

Wood County MONITOR

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50 cents



Chad Parrish, Wood County Monitor

Mineola still abuzz with title win

From a sendoff as they headed to a state championship game in Arlington to a parade and pep rally, the Mineola Yellowjackets football team winning the state championship for the first time in the over 100-year history of the program has been the talk of the town.

A sendoff with a police and fire department escort sent the team on their way Thursday. Many had apparently already headed to the stadium where UIL reported 20,334 people attended the 3A Division 1 game. That is compared to last year's 5A Division 1 game attended by 15,743. There were 2,300 tickets sold from the Mineola School Administration Building and an



Mineola students were full of school spirit supporting the football team on their way to Thursday's state championship game. (Monitor photo by Doris Newman)

estimated 4,000 Mineola fans at the game. One fan flew approximately 7,000 miles from London, a day early and at some expense, to be able to see the game.

"It was a sea of orange on two levels," Superintendent Kim Tunnell said.

"We are so proud of our team and our coaches in providing our Mineola community this historic moment in the history of our district," she said. "This state championship is an example of the quality of students and programs offered in Mineola ISD and we are very blessed."

Class of 1982 Yellowjacket football alumni Kevin White said after the game Thursday

night, "It was exciting to watch. It was fun to see all those kids come together like that, watching the community support them. They all did well." And then, recalling many not so successful years, he added, "This is for all Yellowjackets."

Before the team even made it back into town the parade, this time with the route taking Johnson to Patten Street to the Loop and football stadium, was announced. On Saturday afternoon the football players rode in convertibles, Jeeps and pickup trucks as family, friends and fans lined intersections, parking lots and

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SWEPCO requesting 13 percent rate increase

AEP Southwestern Electric Power company submitted a request to the Public Utility Commission of Texas to increase the company's Texas rates by approximately \$69 million annually.

If approved, new rates could go into effect mid- to late-2017. Additionally, the overall rates would increase annually by approximately \$69 million, an average increase of about 12.7 percent. Residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would see an estimated increase of \$12.67 per month, or 13 percent. Increases for individual customers will vary depending on each customer's usage.

A press release from the utility company states that the primary need for new revenue is to cover \$34.4 million annually for additional investment in environmental controls at four major power plants. They state the investments are

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McDaniels accepts plea; gets 40 years

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

It was the crime that shook the emotions of people in Quitman and the surrounding communities to the core. On July 24, 2014 two toddler sisters, Natalye Price, 3, and Gabriella Guerrero, 1, were found murdered in their apartment at Dogwood Villa Apartments in Quitman.

Last Monday, Dec. 12 the toddlers' mother, Daphne Elizabeth McDaniels, pleaded guilty on two counts of injury to a child with intent to cause serious bodily injury. She was sentenced to 40 years in prison on the charges. McDaniels was

facing two counts of capital murder for the deaths of her daughters but those charges have been dismissed.

When the girls' bodies were first discovered police arrested McDaniels' boyfriend at that time, T.J. Liles, for tampering with evidence and injury to a child. The tampering charge was later dismissed, but Liles still faces two counts of reckless endangerment to a child and one count of tampering with evidence after allegedly throwing drug paraphernalia into a dumpster outside of the apartment the day of the murders.

According to a June 29, 2015 in-

dictum, McDaniels knowingly caused "serious bodily injury" to Natalye and Gabriella by hitting and kicking them. According to the document, the abuse happened sometime between March 2011 and when the two girls were found dead in July 2014.

An autopsy showed examiners found more than 30 cuts and bruises on the girls' heads and bodies as well as internal bleeding and damaged organs. The investigation into their death started on July 24, 2014 when the girls were found dead.

Wood County District Attorney Jim Wheeler said he was unable to comment on the case because there is still a pending case in the matter of McDaniels' then boyfriend T.J. Liles. "The sentence she received fit the charges," Wheeler said.



Daphne McDaniels

Section B

Yellowjackets cap season with state championship

Section C

Letters to Santa from area



First United Methodist Church • Mineola, Texas
welcomes you to share our Christmas Services



Christmas Eve—7 p.m.
Communion & Candlelight
Sanctuary
319 N. Pacific



Christmas Day—10 a.m.
Casual Carols
Sanctuary
319 N. Pacific

Corner Column

A win and a Merry Christmas for all

Sometime close to midnight as we rolled out of Arlington passing Six Flags, it occurred to me that our football boys had fulfilled their dream in winning a state championship just a couple of miles down the road from the amusement park that may have been the object of much simpler dreams when they were children.

Our former sports editor, Gary Edwards, used to tease me occasionally about the ways I described sports. But, Thursday's state championship game was the prettiest game of high school football I've ever seen. Watching how those young men played together as a team, how savvy and talented they were was a delight. It was just icing on the cake after seeing them grow up here and represent our school and town in a way that makes us proud.

As a Jacket alumni and mother of two Jacket football alumni I've been cheering for them, even if I didn't make their games. One of the team members, Noah

Sneed, attends our church and from what I have seen, and everyone agrees, he is one of the finest young men I've ever known. A former coach of Chantz Perkins' had told my son what a great athlete he was before he even moved here. Many moons ago, I was in class in high school with Jeremiah Crawford's grandmother, Linda Smith. She is someone once you meet, you always like. So,



DORIS NEWMAN

that extends to her extremely talented grandson.

I also covered the Mineola School Board meeting nine years ago when former Superintendent Mary Lookadoo introduced Joe Drennon and he was hired. I recall he and his wife Lorie were there and can't quite remember if their children were there too, but I believe they were. Sitting outside a closed meeting with a man who has a family waiting to see if the school board agrees to his hiring is a rare experience and one that makes you very cognizant of their situation. The outcome is history.

So many things have been said about this win – the first ever for the football program. The only other state championship won by a MHS sports team was by a track relay team. It is huge for those boys, coaches, cheerleaders, band,

school and everyone in town. Last year retiring teacher Bruce Armstrong told me he'd enjoyed his career, adding that in the last few years things had gotten even better. "Everybody gets better looking when you're winning," he said off-the-cuff with a grin. The remark kind of took me aback, but as time has transpired and I've watched, in reality it appears to be true. Maybe it's the smiles.

During my years here, I've seen some dismal decades of football in Mineola. But that's what makes this year's team's win, if front of more than 20,000 people, so much sweeter. That trophy is for all of our Yellowjackets. And Edwards made another point about that for the teams in our district who had "a perfectly terrible season." For all their lives they can say they played and lost to the state champions. It's a win for all of us.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor:

In some ways it wasn't that many years ago that the Yellow Jackets managed to go winless and score but 19 points in a single season.

I remember a particular school board member talking about "the good old days" while asking over and over, why couldn't Mineola

have more success than the district was having?

Now those days have been surpassed and there are new good old days to be talked about in the years to come.

Congratulations to Joe Drennon, his entire staff, and most importantly to the student athletes who paid the price through dedication

and hard work, to give themselves and their community something to remember for the remainder of their lives and beyond.

Just think of this... from winless to a State Championship.

It simply doesn't get much better than that.

Gary Edwards
Holly Lake Ranch

Letters policy

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 must be signed, accompanied with a telephone number for verification and be no more than 400 words long.

The Monitor does not accept 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 libelous. The newspaper has editorial discretion on publishing as well as editing letters.

WOOD COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

2nd FRIDAY ACOUSTICAL JAM - second Friday 6 - 9 p.m., Quitman Public Library, 202 E Goode St, Quitman 903-975-5745

ALBA CITY COUNCIL - first Monday, 6:30 p.m., City Hall.

ALBA LADIES CLUB - fourth Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Alba Community Center, 765-2573

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 - Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m., Friday 8 p.m., Wednesday noon; Women's Group Mon. 11 a.m.; St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Mineola.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Wednesday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., 404 S. Main Street, Quitman.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Gateway Group, Tues. & Sat. 7 p.m. Puckett House, 109 Kilpatrick Street.

AL ANON - Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Mineola.

ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP (sponsored by Pilot Club) first Monday, 11 a.m., Red Dome restaurant in Quitman, 903-569-5237.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 296 and Auxiliary - fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m., Highway 80, three miles east of Mineola. 903-569-0348. All are invited.

AMERICAN LEGION POST OF WINNSBORO - first Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., 102 West Broadway, in Winnsboro. 903-752-0913 or 903-7675338.

