BURN BAN

Gladewater Mirror

Find us on Facebook

"Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928"

Thursday, September 24, 2026 | Vol. 98, No. 39 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢

Don't stay in suspense, councilman says:

Check voter status

The Voter Registration Deadline for November's midterm polling is fast-approaching: Texans have until Oct. 5 to ensure they're good to cast a ballot come the first Tuesday in November.

At the moment, it doesn't hurt to check – numbers from earlier this year estimated more than a million Texans have been placed on voter suspense lists. That includes 3,906 individuals in Gregg and Upshur Counties.

A just-in-case glance takes, literally, less than 30 seconds via the state's 'personal voter portal.' Only first name, last name and date of birth are necessary along with one of three options: county and zip code, driver's license or voter ID.

(Find the portal via goelect.txelections.civixapps.com/ivis-mvp-ui/#/login)

Gladewater City Council member André Clay's glad he took the time to check – it turned out to be a false alarm, but the forward leaning accent on the é in his first name caused some brief confusion.

"We were just having a conversation about voting, and I was looking for my card," Clay said. After hearing so many voters had been 'suspended,' he opened an Internet browser just for peace of mind. That didn't come immediately: "It looked like I wasn't in the system."

All the different search options proved fruitless. Clay couldn't find the record.

Settling for the analog approach, he dropped by the Gregg County Elections

Continued on Page 5



Photos by James Drapper

Miss Gregg County 2025 Kylie Caraway crowned fellow White Oak High Schooler Sophie Fisher Thursday night after the new queen earned the crown at the 2026 Miss Gregg County Pageant at the Longview fairgrounds. (RIGHT) Miss Gladewater, Kailey Kistler, was named First Runner-Up in the 2026 Miss Gregg County Pageant. Students, teachers, parents and other well-wishers turned out in force from White Oak ISD, Gladewater and other school districts to cheer on their candidates.





City seeks stable, balanced budget without backsliding

By James Draper

The City of Gladewater's Sept. 15 budget workshop began $37,328 in the red – the deficit was closer to $297,000 by the end of the night.

Pounding away at the numbers throughout the following days, city leaders aimed to have Budget Version 7 in balance ahead of another special session set for earlier this week.

At the same time, the council members, administrators and department heads are concerned the "stability budget" for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – with no raises, no Cost of Living Adjustment, no changes in compensation for firefighters and police officers – will have a negative impact on the employee roster and, consequently, operations.

They're working to avoid that, but various decisions, actions and complications have painted the city into a corner with less than a week until FY27 begins Oct. 1.

Notably, this article goes to press before the council members' Sept. 22 budget workshop and hits newsstands after the fact. It was published online Tuesday morning alongside other coverage at GladewaterMirror.com

"These are the hard times. We only have so many funds," Mayor Brandy Flanagan-Shipp said. "We would love to fund everything. Our staff and crew deserve it.

"We unfortunately have to make really tough decisions."

Continued on Page 5

White Oak adopts slim trim to tax rate

"Our property rate actually went down."

It's just a tenth of a percent, Kristine Toon allows, but a decrease is something the White Oak city secretary and finance director can get behind.

Granted, she said, homeowners may see their tax bills climb anyway following increased appraisals outside City Hall's sphere.

"The budget will raise revenue by $121,926.74, which is an increase of 3.51 percent," Toon confirmed. That includes about $31,000 raised from new property added to the tax rolls.

In addition to the requisite votes on finances, the White Oak City Council's Sept. 8 meeting included a necessary restructuring of the Public Works Department.

Regarding the tax rate, at $0.618063 per $100 valuation (compared to $0.61878 for the current FY2026) the figure for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 includes $0.534460 for Maintenance & Operations as well as $0.83603 for Interest & Sinking (debt service).

Revenues and expenditures total $11,898,392 for the coming fiscal year (which begins Oct. 1), and the budget's balanced using $252,000 from the city's reserves. There's $400,000 earmarked in the Utility Fund for Texas Department of Transportation's waterline relocation project along Hwy. 42 and for the remaining costs to refurbish the city's two water tanks (the project began in FY26).

There is no increase to water rates: "That's not a discussion at the moment," Toon said.

Among the key elements of the newly-adopted budget, city employees will receive an 3 percent Cost of Living Adjustment.

"We're doing three percent for the city as a whole and 10 percent for the officers," Toon noted. "We're raising them up to try to be more competitive."

Key expenditures ahead in FY2027 include:

- a new trackhoe
- a truck for the Water Department
- maintenance pumps and rotors to replace worn equipment
- a new police vehicle
- "The police department and fire department are getting new radios," Toon noted. "That's going to make them more compatible with our new system and with Gregg County."
- a $110,000 drainage renovation for Wood Creek Court
- two road projects (base work, overlay and seal) for Owens and Alexander
- a new shop for the Parks department
- a new server (approximately $12,000) for City Hall

Continued on Page 8

HOMECOMING

Gladewater High School's 2026 Homecoming Queen candidates include seniors Paytin Thompson, Khera Lincoln, Kailey Kistler and Zoe Fossan. Other Homecoming court members include freshmen Ca'Myah Johnson,Tailyn Shirley and Hannah Nash; sophomores Tinsley Aldredge and Beatrice Nasados; and juniors Ayanah Celestine and Lily Childress. The ceremony will be held Friday, prior to the Homecoming game with Athens, which has a 7 p.m. kickoff, at Jack V. Murphy Stadium.

GW Welcomes home Mrs. Classic Universe

By James Draper

It's easy to guess the wish Menchita Dy Rice made over her birthday candles earlier this month.

It came true, threefold – the freshly-turned 50-year-old returned home to Gladewater with a trio of tiaras in tow and matching satin sashes, especially the big one: Mrs. Classic Universe.

Needless to say, they put off plenty of sparkle. So does 'Menchie.'

"I always have the mindset that whatever light God gave you," she says, "you just cherish it, and then make the most out of it."

Her pageant days began back in the Philippines more than 25 years ago, winning over the judges as well as, eventually, her conservative Papa, Antonieto. Decades passed, though, between those first wins and the crowning spotlight at Royal Albert's

Continued on Page 2



OPINION/COMMENTARY

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.*

It's all about the blues…

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell





Once upon a time in the 1970s a little country girl found herself going to community college full-time and working three part-time jobs. One was at a cattle auction, one was as a daily newspaper delivery girl, and one was as a 20 plus hour a week secretary to Erwin Golden.

Mr. Golden was in medical school when he had a diving accident that led to a life lived depending on others. He was a quadriplegic. I had a severely handicapped brother. We were perfectly comfortable with each other. I learned a great deal from Mr. Golden and his parents. From 'his man' Sonny I learned the blues.

Sonny had been a bass player for the great blues artist Freddie King. I was blessed to see Freddie King the one and only time I went to Mother Blues in Dallas. I have never forgotten sitting just feet away from King and being transported to a place I had never experienced before.

Sonny taught me about music that was not rock, not country, and I thought, not mine. But real blues is for everyone because it is story telling truth, reverberating notes and guitar licks that get down deep inside you, moves you and changes you…if you let it.

My sweetheart and I married young, went off to university together, and loved and survived on $300 a month. If the music wasn't free, well, we didn't see much of it. As our careers took off, my sweetheart worked nights and I taught eager young minds during the day. We had a beautiful baby boy after nine years and spent the next 20 or so working hard, raising our son and being adults…for the most part.

And then my sweetheart started taking me to concerts. He had me make my music bucket list and for the last few years he has been checking it off. Now it is done. Nothing will ever top last Friday night.

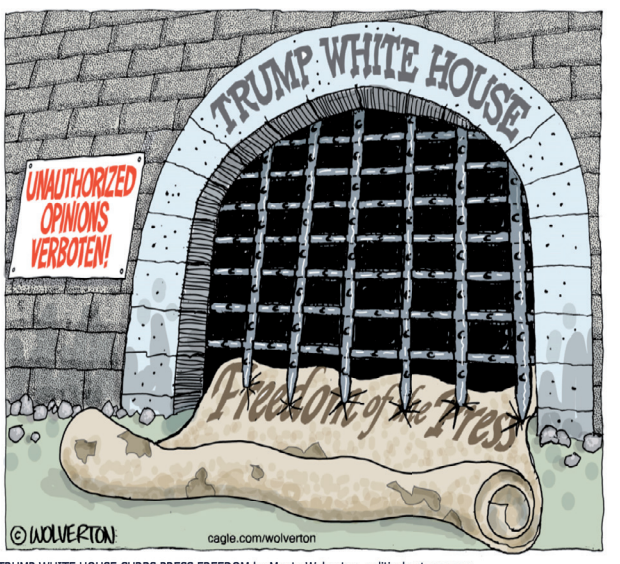
This past weekend I received, in my sweetheart's words, my anniversary, birthday and Christmas gift…he took me to Eric Clapton's Crossroads blues festival. Friday there was five and a half hours of music heaven. Saturday more of the same. And, on Sunday we tiredly trekked to Irving to say goodbye to my favorite guitarist of all time…Peter Frampton. Yes, over Clapton.

