

Upcoming Mineola ISD budget to be impacted by new campus

By PHIL MAJOR
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Mineola school trustees took a detailed look at preliminary figures for the 2024-25 school district budget Thursday, June 6, and a list of challenges that budget presents.

Topping the list is the opening of a new school, which will mean additional insurance, utility costs and added personnel.

The Primary School on NE Loop 564 will welcome its first students in August.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance Keith Sparkman estimated an additional \$13,000 for water and sewer, \$65,000 for electricity, \$8,000 for natural gas and \$3,000 for phones and internet.

The campus will have its own officer from the Mineola ISD police department, although that new position will be funded with a state safe-

ty grant for two years.

The campus will also need additional custodial and food service help.

Sparkman noted that the former elementary school campus will be offline for a year, as it transitions to a high school Career and Technical Education center, but will eventually be back in the budget.

The new campus will also require some additional maintenance supplies.

Other budget challenges listed by Sparkman include the expiration of federal COVID relief dollars, continued phase-in of new buses for the fleet (the district needs five but may have to stretch those out over 2-3 years), and continued expenses to repair and upgrade air conditioning systems and plumbing.

The HVAC repairs are unpredictable, he explained, and the budget is being increased from

\$45,000 to \$100,000, although those expenses have reached \$130,000 this year.

The district was able to use part of those federal funds to replace some HVAC units.

The district is in the midst of a three-year plan to make expensive plumbing upgrades at the high school, which is more than 50 years old.

The preliminary budget shows a 1.87% increase to \$21,165,000 without any adjustment to salaries.

The school board will continue to study budget matters until the Wood County Appraisal District certifies property values by July 25, which will give the district solid property tax revenue numbers.

Among the topics discussed was the reimbursement cost for student meals, which has been at \$5 for many



Once the fields dried out, the girls 6U (T-ball) and 8U (coach pitch) district tournaments were held last week at the Mineola Youth Foundation complex. Kambrie Hughes makes a play on a ground ball for the Alba Crew. See Page 10A for more photos. (Monitor photo by John Arbter)

Garden camp gets youth back to nature

By BRYNNA WILLIAMSON
news@wood.cm

Elizabeth Dry is all about nature. From working in gardens, to cooking with all-natural, local products, to sharing her love of all things natural with others, she makes the outdoors her priority.

"I was a principal and teacher in Dallas," she said. "And what I saw were huge disconnects...so I decided to create common ground for everyone to come together."

So, Dry says, she created a sort of neighborhood garden. By implementing this and other plant-based regimens in her school, Dry said she saw grades and testing



Elizabeth Dry assists a camper at the Promise of Peace Gardens at the Mineola Nature Preserve. (Monitor photo by Brynna Williamson)



Congressman Lance Gooden greets constituents at last Thursday's town hall at the Mineola Civic Center. (Monitor photo by Phil Major)

Gooden shares thoughts on presidential election

By PHIL MAJOR
publisher@wood.cm

Despite a range of topics addressed by his constituents, Congressman Lance Gooden kept returning to one central solution – elect Donald Trump president in November.

Gooden spoke in Mineola last Thursday morning as part of a series of five town halls in the Fifth District. It attracted a full Dogwood Room at the Mineola Civic Center for the hour-long event.

Following introductory remarks, Gooden fielded 5-6 audience questions.

He is in his third term in the U.S House and has a Democratic opponent in the November general election, Ruth Torres.

Republicans in Con-

gress are focused on oversight of the current Democratic administration, he said, and this being an election year, not much else will get done legislatively. Representatives will leave Washington in October to campaign.

In some instances they plan to campaign outside their districts.

Gooden said that while he is taking his Democratic opponent seriously, he is also focused on helping in swing districts.

He listed four key election issues: border security, crime, gasoline prices and inflation.

All were under control under Trump's administration, Gooden noted.

After being told by President Biden and administration officials for years that the border is secure, Biden suddenly

authored an executive order last week to help secure the border.

Gooden explained it is a sign that Democrats know this issue will cost their party in November.

The biggest prize in the presidential election will be Pennsylvania, Gooden said, and he will be spending some time there.

He thinks Republicans can keep control of the House of Representatives and might be able to gain the Senate and the White House.

He doesn't think there is a way for Democrats to win all three.

The election will be determined in 5-6 states and won't be determined in Texas.

"You will never experience what a voter in

Tax abatements OK'd for duplexes

By PHIL MAJOR
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Tax abatements are in place for planned duplexes in Quitman.

The Quitman City Council approved the abatement for Douglas Home Construction in a special meeting last Wednesday, June 5.

County commissioners followed suit on Tuesday.

Commissioners had reviewed the tax abatement request two weeks ago but postponed approval pending changes to the amount invested by owner J.R. Douglas and the time frame, extending from 30 to 42 months.

The five duplexes are to be constructed on Cedar Dr. on the north side

of Quitman.

Douglas sought a 100% abatement of property tax of up to \$50,000 for 10 years.

Commissioners also gave the first approval to a pair of recreational vehicle parks under new county guidelines.

Approved were the Big Oaks RV Park planned on Hwy. 154 for 13 spaces and the Lake Fork Creek RV Park on State Hwy. 37 for 10 spaces.

The public hearing for Lake Fork Creek drew a crowd of interested spectators.

Roger Mayfield questioned whether the park abuts his property and whether any shooting will take place.

Owner Jake Woods said there will be no hunting, adding that he

wants visitors to enjoy the wildlife.

Among the new county requirements for RV parks are for the property to be platted and for a registered sanitarian to approve sewage plans and inspect construction.

Several personnel recommendations were reviewed by commissioners.

Four hires were acknowledged for the sheriff's department, including two jailers, a dispatcher and a new chief deputy.

Chief Deputy Robert Holland is the constable-elect in Precinct One, facing no opposition in the general election.

Christopher Turner has been hired as the new chief deputy.



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Jones is new Cinderella state winner

Laurel Jones of Lewisville won the Texas State Cinderella Woman title Saturday, June 8 in College Station.

Her parents are Heather and Bobby Jones of Lewisville. Heather is a 1992 graduate of Mineola High School. Her grandparents are Joyce and Sam Curry of Mineola.

Laurel has been competing in Cinderella pageants since the age of four and has won many honors, including the Texas State Cinderella title of Miss, which is for 10-12 year olds.

Beside the Over-all Woman title, Laurel won 18 and up Cameo; Talent of the Year; Model of the Year, Calendar Girl and Top 5 Cover Girl.

Laurel graduated summa cum laude in three years from Texas Women's University in Denton with a major in psychology and a minor in child development.

She will be entering TWU's School of Psychology doctoral program in the fall hoping to have her own practice



Laurel Jones, Mineola native, was recently awarded Texas State Cinderella Woman. (Courtesy photo)

working with children and teens upon graduating.

During her three years at TWU she was the first selected for TWU's new stunt team and served as captain for two years. She served as president of the chancellor's student athlete advisory committee and marketing officer of the honors college.

She was also a part of the student leaders council and a Pioneer service scholar. She will be assistant coach of the stunt team in the fall while traveling Texas for

Cinderella. Laurel advances to the Cinderella International pageant in Dallas in July.

The International Cinderella Scholarship pageant was founded in 1976 and is considered to be the largest and most prestigious youth development pageant for girls and young women ages 0-29. It has awarded millions of dollars to young women around the world. The Pilot Club of Mineola was the first in this area to bring the pageant system to Mineola in 1977.

Car show to benefit Mineola civic groups

Mineola Sizzling Summer Car Show sponsored by the Mineola Kiwanis, Rotary and Pilot clubs will be Saturday, July 27 at the Mineola Meredith Memorial football field parking lot on W. Loop 564. Registration is from 8-10:30 a.m.

Entry fee is \$25 for each vehicle entered in the 22 classes and will be a crowd-voted show. Categories included are: American Muscle 1966 & Older

American Muscle 1967-1979
Classic 1955 & Older
Classic 1956 to 1967
Classic 1968 to 1979
Car 1980 to 1995
Car 1996 to 2010
Car 2011 to 2024
Import JDM/KDM
Import Euro
Corvette
Rat Rod
Hot Rod/Street Rod 1950
Motorcycle
Volkswagen
Jeep
Truck 1959 & Older

Truck 1960 to 1980
Truck 1981 to 2000
Truck 2001 to 2024
Jr. Class (Free Kids Class)
Convertible

Kirk and Jennifer Henson will be producing the show and donating their time in helping the service clubs. Monies raised will go to the Mineola Kiwanis Back to School Supply program, Mineola Rotary scholarships and Mineola Pilot brain-related projects.

City advises to follow rules for limbs

Severe storms in the area have resulted in numerous residents with large amounts of limbs needing disposal.

While the city of Mineola does pick up and shred or haul off limbs, there are rules in place concerning limb disposal.

The city has asked residents to review and follow these guidelines:

Do not place brush, limbs and leaves in the street. Instead, pile them separately behind the curb or on the edge of your yard.

Ensure your piles do not obstruct traffic or block the flow of water.

Do not place debris on utility meter boxes.

Failure to comply can result in flooding that damages homes and

properties.

Citations and fines up to \$2,000 can be issued for violations.

"Your cooperation is crucial in preventing further flooding and keeping our city safe."

For more details, refer to the ordinance Sec. 34-21 Brush Limb and Leaf Collection. It can be found at Mineola.com.

Postal holidays could impact newspaper delivery

The Monitor's postal delivery schedules for subscribers may be disrupted twice in the coming weeks due to mid-week postal holidays.

The Juneteenth national holiday next week falls on Wednesday, which is the day that newspapers are normally delivered to post offices – which

will be closed.

As a result the June 20 edition of the paper may not be delivered until Friday, June 21.

Papers will be delivered to news vendors on Wednesday as usual.

The Fourth of July falls on Thursday, which is the day that readers in Wood County normally

receive their papers in the mail.

Again they should not be expected until Friday's mail, and the locations that carry the paper will have them available by Wednesday afternoon.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yodeling Cowgirl coming to Quitman library

Devon Dawson is an American singer-songwriter from Fort Worth primarily known for performing in the Western Swing music genre.

She will appear Wednesday, June 19 at the Quitman Public Library's summer reading program at 1 p.m.

In 1999, Dawson was performing at an Oklahoma music festival when her impromptu yodeling caught the attention of Riders In The Sky, who immediately thought she was the ideal vocalist to portray the cowgirl ragdoll character Jessie on their upcoming Woody's Roundup album. Shortly after the release of Woody's Roundup: A Rootin' Tootin' Collection of Woody's Favorite

Songs, Dawson began making public appearances in-character as Jessie The Yodeling Cowgirl

She has been recognized by the Academy of Western Artists as the Female Performer of the Year 2009. She's noted for her vintage sock-rhythm guitar style, and warm 'swing time cowgirl' vocals, which bring to mind legendary B-western ladies of the silver screen. She has performed in and out of that character coast-to-coast, and across the American West, including at the renowned Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville and at Pixar Studios in Emeryville, Calif. She has appeared onstage at the Bass Hall with Riders In the



DEVON DAWSON

Sky and Michael Martin Murphey and has performed several dances with the legendary western swing group The Texas Playboys. She is also frequently seen on Encore's The Westerns Channel, and RFD-TV.

