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Thursday, October 1, 2026 | Vol. 98, No. 40 | 1 Section, 8 pages | 50¢



Toppled truck's tank holds tight ...

Volatile fuel stays put after 18-wheeler wreck

It could've been really bad, Tim Basham says.

Gladewater's fire chief rushed to join first responders Sunday night after an 18-wheeler tanker overturned on Hwy. 271 at the Loop 485 intersection.

The tanker was hauling 5,500 gallons of a UN 1992 flammable liquid with a Class 3 primary hazard and a Class 6.1 toxicity.

Racecar fuel, Basham translated.

Fortunately, none of the payload leaked from the tank, and a combined effort righted the hauler within hours Sept. 28.

"According to the driver, he was going 11 miles an hour," the fire chief reported, and the 'black box' equipment on the truck was tracking speed and other data in addition to visual recordings. "When he turned, there's no baffles in the fuel tank.

Continued on Page 5

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK — OCTOBER 4 – 10, 2026 — ROOTED IN COMMUNITY • COMMITTED TO TRUTH

BY Benjy Hamm

When the Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago, newspapers throughout the colonies shared the life-changing news with their readers.

With all of the enormous changes in this country and media since 1776, it's noteworthy that more than 5,000 newspapers are still informing their communities about what their leaders are doing and how those actions affect them.

Often, newspaper reporters are the only journalists who cover the actions of the local school board or city council or youth sports teams. The 2025 State of Local News report by Northwestern University's

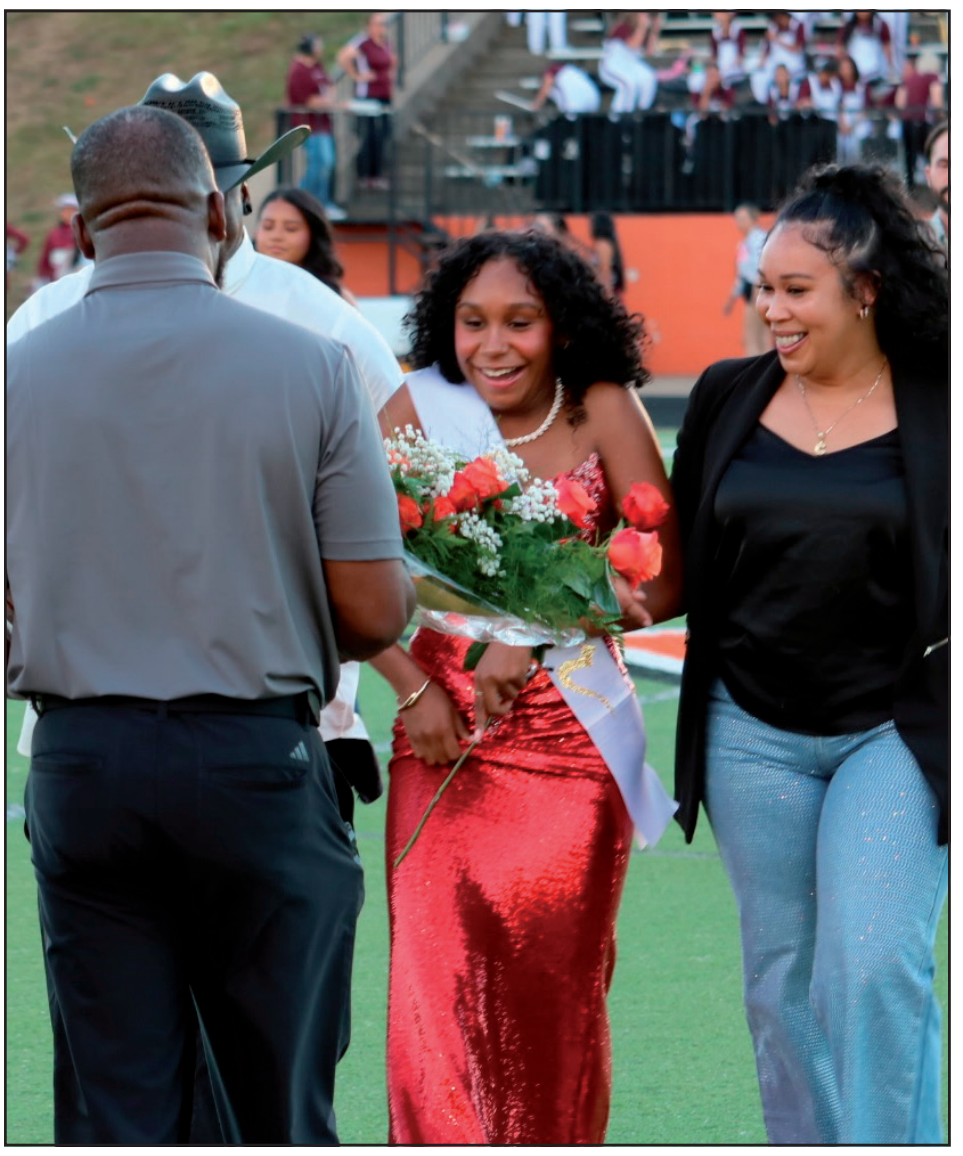
Continued on Page 8

Texas voter registration deadline nears

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 general election is Oct. 5. Early voting starts Oct. 19 and runs through Oct. 30, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office.

The last day for an application to vote by mail must be received by Friday, Oct. 23.Voters can visit votetexas.gov to confirm they are registered to vote, see what is on the ballot where they live, and get other election-related information. That site is maintained by the Texas Secretary of State.Meanwhile, The Texas Tribune reported that an unknown number of voter registration applications were delayed because of an error by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The agency failed to forward the applications, submitted online through its driver's license portal, to county voter registrars.

HOMECOMING



Paytin Thompson was crowned 2026 Gladewater High School Homecoming Queen Friday night prior to the Homecoming game with Athens at Jack V. Murphy Stadium. Photo by Jim Bardwell



GISD adopts 1.54% decrease in combined rate following increase in property value

By James Draper

There was a $38 million difference (for the better) between April's Preliminary Tax Values for Gladewater ISD and the eventual $757.9 million in Certified Values in July.

In the interim, the budget adopted by trustees in June was based on $753 million – the change led to a 1.54 percent decrease between last year's tax rate and the new number. It also means, there's no need for adjustment to the current financial plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – GISD's numbers are on-target.

"We're really slightly under, so I feel good about the numbers that we used to budget revenue," GISD Chief Financial Officer Candy Keller reported to trustees last week.

July's Certified Tax Values totaled $757,904,754 between the three counties – approximately $371 million in Gregg, $245.1 million in Upshur and $141.8 million for Smith.

School districts' tax rate calculations for Maintenance & Operations include the Maximum Compression Rate (set by Texas Education Agency statewide) in addition to the local Voter Approved Enrichment Rate.

TEA lowered the MCR the past two years, Keller noted. Using the state's latest rate of $0.6112 plus the local rate of $0.1383, the new combined M&O decreases slightly to $0.7495 per $100 valuation for FY2027. Likewise, the Interest & Sinking rate (based on debt) decreased from a preliminary figure of $0.25336 to the final $0.243523.

Adding them together reaches a total tax rate of $0.993023 per $100 valuation, declining from $1.008536 per $100 of taxable value in FY2026. The district still nets a bit more in revenue from the tax base.

"When you factor in the difference in the certified values and the fact that we used a little bit lower and that our MCR's dropping, we're within about $12,000 of what I anticipate we would have collected," Keller concluded. "I feel good about those numbers to be within $12,000."

