Gladewater Mirror

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Weldon Historical Marker Committee members Susie Scott (chair, left) Darlene Hampton and Darren Richardson pose with the long-awaited landmark to local history. The official marker from the Texas Historical Commission will be officially unveiled during a dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Weldon campus located at 315 E. Saunders.

Decades of History, Years of Effort ...

State marks historic legacy of Gladewater's Weldon School

By James Draper

It's been a long time coming with a lot of work behind the effort, but Weldon Elementary School will soon receive a prized historic marker from the State of Texas.

"We've been working on this three years," Susie Scott said, "and we just got it."

She's chair of the five-member committee who took up the torch in 2024 and whose volunteers saw the effort through to the end, very soon. Finalized in Fall 2025, the Weldon School's historical marker was among 23 approved by the Texas Historical Commission in late January.

It's been minted, buffed and polished, with the perfect spot picked out on campus. The unveiling's set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at 315 E. Saunders.

"we started at the last reunion," Scott added. "We ran into some obstacles, but we persevered, and we got it."

In addition to the chair, the committee includes Darlene Hampton, Darren Richardson, Othelia Taylor and Lesly Taylor, Sr.

Designated job 24GG01 at the historical commission, the project was years in the making.

The application was supported by an extensive "History of

Continued on Page 3

GPD training gives officers best skills for worst case

By James Draper

Even in a simulation, it's still a hard thing to hear: cries for help, unseen voices echoing down the empty hallway of a school.

Speeding toward the danger, weapons at the ready, two officers check each corner, eyes scanning the corridor for any movement.

There's a threat waiting in a blind spot ahead. It's one they've been trained to look for. They make quick, strategic choices – get reinforcements, get back in motion, get to the victims as quickly as possible.

In this Sunday afternoon scenario, the guns are fake. The adrenaline's real and it's there, and the training's putting it to work.

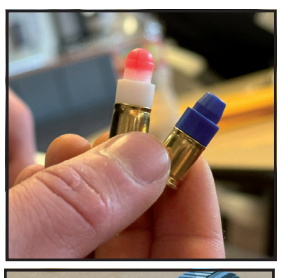
There's a wide range of situations on the list, says Gladewater PD Ofc. Dennis Jordan, crafted to stress the officers now to prepare them for whatever might come.

He's one of four GPD personnel who served as instructors over the weekend, partnering with Big Sandy's International ALERT Academy and Gladewater High School to host law enforcement from multiple area agencies for an intensive on responding to critical incidents – the worst kind, the one that demands realistic simulation to be truly prepared.

Whether at a school or business, this weekend's participants put themselves in the line of fire – simulated rounds still hurt

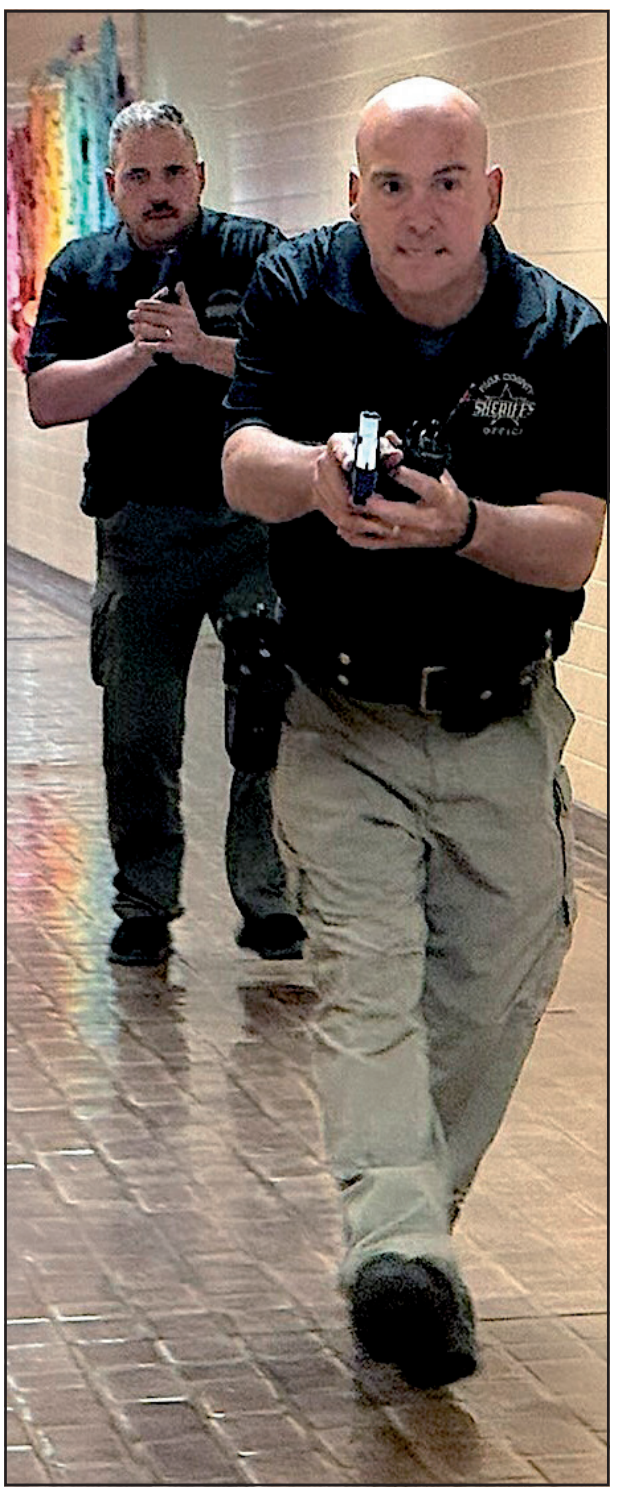
Continued on Page 8







During the mandated training from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement over the weekend, participants faced prop explosive devices in the midst of a myriad of active shooter scenarios.



Area officers push down a Gladewater High School hallway Sunday afternoon in the midst of a realistic simulation for active shooter response.

Photos by James Draper

Early voting begins Oct. 19 in mid-term races

Early voting for the Nov. 3 general election begins Monday, Oct. 19, and ends on Friday, Oct. 30. A convenient place to find out where to vote and what is on the ballot where you live is the Texas Secretary of State's website: votetexas.gov. You can also verify that you are registered to vote on that site.

The top two statewide races garnering attention are the U.S. Senate race, pitting the Republican nominee, Attorney General Ken Paxton, against the Democratic nominee, state Rep. James Talarico. Most polls show Talarico in the lead, according to The Texas Tribune. A Democrat hasn't won a statewide race since 1994, when several Democrats won. However, that year, Republican nominee George W. Bush beat incumbent Democrat Ann Richards in the governor's race, beginning a long drought for that party.

White Oak reaps robust sales tax check, Gladewater's 2026 total continues climb

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Pmt. Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
Gregg	**0.500%**	**$1,820,398.32**	**$1,654,235.41**	**10.04%**	**$18,668,902.94**	**$17,500,163.97**	**6.67%**
Clarksville City	1.000%	$7,976.28	$8,273.52	-3.59%	$81,667.79	$96,194.98	-15.10%
Easton	1.000%	$3,792.53	$4,467.88	-15.11%	$51,851.07	$52,168.41	-0.60%
Gladewater	1.500%	$142,024.60	$126,392.39	12.36%	$1,518,870.67	$1,433,143.36	5.98%
Kilgore	1.500%	$878,921.67	$857,728.03	2.47%	$8,840,046.03	$8,568,899.11	3.16%
Lakeport	1.500%	$24,835.33	$25,162.47	-1.30%	$273,368.86	$308,172.85	-11.29%
Longview	1.500%	$3,867,469.85	$3,563,223.06	8.53%	$40,825,157.22	$38,287,118.01	6.62%
Warren City	1.000%	$1,559.20	$2,506.58	-37.79%	$21,844.20	$45,459.35	-51.94%
White Oak	1.500%	$143,059.56	$118,201.36	21.03%	$1,412,148.56	$1,475,083.95	-4.26%
Upshur	**0.500%**	**$168,069.65**	**$157,118.97**	**6.96%**	**$1,704,091.17**	**$1,644,357.25**	**3.63%**
Big Sandy	1.250%	$21,554.40	$21,661.66	-0.49%	$253,999.47	$263,889.95	-3.74%
East Mountain	1.000%	$4,337.12	$4,428.89	-2.07%	$62,320.85	$50,291.91	23.91%
Gilmer	1.500%	$233,462.55	$216,123.14	8.02%	$2,353,537.86	$2,331,189.26	0.95%
Ore City	1.500%	$21,055.43	$20,831.12	1.07%	$219,706.06	$213,870.95	2.72%
Union Grove	1.000%	$776.87	$685.00	13.41%	$7,276.95	$8,387.03	-13.23%

By James Draper

The City of White Oak saw solid numbers in its August sales tax revenues, leading to a 21.03 percent year-to-year surge in this month's return from the state.