The lessons Sonny taught me when I was 18 years old came rolling back to me with the Crossroads Festival music, the legends and the legends in the making performances. The lineup included Clapton, Frampton, Bonnie Raitt, Joe Walsh, Billy Gibbons, Keb' Mo', Derek Trucks, Vince Gill, Robert Cray, John Mayer, Jimmie Vaughan, Citizen Cope, Buddy Guy, Gary Clark Jr., Sheryl Crow, Doyle Bramhall…and I could just keep going. Even Johnny Depp played with Jeff Beck. Beck I can do without.

But there was that moment when everything stopped. Time stood still, music history was written and a legendary performance given. The greatest guitarists of my generation, Eric Clapton and Peter Frampton performed passionately "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" by their dear, late great friend, George Harrison. It was the first time the guitar heroes had performed together. At the end of the song, thousands were weeping right along with Clapton's and Frampton's guitars. Peter embraced Eric at the end and said, "thanks for making my dream come true".

Peter Frampton, the passionate guitarist, who plays with abandon and joy has been diagnosed with a progressive neurological disorder. His notes are now numbered. His trading of guitar licks with Clapton is the stuff of music legend. And l was there. I heard the talent. I saw the passion. And I saw the ending of something truly great and for that I will always be grateful.

I wish Sonny were still around so I could tell him what I saw and what I felt. The blues rocked my world and that sweet, generous man taught me to love the blues. And, as for my sweetheart's anniversary, birthday and Christmas gift? The memories will be treasured, unwrapped and replayed for as long as my blues loving heart beats to the music.



TRUMP WHITE HOUSE CURBS PRESS FREEDOM by Monte Wolverton, politicalcartoons.com

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Medicaid funding restored

Nearly $12 billion in Medicaid funding to Texas hospitals will be restored after a nearly year-long stalemate between the state and the federal government ended, the Texas Standard reported.

Gov. Greg Abbott hailed the end to the impasse.

"This funding is a major victory for Texas patients," Abbott said in a statement. "It authorizes nearly $12 billion for hospitals, physicians, rural clinics, nursing facilities, and behavioral health providers that serve patients in every region of our state."

The funds were halted on Sept. 1, with some hospitals losing as much as $27 million a day in Medicaid funding. The fund assists hospitals in closing the gap between what Medicaid pays them and actual costs incurred for treating low-income Texans.

The dispute began last year over concerns about how the state raises more than $4.2 billion in taxes to access those federal funds. Abbott had previously referred to the holdup as an economic "gun to the head."

Republicans pouring money into Texas races

Political action committees associated with Republicans have begun pouring money into the high-profile U.S. Senate race between GOP nominee Ken Paxton and Democrat James Talarico, the Houston Chronicle reported.

President Donald Trump's Super PAC spent nearly $10 million on that race just in September, while a Senate Republican leadership PAC will spend more than $60 million in ads running this month. Elon Musk's PAC is chipping in another $2 million for Paxton, who previously had been vastly outspent by Talarico.

"Nobody went into this race, if they had any sense at all, thinking that at the end of the day, Democrats would outspend Republicans," said Matt Angle, longtime Texas Democratic operative. "That was never going to be the case."

The polls indicate a tight race, with Talarico holding a slim lead. No Democrat has won a statewide race in Texas since 1994.

Cornyn, Rove among those condemning French's post

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn denounced GOP Railroad Commission nominee Bo French after he disparaged the racial diversity of fans shown celebrating the University of Texas team's comeback win over top-ranked Ohio State, The Dallas Morning News reported.

French, a former Tarrant County Republican Party chair, has doubled down on his remarks. The nominee has repeatedly faced backlash for posts targeting racial and religious groups, often decrying an influx of "foreigners."

Meanwhile, longtime GOP political consultant Karl Rove said he would vote for Democrat Jon Rosenthal for railroad commissioner, only the second Democrat he has voted for. In an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal, he called French's post "raw, uncut bigotry."

Cornyn was later joined by House Speaker Dustin Burrows and Republican state Reps. Jeff Leach and Lacey Hull in criticizing French.

GW Welcomes home Mrs. Classic Universe

Continued from Page 1

Palace Sept. 11 in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey. Years back, Rice's career took precedence – she used her pageant winnings as well as her pay as a flight attendent to help fund her studies to become a Physical Therapist.

At least one pageant saw her juggling PT exam questions and the judges' QA. She passed, of course, and earned an invitation to take a job in Maryland in 2007. Life eventually took her to Pennsylvania then, in 2011, California. It was there she met her husband, Jerry, owner of East Texas Speed in a freshly-renovated art deco storefront at 222 S. Main St.

Granted, Menchie Rice wasn't initially thrilled at the idea of moving from the West Coast to the Piney Woods of East Texas back in 2023, but it took no time at all to warm up to her new home, now her chosen hometown.

"I love Gladewater," Rice said. "I mean, honestly, in my own humble opinion, we have so much to offer. It's a quaint little town. It has a lot of rich history.

Hopefully, she added, it'll get a little more name recognition out of Mrs. Classic Universe.

"I wish, actually, the judges would've asked me about Gladewater, because I brought museum packets about our town. They never did, and I really want to promote Gladewater.

Rice stumbled across the Mrs. Classic Universe competition following modeling gigs the past couple of years, and she was ecstatic her application was accepted to help represent Texas in the contest.

She chose Gladewater's Manna House and the Alzheimer's Association for advocacy, and Rice is excited to sing their and Gladewater's praises during the coming year of her reign as Mrs. Classic Universe.

It drew contestants from across the country from all walks of life, women who've earned their "missus" in addition to careers in physics, medicine and much more.

Like riding a bicycle, it all came back – with work. Rice is a prudent spender, and she accessorized her gowns by hand after trips to Hobby Lobby, practiced her walk until her feet failed her and ensured she had her own hair and makeup guru well in-hand.



"I'll be honest with you, when you're on the stage, your feet are hurting, you're trying to pose and smile. Your brain is blind," she said with ready-laugh last week.

Blessedly, Rice added, nothing tripped her up during the competition – in the case of one outfit, literally. She and her fellow contestants found a friendly environment backstage, and Antonieto called with birthday wishes and 'Good luck.'

Jerry, of course, was by her side and had her back – he rallied the troops to secure the 'Mrs. Popular' award alongside his wife's 'Mrs. Texas' title and the paramount crown Sept. 11.

He even carted her 'Mrs. Classic Universe' bag of tiaras through the airport with nary a complaint.

Exhausted from the competition, Rice has passed on the immediate follow-up invitations to fashion shows, but Menchie is excited about more opportunities to participate through the next crowning, and Gladewater's on her mind.

Elvis was her first crush and her first exposure to American films and pop culture, and Rice is delighted to live in one of the spots on The King's journey. She cherishes Gladewater's history, its antique heart, its safe streets and its slower pace.

"Gladewater, even if it's a small town, it has a lot of history that we can be proud of it. I want to revive the old town beauty."

North & East Texas Press Association
TPA TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

The Gladewater Mirror

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

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

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

Email: gladewatermirror@aol.com

Bardwell Ink

Owners:
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

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

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

SAVING FAITH OBEYS GOD

The twentieth chapter of Numbers tells us the Israelites needed water in the wilderness. God told Moses to take his rod, or staff, and speak to a rock in front of the people, and water would flow out of it. But instead of doing just what God told him to do, verses 10 and 11 tell us Moses said to the people: *"You rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock? Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank."* So far so good, but what is especially interesting about this Old Testament incident is what God said about Moses' disobedience and sin. Verse 12 says: *"Because you did not believe Me, to hallow me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."* Notice God didn't say, *"You didn't obey Me,"* but He said *"Because you did not believe Me"* you can't go into Canaan. God called Moses' disobedience UNBELIEF! Psalms 106: 32-33 says, *"They angered him also at the waters of strife (Meribah), So that it went ill with Moses on account of them; because they rebelled against his spirit, so that he spoke rashly with his lips."* Thus, the Israelites sharp tongues of discontent and unbelief caused Moses to lose control of his spirit; and in his outburst, Moses slighted God. Not only did he strike the rock instead of speaking to it but he also left the impression that it was he and Aaron who achieved the miracle, saying *"Shall WE bring forth water for you out of this rock?"*

That's an important lesson to learn. For example, we often think of faith (belief) in God and Jesus as merely being convinced of their existence. But real Bible faith, is the kind of belief in God that OBEYS God! Even if we believe Jesus is the Christ, if we DISREGARD and DISOBEY Him, we don't really have Bible FAITH in Him, and consequently we do not *"honor* Him! Bible faith is OBEDIENT faith, and it is *"obedient faith"* that honors God!

Therefore, promises in the Bible about salvation through faith in Jesus do not merely refer to mentally admitting Jesus is the Christ. They refer to the kind of belief or faith that OBEYS Jesus; faith that repents of sin, confesses Jesus, and submits to scriptural baptism. Thus, one who believes in God's existence and the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, and Lord, but DISREGARDS His commands, doesn't have saving faith. Remember, Jesus asked: "*Why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?"* Recall also, there were those who *"believed in Him"* but *"did not confess Him" (Jn. 12: 42).* But I hasten to say that all who do believe in Him will repent of their sins and confess with their mouth what they believe in their hearts i.e., that Jesus is the Son of the living God, will be baptized because that is what Jesus commands *(Rom. 10: 9-10; Acts 8: 37; Acts 2: 38; Mk. 16: 16).* Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
P. O. Box 454 - White Oak, Texas 75693- 903-736-1822-dennis.abernathy845@gmail.com.