APET (Animal Preservation of East Texas) Thrift Store - Dog Gone Good Stuff, 915 S. Pacific Street, Mineola, Thursday-Saturday, 903-569-0505 or 903-563-9542.

BOY SCOUT TROOP #36 - meets two Sundays each month at 4:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church Scout House, Quitman.

BOY SCOUT TROOP #385 - Tuesdays, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Educational Bldg., Mineola, Scoutmaster Chris Jennings, 903-569-3531.

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY - Humble Baptist, first & third Tuesday 1-4 p.m.

BREAKING FREE - meeting place for families and friends of addicts and alcoholics. Monday, 7 p.m., 971 E. Goode St., Quitman, 903-497-6149.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a support group for those with various hurts, habits or hang-ups, every Monday, 7 p.m., Church On the Rock annex building at 302 S. Stephens. 903-763-4588.

COUNSELING CHRISTIAN GUIDANCE CENTER - 903-850-3858 or ibarnes@txscellnet.com.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - first Saturday except June, July, August and December, 12 p.m. Harvest Acres Baptist Church, 460 NW Loop 564, Mineola 903-569-3286.

DELPHIAN LITERARY CLUB - first Wednesday, 569-6794 or 569-3586.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS - 7 p.m. Friday, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Ronny Polley 768-2992.

DUPPLICATE BRIDGE ACBL games - Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 882-1335.

EASTERN STAR - Quitman Chapter 659, 2nd Tues., dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30. Flora Lodge in Quitman. 903-638-6420.

ETMC Quitman - needs volunteers. Great opportunity to meet people while helping your community. Contact Judy Johnson, 903-383-3433

FANNIE MARCHMAN GARDEN CLUB - third Wednesday, September - May, Mineola Civic Center, 9:30 a.m. Visitors welcome. Charla Martin, president, 903-638-6389

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, bridge, lessons, Bingo and card games.

FOUKE-LAKE HAWKINS CRIME WATCH - third Thursday, 7 p.m., Fouke Community Center

FRINEDS OF THE LIBRARY - second Tuesday, Quitman.

FRINEDS OF THE MINEOLA MEMORIAL LIBRARY - first Wednesday, 1 p.m., Mineola Library, 569-2767.

GED CLASSES, FREE - Sand Spring Baptist Church. Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, or 6-9 p.m. 903-768-3239 or 903-569-9350.

GED FREE PREPARATORY CLASS - each Thursday 4 - 6 p.m. concurrent with QISD calendar. Quitman Public Library, 202 E Goode St, Quitman 903-975-5745

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #3 - Monday, 6 p.m., Broad Street Church of Christ Annex, 903-569-2610. All girls, kindergarten-12th grade welcome.

HAINESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER - second Tuesday, 6 p.m. Members bring a covered dish and enjoy an evening of fellowship. The center is located at FM 49 and 778, 903-769-1091.

HAINESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. - second and fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., Firehouse downtown Hainesville.

HAWKINS LIONS CLUB - second and fourth Tuesday at the depot in Willful Crossing.

HOLLY LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT - first and third Tuesday at the fire station at Holly Lake Ranch.

IRIS GARDEN CLUB-GOLDEN - first Monday, September-May, Golden United Methodist Church. 903-765-3000.

KIWANIS CLUB - noon Tuesday, Mineola Civic Center Dogwood Room.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF SAINT PETER'S THE APOSTLE COUNCIL #11933 - second Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the church, 203 Meadowbrook Drive, Mineola. 903-569-3665.

LAKE COUNTRY CLASSIC CAR CLUB - third Monday, 6:30 p.m. 903-850-2557.

LAKE COUNTRY REPUBLICANS - fourth Tuesday, 6 p.m., Quitman Library, 202 E. Goode St.

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 - will resume rehearsals Aug. 6 at Mineola High School Band Hall. 7 p.m. 903-569-2300.

LAKE FORT ROTARY CLUB - Wednesday, noon, at the Lake Fork Baptist Church on State Highway 515

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.

MINEOLA BAND BOOSTERS - second Tuesday, 7 p.m., in high school band hall. All parents invited.

MINEOLA CLUBS CLUB - second and fourth Thursday, noon, Mineola Country Club, 903-638-1596; 903-569-3340.

MINEOLA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE (Toys for Tots) - third Tuesday, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall. 903-569-6481, commandant.

MINEOLA SCHOOL BOARD - third Monday, Admin. Bldg., Loop 564, 7 p.m.

MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL - fourth Monday, 6 p.m., City Hall, Council Workshop the previous Thursday 5:30 p.m. Public welcome. Call City Hall for changes in November and December because of holidays.

MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB - last Monday, 6 p.m., high school lobby.

MINEOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD - third Tuesday, 4 p.m., city hall. 569-6944. Public invited.

MINEOLA MASONIC LODGE - second Thursday, dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. All Masons invited. 569-2608.

MINEOLA REBEKAH LODGE - first and third Tuesday, 11 a.m., 106 S. Line St. All Rebekahs welcome, 569-2776.

MINEOLA ROTARY CLUB - Monday noon, Dogwood Room, Mineola Civic Center.

MINEOLA ROTARY RECYCLING - third Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon, Walmart parking lot. Cardboard, paper and plastic accepted.

MINEOLA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER - 308 University, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 903-497-1162; Dominoes & other games.

MLOTA LINE DANCE GUILD - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., and Friday, 9:30 a.m.

MLOTA FIBER/CRAFT ART GUILD - Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., business meeting fourth Thursday, 9:30 am.

MLOTA QUILT GUILD - first, second and third Thursday, 9:30 am; business meeting first Thursday.

MLOTA PAINTERS GUILD - Wednesday, 10 a.m.; business meeting fourth Monday.

MLOTA RUG HOOKING GROUP - first Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beginners are welcome.

MLOTA PHOTOGRAPHY GUILD - fourth Thursday, 6:30 p.m. All levels welcome., 903-569-8877.

MLOTA SCULPTURE GUILD - Tuesday, 1 p.m. Business meeting first Tuesday..

MONDAY NIGHT KNITS - 6-8 p.m. Monday, Golden Methodist Fellowship Hall, 903-768-2540.

THE NAME CENTER (National Association of Marriage Enhancement) - i302 S. Stephens, Quitman. Certified and experienced counselors by appointment to assist couples in Wood County. Free, donations are accepted. 903-763-1286.

NORTHEAST TEXAS PARATROOPERS ASSOCIATION - third Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at Red Dome Smokehouse in Quitman.

OPEN HEART MINISTRY - third Friday, 7 p.m., Mineola Civic Center.

OVERCOMERS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP - Monday, 7-8 p.m., Whispering Pines Church of the Nazarene, located on CR 3811, Hawkins

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. 569-9223, 569-1760.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL OF MINEOLA ELEMENTARY- first Tuesday, 8:15 a.m., elementary library,

PARENTS ANONYMOUS GROUP - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, Quitman. Children's program provided. 903-629-2114

PILOT CLUB OF MINEOLA - second and fourth Tuesday, 6 p.m. Mineola Civic Center. 903-569-5237.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - at First Baptist Church in Quitman. First Tuesday 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 903-763-8101.

QUITMAN CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP - third Thursday, 10 a.m., 403 Conger in Quitman. The public is welcome.

QUITMAN GARDEN CLUB - second Tuesday (except when on field trips), 2 p.m., Quitman library. quitmangardenclub@gmail.com. All are welcome.

QUITMAN/LAKE FORK KIWANIS - Wednesday, noon, Texas Tea Room, 405 S. Hart Street in Quitman's Dogwood Plaza.

QUITMAN LIONS CLUB - second and fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Peralto's Restaurant. Contact any Lions Club member to donate your used eyeglasses for recycling to the needy.

MISD board approves priority list for Meredith Foundation

By EVAN DUDLEY

sports@woodcountymonitor.com

During their monthly meeting last Monday, the Mineola School Board approved three resolutions, approved the Meredith Foundation request priority list and was updated on the Texas Academic Performance Report and the Flex-Mod scheduling introduced this year.

Superintendent Kim Tunnell updated the board on the 2015-2016 Texas Academic Performance Report. The district overall is currently in stage one – the highest stage attainable – but more work was needed in improving math and social studies scores across the board.

