

APRIL 1, 2026

# The News

Guymon Chamber of Commerce Newsletter



*You're invited to a*



# MEMBER LUNCH

*Monday, April 6, 2026  
12-1*

*Vallarta's*

*Program will introduce the 2026 Pioneer Days Queen & Marshal*

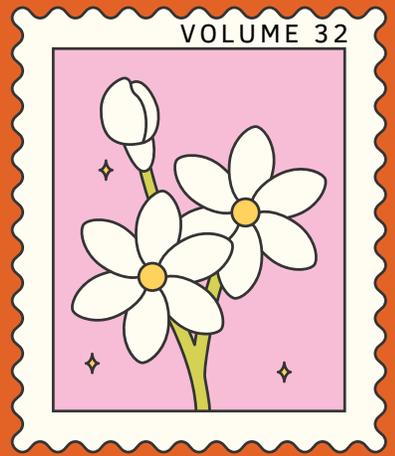


We look forward to seeing you!



Mexican Grill & Bar

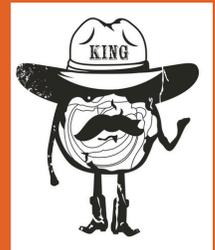
VOLUME 32



The Chamber is proud to partner with:



Main Street  
**Guymon**



Beaver County Chamber of Commerce



POWER UP  OKLAHOMA



**"If you settle, you surrender." Coach Patty Gasso**



To our 2026 partners:

- Artist Incubation
- Firsttitle
- Gigot
- Victory Memorial Methodist Church
- Hains Law Office
- Sims Electric
- Charles White
- Fronk Oil
- Naifeh's
- Panhandle Marketing
- Northridge Shopping Center
- Hinkley Solutions
- Pipeline Maintenance/Western Lawn
- Results Realty
- Bunch Roberts
- Edward Jones-Hawkins
- Tortilleria Velasquez
- Golden Mesa Casino
- Edward Jones-Egger
- Guymon Community Theater

# CHAMBERCARE

Affordable Health Benefit Coverage for Small Businesses

**Give us a call to learn more!**



## 45 Degrees North: Parade Protocols by Donna Kallner, The Daily Yonder

Small-town parade organizers don't get nearly enough credit for the miracles they work. It helps to have the skills of a drill sergeant or a kindergarten teacher when you're the one responsible for making sure that fire trucks are staged where they won't be stuck in traffic if they get a call, that marching bands are far enough apart to be heard one at a time, or that no one brings a float so long that it can't make a sharp turn without scattering people who thought that was a good place to park their lawn chairs.

It may look effortless. It's not.

We can help them by remembering a few points of parade protocol.

**Be Prepared to Walk.** You might have a bit of a hike from where you can park to where you want to watch the parade or find a place to potty. So put a little thought into portability, wear comfortable shoes and a hat, and potty before you get ready to settle in.

**Respect private property.** Folks who live along the route may have family and friends who join them to watch from there. They'll be setting out chairs early while they're in and out, putting things in the oven and fridge. So if the chairs are empty but the front door is open, maybe move a bit further down the block to another address where the folks are gone or inside waiting for the hubbub to be over.

**Driveways, mailboxes, fire hydrants.** Rural mail carriers generally know to work around a parade schedule. But occupants, caregivers, and others may need access to a driveway or mailbox right up to the time the parade starts. Be prepared to shift as needed. And if your rural town is lucky enough to have fire hydrants, be prepared to skedaddle your party and all your stuff if the fire department needs access.

**Respect your elders.** In small towns, we expect everyone to treat the old folks with extra consideration at parades. So if they've set up lawn chairs on the sidewalk, don't block their view by standing in front of them. You can ask if you can sit on the curb without being in their way. If that's okay, don't obstruct their view by holding up a cell phone while shooting an epic-length video. Keep your language and behavior appropriate, and you might just get a standing invitation to watch the parade from there every year.

**Kid concerns.** The general protocol at parades is to let small children in front so they can see, and having parents stay within reach, paying attention to their offspring. Because no matter how well you try to prepare little ones for the parade environment, kids can be unpredictable. And if you put headphones on them to protect their hearing from sirens, rumbling engines, and other loud noises, they may not hear parental reminders about behavior expectations. Remember watching parades perched on a parent's shoulders? It's a time-honored tradition that addresses both visibility and containment. If kids outnumber grown-ups in your party, you'll need a zone defense strategy, particularly if the parade schedule intersects with nap time.

