

# Gladewater Mirror



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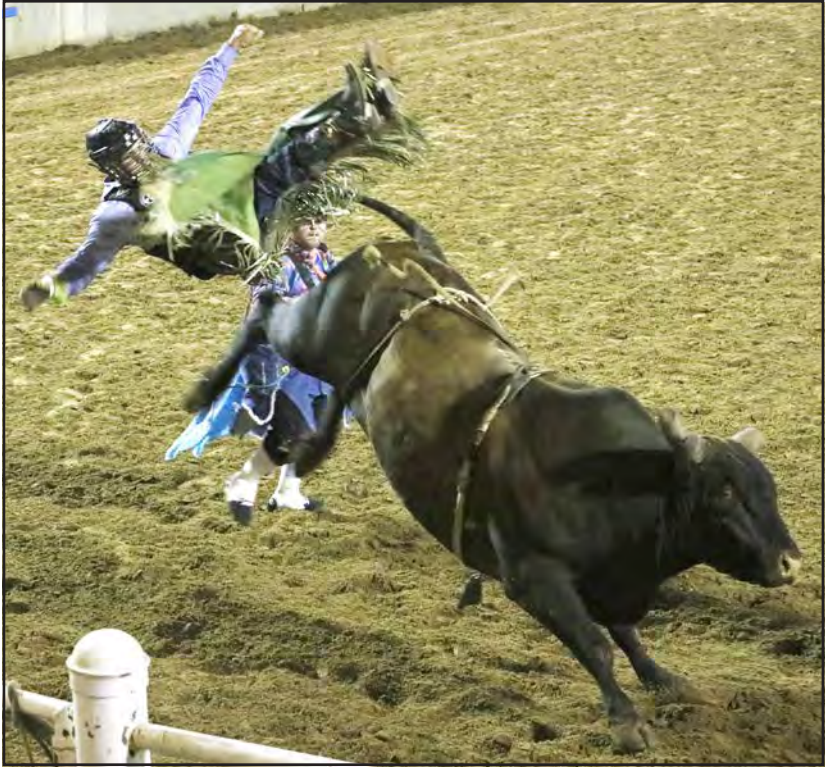


From Mutton Bustin' to bullriding, from bareback riding to barrel racing - rodeo fans got their fill June 9-12 as capacity crowds packed the rodeo arena and enjoyed top notch entertainment. Photos by Jim Bardwell

## RODEO

Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo Results June 10-12

**All-around cowboy:** Caleb Smidt, \$1,176, tie-down roping and team roping.  
**Bareback riding:** 1. Bodee Lammers, 85 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Dapper Dan, \$1,525; 2. Kolt Dement, 83.5, \$1,155; 3. Bill Tutor, 83, \$832; 4. Tilden Hooper, 82, \$554; 5. Luke Thrash, 64.5, \$323; no other qualified rides.  
**Steer wrestling:** 1. Walt Arnold, 3.3 seconds, \$2,591; 2. Heath Thomas, 3.6, \$2,253; 3. (tie) Landris White, Tanner Brunner, Remy Parrott and A.D. Davis II, 4.0, \$1,408 each; 7. Ryan Shuckburgh, 4.1, \$563; 8. (tie) Grady Payne and Ty Erickson, 4.2, \$113 each.  
**Team roping:** 1. (tie) Aaron Macy/Zane Bruce and Brenten Hall/Tyler Worley, 4.0 seconds, \$2,298 each; 3. Reno Stoebner/Pace Blanchard, 4.2, \$1,817; 4. Chad Masters/Joseph Harrison, 4.6, \$1,496; 5. Caleb Smidt/B.J. Dugger, 4.7, \$1,176; 6. (tie) Tyler Waters/Richard Durham, Brandon Webb/Kollin VonAhn and Nick Sartain/Reagan Ward, 5.2, \$534 each.  
**Saddle bronc riding:** 1. (tie) Lefty Holman, on Rafter G Rodeo's Assault, and Logan Cook, on Rafter G Rodeo's Citation, 88 points, \$1,721 each; 3. Samuel Kelts, 85.5, \$1,068; 4. Jake Clark, 84, \$712; 5. Brody Cress, 83.5, \$416; 6. Kole Ashbacher, 83, \$297.  
**Tie-down roping:** 1. Shad Mayfield, 7.5 seconds, \$3,257; 2. John Douch, 8.1, \$2,914; 3. Tyler Milligan, 8.4, \$2,571; 4. Matt Kenney, 8.5, \$2,228; 5. Mesquite Mahaffey, 8.6, \$1,885; 6. Haven Megeed, 8.8, \$1,543; 7. Randall Carlisle, 9.0, \$1,200; 8. Reid Zapalac, 9.1, \$857; 9. Tyson Durfey, 9.2, \$514; 10. (tie) Treg Schaack and Tyler Prcin, 9.3, \$86 each.  
**Barrel racing:** 1. Shelley Morgan, 17.13 seconds, \$2,142; 2. Wenda Johnson, 17.18, \$1,821; 3. Cassidy Kruse Deen, 17.19, \$1,500; 4. Ilyssa Riley, 17.24, \$1,285; 5. Emma Charleston, 17.26, \$1,071; 6. Cheyenne Wimberley, 17.31, \$750; 7. Ashley Castleberry, 17.32, \$536; 8. Steely Steiner, 17.34, \$428; 9. Jimmie Smith, 17.37, \$375; 10. Chani Graves, 17.44, \$321; 11. Lisa Thornton, 17.49, \$268; 12. (tie) JJ Baldwin, Sarah McCormick and Abby Pursifull, 17.52, \$71 each.  
**Bull riding:** \* 1. Jeff Askey, 89 points on Rafter G Rodeo's Chosin One, \$1,750; 2. Dustin Boquet, 87, \$1,338; 3. Trevor Reiste, 86.5, \$978; 4. JR Stratford, 82.5, \$669; 5. Toby Collins, 78, \$412; no other qualified rides. \*(all totals include ground money).  
**Breakaway roping:** 1. JJ Hampton, 2.00 seconds, \$2,184; 2. (tie) Sloan Anderson and Laramie Johnson, 2.10, \$1,756 each; 4. Martha Angelone, 2.20, \$1,329; 5. (tie) Shelby Boisjoli, Kelsie Chace and Lari Dee Guy, 2.30, \$760 each; 8. Taylor Hanchey, 2.40, \$190. **Total payoff:** \$9,494.  
**Total payoff:** \$77,385. **Stock contractor:** Rafter G Rodeo. **Sub-contractor:** Frontier Rodeo. **Rodeo secretary:** Lauranne Smith. **Officials:** Mark Longoria and Glenn Sullivan. **Timers:** Terri Gay and Raine Gilley. **Announcers:** Greg Simas and Don Gay. **Specialty act:** Johnny Dudley. **Bullfighters:** Wacey Munsell and Judd Napier. **Clown/barrelman:** Johnny Dudley. **Flankmen:** Summer Gay and Dusty Duba. **Chute boss:** Casey Harp. **Pickup man:** Jared Greene. **Photographer:** James Phifer. **Music director:** Dakota Riggins.