As one operation leaves, GEDCO welcomes successor

By James Draper

The departure of a local employer is no welcome change, but Gladewater Economic Development Corporation has helped to successfully fill the gap – and then some.

Earlier this month, Gladewater City Council members signed off on a performance incentive for an incoming light industrial operation designated 'Project Commerce.' The joint effort will both create new jobs here and keep an East Commerce Avenue property from sitting empty.

"We have focused this year more on retention and development," says Anna Conlan, GEDCO executive director. "The EDC's done a good job of keeping their finger on the pulse of what's coming and going."

The Texas Open Meetings Act allows public entities to deliberate economic development negotiations in executive (closed) session Sept. 17. Former mayor and current GEDCO board member Scott Owens presented the details to council members in private, and they returned to open meeting for a unanimous vote on the matter with no discussion.

GEDCO has not yet named the company publicly while final details are still being resolved. With existing operations in East Texas as well as Ohio, it'll be moving into the 1032 E. Commerce, currently being vacated by PMM Products.

Continued on Page 8

Council concludes budget wrangling with cut to taxes in Fiscal Year '27

By James Draper

Today's the official start to many a Fiscal Year, including for the City of Gladewater.

It wasn't an easy budget season, but city employees and elected officials put in the hours, crunched the numbers and made it to the other side with a total tax rate of $0.567207 per $100 valuation.

That's the so-called 'No New Revenue' rate for FY2026-2027 and represents a decrease of about 1.8 percent from the rate for FY2026, which officially ended Sept. 30. Granted, the revenues are shored up by increases to the base rates on the water side – i.e. $5.25 for customers on the lowest tier while the average comes in at a little less than $9.

After the city's administrators, department heads, council members and other stakeholders hammered and whittled away at six preliminary budgets, it was draft No. 7 that arrived balanced with total revenues and expenses at $7,536,509 in the General Fund. In Fund 2 (that's the Water & Wastewater side) the numbers balanced at $5,672,380.

One of the final, substantial components to shaving deficits and getting the numbers even is the anticipated injection of reimbursement funds coming back to the city from a variety of projects – the new lift station, monies from Texas Department of Transportation and payback for Snowmageddon's generators.

By the end of the 20-minute meeting (a record, especially in recent weeks of workshops and special sessions) the council accepted the budget in a 5-2 record vote.

The 'Ayes' included Mayor Brandy Flanagan-Shipp plus Mayor Pro Tem Sonny Anderson alongside councilmen Kevin Clark, Milton Anderson and

Continued on Page 3

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 a small world after all..."

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



After toes in the sand for two days in Pensacola getting out your newspapers, Clark Kent and I headed to Jacksonville, Florida where my journalist superhero hubby and Texas Press Association President carried the Lone Star Flag in the procession of states at the National Newspaper Association's annual convention. It was a thrilling moment for both of us and a memory we will always treasure.

And, since we were now so close to the "happiest place on earth", (it's certainly the cleanest which is amazing considering the crowds) we headed to DisneyWorld for the 50th Anniversary celebration. We hit Magic Kingdom with a gazillion other people to do just that. As they camped out for hours for viewing space for the special fireworks display we walked onto rides, sampled the famous Dole Whip and of course rode "It's a Small World"…the water ride that celebrates all the children of the world and their cultures.

On Sunday we found out what a small world it really is. At Animal Kingdom we went on a safari, people watched, checked out the exotic world of Pandora and ate at the African themed Tusker House. Our hospitable host asked where we were from and then said, "WOW! I am from Longview." It just got better from there. After our meal we took the time to visit with Cousin Randy. Turns out he really might be related to Jim. How about that for a small world indeed?

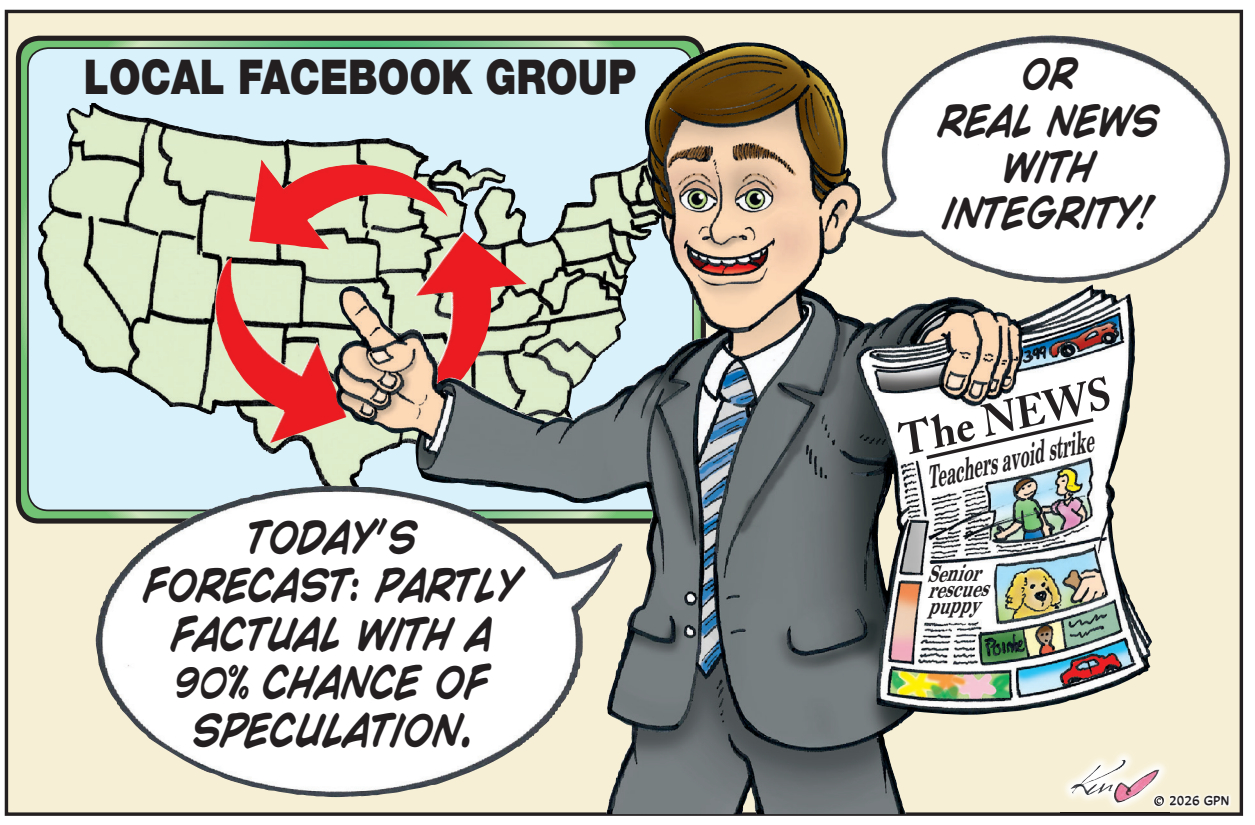
I wish I could gather all my dear readers, friends and neighbors and bring you to this 'magic kingdom' that was built by Walt Disney and a mouse for this very reason. There are people from all over the world speaking a variety of languages, different cultures, races, political convictions and religions and everyone is smiling and almost everyone is exercising their best manners. That makes for a very happy place indeed.

What if we all were like our new found "cousin" Randy? We greet everyone with a big smile, look for what we have in common, choose not to judge and dismiss based on dress, language or attractiveness and we just might find every corner of our world a much more pleasant place to be.