High School Principal David Sauer gave a report on the new flex-mod scheduling. He said that freshman and sophomores were new to the system and had struggled early in the year but as time goes by, the students are becoming comfortable with the scheduling. Juniors and seniors were excelling at the new format and students involved in extra-curricular activities were as well. The struggles of students were expected according to Assistant Principal Jennifer Knipp but that those struggles would level off as the year progressed.

Assistant Superintendent of

Business and Operations William Bjork presented information items and the financial report. Bjork informed the board that the district had \$7.8 million on hand and that was up \$209,000 from last month. Tax collections began the last week of October and Bjork reported that 14.5 percent had been collected since and that it would increase significantly with December and January collections.

Tunnell added that attendance was at 95.4 percent, slightly down from last month. Although the attendance was more than 95 percent, Tunnell indicated that the figure was low due to the cold and flu season arriving.

The board approved a priority list of requests for the Meredith Foundation, who has provided approximately \$6.4 million to the Mineola school district since 1958.

The top priority was for scholarships totaling \$30,000. The second item on the list is the addition of a girls changing room in the field house for \$35,000. A new stadium speaker system for \$10,000 was third and a security gate and cameras – totaling \$30,000 – for the high school was fourth on the list. Improvements for the primary school playground – including a new walkway and shading for it – was fifth

on the list for \$42,983.

A new digital phone system was also on the list for \$134,794 and improvements to the nature trail at \$32,000. The last two items on the priority list were instruments for the middle and high school bands for \$44,498 and new signs for the stadium, ball fields and campuses at \$10,000.

The board unanimously approved two resolutions during the meeting. The first resolution was legislative priorities for 2017 which include a repeal of the A-F accountability system, a repeal of vouchers for education saving grants and improving state funding. The second resolution went more in-depth about the A-F accountability system and the desire to repeal it. According to Tunnell, the system places a label on children without considering other factors and is too complex and filled with 'governmentese.'

The Community Facility Advisory Committee – made up of 32 community members, staff and parents – met four times between Nov. 17 and Dec. 7 and committee member Jason Redding was present to advise the board on their findings. Redding spoke on safety and security of existing structures.

[Read full story online at
www.woodcountymonitor.com](http://www.woodcountymonitor.com)

City adopts gaming ordinance

By LARRY TUCKER

news@woodcountymonitor.com

Quitman City Council members strengthened the city's gaming ordinance as a pro-active measure to protect against gambling machines in the city limits during their regular meeting Thursday.

"Several months ago we had a gentleman looking at opening a facility and talking about it. We showed him the rules and he backed off, but we thought we needed to beef it up a little bit," Mayor J.R. Evans said. "We will strengthen our rules of operations, inspection fees on machines and this kind of stuff which will be somewhat of a deterrent to have very many if any (gaming machines)."

The purpose of the ordinance in section one says "is to prevent establishments from becoming places of illegal gambling. Illegal gambling often attracts the criminal element. Average citizens often conduct business in these establishments which make them easy victims of robberies, assaults and thefts. Often times illegal gambling attracts the sale, distribution and use of illegal narcotics which is detrimental to not only to the youth of the incorporated city limits, but also the quality of life for the citizens."

City Attorney Jim McLeroy talked about the "amusement redemption machines."

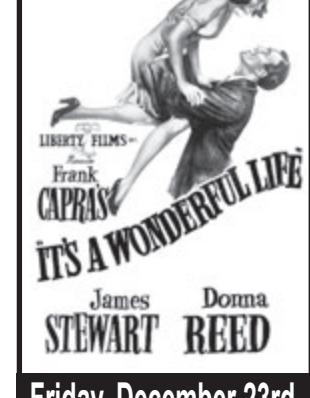
"Typically if they are true gaming machines if they meet this ordinance they won't be here very long. The \$5 prizes are not what drives this industry. What happens is they will come up with a way to give bigger prizes whether it is Walmart gift cards or whatever," McLeroy explained. "The bigger prizes are what lures the

people in. We don't have this kind of gambling in Texas but that is what this is if it is successful. Eventually sheriff's departments get involved and they go in and raid these places confiscating the machines. A lot of these operators are looking for places with no regulations so they can just go in and set up."

In another matter, the council approved changing insurance to the Texas Municipal League (TML) from Blue Cross. The mayor said that formerly the city insurance was through TML and, "We had some employees with major medical problems raising our rates. We wanted to find something better for our employees," he said of the switch back to TML.

In another action the council accepted bids on tax foreclosed properties at 504 Central and a piece of land near 210 Flournoy.

SELECT THEATER
Mineola 569-2300



Friday, December 23rd
7:30PM

NO MOVIES
Saturday or Sunday
CLOSED for Christmas
Regular prices:
Adults \$6 - 11 and under \$4
Saturday Matinee:
ALL Tickets \$4.00



Quitman board OKs cameras

By LARRY TUCKER

news@woodcountymonitor.com

Quitman school board trustees approved the purchase and installation of 44 cameras to be distributed between the junior high school, high school and agriculture building. The bid went to American Integrated Security Corporation for \$38,623.99.

Assistant Superintendent Greg Bower made the presentation to the board. "This company does their own installation, they do their own support and they have a warranty. You can ask the junior high and high school principals about the cameras now. It seems like every time they need an identification the cameras are out of focus," Bower said. "We have two of these and they are always in focus with a real crisp image. This company is a Region 7 vendor. The other company is cheaper but they contract everything out while American Integrated Security does everything."

In another matter, the board amended the budget and approved the purchase and installation of seven time clocks and to install time clock drops for campuses and departments from Time Clock Plus for \$25,000. The district has over 100 employees who use time clocks.

The board further approved a resolution to accept the proposed bid submitted by Douglas Dalton for property located in the West Quitman addition for \$250. The district will not receive any money, but the action does put the property back on the tax roll.

Prior to the board meeting Fine Arts Director Tina Johnson told the board about things happening in

See QUISD, Page 8A

A-G trustees set up district for savings

By TOMMY ANDERSON

tommmyanderson@suddenlink.net

The business Ideal Impact of Grapevine will help eliminate the waste of energy as a part of a plan in the Alba-Golden School District, starting right after the Christmas holidays.

The Alba-Golden School Board unanimously approved a four-year contract with Ideal Impact from Grapevine at the regular monthly meeting of the board last Monday, Dec. 12.

The project will cost the district \$174,130 in initial expenses for the four-year deal. However, a minimum of \$199,000 is anticipated to be saved on utility bills during that time. If the program is well received by staff and utilized properly the savings are anticipated to be around \$61,000 per year. Should the program be vigorously embraced, the maximum could be \$74,000 per year, or a total of \$244,000 over the four years.

Ideal Impact is guaranteeing the program will

See A-G, Page 8A



Artwork by Laura Faith Abello, Age 11

Daughter of Lorna Abello, RN, 5 Ornelas, CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital - Tyler

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust him this Holiday season.
(Rom. 15:13)



CHRISTUS.
TRINITY MOTHER FRANCES
Health System

christustmf.org



16-2178

Caring & Sharing Christmas

Community rallies to provide food, presents for families

By TOMMY ANDERSON
tommyanderson@suddenlink.net

Not only is Mineola just about the friendliest town to be found in East Texas, it is also just about the most caring town to be found in East Texas.

Just how much Mineola cares about its less fortunate residents was evident Satur-

day morning as the Caring & Sharing program provided boxes of food and Christmas presents to nearly 300 families.

Food drives at local schools, donations from businesses and individuals all added up to provide an ample Christmas for those in need. The food-stuffs and Christmas presents were distributed from 7:30

until 11:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Ministries Center. Plans were made to provide 280 families with Christmas goodies with some extra in case there were others who were overlooked and needed to be given a little Christmas cheer.

Activity was brisk throughout the first three hours, then



Busy volunteers are checking the last-minute details to make sure the order is correct before these baskets of food and gifts are wheeled out to grateful recipients Saturday morning. BELOW: A double row of cars awaits the assignment of their pickup numbers Saturday morning during the annual Mineola Caring & Sharing Christmas food and present distribution at the First United Methodist Church Ministries Center. (Photos by Tommy Anderson)



Manning the check-in table at Saturday's Mineola Caring & Sharing Christmas distribution were Wayne Williams, right, and Gene Strause. Williams has been a volunteer for this project for over 20 years.

trickled down to a slow steady pace after that. At about 9:20 a.m. the check-in lines still found a double row of cars waiting to have their verification letters checked and their pickup numbers assigned.

