



Top photo, Mineola seniors line up to sing the school song. Bottom, Quitman graduates toss their caps in the air. See Page 10A for more photos of Friday's graduation ceremonies. (Monitor photo by Sam Major-Mineola, Quitman-courtesy)

Mineola, Quitman
grads of '25 head
off into the world

The storms of life will come soon enough. For this night, though, the high school graduating classes of Quitman and Mineola celebrated with fair weather Friday night as the 2025 classes were able to hold their respective ceremonies outdoors in their football stadiums as friends, family and well-wishers packed the stands for their special night. Bright blue and orange mortar boards sailed into the night sky to signify the end and the beginning, following one final chance to sing the school song together. Mineola High School Principal Chase Thomas prased the 118 "amazing young men and women," who made the playoffs in every sport, sent the most teams to FFA state contests in school history and won the state marching band championship. "This group knows how to win," he said. In the county seat,

Quitman High School principal Jeff Tittle said he could not be more proud of the Class of 2025. He listed the character traits they had learned, adding, that they had "learned to keep the main thing the main thing, staying focused on what truly matters. You've made Quitman proud." Each class acknowledged its members joining the United States armed forces. In Quitman, Jessica Lacy, Armando Chavarria, Armando Mendoza, Jordan Watts, Jack Clark and Skylar Walters. In Mineola, Alexander Garcia, Blaine Harris, Olivia Hughes, Victoria Merimon, Patrick Spoford and Lilyanne Windle. Valedictory and salutatory speeches were rendered by Mineola's Olivia Hughes and Sarah Smith and Quitman's

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In honor of
those who
gave all

By PHIL MAJOR
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Wood County paused briefly but somberly in the district courthouse in Quitman Monday morning in remembrance of those who gave their lives in defense of the nation and democracy. The ceremony, that has been held at the courthouse for 25 years, was moved indoors due to the stormy weather, and necessitated what master of ceremonies James Attaway called "Frago" in military terms, meaning fragmentary orders. The customary color guard was not held as is normal on the courthouse lawn, with Attaway explaining that the flag is raised to half mast at dawn and then raised later to signify the



David Hartley plays "Taps" to conclude Monday's Memorial Day ceremony.

remembrance of those fallen. The gold star family of Sgt. Joshua Powell of Quitman was in attendance, representing those whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice. He was killed in action June 4, 2011 in Afghanistan. US Army Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Grant gave the remarks. The 1993 Quitman graduate recalled crossing paths with At-

taway when they were both serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. He explained that his unit lost several members during the conflict. "It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and busyness of life," he said. But this (Memorial Day) is not just another day off, and it is not to be confused with other holidays that honor veterans.



Patrick Grant gave the address Monday. (Monitor photos by Phil Major)

It is to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. They come from all walks of life, he said, but what they have in common is the willingness to put everything on the line for their country, and we are stronger because of them. We should honor them with our actions and live our lives in a way that exemplifies the values that they fought for.

Mineola asks citizens
for input on priorities

Mineola citizens are being asked once again to chime in on the city's budget and priorities. A town hall is scheduled Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at city hall. Citizens may also register their thoughts through an online survey available on the city's website, Mineola.com. City staff and the city council will be developing the 2025-26 budget over the next 2-3 months. The city is also seeking input about the planned pedestrian crossing over the Union Pacific railroad tracks in downtown and has posted a separate survey online. City priorities to be presented Thursday based on the survey results include infrastructure as the top priority, with street maintenance and drainage as the most important. Next is property maintenance, code enforcement and cleanup. Third on the list is budget transparency and taxpayer awareness. Fourth is public safety, including police presence, lighting and speeding. And the fifth priority is community investment, including parks, events and support for small businesses.

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The girls and boys of summer

While the Sassy Sluggers of Quitman hosted the Mineola Queen Bees in Quitman last Tuesday (top left two photos), a full slate of games were on the offering in Mineola last Thursday. They included the Mineola Aces against the Mineola Southern Sluggers (top right and middle left), the Hawkins Havoc versus the Mineola Mustangs (middle row right photos), and the Alba-Golden Lady Panthers battling the Mineola Pink Panthers (at far left). The ballparks in Mineola also afforded some family warm-up sessions (at left).

Monitor photos by John Arbter

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sharon WSC will receive bids for TDEM HMGP Generator Improvements until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at the Sharon WSC office located at 6175 SH 37, Winnsboro, Texas 75494. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 p.m. on June 17, 2025 at the Sharon WSC office located at 6175 SH 37, Winnsboro, Texas 75494.

