

Gladewater Mirror

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1 Section, 8 pages

50¢

New petition effort seeks sigs for '26 liquor vote in White Oak

By James Draper

A new effort is underway to add a liquor option for White Oak voters' consideration come November.

Advocates are in the midst of their 60-day period to collect 835 signatures on a petition to put "The legal sale of all alcoholic beverages, including mixed beverages" on the ballot Nov. 3.

Per state guidelines, the total number of signatures represents the requisite 35 percent of almost 2400 local voters who turned out in White Oak (Gregg County Voting Precinct 12) in the last gubernatorial election.

White Oak City Hall has not received any specific information on the 'why' behind the latest effort – no explanation is required for the petition drive to move forward, just the necessary support via signatures. The endeavor's being spearheaded by Linda Perdue, who could not be reached for comment Monday.

If the petition is successful and voters subsequently approve the measure later this year, the liquor option would permit related sales at both restaurants and retailers.

According to White Oak Finance Director and City Secretary Kristine Toon, it's been a while since White Oak voters weighed in on a similar issue.

"I believe the last one went through when Brookshire's headed it up for beer and wine sales," she noted. "Since then, people have discussed it but did not go through the process."

"River Camp Eats did collect signatures, but there weren't enough to get the petition."

That effort expired in January 2025. Later, White Oak's Ruby's Mexican Restaurant No. 5 made an attempt, but an error on the application disqualified the endeavor.

For the latest effort, the affidavit of publication was filed May 11, initial signatures were submitted May 20 and the official petition signature forms were subsequently provided to the requestor.

"She's been gathering signatures for three weeks now," Toon confirmed. "She has 60 days from the date the petitions were given to her."

As of mid-June, the drive had collected 200-plus signatures.



A promotional image from Michigan-based Commercial Recreation Specialists shows an example of a modular inflatable water park. Arron Watson, proprietor of The Tackle Box in the Lake Gladewater store is working with the company to bring a smaller but similar set of modules here.

Lake Store operator targets water park installation soon, floats fee for lake park use

It won't happen in time for Fourth of July revelries, but the clock's ticking toward the installation of an inflatable water park at Lake Gladewater.

Working now with a company out of Michigan, Lake Store proprietor Arron Watson says he's adjusting his plans to get equipment in-hand and in-water this summer. He's also eyeing future growth-oriented projects and potential fees to fund them.

As for the inflatables, "They are extremely modular. We can go extremely small; we can go extremely large," he told council members June 18. "Due to how the season's falling out, I downsized it to try to get something we could grab faster and sooner and get it in."

Once something's in place for patrons, it'll then become a matter of expanding the water playground's footprint ahead of next season.

"It has not gone in yet, but still very much trying to move it all forward."

Aiming to install the equipment between the dock and the swimming area, the nearby boat lane is being taken into consideration as well as the depth chart.

Missing Independence Day "hurts a little bit," Watson said, angling for water park traffic to fuel a regular stream of customers to the Lake Store. "If I can swing and get it in for the rest of the season, that's what we'll try to do."

Meanwhile, "If we're wanting to draw people in to come in and bring them to the lake, to be a beacon for this part of town" Watson says he's working on a proposal to revitalize the nearby

Continued on Page 8

Initial rules put on paper for short-term rentals

Gladewater City Council members and local officials took the time to listen and to lay everything out before adopting new rules for short-term rentals at the local lake.

It took the better part of a year, but new regulations are in place as of June 18. It'll take time and a bit more effort to get everyone on the same page, but the course correction's underway.

As of last week's council meeting, short-term rentals (STRs) at Lake Gladewater are capped at 10 percent of about 300 city-owned lake lots. Homeowners – if they go through a new permitting process and pay the necessary fees – can sub-let their lakeside residences through Airbnb, VRBO and similar platforms so long as they (and their paying guests) abide by City Hall's new rules, spelled out in an addendum to lake lot leases.

The guidelines cover everything from maintaining a 24/7 contact person for emergency responders to respecting occupancy, keeping parking under control and carrying adequate insurance.

"I personally don't like a ton of rules and regs," said Mayor Brandy Flanagan-Shipp. "We live in Texas; we like to do what we want to do with our properties."

That said, "I think we struck a good balance. It's not too tight, it's not too

lenient. It's a good balance between our land and our homeowners."

There are some lingering questions: What's ahead for Hotel Occupancy Tax collections? What's the plan for STRs elsewhere in the city limits? How will the council address their own concerns about single ownership of multiple lake lots?

For now, initial rules are in place and ready for beta testing. They're headed for the mailboxes of the lake's lessees.

"It's a very good document," councilman Milton Anderson agreed. "It answered the concerns of the people out at the lake, and it also answered the concerns of the leasers."

"Will we ever have 30 STRs out there? Probably not."

Adopted unanimously 6-0 (council member Kevin Clark was absent) the new lease addendum does not explicitly address Hotel Occupancy Taxes related to the lake lots. Councilman Stoney Stone says he wants to make sure those monies are being collected and going to the right place.

It took months of effort, and no small amount of consternation along the way, but the first part of the job's done. The mayor said she's grateful for the dialogue, and that it's resulted in a solution.

"I love that the citizens out on the lake have been just as proactive on it with us."

Continued on Page 8



Mirror wins 'dam' award

The *Mirror's* coverage of the Lake Gladewater Dam and last year's "Spirit'd" debate about liquor stores netted a 1st Place News Writing award in Texas Press Association's 2025 Better Newspaper Contest.

Reporting on the dam also landed a 2nd Place in the Community Service category among like-sized Weekly publications. "This was a very informative and solidly done series," according to the contest judge. "I really liked all of the angles covered. You really went above and beyond typical news coverage. People take old infrastructure for granted until it is too late. Great work!"

Gladewater Mirror Publisher Jim Bardwell and reporter James Draper joined colleagues in DFW June 18-20 for Texas Press Association's annual convention and contest announcement.

The *Mirror* also earned a top plaque in News Photography: "A solid collection of work-a-day journalism and being in the right place at the right time. All photos were solid throughout. This is a great example of a community well-served through photojournalism."

Additional awards included 2nd Place Headline Writing and Sports Photography; 3rd Place Feature Photography, Feature Writing and Page Design as well as 4th Place Advertising.

Regarding Mike Peery's sports photography, "Very strong entry," the judge said. "The framing on the baseball pitcher peeking seems like a straight forward image but everything has to work at the same time to pull off an image like this, including the angle of the sun (Golden Hour)."

"The football image works with the face of the defender telling the story. The pole vaulter clearing the bar at a unique angle

The City of Gladewater's sales tax streak continues into summer 2026 with a slim surplus. Meanwhile, a slight slump hasn't yet turned in White Oak.