Quitman Library Connections

BY LIBRARIAN DELENE ALLEN

Summer Reading Rodeo 2024 is in full swing during June. The program is designed for ages pre-K through 10. There will be special events each Wednesday in June from 1-2 p.m. Stop by the front desk and pick up your reading game card and an event schedule. On June 19, we welcome Miss Devon Dawson as "Jessie, the Yodeling Cowgirl," known for being the singing voice of the Toy Story 2 character on the Grammy-winning children's album "Woody's Roundup featuring Riders in the Sky." Dress up in your best western duds.

Lots of summer activities are happening at the library. Here are some clubs that meet regularly at the library: QPL Knitting and Crochet Group meets each Thursday, 2-4 p.m. Students of all ages and skill levels may bring their own supplies

and patterns to trade. The Wood County Metal Detector Club, led by Jerry Tinney, meets on 1st Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Whyte Dove Writers' Club, a distinctive group of local published authors, meets monthly on second Tuesdays from 6-8:30 p.m. The Wood County TX Genealogical Society meets each 3rd Monday at 5 p.m. in the community room. Call the library to learn more, 903-763-4191.

Looking for a place to hold your next meeting or event? The library offers a spacious community room with the latest technological needs as well as a kitchenette. For lease information, contact the front desk at 903-763-4191.

Notary service is generally available at the library during regular business hours,



but to guarantee an appointment, call 903-763-2665. Notary fee is \$10 per document.

Visit the library's online catalog at <http://quitman.biblionix.com/catalog> to see our collection of the latest books, audiobooks, and DVDs. Patrons may also connect to our library's vast collection of eBooks, audio books and streaming videos by downloading the Libby® and SimplyE® apps. Patron cards are for Wood County residents with photo identification. A guardian must sign for children ages 5-17. Check out the library's online TexShare® database at www.quitmanlibrary.org that is filled with invaluable research tools, homework help and reference resources. Keep current at www.facebook.com/quitmanpubliclibrary.

Wood County MONITOR

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WOOD COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings alternated on a weekly basis

ALBA CITY COUNCIL - first Monday, 6:30 p.m., City Hall.
ALBA LADIES CLUB - fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Alba Community Center. 765-2956
ALBA LIBRARY/MUSEUM BOARD – third Monday every other month, 4 p.m., library building. Everyone welcome.
ALBA-GOLDEN SCHOOL BOARD - second Monday, 7 p.m., high school library, 768-2472.
ALBA-GOLDEN YOUTH FOUNDATION - second Tuesday, elementary gym, 7 p.m. All welcome.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Mineola-United Methodist Church (enter in-between buildings off McDonald, first door on right) Noon meetings - Monday is women's meeting, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday men and women. Evening meetings - Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday 7 p.m., men and women; Senior Center, 308 University, (corner of University and McDonald), Evening meetings, Sunday, Monday 7 p.m., Friday, 8 p.m.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Wednesday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., 406 E. Lane Street, Quitman.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – Gateway Group, Tues. & Sat. 7 p.m., Wed. noon, Methodist Church, 319 N. Pacific. Mona B. 903-569-6670.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – Hawkins Love and Miracles Group, UMC Wesley House, Pine St., Wed., 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m., speaker meeting each last Wednesday.
AL-ANON MINEOLA - Senior Center, 308 University, Thursday, 7:30 p.m., in-person or Zoom (ID 505-537-4690 PW 201220).
AL-ATEEN MINEOLA - Senior Center, 308 University, Thurs. 7:30 p.m., age 13-18, Questions-mineolaalateen@outlook.com.
AMERICAN LEGION POST 296 and Auxiliary - fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., Highway 80, three miles east of Mineola. 903-569-6481. All are invited.
AMERICAN LEGION POST OF WINNSBORO - first Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., 201 West Broadway, in Winnsboro, 214-502-4496.
APET (Animal Preservation of East Texas) Thrift Store - Dog Gone Good Stuff, 915 S. Pacific Street, Mineola, Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 903-569-1250
AUTUMN TRAILS MODEL A CLUB – second Sunday, 1 p.m., various locations in Wood County. See <https://autumntrailsmodeiafordclub.com> for latest info.
BOY SCOUT TROOP 385 Mineola - Tuesdays 7 p.m., Mineola Methodist Education Bldg. third floor. New boys/ alums welcome! Chris Jennings 903-569-3531
BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY - Humble Baptist, first & third Tuesday 1-4 p.m.
CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a support group for those with various hurts, habits or hang-ups, every Monday,

6:30-9 p.m., Church on the Rock annex building at 302 S. Stephens. 903-497-6149
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, Elizabeth Denton English chapter - first Saturday except June-August and December, 11 a.m. Harvest Acres Baptist Church, 1062 W Loop 564, Mineola. 409-466-8321, DAR.Regent.EDE@gmail.com
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, John Hogg, Sr. Chapter, 3rd Monday except June, July, August & December, 1 PM. Holly Hall, Holly Lake Ranch. 903-520-8697
EASTERN STAR - Quitman Chapter 695, 3rd Tues., dinner 6:00 p.m., meeting 7:00. Flora Masonic Lodge in Quitman. EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK - third Wednesday, Bud Moody Stadium, Quitman; fourth Thursday, Meredith Stadium, Mineola, 10 a.m.-noon, free fresh food, no qualification.
EAST TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - first Friday at 10 a.m. at Quitman Public Library
FANNIE MARCHMAN GARDEN CLUB - third Wednesday, September - May, Mineola Civic Center, 10 a.m. Visitors welcome. Kim Hughes, president, 903-312-2455.
FLORA MASONIC LODGE #119 - first Tuesday at the lodge hall, Highway 37, Quitman. Covered dish - 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m. Study nights for members each Thursday, 7 p.m. at the hall.
FOREVER YOUNG ACTIVITIES CENTER - Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fitness exercises, educational programs, entertainment, fellowship, Bingo and card games. 903-763-8201
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - second Tuesday at noon, Quitman.
FRIENDS OF THE MINEOLA MEMORIAL LIBRARY - first Thursday, 1 p.m., Mineola Library, 569-2767.
GED TEST SUPPORT - each Thursday 4 - 6 p.m. concurrent with QISD calendar. Quitman Public Library, 202 E Goode St, Quitman 903-975-5745
GIRLS SCOUTS MINEOLA TROOP 3 - 2nd & 4th Monday, 5:30-7 p.m., Broad Street Church of Christ Annex, Mineola. All Wood County girls kindergarten-12th grade welcome. Crystal Arcand 903-705-2459

HAINESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. - second and fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., Firehouse downtown Hainesville.
HOLLY LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT - first and third Tuesday at the fire station at Holly Lake Ranch.
KIWANIS CLUB-Mineola - noon Tuesday, Mineola Civic Center Dogwood Room.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SAINT PETER'S THE APOSTLE COUNCIL #11933 - second Thursday, 7 p.m., at the church, 203 Meadowbrook Drive, Mineola. 903-569-3662.
LAKE COUNTRY CLASSIC CAR CLUB - third Monday, 6:30 p.m. 903-850-3858.
LAKE COUNTRY REPUBLICANS - fourth Tuesday, 6 p.m., Ancona Restaurant, Quitman.
LAKE COUNTRY RV TRAVELERS - of Good Sam Int'l. Monthly, RV parks w/in 150 m. radius. 903-569-3677 or 3069.
LAKE COUNTRY SYMPHONIC BAND - rehearsals Thursdays at Mineola Middle School Band Room. 7 p.m. 903-569-2300.
LAKE HOLBROOK ASSOCIATION - first Saturday, February, May, August and November, Harold Simmons Community Center, 5:30 p.m. directors, 6 p.m. all members and guests welcome. 903-569-0223.
LAKE FORK SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION - Second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Lovell's Restaurant, Lake Fork Marina. Public invited.
MINEOLA BAND BOOSTERS - first Tuesday, 6 p.m., middle school band hall. All middle and high school band parents invited.
MINEOLA LIONS CLUB – for information on meetings call 903-638-1596.
MINEOLA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE Det. #1278, 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. meeting. American Legion Building, 2015 E. Hwy. 80, Mineola, 903-497-3030.
MINEOLA SCHOOL BOARD - third Monday, Admin. Bldg., Loop 564, 7 p.m. dependent on schedule changes.
MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL - fourth Monday, 5:30 p.m., City Hall. Public welcome. Call City Hall for changes in November and December because of holidays.
MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB - third Monday, 5:30 p.m., high school lobby.

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Bait shop about family as much as fishing

By JOHN ARBTER
woodcystriinger@gmail.com

Standing at the south boat ramp at Lake Holbrook and looking east, a splash of blue stands out among the green covering the hill. In an example of excellent advertising placement, that blue break in the trees reads in big block letters, “LIVE BAIT.”

It is the side of Billy Boughton’s bait shop, Kai’s Custom Jigs. Like many signs in East Texas, there is a story behind it – in this case several.

When the Boughtons came to East Texas from Fort Worth in 2017, they were not looking to start a bait shop; they were concerned with hospice care for Billy. The elder Boughton was suffering from a dire liver condition which earned him a shortened life-expectancy prognosis.

They had relocated, as many folks do, to be nearer to family. They purchased a small home on that steep hill just south of the causeway over Lake Holbrook and began renovations.

The home offered easy lake access, views of the lake from the windows and a back porch.

As Billy’s wife, Mara, explained, “We are here because it makes Billy happy.”

That was likely an understatement. As Billy stated, “I grew up on Benbrook Lake (just southwest of Fort Worth) fishing the Rocky Creek Marina.” He also has logged considerable time fishing Joe Pool Lake (near Cedar Hill) and Lake Arlington. Fishing was a part of him.

After relocating to Lake Holbrook, a remarkable thing happened. Billy’s prognosis improved, dramatically. Although there were, and yet are, significant medical challenges, his body began to heal.

“It was a combination of things,” he recounted, “but big changes in my living habits – especially my diet – had a huge effect.” Also in that path to restoration were long walks around the shoreline of Lake Holbrook with Mara and the calming effect of fishing.

It wasn’t easy. An especially drastic bout of COVID set the recovery back a bit, but he weathered through.

Billy had gone from researching the possibility of a liver transplant to

entertaining other ideas about life, including opening a bait shop.