Bids are invited for several items as follows:

- 1. One (1) 50 kW diesel powered generators with concrete pads, automatic transfer switches, and related appurtenances.
- 2. Four (4) 80 kW diesel powered generators with concrete pads, automatic transfer switches, and related appurtenances.
- 3. Two (2) 150 kW diesel powered generators with concrete pads, automatic transfer switches, and related appurtenances.
- 4. Two (2) 175 kW diesel powered generators with concrete pads, automatic transfer switches, and related appurtenances.
- 5. One (1) 250 kW diesel powered generators with concrete pads, automatic transfer switches, and related appurtenances.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at Stephens Engineering located at 111 Blaine Trail, Longview, Texas 75604.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained on civcastusa.com.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the Sharon WSC or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The project to be constructed pursuant to this contract will be financed with assistance of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or nation origin.

The Sharon WSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the Sharon WSC for a period not to exceed 60 from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder’s qualifications prior to the contract award.

Sharon WSC – David LeBarron, President

Advertising Dates: Thursday May 22nd, 2025 and May 29th, 2025

All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.



Mike and Jenny Roberts at 136 English with the yard of the month. (Courtesy photo)

Roberts home named yard of month

Many homeowners immediately think of foundation plantings when dreaming of landscaping their property. Having a neat bed of shrubs and flowers along the front of their home looks and feels just right with an average sized lot. But for those with an acre or more, focusing on just one area of their yard seems off balance. Jenny and Mike Roberts solved that problem with “islands” of plantings scattered over their property. When Jenny bought the house at 136 English Street in 1981, much of the large lot was overgrown with scrub brush and weeds. Her dad came to the rescue, using a tractor and brush hog to clear the area for planting grass. The corner lot was then ready for the creation seen today. Two years later, Jenny and Mike became a couple and raised two daughters there. It wasn’t until around 2000

that they began thinking of adding to the meager plantings around the home. Jenny spent five months working in the yard, with encouragement and suggestions from her mom and sister, both enthusiastic gardeners. She was so pleased with the results of her work that she began adding trees and flower beds in earnest until the Roberts’ vision was complete (almost) several years ago. Jenny admits she can’t resist adding a new specimen now and then. Mike was raised on a farm with a huge vegetable garden, so he’s no stranger to edging, watering and fertilizing. He also added a covered porch to the rear of the house some time back, then installed a flagstone “floor” and walkway. This area is not only surrounded by lovely flower beds but also features pots with a variety of flowers and creeping jenny spilling over. Jenny loves roses, and

a favorite is the white Lady Banksia rose climbing along their back fence and blanketing an arched metal arbor. It’s a descendant of the Tombstone Arizona rose, brought to the States in 1885 from Scotland. They spend many Saturdays on this porch with their girls and grandchildren, having coffee and enjoying the peace and beauty around them. A lavender clematis twines on a nearby trellis, and dozens of varieties of flowering plants jostle for room in the colorful beds. Gardenias perfume the air, birds twitter as they visit the birdhouses, and butterflies hover over the bright yellow lantana. It’s a little slice of heaven that makes the Roberts family justifiably proud. The Fannie Marchman Garden Club of Mineola has chosen the Roberts home for their May Yard of the Month.



Mineola senior Patrick Spofford celebrates his diploma. He will be joining the United States Marine Corps. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)



Quitman ISD trustee Michael Hipp greets senior Cayden Smith on stage to award him his diploma at Friday's ceremony. (Courtesy photo)



Mineola High School Principal Chase Thomas, right, shares a laugh with assistant principal Adam McMahon as Thomas brings the mace onto the field for graduation Friday. McMahon will move to principal next year as Thomas becomes assistant superintendent. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)



Quitman graduates recount the class history, with special emphasis on numerous injuries and a class member who kept leaving and returning to the class. (Courtesy photo)



Graduates enjoyed the class history presented by fellow students. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)



Quitman's Class of 2025 sings the school song one final time before being dismissed Friday night. (Courtesy photo)



Balloons were in order at Friday's graduation celebration in Mineola. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)

Congratulations to the Class of 2025

Kiwanis Club of Mineola

Saluting our Scholarships to Mineola and Alba-Golden Students



Mineola Senior Graduates Olivia Hughes & Kaydence Lemoine Presented \$1,500 Scholarships



Alba-Golden Sophomore Tanner Paben Received \$500 as Sophomore of the Year and Alba-Golden Graduate Ava Nivison \$1,500



Zion Olajide is honored as MHS Sophomore of the Year by Key Club Faculty Sponsor Cameron Stack



In the 50-year history of the Kiwanis Club of Mineola, more than \$150,000 has been contributed to over 200 students from Mineola and A-G ISDs. "We are honored to be a part of the schools we serve, and the students supported, from passing out backpacks to school supplies to scholarships" Sam Curry, 2024-2025 President

Celebrating our 50th year serving Mineola!

2025

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