

Gladewater Mirror



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Candidates answer questions at forum

Early voting for the May 4 Gladewater City Council election begins next Monday, April 22, and runs until Tuesday, April 30 at Gladewater City Hall.

Political newcomer and local business owner Karla Byrd is challenging incumbent Place 6 councilman Dr. Dennis Robertson while former city councilman Scott Owens and political newcomer and GISD teacher/coach Kevin Clark are seeking the Place 7 council seat currently held by Quyen Tong.

Each candidate attended last Thursday's annual Candidate's Forum sponsored by the *Gladewater Mirror* and the Gladewater Garden Club held at the Gladewater Chamber of Commerce building and shared their opinions on how to improve Gladewater.

Owens told the crowd of about 40 people in attendance and about 100 watching the *Mirror's* live-streaming video his past experience on the council made him the best candidate, while Clark said his military and coaching experience at creating a plan and executing that plan prepared him to serve on the council.

Robertson said his years of leadership on the council and his financial experience dealing with multi-million

You can watch the entire forum by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/GladewaterMirror/videos/587503265049928/> or you can scan in the QR Code below.



dollar college budgets gave him the edge in helping the city dig out of its current financial problems. Byrd said she was the best person for the Place 6 seat because she has proven she can bring people together and rally support for the city. And only by working together will Gladewater improve.

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As Gusher Days volunteer worked to prepare the stage for two concerts, carnival rides began rolling into town Saturday. Gusher Days will be this Friday and Saturday.

Gusher Days expands to two full days

Since 1986 East Texans have been enjoying East Texas Gusher Days and all the fun events revolving around the nostalgia of the area's Oil Boom Days!

The 34th Annual Gusher Days celebration - which has expanded to two full days this year, April 19-20 - has something for everyone - from a CASI sanctioned chili cook-off to a car show to live musical entertainment and street dance both Friday and Saturday nights to arts and crafts and food concessions, to the always popular amusement rides and carnival games.

A bass tournament will be held at Lake Gladewater on April 27 to wrap-up the annual event.

Check out this year special section for schedule and more information.



Gladewater City Manager Ricky Tow operated the front end loader at Saturday's citywide clean up day, while city employee Rhonda Turner Smith takes a break from the heavy downpour in the cab of the rig. Despite the threat of severe weather there was a great deal of participation in the annual spring clean up day.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



Sales tax revenue back up

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$705.3 million in local sales tax allocations for April, 8.4 percent more than in April 2018.

These allocations are based on sales made in February by businesses that report tax monthly.

Gladewater's sales tax revenue, which dipped into the red last month for the first time in several months, was back in the black this reporting period. Gladewater posted a 0.93-percent increase over the same period last year - \$82,098.98 compared to \$81,340.14. And for the year, Gladewater is slightly behind 2018 by -1.88-percent.

White Oak's local monthly sales tax revenue jumped 30.08-percent this reporting month - \$100,758.03 compared to \$77,457.22.

For the year, White Oak is 30.55-percent ahead of last year - \$372,643.67 compared to \$285,438.84, while Warren City posted a -8.485-percent drop - \$1,226.84 compared to \$1,340.64. Clarksville City was up 58.64-percent - \$4,990.58 compared to \$3,145.77.

City	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2019 Payments To date	2018 Payments To date	% Change	
GREGG COUNTY							
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$4,990.58	\$3,145.77	58.64%	\$16,003.54	\$13,847.30	15.57%
Easton	1.000%	\$2,171.14	\$3,262.51	-33.45%	\$7,349.82	\$10,866.84	-32.36%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$82,098.98	\$81,340.14	0.93%	\$322,775.70	\$328,969.66	-1.88%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$756,796.21	\$790,239.75	-4.23%	\$3,391,837.70	\$3,062,854.04	10.74%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$14,838.48	\$14,616.80	1.51%	\$63,215.15	\$55,834.09	13.21%
Longview	1.500%	\$2,427,165.18	\$2,237,065.44	8.49%	\$10,982,782.18	\$10,572,051.45	3.88%
Warren City	1.000%	\$1,226.84	\$1,340.64	-8.48%	\$7,050.17	\$4,424.52	59.34%
White Oak	1.500%	\$100,758.03	\$77,457.22	30.08%	\$372,643.67	\$285,438.84	30.55%
UPSHUR COUNTY							
Big Sandy	1.250%	\$13,438.66	\$22,933.24	-41.40%	\$66,414.72	\$102,825.98	-35.41%
East Mountain	1.000%	\$1,834.48	\$1,869.96	-1.89%	\$10,607.57	\$7,720.89	37.38%
Gilmer	1.500%	\$142,599.19	\$116,155.97	22.76%	\$614,493.12	\$556,295.71	10.46%
Ore City	1.500%	\$13,598.23	\$13,580.37	0.13%	\$59,129.29	\$59,401.36	-0.45%
Union Grove	1.000%	\$74.94	\$221.37	-66.14%	\$1,580.63	\$1,565.63	0.95%