What's Happe

St. James to celebrate 150 years

St. James Baptist Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m.

The community is invited to attend the 150 years of fellowship and faith. The church is located across the railroad tracks along US 80 west, just south of the Gladewater Rodeo Arena.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Courtesy of Gladewater Chamber of Commerce)

Sept. 25 GISD Bear Homecoming (7 p.m.)
Oct. 2–3 42 Tournament at Rodeo Annex (TBD)
Oct. 10 City-Wide Cleanup (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.)
Oct. 24 Cancer Walk at Lake Gladewater (8 a.m.)
Oct. 31 EMS Fall Fest Downtown (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.)

Annual 5K raises awareness event set for Oct. 24

Is it the 14th annual event or the 15th?

Sheila Faggans has lost track of how many 5Ks she's organized in her 'Walk for Cancer' efforts. She's just excited to host another and grateful for the help to make this year's a success Oct. 24.

The event is sponsored by Gym 101 and Caring Hearts of Gladewater, with all proceeds benefiting Texas Oncology in Longview. Day-of registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at 1604 Lakeshore Dr. before the trek itself starts at 8:15. Registration costs $20 per participant and includes a commemorative T-shirt. NNew for 2026, the 5K Walk for Cancer will include a raffle for a chance to win a pink trash cart and other prizes. Tickets are $1 per entry. For more information, contact Faggans at 903-844-1326 or Earles at 903-413-4293.

Upshur keeps same tax rate

Upshur County Commissioners Court last week unanimously approved retaining the current property tax rate of 51.4 cents per $100 valuation--but County Auditor Connie Williams acknowledged property owners will pay more than last year because of increased property valuations and new properties.

Williams said the current rate, which she noted will raise $598,490 more total revenue than in the present fiscal year, was no higher than necessary to meet the county's needs.

At its Sept. 15 meeting in Gilmer, the court also unanimously approved a combined budget of insurance funds and general funds of $25,152,864 for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The increase in tax revenue isn't high enough to require voter approval. County Judge Todd Tefteller said the court could have raised the rate by about three cents without triggering an election.

He also said the valuation hikes (determined by the county appraisal district) affected all property in the county, and that all taxpayers will pay more this year.

All of the tax rate is for maintenance and operations since the county has no outstanding debt.

Williams said that of the nearly $600,000 in additional revenue (which keeping the current rate will raise), $500,274 was due to new properties.

To prevent receiving additional revenue, the court would have had to lower the rate to 49.6403 cents per $100 valuation.

County library events on tap

Three types of free activities are scheduled at the Upshur County Library in Gilmer in the next week.

A book will be read to young children at both of the library's weekly "Storytime" sessions Thursday (Sept. 24.)

"Teen game night" is set for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and "Play With a Purpose" is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30.



The 53rd annual Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival drew healthy turnout Saturday and Sunday as visitors braved the heat to take advantage of a wide array of handmade arts, crafts and eats on the Broadway School Grounds.

"The Case of Old MacDonald and His Farm" by Mark Teague will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Storytimes, which are for children up to age 11. This book is targeted at ages 4-8.

Caraway featured at GALA

Dr. Charli Caraway of Active-Faith Ministries was the guest speaker at the September meeting of the Gladewater Area Ladies Association (GALA) on Tuesday, September 15th. Mrs. Carroway spoke on spiritual warfare, giving current-day examples. Dr. Caraway is no stanger to Gladewater, as she was the former director of the ladies ministry currently known as Restore 180. Active-Faith Ministries is known for staking properties, businesses and cities with prayer stakes. Ladies interested in learning more about the Gladewater Area Ladies Association, may contact the Chamber of Commerce at 903-845-5501.



Blood drives scheduled

Carter BloodCare of Tyler will hold three blood drives in Upshur County between Monday and Oct. 1, announced Carter field recruiter Donna A. Russell. Monday's is scheduled from 7 a.m.-10 a.m. in Gilmer at Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative, 1200 W. Tyler (which is also Texas 154).

Donors are urged to give in honor of Upshur Rural lineman Ty Jordan's four-year-old daughter, Evie Mae, who has leukemia and needs donated blood as a "lifesaving resource," Russell said in a news release.

Another drive is set from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Walmart at 1923 N. Wood (which is also U.S. 271) in Gilmer.

For more information on either drive, email Russell at Drussell@carterbloodcare.org or call 903-574-4998. The final drive is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, at Big Sandy High School, 401 Wildcat Drive.

Treats on the Square in Gilmer

The Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual "Treats on the Square" this year on the actual date of Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, announced Executive Director Gloria McLuckie. The event, involving businesses handing out candy to children, is set from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Jefferson and Simpson streets on the downtown Upshur County Courthouse square.

GISD retools pact with city on School Resource Officers

By James Draper

The current Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Gladewater and Gladewater ISD on School Resource Officers was nearing its expiration date – the district proposed a revamped version Monday night.

Unanimously approved by the board with no discussion Sept. 21, the expanded agreement now heads to City of Gladewater officials for revisions, consideration and possible adoption next month.

With the existing MOU timing out Sept. 30, the school's trustees also unanimously approved a one-month extension this week. That measure sets the end-date at Nov. 1 under the same terms (for the most part) while negotiations proceed on the latest iteration.

The item on the district's monthly agenda to "consider MOU Gladewater PD" was split into two pieces during the meeting – the first to extend the 2025-2026 MOU on an interim basis.

"I had a conversation with Chief (Kyle) Ready. We agreed that would be a good step, to continue what we currently have," GISD Supt. Rae Ann Patty reported, albeit with one key caveat: Sgt. David Willeford's retirement leaves no SRO on the Gladewater Middle School campus.

Following the meeting, Patty said the GMS security will be covered by a new employee.

"Right now we are looking to hire a person to come in and be a Guardian/Marshal."

On July 20, the board re-upped their 'Good Cause Resolution' from the Texas Association of School Board's for the school's Guardian program.

"The Good Cause Resolution really just protects us for the Guardian program for two things," Patty told the trustees in two months back. "If we determine that the district does not have the funds to keep a licensed peace officer at every campus then we have this good cause exception in place that we could use our Guardian program. Also, it protects us if for some reason we had to change officers, and they are not considered a licensed peace officer."

"Each year we have to renew that so we can revisit whether we feel like we have the money to continue with licensed peace officers or we need to implement the Guardian program."

Notably, she told the school's elected officials, this year's resolution renewal was paired with a plan to extend the Guardian program on the campuses.

"We have some people that, even in addition to the officers, would like to be guardians," Patty confirmed July 20. "Of course, none of that would be approved until they went through all of the information that we had to go through with the previous guardians then they would be brought to you for final approval."

The proposed MOU is a substantially heavier document than its predecessors – the proposal comes to 13 pages, including the signature page, at a smaller font, compared to the standing six-page agreement.

"The goals and objectives have not changed from the current MOU to this MOU," Patty said, walking the trustees and audience members through the proposal. "I have ran this whole MOU through our school district attorney to double-check all of my citations and that what we have in here is legal through the Texas Education Code, through the Texas Administrative Code and he did check to see if there was anything in here in the penal code.

"In this interlocal contract and compliance with funding, none of this information changes – we still pay 100 percent of their salaries, their benefits. Chain of command, they still are City of Gladewater PD employees…"

Per the proposal, the GISD superintendent (or designee) determines in advance which district activities SROs respond to for safety and security purposes while the officer is on assignment at GISD.

Compensation reflects the figures in the current agreement – GPD previously requested an increase for the officers, but similar pay changes are on-hold for the sake of City Halls "stability budget" for 2026-2027.

The proposal includes a previously-agreed bump from $35 per hour to $45 for extracurricular and after-hours activities, coordinated by the superintendent. It's the same rate for summer school hours (falling outside the SROs typical 10-month year).

Among various changes, the school will continue to provide patrol vehicles for the SROs, but they will remain at school. They'll also be equipped with trackers.

Elsewhere, "We cannot routinely use the officers for truancy enforcement but as a last resort," Patty said.

The agreement also confirms the SROs are limited to law enforcement matters, not school discipline. Multiple elements defer to GPD policies and procedures.



Read Local

Local company.
Local journalists.
Local stories.

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of Sept. 20-26, 2026

AUCTION

Kaddatz Farm & Heavy Equipment Auction 9/25/26. NO RESERVES. Alvin Kaddatz Lic TX6676 10% Buyers Premium KaddatzEquipment.com 254-582-3000.

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!

MEDICAL

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 www.dental50plus.com/txpress #6258

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.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer — up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-565-2452.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-460-3020 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

WANTED

Need Extra Cash — I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes–Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition – Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CA$H. No Title – No Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001.

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.

Sports roundup

Bears beat Panthers, Lions undefeated,

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears were looking to bounce back after a rough outing and they did just that as they scored early and often in route to a 48-20 beat down of the Spring Hill Panthers. It took the Bears no time to score as they won the toss and got the ball first and after a 45 yard scamper by Trey Watts, one play later he punched it in to make it 6-0 after the two point try was no good.

After a Spring Hill turnover on downs, the Bears struck again when Mar'Shaun Stevenson took a handoff and scored to make it 13-0 Bears. Spring Hill had a good drive going but a fumble ended it as it was recovered by Gladewater and seconds into the 2nd quarter, QB Achillies Hess ran it in for a 3 yard TD to make it 20-0 Bears.