June's allocation from the Texas Comptroller's Office came in with a 0.17 percent year-to-year gain for Gladewater – the June 2026 check (based on sales in April) was \$139,074.23, about \$240 more than the same time last year.

White Oak's disbursement this month is \$134,608.64, lagging about \$2,175 (1.58 percent) behind the same period in 2025.

For the calendar year, Gladewater's total collections put the community about 7 percent ahead of the 2025 total while White Oak's have declined 3.4 percent year-to-date.

Statewide, Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock's Office sent \$1.3 billion in monthly sales tax revenue back to local governments this month.

City	Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Pmt. Prior Year	% Change	Payment YTD	Prior Year Payment YTD	% Change
GREGG CO.	0.500%	\$1,803,385.89	\$1,683,200.68	7.14%	\$10,976,897.42	\$10,444,500.56	5.09%
Clarksville City	1.000%	\$8,144.22	\$9,266.80	-12.11%	\$49,264.92	\$56,860.95	-13.35%
Easton	1.000%	\$7,512.78	\$12,492.26	-39.86%	\$32,421.63	\$33,549.90	-3.36%
Gladewater	1.500%	\$139,315.43	\$139,074.23	0.17%	\$913,026.22	\$853,545.56	6.96%
Kilgore	1.500%	\$869,884.55	\$821,296.31	5.91%	\$5,250,078.97	\$5,090,723.53	3.13%
Lakeport	1.500%	\$26,210.93	\$27,460.98	-4.55%	\$168,593.50	\$155,512.76	8.41%
Longview	1.500%	\$3,899,692.40	\$3,581,599.77	8.88%	\$24,440,223.95	\$23,025,387.15	6.14%
Warren City	1.000%	\$2,159.31	\$3,298.99	-34.54%	\$14,802.07	\$35,261.78	-58.02%
White Oak	1.500%	\$134,608.64	\$136,783.08	-1.58%	\$842,810.42	\$872,545.47	-3.40%
UPSHUR CO.	0.500%	\$164,097.20	\$160,296.68	2.37%	\$1,022,066.15	\$979,662.69	4.32%
Big Sandy	1.250%	\$24,245.06	\$32,574.70	-25.57%	\$154,453.06	\$170,555.78	-9.44%
East Mountain	1.000%	\$4,729.01	\$4,398.11	7.52%	\$43,558.95	\$29,354.08	48.39%
Gilmer	1.500%	\$216,909.41	\$216,007.00	0.41%	\$1,400,906.27	\$1,411,912.76	-0.77%
Ore City	1.500%	\$19,861.52	\$21,019.62	-5.50%	\$132,674.23	\$128,713.98	3.07%
Union Grove	1.000%	\$631.03	\$704.40	-10.41%	\$4,401.00	\$4,706.20	-6.48%

Overall, allocations showed a 7.4 percent increase for June 2026 compared to '25.

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

monthly," the comptroller's office reported.

Gregg County's revenues for June exceeded \$1.8 million, 7.14 percent more than 12 months prior, bringing the

year-to-date total a bit shy of \$11 million. It's a 5 percent gain on the same point in 2025.

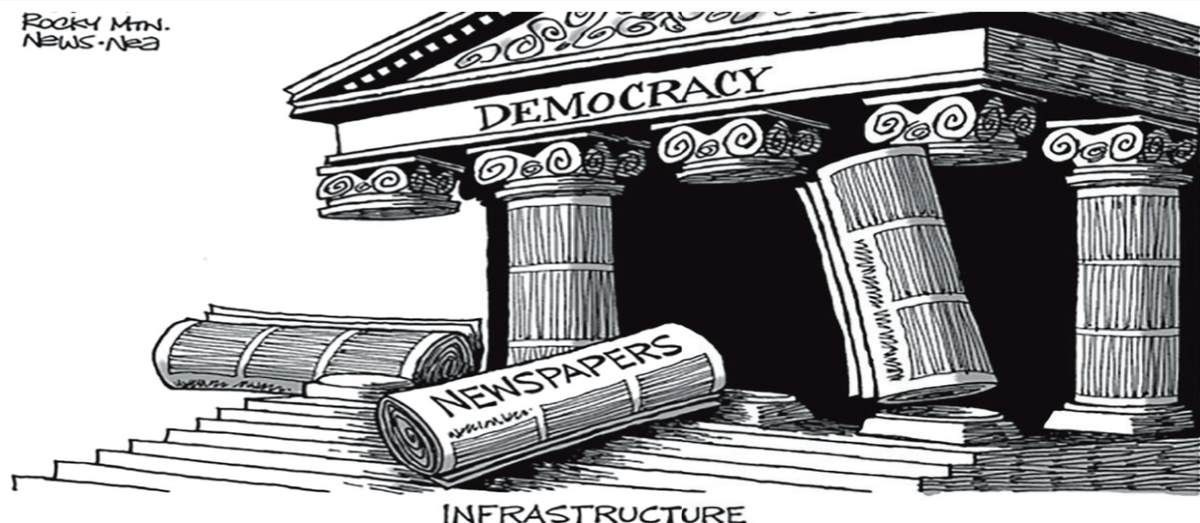
Upshur County is 4.32 percent ahead of the prior year, collecting \$164,097.20 in

June, 2.37 percent more than a year back. Gilmer's allocation is \$216,909 this month, about \$900 more than June 2025. It's year-to-date is lagging behind 2025 by about \$11,000.



OPINION/COMMENTARY

Rocky Mtn.
News-Net



Newspapers matter...

This has been an exciting week for the Gladewater Mirror. We have won some 'major awards'. Sadly, none came with a leg lamp. (Watch the movie "A Christmas Story" if you don't get that reference. You will laugh until you cry.)

Jim and I attended the Texas Press Association's Leadership Retreat to fellowship with folks who care about public information, transparency and the future of their communities. Some are at large daily newspapers, some at papers much smaller than ours. Some are from far West Texas with sand in their hair, some are from the border and fluently bilingual. Some are from the blown away coast and working their hearts out to rebuild. A lot of laughing, lamenting and exchanging of ideas happened in the course of those three days.

For most of the retreat I was just a tad nervous because I had agreed to lead a session entitled "High Time for Full Immersion". I told the group of journalists that my translated title was: "Time to Go to the River Journalism and Get Washed".

Baptized.

Not sprinkled. Not doused. Dunked!

Journalism, as a profession, and sometimes with good reason, is taking a beating right now. But folks, the one thing that represents and protects the interests of citizens, taxpayers and individuals from the federal level to the local level is the press. Transparency, open government and where tax money is going is a 'right to know' privilege that is usually only ensured by the press.