About 25 to 35 volunteers were on hand all the time to make sure everything ran smoothly and quickly as grateful recipients made their way through the simple process of picking up their prized gifts. And smoothly it did go as every box of food stuffs and every last toy had found a new home by the end of the day's

activities.

One car with only adults inside was asked where the children were on such an exciting day and the driver replied, "They are at home so that Santa can bring them these toys on Christmas morning."

Though this community outpouring culminated in just one morning of flurried activities, it is a project that involved hundreds of Mineolans over many months. Hopefully it is a project that will have a lasting effect on both the givers and receivers for many months to come.



Rates

From page 1A

necessary to comply with new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The request includes four major components. Those include environmental controls being made at plants in Pittsburg; Hallsville; Mansfield, Louisiana and Gen-try, Arkansas. These will

receive the \$34.4 million in environmental controls.

The request also includes \$8 million for a change in transmission cost recovery to align with actual costs in the southwest power pool. There will also be \$2 million for vegetation management to improve reliability, especially during storms, and another \$24.5 million for generation, transmission and distribution, and other things.

An honest day's work for an honest day's pay

STEWART OUTDOOR ENTERPRISES LLC



Welding/Fabricating

Dirt Work
Land Clearing
Metal Buildings

Duane R. Stewart
Owner

stewartoutdoor@outlook.com

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Questions to consider when choosing a health plan:

Will you have access to a statewide or national provider network, one that will cover your care wherever and whenever you need it, even when you travel? Some plans limit care to the physicians and hospitals in a few counties.

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Mineola Police Report

On Dec. 13 a 26-year-old Mineola man was arrested on deadly conduct as a result of a road rage incident.

Police arrested Thomas Lynn Koonce for deadly conduct at 7:49 p.m. in the incident.

Koonce said that the complainant cut across the road in front of him to turn into the Shell station located at the intersection of Highways 69 and 80. He said he almost hit the vehicle. The complainant said that Koonce then threatened him with a handgun. Officers stopped Koonce and found that he did have a gun as described by the man.

Other Mineola police reports for the past week included:

Dec. 14 – Police responded to a call of a disturbance at 1:33 a.m. on West Broad Street. A woman said she was giving her ex-boyfriend a ride home when he became irate and would not get out of her vehicle. When she called police he took off walking.

At 9:11 a.m. police received a report of a juvenile female in the road at Loop 564 and Patten Street who appeared to be intoxicated. She was transported by emergency medical services personnel.

A man called at 12:06 p.m. and said his wife was running down the road in front of Walmart. While the dispatcher was on the telephone with the complainant the woman got back in the car. The man hung up and would not answer calls. Police had no other information and could not find anyone.

A theft was reported at Cross Country Foods where two males took items from the store.

Police arrested David Lee Kimbrough, 67, a transient, for disorderly

conducted for urinating in the Walmart parking lot.

Dec. 13 – Police arrested Carla Deann Newsom, 43, Mineola, for driving with no liability insurance after she was stopped on East Kilpatrick Street on a traffic violation.

A vacant house that was being remodeled was burglarized on Kings Lane. An air compressor, air hose and nail gun were taken. The burglar entered through a window.

A woman called saying a man had pushed her out of the house on West Broad Street and would not let her back in. She could not give the dispatcher an address and hung up. The officers looked for her but couldn't find her.

At 12:46 p.m. personnel at the high school reported an assault of a girl by another female student. The matter is under investigation and a warrant is pending.

Dec. 12 – Personnel at Whataburger reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill during the previous night.

An Evans Street resident reported a laptop computer was stolen from her car. She said she was carrying items into her home and returned to find the computer missing from the unlocked car. The matter is under investigation.

Police arrested Barron Keel Duplechein, Jr., 37, Mineola for driving with an invalid driver's license after he was pulled over on Kilpatrick Street.

Dec. 11 – Officers were called to Gateway Lanes at 12:31 a.m. on a report of a disturbance in progress at the bar area. An officer talked with several people who were involved and no one wanted to file charges and all agreed to separate.

At 11:11 a.m. officers assisted sheriff's deputies, EMS and fire personnel

at a vehicle accident with two adults and a small child on Highway 69 near County Road 2275.

Police responded to a welfare concern on Wigley Street regarding a mother and her two children. The children had not been to their church youth group or school in several days. An officer reported everything was fine after speaking with the mother who was moving out of state.

Dec. 10 – There was a report of a car window being broken out at Gateway Lanes at 3:45 p.m. but nothing was stolen. A minute later a man reported the passenger window of his car was busted out and a purse was stolen. He was parked on Commerce Street.

An anonymous call came in stating that someone was singing karaoke at Clawdaddys and using profanities and that it could be heard down the street from the open location. Police went and spoke to the owner.

At 9:47 p.m. personnel at Walmart reported a group of six to eight young people were in the store tearing things up and being disruptive. They were asked to leave but refused. They had left the store before officers arrived.

Dec. 8 – Police were called about a man urinating in the Walmart parking lot. Police found him close to Whataburger and issued him a criminal trespass warning.

Deputies were called to a residence on CR 2320

Wood County Sheriff's Report

ON SITE AND WARRANT ARRESTS

Glen Lee McGill, 53, Quitman, assault causing bodily injury, family violence;

Hunter Weems, 18, Winnsboro, unsafe speed, no driver's license when unlicensed, display of expired license plate/registration;

Terry Gene Lange, 27, Mineola, driving while intoxicated, unlawfully carrying a weapon and a class C traffic offense;

Derek Randall Yazbeck, 32, Mesquite, driving while license invalid with prior conviction(s);

Paul David Carr, 66, Pickton, DWI with open container, unlawfully carrying a weapon;

Thomas Lynn Koonce, 26, Mineola, deadly conduct and

Lance William White, 47, Quitman, interference with an emergency phone call.

where a woman and her boyfriend were arguing. She said they were wrestling over a cellphone when he struck her on the side of her face. There was no evidence, another person at the scene couldn't corroborate the report and the boyfriend said he just wanted to gather his things and live so the case is closed.

Dec. 11 – Several items were reported as missing from a woman's home on Highway 37 in Quitman. THE woman said after a co-worker and her boyfriend stayed at her house while she was gone, an Xbox 360, gun and money were missing.

The coworker and her boyfriend said they didn't take the items and the matter is being investigated.

Dec. 9 – Deputy Melissa Pollard and Sergeant Donivan South arrested Glen Lee McGill, 53, Quitman on an out-of-county warrant as well as an assault charge. His estranged wife reported he showed up at her house wanting to stay and then punched her in the mouth. He was found hiding at a neighbor's house in a bathtub.

Deputies were called to a residence on CR 2320

Information about missing cattle was reported to the Southwest Cattleman's Association. The cow and a bull were located a short time later.

An Alba woman reported that while she was away for Thanksgiving, she had someone pick up her mail. However, she did not receive her medicine that was to be delivered, and the mail carrier told her it had been delivered to her mailbox in November.

Dec. 8 – A resident of Lake Fork Apartments on Highway 154 near Yantis reported her wallet was stolen from her home between 8 and 8:30 a.m. There was no sign of forced entry. IDs, a debit card and cash were stolen. She did find one of her cards on the side of the road.

Dec. 7 – A woman reports she was bitten by a dog after she and her brother got into an altercation with another woman at a nearby residence on Thanksgiving Day. She reported she was bitten on the hand by the dog during the melee. The responding deputy, Jeremy Ragsdale, found three dogs, all of which appeared to be healthy but could not make contact with their owner.

Mineola Fire Report

Mineola Fire Department calls for the past week were:

Dec. 14 – At 8:04 p.m. the department was dispatched to County Road 2275 for a brush fire that originated from a controlled burn.

Dec. 13 – At 12:26 p.m. the department was dispatched to Highway 80 and Farm-to-Market Road 3056 for a motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

Dec. 12 – At 2:49 a.m. the department was dispatched to Kilpatrick Street but was canceled en route. At 5:48 p.m. the department was dispatched to CR 2270 for a downed power line.

Dec. 11 – At 11:11 a.m. the department was dispatched to Highway 69 and CR 2275 for a motor vehicle accident with no injuries. At 4:13 p.m. the department was dispatched to Goodson Circle for shorted electrical equipment stemming from a sparking transformer.