Gladewater continued its positive streak as well, taking in $142,024 in October's revenue check, collected in September from sales the month before. It's a 12.36 percent increase from the same point in 2025.

At $143,059, White Oak's allocation is a bit more than Gladewater's for the month. It puts the smaller community a bit less in the red for the calendar year – at $1.41 million for 2026, White Oak's seen an overall decrease of 4.26 percent from last year. Gladewater's still running in the black, 5.98 percent ahead of this point in 2025 with $1.52 million in revenues compared to $1.43 million 12 months back.

Statewide, the comptroller's office will return $1.3 billion to local taxing entities, 11.6 percent more than the same time last year.

"In September, the state collected $4.4 billion in net state sales tax revenue and $1.3 billion in net local sales tax revenue, which will be distributed to Texas cities, counties, transit systems, and special purpose districts," the state reported last week. "Combined state and local net sales tax revenue collected

Continued on Page 5





The Bell family – Mike, Sarah, Brodie and Lily – tackle the trash on a stretch of South Main Street Oct. 10, during Gladewater City and Chamber of Commerce's Fall Litter Pickup.

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.*

…and then the phone rang

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



After a work jam-packed weekend complemented by family emergencies, I settled down Sunday evening to work on our newspapers and get depressed by the Cowboys in the Ram Wonderland bazillion dollar stadium. My goal was to get my work done so I could move on Monday to the next deadline. And then, the phone rang.

My cowboy cousin called to ask if I remembered what I had done three years ago that day. At that point, I wasn't sure what my name was. And then he reminded me…I spoke some special words at his Mom's graveside service. And I was broken in that moment missing my aunt Gwendol Marie Brown Steele. One of the best friends I have ever had. She was the keeper of encouragement and family stories. For all of us.

She was my Daddy's much loved baby sister. When she was a young teen Daddy taught her how to box and then would con his friends into sparring with her. She never failed to surprise them. Tall and lanky with black hair and big brown eyes, Aunt Gwen had a smile that was infectious. She never seemed her age. She was my role model.

She would come for coffee nearly every day after my uncle died. She would grab a cup and fold herself onto the porch swing with a leg athletically propped. On one of those mornings she gave into my keeping a brown clasp envelop with her funeral wishes. She also had words she wanted me to speak directly to those who loved her:

"Today, I ask that you come not to mourn, but to celebrate my life. I have gone to be with our Lord and all of our loved ones. My love will always live with each of you within your hearts."

And it has.

That is the amazing thing about healthy love that runs deep, it abides. Aunt Gwen and I shared a favorite Bible verse, it is the one I want carved in stone above where I someday lie…"…the greatest of these is love".

And of course there has never been a more powerful truth. In essence, I Corinthians 13:13b explains the meaning of life…to love and be loved.

Once we get over the shock of losing someone we love dearly, we are able to embrace the gift of their love and the memories that we cherish. Celebrating life is something we should all strive for. I am grateful to my aunt for all she taught me, her generosity of spirit, her laughter in the middle of darkness and her admonishment, "we are tough people, we always get through the hard stuff. Just get up and keep going until you come out on the other side".

Now dear cousin Billy, I remember exactly where I was three years ago and what I said. What I remember most clearly though is the joy your Mom brought me throughout my life. What a gift we can be when we are generous, laugh freely and love deeply. I am reminded that it is time to celebrate life. It is always time to celebrate life, and love and laughter.

ANALOGY BETWEEN CANDIDATES AND PUMPKINS



Dr. Ray Perryman THE ECONOMIST



Defense

Texas is one of the top US states for private-sector defense industries, with hundreds of firms engaged in businesses ranging from land and sea defense systems to cybersecurity. In addition to the presence of large companies, the state has developed a robust supply chain network of smaller entities providing key input goods and services. These firms play a crucial role in national defense and global security. They also generate substantial economic benefits through their operations, including well-paying jobs (more than 40% higher than the regional average) and opportunities for other businesses across the state.

We recently did a deep dive into the economic and fiscal impact of private-sector defense firms in Dallas-Fort Worth and the remainder of the North Texas Region, which has the state's highest concentration and is a major center for the industry. The full report, which was organized by the North Texas Commission, is available on our website.

North Texas has been home to major private-sector defense entities for decades dating back to 1940 and the preparations for World War II. The largest firms include Lockheed Martin, Bell Textron, RTX (the parent company of Raytheon and Collins Aerospace), L3 Harris, Elbit Systems, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and BAE Systems, with numerous other smaller firms also located throughout the region.

Any economic stimulus leads to dynamic responses across the economy. We have developed and maintained complex and comprehensive models for almost five decades to measure these dynamic responses to estimate the total economic effects (not only direct, but also indirect and induced) associated with various sources of stimulus. We estimate that, when multiplier effects are considered, private-sector defense firms generate some $35.3 billion in annual gross product and approximately 264,600 jobs across the North Texas Region. Even in the area's large and diverse economy, these effects are significant, and the jobs pay well. Several companies are in the midst of notable expansions, which will further increase their role in the future.

Business activity generates tax receipts through channels such as taxable retail sales, hotel occupancy taxes, and higher property values. We estimate that the increase in economic activity associated with private defense companies generates annual tax revenue of almost $1.8 billion to the State of Texas and $1.5 billion to local entities in the North Texas region.

Beyond its invaluable role in providing resources which are critical to our national security, the private-sector defense industry generates jobs for individuals and opportunities for other local businesses not only in North Texas, but in cities across the state. The sector is poised to remain a vital source of economic activity for decades to come, adding to the substantial economic benefits of military bases and related operations around the state. Stay safe!

Gov. ramps up attacks on Hinojosa

Abbott's bid to become the longest-serving Texas governor in history is running into an unexpectedly tight race for a candidate who has won his last three races for governor by double digits. He told supporters that "polls don't win elections, and polls are often wrong."

His campaign recently announced a $12 million ad buy targeting Hinojosa, according to the Texas Standard. One ad claims that, as a state representative, Hinojosa voted more than 40 times for higher property taxes in the state, a claim she vigorously disputes.

"I have never, not once, voted to increase property taxes, and anyone who says otherwise is lying," Hinojosa said.

Abbott maintains that he will prevail.

"What I'm confident about is exactly where my campaign stands and the outcome — that I'm going to win this race," Abbott said.

Meanwhile, Abbott out-raised Hinojosa in the last reporting cycle, $20 million to $13 million. She raised her money from about 136,000 donors, more than 10 times the number who contributed to Abbott's campaign, which had more large donations, according to The Dallas Morning News.

Abbott has burned through far more campaign cash, spending nearly $70 million since July 1, compared with Hinojosa's $12 million. Abbott still has a comfortable bank balance of $17 million, compared with $4 million for Hinojosa.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Few debates set in statewide races

No debates have been scheduled to date in the governor's race, although Hinojosa has repeatedly called for a debate against Abbott. The same is true of the U.S. Senate race, where Paxton's campaign has promised to debate Talarico but has not agreed to any proposed dates, The Tribune reported.