You know, Walt Disney was from Missouri with very strong traditional American values. He worked hard to bring the Golden Rule into his business and into the lives of millions of people making it a requirement for employment in the happy worlds he created. Courtesy, warmth, caring, problem solving and compassion applied to life by treating others the way we want to be treated. What a plan! I am pretty sure that most of us grew up being taught just that by our parents, Sunday School teachers and teachers. It is time we embrace that again to create a better world. It requires effort, it requires time, and it requires that we use the manners our mothers taught us.



Remember my friends, you don't have to agree with one another to care for one another. You also must remember that we never know the burdens that others are carrying and we can often lighten the load with a smile and a little warmth. After all, we carry the 'happiest place on earth' within us wherever we go and we should never forget how "small our world" really is.



Citywide clean-up collects helpers ahead of latest trash collection

'Tis the season to clean those closets and crawl spaces so there's plenty of room to hide presents in a couple of months.

The year's second Citywide Clean-up Day is set for 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 10, with Public Works no-cost collection site once again situated east of Broadway Avenue on Commerce.

The four-hour Fall trash-off runs concurrently with a grassroots effort to collect litter ahead of the holidays.

"Anyone is welcome to go out and do a trash pickup in their neighborhood and bring it down to the dump area," says Gladewater City Secretary Judy Van Houten. "They can adopt a city park. There's always a group that gets together and walks downtown. It's really kind of at their own pace that day.

"Our crew handles the collection site down by the railroad."

Notably, this clean-up will not include tire collection, a grant-funded component.

Everything else is welcome except for some specific prohibited items including:

- Paint
- Shingles
- Batteries
- Chemicals
- Commercial waste
- Refrigeration items

"If they have something that has refrigeration, like an old refrigerator or freezer, the only way we can accept it is if the refrigerant has been removed and its certified by a technician," Van Houten noted.

The city will also lend a hand to residents in particular need of assistance.

"Elderly and disabled can call City Hall up until Thursday afternoon (Oct. 8) at 4:45 p.m. and we'll go to their house and pick up their stuff. We can't go into the house, but we can get it from the road."

For more information, contact Gladewater City Hall at 903-845-2196. Gladewater Chamber of Commerce dynamo Lois Reed is recruiting volunteers for the concurrent Hwy. 271 clean-up in memory of her predecessor, the late Marsha Valdetero.

"We want to keep her memory," Reed said, "and how much she loved downtown."

The chamber provides Hi-Viz vests, trash bags and gloves for volunteers sprucing the stretch of roadway between either end of the loop. The team will start the route at the Mobil gas station south of downtown at 8 a.m.

To volunteer with the chamber effort, call 903-845-5501.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Judge: Texas must air-condition all prisons by end of 2029

A federal judge has ordered the state to air-condition its entire prison system by the end of 2029, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice has estimated that could cost the state $1.5 billion.

Nearly two-thirds of the 143,000 prisoners now held in Texas prisons do not have air-conditioning. In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Robert Pittman said the prison agency had "minimized and misled" the court about the seriousness of the heat problem.

"The data that TDCJ does not collect also paints a picture of an agency that is not attempting to meaningfully understand or document the dangers and impacts of heat," Pitman wrote.

A TDCJ spokesperson took issue with the judge's characterization.

"TDCJ has robust heat mitigation efforts in place to protect the safety of its population and staff," Amanda Hernandez said in an email.

The state will appeal the ruling.

Camp Mystic under investigation

Camp Mystic, the Hill Country girls' summer camp where 28 people died in the July 2025 floods, is under criminal investigation by the Texas Rangers, kut.org reported. Fourteen search warrants were executed against family and staff members who ran the camp. KUT News obtained a copy of the affidavit filed against Tweety Eastland, whose husband, Dick, was one of the 28 who died.

The affidavit states the Rangers have probable cause to believe the camp's leaders committed a number of criminal offenses, including manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, injury to a child, deadly conduct, and abandoning or endangering a child.

"These offenses were committed against child campers—including both deceased victims and surviving campers of the flood event," Brant Johnston, an investigator with the Texas Rangers, wrote in the document.

The affidavits are intended to allow the Rangers to obtain electronic data from Tweety and other members of the Eastland family that owns the camp, as well as camp staff members. A Kerr County state district judge approved it earlier this month.

Camp Mystic's owners are being sued in civil court by more than a dozen families.

Land commissioner backs virtual border wall

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham told the Houston Chronicle that a virtual border wall makes "the most sense" for much of West Texas, where plans to build a physical wall have drawn considerable opposition.

"The bottom line is there are places where physical barriers make sense, and there are places where they don't. And we just want the solution that's best for Texas," Buckingham said in an interview with the Chronicle's editorial board. "I think especially when you get to West Texas, a virtual wall, in my opinion, makes the most sense for most of that area."

The Trump administration is moving to build a border wall across the more than 13 million acres the state agency controls, most of which is in West Texas. Gov. Greg Abbott has previously questioned the logic of building a physical wall in "rugged, isolated areas like Big Bend."

Buckingham sent a cease-and-desist letter in July to U.S. Customs and Border Protection after a contractor for the agency was discovered clearing state-controlled land without permission.

Buckingham is running for reelection against Democrat Ben Flores, a former Bay City council member.

Comptroller's office fires employees

The Texas comptroller's office fired 41 employees recently, after agency leaders were told to submit lists of people to be terminated, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Comptroller Don Huffines, appointed to the post by Abbott last summer and the Republican nominee in November, campaigned on shrinking the size of the state's government. In a recent interview, Huffines defended how he is doing his job since taking the helm.

"You're going to hear a lot about how I'm changing the agency, consolidating different divisions," he said. "I'm making it more efficient."

North & East Texas Press Association
TPA TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
NNA 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

Owners:
Jim & Suzanne Bardwell

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

Bardwell Ink

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

REVENGE, OR "GETTING EVEN"

On an episode of the old Amos 'n Andy comedy routine, Andy was being bullied by a big fellow who kept slapping him on his chest. Finally, Andy decided to get even. He said: "I'm fixed for him. I put a stick of dynamite in my vest pocket, and the next time he slaps me, he's gonna get his hand blowed off!" Also. you may have heard about the fellow who was told by his physician "Yes indeed, you do have rabies." Upon hearing this, the patient immediately pulled out a pen and pencil and began to write. Thinking the man was making out his will, the doctor said, "Listen, this doesn't mean you're going to die. There's a cure for rabies." "I know that." said the man. "I'm making a list of people I'm gonna bite." These funny little stories illustrate a truth that's not so funny: revenge is dangerous business! You see, trying to get even with people who wrong us may cause us to end up destroying ourselves. God's Word has some good advice for us about revenge. Or perhaps we shouldn't call it "advice" at all. Bible teachings about revenge are commandments from God!

In the Old Testament, Proverbs 20: 22 says: "Don't say, I will get even for this wrong. Wait for the Lord to handle the matter." Proverbs 24: 29 says: "And don't say, now I can pay them back for all their meanness to me! I'll get even! In the New Testament, God tells us "Never recompense (pay back) evil for evil for anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible. Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it, says the Lord," (Rom. 12: 17-19). First Thessalonians 5: 15 says: "See that no one pays back evil for evil but always try to do good to each other and to everyone else." And 1 Pet. 3: 9 tells us: "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do. And He will bless you for it." Retribution should never characterize the Christian's conduct.