After another Panthers turnover (this one on downs), Gladewater struck again as Caleb Balcorta took a sweep and punched it in to make it 27-0 Gladewater. Spring Hill finally got on the board but the Bears had a quick answer as Hess found Destin Sheridan for a 62 yard TD pass to make it 34-6 Gladewater at the half.

The Panthers got the scoring started in the 3rd to make it a 34-14 game. But again the Bears had a answer as Balcorta again broke free for a 30 yard TD run to make it 41-14 after three quarters. The Bears would add one more touchdown when Hess found Connor Thompson for a 3 yard TD to make it 48-14. Spring Hill would find the endzone one more time late in the game.

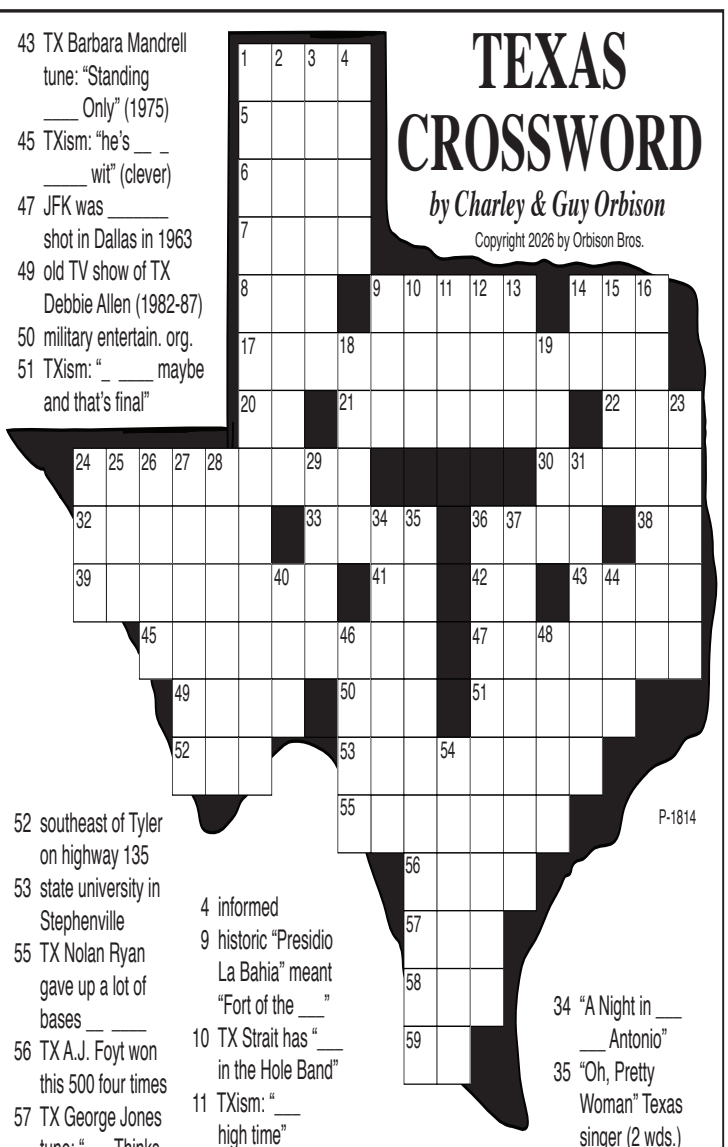
"Was exactly how we needed to bounce back. Spring Hill was playing well and we came out and set the tone early and played well," said Bear head coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Bears improve to 2-2 and will be back at home for their final non district tune up against Athens which is also homecoming. Kick off at the Jack is at 7 PM.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.



ACROSS

1 TXism: "fast as _ ___ up a rafter"
5 money unit used south of the border
6 gem found in Texas
7 TXism: "____ me a bill of goods"
8 pod or angle prefix
9 in Callahan County on I-20
14 TXism: "I'm out of ___" (fatigued)
17 TXism: "_____ ____ a pig to slop"
20 Rice won this College Bowl in 1966
21 TXism for "ugly"
22 TXism: "I'm __ _ heap of trouble"
24 this Texas politician was U.S. Secretary of the Army, 2007-09 (2 wds.)
30 Rangers' sportscaster, Eric
32 7th planet from the sun
33 TX Ginger Rogers film: "Stage ____"
36 TXism: "_ ___ sheared like a spring lamb"
38 this Pete replaced Gib Lewis as Texas Speaker in 1993 (init.)
39 Burt takes an elephant to Texas in "Smokey and the _____ __"
41 Yo __ Digo Creek
42 retired KTCK sportscaster, Hitzges (init.)
43 TX Barbara Mandrell tune: "Standing ____ Only" (1975)
45 TXism: "he's __ _ _____ wit" (clever)
47 JFK was _____ shot in Dallas in 1963
49 old TV show of TX Debbie Allen (1982-87)
50 military entertain. org.
51 TXism: "_ ____ maybe and that's final"
52 southeast of Tyler on highway 135
53 state university in Stephenville
55 TX Nolan Ryan gave up a lot of bases __ ____
56 TX A.J. Foyt won this 500 four times
57 TX George Jones tune: "___ Thinks I Still Care"
58 boat paddle
59 borders Texas on the west (abbr.)

DOWN

1 TX Buddy Holly is on one (3 wds.)
2 newspaper Abilene _____-News
3 TXism: "dangerous __ _ __ match in a firecracker factory"
4 informed
9 historic "Presidio La Bahia" meant "Fort of the ___"
10 TX Strait has "___ in the Hole Band"
11 TXism: "___ high time"
12 antique auto
13 this Dolores was in "Flying Down to Rio" with TX Ginger (init.)
14 Fort Hood soldier
15 Center has "Take _ ___ Fishing" tournament
16 Texas cattle breed
18 "Biggest Little City in the World"
19 former Tonight Show host, Jay
23 TXism: "never in ___ __ born days"
24 English bar
25 pitcher Kenny Rogers stat.
26 NASA drink
27 TXism: "heavy as the front ___ __ _ John Deere"
28 instrument played by 35-down
29 ___ Adams street in San Antonio
31 "Sad Monkey" was _ ____ at Palo Duro Canyon
34 "A Night in ___ ___ Antonio"
35 "Oh, Pretty Woman" Texas singer (2 wds.)
36 Jose Altuve is one, e.g.
37 frightful
40 anger
44 TX Bledsoe was first to sing "___ Man River" (1927)
46 TX Willie's dad Ira was an ___ mechanic
48 some Texans ski at this NM ski resort
54 23rd Texas governor: S.W.T. _____ (1903-07)

P-1814

See Answers on Page 6



The Gladewater Lady Bears volleyball team fell in their lone district match to the Troup Lady Tigers 3-1 (25-19, 25-13, 21-25, 25-12) . The loss drops Gladewater to 7-10 and 0-3 in district play, They will next be in action with a pair of matches at White Oak and hosting West Rusk.

The White Oak Ladynecks volleyball team continued their district schedule as they split a pair of matches with a victory over West Rusk 3-0 (25-17, 25-13, 25-15) and a hard fought 5 set loss to a very good Tatum team 3-2 (25-10, 24-26, 18-25, 25-23, 16-14). The Ladynecks are now 16-13 and 2-1 in district play and will next be in action with a pait of matches where they host Gladewater and travel to Troup.

The Union Grove Lady Lions finished up their non district schedule with a pair of sweeps as they knocked off Jefferson 3-0 (29-27, 25-6, 25-21) and a 3-0 win over MP Chapel Hill 3-0 (25-21, 25-15, 25-22). The Lady Lions improve to 12-9 and will open up district play next with a pair of matches with a home game vs Hawkins and a road tilt at Alba-Golden.

CROSS COUNTRY

All 3 area school's were in Hallsville for the 2026 Hallsville Invitational cross country meet where for the girls:

Union Grove's Landry Harris was 4th at 13:46
Union Grove's Shaniya Roland was 9th at 14:15
White Oak's Maddie Hart was 22nd at 14:46
Union Grove's Sussana Sturkie was 28th at 15:02

Boys:
White Oak's Cooper Tucker won at 17:36
Gladewater's Ya'lexan Martinez was 7th at 18:07
White Oak's Issak Olvera was 19th at 19:02
White Oak's Henrick Rider was 20th at 19:02
Gladewater's Mariano Perez was 34th at 19:46

The White Oak Roughnecks will have to wait another week for win number one on the 2026 season as they fell 42-34 to Scurry Rosser.

Neck QB TJ Jackson was 18-33 for 246 yards and 4 passing touchdowns. He also had 24 carries for 168 yards and a touchdown. Tyson McClain had 5 catches for 54 yards and a touchdown. Cal Jester had 5 catches for 78 yards and a touchdown.

White Oak drops to 0-4 and will close out their non district schedule hosting West Rusk. Kick off is at 7 PM.

The Union Grove Lions football team's hot start to 2026 continued as they won a back and forth battle with Teneha 40-35.

Hudson Wightman got the start at QB and went 5-8 for 51 yards and a TD. But exploded on the ground with 227 yards rushing on 23 carries with 4 touchdowns. Tate Salter had 2 catches for 20 yards and a touchdown. After a bye coming up, the Lions will open up district play on October 2nd hosting Paul Pewitt. Kick off is at 7 PM.



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.