I had been driving to Alba to get my live bait,” he explained, “and thought, wouldn’t it be good to have bait available right here at the lake.”

The good will of others also played a role in that dream. In addition to the unfailing support of Mara, daughter Amaya and son Kai, others such as long-time bait shop proprietor Del Craig helped to make it a reality.

So it was that in 2021 ‘Kai’s Custom Jigs’ opened in the pole barn just below the house.

Mara had selected the color blue as the eye-catching flair that would attract fishermen to the shop from the lake below.

“No one wanted the blue, but it was what I selected,” she laughed. An impromptu meeting with a painter in town resulted in painting the shop that day.

Kai’s Custom Jigs was up and running.

That story is just one of many surrounding Billy and his family. Billy admitted that he seems to be a cat with nine lives, as he casually mentioned having been shot while serving as a Texas police officer.

After leaving law enforcement, Billy came to run his own ventilation cleaning company. A single parent raising three children, Billy met Mara in 2006 and they married soon thereafter.

“We both knew exactly what we wanted,” Mara explained, “and we both believe in what is important in life.” They welcomed daughter Amaya to the family and in 2012, son Kai.

The aforementioned medical challenges, relocation and opening of the jig shop must be understood with the background of Kai’s unique challenges. Billy and Mara’s second child was diagnosed early on in his development with one the most challenging conditions to afflict children: Periventricular Leukomalacia (PVL).

PVL can cause a whole range of developmental effects as the condition results from degradation of brain matter. The exact cause of the condition is yet unknown, and Kai’s birth was associated with none of the characteristics which are usually seen in babies born with it.

Exhaustive testing of Billy and Mara also revealed no identifiable cause. Kai’s development has not progressed beyond that of a toddler and likely will not.

He requires 24-hour care. There are eight other significant diagnoses that Kai struggles with, but PVL is the dominant one. The busy family of six became an exhaustingly-busy family of seven.

The bigger story behind that live bait sign is the selfless, unquestioning love and dedication with which the Boughton family cares for Kai (now 12 years old). The perspective of the Boughtons was summed up by Mara: “My objective for Kai is to keep him at home forever.”

A lifetime of toddler care for a physically-maturing young man is a herculean task. Billy acknowledged that, but stated without hesitation, “I want the very best for my son; he is my son.”

It is impossible to capture the full range of emotions, depth of compassion and sacrifice which is associated with such care.

A hint was offered as the two were discussing the many attributes of their son – which included a clever sense of humor, an eye for the ladies and an amazing verbal ability.

Mara shared, “Being different doesn’t have to be a disability.”

Billy said that he feels comfortable in his role.

“I have always been a protector for people of special needs,” he noted. Billy’s mother worked for the then-named Fort Worth State School for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

A career educator of pre-K and primary school-aged children, Mara likewise has experience which serves her well in Kai’s care.

She has also not stopped learning. Mara has certified in teaching special needs children, maintains a blogsite ‘livingthespecialneedslife.com’ and in 2021 published ‘Moving From Strength’ – an affirmation of one’s identity for parents of special needs children.

The book is an unapologetic journey taken in the life of a special needs caregiver.

As Mara writes, “When I first became a special needs caregiver, I looked around



Kai, Mara, Billy and Amaya Boughton at Billy’s bait shop. Below, some of Billy’s handiwork at the shop. (Monitor photos by John Arbter)

for a book like this and couldn’t find one. So I wrote one. I hope that it gives you peace, a sense of direction and most importantly, the knowledge that you are OK.”

In just over 100 pages, Mara describes the psychological challenges faced by caregivers and she does it in a respectful, neighborly and empathetic way. It is above all else a practical guide to managing stress and building confidence in one’s decision-making.

The book is chockfull of concepts which could be life-savers. Examples include techniques for dispensing with fear, developing confidence in navigating the world of modern medicine, accepting reality and responsibility in a con-



structive way and lastly recognizing those ‘gifts in disguise’ which are special needs children.

And Billy was right beside her. As Mara credits him, “You led me by example and showed me that the new normal was not only going to be OK, but amazing.”



The shop viewed from the causeway over Lake Holbrook.



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Master Sergeant Samuel T. Clem, Mineola High School Class of 2004, has retired from the United States Air Force at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington state after serving 20 years as a cyber security professional. He and his wife, Aimok, will be moving to Austin for the next portion of their lives. (Courtesy photo)

QDC approves facade grant

The Quitman Development Corporation voted Monday night to approve a façade grant for the Edward Jones building located at 304 N. Main Street.

The grant is for \$2,943. It will be used to reimburse Tony LeGrow, an Edward Jones agent, for 75% of the amount spent on a new sign for the building. No other actions were taken at the meeting.

Gibson achieves president’s list

Conner Gibson of Golden achieved the president’s list during the spring semester at Tyler Junior College.

The president’s list consists of 553 students who completed a minimum of 12 hours of college-level courses with a 4.0 grade-point average.

County chair speaking to Wood society

Wood County Genealogy Society will meet Monday, June 17 at 5 p.m. at the Quitman Public Library.

Speaker will be Ulna McWhorter, chair of the Wood County Historical Commission. Her topic will be “Historical Businesses Around the Square” with a “Touch of History of the Courthouses” that were rebuilt in Wood County.

Ulna comes from a long line of ancestors from Wood County. She studied at Texas A&M at Commerce and at the University of Texas at Tyler. She attended Quitman High School. She is a retired teacher and taught for many years at Quitman High School along with her late husband, Bill.

Everyone is welcome to the Wood County Genealogy Society meeting.

Harding grants Elmore degree

Ashlyn Elmore of Quitman is one of more than 700 students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University graduates during the Spring 2024 commencement ceremony on May 4 in Search, Ark.

Elmore received a master of science in cardiac function and interventional technology.

Clapp makes list at Harding Univ.

Rosa Clapp, a sophomore studying elementary education and theological studies from Winnsboro, is among more than 1,300 Harding University students recognized for their academic excellence from grades achieved during the Spring 2024 semester.

The dean’s list is published each semester honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible, a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes.

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Being a Good Listener

Listening to others is more than just hearing what they say, and certainly, more than just the sound of their voices striking our eardrums. When we truly listen to others, we are making a commitment to them. We are saying that we care enough about them to listen mindfully to what they have to say. Once we have made that commitment to listen mindfully, we should follow two important rules: First, we should be committed to accepting the other person and caring about them unconditionally. Second, we should be committed to listening to them non-judgmentally. People rarely ask for or appreciate our critical judgments about them. On the contrary, when a person feels like they have an attentive listener who cares about them and will listen non-judgmentally, they usually open up and communicate very effectively. Perhaps that is why Jesus always seemed to have people around Him, because He loved unconditionally and refrained from judging others.

Judge not, and you will not be judged;
condemn not, and you will not be condemned.

R.S.V. Luke 6:37

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903-768-2258 • Dr. Mark Neeley

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205 CR 2376, Golden
903-768-2653 • Pastor David Hendricks

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903-768-2700

Golden Church of Christ
FM 779, Golden
903-768-2725 • James Stringer

Golden Methodist Church
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903-768-2268 • Pastor Jim Pickens

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903-769-4065 • Kyle Kirk

Pine Mills Pentecostal Church
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903-857-2527 • Pastor M.D. Thornhill

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903-769-3235 • Rev. Michael T. Snyder

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903-569-9350 • Pastor Brandon Gray

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903-569-2537 • Pastor Allen Knox

Broad St. Church of Christ
440 W. Broad, Mineola
903-569-2046

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903-569-3117 • Clark Dugger

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903-569-6812 • Malcolm Duncan

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903-569-9187 • Pastor Jim Pickens

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903-569-8708

Church of the Lakes at Enchanted Lakes
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903-569-5101

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Quitman

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Clover Hill Baptist
FM 69, Quitman
Pr. Mark Thompson

Ebenezer Baptist
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903-967-3384 • Jerry Williams

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903-878-2504 • David Cook

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E. Goode St./Hwy. 154, Quitman
903-967-7691 • Rev. David Hicks

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903-763-4588 • David Jackson

Country Fellowship of Wood County
709 Oakwood Dr, Quitman
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2574 FM 2088, Quitman
903-967-2000 • David Hartley

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Pastor Jeremy Pierce

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Wood County Sheriff's Report

MAY 29
Criminal investigations, stolen vehicle; victim traded truck for trailer, discovered trailer was stolen.

Cpl. Rapp, assault, CR 1943; female has been assaulting male in his sleep, female advised has not had physical altercations with male, male did not want to speak with deputies, did not want female going to jail, deputies observed injuries that did not appear to be from assault.

Deputies, welfare check; subject advised she did not feel safe at residence due to people possibly looking for her, deputies transported subject to shelter.

Cpl. Smith, Deputy Comeaux, agency assist, Winnsboro police; subject who was handcuffed freed himself, deputies checked area, did not locate subject.

MAY 30
Sgt. Cox, Deputy Skinner, welfare check, Hwy. 80; caller's friend made suicidal statements, to jump in front of train, Union Pacific advised male attempted to jump in front of train but fell down, train traffic halted until subject could be located, fled into nearby woods deputies unable to locate him, contacted him by phone, willingly came out, spoke with deputies, transported to receive treatment.

Deputy Nichols, theft; ex-employee stole items, threatened subject, has video of theft, will gather information, make report.

Deputy Comeaux, animal complaint, Holiday Village; caller recently purchased property, subject left behind multiple animals in residence, deputies will return to pick up animals, offense report completed for cruelty to animals.

Sgt. Mayer, criminal trespass and criminal mischief, Private Road 5551; female who was trespassed from property returned, beat on window causing it to break, deputies unable to locate subject, offense report completed.

Cpl. Smith, welfare check, Private Road 6645; neighbor came over covered in fleas and flea bites, caller observed neighbor's front door open later in evening, no signs of neighbor, deputy entered residence due

to open door, female not located inside, landlord contacted, believes subject went to friend's house due to flea infestation.

MAY 31
Sgt. Morrison observed wanted subject driving, conducted traffic stop, subject placed in custody, booked in for indecency with child warrant, Kyle Ray Taylor Jr., Quitman.

Lt. Milbourn, motorist assist, Hwy. 37; deputy observed vehicle smoking, to prevent a possible fire, vehicle sprayed with fire extinguisher.

Agency assist, Hwy. 80. Smith County in vehicle pursuit headed into Wood County, deputies pursued vehicle, eventually lost, located again, lost a second time, unable to locate it.

JUNE 1
Sgt. Morrison, Cpl. Croney, death investigation, Holly Lake Ranch; deputies located unresponsive female with children in house, investigations notified, children released to father, deputies spoke with CPS, children released to grandparents until investigation completed.

Deputy Whisenhunt, theft, CR 2460; victim left solar watch outside to charge, when he came home, it was gone, incident report completed.