**Xtreme Bulls - Wednesday Night Results**  
 1. Bodee Lammers, Dapper Dan, Rafter G Rodeo, 85, \$1,525  
 2. Kolt Dement, Andy, Rafter G Rodeo, 83.5, \$1,155  
 3. Bill Tutor, Southwest, Rafter G Rodeo, 83, \$832  
 4. Tilden Hooper, Texan, Rafter G Rodeo, 82, \$554



### Bardwell elected TPA President, Mirror ties for FIRST in state

Jim Bardwell was inducted as the 141st Texas Press Association President at its annual convention last Friday in Denton. Bardwell presided over the three day event which included presentations by Dallas Morning News Publisher Grant Moise and Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp among others.

Texas Press is one of the nation's oldest and largest newspaper trade associations and represents 429 daily, semi-weekly and weekly newspapers from across the state. TPA is governed by a 30-member board of directors. Bardwell has the distinction of being one of the longest serving members of the TPA Boards.

Bardwell twice served as president of the North & East Texas Press Association and is currently a board member of NETPA. Along with his wife Suzanne, he serves on TPA's Legislative

Continued on Page 3

### Blankenship crowned rodeo queen at 84th Annual Round-Up Rodeo

Sierra Blankenship was crowned 2021 Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo Queen at Saturday's grand finale held at the Round-Up Rodeo arena.

Suerra is a 22-year-old resident of Big Sandy and is graduate of Salon Professional Academy and Hughes Springs High School. She is currently employed as a cosmetologist.

While at Salon Professional Academy, she was on the student council and was an Honors Cutter. While at Hughes Springs High School, she was class president, an FFA officer, HOSA Officer and an FCCLA officer. She also was varsity cheer captain and participated in varsity athletics. Outside of school, she competed in barrel racing, was the Blue Ridge Rodeo Club Queen for 2013-2014, was Miss Wildflower Trails, and Miss March of Dimes. Sierra enjoys crafting, and volunteering, along with church activities at Sit 'Em Down Cowboy Church.

She founded the Cinderella's Closet Prom Dress Drive for those in need, as well. Sierra's goals are to be successful in her career, and to be a positive impact on people's lives. She would also like to run for Miss Rodeo America someday.

Sierra, who also was chosen Miss Personality, said she will, "promote the association in a positive light," and "go above and beyond to show gratitude and humbleness" of the title.

Round-Up Rodeo First Runner-Up was Sydni Coats with the Horsemanship Award and Miss Congeniality was awarded to Meagan Hodge. The coveted President's Award was given to Alexis Howard.

Ashley Smith and Marla Moore of the Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo resurrected the queen's contest after a 30-year absence.



Rodeo president Kyle Moore and contest coordinator Ashley Smith join Queen Sierra Blankenship at the crowning. Photo by Jim Bardwell

### Gladewater's local sales tax revenue up 20.46%

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$907.6 million in local sales tax allocations for June, 31.5 percent more than in June 2020.

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

Gladewater's local sales tax posted double-digit increases for the second month in-a-row, showing a 20.46-percent rise over the same period last year. Gladewater's sales tax posted \$109,565.31 in April 2021 compared to \$90,951.92 for April of 2020. For the year Gladewater moved from -5.65-percent below 2020 to -1.72-percent.

Kilgore posted a 30.97-percent increase in sales tax revenue, while neighboring White Oak rose 9.83-percent. Gilmer posted a 5.88-percent increase, but Warren City was down 14.09-percent. Clarksville City was up a healthy 33.52-percent.

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
<b>GREGG COUNTY</b>							
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$7,600.30	\$5,692.23	33.52%	\$42,694.97	\$35,688.16	19.63%
Easton	1.000%	\$2,716.86	\$3,259.79	-16.65%	\$23,155.74	\$21,013.58	10.19%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$109,565.31	\$90,951.92	20.46%	\$593,556.14	\$603,972.82	-1.72%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$585,893.90	\$447,349.32	30.97%	\$3,559,491.98	\$3,813,439.18	-6.65%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$18,986.19	\$17,359.98	9.36%	\$117,570.76	\$107,837.90	9.02%
Longview	1.500%	\$3,147,148.23	\$2,182,633.37	44.19%	\$18,381,764.80	\$16,287,072.73	12.86%
Warren City	1.000%	\$1,109.02	\$1,290.98	-14.09%	\$8,069.38	\$8,509.72	-5.17%
White Oak	1.500%	\$94,970.47	\$86,464.39	9.83%	\$536,304.47	\$518,571.96	3.41%
<b>UPSHUR COUNTY</b>							
Big Sandy	1.250%	\$22,162.31	\$23,413.48	-5.34%	\$134,452.34	\$112,077.85	19.96%
East Mountain	1.000%	\$3,870.64	\$3,717.25	4.12%	\$24,123.32	\$21,138.48	14.12%
Gilmer	1.500%	\$192,176.10	\$181,488.82	5.88%	\$1,118,215.59	\$1,041,131.93	7.40%
Ore City	1.500%	\$19,271.39	\$18,752.97	2.76%	\$113,208.17	\$108,380.33	4.45%
Union Grove	1.000%	\$303.73	\$379.24	-19.91%	\$2,348.61	\$2,020.88	16.21%

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## Gary Borders Capital Highlights



### Abbott vows to expand border 'barrier'

Gov. Greg Abbott vowed last week at a border security summit to build a barrier to slow the flow of migrants through the state's southern border.

Abbott said details would be forthcoming for the wall, which would be part of a new enforcement plan administered by several state agencies, ranging from the governor's office to the Texas Department of Public Safety. He said he intends to sign legislation appropriating more than \$1 billion for enhanced border security.

"While securing the border is the federal government's responsibility, Texas will not sit idly by as this crisis grows," Abbott said. "The state is working collaboratively with communities impacted by the crisis to arrest and detain individuals coming into Texas illegally."

The president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) blasted Abbott's actions.

"Governor Abbott stated that he intends to use Texas state budget dollars not for education, improving our electric grid or for Texas roads and highways," said Domingo Garcia, LULAC president. "Instead, he says he will continue to build a wall and other barriers along the border with Mexico. This is a huge waste of taxpayer money, and very likely illegal."

LULAC plans to take legal action on grounds that the federal government has authority over immigration and borders, not individual states.

### Lumber price surge not affecting timber prices

One economic consequence of the pandemic lockdown has been a surge in lumber prices of more than 300%, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. However, landowners who grow and harvest timber are still facing stagnant prices, as they have since the housing crash of 2008. At \$30 a ton in Texas, the price has remained about the same for the past decade.

The challenge for timber owners is an abundance of ready-to-harvest timber, according to TFS.

"Landowners have been struggling to get their timber harvested for a while," said Rob Hughes, executive director of the Texas Forestry Association. "The mills are producing more wood than they have before, but it's still not to the capacity of how much timber is being grown in their areas."

A consolidation of sawmills is partly to blame. In 1997 Texas had 168 active sawmills, a number that has dwindled today to about 50. Some landowners have opted to supplement their forest income through carbon markets, which are bought by companies or governments to offset greenhouse gas emissions. One drawback is that the credits can only go to timberland owners if the forest is at risk of being harvested.

"There are a few contracts now that are just a one-year deal," said Hughes. "These seem more tolerable to the production-minded forest landowners that we've talked with. You defer your harvest, and you get paid for that amount of carbon as you sequester it."

Landowners can contact a consulting forester or a Texas A&M Forest Service office for more information.

### A wet May increases reservoir storage

May is historically the state's wettest month. This year was no exception, with above-average rain in much of the state, according to Dr. Mark Wentzel, a hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board.

