're fixing it right and not having to go back and re-do,” the city manager said. “That's helping a lot.”



“Care and communication” is making a substantial difference in Gladewater's total water loss numbers, says Water Plant Manager Wendy Emmel.



Gladewater Public Works Director Brian Smith and his crew members are focused on fixing leaks quickly and fully, yielding steady results in cutting water losses and unnecessary costs.



Recent numbers have shown a 25 percent reduction in total water loss in Gladewater, a steady tightening that will reduce treatment costs long-term.

Developer serves up plans for new food truck venue

By James Draper

‘Food truck court’ doesn't quite capture the vision for Scott Staerker and the developing Dine and Pines venue on the corner of South Main and Loop 485.

“It's a destination,” Staerker told board members at Gladewater Economic Development Corporation last week. “It's a year-round community gathering spot.”

GEDCO's gathering support for the project. Last week's special meeting drew three directors and a unanimous vote to commit up to \$30,000 of the food truck park's anticipated \$70,000 pricetag, and the EDC is helping facilitate next steps for the development. That includes an upcoming appearance before Gladewater's Planning & Zoning Board Aug. 13 before the requisite Specific Use Permit for the project lands on the city council dais.

“We have actually dredged through a lot of the details,” GEDCO Executive Director Anna Conlan said. “We both understand that things are going to come up as he starts the project and they run into challenges. That's kind of what we're here to help project-manage as liaison between them and the city.

“I think it's exciting to have something fresh and new.”

It's a novel application of the Grow Gladewater grant fund, which has been largely focused on brick-and-mortar ventures. The ask from Staerker Brothers, LLC is \$5,000 for site clean-up plus \$7,500 for assistance fixing drainage issues on Coach Cooksey Street (South Main) and a \$17,500 request to support the venture's overall rejuvenation plan of the area.

All those funds are capped and reimbursement-based according to GEDCO's grant rules. To qualify, the work must begin after all other necessary steps (i.e. the SUP) are complete.

“They have 100 percent of the money they need to fund for the park,” Conlan told the board. “We need to get this done so he can rock and roll down that path.

With long-term plans already in-development for the site and nearby land, “I personally think this is the perfect part of town to see this kind of redevelopment. I like the location a lot.”



Gladewater Fire Chief Tim Basham gets a closer look at a leaking gas line July 29 after the mismarked equipment took a hit during an excavation project between residences on Eddy Street.

Photo by James Draper

The half-acre food truck park is plan for the southeastern tip of a 36-acre tract owned by the Staerker LLC, established in 2021 specifically to deal with the property.

“I started clearing timber and fell in love with the trees. I looked around and said this would be a wonderful place for a food truck park,” said Staerker, a Katy resident with deep ties to Gladewater. “There's a natural fit for what we're doing right there with the community. There's a playground we're putting in. It's going to be very friendly. We're right next to the middle school; we're right next to Weldon Elementary School.”

In addition to (initially in Phase One) four food truck berths, utilities and a wooded trail, the site's being primed to sponsor special events, after school activities, farmers markets, craft days and more. The ongoing expansion of Loop 485 factors into the development's growth plans.

“The great thing about a food truck park is your entrepreneurs that maybe don't have the capital to start a restaurant, they can start here and we'll figure out who serves the good food, because people are going to keep coming back to them,” Staerker said. “It's a really good way for – particularly, young – entrepreneurs to get going in the food business.

“As soon as we get up and going, we're planning to put all the money that we make back into it, especially for the first three years. That's the commitment I'm making to the food truck vendors: anything we get, we're pumping it right back into this business... We're putting in a unique venue that is going to be an asset to the community.”

One that also generates property tax revenue and sales taxes here, Staerker and Conlan agreed.

“All the tax revenue's going to be right here in Gladewater,” Staerker said. “It's low cost, it's good food, it's convenient. It's going to check a lot of boxes for people in the community.”

City leaders prune initial budget draft

Nothing's set in stone for the City of Gladewater's upcoming budget, and local leaders are currently chipping away at the bulk in the financial plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

“Overall, it's probably going to be a tough budget,” Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith told council members last week, “but we'll do what we can do.”

The budget's first draft included all the ‘wish lists’ gathered from all corners of City Hall. From the department heads to administrators and council members, everyone in the room July 30 knows the final version will be substantially leaner.

Granted, some things are harder to cut, Smith allowed.

For example, “There's some equipment we're going to need in public works and the fire department,” he noted.

Likewise, after careful adjustments to Gladewater Fire Department compensation the past several years, there's a general aim now to make GFD salaries more competitive. That, and everything else, comes at a cost.

According to Gladewater City Treasurer Meghan Davis, the first, rough draft of the budget was built on total taxable values of \$560,165,774. That number's unchanged, but the city's overall numbers are in flux after taking initial feedback from council members with more ahead at the second planning session Aug. 27,

Per Davis, “At the next budget workshop, we will be trimming all the fat to get where we are balanced.”

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*”

Relevance Project



NEWSPAPER POWER.

Print, Digital & Social Solutions for our advertisers.

Design by Metro Creative Graphics, Inc.

TRADES DAYS BACK AT FAIRGROUNDS!

Longview Trade Days
will be held
Aug. 11-12
at the Longview
Fairgrounds
1123 Jaycee Drive
Longview

Saturday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

www.greggcountyfair.com

For Booth Rental Call
903-753-4478