**Candy concerns.** Many parades no longer allow participants to throw candy, or advise them to toss candy to the ground (so it doesn't hit heads and eyes) as far to the edge of the roadway as possible. It's pretty scary to be driving a fire truck or other big vehicle and have kids darting out to get candy thrown from the parade entry ahead of you.

**Pets.** It's always fun to see dressed-up dogs walking their humans in a parade. It's not so much fun to be watching a parade next to a barking dog, or to see an unleashed animal dart into parade traffic. Unless

you can keep them calm and under control, it's probably best to leave pets at home. If you do take your pet, be sure to clean up after it. Actually, the same goes for kids and poorly trained adults. Take your trash with you when the parade is over.

**Knuckleheads.** For whatever reason (youthful exuberance, lifelong practice at misbehaving, alcohol or other impairments), when some people get around a crowd, they turn into knuckleheads. If it's just annoying and might wear itself out or be redirected, striking up an inclusive conversation might be more effective than even a friendly request to tone it down.

But if it feels like a problem might escalate, at a small-town parade, you're probably surrounded by people with insights into creative ways to de-escalate the situation. Even knuckleheads generally have someone they don't want to disappoint. If they're not knuckleheads, the parade organizer probably has a plan for managing minor disturbances. If she's not in your cell phone contacts, someone nearby will have her number.

**Flag etiquette.** Sometimes, even fine upstanding citizens are so distracted they don't notice that it's time to pipe down, stand up, and show respect for our country's flag. So set an example by directing their attention, removing your hat, and placing your right hand over your heart (military members would salute). It isn't necessary to do so for every small flag fluttering from a float. But observe flag etiquette whenever an honor guard passes or the national anthem is playing.

**Pitch in.** One of the great things about rural communities is how people pitch in to help during an event. You can be the person who brings extra bottles of water to share and a trash bag to collect and remove what should not be left behind, without being asked. You might also be the volunteer who offers to stage at a specific location to answer questions or address concerns that arise. For example, if hazardous weather conditions emerge it takes a village to convey information about where to seek shelter. Because on a holiday weekend with lots of out-of-town visitors in for the festivities, cell tower capacity can be maxed out. Talk to the parade organizer ahead of time to offer your help as a spotter or information conduit.

**If you can...** When your kids or grandkids are small, it's important to make memories with them. But when you reach a point in your life where you can, offer to help in other ways. Every parade needs people to secure permits, plan for crowd control (especially at intersections and choke points), set up safety barriers and route markings, work with law enforcement on traffic management before and after the parade, help stage the lineup at the start, assist participants, and handle emergencies. Volunteers who organize parades can burn out or age out. For these traditions to continue, it's important to have new volunteers learning the ropes. Interested in helping but want to know more? The National Association of Counties has a helpful guide about parade safety.

The practice you get helping with something like a parade comes in handy when someone needs to coordinate some other event, like sending off a high school athletic team to tournament competition or an elderly veteran en route to a Never Forgotten Honor Flight experience.

It takes volunteers to keep beloved traditions alive in our rural communities, including parades. Too often, it's a skeleton crew of people who get things done. But we can all help in small ways.

## Business of the Month Edward Jones-Mitch Egger

Edward Jones was established in 1922 by Edward D. Jones Sr. in St. Louis, MS. Edward Jones expanded to 300 offices in 1980 and within five years the 1000th Edward Jones office was opened. The firm continues to grow every day now, having over 20,000 thousand financial advisors, Mitch Egger, being one of them.

Mitch started his career with Edward Jones in 2016 after working in the oil field for many years. The current advisor at the time, Terry Dicke, retired and Mitch received more than just a new workspace. He gained a talented and important team member, Linda Gilmore. Linda brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the company. She has been with the firm for 38 years this March and is now a Registered Associate. In the years that followed, Mitch worked hard to grow his business significantly. Together, they focused on providing excellent service to their clients, which helped develop lasting relationships. In March of 2020, Mary Kate Mason joined the team and has been with the firm for 6 years this March.

Mitch's office has qualified for the Momentum Conference for the last three years. This conference is for the top 400 advisors within the firm. Together we strive to ensure clients receive the best service possible, while creating a sense of family where everyone feels welcome. Mitch not only values his relationships with his clients, but also the importance of engaging with the local community, supporting events and initiatives that bring people together. This combination of committed staff, loyal customers, and community backing played a key role in the success and growth of his business.

Our office is excited to be at our new location, 118 NW 4th Street!