Yes, my friend, revenge is a dangerous business. Not only can hatred consume us, but revenge is sinful and we can be as quickly condemned for breaking God's law against revenge as the person who wronged us in the first place. Don't destroy yourself trying to "get even" with someone who has done wrong to you. What good can come from hurling insult for insult? When one wrongs you and yours don't "be overcome by evil" and respond in kind i.e. "evil for evil" but "overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12: 21). Don't allow an offensive word, insult, or tasteless remark lead you down the road of retribution as a code of conduct. It only leads to sin and chaos. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ
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What's Happening?

EMS Fall Fest returns downtown

Spooky Season has officially arrived, and there's a hint of sugar sweetness in the air.

It means Gladewater's Emergency Services Fall Fest is right around the corner, and it'll be back downtown from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 Saturday, Oct. 31 – aka Halloween.

Past years saw costumed kiddoes pulling parents across the Broadway School playground. Last year's weather forced a cancellation, rescheduling and subsequent relocation under the derrick in the center of town.

It was a great success, says Gladewater Chamber of Commerce's Lois Reed, despite the rainout. It seemed natural to keep the event on the new spot for the second year-in-a-row and see how it grows.

"We're closing off West Commerce," she said, issuing an open invitation to social groups, civic clubs, churches, student organizations, businesses and others to bring out games, candy, prizes and promotions. "We want it to be a community event. Of course, the police will be grilling hot dogs."

For those who can't join in but still want to support the cause, the chamber is accepting monetary donations as well as bags of candy to hand out to pint-sized participants.

"We'll have costume contests and all kinds of games to keep the children safe. We have a bounce house that's being donated," Reed said, and she's counting on local high schoolers and youth groups to help create a carnival atmosphere with various activities. "This is a great opportunity for those students to get their community service hours in. They can have fun and earn some hours at the same time."

To sign-up as a game, candy or booth sponsor, contact Reed at 903-845-5501.

"It'll be fun," she added, wrapping up at 6:30 p.m. so parents still have plenty of time to take their candy-seekers out-and-about.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

(Courtesy of Gladewater Chamber of Commerce)

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.)

Dump days set for Oct. 24

One of the two annual "County Wide Cleanup" days (also known as "dump days"), hosted by the Upshur County Commissioners Court, is set Saturday, Oct. 24, announced Precinct 1 County Commissioner Gene Dolle.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. if dumpster space lasts that long at the county pug mill, 1426 Cottonwood Road in rural Pritchett community. The event is for households only, no businesses.

Certain items aren't permitted for dumping. A list of acceptable and unacceptable items will be published later.

For more information, contact Pct. 2 Commissioner Mike Gilbert at 903-680-8157 or 903-738-5143.

Annual 5K raises awareness Oct. 24

The anual '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.

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.

Businesses wishing to participate should email the chamber the form which the chamber emailed to them, or bring the form by the chamber office at 106 Buffalo, McLuckie said.

For more information, call the chamber at 903-843-2413.

County library activities set

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

A book will be read to young children at both of the library's weekly "Storytime" sessions Thursday (Oct. 1.)

"LEGOs at the Library," for children ages 5-11, is scheduled from 11 a.m.-12 noon Saturday, while the Friends of the Upshur County Library organization will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

"We're Going on a Ghost Hunt" by Susan Pearson 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 aimed at children of pre-school through second grade age, says Amazon's website.

"Music and movement" will follow each reading of the book. Amy Allred, children's coordinator for the library, said clapping and stretching to music "help with brain development."

Each session also will feature a ghost-related craft.

Amazon's website summarizes the plot of "We're Going On a Ghost Hunt" by saying Pearson "has written her own unique version of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt,' introducing four children who go out at night in search of a ghost."

"After squish-squash-squooshing through a swamp, rustle-rustle-rat-a-tattling through a cornfield, and overcoming all kinds of obstacles on their journey, they come face to face with a ghost in a graveyard.

"Then--RUN! RUN! RUN!--they race back to the safety of their warm, cozy house."

The online site Google adds that, in addition to the aforementioned cornfield and swamp, the youngsters pass through a river and woods, "each (of the four sites) presenting unique challenges.

"The narrative emphasizes bravery, and the excitement of facing fears in a fun, engaging way," Google's summary concludes.

S.D. Schindler illustrated the book.

The library, which will be closed Sunday and Monday, is at 702 W. Tyler, which is also Texas 154. Although Storytime is free to the public with no advance registration required, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information on the upcoming events, call the library at 903-843-5001.

Friends of county library seeks help

The Friends of the Upshur County Library organization in Gilmer is seeking historical information for its Nov. 14 celebration of the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the current library building.

"We would like to have pictures and items on loan that are connected to the library's history," said Friends President Steffani Chapman in a written statement. "We are also seeking information about the families, organizations, and individuals involved in creating this wonderful resource.

"Any information on past librarians, staff, and volunteers would be helpful. We would love to have some personal stories to share," she added. Anyone who wishes to contribute items or information for the celebration may call her at 903-841-6226 or friendssoucl@gmail.com. The Friends will hold their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the library.

Texas Veterans Commission launches Texas Veterans Access, creating simpler path to access essential services online

AUSTIN – The Texas Veterans Commission launched Texas Veterans Access (TVA), on September 25, a new online platform built on a simple idea: transitioning service members, veterans, and military families should spend less time figuring out where to get help and more time connecting with the services they need.

Through Texas Veterans Access, veterans can create a reusable profile, submit requests, and stay informed as those requests move forward. For TVC, behind the scenes, the platform creates a shared system to manage requests, coordinate follow-up, and connect veterans with other participating programs.

"Texas Veterans Access gives veterans, service members, and military families one place to reach the benefits they earned," said Governor Greg Abbott. "Texas is home to more veterans than any other state, and Texas will always have their back."

Using a Texas by Texas (TxT) account, users can create a reusable profile and submit online requests directly to participating TVC programs. They can then track their requests as they move through the process, providing greater visibility from the moment a request is submitted.

The goal is for information to follow the veteran rather than requiring the veteran to repeatedly start over. TVA also helps participating TVC programs to better coordinate service requests and referrals, making it easier to connect people with the appropriate program.

Veterans, transitioning service members, and families can explore Texas Veterans Access, create a profile at tva.texas.gov and connect with participating TVC Programs.

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For Engaging Us
For Supporting Us

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OCTOBER 4 – 10, 2026



Photos by James Drapper

Council concludes budget wrangling with cut to taxes in Fiscal Year '27

Continued from Page 1

André Clay. Council members William Blackmon and Stoney Stone dissented.

"We do have a balanced budget," the mayor confirmed Sept. 22. "We have a good understanding of where all the numbers came from.

"We didn't want to compromise anything, but this wasn't going to be a year we could do extras."

The night's remaining votes landed 6-1, with Blackmon dissenting on the property tax decisions.

"This 2027 budget process has been quite the eye-opening experience," he said last week, reading from a prepared statement, "from staff getting all but accused of stealing money to long, no-resolution nights. I do want to say that I am sorry for everything that has taken place, even if those who should apologize will not say it."

Blackmon went on to question the math, philosophy and legality of the final budget and tax actions. After weeks of long and often tense discussions, there was little else said Tuesday.

"Nope," Clark replied, "that was a mouthful."

Notably, the trimmed down figures do not include raises, a Cost of Living Adjustment or other compensation changes requested by staff.

"We unfortunately are not going to do COLA raises this year," the mayor confirmed. "We have been able to do those for several years, which we are very grateful for.

"We are very grateful for the staff.

"One thing that we discussed yesterday was, quarterly, coming back before council and shoring up where we're at with projected revenues and expenses. What we're hoping is that after the first of the year we can actually make some adjustments to that for our staff."

The goal was to be conservative with revenues for the coming year, she added, and to keep careful track of expenses.