Dec. 10 – At 6:09 p.m. the department was dispatched to Buchanan Street for shorted electrical equipment stemming from a sparking transformer.

Dec. 8 – At 9:29 p.m. the department was dispatched to North Pacific Street to assist EMS.

Quitman Police Report

Quitman Police Department (QPD) had 148 calls for service in November, issued 45 citations, 30 warning citations and made 72 personal contacts. The QPD worked three motor vehicle accidents, had three dog calls, four disturbance calls and one welfare check. Offenses filed with the department included three burglary of a building calls, three thefts, one public intoxication, one driving while intoxicated, 29 civil reports.

Quitman Fire Report

For the month of November Quitman Volunteer Fire Department (QVFD) had 31 total calls, four in the city and 27 in the county. They averaged five firefighters and two vehicles per call and worked 163.3 man hours. They assisted other fire departments four times and their total calls for the year are at 315.

The activity report includes seven grass/brush fires, two house fires, two control fires, four motor vehicle assists, a gas leak, a gas smell investigation, two smoke alarms and one residential inside water leak.

The QVFD hosted the Wood County Fire Chiefs Association monthly meeting and participated in the Quitman Veterans Day Parade with two trucks. They also hosted the Cub Scouts with a program at the fire station.

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 Alba, Tx 75410 Fax: 903-474-9045
 Website: www.lakeforkbaptist.org
 email:info@lakeforkbaptist.org



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Zechariah his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hand of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1: 67-79

Alba
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 Pastor Jerry Jackson Jr.
 Eton Baptist Church
 7133 TX-182, Alba
 (903) 765-2014
 Pastor - Reggie Day
 First Baptist Church of Alba
 219 E. Holly, Alba
 903-765-2471
 Pastor Kelly B. Burton
 Lake Fork Baptist
 9483 W. FM 515, Alba
 903-473-9523
 Pastor Perry Crisp

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Alba Church of Christ
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 John Ratliff
 Church of Christ of Alba
 105 W. Holley St., Alba
 903-765-9450
 George Filipsick

METHODIST
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 170 E Holley St., Alba
 903-473-2411
 Rev. Beverly Tune

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 Pastor Byron George

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Pastor 569-5426

Pastor 612 N Newson St, Mineola

Pastor 903-569-1917

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<p

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KAREN H. HOMAN, Deceased, were issued on December 5, 2016, under Cause No. 13,012 pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to EDWARD R. HOMAN, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

EDWARD R. HOMAN, EXECUTOR

Estate of KAREN H. HOMAN, Deceased

c/o Brad Wilson

Attorney at Law

Wilson Law Office

P.O. Box 1529

Quitman, Texas 75783

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated December 7, 2016.

Brad Wilson

Attorney for Executor

NO. 13,030
ESTATE OF HAGER PATTON,
DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HAGER PATTON, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2016, in No. 13,030, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas to PEGGY PATTON.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Wood County, Texas. The post office address of the Independent Executor is c/o Richard E. Roberts, P.O. Box 70, Quitman, Wood County, Texas 75783.

All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 12th day of December, 2016.

RICHARD E. ROBERTS, Attorney for PEGGY PATTON, Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Doris M. Phillips, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2016, under Docket No. 13,036, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to Carolyn Little.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Carolyn Little, Representative

Estate of Doris M. Phillips, Deceased

c/o James A. Attaway, Jr., Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 746

Quitman, Texas 75783

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated December 12, 2016.

James A. Attaway, Jr.

Attorney for Executor

STATE OF TEXAS
TO: L. Jean Graham

"You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of Sun Eagle Bay Owners Association, Petitioner, was filed in the District Court of

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Public Notice

Wood County, Texas on the 4th day of October, 2016, against L. Jean Graham, Respondent, numbered 2016-641 and entitled "Sun Eagle Bay Owners Association v. L. Jean Graham." The suit requests foreclosure of real property. The real property owned by Defendant and located within the Sun Eagle Bay subdivision is more fully described as follows:

Sun Eagle Bay subdivision, Section 1, Lots 10277, 10278, 10297 and 10298

The court has authority in this suit to render an order to enforce property foreclosure that will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the Court at Wood County, Texas, this the 18th day of November, 2016.
Jenica Turner, Clerk of the District Court of Wood County, Texas.

By: Jennifer Mosher, Deputy."

CAUSE NO. 13,008
IN THE ESTATE OF
TOMMIE EDWARD COLLINS
DECEASED IN THE COUNTY
COURT OF WOOD COUNTY,
TEXAS

NOTICE OF FILING PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Tommie Edward Collins, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2016, in Cause No. 13,008, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: Mr. Billy Don Collins. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o Lindsey Birdsong
Attorney at Law
211 E. Houston Street
Tyler, TX 75702

DATED the 12th day of December, 2016.

Lindsey Birdsong
State Bar No.: 02333615
Birdsong & Armstrong, P.C.
211 E. Houston Street
Tyler, TX 75702

Telephone: (903) 595-6297

Facsimile: (903) 595-3630

ATTORNEYS FOR BILLY DON COLLINS AS THE INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF
TOMMY EDWARD COLLINS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nancy Lee Burns, Deceased, were issued on October 18, 2016, in Docket No. 12,994, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: Curtis Allen, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate executor addressed as follows:

c/o Steve Spitzer
Ramey & Flock, P.C.
100 East Ferguson, Suite 500
Tyler, Texas 75702

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated December 15, 2016.

Ramey & Flock, P.C.

By: Steve Spitzer
Attorneys for Estate Executor

NO. 13,021
ESTATE OF ELMER OTTIS BROWN, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELMER OTTIS BROWN, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 2016, in No. 13,021, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas to TONY W. BROWN.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Hopkins County, Texas. The post office address of the Independent Executor is c/o Richard E. Roberts, P.O. Box 70, Quitman, Wood County, Texas 75783.

All persons having claims against the Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated December 12, 2016.

James A. Attaway, Jr.

Attorney for Executor

Public Notice

rently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 12th day of December, 2016.

RICHARD E. ROBERTS, Attorney for TONY W. BROWN
Independent Executor

PUBLIC NOTICE: The annual meeting of the Wood County Historic Cemetery Association will be December 22 at 2 p.m. at the Mineola Memorial Library, 301 N. Pacific St., Mineola, Tx. 75773

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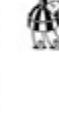
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George Cathey, M.D. announces the closing of his private practice effective January 15, 2017; however, he is not retiring. On January 16, 2017 he will be joining the ETMC First Physicians Clinic-Quitman. Patients are welcome to continue seeing Dr. Cathey at the ETMC First Physicians Clinic-Quitman located inside the hospital. 117 N. Winnsboro Street (903) 763-6220

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Obituaries

**HAROLD DEUSON
1926-2016**

Graveside services for Harold Wayne Deuson, 90, of Golden were held Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at Golden Cemetery with Rev. Merle Parker officiating. Mr. Deuson died Dec. 13, 2016 at his residence in Golden.

He was born March 10, 1926 in Golden to the late Lee Ander and Olive Magnolia Cave Deuson. He served in the Navy and lived most of his life in Golden. He retired from Overhead Door, worked for Tyler Pipe and Alba-Golden School District. He was a member of Golden United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Loyd, Victor, Floyd and Bert Deuson and two sisters, Erma Lee Humphreys and Beulah Mae Bigman.

Mr. Deuson is survived by his wife of 52 years, Georgia Deuson of Golden; a son, Stacy Deuson, Golden; three daughters, Rebecca, Alba, Sheila Harmon, Mineola and Gayla Sparkman, Mineola; two brothers, Jesse Clinton Deuson of Golden and Benny Ray Deuson of Fort Worth; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**DEAN EUGENE JACKSON
1937-2016**

ALBA-Funeral services for Dean Eugene Jackson, 79, Alba, were held Saturday, December 17 at First Baptist Church, Alba, with Kelly Burton officiating.

Burial was in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Alba.

Mr. Jackson died December 13, 2016 in Alba. He was born August 30, 1937, in El Dorado, Arkansas to the late Curtis and Edna Jackson. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, flying C130 planes. He was a member of Civil Air Patrol and the Clear Springs Baptist Church in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jerry, Dwayne and Ronald Jackson; wife, Patsy Jackson; son, Greg Jackson and daughter, Cindy Yon.