The only debate among statewide candidates apparently scheduled so far is between Democrat Jon Rosenthal and Republican Bo French for a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission. Rosenthal announced that he and French have agreed to a debate on Oct. 22, but French has not publicly confirmed.

State Rep. Vikki Goodwin, D-Austin, and state Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, the Democratic nominees for lieutenant governor and attorney general, have also urged their GOP opponents to debate. Spokespeople for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and state Sen. Mayes Middleton, R-Galveston, did not respond to requests for comment.

In the past three gubernatorial elections, Abbott debated his Democratic opponent each time.

Judge halts Big Bend border wall

A U.S. district judge in El Paso has halted all construction on the border wall project in the Big Bend border area, the Standard reported. A coalition of opponents is suing the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection over plans to build a border wall through the rugged area, which includes Big Bend National Park.

The pause in construction is in effect until the case goes to trial.

"The Court finds that Plaintiffs are likely to succeed on the merits of at least one of the claims in suit, that there is a likelihood that they will suffer serious, irreparable harm without an injunction, and that the balance of the equities and the public interest weigh in their favor," the order, from U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone, states.

Opponents claim that, besides the environmental damage caused by building a wall and roads in the area, the Big Bend Sector has the least traffic across the border because of its extremely rugged terrain.

A CBP spokesperson said the agency is working with the Department of Justice on next steps.

"We stand by our assessment and remain confident in our legal authorities to secure the border while preserving the unique landscape of the Big Bend region," the spokesperson said.

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LIVING BY WHAT SEEMS RIGHT

How can we evaluate the claim of someone who believes that God spoke directly to them through a feeling, vision, dream, or message? We need a reliable, verifiable standard by which to test such claims. Does God's Word teach that feelings or experiences determine truth? No. Proverbs 16:25 says, "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death.*" Basing one's beliefs on anything other than sound, factual evidence is dangerous and ultimately leads to destruction. We must examine, prove, or test all things pertaining to our salvation.

For example, If you are planning a trip and the flight attendant says you can fly at the normal price with an experienced, well trained pilot or you can fly for free by using a pilot that uses only his instincts, not using any instruments or navigational tools wisdom dictates that we should choose the pilot who was well trained and would fly his plane as accurately as possible. The same is true in choosing a surgeon, pharmacist, etc. In the same manner we should not trust our eternal salvation on what *"seems right"* to us. Proverbs 12: 15 says, *"The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice."*

The truth of God is not based on some sort of mystical blind faith or some religious experience, dream or vision, but upon the foundation of solid evidence upon which the credibility God's Word is based. Any feelings we may have about what *"seems to be right"* should always be examined against what the God's Word teaches. It is utter foolishness to live in opposition to the hard facts and blindly follow a set of beliefs that are not based on truth simply because it feels right! Proverbs 13: 16 says, *"Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly."* Proverbs 15: 14 says, *"The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly."*

Prudent and discerning people will seek the facts and gather knowledge before reaching any sort of conclusion. Seeking some sort of *"spiritual high"* from a religion or organization or those who are trusting in some experience they claim to have had are not being discerning and seeking truth. Such is folly, and in the end will only lead to eternal death. Our desire should be to take time in our lives to consider whether what we believe is truth or error i.e., we must *"prove all things and hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5: 21).*

Is your belief based on biblical fact or is it based upon the shallow and destructive ways that seem right, such as feelings, emotions, experiences, traditions, majority opinions or what a highly respected man or woman teaches. As a free moral agent, you alone have the responsibility to search out all matters and find the truth which can set you free from sin *(Acts 17: 11; Jn. 8: 32).* 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 Happening?

Weldon's alumni ready bi-annual reunion Oct. 23

The Weldon Bumblebees bi-annual get-together is going to mark another major milestone this year.

Rather, it's the marker that matters – the Bumblebees' legacy lives on in the culmination of a years-long effort to install an official Texas Historical Commission plaque at the school.

(Learn more about that effort in this issue.)

This year's Weldon Alumni Game includes a salute to the Weldon Bumblees ahead of the Gladewater Bears face-off with the White Oak Roughnecks Friday, Oct. 23. The pre-game celebration is set for 6:30 p.m. before the 7 o'clock kick-off at Jack V. Murphy Bear Stadium.

Bumblebee Weekend continues Saturday, Oct. 24, at Weldon Elementary with the 1 p.m. Bumblebee Reunion Luncheon in the Weldon Cafeteria. Tickets are $75 per person, covering the meal and a commemorative t-shirt.

The unveiling of the Weldon Elementary historic marker will follow, set for 2 p.m. at 315 E. Saunders. The unveiling is free and open to the public, and organizers are eager to see a big turnout as the community honors the Weldon Bumblebees (1921-1969) and the living legacy of the school and its story.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Darren Richardson at 903-374-1370.



Gladewater Rotary Club members welcome Upshur County District Attorney Barry Wallace (center) for their lunchtime meeting Oct. 8, pictured with Rotarians Darla Ferguson and Luke Kimbrough.

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.

Gladewater library helps developing writers refine their craft

Budding young authors can hone their storytelling skills later this month at Lee-Bardwell Public Library's new 'Teen Writing Workshop.'

The day-long intensive includes lunch between two sessions running two hours each, set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the 312 W. Pacific Ave. facility.

The event coincides with the library's Christmas Short Story contest for high school seniors. It's open to students in Gladewater, Union Grove, Big Sandy, White Oak and Sabine ISDs with two laptops as prizes along with each story being published in a holiday anthology.

"Everybody's who's interested in the short story contest can come and get a little more information on how to write," Library Director Brandy Winn said, courtesy of Piney Woods author Dana Wayne: "She's amazing."

Wayne is a sixth-generation Texan published her debut novel at 66, "an award-winning author of contemporary, western historical and romantic suspense, known for heartfelt, emotionally rich stories featuring strong women, second chances and unforgettable happily-ever-afters."

That Saturday's first two-hour session is titled 'Build Your Story World,' focusing on: Creating unforgettable characters with depth and voice; Crafting conflict that keeps readers turning pages; and Mastering 'show, don't tell,' the golden rule of great fiction.

Session two is 'Make It Shine,' spotlighting:

- Writing dialogue that crackles and feels real
- Worldbuilding: creating settings readers can feel and smell
- Revision strategies: how to take a draft from good to great

For more information, visit facebook.com/leelibrary, email Winn at bwinn@cityofgladewater.com or call 903-845-2640.

Upshur library storytime slated

No "Storytime" sessions for children will be held Thursday (Oct. 15) at the Upshur County Library in Gilmer, which was scheduled to close at noon Wednesday, Oct. 14, and remain closed through Oct. 19.

The institution, which normally hosts two Storytime sessions in which a book is read to young children on Thursdays, is closing from Oct. 15-17 for the annual East Texas Yamboree being held on those dates. It will be closed Oct. 18-19 because it normally closes Sundays and Mondays.

The library re-opens Oct. 20, when voting for its paper pumpkin decorating contest starts, extending through Oct. 27. (Entries were due in by noon Oct. 14).

Members of the public can vote for one entrant in each of the contest's three age divisions: 2-4, 5-7 and 8-11, said Amy Allred, children's coordinator for the library.

"Storytime" resumes Oct. 22.

The Friends organization will hold its regular monthly meeting at the library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, and host a book sale to the public there Nov. 5-7.

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.

Decades of History, Years of Effort ...

State marks historic legacy of Gladewater's Weldon School

Continued from Page 1

Weldon School" compiled by the committee members. The advocates have provided it for readers' via GladewaterMirror.com

"The year 1969 culminates over a hundred years of education in three counties – Gregg, Smith, and Upshur," according to the opening of the history. "In the original district, then called Valley Home School District, there were two schools which served as a nucleus for Weldon. They were the 'town school' and the Holly Springs school.