Cpl. Burdick, Deputy Rich, suicidal subject; caller advised mother made suicidal comments, left with large number of pills, subject's phone pinged, located, transported to receive treatment.

Lt. Milbourn, Trooper Heffner, suspicious circumstance, Hwy. 80; deputies learned vehicle that ran off roadway was in accident, passenger left walking. Passenger Dustin Wideman arrested for public intoxication. Driver David Wideman arrested by Trooper Heffner for DWI.

JUNE 2
Deputy Pollard, disturbance, FM 182; caller dropped off girlfriend at residence, she left residence, male followed her, deputies contacted both subjects, determined female, Sydney Willis, slapped male, arrested for assault by contact.

Sgt. Morrison, Cpl. Croney, aggressive dog, CR 2425; neighbor's dog got out of yard, possibly bit another neighbor, possible victim did not wish to cooperate with deputies, deputies advised owner the dog cannot roam at large due to aggressive behavior.

Deputy Pollard, assault; during argument victim's boyfriend shoved her, poked her in the eye, offense report completed.

Deputy Rich, suspicious vehicle, Lake Holbrook; caller observed occupants of vehicle drinking, possibly smoking marijuana, left area before deputies' arrival, Mineola PD located vehicle, one occupant had active warrant, placed in custody.

Deputy Williams, suspicious vehicle, CR 4596; suspicious vehicle in driveway, driver had strong odor of alcohol, advised he was unaware where he was. Carlos Canales arrested for public intoxication.

JUNE 3
Lt. Milbourn, Sgt. Sepulvado, Deputy Nichols, subject with machete, CR 1977; deputies spoke with witnesses who advised subject was swinging machete at people who were not there, subject transported to receive treatment.

Sgt. Cox, possible assault; caller advised victim from previous assault had broken arm from the assault, victim did not wish to cooperate with deputies due to suspect possibly going to jail, case forwarded to investigations.

Deputy Way, suspicious circumstance, CR 3145.; suspicious male visited residence four times, the first time he left note about vehicles on property, next time he advised he was with Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Haley, disturbance; brother-in-law came to residence but had not become physical, deputy found suspect to have active bond conditions preventing him from being intoxicated, observed suspect to be highly intoxicated, had pack of beer. Jason Alexander arrested for violation of bond conditions.

JUNE 4
Deputy Skinner, suspicious circumstance, Hwy. 80; someone using electricity from property, deputy searched property next door, located tent in abandoned building, no one found inside.

Deputy Nichols, animal complaint, Hwy. 11; caller received email saying dogs have attacked multiple livestock in area, contact made with dog owner who advised they would keep them up.

Deputy George, upside-down flag; contact made with flag owner who advised he was not in distress, but flying flag incorrectly due to direction the country is headed, was advised he has free speech but may receive additional complaints.

Cpl. Smith, Deputy Skinner, vehicle fire, Hwy. 80; charter bus carrying multiple people caught fire, everyone was able to escape.

Deputy Haley, welfare check, FM 2869; deputy spoke with victim who advised caretaker not giving him medication, stealing money, caregiver advised subject's medicine had been changed, has records of what money spent on, APS contacted to double check.

Mineola Police Report

JUNE 1
12:10 a.m., city ordinance violation, McDaniel at Jones, group of kids making a lot of noise, subjects racing each other, everything OK.

10:19 a.m., motorist assist, NE Loop 564, vehicle moving.

12:07 p.m., drunken subject, NE Loop 564, intoxicated subject in parking lot, subject and vehicle released to third party.

5:58 p.m., assist other agency, E. McDonald, assist sheriff's office with reckless driver, no traffic violations observed.

7:02 p.m., information, E. Broad, intoxicated subjects leaving store heading east, could not locate.

7:49 p.m., public assist, Reed, tree down, power line down.

7:59 p.m., assist other agency, CR 1799, sheriff's office advised to be on look out for vehicle.

8:23 p.m., assist other agency, Hall, assist DPS with traffic stop.

9:56 p.m., assist other agency, E. Hwy. 80 at CR 2740, suspicious vehicles in roadway, subjects appear to be intoxicated, David Wayne Wideman, Lindale, arrested for driving while intoxicated.

10:36 p.m., city ordinance violation, Phillips at Front, loud music, music turned down.

11:52 p.m., assist other agency, Grand Saline, subject heading to party in Mineola, unable to locate.

JUNE 2
10:27 a.m., disturbance, S. Pacific, girlfriend grabbing steering wheel, subject pulled over, female took child from back seat and put on center console, subject waiting outside vehicle until police arrive, verbal only, subjects left together.

2:25 p.m., city ordinance violation, N. Pacific at Cage, loud music, officer advised music can barely be heard over passing traffic.

5:36 p.m., assist other agency, W. Broad at city limits, assist sheriff's office in locating vehicle that drove on beach at Lake Holbrook, almost hitting someone, subject stopped, has warrant from Hopkins County.

7:12 p.m., suspicious person, N. Newsom, someone tried to open door, officer heard wind knocking items off party's porch.

7:57 p.m., suspicious person, NE Loop 564, subject with cart full of meat, criminal trespass warning issued.

8:58 p.m., suspicious vehicle, W. Broad, subject waiting for friend.

JUNE 3
12:41 a.m., information, N. Pacific, subject swerved to miss dog, hit curb, popped two tires, left in parking lot.

8:17 a.m., welfare concern, Kings Lane, have not heard from friend, subject is OK.

9:26 a.m., public assist, Chaparral, vehicles blocking driveway and mailbox, mail delivery refused, officer found no parking violation in area.

11:04 a.m., fraud, N. Pacific, three fraudulent checks.

2:11 p.m., theft, Inwood, dispute over clock repairs, informed is a civil matter.

2:19 p.m., welfare concern, 300 Greenville, subject contacted, officer no longer needed.

4:00 p.m., theft, NE Loop 564, purse taken out of buggy, wallet found.

5:59 p.m., motor vehicle accident, E. Broad, vehicle hit in parking lot, suspect left, unable to locate.

7:32 p.m., assist other agency, NW Loop 564, electrical line down, power company contacted.

JUNE 4
4:12 a.m., assist other agency, Hwy. 37 North at CR 2340, power line across highway, utility companies contacted.

6:42 a.m., public assist, Peachtree, tree across roadway.

7:52 a.m., public assist, McDaniel, report of no electricity in area.

9:21 a.m., motor vehicle accident, N. Pacific at Loop 564, one subject extricated, four patients transported by EMS.

10:19 a.m., assist other agency, N. Pacific, assist EMS with patient.

1:38 p.m., assist other agency, S. Pacific at Giraud, power line down in roadway, power company contacted.

1:59 p.m., welfare concern, Molly, elderly man wandering street, given ride.

3:21 p.m., information, S. Pacific, subject bought tires, did not make payments, trying to trade them, advised is a civil matter.

5:44 p.m., assist other agency, E. Hwy. 80 at CR 1801, assist sheriff's office with bus on fire.

8:20 p.m., suspicious vehicle, N. Newsom.

JUNE 5
1:50 a.m., assist other agency, W. US Hwy. 80, assist sheriff's office.

2:23 a.m., public assist, Molly, someone banging on house, officer drove area and did not see anyone.

2:30 a.m., assist other agency, E. McDonald, unresponsive female, EMS on scene.

7:11 a.m., public assist, W. Broad, debris from roof partially blocking street, piece of metal leaning on power line, power company notified.

9:57 a.m., motorist assist, 900 blk N. Pacific, vehicle in roadway, driver removing debris from roadway.

10:16 a.m., unsecured area, S. Pacific, unsecured door, building cleared.

10:59 a.m., motorist assist, N. Pacific, vehicle with car trouble, driver and vehicle are OK.

3:56 p.m., assist other agency, NE Loop 564, assist with welfare check, unable to locate.

4:53 p.m., suspicious person, NE Loop 564, intoxicated male in store following customers, Denton Lee Foster arrested.

6:10 p.m., assist other agency, Spring Lake, subject not feeling well, EMS contacted.

7:42 p.m., disturbance, Chaparral, no physical assault, subject took vehicle, civil matter, Christopher Dashun Toussaint arrested for four warrants for fraudulent use of identifying information.

9:47 p.m., public assist, E. Broad, missing purse, purse located.

JUNE 6
8:52 a.m., theft, N. Pacific, trash taken, directed patrol issued.

9:54 a.m., welfare concern, NE Loop 564, assist customer locating family in store.

11:58 a.m., identity theft, Mimosa, someone opened account and bought cell phone.

1:21 p.m., welfare concern, CR 2724, subject located.

2:26 p.m., disturbance, Nancy at Pacific, male and female arguing, male had warrant, Marcus Burk Thrash arrested for DWI warrant.

4:40 p.m., reckless driver, Loop 564, almost ran subject off road, unable to locate.

4:45 p.m., assist other agency, W. Blair, 911 call for fall, EMS treating subject.

6:25 p.m., welfare concern, 200 blk Nuss, vehicle alarm, homeowner not home.

8:37 p.m., theft, N. Pacific, man ran from store with bag of dog food, Kaiden Nicholas Clanton arrested for criminal trespass.

9:42 p.m., welfare concern, W. Broad, back door open, officer cleared building, everything secure.

JUNE 7
4:14 a.m., information, Hwy. 37 North at CR 2330, removed large tree branch from roadway.

4:44 a.m., disturbance, Old Tyler Hwy., open 911 call, male could be heard screaming he was going to kill everybody and female yelling to get out of her way, phone number associated with Longview Escorts, unable to reach anyone, unable to locate.

8:23 a.m., disturbance, W. Blair, boyfriend sitting in car will not let subject leave, everything settled prior to officer arrival.

9:27 a.m., welfare concern, S. Pacific at Giraud, subject possibly assaulting child, special needs child was throwing up.

10:54 a.m., assist other agency, Mimosa, elderly man fell, EMS disregarded.

11:06 a.m., public assist, Graham, neighbor's tree hanging in yard, civil matter.

12:26 p.m., motor vehicle accident, N. Johnson, two vehicles, minor.

3:25 p.m., disturbance, S. Johnson, dog left alone in vehicles, elderly subject arguing with party, no vehicle or disturbance found.

5:15 p.m., motor vehicle accident, S. Pacific, hit and run in parking lot.

6:22 p.m., civil matter, 300 blk W. Blair, information given about eviction process, criminal trespass warning.

8:24 p.m., information, NE Loop 564, traffic light stuck on red, motorists running light, officer advised lights working.

8:40 p.m., assist other agency, 1100 blk N. Pacific, assist DPS with traffic stop.

Officers also made 31 traffic stops and answered 21 animal control calls and three alarms.