Survivors include a son, Terry Jackson, Ohio;



daughters, Janie Biszantz, Ohio, Candice Jackson, Memphis, Tennessee; seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

**JOHNNIE LIND MILLER
1945-2016**

MINEOLA-Funeral services for Johnnie Miller, 71, Mineola, were held Sunday, December 18 at Beaty Funeral Home in Mineola. Dr. Mark Neeley officiates. Burial was at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Mineola.

Mrs. Miller died December 14, 2016, in Tyler. She was born April 20, 1945, in Dennison to the late John and Linda Simpson. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Mineola.

Survivors include her husband, Jim Miller, Mineola; two sons, Christopher Miller, Mesquite and Garrett Miller, Mineola; daughter, Susan Van Gee, Plano; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Feed the Children, Mineola Caring and Sharing or APET in Mineola at www.beatyfuneralhome.com.

QUISD

From page 3A

her department. "On the theater end, we finished our fall musical right before Thanksgiving and it was a big success. Now we are busy working on our one act play and we will compete in March," Johnson said. "Our junior high one act play won their district championship and we are proud of all of them."

After Johnson spoke, high school students sang a couple of Christmas songs and others showed art work they

have been working on for the board.

Agriculture teacher Brant Lee introduced students involved in state leadership competition recently. "The teams focus on leadership qualities and the ability to get up in front of the judges and demonstrate certain skills. We had two teams, the senior skills team and green hand skills team," Lee said. "They have to perform an agriculture related skill to a panel of judges and they are critiqued on their performance.

There are 325 teams in the senior division and over 300 in green hand competition.

In our competition it is based on region, not classifications like UIL. We compete against huge schools including some from the San Antonio area."

The senior team consisted of Lane Blalock, Cameron Williams and Faith and the green hand team (first year ag students) was Julia Simpkins, Jorden Blalock and Whitney Weir. Both teams placed fourth against over 300 other teams.

In routine matters, the board approved previous minutes, financial statements and check payments.

A-G

From page 3A

position and Davis will fill in to keep the department going until a replacement can be hired.

Brittany Eldred, the district's new special education instructor, reported on the progress of that department along with proposed plans for changes for the next school year.

Eldred said that in an era when the goal is to move all special education students back into the regular classroom, A-G had 29 students come to the resource room at the start of the school year. So far, she reported, four students have transitioned back to the regular classroom and four more, two juniors and two seniors, graduated from high school on Friday.

The annual update of the District's Campus Improvement Plan was also approved.

Receiving special attention from the board were students Kirby Kleam and Colt Vaughn. Kirby

was selected as the Elementary Student of the Month and Vaughn was picked as the Secondary Student of the Month.

The annual financial audit of the A-G ISD was presented by Amanda Collins from the Greenville accounting firm Rutherford Taylor and Company. She reported that the district was in sound financial condition with books well in order.

Also noted was the fact that the district increased fund balances by \$1 million during the 2016 fiscal year and that all departments held expenditures under budget during that period.

The annual update of the District's Campus Improvement Plan was also approved.

Two board members, Joey Hooton and Ed Teel, were not present for Monday night's meeting.

MEALS ON WHEELS

THIS WEEK'S MENUS:

Thursday, Dec. 22 - Turkey Breast with Gravy, Sweet Potato Casserole, Cranapple Crips, Rolls, Milk

Friday, Dec. 23 - BBQ Pork Rib Patty, Baked Beans, Apple Cobbler, Wheat Bread, Milk

Monday, Dec. 26 - Beef Taco, Pinto Beans, Hot Diced Apples, Flour Tortilla, Milk, Taco Sauce

Tuesday, Dec. 27 - Beef Tips with Gravy, Egg Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Wheat Bread, Cinnamon Applesauce, Milk

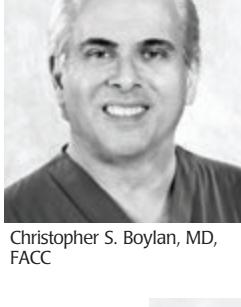
Wednesday, Dec. 28 - Turkey Spaghetti, Herbed Green Beans, Parsley Carrots, Dinner Roll, Fresh Fruit, Milk

For more information concerning Meals on Wheels call 497-1162.

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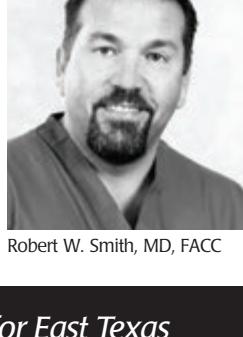
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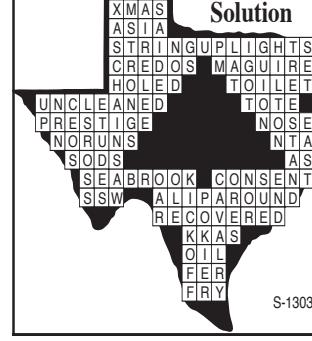
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Jake Farmer looks inside to pass. Farmer hit a three-point shot at the end of regulation to send the game to overtime. (Photo by Larry Tucker)

Bulldogs fall in double OT

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

A cold shooting first half found the Quitman Bulldogs down 24-12 to Pittsburg before they would bounce back and take the contest into two overtimes before finally falling 47-45.

"We just could not hit a shot in the first half. They were big and athletic and got a lot of points off

second chance shots," Coach Jim Reid said. "I was really proud of the way our kids fought hard and came back in the second half."

The game was tied at the end of regulation at 39-39 as Quitman's Jake Farmer knotted the game on a three-point shot. In the first overtime the Bulldogs were down 45-43 when they forced a turnover. Garrett Taylor

hit a shot to tie the game at 45-45 as time ran out.

In the second overtime, Taylor fouled out with three minutes to go and the Bulldogs were unable to score. Pittsburg could manage only two points in the second overtime but walked off the floor glad to get out of Quitman with the win.

District play was set to begin Monday at press time as Quitman hosted Edgewood.

Reid said the district race should be interesting. "Edgewood is going to be good again. They have three tall kids in the 6'4" range and they have three really good shooters. Kemp is playing really well and has a lot of talent. Mineola is coming off football and they are an unknown right now. We just know they are talented," Reid said. "Alba-Golden is solid again this season as is Scurry-Rosser. Eustace has been playing some good basketball and Grand Saline is much improved."

The Bulldogs will finish the holiday season with the Quitman Classic with games being played at Delbert Ballard Memorial Gym and also at the high school gym. The Quitman Classic will begin Dec. 28 and run through Dec. 30.



Jace Reid (33) gets off a shot as teammate Wacey Warren looks on in Quitman's 47-45 double overtime loss to Pittsburg Friday night. (Photo by Larry Tucker)

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ALBA-GOLDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2016

Data Control Codes		10			98		
		General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total	General Governmental Funds	Total	
REVENUES							
5700 Local and Intermediate Sources		\$ 2,950,002	\$ 412,139	\$ 3,362,141			
5800 State Program Revenues		5,255,955	130,456	5,386,411			
5900 Federal Program Revenues		-	539,116	539,116			
5020 Total Revenues		\$ 8,205,957	\$ 1,081,711	\$ 9,287,668			
EXPENDITURES							
Current:							
0011 Instruction		\$ 4,120,650	\$ 322,663	\$ 4,443,313			
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services		83,045	-	83,045			
0013 Curriculum and Staff Development		22,812	37,815	60,627			
0021 Instructional Leadership		68,355	-	68,355			
0023 School Leadership		312,173	29,615	341,788			
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services		201,358	-	201,358			
0033 Health Services		31,164	-	31,164			
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation		233,038	-	233,038			
0035 Food Services		-	430,017	430,017			
0036 Co-curricular/Extracurricular Activities		278,728	77,343	356,071			
0041 General Administration		475,345	24,450	499,795			
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations		854,690	-	854,690			
0052 Security and Monitoring Services		11,000	-	11,000			
0053 Data Processing Services		50,791	-	50,791			
0071 Principal on Long-term Debt		218,664	75,000	293,664			
0072 Interest on Long-term Debt		18,417	59,588	78,005			
0073 Bond Issuance Costs and Fees		-	400	400			
0093 Payments for Shared Service Arrangements		233,688	-	233,688			
6030 Total Expenditures		\$ 7,213,918	\$ 1,056,891	\$ 8,270,809			
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures		\$ 992,039	\$ 24,820	\$ 1,016,859			
1200 Net Changes in Fund Balances		\$ 992,039	\$ 24,820	\$ 1,016,859			
0100 Fund Balance - Beginning (September 1)		4,182,230	582,288	4,764,518			
3000 Fund Balance - Ending (August 31)		\$ 5,174,269	\$ 607,108	\$ 5,781,377			

Girls win district opener

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

After playing a rugged pre-season schedule which saw them start off with a 3-9 record, the Quitman Lady Bulldogs turned the lessons learned from the tough early games into a district opening 55-42 win over Kemp.