"Over the years all or part of Red Rock, Prairie Creek, Evergreen, Joy, Pritchett and Starrville districts were consolidated to finally form the Gladewater County Line Independent School District. Beginning in 1940, Weldon became the receiving high school for surrounding schools. A peak enrollment of over seven hundred students was reached in the 1964-1965 school year when eight other districts were sending high school students."

The unveiling ceremony coincides with the 22nd Bi-Annual Weldon Alumni Reunion beginning Friday, Oct. 23.

Weldon School has rich history

After the Civil War, African American families in area Freedmen communities founded schools which over decades consolidated into Gladewater Independent School District by the 1950s. The Bethel community in Gladewater hosted a school for African American students in New Hope Baptist Church by 1900. The school became known as Gladewater Colored School, and in 1922, with assistance from the Julius Rosenwald fund, Gladewater Independent School District constructed a two-room schoolhouse. A local economic boom following oil discovery in the early 1930s meant the school's population swelled. Six additional acres were purchased in 1934 from George Roden. Grades 9-12 were added.

In 1937, the school was renamed after its principal, J. Weldon Williams (1893-1958). In 1941, a new shop building was constructed, and five acres were added to the site. In 1946 the school constructed a gym and remodeled the elementary annex, which had been damaged by fire. The campus expanded to include an auditorium, additional classrooms and athletic facilities.

Later principals such as Emerson Jackson, Edward Green, and Garfield Hill, assistant principal Rudolph Phillips and others sought academic and extracurricular excellence. The Weldon Bumblebees football team, founded in 1939 by Calvin Cooksey, head coach for 25 years, won 191 games and competed for state 3 times. Students excelled in tennis, basketball, baseball, swimming and track. In the 1960s, students competed in drama, oratorical speaking, choir, music and band. After integration in 1969, the Weldon campus continued to serve local students.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

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

— Margaret Sullivan, *"Ghosting The News"*

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Sports roundup

Bears start district play with 46-14 win over Sabine

By Tyler Sutton

District play began for the Gladewater Bears as they looked to repeat as district champions and it started off in a big fashion as the Bears made the short trip to Liberty City and roughed up the Cardinals 46-14.

The game was apart of the KYKX Game of the week series.

The Bears won the toss and got the ball and went right down the field and scored as QB Achilles Hess lofted a beautiful pass for a 25 yard TD to Destin Sheridan and the Bears added the 2 point conversion to make it 8-0.

But the Cardinals answered back to cut the lead to 8-7. Gladewater again found the end zone as Caleb Balcorta punched it in from 4 yards out to make it a 15-7 Bears lead after 1 quarter. But on the first play of the 2nd quarter, Sabine cut the lead to one at 15-14 with a touchdown. After a Sabine 3 and out punt, the Bears added to their lead before the half as Trey Watts went untouched for a 9 yard TD run and it was 23-14 Bears at the half.

Gladewater turned the game into a rout in the 3rd quarter. After a fake punt by Sabine was unsuccessful, the Bears took just 1 play as Hess found Landon King on a backwards pass 65 yard TD to make it 30-14 Gladewater. Then the knockout blow came after the kickoff as the Sabine QB fumbled the snap and it was scooped up by Gladewater linebacker Jaylen Wright for a 29 yard scoop and score TD.


Photo by Chris Jones

The Bears added 2 more on a two point conversion and it was 39-14 Gladewater.

The Bears added one more TD late as Balcorta took a simple handoff and jetted to the endzone for a 44 yard TD run to make it 46-14. " We needed a hot start to district play and i feel we got that done " " Offense was on track all night and the defense was making plays as well " said coach Jermaine Lewis.

The Bears improve to 3-3 on the year and 1-0 in district play. They will be on the road again next when they head to Tatum to take on the Eagles.

The White Oak Roughnecks had a rough start to district play as they fell on the road to Liberty-Eylau 47-6. Quarterback TJ Jackson was 6-13 for 55 yards with 1 interception. He also has 13 carries for 45 yards and a touchdown. RB Cameron Vail had 10 carries for 35 yards. Tysen McClain had 3 catches for 31 yards.

The Roughnecks fall to 0-6 and 0-1 in district play and will next be in action when they host Atlanta.

The Union Grove Lions bounced back from losing their first game of the season with a dominant 25-0 shutout victory over Elysian Fields.

Kolby Nutt led the defensive effort with seven tackles, six tackles for loss and three sacks Daniel Fernandez had 14 tackles, Kaden Polen 12 tackles, D.J. Edwards 1.5 sacks and Polen and Cooper Manley a sack apiece. Fernandez also blocked a punt. Hudson Wightman and Brycen Porter both threw TD passes for Union Grove.

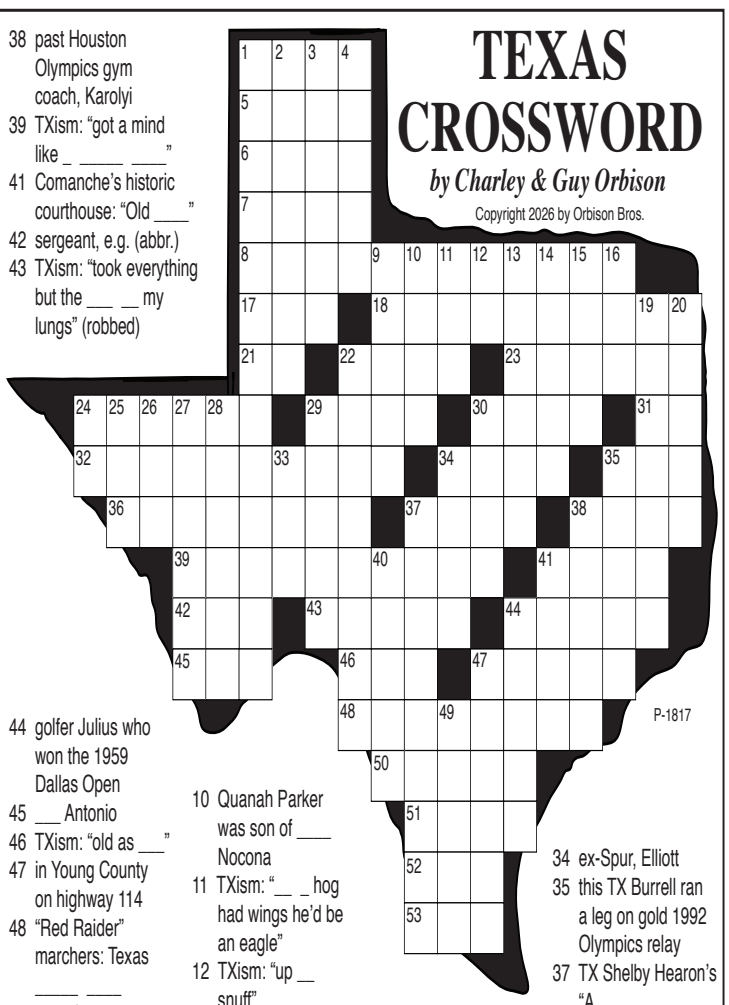
Wightman carried 15 times for 167 yards and a TD, caught a 25-yard TD pass and intercepted a pass. Edwards rushed for one TD and caught a TD pass. The Lions improve to 5-1 and 1-1 in district play.