By the end of May, drought conditions covered 25% of the state — down 45 percentage points from the end of April. The La Niña conditions, which are key factors in droughts in Texas, have dissipated and won't return this summer, Wentzel said.

"If you were trying to reduce drought in Texas, you couldn't pick a better month to have above-average rainfall," Wentzel wrote in a press release.

He added that besides greening up the landscape, May's rain increased reservoir storage to 84.6% of capacity, about normal for this time of year.

### New COVID-19 cases rise week-to-week

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas in the past week rose to 17,724, up 46% from the previous week, while deaths stayed steady at 213, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported 1,600 hospitalizations of lab-confirmed cases, up about 100 from the previous week. Vaccinations continue to rise, with 10.85 million Texans fully vaccinated — 37.2% of the state's population.

### PUC lifts moratorium on utility disconnections

The moratorium on utility disconnections for non-payment will be lifted June 18. Last Friday the Texas Public Utility Commission cited a proliferation of financial support and the need for electricity, water and sewer providers to resume normal business operations.

"This is not an easy decision, and it was not taken lightly," PUC Chairman Peter Lake said. "But by acting now, customers will be able to take advantage of deferred payment plans or federal assistance ahead of the summer season."

## ...bragging rights

Bragging rights belong to the lady who buys her ink by the barrel and paper by the ton. I am shamelessly using my ink and paper to share my joy with you, our friends, neighbors and cherished readers. My business partner, boss and mentor, Jim Bardwell, was elected president of the Texas Press Association in January and was inducted into the office this past Friday at the TPA convention.

He has won a lot of awards over the course of his professional career that reflect his contributions to the profession and his served communities. Some of his work may have done more than result in pretty plaques. He once wrote about the faulty East Texas NEXRAD radar system which resulted in hourglass coverage leaving thousands of East Texans lacking early warning coverage for tornados and severe weather. The series he wrote on that issue at a regional daily newspaper resulted in congressional hearings at the national level and a reboot of the program. It also resulted in Jim being banned from National Weather Service installations. Folks who shout 'Fake News' and complain about the 'press' really ought to stop and consider the ramifications of muzzling the press. It is not too dramatic to say that it could mean the difference in life and death in many cases. The investigative series was nominated for a Pulitzer. But Jim will be the first to tell you that anyone can be nominated. Still...

A series my Clark Kent wrote with two other reporters over the inequitable services provided the south side of Longview resulted in dramatic political and social change in the city. It netted the most prestigious regional press award in the south and southwest for the reporters, a Dallas Press Club Katie award, and another Pulitzer nomination.

I could go on with a lot more stories of impact, but I will tell you that one of the things of which Jim is most proud is our newspaper's support of Manna House, Gladewater's community food ministry. He would point to that, our support of Lee Public Library, our engagement with our area school districts in all of our communities, and a ton of 'small' things that have an impact long before he would point out the 'shinier' successes he has accomplished throughout his career.

## Suzanne Bardwell



Our son Josh, who is the Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator for East Texas gifted his Dad on his birthday with a fancy fire helmet with press credentials. Josh told his Dad he could wear it when rocks were being thrown at him or he needed protection when dealing with combustible issues or people. I love my son's sense of humor. But his humor rings with truth.

Jim Bardwell is a straight shooter. He will tell you like it is and he is good at taking responsibility for things that need to be fixed that he didn't break, whether it is on the community or personal level. My Dad, who always, taught me that "a man is only as good as his word" would be very proud of his much loved son-in-law. I know that I am.

## Letter to the Editor

### Chamber president salutes the successful rodeo

Dear Editor,

The 84th Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo was so exciting last week! Lots of our great citizens made this event possible and each is to be commended for donating their time and energy. Hats off to Rodeo President Kyle Moore and his Board of Directors and Wranglers who made this rodeo one to remember. There is so much behind the scenes work that must be completed before the gates open on Wednesday night. Thanks to all the volunteers who took tickets and/or rented seat cushions.

Big thanks to Marla Moore and Ashley Smith for bringing back the Rodeo Queen Contest after a thirty-year absence. The five candidates and their mothers were honored at a Tea Party hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the Gladewater Museum on Sunday afternoon at Walker Manor to kick off Rodeo Week. Afterwards these guests toured the Rodeo Annex where lots of pictures were taken. Saturday night Sierra Blankenship was crowned the 2021 Rodeo Queen and Miss

Personality. First Runner-Up was Sydni Coats with the Horsemanship Award and Miss Congeniality being presented to Meagan Hodge. The coveted President's Award was given to Alexis Howard.

On Wednesday the traditional BBQ Rodeo Luncheon by Rolling Smokes was hosted by the ROTARY, LIONS and Chamber of Commerce at the FUMC Jeter Hall. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the Don Gay Quiz which was conducted by our Rodeo announcer Greg Simas.

The Rodeo Annex was enjoyed by many during their special hours on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. If you have not toured it yet, come by any Friday or Saturday from 10-4P.M. and it is FREE. Lots of history about the Gladewater Rodeo is displayed for your enjoyment.

This event was canceled in 2020 due to Covid 19 BUT it was bigger and better in 2021!

Lois Reed  
Chamber of Commerce President

## THE ECONOMIST

By Dr. M. Ray Perryman

### A Missing Chapter

Over 20 years ago, the Texas Legislature passed the Texas Economic Development Act, which allows school districts to offer tax incentives for businesses that invest in their communities.

The Act, commonly called "Chapter 313" because of its position in the Texas Tax Code, fundamentally improved the economic development landscape. Chapter 313 has been extended several times but is now set to expire December 31, 2022.

Chapter 313 gives school districts a mechanism for allowing 10-year limitations on appraised value for a portion of property taxes. In exchange for

the value limitation and reduced liability, the recipient agrees to build or install new facilities and create jobs. The school district is reimbursed by the State.

I was around and did the studies when Chapter 313 was enacted and implemented. It completely changed the state's ability to compete for capital-intensive projects, and it remains crucial to encouraging new investment. Our tax system in Texas is not conducive to attracting expensive facilities due to the heavy reliance on property taxes (which, unlike most levies, are incurred irrespective of economic fluctuations and ability to pay).

This program provides a way to balance the scales, thus overcoming an otherwise daunting disadvantage.

What is often lost in this discussion is the fact that property

taxes on vacant land are very low. In many rural areas (where Chapter 313 has been extremely helpful), the land was previously taxed at its agricultural value.

In addition, companies typically make partially offsetting balancing payments and, of course, after 10 years the full value is eligible for taxation. A significant new location can also enhance the tax base in other ways, such as by enhancing demand for housing and other real estate and encouraging collateral activity by suppliers.

It is entirely appropriate to review Chapter 313 and strengthen compliance and oversight (which appears to be the primary concern among lawmakers). Any actual or perceived shortcomings can be addressed. Others have objected that it has been used for renewable energy projects. In truth, we are

going to need all types of power to fuel the global economy of the future, and these initiatives have been vital to many small communities.

Given the tax structure in Texas and the intense competition for economic development, this measure is vital. Soon after it was enacted, the state moved from an also-ran to a powerhouse in attracting growth.

In fact, Texas has won the coveted "Governors Cup" for the largest number of major locations in the US for an unprecedented nine consecutive years.

In essence, Texas has authored a perennial best-seller on promoting prosperity.

It will soon be missing a critical chapter. Let's hope that it is restored soon, before we spoil the ending.