It was a see-saw battle throughout the first three quarters, but led by senior sparkplug Brittany Walls, Quitman pulled away in the final frame for the win. Walls had 22 points for the evening going 11-17 from the free throw line. Walls also scored eight consecutive points in a three-minute streak in the third quarter to move the score

See QUITMAN, Page II



Molly Tanner (left) and Kaci Raley defend against Kemp in last week's district opening win for Quitman. (photo by Larry Tucker)

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Sharon WSC has filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas to amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the provision of water utility service in Upshur and Wood Counties.

The proposed water CCN service area is located approximately 9 miles northeast of downtown Quitman, Texas, and is generally bounded on the north by FM 2088 on the east by FM 852 on the south by approximately 500 feet from Texas 154 on the west by approximately 250 feet from FM 312.

The proposed water CCN service area requested includes approximately 21,342 acres and 0 current customers.

A copy of the proposed water service area map is available at:

6175 N State Highway 37, Winnsboro TX 75494-6492- (903)342-3525

A request for a public hearing must be in writing. You must state (1) your name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number; (2) the applicant's name, application number or another recognizable reference to this application; (3) the statement, "I/we request a public hearing"; (4) a brief description of how you or the persons you represent, would be adversely affected by the granting of the application for a CCN; and (5) your proposed adjustment to the application or CCN which would satisfy your concerns and cause you to withdraw your request for a hearing.

Persons who wish to intervene or comment should write to:

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Central Records
1701 N. Congress, P. O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

within thirty (30) days from the date of this publication or notice. A public hearing will be held only if a legally sufficient hearing request is received or if the Commission on its own motion requests a hearing. Only those individuals who submit a written hearing request or a written request to be notified if a hearing is set will receive notice if a hearing is scheduled.

no settlement is reached and an evidentiary hearing is held, SOAH will submit a recommendation to the Commission for final decision. If an evidentiary hearing is held, it will be a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

If you are a landowner with a tract of land at least 25 acres or more, that is partially or wholly located within the proposed area, you may request to be excluded from the proposed area (or "opt out") by providing written notice to the Commission within (30) days from the date that notice was provided by the applicant. All requests to opt out of the requested service area must include a large scale map and a metes and bounds description of the tract of land.

Persons who meet the requirements to opt out, and wish to request this option should file the required documents with the:

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1701 N. Congress, P. O. Box 13326
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A copy of the request to opt out of the proposed area must also be sent to the applicant. Staff may request additional information regarding your request.

Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al 1-512-936-7221

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Alba-Golden's Gracie Pendergrass hit the Edgewood defensive wall and had to apply the brakes hard and fast to avoid a collision. The Lady Panthers utilized a full court press defense and lots of fast breaks to aid them in their 63-40 victory over Edgewood Monday night. (Photo by Tommy Anderson)

MINEOLA ANIMAL SHELTER

Toffee and white colored sweet Oliver is 12 to 14 weeks and a shepherd mix. He is a little shy but playful.



This female dog with the tiger stripe markings is believed to be about 4 or 5 months old. She is docile, loving and willing to learn.

The 6-week-old puppy in last week's ad was adopted into a loving home. Ace, the wire-haired terrier who loves some people and was featured last week, is still available.

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Lady Jackets start district 0-2

By EVAN DUDLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

Mineola got off to a surprising start this season with a 10-0 record, a top 10 ranking and a tournament win. But reality has brought the Lady Jackets back down to earth after opening district play last week with two losses.

Mineola traveled to Grand Saline last Tuesday and lost to the Lady Indians 63-55. Mineola found themselves down 18-12 after the first period but rallied for a 32-30 lead at halftime. The Lady Indians came out shooting hot after the

See MINEOLA, Page 11A

Happy holidays from
our family to yours!

Trash Service will be picked up on its normal schedule during the holidays!

REPUBLIC SERVICES

Lady Panthers open district play with win

By TOMMY ANDERSON
tommyanderson@suddenlink.net

The Alba-Golden Lady Panthers made their second home appearance of the season Tuesday night as they opened District 12-3A competition with a 63-40 rout of Edgewood.

In moving their season record up to 11-6, and of course their district record to 1-0, the Lady Panthers were tuning up for a Friday night conference tipoff with Mineola.

After that Alba-Golden has Tatum on the schedule for Dec. 20 before taking a break for Christmas. After the short break the Lady Panthers visit Campbell on Dec. 27 for an afternoon varsity set.

District play resumes on New Year's Eve when Alba-Golden takes both its girls and boys teams to Eustace. The Lady Panthers will get to return home for the third time this season when they host Kemp on Jan. 3. This will also be a four-game, girls-boys set.

In the bout with Edgewood, the Lady Panthers got off to a slow start and trailed at the end of the first period, 13-11, as Edgewood's Tabatha Parker nailed

See LADY PANTHERS, Page 11A

Yantis Owls grab wins before Christmas break

By EVAN DUDLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

BOYS

The Yantis Owls started the week off with an 81-48 win over Fannindel last Tuesday. Jayden Modrall led the Owls in scoring with 29 points. J.C. Nolen and Bradley Potts each had 15 points and Bobby Petree added 10 points giving Yantis four players in double-figures. Lucas Cerretani had eight points, Marshall Anderson had four points and Jeffery Dalton had one point to round out Yantis' scoring.

The Owls hosted the Christian Home Educators Knights and hung on for a 72-61 win Friday. Yantis led 21-16 after the first period and then hit a 25-10 run to

lead 46-26 at halftime. The third period was battle with the Owls outscoring CHEHS 13-12 but the Owls feel quiet in the final period and were outscored 23-13 but secured the victory in the end.

Yantis (11-4) is off this week and will return to action on the road against Cumby on Dec. 30.

GIRLS

The Lady Owls also got a win against Fannindel last Tuesday by a score of 43-32. Ashton Burnett had 14 points to lead the Lady Owls and Montana Wetzel finished with 13 points. Bayley Bush added seven points to match the combined efforts of Maggie and Maddie Hooker and Landry Thompson finished with two points.

The Yantis girls team did not fare as well against the CHEHS team as the boys team. The Lady Owls were down six points after the first period and went cold in the second period resulting in a 31-15 deficit at halftime. Yantis managed only 13 points in the second half and fell to the Lady Knights 48-28.

The Lady Owls (5-7) are on Christmas break this week and will travel to Cumby on Dec. 30 for their next contest.

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Lady Panthers

From page 10A

a three-pointer from the right corner at the buzzer.

That slick swisher seemed to be a crowning insult to the Alba-Golden defense as it hit the court on fire to open the second quarter, its full court press resulting in six straight turnovers as the Lady Panthers reeled off 15 unanswered points to take a 26-13 lead with 4:38 left in the period. Shelby Wright was particularly hot for Alba-Golden during the second

quarter, hitting four two-pointers, one three-pointer and three of four foul shots for 14 points in the eight-minute onslaught that found the Lady Panthers holding a 38-21 halftime advantage.

Wright finished the game as Alba-Golden's leading scorer with 25 points. Briana Weissat was the only other Lady Panther in double figures, but they also got good offensive help from Kenzie Chadwick and Gracie Pendergrass with eight points each, Grace Bizzell with seven points and Morgan Curts with six points.

Parker was the only Edgewood girl to crack the double-figure col-

umn, finishing the game with 18 points.

Alba-Golden flirted with foul problems as four players ended the game with four and the Lady Panthers were charged with a total of 24 fouls during the game. However, Edgewood displayed no mastery at the free throw line, making just 14 of 35 attempts for a miserable shooting average of just 40 percent. The Lady Panthers didn't have much to brag about either when it came to performance at the charity stripe; they made only 10 of 21 free shots, or only 47.6 percent of their attempts.