"We hope those are better than we expect and we do get to do something for our staff."



Sports roundup

Bears' homecoming lost, Necks still seeking 1st win

By Tyler Sutton

The Gladewater Bears wrapped up their non-district schedule hosting 4-A Athens for homecoming and sadly it didn't go well as the Hornets scored early and often in rout to a 45-10 victory at Jack Murphy stadium.

Gladewater won the toss and deferred to the 2nd half and it took Athens no time going down the field to score in just 4 plays to take a 7-0 lead. The Bears went for it on 4th down on their opening drive but it was unsuccessful and gave the ball bacl to Athens.

But the Hornets also turned it over on downs to give the ball back to Gladewater to end the 1st quarter. The Bears drive stalled and they had to settle for a Korbin Sergio field goal to make it 7-3. But Athens then went right down the field to make it a 14-3 Hornets lead. After another Bears 3 and out punt, the Hornets added a FG of their own and it was 17-3.

Gladewater had a nice drive going but pressure on QB Achillies Hess forced him to get rid of it quickly and he was intercepted by Athen's Marvin Lyons and just one play later Athens added to their lead and it was 24-3 Hornets at the half.

The Bears got the ball to start the 2nd half but they fumbled the kickoff return to start the half and it was turnover two of four for the Bears on the night. Again the Hornets took no time adding to their lead with a quick touchdown and suddenly it was a rout at 31-3.

The Bears set up for a FG but it was blocked. There was no more scoring in the 3rd quarter.

The Hornets then put it to bed with another touchdown to make it 38-3. After yet another Bears turnover, Athens added one more TD to make it 45-3. The Bears finally got in the endzone late in the 4th quarter when Achillies Hess broke free for a 36 yard TD run to make it 45-10.

"Just a rough night all around. Athens we knew would be a big test for us as they are a very good team. Just too many turnovers and couldn't get anything going go on offense," said coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Bears drop to 2-3 and will head into a bye week. They will next be in action when they open up district play on Thursday, October 8th on the road at Sabine. It will also be the KYKX game of the week for that week. Kickoff is at 7 PM



Photos by Jim Bardwell





The Gladewater Lady Bears volleyball team had a pair of matches starting with a short trip to rival White Oak where they fell 3-0 (25-22, 25-13, 25-8) and it was followed with a home match vs West Rusk Lady Raiders where the Lady Bears fell 3-0 (25-18, 25-10, 25-10). The losses drop Gladewater to 12-15 and 0-5 in district play. They will next be in action with a pair of matches when they host Arp and head to Sabine.

The White Oak Ladynecks volleyball team continued their hot start to district play as they swept a pair of matches. First as mentioned over rival Gladewater 3-0 and then a 3-0 sweep of Troup on the road (25-21, 25-17, 25-19). The wins improve the Ladynecks to 18-13 and 4-1 in district play and will next be in action with a match and battle for first place with Sabine at home.

The Union Grove Lady Lions volleyball team started district play off with a pair of wins as they swept Hawkins 3-0 (25-15, 25-5, 25-23) and a sweep of Alba-Golden 3-0 (25-19, 25-22, 25-23) The Lady Lions improve to 14-9 and 2-0 in district play. They will have a match next hosting Como-Pickton

CROSS COUNTRY

All 3 schools were in action for cross country in Union Grove for Union Grove Invitational where for the boys:

White Oak's Cooper Tucker was 5th at 17:43
White Oak's Issak Olvera was 6th at 17:50
Gladewater's Ya'lexan Martinez was 8th at 17:51
Gladewater's Mariano Perez was 15th at 18:35
White Oak's Nathan Stringer was 24th at 19:24
Union Grove's Kynan Birlew was 30th at 19:39
Union Grove's Brady Prichett was 35th at 19:50
Girl's:
Union Grove's Landry Harris was 2nd at 12:24
Union Grove's Shaniya Roland was 7th at 12:57
Union Grove's Rachael Potter was 14th at 13:14
White Oak's Maddie Hart was 18th at 13:17
Union Grove's Phaedra Cole was 20th at 13:20
Union Grove's Susanna Sturkie was 21st at 13:22
Union Grove's Danica Vestal was 24th at 13:29
White Oak's Sophie Fisher was 26th at 13:33

The White Oak Roughnecks were looking for their first win of 2026 when they hosted the West Rusk Raiders but that didn't come as they fell in a rout 44-7.

Trent Jackson rushed for 63 yards and passed for 159 yards and a TD in the loss for White Oak. Angel Mejia had seven catches for 64 yards and a touchdown, Tysen McClain three catches for 40 yards and Cal Jester nine catches for 63 yards. Jackson also had seen tackles on defense.

McClain had a fumble recovery, Kadin Casey four tackles, Chase Carroll a forced fumble, Harrison Weathers six tackles and a forced fumble, Blake Lyke eight tackles, Jacob Watson five tackles and a fumble recovery and Chase Hines three tackles and a forced fumble.

The Roughnecks drop to 0-5 and will head into their bye week.

They will next be in action when they open up district play with a road game at Libert-Eylau. Kickoff is at 7 PM.



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Volatile fuel stays put after 18-wheeler wreck

Continued from Page 1

The fuel wobbled inside, made the truck go up on two wheels.

"It turned over, pulling the tractor over."

There were no injuries, but it was very much a hazardous materials situation, and Basham praised his crew – Capt. Addison Hill, Driver Felipe Gomez and Firefighter Keith Kreitner – for their rapid response alongside other agencies.

"They did an outstanding job," he said, "isolation, evacuating. They were there approximately five hours."

The emergency dispatch came in about 3 p.m. The tanker was heading southbound on 271 and took the required turn onto the loop to avoid going through downtown.



All indicators are the driver did everything he was supposed to, Basham said. The fluid sloshed in its container but, fortunately, did not spill initially or later.

"It did stay in the truck. That fuel is real volatile. It's race fuel, so it's really dangerous."

In addition to fire and police responders, multiple wreckers responded to help right the vehicle including units from Fuller Towing & Recovery, Stevenson Towing & Recovery and Action Towing.

"Longview Fire Hazmat was notified," Basham added. "They stayed 'til it was over as mutual aid."

The roadway was reopened shortly after 8 p.m. after the tractor, tank and its freight were set right and removed.

"None leaked. No harm, no foul."



Gladewater ISD's Employees of the Month for September include Alyssa Harkrider (Gladewater High School English IV teacher) and Joey Abrams (5th grade Math teacher at Weldon Elementary School) along with (not pictured) Gladewater Primary School staffer Courtney Sisson, GPS Custodian Bret Street and GMS instructor Laura Savage.

Martha Street problem has been largely mitigated

By James Draper

It took about five months, but a complaint-ridden property on Martha Street has been largely mitigated.

It's been a long ordeal for neighbors, several of whom spoke out during council meetings, including on Sept. 17. Two cleanups made a substantial difference, according to Code Enforcement's Wes Moyers, along with a change in occupants.

After about seven months of various efforts, "Very soon this will all be over and done with," he said. "We're counting that as a win right now. We definitely still have more to do."

It was a team effort, Moyers added.

"We had contractors working in the heat and under pretty bad conditions over there with the (previous) tenants of that property. We did have officers on site at the last cleanup to keep everything safe," he said. "I've since made contact with the folks that live there now. They understand why we are where we are with it, and they are looking forward to moving on.

"I think probably in the next six months that house will look completely different, probably back to the quality it was."