Stay safe!



## The Gladewater Mirror

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### WHEN GOOD PEOPLE ARE SILENT EVIL REIGNS

Silence is not golden when evil is on the rise, and evil is on the rise in today's society! Millions of little babies have been put to death by abortion in our country. Families are fractured, and marriages are broken in record numbers. Self-obsessed people pursue the immediate gratification of their every desire. Militant homosexuals are pursuing immediate approval, complete acceptance, and preferential legal treatment for their unnatural behavior. Young people are losing their way in a maze of alcohol and drugs. Sexual immorality is rampant. Our nations leaders wallow in decadence and deceit, dealing in trivialities and superficial nonsense, practicing feel-good politics of ambiguity, while the destruction of families, the perversion of our most basic moral principles, goes on and on. Former President Gerald Ford had it about right, when he said: "We have an election in which candidates without ideas, hire consultants without convictions, to carry out campaigns without content!" John Adams once warned: "The problem with democracy is that you get the leaders you deserve." But more often than not people look on in apathetic indifference, and fail to stand up and speak out! Many churches claim to honor God, beautiful sanctuaries abound, but religious chaos, corruption, and religious and moral confusion is seen throughout! Love has become a jungle emotion, lust is exalted, sin is elevated, Satan is adored, and man is magnified above his Maker.

It is as though many have come to dwell in an Alice in Wonderland world of fantasy and self-delusion. Things have been turned upside down, and inside out. Right is wrong and wrong is right, good is bad and bad is good, normal is abnormal, and abnormal is normal, true is false and false is true! Our culture is fast degenerating into decadence, obsessed with selfishness and sin, death and destruction. Isaiah warned of such times, when people confused moral distinctions. He said: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter." (Isa. 5: 20). Please be warned-in a climate where God and His Word are ignored and ridiculed, it leads to confusion of moral distinctions in which people fail to discern between true and false values! I am pleading for a return to God's Book, not only to be read, but to be lived out in our lives. Think on these things.

mDennis Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 454-White Oak, TX 75693-903-845-6139-preachab@suddenlink.net

# Tree falls on truck, kills Upshur County man

By Phillip Williams

A Gilmer man was killed on Wednesday afternoon last week when a tree fell onto his pickup as he drove down a rural Upshur County road southeast of that city, said the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Bradley Scott Hefner, 59, was pronounced dead at the scene on Bobwhite Road by Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes, said DPS spokeswoman Jean Dark.

Investigators' preliminary report showed Hefner was heading southeast in a 1998 Chevrolet Silverado "when a tree fell across the roadway and onto the vehicle," Dark wrote in a press release.

Troopers responded to the scene, near Goose Road and about 6.5 miles from Gilmer, at 3 p.m., she added.

Manes said Sunday that Hefner's chest was crushed, that he wasn't wearing a safety belt, and that he had just passed Goose Road, driving toward FM 726, when he was killed.

The judge said she believed the tree, which cracked the pickup windshield, fell from Hefner's left. She also said recent heavy rains may have contributed to the freak accident because they saturated the ground, keeping tree roots from staying there.

Manes said the tree appeared to be dead, but she wasn't sure it was completely dead, and that she believed it was about two feet in diameter. She also said she didn't know what type of tree it was.

## Workforce Solutions of East Texas open, appointments no longer needed

Officials with the East Texas Council of Governments have announced Workforce Solutions of East Texas centers are open and do not require an appointment.

For the past several months, WSET was forced to serve clients virtually and in June, 2020 offered services by appointment only.

Centers will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. More details on workforce center locations and service hours can be found at [www.easttexasworkforce.org/locations](http://www.easttexasworkforce.org/locations).

The Longview Workforce Center has moved recently and is temporarily operating in our Mobile Workforce Center parked at the Kilgore College-Longview campus.

"Our appointment calendars have been full, and job seekers are getting back to work," said WSET Center Director Mary Ann Rojas. "We are grateful to our community for supporting us throughout the year and so thankful to be able to turn the locks, open the doors and greet our customers."

WSET Executive Director Doug Shryock pointed to the importance of the services offered.

"East Texas has been through a brutal 2020 of COVID. Right now, East Texas employees need training, skills, and child care," Shryock said. "East Texas employers need people who are ready to work. We can provide the first. Our friends and neighbors are the second. Together we can rebuild our economy. Whether you want a new job or a stronger career, join us to launch a new and better 2021."

WSET assists businesses with on-site recruiting, interviewing and hiring, job fairs, internet-based job postings, assistance with customized skill training, wage and labor market information and employee layoff assistance.

Assistance is available to veterans, individuals with disabilities, and people who have been dislocated from a job.

Workforce Solutions services for job seekers include:

- Job listings and referrals
- Resume assistance
- Veterans services
- Community resource information
- Child care information

County Road Administrator Andy Jordan, who was attending a public meeting of the county commissioners court at which his Road and Bridge Department was being discussed, left the meeting to help his crew remove the tree from the vehicle. He later returned to the meeting before it adjourned (see separate story.)

Hefner's body was taken to Grubbs-Loyd Funeral Home in Gilmer, said Dark.

# OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM "BILL" PHILLIPS

William "Bill" Phillips passed peacefully June 11, 2021, in Irving at the age of 89. Born October 24, 1931, in Gladewater to parents William Riley Phillips and Minnie Mae Clements. Proceeded in death by his wife of 63 years, Billy Claire "BC" Simpson Phillips and twin brother Eddy Phillips. He is survived by his daughter Callie Jo Phillips Pritchett and son-in-law Lucky Pritchett. Grandchildren Abby Freeman, Rachael Phillips, Sarah Guillot, William F. Phillips, and 11 great grandchildren. Bill worked at LTV for 40 years in the missile/space divisions. Gladewater High School Alumni, class of 1949, Bill was happy to be known as half of the "Phillips Twins". Internment is June 18th at 3:00 p.m., Union Grove Cemetery.



Texas Press Association Chairman of the Board Ramona Ferguson passes the gavel to newly elected TPA President Jim Bardwell at Friday's induction ceremony at its annual convention in Denton. Bardwell was elected by the association's membership by ZOOM in January. Bardwell also serves on the board of the North & East Texas Press Association. Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

## Bardwell elected TPA President, Mirror ties for FIRST in state

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Advisory Committee. Bardwell will represent TPA at the National Newspaper Association's convention in October.

The Bardwells own Bardwell INK, LLC which includes the Gladewater Mirror, White Oak Independent and the Lindale News & Times. Jim Bardwell's work has been acknowledged with a 1989 Katie award for Best General News Story for a division 2 daily newspaper from the Dallas Press Club, the southwest's most prestigious journalism award. He has also been awarded the NETPA Sam Holloway award which recognizes an NETPA member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty upholding high standards of journalistic integrity and service to the community. He is also a recipient of the 2004 NETPA Tom Mooney Friend of the Newspaper award.

Bardwell's work, and that of his staffs, have been recognized at the national, state and regional level throughout his career. At this year's TPA convention the Gladewater Mirror tied for first place in its division in statewide competition. Bardwell won first place in advertising design; the Bardwells won first in News Photography with one picture each and one by their son Josh; Suzanne won first place in column writing and third place in editorial writing; the Bardwells placed second in feature photography, second place in sports photography, third place in sports coverage and earned fourth place honors in both news writing and feature writing.