**Edward Jones**<sup>®</sup>

## **Business of the Month**

### **Edward Jones-Kyle Hawkins**

The Edward Jones office at 1301 N Main in Guymon is built on relationships, trust, and a shared commitment to the community we serve. Our team-Kyle, Mari, and Charlene have each spent most of their lives in Guymon, giving them a personal stake in the long-term success of the area. Since 2014, the team has grown into a practice centered on thoughtful financial planning and wealth management. As a full-service brokerage firm, Edward Jones offers a wide range of services, but our office focuses on helping individuals, families, and business owners make informed decisions to stay on track through all seasons of life.

Financial literacy is a core tenet for the team. We believe people deserve clarity when it comes to their finances, not confusion. That's why we've partnered with a local institution to bring financial literacy into schools across our area. At the end of the day, we are committed to living out our purpose: Simplifying Choices. Empowering Growth. Together. That's what we strive to deliver every day for our clients and for the community we are proud to call home.

Office Information:

1301 N Main Street  
Guymon, OK 73942  
580-338-8450

Mon–Thurs: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Fri: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM



**Edward Jones**<sup>®</sup>

## Long & McKinnon Bid Farewell

Sometime around 1915, Homer W. Long began working in the insurance industry and began 110+ years of family service to insurance customers. Homer and partner Bill Ewing originally worked from an office in the old First National Bank Building which is now occupied by the City of Guymon. This agency later morphed into Long's Agency, Inc which became Long & McKinnon, Inc in 1982. This old office was a long stone's throw away from the final location of Long & McKinnon.

Homer Long had one son, David, who joined the agency in 1947 after serving in World War II in the Marine Corps. Homer's son-in-law, Carl McKinnon, married the youngest Long daughter, Lou, and subsequently began working in the agency in 1948. Carl had also served in the war as a B-24 pilot in the Army Air Corps (now the Air Force), where he completed 23 missions in the European campaign.

David and his wife, Mary, raised four children- Pat, Steve, Lisa and Homer Philip Long. Carl and Lou reared three sons-Roger, Doug, and Warner. Roger joined the firm in 1972, and Warner in 1979.

The agency and its owners have been active in the community for the firm's history. Homer Long served on the school board from the late 1920's into the early 1950's. Homer Long Elementary School was named in his honor. Carl McKinnon became well known as the "voice" of the Guymon Tigers as the public address announcer at home football games for 50 years. The field now carries the name Carl and Lou McKinnon Field. Many people carry memories of football scores of several Texas schools including Chilicothe, Nacadoches, and Waxahachie (fictional scores, of course).

David Long sold his interest in the company to the McKinnons in 2005. Roger and Warner McKinnon have continued operation until 2026. Carl passed away in 2003, and David passed in 2014..Time marched on, and the "boys" decided it was time to sell. Effective January 1, 2026, the torch was passed to the Garrison family and Garrison Agency, Inc. The new ownership has operated their agency in Guymon since 1960.

The "McKinnon boys" wish to extend our appreciation to our friends and family for their business and support over the many years.

Thanks,  
Warner & Roger



# Things a Chamber Director ought to know...



- Can you verify a business for me?
- Who do I contact for Babe Ruth Baseball?
- How do I purchase rodeo tickets?
- Do you have Box Seats ready for the Rodeo?
- Can you tell me about food pantries in the area?
- How do I get in touch with Kottke Auction?
- How many tables and chairs are at the event center?
- Are the Fair Grounds open for overnight stays?
- How do I register for the Mercantile?
- Do you offer rent assistance?



Give us a call!! We are here to help!! 580-338-3376

**Volunteers  
needed**

Some of these are not events, just suggestions. And, we are always looking for more ideas!!

**Looking for a way to get involved with the Chamber??**

**Join a committee to help provide great events for our community!!**

**Pioneer Days-Parade, Rodeo, Mercantile, etc.**

**Golf Tournament  
4th of July Event  
Leadership Guymon  
Chamber Banquet  
Halloween Palooza  
Home for the Holidays  
Christmas Parade??**



**Volunteers  
needed**

**Love the newsletter, but don't need the paper? Text, call, or email to get it only in your inbox!!**

# Upcoming Events

- April 6-Chamber Lunch, Parade Royalty, Vallarta's
- April 13-18-Citywide Spring Cleanup
- April 15-Grant Workshop
- April 16-PTCI Annual Meeting
- April 21-MSG Tools for your Business
- April 23-PTCI AI Workshops
- April 27-May 3-Pioneer Days
- April 28-PTCI Brats & Broadband
- May 1-Rotary BBQ
- May 2-Pioneer Day Parade
- May 2-3-Pioneer Day Mercantile

# 2026 Chamber Events

- Pioneer Days-April 26 thru May 3
- Fourth of July-July 4
- Leadership Guymon
- Golf Tournament-September 12
- Chamber Banquet-October 8
- Halloween Palooza-October 31
- Home for the Holidays Light Festival-December 1-31



Join us for Community Clean-Up and make a difference in your community!

## COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Let's come together to keep our streets and parks beautiful and litter-free.  
**APRIL 18TH, 2026**  
**SPRING CLEANING FOR ALL RESIDENTS IN THE CITY OF GUYMON FOR FREE!**  
**(DON'T FORGET YOUR CURRENT UTILITY BILL)**

The Transfer Station will be open from 8 am to 4 pm, or until our roll-offs are full, on April 18th. They will be collecting the following at NO additional cost to you:

- Extra Trash
- Tree limbs/grass clippings
- 4 tires per household
- Metals

**CITY OF GUYMON HELPING HANDS**

Can't haul your trash to our Transfer Station yourself? City of Guymon Code Enforcement is now taking calls for pick up on April 18th for free! Please call 580-338-3396 to be put on the list before April 16th at 5 pm. (see trifold for more details on pick up)

**DOCUMENT SHREDDING**

City of Guymon will have document shredding bins at 3 Locations this year!

- City Hall (424 N Main St) from 04/13 to 04/17, open 8am to 5pm
- Guymon Public Library (1718 N Oklahoma) starting 04/13 to 04/18. Open M-T from 9:30 am to 7pm and Friday from 9:30 am to 5pm and Saturday from 9:30 am to 2pm.
- Guymon Fire Department (402 NE 24th St) 04/13 to 04/18 from 8am to 8pm.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Main Street Guymon is taking all volunteers and will be sending out different groups to different areas for clean up. To sign up, please call Ronni Wilson at 580-338-6246.

**E-WASTE**

The City of Guymon is pleased to announce free e-waste disposal services. We have hired NextGen ITAD to come down on Saturday, April 18, from 8 am to 4 pm. They will be set up at Fowler Park in the parking lot. (NW 17<sup>th</sup> and Ellison)

**VOLUNTEER LUNCH PROVIDED**  
**12:00PM-1:30 PM**  
**@ FOWLER PARK**  
**NW 17<sup>TH</sup> ST & ELLISON ST**




REGISTER HERE:



# GRANT TRAINING WORKSHOP

EVENT DETAILS  
**APRIL 15**  
 9AM - 4PM

**FARM CREDIT OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA**  
 2143 HWY 64N  
 GUYMON, OK

Join us for a FREE grant writing seminar, presented by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits and sponsored by Three Corners Connector and the Cherokee Strip Community Foundation

- Understand grant strategy.
- Strengthen prospecting skills: identify funders and opportunities.
- Build relationships and strong applications.
- Understand reporting requirements.
- Explore grant tools.

LUNCH PROVIDED

REGISTER AT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.OKCNP.ORG/CALENDAR/OKCNP-GUYMON-GRANTWRITING-SEMINAR/REGISTER](https://www.okcnp.org/calendar/okcnp-guymon-grantwriting-seminar/register)



Adam Soltani  
 Chief Programs Officer  
 Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits



All of these events & more can be found on the Event Calendar at:  
[www.guymonokchamber.com](http://www.guymonokchamber.com).  
 And follow us on Facebook!



## Registration Form

Parade Registrants Name \_\_\_\_\_

Registrants Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organization Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your entry \_\_\_\_\_

Please place a  to indicate which category your entry will be in:

*Queens Award (Best Youth Group Float) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$250)*

*Marshal Award (Best Commercial Float) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$250)*

*Old Timers Award (Best Antique Vehicle) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$250)*

*Theme Award (Best Use of Theme) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$250)*

*Pioneer Award (Best Over All) \_\_\_\_\_ (This award is well rounded; horses, buggy, etc...)(\$400)*

(Rather registrants are applying to be apart of the parade judging or not, marking a theme will help with the parade line up)

**Registration Fee per registration: \$20 (Due @ the time of Registration)**

(Winners will receive a check for \$250, parade banner to display during the parade, announced on PTCI, advertisement during the parade & parade ribbon)

**All Parade Entries must follow the parade rules**

**Parade Line Up @ 9a.m. 05/02/25**

*Parade Coordinator Melinda McGlasson will contact each registrant about parade details & line up assignment.*

Forms & Funds may be turned in to the Guymon Chamber of Commerce Office

Forms may be emailed to [guycofc@gmail.com](mailto:guycofc@gmail.com)

Funds may be mailed to: Guymon Chamber of Commerce



122 NW 4th  
Guymon, OK 73942



Checks To: Guymon Chamber of Commerce

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Online \_\_\_\_\_