Today, there are groups, many associated with government, many with BIG business or special interests that are chipping away at journalist rights. That means YOUR access to information. Sometimes it means a powerful interest group, lobby or piece of legislation is going to wipe out the little guy if somebody doesn't investigate. So, whose job is that?

Our Founding Fathers had that answer down pat. Thomas Jefferson once said, and I paraphrase, 'given a choice between government and no newspapers; or newspapers and no government; I'll take the newspapers'. No kidding! The author of the Declaration of Independence wanted American citizens to understand the importance of the press in our form

The Arts

Ernest Hemingway once wrote that "A thousand years makes economics silly and a work of art endures forever..." In addition to being enduring, the arts are also economically imperative.

Decades ago, my firm produced a report regarding the economic effects of the arts. It has been used to support major initiatives and investments around the world and remains cited. It's well worth revisiting the indisputable fact that the economic effects of the arts (whether museums, performances, education, or otherwise) are substantial.

In addition to operational spending, people visiting museums and performance venues spend money on hotels, meals, transportation, and retail items, leading to notable gains in business activity. Multiplier effects spread through the supply chain, leading to additional jobs and opportunities for local firms, increased business activity, and tax receipts.

The arts also represent a substantial economic sector with measurable contributions to employment and output, with almost 960,000 Texans employed in creative careers. About one in four visitors to the state participate in cultural tourism, tending to stay longer and spend more than others.

The arts also play a key role in urban and regional development. Cities with strong cultural infrastructure often experience increased economic activity and revitalization, as arts districts attract visitors and stimulate business expansion. In areas which feature multiple major venues, synergies can arise and offer a broader overall experience.

The real story, however, lies far beyond these obvious phenomena. Research indicates that arts education supports academic achievement while fostering imagination, creativity, and broader learning capacity. It is also correlated with positive social-emotional attributes.

The Best of Suzanne Bardwell



of government.

The Founding Fathers even wrote it into the Constitution of the United States. It is right there in the First Amendment which holds our most sacred protections and are grouped together of equal importance...for a reason...to protect YOUR rights.

Take a breath and absorb these words:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances".

One of the columns we won first place with at the state press contest was the Sept. 20 one which addressed Facebook opinions versus credible reporting of information in the local paper. Our City Council at that time was being accused of holding 'secret meetings' which were written about in our paper, often on the front page, posted on our website, Facebook and e-edition. You see, dear readers, and well-informed citizens, sources matter. As does reading the newspaper.

Part of being an informed citizen, voter and taxpayer is reading the local paper. Heck, part of being a grownup is reading newspapers.

Journalism just happens to be our calling, and it is our joy to get that information to you so that your opinions are informed and together we can work toward having the very best community possible.

Man, this is a heavy job. One of great importance.

So my friends, here is one lasting lesson from this old journalism/history teacher: never forget that journalism is the ONLY privately owned business specifically protected in the Constitution of the United States of America for a reason. And that reason is the protection of YOUR rights.

Dr. Ray Perryman



THE ECONOMIST

Beyond education, the arts contribute to creativity, innovation, and workforce productivity. Creative thinking and innovation are crucial skills in a dynamic environment, and exposure to the arts can help develop these capabilities. Numerous studies demonstrate that participation in the arts is associated with higher levels of civic engagement, social connection, and cultural identity. This enhanced social capital contributes to economic stability by strengthening communities and encouraging civic participation. The spark that is ignited by exposure at an early age has repeatedly lit the fuse that ultimately ignited the flames of pathbreaking discoveries in a variety of arenas decades later.

Finally, the arts generate important health benefits that translate into economic gains. Research has shown that arts participation is linked to stress reduction, mental health improvement, and cognitive enhancement. These outcomes, in turn, contribute to higher productivity and reduced public health costs. The arts generate multifaceted benefits ranging from the obvious measurable spending to the subtle but far more profound effects that permeate our lives. Our work has shown that, when viewed in proper perspective, the creative sector is responsible for about 15% of the total economy and is critical to sustainability. Stay safe!

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.

Gary Borders Capital Highlights



Rural counties face hurdles in regulating data centers

Rural counties trying to slow or even block data center construction are finding they have limited legal authority, the Texas Standard reported. Hill County, for example, rescinded a one-year moratorium on data center construction after being sued for \$100 million by a company planning a large-scale data center project near Hillsboro.

RCM Hill argued that the county lacked the legal authority to impose the temporary ban, which came after the company had already secured contracts for more than 800 acres for more than \$80 million.

"You're not going to see anybody else trying a moratorium at this point because they've seen what happens when you do it," said Robert Paterson, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin who specializes in land use law. "You basically just get clubbed with a ridiculous amount of money."

In Hood and Somervell counties, both southwest of Fort Worth, at least nine proposed data center projects are under consideration. Concerned citizens are filling county commissioner meetings, saying the projects could raise electricity bills, strain water resources, and harm tourism.

Earlier this month, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the Public Utility Commission to ensure that new data centers actually reduce residential electric bills and proposed that new laws be passed during next year's legislative session to further regulate the data centers.

GOP pushes for closed primaries

Abbott and other state GOP leaders declared at the recent state convention in Houston that they will push to require voters to register with a party to prevent crossover voting, The Texas Tribune reported.

"We are going to make clear that in the future, only Republicans will vote in Republican primaries," he said at the Houston convention. The party has made closing primaries a top legislative priority. The state's current open primary system doesn't require party registration, so voters can cast ballots in whichever primary they want — just not both.

The Texas Republican Party sued Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson last year and was later joined by Attorney General Ken Paxton in asking a federal judge to strike down parts of the election code that allow open primaries. Nelson, who is stepping down next month, opposed Paxton's motion and argued that it is up to the state Legislature to change election law.

High court sides with weed user banned from owning guns

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously last week that a Texas man's conviction for possessing both marijuana and a pistol under an existing law that prevents "unlawful" drug users from owning guns was unconstitutional. Both gun rights groups and civil liberties advocates filed briefs urging the court to take Ali Hemani's side. He challenged the law after being arrested in 2022 by federal agents who found a pistol and 60 grams of weed when his home was searched.

His attorneys argued the law violated his Second Amendment rights and was vague since it does not define "unlawful user."

"Is someone who uses a controlled substance once a year, 'an unlawful user'? What about someone who uses that substance every six months, or every two weeks?" they argued. "Does it matter how much one consumes, or only how frequently one does so? The statute does not say."