In addition to Bardwell's active role in his profession, he also serves as a Gladewater Round Up Rodeo director, Chamber of Commerce director, Gusher Days director and as chair of the Gladewater Economic Development Corporation.



The Texas Press Association gavel newly elected TPA President Jim Bardwell received at Friday's induction ceremony at its 141st annual convention was joined by a PRESS/Fire helmet given to him by his son Josh Bardwell, who is Texas Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator because newspaper editors - like firefighters - have to put out fires regularly.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

## Cherokee Rose GOP hear from NRA supporter

By Phillip Williams

Doug Wiley, chairman of the Longview-based Friends of the National Rifle Association, discussed his group's and the NRA's work in a recent speech to Cherokee Rose Republican Women near Gilmer.

He addressed the women's club May 25 at Lantana Activity Center. Concerning the "Friends" organization, Wiley said "Our goal, of course, is to raise funds for the future of the shooting sports." He also trains youth in shooting.

As for the NRA itself, he described its programs for women, including one on hunting, along with NRA's work with 4-H Clubs and a gun safety program.

The group has also given to the Gilmer High School Junior ROTC and local Boy Scouts, he said.

"We buy a lot of ammunition" for police organizations, he added. The speaker noted he was NRA-trained to be a rifle and shotgun instructor and range safety officer, which would allow him to work even at archery ranges. He also said his training has helped him in his work as a Boy Scout leader.

NRA programs are "100 percent grass roots volunteer based," Wiley added, noting he and his wife are unpaid for their aid. He said all money donated to the Friends of NRA (after expenses are paid) is given to NRA programs, and that the association has four websites detailing its work.

Wiley also expressed support for legislation approved by the Texas Legislature to allow citizens to carry guns without a permit (known as "constitutional carry"). "We're definitely looking forward to that," the speaker said, adding that everyone in the NRA hierarchy he has talked to supports the legislation, as does Gov. Greg Abbott.

Concerning recent publicity about the NRA's attempt to declare bankruptcy, Wiley said he understood that was a legal maneuver and that a judge approved the group moving from New York to Dallas. The speaker also said a court turned down the bankruptcy petition, and the association is involved in five lawsuits, but still has options and "it sounds like we're in a good place on all" the litigation.

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## Gladewater girl nominated for 4 music awards

By Phillip Williams

Ameri Shaye, a 15-year-old Gladewater recording artist and songwriter, has been nominated for four awards from the Josie Music Awards, reportedly the largest independent music awards program in the world.

Shaye, the home schooled daughter of Amanda Garrett, will attend JMA's red carpet program in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., Sept. 17-18 and hopes to bring home an award.

She was nominated for Young Adult Artist of the Year, Young Adult Vocalist of the Year, Pop Song of the Year (her single "Now I Know") and Extended Play (album) of the Year for her four-song collection entitled "Easy Doesn't Do It." Adults were also nominated for the EP award as JMA reportedly received 38,000 submissions and brings artists from throughout the globe to its red carpet event.

Shaye, who will tour the United Kingdom in September, will perform during Gladewater's "Gusher Days" celebration July 9-11 at Pacific Street Trader's Mall and Village.

She began performing at age 6 and released her debut EP in 2020.

## 'I've got a Yugo budget (slightly under \$3 million) with crewmen working for wages below the poverty line.'

- County Road Administrator Andy Jordan

By Phillip Williams

During a marathon four-hour meeting last Wednesday in which Upshur County Commissioners Court heard another round of citizen complaints about county-maintained roads' conditions, County Road Administrator Andy Jordan outlined plans for trying to improve the situation.

Jordan, who missed much of the meeting in Gilmer when he was called out to help remove a tree that had caused a fatal traffic accident on a rural road, spoke late in the gathering after perhaps about two thirds of the approximately 45 citizens who attended had left. About 20 had addressed the court in the third recent meeting at which commissioners have heard complaints about road conditions.

Some court members have defended Jordan, with Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Dolle saying the way the unit road system is set up, not the administrator, is to blame. (A petition is circulating to call an election on whether to abolish the unit system.) Meanwhile, citizens who have complained at court meetings have offered almost no criticism of Jordan, but he expressed resentment at remarks he said were made about him and his wife on the social media site Facebook.

Jordan, who thanked those who attended, told the audience he planned to take some of the road oil budget and move it into plant mix asphalt. In addition, he said he would try to obtain a reclaimer to "pulverize roads."

"The problem I've had to this point is the money," Jordan said. "I've got a Yugo budget (slightly under \$3 million) " with crewmen working for wages below the poverty line.

Earlier, he had said that "I can't go in and spend \$80,000 on one road" and that "Everybody's road is the worst road in the county." He said his greatest needs were finances, good weather and materials.

"As soon as the weather breaks, we're patching" and will mow, Jordan pledged. "Bear with us. They (his workers) are coming. . . They will get to you."

County Judge Todd Tefteller said that while the court did not plan to raise taxes this year, he favored increasing the Road and Bridge Department budget by \$300,000.

First citizen to speak, Ray Salazer, had complained that the base put down on one road "wasn't graded properly," cited potholes, and said Nasturtium Road "hasn't been touched in four years." He also said that when meeting oncoming traffic, a road was so narrow that his wife had to drive into bushes.

Yolanda Barron of Penguin Road said it was "all washing away" although it was "just resurfaced." She also said she did not favor the unit system.

Debbie Pierce of Turtle Road said she had seen Road and Bridge Department workers "taking naps" and "I see a lot of wasted money." She said Mule Deer Road is impassable, that her own road was in worse condition than before it was worked on, and that the county needed a plan "past patching the potholes."

John Dillingham of Willow Oak Road complained that once, "I saw five county employees standing there, scratching their butt, not doing anything" when they could have been working on improving a road corner. He said his road was "in terrible shape," dangerous for school buses and postal service vehicles, and "we know we've had rain, but this (road problems) started a long time ago."

"Our roads are terrible. . .the worst roads that I've ever seen," Dillingham said. County Judge Todd Tefteller, who had told the audience near the meeting's outset that he would allow everyone who wanted to speak to do so, agreed with Dillingham's contention that "roads that service the most people (and) that are in the worst shape should be fixed first."

James Morton of Nichols Drive said the court can't fix roads "till you find a way to generate some money" and suggested "bringing industry in here" to raise tax revenue. Tefteller, however, said that if an industry was going to spend \$50 million to locate in the county, it would say "I don't want to pay any taxes for 10 years," a reference to tax abatement incentives which are sometimes offered to businesses.

Earlier in the meeting, Tefteller had said "the court is not interested this year" in a tax hike.

Rick Morris of Beaver Bend said he thought the court had "done some things that are gonna help the situation," but urged it give Jordan authority to fire employees. Precinct 3 Commissioner Mike Ashley replied that Jordan terminated about 30 workers in eight years and

## Storytime on tap at county library

Two books will be read to small children at both of the Upshur County Library's two weekly "Storytime" sessions Thursday in Gilmer. "A Perfect Father's Day" by Eve Bunting, and "You Made Me a Dad" by Laurene Sala, will be presented at the 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. sessions.

A craft will follow each Storytime, said library children's coordinator Kari Dunn.

The library is at 702 W. Tyler (which is also Texas Hwy. 154.)

The events are free to the public, but children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact the library at (903) 843-5001 or visit its website at www.youseemore.com/upshur.