Union Grove will travel to Ore City next. The game will be a part of the KYKX Game of the Week series.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "Ya'll come ____, ya hear?"
5 Texas buildings have _ ___ on smoking (2 wds.)
6 TXism: "hook, ___ and sinker" (all)
7 in Hidalgo County on highway 107
8 Luling's "Watermelon Thump" has a ____-_____ contest
17 TXism: "__-horse town" (small)
18 1924 campaign slogan: "__ ___ __ ___ I Ain't Got a Dern Thing Against Pa"
21 some Texans ski in Santa __, NM
22 TXism: "___ _ lick" (none)
23 San Antonio Tejano and countyry singer
24 countrified
29 TXism: "___ _ mind to" (inclined)
30 state ____ has olive branches
31 Gov. _ _ Culberson
32 TV soap of TX Al Freeman, Jr.: "One ____ __ ____"
34 what the Ranger runner did at 2nd
35 ___ Fresnos, TX
36 TXism: "mouth _____" (liquor)
37 TXism: "two ____ in a pod" (alike)
38 past Houston Olympics gym coach, Karolyi
39 TXism: "got a mind like _ _____ ____"
41 Comanche's historic courthouse: "Old ____"
42 sergeant, e.g. (abbr.)
43 TXism: "took everything but the ___ __ my lungs" (robbed)
44 golfer Julius who won the 1959 Dallas Open
45 ___ Antonio
46 TXism: "old as ___"
47 in Young County on highway 114
48 "Red Raider" marchers: Texas ____ ____
50 sweethearts
51 leave out
52 opponent
53 Second female governor, Richards

DOWN

1 commodity bundles in Texas (3 wds.)
2 Taylor County seat
3 TX Nash hit: "I ___ ___ Clearly Now"
4 work bread dough
9 "struck" in the Bible
10 Quanah Parker was son of ____ Nocona
11 TXism: "__ _ hog had wings he'd be an eagle"
12 TXism: "up __ snuff"
13 TX King Vidor's "A ___ __ A Tree"
14 old Texas bumper sticker: "__ ___ Too, Eddie"
15 TXism: "fought tooth and ____"
16 "My ___ Sal"
19 Padre Island was named for Padre _____ Balli
20 TXism: "got as much to __ __ _ hibernating bear"
22 TX Larry McMurtry
24 in Dallas: _ _ Thornton Freeway
25 Texas interschool sports & academic league (abbr.)
26 state univer. in Nacogdoches
27 proud of their state
28 in Hill County on I-35
29 TXism: "____ _ holler" (call me)
30 Texas belle rebuff
33 TXism: "let sleeping dogs ___"
34 ex-Spur, Elliott
35 this TX Burrell ran a leg on gold 1992 Olympics relay
37 TX Shelby Hearon's "A ____ __ _ Fellow" (1978)
38 TXism: "a frog in a skillet would have more fun"
40 "____ and true"
41 ex-Ranger coach Valentine was born in Stamford, ____ .
44 "oldies" DJ line: "_____ from the past"
47 TCU 1938 Heisman winner, Davey
49 TXism: "___ __ the hoof" (hog)

P-1817

See Answers on Page 5

CROSS COUNTRY

Union Grove cross country were at the district meet where:

Girls:

Landry Harrs won at 13:07
Shaniya Roland was 2nd at 13:24
Phaedra Cole was 6th at 13:43
Susanna Sturkie was 7th at 13:53
Rachel Potter was 8th at 13:56

Boys:

David Shaver won at 19:27
Liam Mayhan was 2nd at 19:32
Brady Prichett was 4th at 19:59
Deion Ramey as 5th at 20:24
Kynan Birlew was 8th at 21:21
Matthew Delaney was 10th at 21:25

The Lions and Lady Lions also won every individual race and every team divisions

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GLADEWATER BEARS
2026 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

VARSITY

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	SITE
8/13	TROUP (SCRIMMAGE)	7:00	HOME
8/21	RUSK (SCRIMMAGE)	7:00	AWAY
8/28	DAINGERFIELD	7:00	HOME
9/4	PITTSBURG	7:00	HOME
9/10	WEST RUSK	7:00	AWAY
9/18	SPRING HILL	7:00	AWAY
9/25	ATHENS	7:00	HOME
10/2	OPEN	-	-
10/8	*SABINE	7:00	AWAY
10/16	*TATUM	7:00	AWAY
10/23	*WHITE OAK	7:00	HOME
10/30	*LIBERTY EYLAU	7:00	AWAY
11/6	*ATLANTA (SR. NIGHT)	7:00	HOME

HOMECOMING | SENIOR NIGHT | WELDON GAME | *DISTRICT GAME

★ VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE ★

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
8/14/26 SCRIMMAGE	PALESTINE WESTWOOD/MEXIA	PALESTINE	TBD
8/20/26 SCRIMMAGE	GRAND SALINE	WHITE OAK	TBD
8/28/26	SPRING HILL	SPRING HILL	7:00 PM
9/4/26	WINNSBORO	WINNSBORO	7:00 PM
9/11/26	ARP	WHITE OAK	7:30 PM
9/18/26	SCURRY-ROSSER	WHITE OAK	7:00 PM
9/25/26	WEST RUSK	WHITE OAK	7:00 PM
10/2/26	BYE	–	–
10/09/26	LIBERTY-EYLAU	LIBERTY-EYLAU	7:00 PM
10/16/26	ATLANTA	WHITE OAK	7:00 PM
10/23/26	GLADEWATER	GLADEWATER	7:00 PM
10/29/26	TATUM	WHITE OAK	7:00 PM
11/06/26	SABINE	SABINE	7:00 PM

TOUGH ★ AGGRESSIVE ★ PHYSICAL

2026 Varsity Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME	NOTE
Friday, August 14	Overton	HOME	5:00 PM	Scrimmage
Thursday, August 20	Como-Pickton	Away	5:00 PM	Scrimmage
Friday, August 28	Queen City	Away	7:00 PM	-
Friday, September 4	Quitman	Home	7:00 PM	-
Friday, September 11	Elkhart	Home	7:00 PM	Homecoming
Friday, September 18	Tenaha	Away	7:00 PM	-
Friday, September 25	---	---	---	Open Week
Friday, October 2	Paul Pewitt*	Home	7:00 PM	-
Friday, October 9	Elysian Fields*	Away	7:00 PM	-
Thursday, October 15	Ore City*	Away	7:00 PM	KYKX Game of the Week
Friday, October 23	Waskom*	Home	7:00 PM	Pink Out
Friday, October 30	Beckville*	Away	7:00 PM	-
Thursday, November 5	Harleton*	Home	7:00 PM	Senior Night



The Union Grove Lady Lions split their matches as they knocked off Big Sandy 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-6) on the road. That was followed traveling to Hawkins where they fell 3-1 (17-25, 19-25, 25-18, 18-25. The Lady Lions are now 15-11 and 3-2 in district play. They will next be in action with a home game vs Como-Pickton.

The White Oak Ladynecks volleyball team kept their district championship hopes alive as they swept a pair of matches vs Arp and West Rusk. Against the Lady Tigers, White Oak won in straight sets (25-18, 25-17, 25-15), Against the Lady Raiders Londyn Baker (13) and Carrington Watson (10) combined for 23 kills, Mary Rector handed out 36 assists and the Ladynecks earned a 25-16, 25-19, 25-15 victory. Baker also had eight digs and three aces and Rector six digs. Gertie Brecheen had nine kills, two aces and five digs, Lyla Easley five kills and Peyton Thompson 16 digs and three assists. The Ladynecks are now 21-13 and 7-1 in district play. They will next have a huge match with Tatum with the district title on the line. They will alos have a match at rival Gladewater.

The Gladewater Lady Bears volleyball team made the trip to Tatum to take on the state ranked Lady Eagles and Tatum made quick work of it in a 3-0 sweep (25-11, 25-22, 25-11) . The loss drops Gladewater to 13-15 and 1-7 in district play. They will next be in action with a pair of games at home against Troup and White Oak.

Texas accounts for most of library book bans

Texas banned more school library books during the 2025-2026 school year than any other state, accounting for 8,000 — or two-thirds — of the 12,000 book bans documented by Pen America, a literature and free-speech advocacy group, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Florida ranked second with just more than 3,200 banned books.

PEN America, a nonprofit, attributed the high number of book bans in the state to legislation that expands the role of parents and school boards in overseeing what books students can access in public school libraries.