Mineola Fire Department Report

EMS assist: May 30, 1:24 p.m., W. Buchanan; May 30, 7:42 p.m., CR 2234; June 1, 6:10 p.m., Sycamore; June 3, 11:44 p.m., CR 2205.

Powerline down: May 31, 9:40 a.m., CR 453; May 31, 12:18 p.m., CR 2840; June 4, 1:31 p.m., Giraud.

Road hazard: June 1, 3:39 p.m., FM 1799 at CR 2906.

Prescribed burn: June 1, 9:59 pm., East Hwy. 80 at FM 2422.

Illegal burn: June 1, 10:01 p.m., CR 2320.

Motor vehicle collision - motorcycle: June 2, 5:36 a.m., FM 49.

Motor vehicle collision: June 3, 10:21 p.m., FM 1804 at FM 2422; June 4, 9:16 a.m., Loop 564 at Hwy. 37.

Public assist: June 4, 1:15 p.m., Hwy. 37 at CR 2425.

Swift water rescue: June 3, 9:48 p.m., Moore Lane at FM 1253.

Bus fire: June 4, 5:29 p.m., US Hwy. 80 East at FM 1804.

The following calls also occurred on June 3 related to flooding and downed limbs due to a storm.

Road hazard: FM 1801, CR 2647, Peachtree, Nuss at N. Pacific, FM 1254 at Inwood, FM 49; **Powerline down:** CR 2632, FM 1801; **Road flooding:** Kings Lane, Sycamore at University; **Flooded building:** Mimosa.

Criminal cases handled in district court

The following criminal cases were disposed of in 402nd District Court recently:

PROBATION REVOKED
Timothy Dean Swan-

COLEMAN BAIL BOND

(Directly across the street from Wood County Jail)

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Brian Toliver of Quitman

Monday-Friday
8 am - 6 pm

Saturday
8am - 1 pm

Mineola Animal Shelter

The Animal Shelter is in need of Dawn Dish Soap!
Donations can be dropped off at the shelter or police station.



Atlas

The gentle giant stray who pats for pets! Atlas is about 6 years old, very calm & would make an excellent family pet.

Sky



Sky is the second gentle giant!

Sky looks mournful because he is: just wants to be your loyal companion. Offers a quiet yet strong & comforting presence, 3 years old.

To help decrease the number of homeless animals, please remember to have your dogs & cats spayed & neutered.

Baker Street ~ 903-569-2252

If No Answer, Call 903-569-6294

TUESDAY-SATURDAY ~ 8AM - 4PM

Sponsored by:

Lake Country Animal Clinic

Clifton D. Bradshaw «» 903-569-5418

1124 W. FM 564 «» Mineola, TX 75773



Obituaries

Buddy Frank Bradshaw
1946-2024



Buddy Frank Bradshaw, 78, of Fairfield passed away peacefully at his residence on June 2, 2024. Born on March 16, 1946 in Winnsboro, Buddy was the cherished son of AJ “Buddy” Bradshaw and Lexie Russom Bradshaw.

Buddy is survived by his significant other, Cheryl Mullen, and his loving daughters Amanda Westlake and husband Brad, and Jennifer Paredez and significant other Danny Mills. He will be deeply missed by his sister, Joyce Davis, and his treasured grandchildren: Aliana Paredez, Christian Paredez, Landon Westlake and Memphis Westlake. His legacy continues to his extended family of Andrea Mullen Hammack and husband Dan, John Mullen, Makenzie Mullen, Kaliyah Watkins, Demarcus Hayes and Zaleyah Hayes.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Buddy and Lexie Bradshaw, and his brother, A.J. Bradshaw.

Buddy learned from his father at a young age how to operate heavy equipment and grew this passion through his life, working as a dragline operator and foreman for Texas Utilities, owning his own business and eventually retiring from Russell & Sons in Fairfield.

Buddy enjoyed several hobbies throughout his life including woodworking and fishing. One of his favorite pastimes was driving and exploring country roads.

Buddy was a proud veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War in the 4th Infantry Division where he was honored with two Purple Hearts and an Army Commendation Medal. He was also a Mason and a lifetime member of VFW Post #3992 and the American Legion, reflecting his deep sense of community and patriotism.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Services scheduled for Saturday, June 22 at 11 a.m. at Shady Grove Cemetery in Winnsboro.

Buddy Frank Bradshaw will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by all who knew him. His love for life, family and community will live on in the hearts of those he touched.

Brandon Dale Asbill
1980-2024



Brandon Dale Asbill passed away on June 3, 2024 in Longview. He was born on March 19, 1980 in Pittsburg to Terry and Mary (Mezzell) Asbill. Brandon was known for his passion for carpentry as a self-employed carpenter and his dedication to his work.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Brandon enjoyed various hobbies and interests. He found solace in listening to Texas singer/songwriter country music, spending time by the campfire and expressing his creativity through geometric designs that adorned the beautiful wood pieces he crafted.

Brandon graduated from Quitman High School in 1998. He earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science/business at Texas A&M-Commerce.

Brandon’s impact on those around him was immeasurable. He touched the lives of many during his time at the Highway 80 Rescue Mission in Longview and Gideons Restoration Church in Winnsboro. His warm personality and genuine kindness will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Brandon was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Morris and Christine Asbill, and maternal grandparents, Romie and Rita Mezzell.

He is survived by his loving parents, Terry Asbill and Mary (Mezzell) Asbill of Eustace; daugh-

ter, Aubrey Christine; brother, Aaron Asbill and Michelle Garrett of Temple; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins who will hold onto precious memories of him forever.

In honor of Brandon’s memory and in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the following:

Gideons Restoration Camp (4096 FM 2966, Quitman, Texas 75783) or

Highway 80 Rescue Mission (online donations at highway80rm.org or mailed to P.O. Box 3223, Longview, Texas 75606).

A Celebration of Brandon’s life will be scheduled at a later date.

“Brandon was deeply loved and will be missed by many.”

Mrs. Rachel Ida Pinney Rivers
1932-2024



Mrs. Rachel Ida Pinney Rivers, 92, of Yantis passed away June 4, 2024 in Yantis. She was born March 30, 1932 in Hinsdale, N.Y. to Husted and Luella Mae Hamilton Pinney. Rachel had lived the last 23 years in Yantis and was a member of Lake Fork Baptist Church. She married Wally Rivers in Irving in January 1986.

She owned and operated her own beauty shop for 25 years. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wally Rivers; infant son, Clifford Allen Deitrich; three sisters, Viola Bryant, Thelma Minchew, and Barbara Jones; and brother, Glenn Thurber.

Survivors include her two daughters, Sandy Stephenson and husband Bob and Kathy Williamson and husband Ken all of Yantis; sister, Frances Hurst of Bremen, Ga.; seven grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 33 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

The family will have a memorial service honoring Mrs. Rivers at a later date.

Quitman Elementary Honor Roll

4TH NINE WEEKS
A HONOR ROLL
GRADE 6

Brady Bess, Kinsey Boren, Lucas De Gorostiza, Dunyae Dupree, Bradie Fortner, Makayla Griffith, Abigail Hudson, Millie Jordan, Nevaeh McFadden, Natalie Netherland, Kaleb Pearsall, Jennabella Till, Hudson Wedeking

GRADE 7

Austin Hardin-Letterman, Ty Harkins, Lola Hayes, Jaleigh Hood, Samuel Lazaro, Braylon Low, Lillian McWhorter, Addison Molina, Jacob Perkins, Brinley Rock, Allison Van Vleet

GRADE 8

James Attaway, Madilynn Clanton, Isabella Crocket Garza, Logan Davis, Avery Hornaday, Evan Medina, Brennan Moss, Tristen Ogg, Evan Reynolds, Creedence Runyan, Maycee Russell, Colsten Smith, Erin Vander Schaaf

A/B HONOR ROLL
GRADE 6

Raina Bailey, Sevrin Barrera, William Bays, Derrick Bender, Bryn Boisclair, Peyton Byers, Landon Cherry, Kylie

Christian, Laikyn Cooper, Skylar Dauer, Eduardo Flores, Perla Flores, Matthew Fortner, Kaylen Glassel, Karla Gonzalez, Jaxon Hager, Austin Hayes, Mason Headlee, Lynzi Hicks, Jordan Huynh, Paige Johnson, Kylie Kasper, Kasen Kolodzi, Aaliyah Kyle Chandler, Kashton Labit, Aubriana Lange, McKenna Lara, Gracie Lee, Kyle McCullough, Braysen Miller, Aaleerah Milton, Vincent Nguyen-Pham, Natalie Nisbett, Adam Olvera, Jade Passmore, Caiden Petrisevac, Christopher Plata, Brennen Rogers, Makenzie Shelman, Rylan Styron, Isaiah Toseland, Benjamin Tullis, Jude Watley, Jazlyn Williams, Camila Zurita

GRADE 7

Seth Butler, Brycen Caldera-Lott, Sophie Camp, Ava Coventry, Taylor Drinkwine, Peyton Duncan, Logan Ellison, Teagan Emerson, Emily Farris, Tyla Ferrier, Penelope Gagnon, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Michael Guinn, Jordan Ingram, Ronnie James, Kenna Lee, Cayslyn Marshall, Emma McDonald, Jaycee Miller, Abbygail

GRADE 8

Lilly Anderson, Hunter Bailey, Kaytee Ballard, Hunter Caldwell, Kira Clark, Jaeda Comeaux, Khloe Cooper, Isabelle Dreiling, Luke Ferguson, Annabelle Hollinquest, Chloe Jenkins, Abigail Johnson, Jermiah King, Lyla Lee, Kara Mansfield, Noah Mason, Riley Mason, Mallory Moore, William Moore, Summer Murdock, Ally Papez, Athena Portney, Gema Ramirez, Sharon Ramirez, Abigail Rojas, Lucas Sandifer, Addison Sapp, Angel Saucedo, Katherine Shelman, Landon Smith, Payton Spears, Josiah Stapp, Anthony Starnes, Tristan Tier, Kendall Walters, Jonathan Williamson

Morales, Camden Ogg, Jesus Olvera, Juan Olvera, Ullisiz Olvera, Allan Pence, Caden Reynolds, Isabel Rodriguez, Ricky Rodriguez, Brandon Samaniego, Kensliegh Sanders, Emma Trifan, Elizabeth Underwood, Tammy Vavrecka, Reagan Watson, Kalista Wilson, Braxton Zachary

AGISD Elementary Honor Roll

A HONOR ROLL
2ND GRADE

Melanie Bohannon, Hadley Boyd, Bronx Dusek, Emory Elliott, Coleson Fortner, Stella George, Grace Hass, Madison Hippe, Gabriella Jones, Hadley Lavy, Hope McKinley, Elijah Perkins, Kennedi Smith, Lincoln Stevenson, Greyson Suddarth, Melody Valenzuela, Charlie Vaughan, Hadelynn Webster, Kynzli Wiley