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

Small business start-ups!
New business start-ups!
Advertising packages!
Advertising discounts!
Website help!
Partner with us and Boost your business!



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.

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

City seeks stable, balanced budget without backsliding

Continued from Page 1

For the better part of four-and-a-half hours last week, city leaders went through their latest budget projection department by department, line by line and, in some cases, item by item and person by person. It wasn't until the last half-hour that the meeting started going off the rails, again, in what's been a stormy budget season.

Regularly checking on the projected deficit, the municipality's stakeholders made cuts where possible and increases when needed, simultaneously accounting for inflation.

The goal's to minimize the impact on residents' bank accounts without cutting into the services they receive. To that end, the council members are reticent to approve an increase to water rates – they accept the necessity, but they're committed to keeping the number low.

No speakers addressed the elected officials during mandated public hearings on the budget and tax rate.

"Remember, we're not wanting operations to be set back," the mayor said. Addressing the room, "When budgets get adopted, those are legally binding," and the council needs to base decisions on true numbers: "As we're going through this, I really need everybody, up here included, to understand that. When we're truly asking you – 'Can we make those numbers work?' – we need the truth from you. We need actual numbers that will work."

Personnel was a recurring topic as the city's leaders try to cover staffing gaps and hold on to employees.

Emergency responders were in the spotlight. Locally, they're on the lower end of the pay scale compared to the region, and the cost-of-replacement can run $10,000 to $20,000 or more depending on various circumstances.

Gladewater Police Department's latest budget rundown was projected for a reduced 3 percent increase as of Sept. 15 – it does not include pay increases.

"We cut the wish list, we cut everything," Lt. Mike Baggett said. "Now we just hope we can keep the people."

At the fire department, "We lost two guys already due to pay... We lose thousands of dollars when we lose a guy because we have a lot invested in them," Gladewater Fire Chief Tim Basham told the council. "You can be the cashier at McDonald's at $18 an hour. Our parttime guys are getting $15.

Meanwhile, "In-house, I have a little trouble getting people to move up because they don't want the responsibility" in exchange for just $1 more per hour as Captain. "There is a large amount of responsibility when you move up."

Following last week's discussion, the Public Works department will "borrow" an employee from the mowing crew to assist on other projects.

From Code Enforcement, Wes Moyers said, "We've trimmed down as much as we can to still do our jobs effectively."

The city is also trying to find a balance between accepting grants and setting aside the necessary matching funds locally.

"All items are on the table until we say they're not on the table," councilman Kevin Clark said.

There's also an ongoing discussion about the city's "rolling stock" and how much is going out the door for leased vehicles.

Would it not be more affordable to purchase some vehicles? council member Stoney Stone asked.

Especially during a tight year to come, the council members reminded the city's administrators to alert them when expenditures approach budget caps. Spending during FY2026 has become a sticking point, especially during the past eight weeks of budget back-and-forth.

"Anytime it's going to go above that amount, you've got to bring it before council," the mayor said.

A fresh concern is the state of some of the city's fire hydrants and what it will cost to repair them. Out of a rough figure of 400, 25 or more are black-bagged, out-of-service and have already complicated fire response. Repair and replacement runs between $7,500 and $10,000 considering some of the units date back to the mid-50s.

"We have a bunch that are inoperable in town," Public Works Director Brian Smith reported. "I'm just bringing it to y'all's attention."

Something needs to be put toward it this year, councilman William Blackmon said.

"We don't need to be in the habit of going backwards."

Those have an impact on the ISO fire rating, said council member André Clay, which hits citizens' bottom line on their insurance.

"We need a list of how many hydrants do we have, how many don't work," Clark said. "That translates directly to money."

The city also has to cover about $114,000 in fines from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. They were incurred from violations almost a decade back, and some or all may be mitigated through Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) moving forward.

It took almost four hours for tempers to fray last week, with council members arguing about the proposed tax rate as well as the city's Finance department – find articles online at GladewaterMirror.com

Meanwhile, with the Sept. 15 meeting stretching to about 10:30 p.m. that Tuesday night, the planned discussion of grants did not happen. The group moved on to the record vote proposing the No New Revenue Rate on a motion from Clark, seconded by Milton Anderson.

The rate includes $0.481637 for Maintenance & Operations and $0.085570 in Interest & Sinking (debt service).

"Our hope is, to the staff, that this is one of those off years," Flanagan-Shipp concluded. "We make all of these adjustments, we get on top of the things, and then we can get the staff stuff back on track at that point.

"Every once in a while, we're going to have a year where something like this happens. We all face that in our jobs. I do hate it."

City council seeks solution for overwhelmed finance department

By James Draper

The position of City Treasurer / Human Resources Director has been a sticking point this budget season, and the topic flared again during the City of Gladewater's budget workshop last week.

"I would like to see the finances and human resources split apart," councilman Milton Anderson said.

"There's no doubt she needs some help," council member Stoney Stone replied.

"If we split it, there's actual fiscal savings on our end when we go to median salaries," Kevin Clark noted.

"I don't agree with cutting anybody's pay in this department," William Blackmon replied.

Read more about the Sept. 15 budget workshop online and in Thursday's edition of the Mirror.

After previously raising Treasurer/HR Director Meghan Davis' pay when she took on additional duties, "Now we're splitting the job," Clark recommended. "Probably more importantly than money, it does divide up the responsibilities... and it gives us control over specific aspects, specific day to day activities."

Per Davis, cutting her responsibilities and pay as suggested would take her back to 2022 compensation levels when she was hired under the dual job title. In early August, a second employee was reassigned to her department to take on duties in accounts payable and payroll; Davis previously asked for more staff help to cover the workload.

"I'm fine with not bringing on that third person, I just need time to train somebody," she said.

According to Clark, "We don't have time for this not working," he said. "You're just answering to us. We're answering to everybody out there. You're overwhelmed; that's your words, not mine.

"We've got a situation here where we're looking at raising taxes, raising budget, raising everything up, and we can't justify it."

Happening around the meeting's four-hour mark Sept. 15, the discussion steadily devolved into an accusatory back-and-forth.

"We were just told we were going with the no new revenue rate," Blackmon said.

"That was a mis-posting," Clark answered. "That is something that happened. That ship has sailed."

From Blackmon, "The council has sent out to all of our employees that we have goofed, and y'all don't get a raise."

Per Anderson, "That is the cold, hard truth of the matter... So. Let's just get back to the budget, please."

Davis ultimately asked for four to six months to get her new employee trained.

"At this point, I'm just trying to please y'all," she said, hoping to avoid a cut in compensation: "I just ask that mine stays as it is."

Per Mayor Brandy Flanagan-Shipp, Finance and Human Resources will stay with Davis, accounts payable and payroll with the second employee. There was no further discussion of changes to compensation.

The council aims to re-evaluate the matter in February.

Don't stay in suspense, councilman says: *Check voter status*

Continued from Page 1

Office after updating the tags on his truck.

"She put the accent over the é and said, 'It's right here.' I guess with the new system, it's specific," Clay said. "I've never had any problems going in to vote. That's why I was curious."

Maybe it wouldn't have been a problem come Election Day, but Clay's glad he didn't chance it. He's spreading the word to other voters, just in case: don't get too concerned if the record doesn't come up immediately, just put in a little more effort to be sure.

"There may be a lot of people in there just like that, thinking they've been purged by the system," he said. "If you don't know how you're in the system you're not going to be able to find yourself in the system. Go check.

"That's why I'm trying to get everybody to do. Go check and see if you're in the system."

County Name	Precincts	Voter Registration	Suspense Voters	Non-Suspense Voters
GREGG	22	73,217	3,092	70,125
UPSHUR	20	30,686	806	29,880
SMITH	142	160,066	2,500	157,566

According to voter registration figures published in March by the Texas Secretary of State's office, there are almost 3,100 'Suspense Voters' out of 73,217 registered in Gregg County – about 4.2 percent. In Upshur, it's 806 voters out of 30,686 (2.6 percent). There are 2,500 suspended out of Smith County's 160,066 (1.6 percent).

Statewide, the Secretary of State put the number at about 1.2 million Texans after their current addresses could not be verified by mail.

Register to vote online via votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/

Where to Worship

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

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

Worship Guide

BAPTIST
Calvary Baptist • 903-845-6297
Clarksville City Baptist • 903-845-3248
Cornerstone Church • 903-918-5539
East Mountain Baptist • 903-759-2820
Eastview Baptist Church • 903-984-8524
First Baptist Church • 903-845-2171
Friendship Baptist Church • 903-845-4603
Gladeview Baptist • 903-845-3842
Gladewater Missionary Baptist • 903-845-5174
Grace Baptist • 903-845-6440
Greater New Hope Baptist
Locust Grove Baptist • 903-845-5174
Gladewater Bible • 903-845-4768
New Hope Baptist • 903-845-3042
St. James Baptist • 903-845-5028
Union Grove Baptist • 903-845-4894
CHURCH OF CHRIST
East Mountain Church of Christ * 903-285-1871
North Loop Church of Christ • 903-845-2531
North Main Church of Christ • 903-845-2816
Rocky Church of Christ
White Oak Church of Christ • 903-845-6139
CATHOLIC
St. Theresa's Catholic Church • 903-845-2306
CHARISMATIC
New Life Church • 903-845-8108
LUTHERAN
Our Redeemer Lutheran • 903-758-2019
CHURCH OF GOD
Elevate Worship Center • 903-374-2064
NAZARENE
Church of the Nazarene • 903-845-4425
METHODIST
First Methodist Church Gladewater • 903-845-2565
McCrary's Chapel United Methodist
New Mountain CME Church • 903-845-1175
Starrville Methodist • 903-877-4040
Union Temple CME Methodist • 903-845-1050
White Oak United Methodist Church • 281-682-3397
NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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 903-843-2555
GLADEWATER 903-845-2155
HAWKINS 903-769-2144
DIANA 903-663-3811
www.croleyfh.net



THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **James P. Booth, Or, If Deceased, His Unknown Heirs** Greetings:

You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the plaintiff's petition at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this Citation, the same being Monday the 26th day of October 2026, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. before the Honorable 124th District Court of Gregg County, at the Court House in Longview, Texas. Said plaintiff's petition was filed on this the 9th day of September, 2026.