Leading the list of most frequently banned books included "Sold" by Patricia McCormick, "Speak" by Laurie Halse Anderson, "Crank" and "Identical" by Ellen Hopkins, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood, and "Looking for Alaska" by John Green.

White Oak reaps robust sales tax check, Gladewater's 2026 total continues climb

Continued from Page 1

collected in September totaled $5.7 billion, 12.4% more than in September 2025."

October's allocation on August sales come primarily from businesses that report tax monthly.

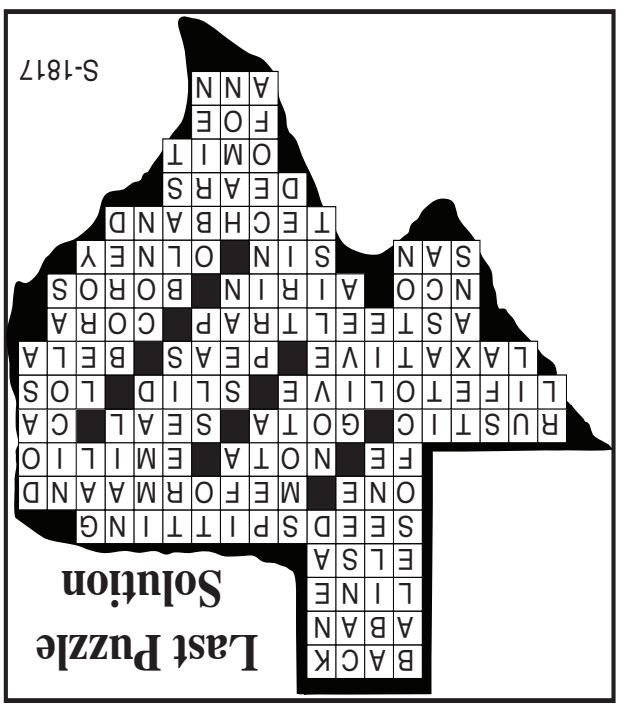
Interim comptroller Don Huffines was appointed to the post on a temporary basis this summer – the Republican nominee faces three challengers for the seat come November, including Sarah Eckhardt (Democrat), V. Alonzo Echavarria-Garza (Libertarian) and Shehla Faizi (Green).

Since Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tapped Huffines for the post July 2 in the midst of the race, press releases out of the comptroller's office have been echoing the governor's push for property tax reduction at the local level.

From the most recent announcement, "The Texas economy is strong, and the rising sales tax revenue received by many local governments is an opportunity for local elected officials to reduce property taxes. Lower property taxes can help make housing more affordable and reduce the everyday financial strain many Texans face."

Elsewhere in the area, Gregg County's net payment this period is $1.8 million, a 10 percent increase compared to October 2025. It brings the county to $18.7 million year-to-date, a 6.67 percent year-to-year increase. Upshur's take this month is $168,069, an increase of almost 7 percent compared to 12 months ago. It puts the YTD tally at $1.7 million, a 3.63 percent gain on October '25.

Gilmer saw an 8 percent year-to-year gain in its October allocation ($233,462). Union Grove's check for October is $776.87, a 13.41 percent gain.







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CHURCH OF GOD
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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

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Northside Pentecostal
Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)

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Full Gospel Fellowship
Gladewater Revival Church
Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
Love of God Church • 903-845-2623
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JOINT NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF GREGG §

BY VIRTUE OF ORDERS OF SALE DATED the 29th & 30th day of September, 2026, and issued pursuant to judgment decrees of the County Court At Law of Gregg County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said Court, I have on the 30th day of September, 2026, seized, levied upon, and will on the 3rd day of November, 2026, at the At public auction on an online platform at www.mvbataxsales.com, at 10:00AM on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, as provided for by the TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

All of the following properties being located in Gregg County, Texas and each property being more particularly described on an instrument recorded in the Volume and Page reference (V___/P___) or document number (Doc #) of the Deed Records, Gregg County, Texas.

Cause No. 022352-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District et al v Barbara L. Rice, Individually and as Trustee of the Charles F. Rice Revocable Trust et al
BEING 0.04500 OVERRIDING ROYALTY INTEREST IN THE E M WOODS LEASE, RRC# 6E-08323, OPERATED BY JOHN LINDER, Acct #609532/000609532

Cause No. 022523-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Kristoff Ford
East 8' of Lot 1 & All of Lot 2, Block 2, Ragsdale Addition, City of Gladewater (Instrument #201816193) Acct #000061816

Cause No. 022743-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Marlene Brown Orosco
Lot A, Block 134-35, Wood Heights, City of Gladewater (Doc #9923666) Acct #000072444

Cause No. 022851-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v W. H. Rivers et al
Lots 7 & 8, Block 2, Belwood Addition, City of Gladewater (V297/P33) Acct #000036090

Cause No. 022877-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v Hector David Duron Maldonado et al
0.1879 Acre, more or less, being Lot 1, Block 1, Rosedale Addition, City of Longview (Instrument #202013733) Acct #000180681

Cause No. 022992-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v Charles L. Shaw
An undivided 50% interest in 5.60 Acres, more or less, A. Fuggerson Survey AKA A. Ferguson Survey, Abstract 75 (Tract 5, V692/P269) Acct #000017159

Cause No. 023095-CCL2
Pine Tree Independent School District v Etta Freeman Gibson et al
2.25 Acres, more or less, B. Hearne Survey, Abstract 108, part of a 2.9 acre tract, Save and Except, that part of the 2.9 acre tract located in the boundaries of the Longview ISD (V220/P7) Acct #000018577

Cause No. 023201-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Don Wayne Holland et al
3.74 Acres, more or less, D. Ferguson Survey, Abstract 70 (V1508/P444) Acct #000016623

Cause No. 023201-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Don Wayne Holland et al
8.60 Acres, more or less, D. Ferguson Survey, Abstract 70 (V1218/P52) Acct #000016624

RESALES - THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES HELD IN TRUST BY THE TAXING UNITS LISTED BELOW ARE OFFERED FOR SALE PURSUANT TO § 34.05 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE:

Cause No. 022630-CCL2
Gladewater Independent School District v Jimmy R. Brewer et al
Lot 5, Block 5, Mallock AKA Malloch AKA Maloch Addition, City of Gladewater, (V774/P312 and Doc #202518102) Acct #000053698/N00654778/53698 (Bid in Trust 12/2/2025)

This sale will be conducted to satisfy the judgment(s) for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interests due on the properties described herein, and for all costs of court and sale. The above-described RESALE property has previously been the subject of a tax lien foreclosure sale and at said tax sale this property was struck off. Property will be sold "as is" without warranty either expressed or implied.

I do hereby verify that true and correct copies of the foregoing Joint Notice of Sale have been delivered by United States Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and by regular mail, to each of the Defendants named in each of the numbered and styled causes.

DATED the 30th day of September, 2026, at Longview, Texas

MAXEY CERLIANO
Sheriff, Gregg County, Texas

By: Shawn McFadden
SHAWN MCFADDEN, Deputy Sheriff

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City of Gladewater
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PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before the City of Gladewater Planning & Zoning Commission on November 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request for a lot size variance and a side set-back variance to Gladewater Code of Ordinance §15.11.120(c)2 Side Yard Setback and §15.11.120(c)4 Lot Size – SF3 at LTS 1 & 2 BLK 3 RICHEY ADDN; more commonly known as 1100 N. Shell Rd., Gladewater. There will be a second public hearing held by the Gladewater City Council on November 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend and participate in these public hearings. If you are unable to attend these meetings you may send written comments to Judy Van Houten, City Secretary, City of Gladewater, PO Box 1725, Gladewater, Texas 75647.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE 2026-10 OF THE CITY OF WHITE OAK WAS PASSED IN THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, 2026, REGARDING AMENDING SECTION 58-32(A) (HOURS AND PLACES OF ACTIVITY OF SOLICITORS AND VENDORS) OF THE WHITE OAK CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SERVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. FOR A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE TOON, CITY SECRETARY, CITY OF WHITE OAK, 906 S. WHITE OAK RD., WHITE OAK, TX 75693 OR CALL 903.759.3936 x17.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The White Oak Economic Development Corporation and the White Oak City Council have approved an incentive to grant $20,000 and an interest-free loan in the amount of $20,000 to Silvertooth Family Dental of White Oak, PPLC for the purchase of equipment; the grant reimbursement will be made after receipts have been turned in.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gladewater ISD is seeking Request for Sealed Proposals (RFP) for the installation of multiple chillers.