3RD GRADE

Kenzie Bohannon, Maddox Clem, Aaron Corley, Kolson Hawthorn, Layton Jensby, Remington Miller, Abigail Mize, Canyen Nixon, Jesse Sneed, Jackson Stokes, Georgia Weissert, Rolando Yates, Rand York

4TH GRADE

Emily Ballard, Lane Carver, Tyson Cave, Grant Goforth, Deacon Hall, Sadie Hurt, Isabelle Lavy, Addison Nichols, Case Parrish, Miya Ramirez, Cain Vaughan, Joel Walters

5TH GRADE

Stormi Bibby, Emma Bohannon, Matt Castloo, Paisley Haisten, Easton Hazelwood, Madison Hodges,

Preslyee Oliver, Noah Pepperman, Christopher Reynolds, Daniel Savoie, Kynslee Sitar, Eden Tellez, Gus Venable, Hogan Webster

AB HONOR ROLL
2ND GRADE

Maria Andrade, Brax Castloo, Isabel Cheek, Brandon Cossabone, Alaric Culver, Benjamin Fuller, Rhyllie Funderburk, Jed Galyean, Grace Gaskill, Kason Goldsmith, Kalen Hammond, Kat Hartin, Casten Hill, Knox Irvin, Martha Ivy, Layla Kurtz, Penelope Lewis, Noah Longoria, Cullen McManus, Hynlei Meggs, Myles Mitchell, Bentlee Morgan, Anthony Pratt, JJ Quintana, Hadley Ray, Preston Rutledge, Olivia Sasser, Cohen Sherwood, Jaxon Smiddy, Landry Thomas, Justus Walters

3RD GRADE

Aiden Aguinaga, Alexander Aguinaga, Lane Banks, Jerry Bathe, Skylar Bennett, Caden Bohannon, Bryce Cave, Silas Cheek, Lyric Edwards, Raylon Frosch, Kade Goldsmith, Allison Gonzalez, Kinsley Haisten, Lonnie Hays, Royce Jones, Madilyn

Kerry, Kallen Lyles, Madeleine Molina, Joshua Neidholt, Dakota Plant, Kaelyn Price, Abel Quintana, Dalton Roberts, Noah Corley, Noel Rodriguez, Trey Syn Ross, Carter Sitar, Blakelee Snowdy, Jack Stevenson, Lincoln Valek, Junior Vazquez, Ricky Vazquez, Shelby Zito

4TH GRADE

Hunter Baker, Max Borchardt, Kiley Cook, Emmi Cooper, Emily Fortner, Everlee Galyean, Cassie George, Jaxton Graham, Jace Hansen, Ryken Hughes, Rhylee Johnson, Caleb Martinez, Jayden McClain, Logan Melton, Austin Patterson, Knox Pugh, Jab Reid, Dylan Robertson, Kendall Seymore, Gatlin Strong, Allee Sweeden, Bethany Tunnell, Hagen Worley

5TH GRADE

Wesley Ausmus, John Ballard, Carissa Brannon, Andrew Cheek, Addie Corley, Grayson Crawford, Madison Davault, Johnny Dieken, Elaina Flynt, Beau Funderburk, McKenzie Gilbreath, Isaac Gonzalez, Blake Grant-Morado, Delton Graves, Aven Hack, Nevaeh Jones, Brayden Kurtz, Bently Marcom, Hazir Mataj, Owen Neidholt, Colter Sessions, Ely Sherwood, Kinleigh Spann, Cody Speer, Joshua Upchurch, Roan York

GOT NEWS?

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Wood County

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903-763-4522

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Mineola, TX 75773
903-569-2442

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Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Grant Applications

The Wood County Economic Development Commission (EDC) is set to receive applications for HOT Grants funding for Fiscal Year 2025. The application period commences on June 1st and concludes on June 30th. Kindly note that only eligible applications will be reviewed. For further information, please refer to our website: www.WoodCountyTx.com.

Wood County TEXAS

Wood County Monitor classifieds

Merchandise for Sale

Garage Sales

BIG GARAGE SALE
Mineola, 120 Nancy, June 14-15, Fri. 8am-5pm, Sat. 8am-? Large Variety of items priced to sell.

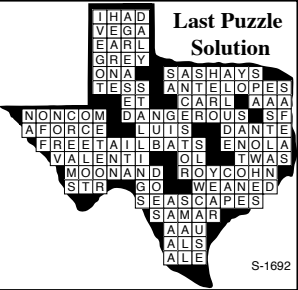
77-year-old Man Needs Visiting Angel
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Pays Well in Cash
Quitman Area - Call Bobby
512-809-5168

Rentals

Homes

FOR RENT
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CITY OF MINEOLA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public is hereby notified that the **Planning & Zoning Commission of The City of Mineola** will hold a public hearing to receive public comment on **Monday, July 1, 2024, at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 300 Greenville Hwy., Mineola, TX.** The purpose of the hearing is to discuss a request for a rezoning of **LOT 7A BLK 31 HAM ADD, LOT 6A,7C,8 PT BLK 31 HAM ADD, BLK 267 PT MINEOLA TOWNSITES, BLK 266 PT MINEOLA TOWNSITES to MF-24 (multi-family)**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: G.O. Bond Water Line Replacements
Project No.: HEI #300015
Owner: City of Winnsboro



Sealed bids for the unit price general construction contract for the G.O. Bond Water Line Replacements will be received by City of Winnsboro at the office of City Hall, 501 S Main Street, Winnsboro, TX 75494 until 3:00 p.m. on July 11, 2024 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited for several unit price items of work, including 5,609 LF of 6" and 837 LF of 8" water line replacement with associated appurtenances.

The Plans, Specifications, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following places:

City Hall, 501 S Main Street, Winnsboro, TX 75494.
Hayter Engineering, Inc., 4445 S.E. Loop 286, Paris, TX 75460, 903-785-0303.

Contract Documents are available for free download at www.civcastusa.com.

The OWNER reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Each BIDDER must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided for in the Instructions to Bidders.

All bids shall remain good and may not be withdrawn for 90 calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

CALL 903-569-2442 OR EMAIL ADS@WOOD.CM

SECOND PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice to all owners or lien holders that the following vehicles were impounded at

Wyatt's Towing Service LLC
1210 N US Hwy 69, MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773
CALL (903) 569-6060
0659081VSF
<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov>

Vehicle Description: 2024 Subaru Outback
No Licence Plates
Color: Blue

Authority wanting it impounded:
Wood County Sheriff Department
Total fees as of 5/20/24...\$1,655.70

If the vehicle is not claimed 30 days after the date this notice is sent gives this vehicle storage facility the right to dispose of the vehicle. Additionally, failure to claim the vehicle is a waiver of all right, title, or interest in the vehicle and personal property and a consent to sell the vehicle at a public sale.

CITY OF MINEOLA

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT JOB POSTING

The City of Mineola has a **work opportunity for a full time Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.** Candidates should have a Grade D (minimum) Wastewater License. A complete job and work description is available at <https://www.mineola.com/page/job-opportunities>. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

The City of Mineola is an equal opportunity employer.

Sell your stuff with a classified ad in the Monitor

NOTICE OF CONSTABLE'S SALE (REAL ESTATE)

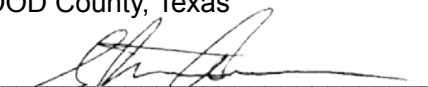
BY VIRTUE OF A EXECUTION issued out of the J.P. 1 Court of WOOD County, Texas, in a certain cause numbered SC23-008-1. On the 16TH day of APRIL A.D. 2024, styled: HV OF FORK OWNERS ASSOCIATION vs. GARY & DEBORAH GOMER, to me, as CONSTABLE PCT 1 directed and delivered, I have levied upon this 19TH day of APRIL A.D. 2024 and will between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at approximately 10:00AM on the first Tuesday in JULY A.D. 2024, it being the 2ND of said month, at WOOD COUNTY COURT HOUSE of said WOOD County, proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all right, title and interest, if any, which the defendant had on the 19TH day of APRIL A.D. 2024, or at any time thereafter, of and in the following described property:

QUITMAN, TX 75783 LOT 379, BLK E SUNSET SHORE

Said property is levied on as the property of GARY & DEBORAH GOMER and will be sold to satisfy the judgment for 4,756.41 Dollars.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND on this 10TH day of MAY A.D. 2024

CONSTABLE STEPHEN BOWSER
WOOD County, Texas

By 
CONSTABLE STEPHEN BOWSER

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

WOOD COUNTY RFP # 04-2024

WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS (Owner) is requesting lump sum sealed competitive proposals from qualified Contractors for construction of the Wood County Jail Additions & Renovations, located at 402 S. Stephens Street in Quitman, Texas, in accordance with Government Code, Section 2269.151.

Proposals will be received in the office of the Wood County Auditor, 100 S. Main Street, Quitman, Texas, 75783, until 2:00 PM local time, Monday, July 22, 2024. The proposals will be opened and read aloud in Commissioners Court meeting on or about 9:00 am local time, Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

5% bid bond. 100% Performance and Payment Bonds required. Payments to be made monthly to selected Contractor based on 95% of work completed. Award of proposal will be based on evaluation criteria stated in the proposal documents in accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 2269.154. Owner may hold proposals for 60 days. Construction Budget is \$8,000,000.00.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 10:00 AM local time at the jail site (address above - arrive at jail lobby to be directed to meeting room). Refer to Contract Documents for additional information and requirements.

Contract Documents may be examined at the Architect's office and selected plan rooms. Electronic sets of documents may be obtained by Contractors from the Architect: DRG Architects, LLC, 13300 Old Blanco Rd., Suite 175, San Antonio, Texas 78216, (210) 349-7950, epinnell@drgarchitects.com.



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ACROSS

1 "___ Texas" by Jimmie Rogers

5 ___ smith drummer Joey Kramer has lived in Texas

6 ABC affiliate in San Antonio

7 tall Italian volcano

8 TXism: "never in the glow of a neon light"

17 Greenville road in Dallas, e.g. (abbr.)

18 actor/comedian in Texas-based 1992 film "Sidekicks" (2 wds.)

21 TX Buddy Holly tune: "That'll ___ the Day"

22 Astros & Rangers get three an inning

23 TXism: "too lazy to ___ flies"

24 "___ Lake in Martin County

29 in Jasper County on U.S. 96

30 Texas-based insur. co. for the military

31 TX-born actress, Robin (init.)

32 a type of Texas tycoon (2 wds.)

34 TX Jordan Spieth won 2015 U.S. ___ tournament

35 dir. from Elgin to Yoakum

36 some RVs

37 "It's ___!"