The file number of said suit being No. **2026-1432-B**

The name of the parties in said suit are:
Herman Ray Plaintiff
and
James P. Booth, Or, If Deceased, His Unknown Heirs Defendant,

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
Suit To Remove Cloud From Title

The name and address of the attorney for plaintiff, or the address of plaintiff is:

JEFFREY COTTEN
PO BOX 7792
TYLER TX 75711
903-533-9900

Issued this the 10th day of September, 2026

Given under my hand and seal of said Court, at office in Longview, Texas this the 10th day of September, 2026

Trey Hattaway, Clerk
124th District Court
P.O. Box 711 Longview, Tx 75606
Gregg County, Texas

Signed: 9/10/2026 9:02:57 AM

By Porcha Lawson Deputy
Porcha Lawson

Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of JAMES WILLIAM DEES, Deceased, were issued on September 14, 2026, under Docket No. 2026-0123-E, pending in the County Court At Law No.2 of Gregg County, Texas, to ONTIBILE TAYLOR.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative,
Estate of James William Dees, Deceased
c/o: Courtney Anne Harris, Attorney at Law
PO Box 4373
Longview, TX 75606

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

DATED September 16, 2026.

By Courtney Anne Harris
Attorney(s) for Applicant

To Advertise Your Business Call Us At 903-845-2235

Consumer Cellular®
OVER 50? UNLIMITED FOR JUST $35/MONTH.
Backed by #1 Network Coverage and Customer Satisfaction.*
Switch & Save Today. 855-493-3803
© 2026 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include $5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For unlimited plans, high-speed data is reduced after 35GB on single-line plans and 50GB of combined usage on multi-line plans for the remainder of your billing cycle. Unlimited data plans only for customers age 50+. *2025 ACSI® Survey of customers rating their own wireless service provider. ACSI® and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI®, visit www.theacsi.org.

LeafFilter® GUTTER PROTECTION
Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season
EXPIRES: 11/30/2026
25% OFF LeafFilter® + 10% AN ADDITIONAL Discount For Seniors + Military
Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: Promo: 285 1-833-460-3020
*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. DC 420223000087, AZ ROC 344027, AR 0366920926, CA 1035795, CT HIC.0671520, FL CBC056678, ID RCE-51604, IA C127230, LA 559544, MD MHIC164488, MA 213292, MI 262300331, MI 262300330, MI 262300329, MI 262300328, MI 2623003l8, MI 262300173, MN IR2025-810524, MT 266192, NE 50145-24, NV 0086990, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, ND 47304, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VT 174.0000871, VA 2705169445, WA LEAFFLH763PG, WV WV056912, WI 537-DCFRR

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.

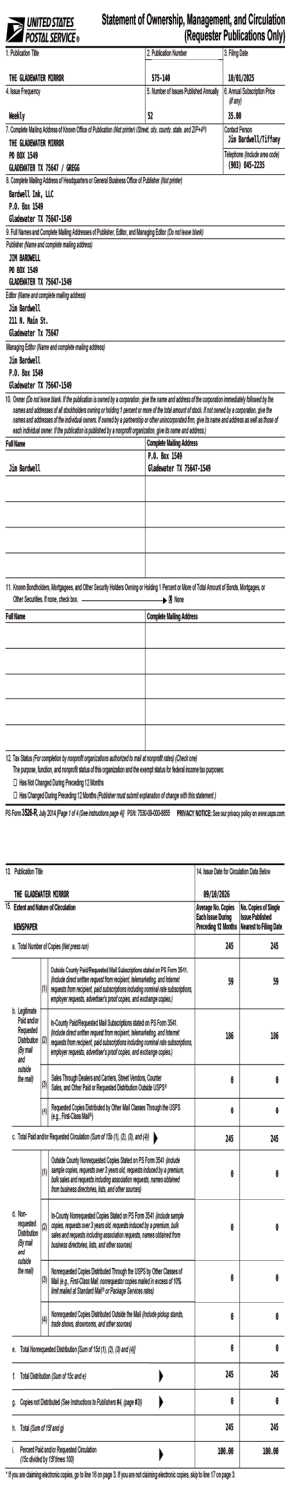
NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT FUEL FACTOR FORMULA

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) applied to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on August 10, 2026, for authority to implement a fuel factor formula for its Texas retail jurisdiction. This application, if granted, will not immediately affect SWEPCO's Texas retail customers that currently pay fixed fuel factors. However, if the Commission approves SWEPCO's proposed formula, the Company will propose new fuel factors derived from the formula in future proceedings, which will affect all SWEPCO Texas retail customers that currently pay fixed fuel factors. The request has no effect on non-fuel base rates.

Pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 25.237(a)(1)(B), SWEPCO is proposing a utility-specific fuel factor formula to more closely reflect its actual fuel and purchased power costs. This formula sums the costs of Texas retail jurisdictional fuel and purchased power, net of off system sales, as well as any deferred fuel balance. This sum is divided by forecasted Texas retail sales to produce a volumetric fuel rate.

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. 60096 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or wish to express their comments concerning SWEPCO's application should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as motions to intervene are due by October 16, 2026. A request to intervene or for further information should refer to Docket No. 60096 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.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
THE GLADEWATER MIRROR	575-140	10/01/2025
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price (if any)
Weekly	52	35.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) — Contact Person: Jim Bardwell/Tiffany
THE GLADEWATER MIRROR
PO BOX 1549
GLADEWATER TX 75647 / GREGG
Telephone (Include area code): (903) 845-2235

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)
Bardwell Ink, LLC
P.O. Box 1549
Gladewater TX 75647-1549

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)
JIM BARDWELL
PO BOX 1549
GLADEWATER TX 75647-1549
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Jim Bardwell
211 W. Main St.
Gladewater Tx 75647
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)
Jim Bardwell
P.O. Box 1549
Gladewater TX 75647-1549

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Jim Bardwell	P.O. Box 1549 Gladewater TX 75647-1549

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box. → ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (See instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-09-000-8855 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
THE GLADEWATER MIRROR	09/18/2026

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
MEMBPAPER				
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			245	245
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1)	Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	59	59
	(2)	In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	186	186
	(3)	Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4)	Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))			245	245
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1)	Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	0
	(2)	In-County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	0
	(3)	Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail (e.g., First-Class Mail, nonrequestor copies mailed in excess of 10% limit mailed at Standard Mail® or Package Services rates)	0	0
	(4)	Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (Include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)	0	0
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)			245	245
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3))			0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			245	245
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f times 100)			100.00	100.00

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Previous 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Requested and Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
c. Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
d. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)		

☒ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are legitimate requests or paid copies.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the issue of this publication. 10/02/2025

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner — Date 9/24/2026

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Read Local
Local company. Local journalists. Local stories.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested persons are invited to review and request further environmental processing of an FCC application proposing the following telecommunications antenna structure at: N 32 34' 19.96"/W 95 3' 08.95", Big Sandy, Upshur County, Texas, 854 File Number A1394819, 346' SST with FAA Style E (L-864/L865/L-810) dual lighting. The application may be reviewed by entering the 854 file number at this website: www.fcc.gov/asr/applications. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns by filing a "Request for Environmental Review" with the FCC within 30 days of this posting. Instructions for filing requests are contained on the following website: www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The FCC strongly encourages requests to be filed online; however, written requests may also be sent by mail to the following address: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gladewater ISD is seeking Request for Sealed Proposals (RFP) for the purchase of chiller replacement (equipment only).