Screwworm cases up to 15

As of Sunday, the number of confirmed New World Screwworm cases totaled 15. The Texas Animal Health Commission has placed a quarantine on parts of Coke, Edwards, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble, La Salle, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb and Zavala counties. All warm-blooded animals in a quarantine zone may not be moved without prior authorization from TAHC.

Federal and state agencies are working together to eradicate the NWS by introducing sterile male flies into affected areas. Abbott has issued a statewide disaster proclamation in response. The pest lays its eggs in open wounds, then the eggs hatch into larvae that feast on living flesh. While it is mostly found in cattle, one case has been found in a dog.

THE JOY OF SALVATION

After he had committed terrible sins, David said, "Restore me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit" (Psa. 51: 12). The word "restore" means "to give back, return, to put again in possession of something." David's prayer shows that it is possible for one to forfeit or lose the joy of salvation he once had. Not only did David lose the joy he once knew he possessed, but he knew he had lost it. He knew something in his life had changed. Also, if you have never obtained salvation, please be assured that Christ died for you. To the Romans Paul wrote in Rom. 5: 8, "But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Regardless of the sins you have committed Christ died for you. Why, you ask? Because He loves you. How much does He love you? The answer is, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3: 16).

I am urging you to honestly look into your heart and ask yourself if you are saved, or if you have lost the joy of salvation. If either applies to you, you must be honest with yourself, because if you somehow have not experienced or have lost the joy of salvation you need to face that fact and not pretend it hasn't happened.

But I have good news for you; the joy of salvation can be obtained, regained, or restored. That is exactly what David was praying for. You can be assured, that the gospel is God's power to save you if you will believe it and obey it (Rom. 1: 16), and, also please know that just as weakened faith can be made strong again, love for the Lord can spring to life again, and conscience can be purified again, so joy of salvation can be restored to those who lost it. That is the good news of the gospel.

If you realize your need for salvation, or if you have lost the joy of salvation, you once had, we of the White Oak church of Christ want to help you. Call us or write to us, or better still, why not visit us next Sunday. Think on these things.

Dennis C. Abernathy-White Oak Church of Christ

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Sports roundup

Pineywoods Timberhogs fall to Dragoons, slip to 6-15

By Tyler Sutton

The Pineywoods Timberhogs made the trip to Fort Scott to take on the undefeated Dragoons and came oh so close to being the first team to defeat them this season as they fell in walk off fashion in game one, 7-6.

It was a scoreless game until the top of the 4th inning when Hogs catcher Brance Farrell drew a bases loaded walk to give White Oak a 1-0 lead. The Dragoons tied it at 1 in the bottom of the 4th to tie it at 1 then took a 5-1 lead in the bottom of the 6th.

But the Timberhogs quickly got to work cutting into the lead as 3rd baseman Trey Clark smacked a RBI double to make it a 5-2 game. 1st baseman Jonas Kerzner and left fielder Kenta Miyabe drew bases loaded walks to make it a 5-4 game. The Dragoons added their lead in the bottom

of the 7th to make it 6-4.

But once again the Hogs tied it up when Clark crushed a solo homer to make it 6-5 and then 2nd baseman Malik Berrien scored on a passed ball in the top of the 9th to tie it at 6.

But Fort Scott crushed the hearts of White Oak in the bottom of the 9th when their shortstop Blake Ellis hit a walk off homer to win it 7-6. Reyil Escobedo went 8 innings on the mound for White Oak giving up 7 runs (all earned) with seven strikeouts.

In Game two, it was all Dragoons as they cruised to a 13-4 run rule victory. Fort Scott got a run in the bottom of the 1st to take a 1-0 lead. But the Hogs answered back with two runs in the top of the 2nd as Clark drove in a run with a RBI fielder's choice.

That was followed by shortstop Armand Daigre driving

in a run with a RBI single to make it 2-1 White Oak. But the Dragoons answered right back with 2 runs in the bottom of the 2nd to make it 3-2 Fort Scott. Timberhogs center fielder Chandler Guillory tied it at 3 with a RBI groundout. It was all Dragoons after that as they plated three runs in the 3rd, three runs in the fifth and four runs in the 7th to end it.

Rupert Watson took the loss on the mound for White Oak going 5 innings giving up 9 runs (8 earned) with 2 strikeouts.

Then mother nature won the rest of the week as the entire series vs the Meridian Blues was cancelled because of rain and field conditions at Roughneck field.

The Hogs are now 6-15 on the season and will next host the Beaumont Oil Barons for three games before traveling to Meridian for 3 games.



NORTH REGIONAL DIV 1 RUNNER-UPS 8U takes 2nd in Texarkana! Great season White Oak.



Recent Gladewater High School alum Kingston Sheffield earned another medal Sunday at the Nike Outdoor National in Oregon. Competing with 70 other athletes, Sheffield made finals both days. Earning eighth overall against a field heavy with collegiate competition, he earned a podium spot and All American.

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 First United Pentecostal • 903-845-2922
 Northside Pentecostal
 Abundant Life Temple • 903-845-6043
 Southern Pentecostal Church (Starrville)
- PRESBYTERIAN**
 First Presbyterian • 903-845-2905
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 Gladewater Revival Church
 Living Hope Fellowship • 903-261-2023
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What's Happening?

Chamber plans red, white, blue blast with annual extravaganza July 3

Put a little more effort into the Fourth of July attire this year – Gladewater Chamber of Commerce wants to see as much of the red, white and blue as possible come July 3.

Nationwide, the #America250 effort has primed the pump for patriotic celebrations this Independence Day, and the annual fireworks show at Lake Gladewater will be no exception.

“It is the 250th, so we’ll really be playing that up in our celebrations,” according to Lois Reed, chamber president.

She’s gathering gifts to award the best dressed man, woman, boy and girl who’s on-hand for judging at 7 p.m. that Friday evening.

“Extra point if you’re a historical figure,” Reed added, “such as Uncle Sam, George Washington, Betsy Ross, Ben Franklin...”

The overall event kicks-off at 4 p.m. that afternoon – early arrivals will enjoy prime parking alongside food trucks, games, DJ’d music and other entertainment.

The annual skydiver drop-in with the Stars & Stripes is set for 6 p.m. and this year’s boat parade will be center-stage on the water at 8 p.m. Fireworks are set for 9 p.m.

Parking on the grass will once again be \$5 per vehicle. For more information, contact Gladewater Chamber of Commerce at 903-845-5501.

New officers elected for Upshur County library friends

The Friends of the Upshur County Library organization in Gilmer recently elected new officers and has several planned and potential projects, according to new Friends President Steffani Chapman.