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At the end of year Bear Athletic Banquet the following student-athletes were recognized for their contributions to Gladewater High School athletics:

**ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**—Hai'leigh Oliver & Nick Lincoln

**SCHOLASTIC ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**—Sydney Spurlock & Carlos Menjivar

**VOLLEYBALL**

Coach Lakelia Williams  
Server of the Year—Gracie George  
Utility Player—Lexi Hart  
Blocker of the Year—Alexis Boyd (2nd Team AD)  
Hitter of the Year—JaKiya Bell (1st Team AD)  
Lady Bear MVP—Hai-leigh Oliver (2nd Team AD)

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Coach Kelly Berry  
Newcomers of the Year—Morgan Perez & Matthew Tant  
Most Improved—Sunni Wade & Caleb Kimbrell  
Most Outstanding CC Runner—John Reynolds

**FOOTBALL**

Coach Jonny Louvier  
Offensive MVP—O Line Trent Bolt, Jordan Kinsey, Jasper Taylor, Nathan Keller, Zac Shipp, Tyler Smith & Chase Wise  
Defensive MVP—Nic Lincoln (1st Team DB)  
Team Captain—Tristan Holmes—Offensive MVP  
TEAM MVP—D.J. Allen (AD MVP)

**BASKETBALL Girls**

Coach Jermaine Lewis

Miss Offense—Calice Henderson—Newcomer of the Year  
Defensive Player of the Year—Ebony Pipkin  
Most Improved—Sydney Spurlock (1st Team AD)  
Lady Bear MVP—Hai'leigh Oliver (1st Team AD)

**BASKETBALL Boys**

Coach Curtis Armstrong  
Most Improved—Khavia Reese (1st Team AD)  
Hustle Award—Nick Lincoln (2nd Team AD)  
Defense Award—D.J. Allen Defensive Player of the Year  
Eli Kates (1st Team AD)  
Bear MVP—Kollin Lewis Offensive Player of the Year

**SOCCER Boys**

Coach Anthony Valladares  
Team Captain—Daylon Hernandez  
Sportsmanship Award—Carlos Menjivar—(2nd Team AD)  
Defensive Player—Yahir Martinex (1st Team AD)  
Team MVP—Justice Hassek (Utility Player AD)

**SOCCER Girls**

Coach Scott Mann  
Miss Offense—Makayla Police (2nd Team AD)  
Sportsmanship Award—Suzy Perez  
Utility Player—Hadassah Balcorta  
Team Captain—Mia Medina  
Team MVP—Lexi Hart

**GOLF**

Coach Scott Clower  
Top Golfer—Sawyer Duncan

**TRACK Girls**

Coach Tony Rivera  
Newcomer of the Year—Jerrica Gilmore  
Heart of a Bear—Ebony Pipkin  
Lady Bear MVP—Kamryn Floyd

**TRACK Boys**

Coach Jonny Louvier  
Newcomer of the Year—Kollin Lewis  
Bear Track MVP—D.J. Allen

**SOFTBALL**

Coach Kevin Clark  
Bear Pride—Lexi Betts  
Most Improved—Trinity Mooney  
Best Teammate—Jersey Turner (2nd Team)  
Leadership Award—Sydney Spurlock  
Offensive Player of the Year—Livia Prince (1st Team Off.)  
Defensive Player of the Year—Katelynn Moses  
Lady Bear MVP—Avery Glarborg

**BASEBALL**

Coach Jeff Hodges  
Silver Slugger—Garrett Glenn (2nd Team 2nd Base AD)  
Golden Glove—Zachary Polanco (2nd Team Catcher AD)  
Newcomer of the Year—Hayden Torres & Austin Verner  
Tanner Gothard (2nd Team Pitcher AD)

**TENNIS**

Coach Kelly Berry  
Newcomers of the Year—Katelynn Lewis & Ethan Flores  
Regional Qualifiers—Brett Vickers, Blake Holder, Michael Lewis & Gage Mitchell  
Most Valuable Players—Emma Flores & Gage Mitchell

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# 26 indictments handed down by grand jury

By Phillip Williams

The Upshur County Grand Jury recently returned 26 indictments, including unrelated sealed ones for intoxication manslaughter with a vehicle, and criminally negligent homicide, District Attorney Billy Byrd's office announced last week.

In the manslaughter case, Ammie Michelle Stephens, 47, of Diana, is charged in connection with a Nov. 7, 2020, crash which killed her passenger, her 39-year-old sister, Desirae Leona Henderson Jones of Harleton.

The indictment alleges Stephens' vehicle ran off a roadway and struck a tree, said Upshur County Deputy District Clerk Chris Coleman.

The June 3 manslaughter indictment, and a separate drug-related indictment against Stephens, were initially sealed because she was not arrested until the day after they were returned. She is charged with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), an allegation listed on the Texas Department of Public Safety's accident report.

The crash occurred on Texas 155 less than a mile southwest of the intersection of U.S. 259 in the Ore City area, the DPS said.

Investigating DPS Trooper Brandon Love's report showed the vehicle was traveling southwest when it was steered sharply to the left, causing it to enter a counter clockwise side skid. The vehicle skidded off the roadway's south side, traveled down an embankment, and its right side struck a large tree, Love wrote.

The vehicle then rotated clockwise, coming to rest in a residential flower garden on its tires, facing north, the trooper said. His report showed he was notified of the crash at 1:48 p.m., and that Stephens

was airlifted to CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler.

As of Monday, the Upshur County website showed, Stephens remained in county jail at Gilmer under surety bonds of \$50,000 on the manslaughter charge and \$10,000 on the drug charge, set by Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Wyone Manes.

Names of those charged in the other 12 sealed indictments returned June 3 were not revealed as Byrd said no arrests had been made in those cases. Jurors also no-billed five cases, the nature of which was not disclosed, that day, said Byrd.

Defendants, charges and bond information in the 12 open indictments returned June 3 were as follows, his office reported:

Clint Aaron Sorrells, 25, of Gladewater, continuous violence against the family on Feb. 14, 2020. He remained in county jail under other charges.

Jeffery Louis Wilson, 35, of Gilmer, evading arrest/detention with a vehicle last Oct. 10, \$10,000 bond

Shawn William Svoboda, 39, of Big Sandy, assault/family violence with previous conviction last Oct. 24, \$20,000

Claiborne Andrew Pannell, 60, of Gilmer, possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine)--enhanced on April 16, 2019, \$10,000. Enhanced means Pannell could, if convicted, receive a longer sentence because of his past criminal record.