RFP Number 27-51-001

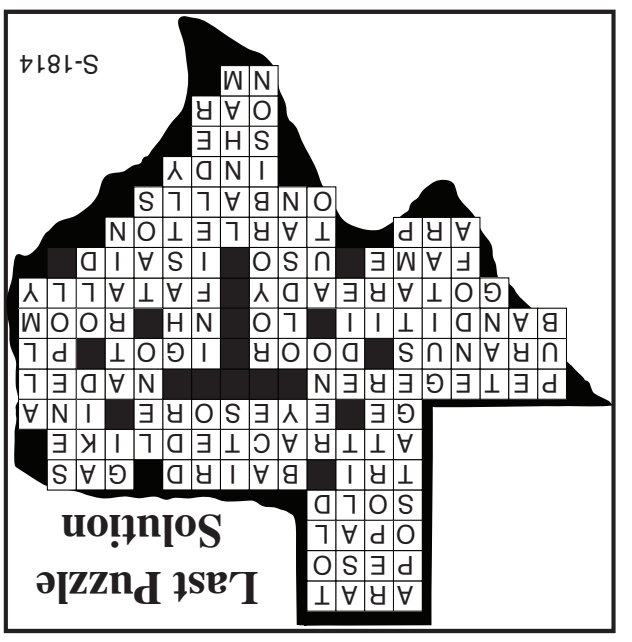
Proposals are available at the Gladewater ISD Business Office or online at www.gladewaterisd.com

Proposal Submission Deadline: October 2, 2026

Submission Location: Sealed proposals must be submitted in hard copy to Gladewater ISD Business Office Attn: Matt McIntosh 200 East Broadway Gladewater, TX 75647

Queries about the project and RFP should be directed to Matt McIntosh, Director of Maintenance at mcintoshm@gladewaterisd.com or 903-845-2829

S-1814



GLADEWATER POLICE/FIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
09/13/2026	00:39:15	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	111 S MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 00:40:17				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	03:15:48	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE-TRANSFORMER	606 N TENERY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 03:16:43				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	03:19:37		EMS	619 W QUITMAN AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 03:23:52				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	07:29:41	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	1207 E SHEPPARD DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 07:30:46				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	07:43:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	CRIMINAL TRESPASS	1100 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 07:45:07				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	11:26:48		AB911	1006 E PACIFIC AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 11:27:19				
09/13/2026	11:44:06		AB911	407 MONEY ST
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 11:44:29				
09/13/2026	11:54:57		ANIMAL CONTROL	RODEO SIDE ENTRANCE GATE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 11:56:02				
09/13/2026	13:09:27		EMS	1620 N LYNN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 13:10:08				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	17:11:07	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE-GRASS	405 W MARTIN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 17:11:39				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	17:09:17	CWC - FIRE	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	206 E GAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 17:14:26				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	19:04:22		AB911	530 NORTH STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 19:05:07				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	20:10:45	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	514 W MARSHALL STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 20:12:06				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	22:35:37	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	2870 W UPSHUR AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 22:37:16				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/13/2026	22:46:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	REDROCK /WEST COMMERCE 2000 BLK
Sent To Dispatch- 09/13/2026 23:27:25				
09/14/2026	05:28:41		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 05:30:07				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	05:36:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	407 N FERRY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 05:36:30				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	07:12:10		EMS	1620 N LYNN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 07:12:50				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	08:40:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ESCORT	GREGG COUNTY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 08:40:34				
09/14/2026	12:01:54	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	603 N TENERY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 12:02:56				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	12:05:07	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 12:05:23				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	13:00:03	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	511 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 13:01:31				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	14:44:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 14:45:08				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	15:44:32	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1100 SOUTH LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 15:45:39				
09/14/2026	16:01:37		EMS	1006 N LYNN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 16:01:48				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	17:22:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	HARASSMENT	523 W MARSHALL STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 17:23:05				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	17:36:26		MISCELLANEOUS	RODEO CROSSING
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 17:36:41				
09/14/2026	17:38:42	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	1605 EAST LAKE DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 17:39:07				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	18:43:11	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	THEFT	328 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 18:43:44				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	19:28:38	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY/MUTUAL AID	408 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 19:31:23				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	20:24:24	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY/MUTUAL AID	300 MONEY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 20:25:50				
09/14/2026	20:56:32	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	S RODEN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 20:56:56				
09/14/2026	21:33:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	601 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 21:34:05				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	23:12:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	807 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 23:12:21				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/14/2026	23:41:21	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	500 JEANETTE AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/14/2026 23:42:11				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	00:30:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL CONTROL	207 E ELEANOR STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 00:31:42				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	03:59:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 03:59:32				
09/15/2026	06:18:23		ANIMAL CONTROL	1020 CHEVY CHASE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 06:19:58				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	07:20:51	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	314 E SAUNDERS STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 07:23:02				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	07:41:36		ANIMAL CONTROL	202 WALTON STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 07:43:11				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	07:48:18	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	PUBLIC WORKS
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 07:48:50				
09/15/2026	07:50:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER AND DEAN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 07:52:47				
09/15/2026	08:12:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 08:13:04				
09/15/2026	09:02:42		ANIMAL CONTROL	1010 CHEVY CHASE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 09:05:02				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	08:56:08		ANIMAL CONTROL	1202 N CULVER ST
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 09:07:41				
09/15/2026	09:31:21	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	1975 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 09:32:28				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	10:32:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	600 S LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 10:33:07				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	12:14:41	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	WATER TREATMENT PLANT
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 12:15:50				
09/15/2026	12:21:30		EMS	15724 CR 384
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 12:22:49				TYLER, TX
09/15/2026	12:50:50		DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1300 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 12:54:10				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	15:26:30	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	300 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 15:26:52				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/15/2026	16:20:09	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	DECEASED-ACCIDENT-NATURAL-	800 E BROADWAY AVENUE
09/15/2026	23:11:41	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY/MUTUAL AID	3917 WHITE OAK RD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/15/2026 23:12:46				
09/16/2026	00:54:01	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	W LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 00:54:06				
09/16/2026	01:21:32		REPOSSESSION	572 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 01:22:54				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/16/2026	01:49:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	N MAIN/ W GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 01:54:04				
09/16/2026	02:01:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	CANFIELD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 02:02:16				
09/16/2026	10:30:21	CWC - FIRE	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	735 PELPHREY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 10:31:19				GLADEWATER, TX
09/16/2026	10:36:07		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 10:37:28				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/16/2026	12:25:14		ANIMAL CONTROL	606 N TENERY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 12:26:26				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/16/2026	12:48:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	S LOOP AND 271
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 12:49:34				
09/16/2026	14:27:40	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	300 MONEY ST SENTINEL GARDENS
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 14:29:14				
09/16/2026	14:36:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	215 W MAPLE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/16/2026 14:38:15				
09/16/2026	15:53:41	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY/MUTUAL AID	11220 UNION GROVE ROAD
09/17/2026	22:20:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	504 NORTH STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/17/2026 22:29:28				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	07:03:01		ANIMAL CONTROL	2109 W GAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 07:03:18				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	07:34:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	800 ANDERSON LANE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 07:34:42				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	07:41:58	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	498 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 08:17:39				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	08:44:49	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ALARM	2114 WEST LAKE DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 08:45:26				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	09:11:56	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL CONTROL	213 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 09:12:09				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	10:12:43	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISSING PERSON	1035 CHEVY CHASE STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 10:13:36				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	14:04:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	E BROADWAY/LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 14:18:23				
09/18/2026	14:27:28	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	FIRE	314 E SAUNDERS STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 14:27:45				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	14:35:17	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY/MUTUAL AID	502 STEAMBOAT
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 14:37:00				
09/18/2026	16:04:21	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	900 \B COACH COOKSEY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 16:04:35				
09/18/2026	16:12:54		EMS	1600 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 16:13:03				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/18/2026	16:13:07	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	900 \B COACH COOKSEY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/18/2026 16:13:24				
09/18/2026	16:48:53		EMS	56 WELDON HOMES
09/19/2026	00:59:48	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	W GAY/ E LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/19/2026 01:00:00				
09/19/2026	01:03:02	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	DOLLAR GENERAL N MAIN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/19/2026 01:03:39				
09/19/2026	01:20:14	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1296 FM 2685
Sent To Dispatch- 09/19/2026 01:20:30				
09/19/2026	02:52:44	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- ASSIST OTHER AGENCY/MUTUAL AID	410 MUSTANG DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/19/2026 02:54:10				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/19/2026	03:17:13	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	600 E LAKE DR
Sent To Dispatch- 09/19/2026 03:17:51				
09/19/2026	03:26:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	210 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/19/2026 03:28:35				GLADEWATER, TX 75647

GPD Activity

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Address	Charges
9/10/2026	ELLIS, ISAIAH ANTWON	1400 S TYLER ROAD GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	POSS MARIJ < 2OZ
9/10/2026	HERNANDEZ, JOSE MANUEL	305 N AMES STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY FAMILY MEMBER - SIMPLE ASSAULT
9/10/2026	WILLIAMS, CURTIS EDWARD	100 TEXAS GLADEWATER, TENNESSEE 75647	MAN/DEL CS PG 1 >= 4G < 200G
9/13/2026	MOORE, ROCKEY LEE	1109 E BROADWAY AVENUE GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	CRIMINAL TRESPASS

WOPD Activity

For the reporting period of September 14th through September 20th, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 165 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Suspicious Activity, Advice Calls, Thefts, Disturbances, Traffic Issues (collisions, motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

Three traffic collisions were investigated during this reporting period. No injuries were reported.

Two arrests were made during this reporting period:

Korey Frierson, 41, of Gladewater, for Driving While Intoxicated.

Daniel Walker, 27, of Gladewater, for Driving While Intoxicated.

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

-Aggravated Robbery x2

-Driving While Intoxicated with a Child under 15 YOA 3rd or More IAT

-Assault Causing Bodily Injury, Family Violence and Resist Arrest, Search or Transport

-Driving While Intoxicated



OBITUARIES

ETHEL FAYE WALLACE

Ethel Faye Wallace was born on February 27, 1948, and passed away on September 3, 2026, at the age of 78.