38 "gotta ___ with the punches"

39 fix a mistake? (3 wds.)

41 defamation

DOWN

1 TXism: "___ to rope him" (large man)

2 cheerful and jolly easternmost city

4 in Fisher County on highway 70

9 TXism: "dainty as a bride"

10 TXism: "___ lick" (none)

11 TXism: "does a wet dog stink?"

12 this Tom was a Traveling Wilbury with TX Roy (init.)

13 TXism: "she threw a ___ fit"

14 TXism for "I declare" (2 wds.)

15 UT was 2015 ___ football champ

16 TXism: "___ half a mind to" (inclined)

19 "___, sage, rosemary & thyme"

20 TX "___ Twins" sang on Lawrence Welk show

22 TX Larry McMurry was able to ___ many other authors

24 init. of Houston's Olajuwon before he was Hakeem

25 TXism: "___ out" (left quickly)

26 Austin PBS station

27 upcoming series for TX William Jackson Harper: "___ Full" (Netflix)

28 "___ rest" (buried)

29 big farm buildings

30 "put ___ shut up" (do it or stop talking about it)

33 nat'l teacher labor union

34 double-reed instrument in the Dallas Symphony

35 TXism: "___ as a judge in court"

37 small branch of an artery

38 TXism: "___ up" (very angry)

40 attacks in frontier Texas: Indian ___

41 TXism: "walking dandruff"

44 European mountains

47 "night owl" behavior (2 wds.)

49 in Young County on highway 79

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF WOOD

TO: ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF HILDA MERLE COKER, DEC'D Cause No. 14,703 in County Court in and for Wood County, Texas

Julie Wood, Applicant in the above numbered and entitled case, filed on the 26th day of April, 2024 in Wood County, An Application for Independent Administration and on the 13th day of May, 2024 an Application for Determination of Heirship. Applicant requests that this Court, upon notice and hearing as required by law, appoint Julie Wood as Independent Administrator of the Estate of Hilda Merle Coker and requests such other and further orders appropriate to this Estate, that after such appointment, investigation, submission of the Attorney Ad Litem's report, and a hearing on the allegations herein, Applicant requests this Court to declare the legal heirs of Decedent to be those individuals named in paragraph 6 listed in the Application for Determination of Heirship.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Court in and for Wood County, Texas, Courthouse, One Main Street, Quitman, Texas 75783, Wood County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at, said above mentioned time and place by filing, a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned, unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Quitman, Texas, this the 29th day of May, 2024.



KELLEY PRICE, County Clerk
Wood County, Texas

By: 
Dachele Byford Deputy



Congressman Lance Gooden addresses a town hall last Thursday morning in Mineola, one of five he held across the Fifth District over two days. (*Monitor photo by Phil Major)

GOODEN

From page 1A

Pennsylvania does,” he said, with every other commercial about the election.

Gooden described President Biden as incompetent and not fit to serve.

He addressed the recent prosecution of

Trump and said the American people see through this, and that some Democrats think it will backfire.

“I sound like a broken record,” he said. “We are working as hard as we can to deliver a result (Trump’s election). My colleagues are, and the Democrats are as well.”

He said that the district is diverse in a sense,

with eastern Dallas County heavily Democratic, and the rest of the mostly rural district heavily Republican.

“This is a very conservative red area,” Gooden said. “I have voted and acted that way unapologetically.”

Questions included the events of Jan. 6, 2021 (Gooden thinks Trump will pardon those prosecuted to the attack on the Capitol), election integrity (“We don’t know how many votes were mismanaged in Georgia”), term limits (“I signed that pledge”), and immigration policies (“I have been very outspoken against those policies”).

County implements new jury system

The Wood County district clerk’s office is implementing a new, easier to use, jury management system, beginning this week.

Prospective court jurors will now receive the jury summons by mail in a postcard format rather than a letter.

The system enables communication with the public via email, text or phone.

Jurors can use the self-serve system which best fits their lifestyle for everything from summons response to juror payment, according to District Clerk Suzy Wright.

“This system helps reduce the number of summonses that are sent to bad mailing addresses, resulting in less waste and more cost savings to Wood County government and ultimately to the taxpayers of Wood



Wood County District Suzy Wright, left, and Deputy Clerk Sheila Jones display the new postcards that will be used to alert citizens summoned to jury duty. (Courtesy photo)

County,” Wright said.

It will also provide meaningful data to the county regarding jury yield and utilization.

Sheila Jones, chief deputy district clerk and

jury administrator, will be available for assistance if needed during this transition period at 903-763-2361.

Summer bash benefits They Got Your Six

The Texan Hall by Jorgie’s will host the second Mineola Summer Bash on Saturday, June 15 to benefit They Got Your 6 Foundation.

Events will be held at Texan Hall, formerly The Line, at 124 S. Line St. in Mineola from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A car and motorcycle

show will be held from 11-2. Entry fee is \$25, with awards in several categories.

Live music includes Down Home from 11-12:30, Kirk Harper Band from 12:30-2 and One Light Town from 2:30-4.

A cornhole tournament will be hosted by Cherokee County Chun-

kerz.

Several vendors will be on hand.

The local foundation offers support and assistance to veterans and first responders in the area with a variety of needs.

The bash was begun last summer at the Mineola Golf Club.

age, and school officials are still searching for a new auditor.

The board also reviewed the budget for the new school and estimates for how much of the bond funds might remain to tackle the CTE center project.

In personnel matters, trustees accepted the

resignation of Jason Goodson, who has accepted a principal’s position in Quitman, and middle school math teacher Laurie Casper.

New hires include Elijah Burwell as coach, Rebecca Morrow as elementary teacher and Selina Anosike as middle school teacher.

ous. The newspaper has editorial discretion on publishing as well as editing letters.

Submit letters to the editor to editor@wood.cm or by mail to our office, PO Box 210, Mineola TX 7577.

crease in the cost of live-streaming sporting events by reducing the number of games to be broadcast.

The cost of the annual financial audit will be dependent upon finding an auditor. The firm that has been doing the work for several years is reducing its area of cover-

Letters must be signed, accompanied with a telephone number for verification and be no more than 350 words long. One letter per writer per topic will be accepted.

The Monitor does not accept

MISD

From page 1A

years. Sparkman suggested raising that to \$7.50 or \$8.

Another extracurricular cost that is increasing is the cost of game officials.

The budget has a de-

Letters to the editor are opinions expressed by the writers and in no way reflect opinions or policies of this paper. Publication of a letter does not necessarily mean the facts have been confirmed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

letters of endorsement for or against political candidates. Letters of a political nature will not be accepted for the last edition prior to the election as well.

Letters should not be personal attacks and must not be libel-

MEALS ON WHEELS THIS WEEK’S MENUS:

Fri. June 14 - Smothered Meatballs, Whipped Potatoes, Green Peas, Capri Vegetable Blend, Dinner Roll

Mon. June 17 - Sloppy Joe, Whole Kernel Corn, Spring Vegetable Blend, Hamburger Bun, Vanilla Pudding, Milk

Tues. June 18 - Herb Crusted Pork, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Texas Bread, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Wed. June 19 - Chicken/Sausage, Succotash, Glazed Carrots, Fresh Banana, Milk

Thur. June 20 - Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable Blend, Dinner Roll, Graham Crackers, Milk

Meals On Wheels Office Phone: 497-1162

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NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF WOOD

By virtue of Orders of Sale issued out of the Honorable 402ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of WOOD County in the following cases on the 16th day of May, 2024, and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 1:30 PM on the 2nd DAY OF July, 2024, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the Official Door of the Courthouse of said WOOD County, in the City of Quitman, Texas, the following described property, to wit:

- Cause No: T-4001** MINEOLA ISD vs. CAIN, CYNTHIA MAUNEY
LOT 1 & PART OF 2, SWANSON YARBROUGH SURVEY, ACC. #000034626 (R34626).
- Cause No: T-4412** MINEOLA ISD vs. STEPHEN & JAIME FINLEY
19.695 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, TRACT 5, W B MCNUTT SURVEY, ACC. #00011807 (R369822).
- Cause No: T-4445** MINEOLA ISD vs. WANDA ANN HALL
14.452 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, TRACT 9 W M YARBROUGH SURVEY, ACC. #000072227.
- Cause No: T-4445** MINEOLA ISD vs. WANDA ANN HALL
8.58 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, TRACT 9, W M YARBROUGH SURVEY, ACC. #000072221.
- Cause No: T-4459** QUITMAN ISD vs. MICHAEL BIVINS
LOT 156, BLOCK A TIMER LAKE ESTATES, HOLIDAY VILLAGES OF FORK SUBDIVISION, ACC. #R73554.
- Cause No. T-4495** QUITMAN ISD vs. JUDY HYDE, ET AL
LOT 24 BLOCK A, HOLIDAY VILLAGES OF FORK, ACC. #R73422.
- Cause No. T-4514** QUITMAN ISD vs. JERRY LEE BADGERO
0.1148 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BLOCK A, LOT 43, TIMER LAKE ESTATES, HOLIDAY VILLAGES OF FORK SUBDIVISION, ACC. #R73441.
- Cause No. T-3677** QUITMAN ISD VS. CLEAR LAKES RESORT, INC., ET AL
12.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, G.F. MARTIN SURVEY, DAM NO. 5, BROOD LAKE, ACCT. #R340621, CAD #101578.
3.75 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, MARY CROTHERS SURVEY, DAM NO. 6, WELLS LAKE, ACC. #R340625, CAD #101582.
1.80 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, MARY CROTHERS SURVEY, DAM NO. 7, TAYLOR LAKE, ACC. #R340626, CAD #101583.

ALL BIDDERS MUST COMPLY WITH SECTION 34.015 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE.

Levied on the 24th day of May, 2024, as the property of said Defendants to satisfy the judgments rendered in the above styled and numbered causes, plus all taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney fees accrued to the date of sale and all costs recoverable by law in favor of each jurisdiction. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND ON 05/24/2024.


SHERIFF, Wood County, Texas

By 
Deputy

The minimum bid for a person owning an interest in the property or for a person who is a party to the suit (other than a taxing unit), is the aggregate amount of the judgment(s) against the property plus all costs of suit and sale. THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL TAXES DUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH HAVE BEEN ASSESSED SINCE THE DATE OF JUDGMENT. For more information, contact your attorney or the tax collector.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with Texas property code, Chapter 59,

Castlerock Storage - Mineola
1113 County Rd 2220, Mineola, TX 75773,
will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien.

Units will be sold as-is to the highest bidder online at
www.storageauctions.com
June 14, 2024 thru June 28, 2024
@10:00 a.m.

Cash Only. Cleanup deposit and sales tax required.
Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property
at any time before the sale.