Jennifer Nicole Castillo, also known as Jennifer Nicole Klinkert, 41, of Gilmer, injury to a child last Dec. 6, \$15,000

Johnny Dale Conder Jr., 29, of Graham, aggravated robbery with deadly weapon on March 10, \$60,000

Chelsea Mae Castaneda, 25, of Graham, aggravated robbery with deadly weapon on March 10, \$60,000

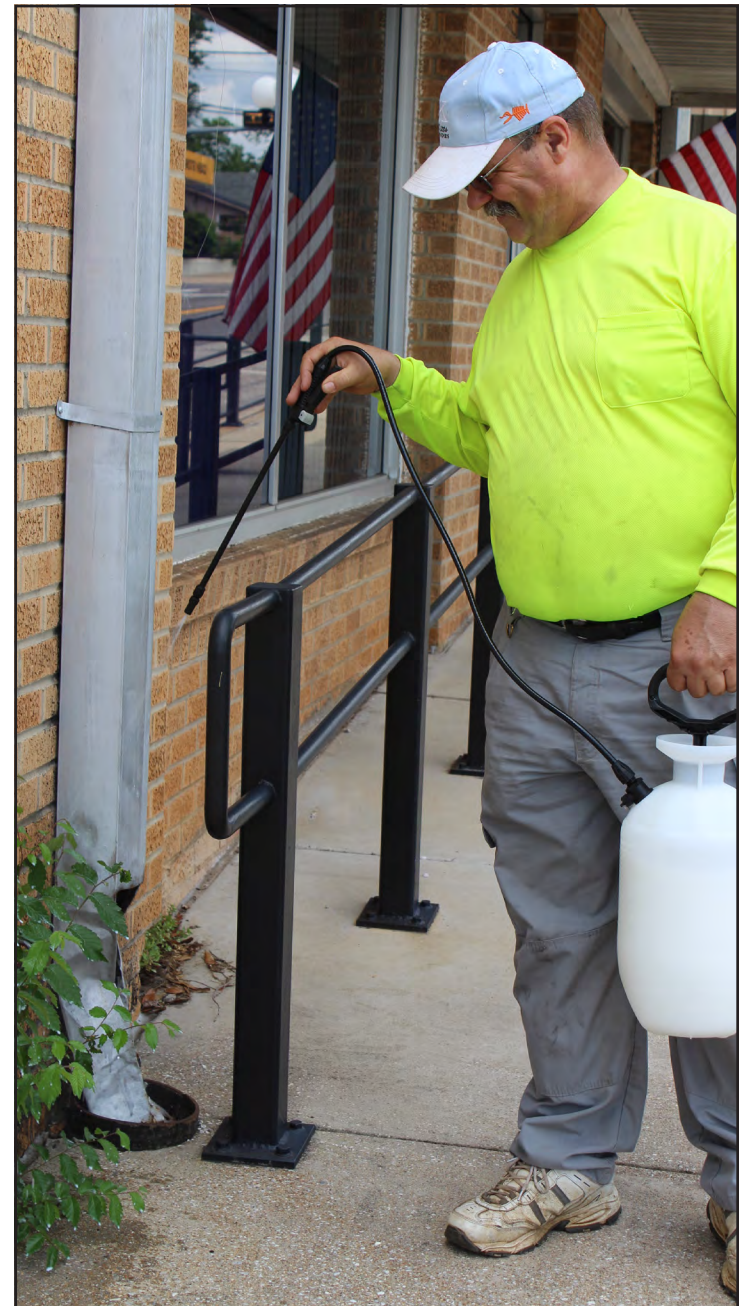
Kenneth Don Cashion, 38, of Grand Prairie, unlawful possession of firearm by felon on April 22, 2020, \$5,000

Jeffrey Dale Clifton, 38, of Pittsburg, unlawful possession of firearm by felon last Sept. 21, \$10,000

Constance June Martin, 47, of Avinger, tampering with physical evidence on May 17, 2019, \$10,000

Jessie Jarret John Sweaney, 28, of Longview, was named in a single indictment with two counts of driving while intoxicated with child passenger, and in another indictment with retaliation, all on April 9. Bond was set at \$5,000 on the DWI charge, \$25,000 on the retaliation charge.

Other than those already mentioned, Byrd's office said the sealed indictments included three for forgery, two for assault/family violence-occlusion, and one each for indecency with a child, burglary of a habitation, driving while intoxicated--subsequent offense, evading arrest/detention with a vehicle, delivery of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and possession of marijuana.



Good-deed doer Farrell Alexander was caught after hours spraying sidewalk growth downtown. Alexander also voluntarily maintains the Gladewater Museum's Firetruck exhibit lawn mowing and bed maintenance. He is just one of many volunteers who give of their time to ensure the beautification of Gladewater.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell



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#### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

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- Creeann Bozarth
- Chloe Brooks
- Hope Cannon
- Kenneth Flanagan
- Carter Garmon
- Parker Haley
- Ayden Johns
- Madyson Lowe
- Natalie Pritchett
- Laney Pullen
- Callysta Reeves

#### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Thomas Branscom
- Allison Smith

### HS A/B HONOR ROLL

#### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Kadence Brannan
- Brianna Carrion
- Landon Clark
- Calab Day
- Ryan Hickerson
- Kylah Humphreys
- Alyssa Mullican
- Thomas Navarro-Gonzalez
- Presley Nipp
- Kaki Pharr
- Jerry Rogers
- Josiah Sturkie
- Jayse Swigart

- Preston Travis
- August Vestal
- Lyndsey Wallace
- Natalie Woodard
- Makynlie Young

#### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Carter Cooper
- Elise Daugherty
- Judson George
- Izabelle Gregg
- Torryn Humber
- Sarah Prince
- Jenna Robertson
- Keira Taylor

### HS A HONOR ROLL

#### 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Carson Bogue
- Sarah Clowers
- Kathryn King
- Brittini Parman
- Sydney Pritchett
- Keeley Rust
- Jenna Scott
- Addison Smith
- Rowdy Williams

#### 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Caden Handorf
- Carsyn Hudgens
- Lainey Ledbetter
- Stacy Leon-Ramos
- Emily Lynch

### HS A HONOR ROLL

#### 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Cameron Aguilar
- Avery Brooks
- Sydney Chamberlain
- Bailey Clowers
- Samantha Coleman
- Kerigen Ellis
- Mireya Evans
- Buddy Ferguson
- Sabetay Fernandez
- Kennedi Gordy
- Adam Hanson
- Olivia Hudgens
- Emily Melton
- Kathryn Parman
- Brent Reeves
- Jolea Robertson
- Mia Rust
- Jace Stanley
- Jocelyn Suarez
- Clayson Thetford

- Katelyn Vaughn
- Aubrey Woodard

#### 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Macey Alston
- Jared Childress
- Kannon Childress
- Noah Childress
- Catalina Colling
- Carlos Escobedo
- Camille Hanson
- Maya Huffman
- Saylor Jasper
- Makena Littlejohn
- Angel Martin-Lindsay
- Catherine Pritchett
- Brandi Robinson
- Maci Williams
- Wyleigh Wilson

### HS A/B HONOR ROLL

#### 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Vance Aaron
- Mason Byers
- Allie Calhoun
- Brayden Carter
- Brady Colby

### ESMERALDA ESCOBEDO

- Anna Flanagan
- Rylee Graham
- Owen Matthew
- Paulina Navarro-Gonzalez
- Isaiah O'Neal
- Elijah Parham
- Sophie Pyle
- Cade Sullivan
- Jeremy Taylor
- Kameron Townsend
- Lane Turner
- Emily Valdes
- Ava Wightman
- Weldon Wilson
- Faith Woodall
- Grace Woodall

### HS A/B HONOR ROLL

#### 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Aaron Amos
- Mackenzie Arden
- Joshua Baker
- Ian Bell
- Emily Bible
- Briyanna Blalock
- Gavin Boutin
- David Branscom
- Reed Cooper
- McKenzie Ellis
- James Evans
- Dallis Goodson
- Analeice Jones
- Bailey Kirkland
- Jordan Lee
- Angelina Leyva
- Kyler Littlejohn
- Blake Moore