Ethel worked in the cafeteria at Gladewater ISD, where she was part of the daily life of the school community. Her work reflected a caring and dependable spirit, and she will be remembered by those who knew her through those years. Ethel was also a woman of Baptist faith, which was an important part of her life.





Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Darrell Caldwell, Sonia Hernandez, Johnny Faye Long, John Marlow and wife Angie; a bonus son Johnny Smith stepchildren, Tami Macias and husband Javier, James Edward Wallace II and William T. Wallace and Dominic Ward; along with 23 grandchildren and 39 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert Lee Robertson and Ethel Annie Johnson Robertson; husband, James "Gator" Wallace and grandson, Stetson Caldwell.

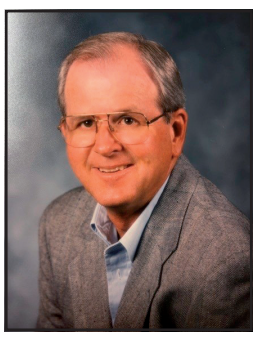
Family and friends were invited to gather in remembrance during a visitation on Friday, September 11, 2026, at Croley Funeral Home in Gladewater. A memorial service celebrated Ethel's life on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at Abundant Life Church in Gladewater.

Croley FUNERAL HOME

SAM W. RANKIN

Friends and family come together in sadness at the passing of Sam W. Rankin of Hideaway, Texas. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and mentor, Mr. Rankin died peacefully on September 15, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones.

Sam was born in Gladewater, Texas, on May 24, 1938, and spent his youth in his family's home there before enlisting in the Army Reserves. Gladewater made him what he was. It was East Texas oil country in those years, a place where a man's word was his collateral and where he learned early that opportunity favors the person willing to work while everyone else is still talking about it.



Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit that never left him, Mr. Rankin co-founded several oil-related businesses, including PAR and VeRan, both oil derrick service companies, each founded alongside his lifelong business partner, Rodney Verette. Theirs was a partnership measured in decades — the kind that outlasts the deals that make it.

He went on to become co-owner of Evangeline Downs in Lafayette, Louisiana, and held interests in banks and savings and loans, including Gladewater National Bank in his hometown — a point of quiet pride, having a hand in the bank of the town that raised him. In the early 1990s, he co-founded United Lift Systems, Inc., a mast-jacking system for large-scale heavy lifting.

Mr. Rankin retired from active business in the mid-1990s, though "retired" was never quite the right word for him. He simply turned his considerable energy toward his family, working as tirelessly for them as he ever had for any venture, and taking on the care of his numerous aunts with a devotion that asked for no recognition and received a great deal of it anyway.

In 2001, he came out of retirement to help build an automotive software startup. He did it the way he did most things — giving fully of himself and rarely asking for much in return. That last effort set his only son, Mark, on the same path of entrepreneurship his father had walked, which may have been the point all along.

A lifelong golfer, some say he made more money on the golf course than in any business meeting. His friends will have to weigh in on that. What is not in dispute is that he was better company over eighteen holes than most people are anywhere.

He is survived by his wife, Ginger Rankin; his son, Mark Rankin, and Mark's wife, Jana Rankin; his grandchildren, Gage Rankin, Rachel McKenzie and her husband, Blake McKenzie, Lane Simmons, and Tera Brandt and her husband, Jacob Brandt; and four amazing great-grandchildren, Oliver Brandt, Jude Brandt, Henry Brandt, and Waylon McKenzie.

He leaves behind a family he built with the same care he brought to everything else, and a great many people who are better off for having known him.

Croley FUNERAL HOME

White Oak adopts slim trim to tax rate

Continued from Page 1

Following the death of Public Works Director Tracey Fears in June, city leaders have been discussing changes to move the department forward.

Heading into the new fiscal year, Colton Apple is the new Public Works department head with Dale Tuttle serving as foreman and Jacob Pennington as crew leader.

Conversations are ongoing about renaming ballfields at the city's baseball complex in honor of Fears.

Gladewater City Council steps closer to tax rate approval

By James Draper

One of the flashpoints at the City of Gladewater's Sept. 15 workshop's flash points was the proposed tax rate.

The city cannot exceed the Voter Approval Rate as it's too late to put the issue before residents, but elected officials can adopt a figure up to that rate through Sept. 30.

The bulk of the last week's discussion was built on the 'No New Revenue Rate' of $0.567207 per $100 valuation, a 1.83 percent increase on the current combined rate of $0.557005.

Read more about the budget workshop online and in Thursday's printed edition of the Mirror.

With no COLA or other increases planned in the budget, "Did you want to revisit the salary?" councilman William Blackmon asked Mayor Brandy Flanagan-Shipp.

"I would love to, but we're still at a $40,000 deficit," the mayor replied.

Weeks back, an initial vote proposing the Voter Approval Rate was unanimously rescinded following council concerns. Then, the No New Revenue rate was posted by mistake in mid-September.

"It got posted, that's what we have to stick with," Flanagan-Shipp said.

"So there's no sense of a vote," Blackmon replied.

"You still have to vote," city secretary Judy Van Houten noted.

It's unclear what part of state law and tax codes would limit the elected officials' discretion to set the tax rate (up to the voter approval limit). Tuesday's discussion left council members questioning the legality of the final record vote proposing the No Revenue Rate, approved 6-1 with Blackmon dissenting.

With the clock ticking, it's likely a moot point – legal or not, Flanagan-Shipp noted Sept. 21, a majority of the council members don't want to see any further increase in taxes.



Chamber, city partner to put digital waypoints downtown

There's some new e-graffiti downtown in front of the Gladewater Museum – fret not, it's painted with a purpose (and with permission).

The new quick response box – aka a QR code to most everyone who has a smartphone in reach – points users to GladewaterChamber.org and the latest 'Passport' to the community core.

Scannable with a built-in camera app or similar program, the link opens the unfolded version of the chamber's multi-panel map to everything there is to Shop, Eat, Stay and Play in the Antique Capital of East Texas.

Gladewater Chamber of Commerce dynamo Lois Reed is excited to offer visitors 24/7 access to local resources as they stroll through downtown.

"Isn't that awesome?" she asked excitedly Saturday amid the hubbub of the 53rd annual Gladewater Arts & Crafts Festival. The passport itself is nothing new: "I pass them out to the stores, I put them in goodie bags."

That said, there's no guarantee a hard-copy will always be at-hand if a guest is on the move.

"This brainstorm hit me that I need to put it on the website," Reed added, and Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith signed off, tasking Public Works' Brian Smith and David Robert with executing the task.

The new navigation art works like a charm, and Reed says she'll keep the digital destination up-to-date with various resources.

"My QR code will always be current. There are five more locations downtown where we're going to put them," she added. "We're not putting them on buildings, because buildings are privately-owned, but Charlie gave permission for the sidewalks, which is where people are going to notice them.

"We're moving on up."

City of Gladewater — Treasuring the past While embracing the future

TEMPORARY DISINFECTANT CONVERSION CHLORAMINE TO FREE CHLORINE

The **City of Gladewater Public Water System (PWS ID No. 0920001)** will temporarily convert the disinfectant used in the water distribution system from **chloramine to free chlorine**. The conversion will begin **September 28, 2026**, and continue through **October 12, 2026**. During this period, customers may notice a temporary change in the **taste or odor of their water**. This is normal during a free-chlorine conversion and does not necessarily indicate a problem with the safety of the water.

WHY IS THE CITY MAKING THIS CHANGE?

Public water systems are required to disinfect drinking water and maintain an adequate disinfectant residual throughout the distribution system. The City of Gladewater normally uses **chloramine** as its primary distribution-system disinfectant. Extended periods of high temperatures, elevated water temperatures, and water age, can make maintaining an adequate disinfectant residual difficult and can contribute to biological activity or buildup within portions of the distribution system. A temporary conversion to **free chlorine**, combined with increased system flushing, is a preventative maintenance practice used to help clean the distribution system, improve disinfectant residuals, and maintain overall water quality.

WHY IS THE CONVERSION BEING PERFORMED NOW?

The City has chosen to perform the temporary conversion following unusually challenging summer conditions, including:

- Extended periods of air temperatures **near or above 100°F**.
- Source-water temperatures exceeding **90°F** as water enters the treatment plant.
- Water temperatures of approximately **89–90°F throughout portions of the distribution system**.

These elevated temperatures can increase disinfectant demand and make maintaining chlorine residuals more challenging.

WHAT SHOULD CUSTOMERS EXPECT?

During the conversion and associated flushing activities, customers may temporarily notice a stronger chlorine smell or taste. Some customers may also experience brief changes in clarity or water color as flushing occurs. If you experience discoloration, allow the **cold water** to run for several minutes until it clears. If the condition persists, please contact the City. Customers who use water for **dialysis, aquariums, fish ponds, or other processes sensitive to chlorine** should take appropriate precautions because free chlorine and chloramine require different treatment methods.

PLEASE SHARE THIS NOTICE

Please share this information with others who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly, including residents of **apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses**. This notice may be posted in a public place or distributed by hand, mail, or electronically.

For questions regarding the temporary disinfectant conversion, please contact:

Wendy Emmel (Water Treatment Plant Manager)
City of Gladewater Water Treatment Plant
903-844-6331

Conversion Period**: September 28, 2026 – October 12, 2026**
City of Gladewater Public Water System — **PWS ID No. 0920001**

Read Local

Local company. Local journalists. Local stories.