Other new officers include Carol Watkins, vice-president; Mary Bullock (who is also Gilmer city manager), treasurer; Donna Schultz, secretary; and Jenna Loos, communications

Mirror wins ‘dam’ award

Continued from Page 1

works with a wonderful framing where you can see the face, the push off, feet/hips clearing the bar and sets the scene.”

The Mirror netted 525 points overall, landing 2nd in the Division 10 Sweepstakes category behind The Post Dispatch (575 points).

Gladewater Mirror - 2025 Texas BNC

Contest Results:

1st Place News Photography	3rd Place Feature Photography
1st Place News Writing	3rd Place Feature Writing
2nd Place Headline Writing	3rd Place Page Design
2nd Place Sports Photography	4th Place Advertising
2nd Place Community Service	



Gladewater FFA made a solid showing at the Texas Junior Brahman Association show in Bryan. Per GISD, “The cattle all placed in the top end of their classes, with Ty Richey winning calf champion red female. Ethan, Ty and Bailey made the finals in their heats of Showmanship. Super proud of these students and the work they put in.”

(Courtesy photos)

chairman. In an informational brochure on the group, it says it raises funds for supporting “the programming and enhancement of our library.”

With the Gilmer Lions Club’s assistance, the Friends also plan, starting in May, to revitalize the park located beside the library. (It was site of where the library was housed prior to construction of the current quarters in the mid-1980s. After the new library opened, the old one was used as a “library activity building” until fire destroyed it several years ago, and the site now contains a gazebo).

Chapman said the park has been an “underutilized asset” which can be upgraded to create a “green space for education and relaxation.” A county extension agent, Lauryn Coffman, is helping with the project.

The Lions Club will work on the gazebo, “The Little Library” located on the site, and assist with gravel paths and planting, said Chapman.

The Friends group, which has held several used book sales at the library over the years, is preparing for another one, she added. In addition, the organization is considering such possible activities as a summer reading program for adults and music in the library, Chapman added.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends group can attend one of its meetings, held at the Gilmer library at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday monthly, or email friendsouci@gmail.com. Annual dues are accepted the month the new member joins.

Gregg County’s free summer trash event welcomes drop-offs Saturday

Another no-cost trash day is set for June 27 as the Gregg County Clean-Up runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all four precinct barns. There’s a limit of two loads per person Saturday, and the

event will close early if the trash containers fill up ahead of the scheduled closing.

The county’s four precincts will accept household trash, unwanted and old appliances, bulk items and up to two tires (20-inches or smaller) per person. “Absolutely no freon” is permitted, and the collectors cannot take televisions, computers, propane tanks, electronics, paint, batteries, burn barrels or chemicals.

“Absolutely ‘No Dumping’ outside the precinct gates,” officials warned: “It can be considered illegal dumping and result in a \$500 fine!”

For more information, call 903-236-8444 Monday through Friday.

WOPD Police Report

For the reporting period of June 15th through June 21st, 2026, officers for the White Oak Police Department responded to or initiated 189 calls for service and assistance. Some of the most common calls were: Disturbances, Suspicious Activity, Advice Calls, Burglar Alarms, Traffic Issues (motorist assists, traffic control, reckless drivers, etc.), and Community Relations (welfare checks, civil issues, vacation home security checks, etc.).

One traffic collision was investigated during this reporting period. No injuries were reported.

One arrest was made during this reporting period. Francisco Vega, 20, of White Oak, for Driving While Intoxicated.

One separate and unrelated case was presented to the Gregg County District Attorney during this reporting period.

-Theft of Property \$2500-\$30k.

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EVENTS

Seguin — July 3rd: Craft Beer & Wine Fest, 5 p.m., Seguin Events Complex; Fireworks Fiesta, 9:30 p.m., Max Starcke Park. July 4th: Flag Raising Ceremony, 9 a.m., Central Park; The Biggest Small-Town 4th of July Parade, 10 a.m., Downtown; Freedom Fiesta, 6 p.m., Central Park. July 5th: Patriotic Concert, 7 p.m., Central Park. www.VisitSeguin.com.

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July 3rd

Craft Beer & Wine Fest 5:00 p.m. - Seguin Events Complex

Fireworks Fiesta 9:30 p.m. - Max Starcke Park

July 4th

Flag Raising Ceremony 9:00 a.m. - Central Park

The Biggest Small-Town 4th of July Parade 10:00 a.m. - Downtown

Freedom Fiesta 6:00 p.m. - Central Park

July 5th

Patriotic Concert 7:00 p.m. - Central Park

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GLADEWATER HONOR ROLLS - TERM 4

Gladewater Primary
4th Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll
First Grade
A Honor roll

Demar'ee Albert, Dax Ausmus, Elaina Bishop, Rylie Burton, Francesco Calderon, Yanelis Cancel Rivera, Marilyn Churchill, Kenzyngtyn Cooper, MaKenna Cooper, Ethan Copley, Lucia Coronado, Charlee Cumba, Laila Ector, Lennox Ector, Zoey Elbert, Tylin Griffin, James Hamilton, Luna Hancock, Giovanni Hernandez, Meliah Horton, Lynlee Ibarra, Ay'Lani Jackson, Hallie Nance, Noah Overman, Micah Perry, Kyrie Ranson, Quinn Richardson, Braileigh Robinson, Gabriel Rodriguez, Kyler Rogers, Blakely Woods, Raylynd Wright

A-B Honor roll

Lauren Ansley, Cyndi Chandler, Brayden Crane, Isaiah Davis, Remington Denney, Adriano Dominguez, Oilivia Eddington, Josey Ellis, Adalina Fields, Lyla Fields, China Floyd-Timmons, Dixon Gomez-Ramos, Amirah Grooms, Emri Hoover, Nova Ligon, Miranda Marshall, Makinsey Massey, Kayden McGuire, Kolsen McKinney, Nash Morris, Brysen Mosley, Ramona Murphy, Ismael Nipita Vega, Khalecia O'Neal, Samuel Partlow, Peyton Roberson, Creed Sasser, Divinity Smith, Ka'Tavin Spencer, Nyla Sprating, Skylar Sprayberry, Matthew Stringer, Da'Legend Wade-Wells, Kase Whitten, Ahmad Williams

Weldon Elementary
2nd Grade
4th Nine Weeks "A" Honor Roll

Jose Adams Lara, Gianni Carraway, Killian Fowler, Tristan Magliolo, Avalyn Marshall, Kayson Matlock, Maxton McDowell, Kathryn Meals, Amere Minter, Logan Myers, Gia Nguyen, Margo Poulialis, Armani Sanchez, Gracelyn Villalpando, Braylen Watkins