Neighbor Max Edmonds spoke during last month's regular meeting, thanking Gladewater City Manager Charle Smith for help solving the problem. He also praised Moyers and exhorted council members to take action if similar situations arise in the future.

"He stood his post, and he did his job. We all need to give thanks for him," Edmonds said. "When someone cries out for help, they need help. We spent thousands of dollars to get here; wE come here to live, to spend out our days. I'm glad we had a pretty good ending to it, and I have seen improvement."

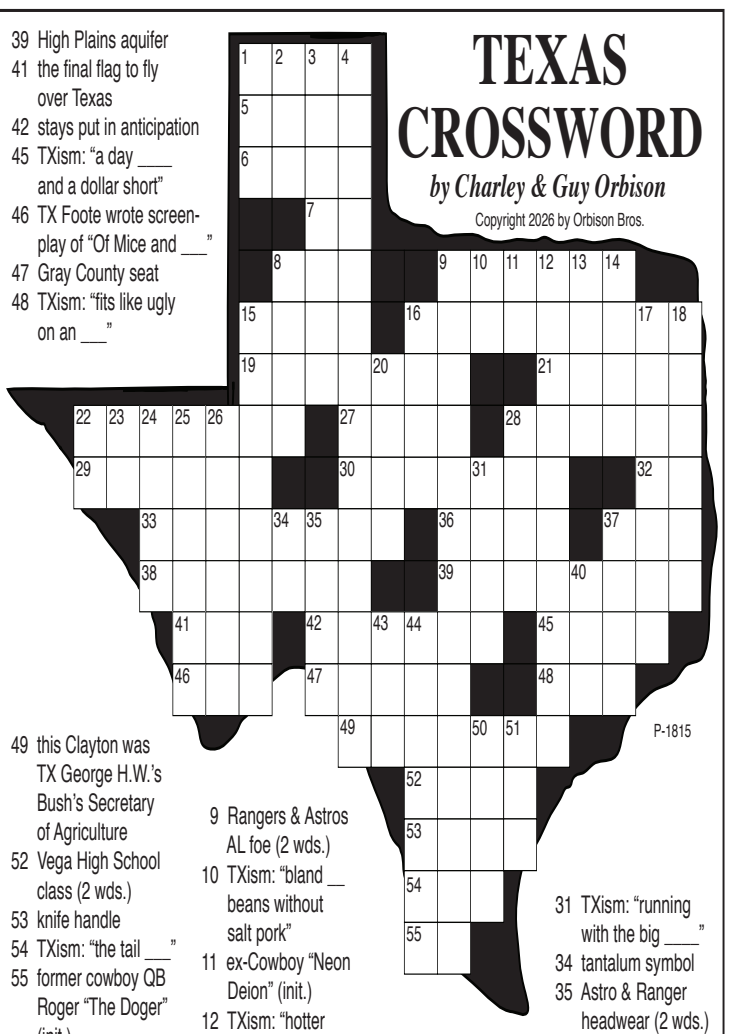
The neighborhood has been under siege, he added.

"The work needs to continue, and I'm counting on you men and women to do that. The people on that street are worth it, and the people in this town are worth it. They depend on you."

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1815

ACROSS

1 Linden's county
5 "Goddess of Liberty" sits ____ the dome of the Texas capitol
6 what horses do at Lone Star Park
7 TXism: "mortage __ the hoof" (cattle)
8 circle segment
9 TXism: "___ __ _ wet hen"
15 horse's father
16 Lone Star State's representative to the national pageant (2 wds.)
19 St. Mary's in Galveston has one with 3,000 pipes (2 wds.)
21 this TX Rudolph won gold in 1960
22 elderly seaman? (2 wds.)
27 TXism: "'til Gabriel blows his ____"
28 TXism: "move it or ____ __"
29 the Alamo early battle (2 wds.)
30 TX Willie Nelson's "The Last Thing _ _____ First Thing This Morning"
32 Junction High School class
33 TXism: "sticks like _ _____ stamp"
36 TX Charley Pride was a ____ act
37 Dallas' KDTX-TV religious owner (abbr.)
38 _____ flu
39 High Plains aquifer
41 the final flag to fly over Texas
42 stays put in anticipation
45 TXism: "a day ____ and a dollar short"
46 TX Foote wrote screenplay of "Of Mice and ___"
47 Gray County seat
48 TXism: "fits like ugly on an ___"
49 this Clayton was TX George H.W.'s Bush's Secretary of Agriculture
52 Vega High School class (2 wds.)
53 knife handle
54 TXism: "the tail ___"
55 former cowboy QB Roger "The Doger" (init.)

DOWN

1 TX Bonnie & Clyde were killed in one
2 TXism: "hard as dodging rice ___ _ wedding"
3 town SE of El Paso on highway 20
4 Texas Gilley's was on this road (2 wds.)
8 TXism: "when he ____ hemming, he's hawing"
9 Rangers & Astros AL foe (2 wds.)
10 TXism: "bland __ beans without salt pork"
11 ex-Cowboy "Neon Deion" (init.)
12 TXism: "hotter than _ ___-_____ pistol"
13 "six," south of the border
14 pickup wheel shaft
15 TXism: "snake oil _____" (con man)
16 female horse
17 friendly manner
18 this Kiowa chief jumped to his death in a Texas prison
20 TXism: "____ to the dogs"
22 old Oiler coach: _ _ "Bum" Phillips
23 blue jeans man (init.)
24 "Buenas ____" (good day)
25 heart or nose wall
26 TXism: "loose as _ _____"
28 this Rochon was in "Any Given Sunday" with TX Dennis Quaid
31 TXism: "running with the big ____"
34 tantalum symbol
35 Astro & Ranger headwear (2 wds.)
37 TX Sharon Tate was killed by the Manson "family" in 1969
40 TXism: "in the ___ of luxury"
43 this church founded Paul Quinn College (abbr.)
44 TX Charley Pride's "Where Do _ ___ ___ Memory"
50 informed
51 TXism: "put on the feed bag"

See Answers on Page 6

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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

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Published Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that letters of temporary guardianship for the person and estate of THOMAS GRAVES, an incapacitated person, were issued on September 22, 2026, in Docket No. 2026-0314-E, pending in the County Court At Law No. 2, Gregg County, Texas, to DIANA GRAVES, Temporary Guardian, as temporary guardian of the person and estate.

The residence of Guardian is in Gregg County, Texas, and the mailing address is: Guardian of the person and estate of THOMAS GRAVES, c/o DIANA GRAVES, 206 N Sanders St. White Oak, 75693.

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.

SIGNED on September 28, 2026.