Units include the personal household belongings
of the following tenants:

• Amy Bertelsen •Jennifer Fontaine



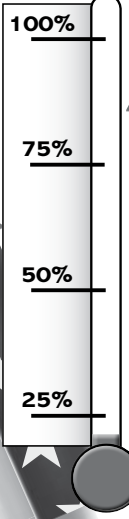
FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER

★ Donations are Needed ★
to raise \$6,000 for the
Annual 4th of July Fireworks Show!

Please send your check to: Fireworks Fund
City of Mineola, PO Box 179, Mineola, TX 75773
or drop off at City Hall, 300 Greenville Hwy.

Schedule of Activities
at Mineola Civic Center:
8 p.m.
Lake Country Symphonic Band
will entertain with patriotic music
9 p.m.
FIREWORKS

DONATIONS
Janie Williams \$25
Kiwanis Club \$250
Michael & Anita Creech \$100



CAMP

From page 1A

ability rise. To this day, she truly believes in how much gardening and working outdoors can do in people.

“Gardens bring people together. Gardens grow food. Gardens help the environment. Gardens help everything,” she said.

Dry focuses on working in “harmony” with the plants and with one another. She believes that, by giving kids time to slow down, get off their phones and enjoy the peace of nature, she’s helping kids “(share) their energy” with the plants and with one another.

One way she wants to make this available to the public is through her weekly summer camp, which is called Promise of Peace Garden Summer Camp. The camp, Dry says, is for anyone ages 5 to 12, although older kids and parents

sometimes join.

“I think the garden should be about freedom,” she said. “As long as you work in respect and harmony, I think you should be able to work and receive with nature as you want.”

Through the camp, she works to make sure each kid has a great and memorable day. On June 7, the nine attendees (and even some of their parents) made strawberry ice cream, learned about turtles, worked in the fresh, moist soil, colored on a big canvas and more. Each and every moment was filled with curiosity and learning.

Because the camp is held over the lunch hour, Dry also invited kids and their parents to make Swiss chard rol-lups filled with cream cheese and fresh, Texas-made olive oil.

By working hard, showing kids what there is to love about being outside and taking time to literally stop and smell the roses,

Dry hopes that she can change people’s lives a few kids at a time.

“Do you see what happens in the garden? It’s different. I’ve been in classrooms; great things happen in our classrooms and in our schools, but not like it does in the garden. Because everybody belongs in the garden; everybody brings something different,” she said.

The camp costs \$25 per day, per child. Dry holds her camp at the Promise of Peace Gardens at the Mineola Nature Preserve every Wednesday in June from 10-1. She is also asking the community for volunteers to help spread mulch around the community gardens.

For more information on the camp or the organization’s other activities, visit her Facebook page at Promise of Peace Gardens or the website at promiseofpeace.us.

Recovery continues from spring storms

Wood County is finally starting to dry out after several rounds of severe weather in late May and early June.

Clean up efforts continue, primarily the removal of trees that were uprooted and limbs that blew down.

The last major storm came through the morning of Tuesday, June 4, close on the heels of severe weather the night before.

Flooding has been reported throughout the area, primarily in low-lying ares, as FM 1254 northeast of Mineola had to be closed for a period, while FM 1804 south of Hoard in Smith

County has remained under water for weeks.

A major impact of the tree damage is that area power companies have seen outages running into the thousands of customers and lasting for days in some instances.

Many locales are reporting rainfall amounts through less than half the year already reaching normal rainfall for the entire year.

Lake Fork remained slightly above conservation level as of Monday and has been at or near capacity for several weeks – along with every reservoir in North-east Texas.

But as severe as the situation has been, areas to the east and south of Wood County have been even harder hit, with disaster declarations for Van Zandt and Smith Counties.

Van Zandt County Commissioner Virgil Melton was killed on June 3 when a tree blew over in a storm and crushed his vehicle. His wife was seriously injured.

Numerous events around the area were postponed or canceled due to storms, either from too-wet conditions or power outages.

Benefit set July 4th at Mineola preserve

The Mineola Community Friends organization, which has put on free holiday dinners in partnership with Logan’s Place, plans a Friends of July celebration Thursday, July 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at

the Mineola Nature Preserve.

There will be a car show from 9-3, music and food from 11-3, games, face painting, fishing and raffles.

Participants are encouraged to bring

canned food donations for the Rose Hill Community Food Pantry.

For more information text or call 903-287-6191. The preserve is located south of Mineola at 1860 CR 2724.

Submit anonymous crime tips: P3TIPS.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CITY OF HAWKINS

The City of Hawkins, Texas requests the submission of qualification statements, which will lead to the possible award of professional service contracts to provide Financial Advisor, Bond Counsel and Engineering services for water system improvements funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund of the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD) Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

Detailed instructions on preparation of the qualification statement must be obtained by calling the City Secretary at (903) 769-2224, or by picking them up at the Hawkins City Hall, 200 North Beaulah Street, Hawkins, Texas 75765 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Three copies of the qualifications statement must be addressed to Mandy Thomas, City Secretary, City of Hawkins, 200 North Beaulah Street, Hawkins, TX 75765. RFQ’s are to be received no later than Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed as follow:

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR, BOND COUNSEL,
OR ENGINEERING SERVICES
REQUEST FOR SEALED QUALIFICATIONS
City of HAWKINS
200 NORTH BEAULAH STREET
HAWKINS, TX 75765**

The City will evaluate the qualification statements to determine which firm has the best qualifications.

The consultants for Financial Advisor, Bond Counsel, and Engineering services are expected to negotiate an agreement for services that are acceptable to the City. If an acceptable contract cannot be negotiated, the City may formally end negotiations and begin negotiating with the next highest qualified firm.

Scope of Services:

Financial Advisor services are anticipated to include, but not be limited to, direction and coordination of all programs of financing, specifically including preparation and coordination of filing and administration of an application with the TWDB for loan or grant assistance, and coordination with other consultants, as necessary.

Bond Counsel services are anticipated to include, but not be limited to, the preparation of any and all documentation necessary to assist in the securing and administration of financing for the Project including application to the TWDB and assistance with all other documents necessary for the TWDB program financing and administration.

Engineering services are anticipated to include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) Preparation of design documents for the project; 2) Assistance in preparation of Environmental Information Document; 3) Assistance to the City and the City’s consultants in preparation of the TWDB Loan application; 4) Preparation of bid packages and assistance with project bidding; 5) Construction observation, construction administration, and contract coordination with TWDB; and 6) Preparation of permits as necessary for project.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or contracts awarded under this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees are or will be party to this RFQ or any resulting contract. RFQ’s are issued in accordance with Section 2254 of the Texas Government Code (Professional Services Act).

These contracts are subject to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA approved fair share goals toward procurement for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) firms. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBEs through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details of the DBE program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit www.txdb.texas.gov/dbe.

The City of Hawkins is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. Small, minority and women-owned business enterprises are encouraged to submit qualification statements.

The City of Hawkins reserves the right to refuse and reject any or all RFQ’s and to waive any or all formalities or technicalities or to accept the RFQ to be the best and most advantageous to the City and hold the RFQ’s for a period of 60 days without taking action. RFQ’s submitted past the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

Mineola city council seeks citizen input

The Mineola City Council wants to involve citizens in the budget process this year.

The council and city staff is asking residents to fill out a survey on the city website, Mineola.

com, and attend a public meeting on Thursday, June 20 at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

The survey involves a number of questions about city budgeting priorities. Questions

range from the importance of economic development to the amount spent on public safety and whether a tax increase is supported to improve streets.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Hawkins ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:15 PM, June 24, 2024 in Hawkins ISD Board Rm., Admin Bldg., 179 Hawk Dr., Hawkins, TX. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.6692/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.2789/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	3.84 % increase
Debt Service	0.37 % increase
Total expenditures	3.15 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$1,265,746,073	\$1,244,435,937
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$22,103,450	\$21,705,020
Total taxable value***of all property	\$964,601,430	\$864,559,907
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$20,330,973	\$19,904,964

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** “New property” is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** “Taxable value” is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$22,050,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year’s Rate	\$0.6692	\$0.2477	\$0.9169	\$11,581	\$4,580
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.6870	\$0.2950	\$0.9820	\$11,951	\$4,630
Proposed Rate	\$0.6692	\$0.2789	\$0.9481	\$11,126	\$4,819

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$188,687	\$209,304
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$113,203	\$87,542
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$0.9169	\$0.9481
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,037.96	\$829.99
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$-207.97

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.9481. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.9481.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$4,800,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$1,731,374

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



the Mineola Honey Badgers’ Raegyn Ballard completes a tag on the basepaths.



MacKenzie Lisenbe rifles a throw to first base for the Mineola Angels.



Quitman Dirt Diva Emmie Daugherty accelerates out of the box after putting the ball in play.



Tinley Miller prepares to uncoil at the plate for the Alba Home Run Honeys. (Monitor photos by John Arbter)



Our members are the rainbow in the storm.

THANK YOU!

We know electricity powers our members' necessities, entertainment, and livelihoods. At WCEC, we take our duty seriously. We never want anyone to be without power. The series of storms that we recently sustained did not cooperate. They knocked out power to over half a million East Texans and thousands of our meters. After reconstruction from one storm, another storm would hit to cause more damage.

Many of you got this treatment more than once. But you never gave up on us. And we never gave up either. The crews pulled out all the stops, using the swamp buggy, tracked vehicles, and even a boat. There was also a whole lot of old-fashioned pole climbing. For almost two solid weeks our men did not rest. They picked up miles of line, replaced 93 transformers, set 111 poles and cross-arms, and chopped mountains of wood.

During it all, a symbol of hope emerged; a rainbow stretching across our East Texas skies. It reminded us that there is beauty, even in the midst of storms. That beauty was also on display in the hearts of East Texans, and especially WCEC Co-op members.



We extend our deepest gratitude to each member who stood by us, offering not only uplifting motivation, but also acts of kindness such as drinks, snacks, and meals. We often say we have the best members in co-op country. You have proved it once again. **Our grateful thanks!**

WOOD COUNTY
ELECTRIC CO-OP

Your Voice Your Town!

City of Mineola Budget Community Engagement Meeting

**Thursday, June 20th
5:30 pm**

**City Hall
Council Chambers**

Visit Mineola.com and Take the
Budget Priorities Survey or use
the QR code here



**Mineola Citizens
Wards 1, 2, and 3**

Mayor - Jayne Lankford
Ward 1- Terry Eaton, Polly Jones
Ward 2 - Jimmy Alexander, Jack Newman
Ward 3 - Cassandra Sampson, Mitchell Tuck



*Shopping locally for the past 150 years
to support friends, neighbors & community...*

THINK BEFORE YOU SHOP

...& continuing the tradition of helping the businesses of someone you know!



Mineola.com CITY OF MINEOLA 903-569-6183