2nd Grade
4th Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll

Tinsley Allen, Anessa Arellano, Ky'Sar Atkinson, Bradley Babbitt, Jaxson Baker, Hank Cannon, Ezekiel Carrasquillo, Jayce Carter, Zoey Ceballos, Clara Crawford, Sebastian Dangel, Amya Eddington, Cole Ellis, Sadie Ellis, Everlee Garland, Tinslee Gunn, Angele Harper, Oliver Herrera Monreal, Dakota Hess, Marlene Hobgood, Adaleigh Hooks, Izayah Jackson, Ezra Jones, Dade Keys, Gemma Lamborn, Axel Lopez, Kamri Marshall, Nola McCarty, Malorie Mendez, Syah Mercado, Natalie Mora Hernandez, Kyrie Mumphy, Jimena Perez Alvarado, Nelson Pineda Molina, Paisley Prewit, Jaxson Shoup, Phenix Smith, Carlos Soto Santos, Sylar Stinnett, Easton Torres, Aaliyah Wilson, Kevin Wilson, Wynona Wright, Issac Yanez Jimenez

3rd Grade
4th Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll

Rizzo Burks, Dylan Carrillo-Soto, Scarlett Churchill, Britain Daniels, Edward Diaz Hernandez, Cameron Dickinson, Michael Garcia, Emmi Hogan, Halle Louvier, Ada Martinez, Brooklynn Parker, Hollie Pettiette, Orson Reynolds, Bailyn Simmons, Adalynn Sipes, Brantlee Woods

3rd Grade
4th Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll

Leonardo Angeles Palomino, Braydon Baker, Ian Baxter, Hannah Bierer, Oliver Black, Me'Leilani Brown, Addison Cabriaes, Alexandra Cloud, Tristan Coil, Embla Corbitt, Rilynn Davis, Jakaden Dudley, Jayden Dudley, Ethan Easterling, Levi Edney, Diego Garcia Garza, Clayton Gaspie, A'Laysia Hawley, Alizabeth Henson, Jason Hunnicutt, Logan Hunter, Kingston Jackson, Kaitlynn Johns, Mason Kitchings, Ariel LaCaze, Alisa Lacy, Avery Lee, Ireland Lennon, Reese Leonard, Khalil Lewis, Khali Lincoln, Aylin Lopez, Elijah Loutsenhizer, Amelia Marshall, Matthew Maya Mora, Paisleigh Montgomery, Alaina Moore, Logan Morgan, Abraham Nino, Nathan Otamendi, Emely Pineda Monlina, Khloe Robertson, Julian Rodriguez-Campa, Mylah Roemelin, Kali Rogers, Andrea Scott, Elle Searle, Addison Smith, Fiona Smith, Joshua Smith, Violet Smith, Logan Solis, Cora Solley, Brittany Soto Santos, Nevaeh Sparling, Juliet Stephenson, Dustin Tabor, Avery Thomas, Price Thomas, Bowen Watts, McKinley Wessels, Madilyn Westbrook, Jessi Whitner, Aria Williams, Joce-lynn Woods

4th Grade
4th Nine Weeks
"A" Honor Roll

Ava Aldredge, Victoria Dominguez, Alexis Ferrero, Cayden Fletcher, Rylan Henderson, Kenneth Leerstang, Isaiah Menefee, Dylan Reynolds, Talon Teel, Rebeca Wright

4th Grade
4th Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll

Kali Albert, Rey Barnett, Abigail Beaver, Lillian Bell, Ian Bird, Natalie Brady, Rhenley Capps, Laykn Cates, Evelyn Chavarria, Lydia Cloud, Aurora Coronado, Daryl Cravey, Ryan



Crews, Peigton Croley, Isaac Espinoza, Dorlan Estrada Gomez, Harper Garland, Harper Gladden, Chelsea Hale, Blakelei Hilton, Charlee Jackson, Koleson Kegarise, Harleigh King, Anastasia Lacy, Lawrence Leerstang, Maleigha Lewis, Aubree Love, Camila Maya, Evelyn Meals, Kelsen Mills, Steven Morrison, Kimberly Nunez Santibanez, Jayden Petrie, Knox Reed, Annaleigha Rivera, Vivienne Robinson, Sarah Schlaefer, Natalee Smith, Amara Tate, Jason Taylor, Evalynn Valle, Miloi Vickers, Tamara Washington

5th Grade
4th Nine Weeks "A" Honor Roll

Cayson Armstrong, Lillian Bamburg, Walker Barnhill, Paxton Bell, LilyAnn Budro, Juddson Cook, Miguel Hernandez, Sullivan Ingram, Aleighsia Jackson, Robert Louvier, Lillianna Luscomb, Katelyn Mireles, Karsyn Reese, Raquelita Roque, Brenden Townsend, Kranston Turner, Madilyn Villalpando

5th Grade
4th Nine Weeks
"A-B" Honor Roll

Weston Acton, Bailey Babbitt, Brylen Bailey, Emma Barrera, Kinsley Beadles, Adam Belcher, Bri Lynn Bell, Addison Bigler, Corbin Black, Hunter Bohanon, Reagan Bradshaw, Christina Bray, Elizabeth Brown, Maria Calderon Cardenas, Ava Chandaris, Natalia Chavarria, D'Aysia Crawford, Daleyza DeLeon, Valen Farrell, Aaron Fields, London Fitch, Baileigh Freeman, Katlin Godfrey, Kinsleigh Gordon, Jayda Griffith, Jackson Grimes, Bruyton Guest, Adalynn Hilton, Taylynn Ince, Kynlei Jackson, Aziyah Madden, Karlee Mahoney, Izekiel Martinez, Collyn McCellon, Elizabeth McCoy, Dallis McDonald, Elijah Mullican, Camila Mumphy, Yazayra Perez, Ezra Pittman, Kaysen Ray, Brooklyn Regalado, Ulises Reyes, Wyatt Richardson, Madalynn Rickey, Joshua Robinson, Memphis Robinson, Zander Shuler, Kennedy Smith, Maddison Smith, Journey Stephenson, Noah Strickland, Tavaris Thomas, Dominic Vaughn, Levi Watson, Presley Watts, Jacob Wexell, Brooklyn Williams, Hana Williams, Maximo Williams

GLADEWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th Grade
A Honor Roll

Landen Anderson, Leland Bamburg, Easton Baxter, Jaden Bohanon, Lila Brown, Elijah Childress, Tony Colen, Cameron Dickerson, Carter Ellis, Grayson Fletcher, Emmaleigh Harris, Saul Herrera, Milana McDowell, James Meals, Atticus Reynolds, Bayleigh Wady, Parker Webber.