Courtney Anne Harris
Courtney Anne Harris, *Attorney At Law*

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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®)
THE GLADEWATER MIRROR
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8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)
Bardwell Ink, LLC
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9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner — Date: 9/24/2026

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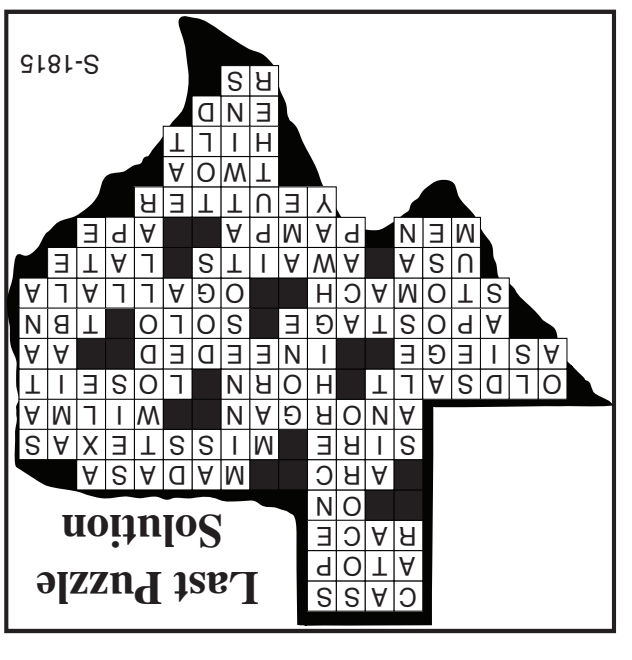
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S-1815



GLADEWATER POLICE/FIRE ACTIVITY

Date	Time	Agency	Call Type	Address
09/20/2026	07:02:29	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	WALTER DERRICK/COMMERCE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 07:02:56				
09/20/2026	12:51:04	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	2220 SHERROD DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 12:51:39				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	13:23:09		ANIMAL CONTROL	2201 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 13:23:26				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	13:29:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	EMS	1410 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 13:29:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	15:23:08	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	42 GREENWAY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 15:23:23				
09/20/2026	16:14:52	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ASSIST	511 S TYLER ROAD 1
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 16:15:11				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	19:13:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W GAY/ E LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 19:13:06				
09/20/2026	19:20:17	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W GAY/ E LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 19:20:48				
09/20/2026	19:19:05	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	205 S MILL STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 19:23:01				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	19:26:06	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ANIMAL CONTROL	304 WALTON STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 19:26:44				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	20:56:38	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	OLD FREDS
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 20:57:01				
09/20/2026	21:04:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	E BROADWAY/ E UPSHUR
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 21:05:02				
09/20/2026	21:12:47	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	103 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 21:14:17				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/20/2026	22:46:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	BURGLARY	815 N MAIN STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/20/2026 22:47:38				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/21/2026	11:09:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	SUSP NOISE-PERSON-VEHICLE	2800 BLOCK UPSHUR
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 11:10:18				
09/21/2026	12:14:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	517 N FERRY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 12:15:34				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/21/2026	12:59:02		ALARM	2201 W GAY AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 12:59:38				
09/21/2026	13:20:01		EMS	19 JULIA WOODS
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 13:20:51				
09/21/2026	14:13:22	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	CRIMINAL TRESPASS	1109 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 14:16:11				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/21/2026	15:07:52	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	524 QUEEN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 15:08:58				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/21/2026	15:58:15	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	HARASSMENT	807 N TENERY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 15:58:58				
09/21/2026	16:12:09	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 16:14:27				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/21/2026	18:22:03		REPOSSESSION	613 ANDERSON LN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 18:24:04				
09/21/2026	19:50:36		ANIMAL CONTROL	1300 E SHEPPARD DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 19:54:22				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/21/2026	21:22:52		EMS	300 MONEY STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/21/2026 21:25:50				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/22/2026	06:05:09		ALARM	2201 W GAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/22/2026 06:06:48				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/22/2026	06:53:13	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	MAIN AND N LOOP
Sent To Dispatch- 09/22/2026 06:53:25				
09/22/2026	07:56:00	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GREGG COUNTY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/22/2026 07:56:53				
09/22/2026	08:01:06		ANIMAL CONTROL	2328 WEST LAKE DRIVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/22/2026 08:04:37				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/22/2026	09:02:24	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ESCORT	401 N ARMSTRONG CENTER
Sent To Dispatch- 09/22/2026 09:03:59				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/23/2026	00:56:34		REPOSSESSION	502 SPENCER STREET
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 01:04:47				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/23/2026	05:43:56		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 05:44:49				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/23/2026	06:24:15		ALARM	2201 W GAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 06:25:33				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/23/2026	07:36:49	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	700 \B S RODEN
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 07:37:05				
09/23/2026	08:28:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	S TYLER/LOOP 485
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 08:29:25				
09/23/2026	08:32:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRESPASSING	312 W PACIFIC AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 08:34:07				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/23/2026	09:20:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	1095 E COMMERCE AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 09:21:22				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/23/2026	11:43:28	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	9724 US 271 S
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 11:44:02				
09/23/2026	13:06:42	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W UPSHUR/MUSTANG
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 13:06:56				
09/23/2026	13:22:16	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	FM 2685/W GAY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/23/2026 13:22:46				
09/23/2026	13:35:19	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	2200 BLOCK OF PINECREST DR
09/24/2026	05:37:27	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	7000 CYPRESS WOODS
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 05:38:14				
09/24/2026	07:15:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	GREGG COUNTY
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 07:15:58				
09/24/2026	08:12:34	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	DEP CENTER
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 08:12:58				
09/24/2026	09:27:20	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	E UPSHUR/CENTER
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 09:27:35				
09/24/2026	13:59:21	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	35 GARDEN LANE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 13:59:37				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/24/2026	14:10:51	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	DISTURBANCE	512 JEANETTE AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 14:11:22				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/24/2026	15:00:26	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRESPASSING	1412 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 15:01:28				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/24/2026	15:44:15		EMS	1600 E BROADWAY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 15:44:37				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/24/2026	17:28:57	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	511 S TYLER ROAD 1
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 17:29:05				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/24/2026	18:28:40	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	WELFARE CHECK	506 W PACIFIC AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/24/2026 18:29:11				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/24/2026	18:52:49	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE	2200 W UPSHUR AVENUE
09/26/2026	13:06:47		MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/26/2026 13:08:51				
09/26/2026	14:24:50	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	ESCORT	RODEO CROSSING TO GLADEWATER MEMORIAL PARK
Sent To Dispatch- 09/26/2026 14:26:31				
09/26/2026	16:20:12	GLADEWATER FIRE DEPT.	FIRE- EMS- LIFT ASSIST	404 JEANETTE AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/26/2026 16:21:10				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/26/2026	18:32:46	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	MISCELLANEOUS	204 E EDDY AVENUE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/26/2026 18:33:53				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/26/2026	20:41:55	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	511 S TYLER ROAD
Sent To Dispatch- 09/26/2026 20:42:08				GLADEWATER, TX 75647
09/26/2026	20:42:15	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	TRAFFIC STOP	W UPSHUR/E LAKE
Sent To Dispatch- 09/26/2026 20:42:53				
09/26/2026	21:06:27	GLADEWATER POLICE DEPT.	AGENCY ASSIST	GAY AVE/PRIMARY SCHOOL

GPD Activity

Date	Arrestee Name	Arrest Address	Charges
9/24/2026	NATION, JESSIE WILLIAM	1700 N MAIN STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	POSS CS PG 1/1-B >=1G<4G
			POSS DANGEROUS DRUG
9/24/2026	STEBER, JSON DAMARCUS	700 N MAIN STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS 75647	FAIL TO IDENTIFY GIVING FALSE/FICTITIOUS INFO - IMPERSONATION

WOPD Activity

For the reporting period of September 21st through September 27th, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 159 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Advice Calls, Burglar Alarms, Loud Noise Complaints, Traffic Issues (collisions, motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

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

Four arrests were made during this reporting period:

Shameion Colbert, 39, of Gladewater, for two White Oak City Warrants.

Seth Roberts, 24, of White Oak, for Assault Family Violence-Impede Breath or Circulation.

Chasidy White, 30, of White Oak, for one White Oak City Warrant and No Insurance.

Vona Caballero, 57, of Longview, for 2 Gregg County Warrants, POCS PG1 >=1g<4g, and Tamper/Fabricate Physical Evidence with Intent to Impair.