RFP Number 27-51-002 Proposals are available at the Gladewater ISD Business Office or online at www.gladewaterisd.com

Proposal Submission Deadline: October 30, 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS GLADEWATER ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Gladewater ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 pm on MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

In the GLADEWATER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – BOARD ROOM 200 E. BROADWAY, GLADEWATER, TX 75647

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Gladewater ISD's Rating on the State's Financial Accountability System.



PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To:
The Unknown Heirs of James R. Dickey, Deceased
The Unknown Heirs of Sarah L. Dansby, Deceased
The Unknown Heirs of Homer Dansby Franklin Jr., Deceased
The Unknown Heirs of Ernestine Walker Dansby, Deceased
The Unknown Heirs of Phyllis Dansby Fisher, Deceased
The Unknown Heirs of Clarence McLemore, Deceased
The Unknown Heirs of Eric E. Strong, Deceased
The Unknown Owners or Claimants of an Interest in Land Located in Gregg County, Texas

Defendants Greetings:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 am on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date this citation was issued, a default judgement may be taken against you."

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiffs Third Amended Petition to Partition Real Property at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of the issuance of this citation the same being Monday the 16" day of November, 2026, before the Honorable Scott Novy 188th Judicial District Court of Gregg County, Texas, at the Gregg County Courthouse of said County in Longview, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Third Amended Petition was filed in said court, on the 5th day of August, 2026, in the above-entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit:

The Third Amended Petition for Partition of Real Property is a Suit for Civil, Real Property, as is more fuly shown by Plaintiff's Third Amended Petition on file in this suit, the nature of which suit is a partition involving the property located in the W. P. Chisum Survey, the Solomon Slaughter Survey, and the A. M. Coleman Survey of Gregg County, Texas, and being more fully described in Plaintiff's Third Amended Petition.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Gregg County, Texas, this 29" day of September, 2026.

You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the plaintiffs Third Amended 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 16th day of November, 2026, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. before the Honorable 188th District Court of Gregg County, at the Court House in Longview, Texas. Said plaintiff's Third Amended Petition was filed on this the 5th day of August, 2026.

The file number of said suit being No. **2025-2095-A**

The name of the parties in said suit are:
Bernard Black, individually and as Co-Trustee of the Ruth H. Black Revocable Living Trust Plaintiff
and
The Unknown Heirs of Sarah L Dansby, Deceased, et al Defendants,

The nature of said suit being substantially as follows, to wit:
Partition Suit

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

DAKOTA J. WRINKLE
1910 PACIFIC AVENUE STE 8005
DALLAS TX 75201
469-833-3380

Issued this the 29th day of September, 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On September 8, 2026, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) requesting Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) authorization to purchase a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located in Rusk County, Texas (the Project). The docket number and style of the case are Docket No. 60204, *Application of Southwestern Electric Power Company to Amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Purchase a 200 MW Battery Energy Storage System Located in Rusk County, Texas*. SWEPCO has more than 190,000 Texas retail customers, all of whom are affected by this Application. SWEPCO is filing separate applications for authorization of the Project with the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

The Project is a 200 MW, six-hour BESS. The Project executed a Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA) with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) in December 2025 and will interconnect with the Company's existing Tenaska Switching Station located in East Texas. The power used to charge the BESS is generated by power plants operating in SPP that are injecting electricity into the grid when the BESS charges, typically at times of lower demand and lower prices in the SPP Integrated Marketplace (IM). When the BESS discharges, or puts power back onto the grid, it is delivered to customers using power at that time, typically during higher load conditions. The Project will be located in an unincorporated area of Rusk County, Texas, and no zoning or local permitting is expected. Figure 1 below summarizes the Project SWEPCO is pursuing, including its size and projected in-service date.

Figure 1 – Brantley Branch BESS Overview

Brantley Branch BESS Overview	
Size (Nameplate Megawatt (MW))	200
MWh	1,200
Planned COD	December 2028
State	Texas
County	Rusk
Location (RTO)	SPP

The total capital expenditure for the Project is expected to be approximately $574 million.

SWEPCO has a capacity need driven largely by the increased SPP PRM requirements, expiring contracts, and load growth. SWEPCO received an unsolicited offer from Jupiter Power for a BESS that is anticipated to reach commercial operation by December 2028. The Company's analysis demonstrates that the Project is a cost-effective means of meeting a portion of the generation capacity need.

Persons with questions about this Application should contact SWEPCO at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101 or call toll-free at (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon the action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. All communications should refer to Docket No. 60204, and any request to intervene in that docket should include an email address and fax number (if available) as contact information. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is November 6, 2026 and you must send a letter requesting intervention to the Commission that is received by that date.

A copy of SWEPCO's Application may be viewed on the Commission's webpage at https://www.puc.texas.gov. The Commission maintains an electronic copy of all filings on the "Filings" section of its webpage. The control number for this proceeding is 60204.

UPSHUR COUNTY VOTING GUIDE

November 3, 2026 General Election

EARLY VOTING

Gilmer Civic Center
1218 US HWY 271 N. • Gilmer, TX 75644

Early Voting Dates	Hours
October 19 – 23, 2026	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
October 24, 2026	7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
October 25, 2026	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
October 26 – 30, 2026	7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

ELECTION DAY • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Polling location	Street address	City / ZIP
Indian Rock Baptist Church	4944 St. Hwy 154 E.	Gilmer, TX 75645
East Mountain Community Center	103 Municipal Dr.	Gilmer, TX 75645
Glenwood Water Department	6792 FM 726 S.	Gilmer, TX 75645
Ashland Masonic Lodge #1138	10478 St. Hwy 154	Diana, TX 75640
Redemption Worship Center/ Assembly of God Church	1060 US Hwy 271 N.	Gilmer, TX 75644
Walnut Creek Baptist Church	1969 N. Sego Lily Rd.	Diana, TX 75640
Ore City Community Center	408 Althea	Ore City, TX 75683
Frontier Cowboy Church	2791 FM 593	Gilmer, TX 75644
Big Sandy Civic Center	612 N. Tyler St.	Big Sandy, TX 75755
Pritchett Community Center	1092 FM 1404	Big Sandy, TX 75755
St. James Baptist Church	2800 W. Commerce	Gladewater, TX 75647
Enon Community Center	5223 Armadillo Rd.	Gilmer, TX 75644
Oak Hill Baptist Church	3084 FM 2088	Gilmer, TX 75644
Rosewood Baptist Church	8261 Arrowwood Rd.	Gilmer, TX 75644
Upshur County Library	702 W. Tyler St.	Gilmer, TX 75644

Source: Upshur County Elections • countyofupshur.com

By Phillip Williams

Early voting in Upshur County for the statewide Nov. 3 general election opens Monday, and continues daily through Oct. 30 at the Gilmer Civic Center.

Voting hours at the center, 1218 U.S. 271 N., are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 19-23, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Oct. 26-30.

No early in-person voting will be held anywhere else in the county, but no voting will be held at the civic center on election day. The 15 polling locations around the county which were used for the March 3 party primaries (including St. James Baptist Church in Gladewater) will be open Nov. 3 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Under "countywide voting," any Upshur County voter can cast his/her ballot at any of those polling places on election day. However, deadline to register to vote was Oct. 5.