- Lily Netherland
- Alison Yohn


#### 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Landon Amaya
- Emily Calhoun
- Hunter Cannon
- Colin Cooper
- Blake Gipson
- Payton Haley
- Kadynce Matthew
- Trevor Moore
- Macey Roberts
- Tyler Rodgers
- Taylor See
- Carter Smith

### HS A/B HONOR ROLL

#### 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE:

- Dakota Arden
- Brooklyn Berry
- Isaiah Birch
- Kole Burns
- Vicki Cook
- Collin DeMoss
- Vidallia Ferguson
- Ashley Hart
- Nathan Huckabay
- Trinity Humber
- Mia Jarmond
- Kenneth Johnson
- Carleigh Judd
- Gracie McKinley
- Jayce Nutt
- Allison Shott
- Chance Spivey
- Rachel Taylor
- Jerry Wallace



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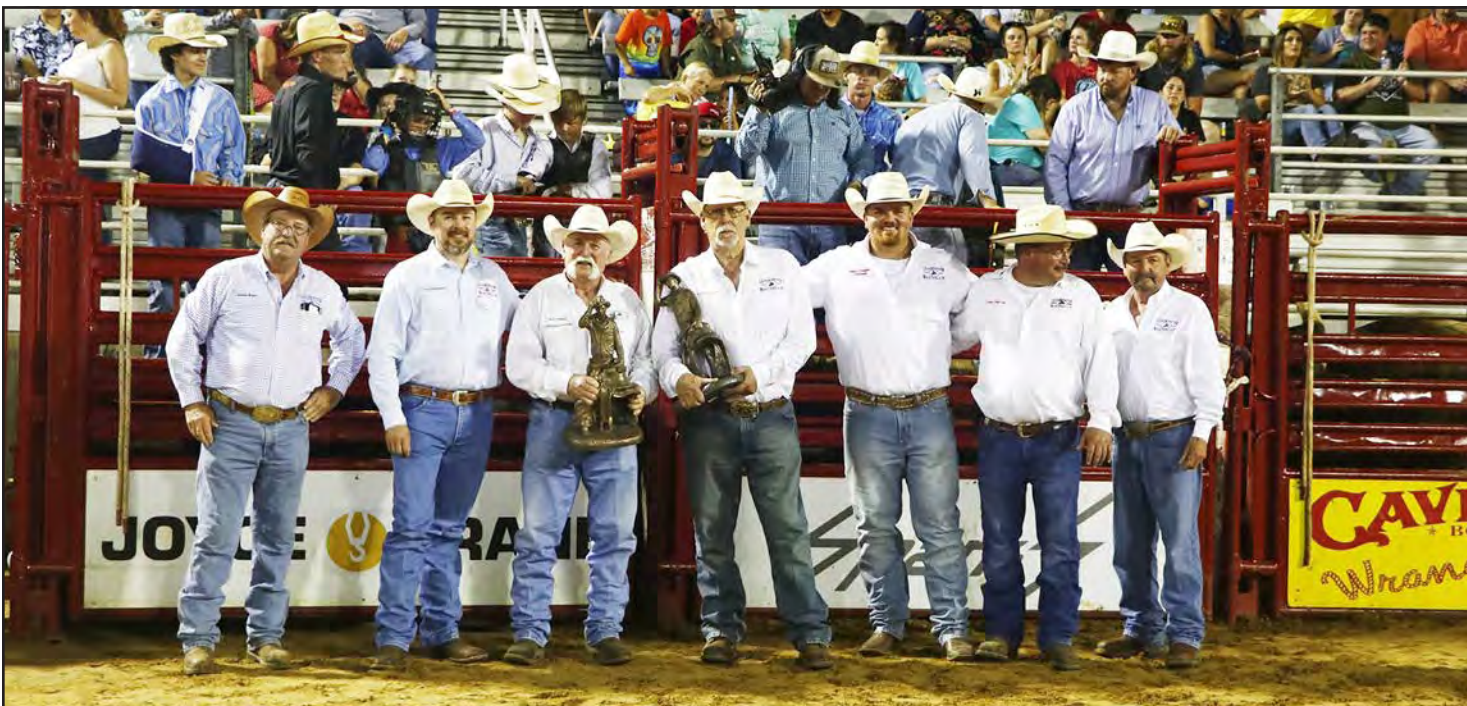

Local State Farm agent and Gladwater Round-Up Rodeo Director Harold Wells helped sponsor this year's Rodeo Queen contest which featured nominees Meagan Hodge, Alexis Howard, Sydni Coats, Kallie Rogers and Sierra Blankenship. Blankenship was crowned this year's rodeo queen Saturday night at the rodeo.

Photo by Suzanne Bardwell



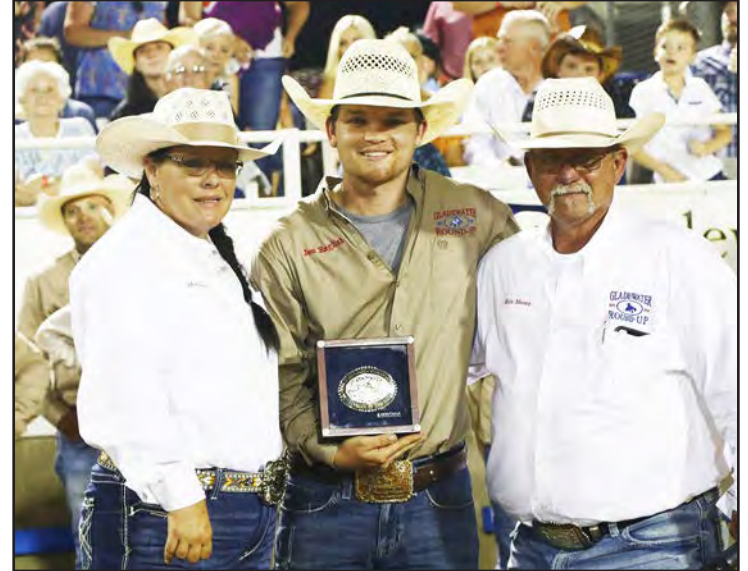
Gladwater Round-Up Rodeo director Marla Moore presented Suzanne Bardwell with the Citizen of the Month award at last week's joint rodeo luncheon at the Lions and Rotary clubs and Gladwater Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Jim Bardwell



Longtime Gladwater Round-Up Rodeo directors Ben Rambo and Gregg Goggans were presented with the "Oldtimer's Award" for their years of dedication and devotion to the rodeo.

Photo by Kim Hill



Jon English was presented the "Wrangler of the Year" award at this year's Gladwater Round-Up Rodeo. Presenting the award were Marla and Kyle Moore.

Photo by Kim Hill



Tuffy Hale was named Director of the Year at Saturday night's rodeo. Rodeo president Kyle Moore made the surprise presentation.

Photo by Jim Bardwell



The charming home of Tena and Eric Dyar at 302 South Lee Street is patriotically decked out in observance of the upcoming Independence Day holiday. The great seasonal color, pots and shrubs show that the couple's green thumbs have been hard at work.

Photo By Suzanne Bardwell

## Yard of the Month

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Backflip Johnny Dudley entertained the fullhouse at Saturday night's rodeo.

Photo by Jim Bardwell



The aerial view of the Gladwater Round-Up Rodeo Arena Saturday night shows a capacity crowd for the 84th annual event.

Aerial Photo by Brady English

Don't be surprised ...  
Be in the know!

\$35/year in Gregg, Upshur & Smith counties  
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\$50/year out-of-state

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