A/B Honor Roll

Joaquin Arreguin, Abisai Avila Sandoval, Natalie Bateman, Emma BNates, Drake Bigler, Addison Borders, Connor Brady, Mallorie Bray, Rowdy Burks, Ryder Burks, LaShiya Burton, Charleigh Cannon, Remi Capps, Wesley Carroll, Alexsya Daffern, Skylar Davis, Skylar Deason, Franchesca Dominguez, Stefano Dominguez, Zackriah Duvall, Raegan Glarborg, Rickey Green, Brayden Greer, Melody Haskett, Delilah Hawley, Jakorian Henson, Jase Hightower, Sierra Hughes, Amiyah Jones, Kacen Jones, Arianna Kelley, Caylan Latham, Irelynn Lee, Daniel Leerstang, Brilee Lennon, Cailleigh Lowery, Abigail Marshall, Alex Mayeux, Jordan Moore, James Muldrow, Derrick Nash, Kingleigh Niffenegger, Jayson Nino, Justin Partain, Joseangel Perez, Stefanie Perez, Jaylynn Pippins, Adelyn Ritter, Boston Robinson, Leighton Sides, Paisley Simmons, Izabelle Smith, Amelia Thomas, Joseph Tolbert, Sylas Tripp, Jaxson Walker, Justice Webster, Brandon Wheeler.

7th Grade
A Honor Roll

John Brown, InaSue Budro, Gisselle Ceballos, Chandler Cloud, Damien Cox, Alejandro Diaz, Amberae Duvall, Victor Espinoza, Korbin Evans, John Jackson, Kinsley Nielsen, Carmen Pineda, Isabella Polanco, Jayden Rojas, Sadie Shackelford, Chevelle Sisson, Aliyah Thomas, Deion Thomas, Devon Wade, Emily Youngblood.

A/B Honor Roll

Caleb Bellanger, William Carney, Willian Cerda, Emily Cheatwood, Terrell Daniels, Litzy Delgado, Kar'Dae Ford, Maverick Hamby, Nickolas Hunter, Vincent Ingram, Zae'Chamerial

Jackson, Truth Jones, Keylin Mills, Noah Mullican, Victoria Parker, Lincoln Robinson, Rachel Small, Harrison Smith, Nathaniel Timmons, Landry Townsend.

8th Grade
A Honor Roll

Brady Aldredge, Kolbi Alverson, Fernanda Coronado, Lydia Crane, Kyndall Evans, June Macklin, Robert Meals, Elizabeth Morrison, Cullen Reynolds, Garrett Watson.

A/B Honor Roll

Levi Arevalo, Peyton Bell, Connor Brack, Michael Collins, Adalayah Cuba, Kelsi Cushatt, Dexter Dickinson, Cera Dykes Miller, Rylee Farley, Kendon Gage, Aleeyah Gallardo, Drake Gilstrap, Trevor Gothard, Alonna Gregory, Kindyl Harper, Emma Harroff, Kaylynn Hawley, Kanai Hicks, Heath Hightower, Brighton Ku, Rayson Lacy, Ava LaForest, Mariyah Leblanc, Aniyah Lee, Ulysses Martinez, Mason Matthews, Elizabeth Mendez, Hannah Nash, Nevaeh Peters, Carter Peterson, Krimeson Rodriguez, Hermione Rogers, Melina Samuels, Tailyn Shirley, Makyah Stewart, Cayden Templeton, Emma Vickers, Spencer Walbridge, Briley Watts, Gabriel Watts, Courtney White, Annajancy Xol.

GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

4th Nine Weeks
9th Grade
A Honor Roll

Tinsley Aldredge, Kylie Beall, Kara Bellanger, Colin Bird, Nya Border, Hannah Brandt, Andria Castaneda, Everlie Costello, Isabella Dangle, Landon Deason, Victoria Flanagan, Ma'Kenzie Floyd, Beatrice Nasados, Baylei Noble, Peyton Noble, Ayden Ortiz, Ian Perez, Khloey Rendon, Dexter Robinson, Daniel Rodgers, Jase Timmons, Brynlee Underwood, Lily Upchurch, Brooklyn Villalpando, Aaron Watson, Bentley Webber, Diego Yanez Jimenez,

A/B Honor Roll

Brandon Alvarez Martinez, Moises Arteaga Cervantes, Jax Bradford, Daelyn Bradshaw, Josiah Brown, Icker Ceballos, Addison Chandaris, Shyann Crawford, Jaylynn Gibbs, Kevin Gomez Ramos, Kinnedy Harper, Jordynn Harris, Diega Hernandez, Kamden Hines, Donovan Ingram, Demaurion Johnson, Ashten King, Jermaine King, Cashtyn Lehman, Samantha Luna, Connor Morgan, Abigail Nino, Jase Pennington, Dylan Perez, Josue Perez-Olvera, Anellio Ponce, Ty Richey, David Sholars, Delilah Sholars, Dodge Sisson, Nevaeh Stadtfeld-Crowell, Isaiah Starks, Mar'Shaun Stevenson, Connor Thompson, Ashlynn Tolbert, Santiago Trejo Uballe, Brody Vickery, Aaron Wilkins, Princess Za'Kiers Williams, Aiden Wilt,

10th Grade
A Honor Roll

Mariah Barksdale, Bailey Childress, Lily Childress, Noah Clay, Samuel Corona, Noah Jenkins, Titus Macklin, Jade Mireles, Lainey Reynolds, Jayde Royle, Lilia Sanchez, Isaia Sierra, Alexander Villalpando, Kaeden Willeby, Jayden Wright,

A/B Honor Roll

Vivan Bray, Caleb Budro, Jose Calderon Cardenas, Jady Duncan, Shamore Franklin, Jax Glarborg, Israel Gonzalez, Alexis Hampton, Malik Hatten, Ryan Hawley, Emily Head, Marco Hernandez, Shyann Holestine, Isabelle Inocencio, Luis Jaime Reyes, Brandon Johnson, Anthony Juarez, Landen King, Melanie Lule Camargo, Jafet Maldonado Vazquez, Connor Mason, Zachary McAlister, Maria Mora Hernandez, Acxel Nino Monsivaiz, Madden Ramirez, Kayden Renfroe, Ariel Robinson, Markiest Ruthford, Chevy Sisson, Anna Thomas, Walter Thomas, Ty Trout, Kamila Turner, Connor White, Kaylee Wortham

11th Grade
A Honor Roll

Coby Bellenger, Emmie Benson, Kylie Faye, Lesly Hernandez, Nobellee Humphrey, Olivia Miller, Grace Mooney, Thalia Renfroe, Destin Sheridan, Jariah Strickland, Paytin Thompson, Caidence Ware, Couri Willeby, Kendal Yount