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

-Driving While Intoxicated x2

-Assault Family Violence-Impede Breath or Circulation

Cool temps welcome after heat hinders water treatment

The arrival of fall brings more than a break in the heat for the City of Gladewater – hopefully, it's also a turning point in the strain on the Water Treatment Plant.

Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith spotlighted ongoing efforts there during the city council's September meeting, noting the particular challenge Water Treatment Plant Manager Wendy Emmel and her staff face when the summer temperatures are unrelenting.

"I get a call every once in a while about the water tasting kinda funny or maybe a discoloration," he told council members. In addition to drought conditions affecting the lake level, "With the heat that we've experienced, the water that we're taking in from the lake is about 90 degrees. When we run it through the plant and treat it and send it back out, it's running about 85 or 90 degrees.

"They're really having to watch their chemical usage."

Beginning Sept. 28, the city temporarily converted the water distribution system from chloramine to free chlorine. It will continue through Oct. 12.

"During this period, customers may notice a temporary change in the taste or odor of their water," according to a recent release. "This is normal during a free-chlorine conversion and does not necessarily indicate a problem with the safety of the water."

Extended high near or above 100-degrees Fahrenheit, the source water temperature and temps within the distribution system all increase disinfectant demand and make maintaining chlorine residuals more of a challenge.

"If you experience discoloration, allow the cold water to run for several minutes until it clears. If the condition persists, please contact the city."

For more information, reach the Water Treatment Plant at 903-844-6331.

"We test all the way throughout town just to make sure we're good," Smith added. "When it cools down, we should start experiencing a difference."







Continued from Page 1

Medill School of Journalism revealed that there are more than 1,500 counties in the United States served by only one news media outlet. In almost all of those counties, the news source is a local newspaper.

It used to be hard to imagine how different communities would be without local news sources. But in recent years, the changing business models for news organizations have led to an increasing number of so-called news deserts – places where residents don't have access to independent coverage of their communities.

Research shows that the lack of news coverage can lead to a number of problems: fewer people voting, more corruption, higher costs of government and a reduced connection among residents.

One of this country's most famous founders, Thomas Jefferson, wrote, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

That doesn't mean Jefferson always liked what newspapers wrote about him, his decisions or his policies. He often disagreed vehemently. But he and other founders inherently understood the importance of having a government watchdog and independent voices that are free to challenge policies and leaders, with the goals of better informing residents about the world around them and improving society.

The founders understood this nation needed guarantees to protect vigorous discussions and disagreements, particularly about the government. So, they created the Bill of Rights in 1791, starting with the First Amendment that ensures free speech and a free press.

Sustaining a free press isn't free, nor is it easy. The type of news coverage that helps to change laws and change lives – including exposing problems and wrongdoing in communities that some would prefer to keep hidden – can be difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

It was true 250 years ago, and it's still true today.

Some critics have been predicting the death of newspapers since at least the invention of radio, and those predictions have increased with the creation of television, the internet and social media. Yet, newspapers have persevered, adapted their business models and remained as essential institutions in their communities.

In this time of another upheaval of the media business model, newspapers are yet again adapting for the future. Their news is shared not just in print as it was in 1776, but also to millions of readers online and through social media by the news organizations themselves and countless other people.

Surveys that cite how many Americans receive news from their "phones" these days don't consider where those phones get their news and information. Many readers don't know the origin either. But much of the commentary and sharing of news that is abundant online and in social media can be traced back to the original sources: journalists.

As we celebrate National Newspaper Week during Oct. 4-10, it's important to reflect on why the founders believed so strongly in the need for a free press to cover this nation without government control, without fear or favor and without undue influence from powerful people.

The value of a free press is not simply to protect the press, but to protect democracy. It's based on the belief that a better-informed citizenry is essential for the United States to not only survive, but to thrive.

In today's crowded media market, where misinformation and disinformation are abundant, it's crucial that newspapers continue to serve in their role as watchdogs and as trusted sources to inform, inspire, educate and connect the communities they serve.

There's no way to predict how the United States will change and evolve over the next 250 years. But it's certain we will continue to need a free press and independent journalists to document those changes and provide the important news coverage that is vital for this nation's future.

Benjy Hamm is director of the national Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues and an associate professor at the University of Kentucky's School of Journalism and Media. He previously served as editorial director for Landmark Community Newspapers and as an editor at The Virginian-Pilot, The Associated Press and the New York Times Regional Newspaper Group.



Sisters in Fire introduces students to wildland firefighting careers

MANOR, Texas - Texas A&M Forest Service hosted the sixth annual Sisters in Fire event Sept. 26 in Manor, giving students an opportunity to experience wildland firefighting and natural resource careers through hands-on training.

Twenty-eight participants from eighth through 12th grade across 13 counties attended the event.

Sisters in Fire introduces students to wildland firefighting and natural resources careers through hands-on activities led by professionals in these fields.

It is an amazing experience to see the participants get more confident and see in their faces the satisfaction of completing something new," said Abbie Tijerina, Sisters in Fire incident commander and wildland urban interface coordinator for Texas A&M Forest Service. "The purpose of Sisters in Fire is to show participants that they can do anything they put their minds to and that they belong in these careers."

Participants were split into squads, or teams, for the day and rotated through four stations. Each station introduced participants to skills and equipment used in wildland firefighting, including how to suppress wildfires with engines and bulldozers and how to use chainsaws and hand tools safely. Participants also learned leadership, communication and teamwork skills that are critical for wildland firefighting crews.

Participants also learned about the role of aviation in wildfire response through a presentation on aircraft capabilities and careers in wildland fire aviation. A Type 1 Black Hawk helicopter under contract with Texas A&M Forest Service, capable of carrying up to 1,000 gallons of water, conducted a water drop demonstration for participants.

"The helicopter dropping water was awesome," said one Sisters in Fire participant. "I didn't realize how many jobs there were in wildfire."

Participants put everything they learned to the test during the final event of the day—a prescribed fire demonstration. While the instructors burned a small area of grass, the young women answered questions and applied what they learned to a real-world scenario.

Sisters in Fire provides participants with an opportunity to explore careers in wildland firefighting and natural resource management while learning from professionals representing agencies and organizations across the state.

The 2026 Sisters in Fire event was hosted in cooperation with Travis County Parks, the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System, Kansas Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Fire departments participating through the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System included Alice, Amarillo, Austin and Conroe.

As one operation leaves, GEDCO welcomes successor

Continued from Page 1

With local work anticipated to get underway before the end of the year, the new company offers a broad gamut to the oilfield and other sectors in upstream, midstream and downstream markets through machining, repair, product supply and other services in its mix.

"From a business, retention, expansion standpoint for the EDC, part of the job is to retain the jobs we have and add to them," Conlan noted. Simply put, "It's easier to retain jobs than go find new ones."

That said, plenty of developments aren't in the EDC's hands. It's a matter of finding the best available options in the midst of evolving circumstances.

In this instance, GEDCO (in coordination with City Hall) is helping the new company put down roots through a $40,000 performance incentive based on job creation plus up to $10,000 to defray standard fees assessed by the City of Gladewater.

In a net gain following the loss of PMM's roster, "It will be 25 jobs in the first 24 months," Conlan noted. The local contribution's a small percentage of the company's coming effort: "They're going to put an additional $8 to $9 million investment into the community, the business, the structure and ad valorem through equipment and the building."

Notably, the jobs that will be created in the next two years of the agreement will include full benefits.

"It's important that we're giving the people of Gladewater an opportunity to work in jobs where they have benefits, training, health insurance and more," Conlan said. "We're trying to recruit jobs that provide health insurance, 401K and so forth."