While all candidates for Upshur County offices on the ballot are unopposed, with only Republicans running, there are several contested statewide and area races for state and federal offices.

They include U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, governor and lieutenant governor, among others.

Most attention has focused on the Senate race between Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Democrat State Rep. James Talarico, and little-known Libertarian Ted Brown.

Paxton unseated longtime incumbent Republican John Cornyn in the GOP's March primary, while Talarico defeated U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett for their party's nomination.

Upshur voters wishing to receive mail-in ballots must apply to County Election Administrator Lory Harle's office at 115 Simpson on the east side of the downtown Gilmer square. The applications must be received by mail by Oct. 23, and mailed-in ballots must be postmarked by election day, and received by Nov. 4 to count.

In addition, voters who received a ballot in the mail can bring it to Harle's office on election day rather than mail it back, a spokeswoman said. But voters can only bring in their own ballot.

Valid identification, such as a driver's license or Texas Department of Public Safety identification card, are required to vote in person under state law.

Voters who mail in requests for a mailed ballot can print the application off the county's website at www.countyofupshur.com. Whether they do or not, they must list the number for their form of identification (such as their driver's license number), their date of birth, and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

When they mail the ballot in, they must again include all that information on the envelope. All the details furnished must match the data for them in the election office's records.

To print the application at countyofupshur.com, click on "election information," then click on "apply for a ballot" before finally clicking on "application for ballot by mail.pdf."

For more information, contact Harle's office at 903-680-8506.



Gladewater Rotary Club volunteers pose next to another successfully-completed ramp repair in Gladewater. The latest project's crew included Brad Thomas, Al Harrison, Steven Heim, Andy Killan and Leon Word. (Courtesy photo)

Fires continue after burn ban lifted

By Phillip Williams

Upshur County has experienced several fires since the county government lifted its ban on outdoor burning Oct. 5, leading Gilmer Fire Chief Billy Joe Williams to issue caution to rural citizens since his fire department fights blazes outside city limits.

The city itself remained under a burn ban as of Monday and isn't experiencing problems, but Williams said in a press release targeted to rural citizens last week that since "the wildfire situation (risk) is still increasing, please use extreme caution when burning outdoors."

Rural residents doing such burning should "have a water source nearby and ready to extinguish a fire that gets out. Once you're done burning, make sure the fire is extinguished with lots of water and the fire is completely extinguished cold.

"One ember could cause a wildfire!" Williams warned.

Gilmer firefighters responded to 35 calls in September, but the number of calls for October is "probably gonna be way up" from that due to the rural fires, the chief said Monday.

Council set to wrap up lingering topics with first meeting of FY27

By James Draper

Gladewater City Council members will revisit a handful of recent issues Thursday night, from increasing water fees to streamlining operations and finances at City Hall.

The group's regular session for October begins at 6 p.m. this evening, and School Resource Officers are back on the agenda as well for the Oct. 15 gathering.

In addition to standard items – council comments, the city manager's report, public comments and the consent agenda (just meeting minutes this month) – the council will also revisit a revised School Resource Officer Agreement between the city and Gladewater ISD. Covering the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year, GISD trustees signed off on the first draft of the expanded document last month, sending it to City Hall (via Gladewater Police Department) for negotiation.

The relationship between city and school has already changed a degree – last month, district 'Guardians' were officially tasked with security at the middle school to cover a SRO staffing gap as the developing agreement goes back-and-forth.

Find the latest version online at GladewaterMirror.com

Regarding the city's proposed fee increase, on the water side the lowest usage level (0 to 2,000 gallons) is slated for a $5 increase to the base fee, taking it to $35.25.

At 2,001 to 5,000 gallons, the proposed fee rises from $5.67 to $7.62 per thousand; it's up to $8.26 per thousand (from $6.315) for 5,001 to 10,000 gallons then $9.20 (from $7.25) per thousand for 10,001 to 15,000 gallons. At the next level (15,001 to 20,000) the number rises from $9.14 per thousand to $11.09 then it's $12.82 per thousand gallons (up from $10.87) for usage of 20,001-plus.

Various airport fees are also primed for an increase. View all the proposed changes online.

Notably, the latest Quarterly Investment Report for the city (covering periods ending March 31, June 30 and Sept. 30) is scheduled as a regular action item this session. Previously, the reports were included on the council's consent agenda, routine items typically considered as a group with no discussion and approved with a single vote.

During the recent, rocky budget season, council members requested the reports be put in the spotlight on a regular basis.

Likewise, tonight's itinerary will see the elected officials 'discuss and consider' (i.e. vote on) budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 along with a vote on a $1,000 line-item audit by Vail & Park, P.C.

City Hall's also on the lookout for additional funding options to offset expenses related to the highway widening project.

The council is scheduled for executive (closed) session discussion of personnel matters focused on the city prosecutor, city treasurer and city manager. Any action will be taken in open session.

Discussion of the city treasurer, Meghan Davis, and city manager, Charlie Smith, may be shifted to open session – last month, both city officers opted to exercise their right to move talks from behind closed doors when council members questioned them in the midst of heated budget meetings.

In such instances, per the Texas Open Meetings Act, the executive session items become public hearings.

Following hours of tense talks Sept. 10, the council members reached a general consensus, but did not vote, to develop 90-day Performance Improvement Plans for both employees. Per city attorney Ronald Stutes, the body would eventually vote on the PIPs.

GPD training gives officers best skills for worst case

Continued from Page 1

– to hone their skills.

Mandated by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement with guidance from Texas State Safety Center, "It's to get all 80,000 officers in the state of Texas on the same sheet of music," Jordan said, pairing classroom instruction with action.

Oct. 10-11 was the second weekend for training hosted by GPD, putting more than 30 local officers through the paces, drawing trainees from Rusk County, Titus and Gregg with participants from Gilmer, Clarksville, White Oak, Longview and Gladewater.

Across two days, this particular round of training covered everything from scene management and incident command to breech, confrontation, medical care, evacuation and more.

"We start with arriving on the outside then working our way all the way through it," GPD Sgt. Ryan Roop said. "We only use one hallway," with classrooms, stairwells, blind corners and more all contained in a single stretch. "It gives us everything we need."

His shirt (and helmet) bore the blue-paint marks of successful shots by the trainees – in key scenarios, the police trainees are equipped with specialized Glocks loaded with 'Simunition' rounds.

"They train the same motor skills that officers use every day," Roop added.

With participants running in solos, pairs and group situations, multiple times each, instructors also step-in as simulated victims, ensuring all facets of the incident are covered.

An essential lesson on Day One ensures trainees can properly apply a tourniquet, according to fellow instructor and GPD Ofc. Elizabeth Chacon.

"That's part of Alert's slogan — 'Stop the killing, stop the dying,'" echoed Ofc. Shaun Smith.

"What options do you have to get them out?" Chacon asked, pushing participants to think on their feet amidst the danger. "The benefit of this, too, is you've got team building," giving officers from multiple agencies a chance to interact and find a rhythm together in the event they're called to the same scene in an emergency.

"They call it the 'Blue Tsunami,'" Roop said. "Managing that is probably the hardest part of it," and everyone on-site got a refresher in their role on-scene and at any nearby staging ground.

It's where they'll be interfacing with employees, faculty and community members in a critical incident.

"The biggest thing is letting our community know that if this happens, we're taking care to keep the community safe at all costs," Chacon said. "When it comes to the school, we're keeping their staff and their students safe."

With trained instructors among his officers, Gladewater PD Chief Kyle Ready says the department's primed to assist local businesses and organizations in preparing their personnel for the worst – Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events is a training option, anytime.

"We really want to thank Gladewater ISD for letting us use the high school campus for this training," he added. "It makes a massive difference for our officers to practice inside the actual layout of our local buildings rather than a generic facility.

"Training inside our own schools is invaluable and gives our team a firsthand advantage if a crisis ever happens."



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