A/B Honor Roll

Leila Allen, Caleb Balcorta, Heaven-Leigh Cannon, Abigail Carney, Lia Castaneda, Dillon Davidson, Ty'azia Fagans, Aidan Fossan, Zoe Fossan, Emilso Gomez Ramos, Jada Gordon, Landon Hogue, Bryannah Jackson, Damarion Johnson, Aryana Jones, Kera Kinsey, Kailey Kistler, Mason Knoll, Khera Lincoln, Silver Little, Audryana Lorenzo, Olivia Mashburn, Haylee McMillan, Amaron Minter, Barrett Owens, Katelyn Pugliese, Gabriela Rojas, Anthony Sanchez, Ka'Vyrrion Sheppard, Carlee Townsend, Giovanni Vite,

12th Grade
A Honor Roll

Luke Brown, Karyme Gomez, Garrett Kegarise, Shayla Lara, Kevin Mireles, Eli Montanez, Aleigha McGuyer, Edwin Nino Eufrazio, Christian Rojas, Esmeralda Rojas, Gavin Sumner, Adam Warner, Ella Williams, Carson Wood,

A/B Honor Roll

Breiana Johnson, Brodie Keene, Caydence Martin, Kyera Orange, Matthew Perales, Mickal Renfore, King Rodriguez, Akeelah Stevens, John Watson,



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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Code enforcement trio keeps tabs on vacant buildings

It's been two years since the City of Gladewater turned a critical eye on vacant buildings and a little more than a year-and-a-half since council members

adopted new controls. City Hall's Code Enforcement team says the rules are working, with a few snags, and progress is being made. No new 'teeth' are needed

in the ordinance, Chris Miller says: "I think it's good as it is. With adding another code enforcement officer, it's going to allow everybody more time to focus on more

parts of our jobs." Working under Gladewater Building official Wes Moyers, Miller and new Code Enforcement Officer Keith Bledsoe are keeping track of the properties that have been added to the vacant building registry – and those that haven't.

exceptions to the vacant building code." After culling the list, there are currently eight registered buildings on the roster.

Brandy Flanagan-Shipp noted. "Hopefully we can keep our buildings from wearing down and looking horrible around here."

Lake Store operator targets water park installation soon

Continued from Page 1 restroom facilities alongside other projects. "I think that by doing that we could really turn the lake into what it needs to be."

Shipp agreed, albeit on a limited basis: "I wouldn't want our citizens to be charged but I'm all for it if they're not citizens."

get in there, and we can take a product that's struggling, and in a short time get it to where people want to see and come in."

Initially, we sent out notifications for registrations last year including a copy of the code," he told council members last week.

Notably, "One was not listed for sale or lease, and we ended up taking it to court," Miller reported. "The owner failed to appear, so we got a warrant and fines issue on that. They will continue to do so until they get registered."

There are good signs, Miller added. "There have been more that have come up for sale and some of those business owners that have put a lot of money in, especially downtown, are looking to purchase those or lease them to continue growing more business."

He asked the council to consider charging an entry fee for the overall lake park once enhancements are in place.

Lifeguards will be on duty when the inflatable water park is open, Watson noted. During summer, it will likely close at 7 pm for cleaning.

After wrangling some details, council members approved the creation of an updated lease for the water park along with installation plans for final approval by Gladewater City Manager Charlie Smith.

Out of an early pool of 50 borderline buildings, "Several properties were deemed to not actually be vacant but to be warehouses for businesses. So, those were taken off the list."

The city sent out another batch of notifications in Spring 2026, and re-registration notices have also been posted.

The city's loathe to do hard enforcement, the mayor said, but sometimes it's necessary.

"It's something the council has discussed for years," Mayor Brandy Flanagan-

"The patrons will determine how many lifeguards need to be on duty," he said. "We can

"Most of the rest of them listed their properties to be for sale or lease or they began renovations on it, which are

"We do want the ones that are doing the warehouse intakes to make sure their building are all up to code," Mayor

"We are very pro-business here in Gladewater, but we want you coming in and doing business the right way here in Gladewater. We want to be good business neighbors just like we want to be good neighbors in our community."

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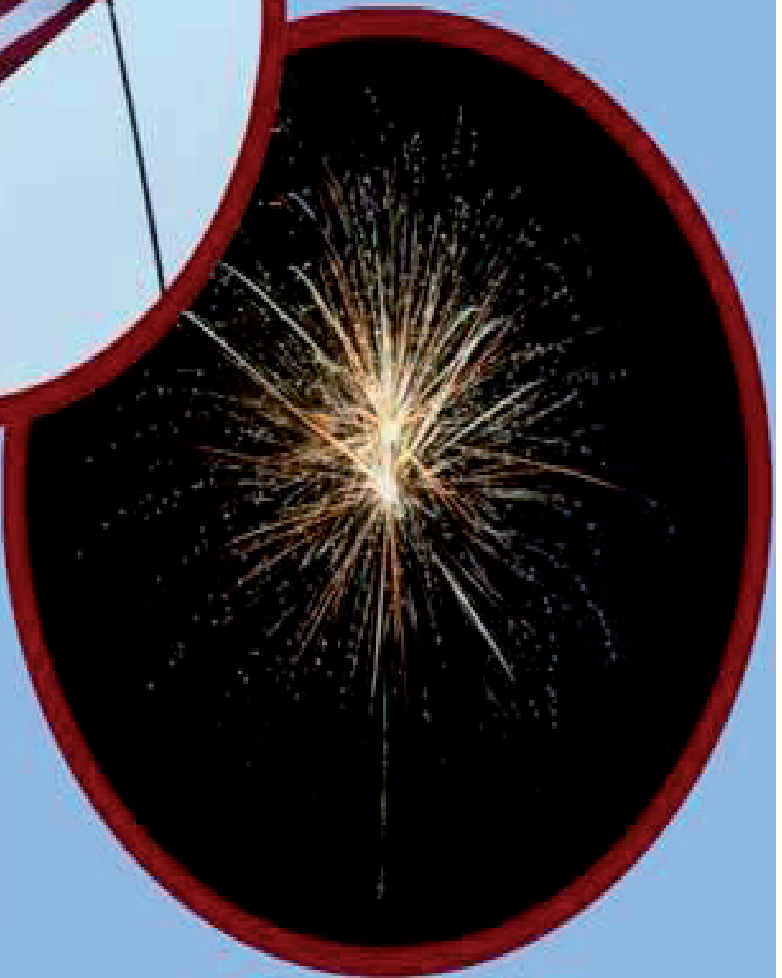
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DJ RANDY

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7:00 P.M. BEST DRESSED CONTEST
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8:00 P.M. BOAT PARADE
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