Hawkins teams starting to heat up before Christmas break

By EVAN DUDLEY

sports@woodcountymonitor.com

The Hawkins Hawks started the week off with a win over Grand Saline. The Hawks led by one after the first period but went on a 20-9 run in the second period to lead 29-17 at halftime. Hawkins came out hot after the half and outscored the Indians 23-11 in the third period. The Hawks held off a late charge and managed to outscore Grand Saline 24-19 in the final frame to secure the victory.

Tristan Garrett led the Hawks in scoring with 15 points followed by Everin Gipson and Camron Taylor with 12 points each. Krispen Wooten rounded out the double-digit scoring with 11 points. Akim Richmond had six points with Caleb Pair and Tyler Willard contributing five points each. Mark Pope added three points and Jeffrey Perkins had two points to close out Hawkins' scoring.

Coming off the win over Grand Saline, the Hawks came up short Friday against the Arp Tigers. It was a tight contest the entire game. Arp led 18-15 after the first period but the Hawks put together a 15-11

run before halftime to lead 30-29 at the break.

Hawkins came out flat in the third period with Arp doubling up on the Hawks 18-9, they fought hard in the final period but ran out of time as they were putting together a rally.

Hawkins (6-7) is off this week and returns to action Dec. 27-28 when they host the Hawkins Classic Basketball Tournament.

GIRLS

The Hawkins Lady Hawks lost to Gladewater 53-31 last Tuesday. The Lady Hawks fell behind early, trailing 29-20 at halftime, and were unable to mount a late rally.

Emily Hodges led Hawkins in scoring with seven points and seven rebounds. Hannah Langford sank two three-pointers and scored six points total. Also contributing for Hawkins were Emily Moore with six points, four rebounds and a block, Silvia Montgomery with three points, four rebounds and a steal, Raeli Smith with two points, five rebounds and two steals, Christian Harris with two points and three rebounds and Destiny Chapman with two points, three rebounds and two steals.

The Lady Hawks got back into the win column Friday with a 46-37 victory against Cushing.

Hawkins went on a tear in the first period and closed out on a 19-5 run. Cushing fought back before the half but the Lady Hawks pulled ahead and claimed a 25-16 lead at halftime. The gap would remain the same at the end of the game with both squads scoring 21 points in the second half.

Smith led the charge for Hawkins' offense, scoring 14 points, with five points during the fourth period. She also contributed four rebounds and two steals. Destiny Chapman scored 12 points to help aid the Lady Hawks and Chapman pulled down 9 rebounds and had 3 steals.

Also contributing for Hawkins were Montgomery with nine points and three rebounds, Moore with six points and seven rebounds, Langford with three points, seven rebounds and three steals, Harlie Conover with three points and a rebound and Hodges with two points and four rebounds.

The Lady Hawks (6-8) are off this week and return to action Dec. 27-28 when they host the Hawkins Classic Basketball Tournament.

Mineola

From page 10A

break and took the lead for good on a 13-9 run in the third period and a 20-14 run in the final period.

Lauren Almuete led the Lady Jackets in scoring with 16 points followed by Sabria Dean with 12 points and Jessiah Riley with 10 points. Meghan Brewington and Taylor Griffin each had six points and Caitlyn Hudson and Jadi Lopez had two points each. Vanessa Spurgeon finished off the Mineola scoring with one point.

Quitman

From page 9A

from a 28-27 lead to a 36-27 advantage and Kemp never recovered.

Quitman had a decisive advantage from free throws sinking 21-34 while Kemp would only make 8-17 from the charity stripe. Lady Bulldogs Molly Tanner, Shelby Smith and Kaci Raley dominated the boards against the smaller Lady Yellowjackets. Raley hit for 11 points while Tanner added eight points, four of those off of offensive rebounds.

Abbey Dobbs, Aubrey Gilbreath and Allyson Corriar did a good job, along with Walls, of breaking the Kemp press during the game and playing hustling defense against the quick Kemp perimeter players. Utopia Henry and Macy Wilson each entered the game and played solid defense allowing no easy buckets in the lane.

The Lady Bulldogs lost at Scurry-Rosser Friday to even their district record to 1-1 and their season record to 4-10.

The Lady Bulldogs were scheduled to face Edgewood at home at press time before taking off for the holidays returning to district action Jan. 3 at Eustace.

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Mineola Country Club

SENIOR GOLF REPORT

The team of Elroy Doggett, Paul Ransberger, Loy Frazier and Moe Jarvis won first in the Senior Golf Scramble at Mineola Country Club Thursday. They shot (10 under) 61.

The second place team of Robert Linker, John Gorman, Larry Jackson, Roger Stai and Loyd Valentine shot (9 under) 62.

Jim Crow was closest to the pin on hole #5. The closest to the pin on hole #9 was Linker.

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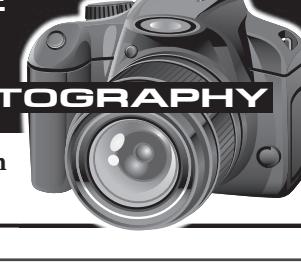
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Champs

From page 1A

sidewalks to wave at the team. VIP treatment was given to Athletic Director Joe Drennon who arrived in the parking lot of the football stadium in ET-

MC's Air 1 helicopter.

At the pep rally the football players didn't miss the chance to recognize the importance of their fans' support. Senior Noah Sneed noted that they had worked toward the goal. "This right here is what we've worked for seven years. And we fi-

nally achieved it, because of you cheering us on to keep us going through the game. Thank you."

The school board and all who had a part in the football program were recognized. State representative and soon-to-be state senator Bryan Hughes (a MHS alum-

nus) spoke at the rally while noting that the football team had given the community a Christmas present, reminding them of the true meaning of Christmas. Mayor Rodney Watkins, also an alumnus, proclaimed it Mineola Yellowjacket Football Team Recognition Day.

Right about 4:35 p.m. Mother Nature signaled it was time to wrap things up as the looming clouds blew in bringing with them a brisk north wind. But it didn't blow over the excitement still buzzing in the home of the Yellowjackets.



The Select Theater opened its doors and broadcast the football game on the silver screen for those who weren't able to make the trip to AT&T Stadium Thursday and here a few fans wait for the doors to be opened. (Photo by Heather Trammell)

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Superintendent Kim Tunnell holds the microphone for Mayor Rodney Watkins as he proclaims it Mineola Yellowjacket Team Recognition Day on Saturday (see full proclamation at right). Also shown on the other side of the mayor is Clayton Neville of KMOC, State Representative (Senator-Elect) Bryan Hughes, Joe Drennon and his wife Lorrie. (Monitor photo by Doris Newman)

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Mineola Independent School District, known then as the Mineolans, began a football program in 1910 with the first full season in 1912, and

Whereas, the Yellow Jackets became the district mascot in 1923 with the colors orange and white and has since represented the City of Mineola and the surrounding area in every aspect of academics, athletics, fine arts, and district programs, and

Whereas, the Mineola Yellow Jackets had another exceptional year under the leadership of Athletic Director and head football coach Joe Drennon, who provides a quality athletic program with the participation and support of the entire staff, and

Whereas, the Mineola Yellow Jackets football team prepared, conditioned, and executed from early August and completed the season 14-2 with the dedication of an outstanding coaching staff, and

Whereas, the Mineola Yellow Jackets football team, cheerleaders, and band members represent the high quality of character valued by our community, and

Whereas, the City of Mineola, and the Mineola City Council are pleased to join with the Mineola Independent School District in honoring those who have represented our community with continuing excellence, and

Whereas, the 2016 Mineola Yellow Jackets football team brought home the State Championship Title for the first time in the history of Mineola ISD,

Therefore, I, Rodney Watkins, Mayor, and City of Mineola do declare Saturday, December 17th as

Mineola Yellow Jackets Team Recognition Day.

PROCLAIMED this the 17th day of December, 2016.

Rodney Watkins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Karch, City Secretary

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The Lake Country Symphonic Band performed Sunday afternoon in their Christmas Concert. The show was sold out and visitors report it was a great concert, and Director Mike Holbrook was a hit as usual with his antics, including wearing a red, white and green suit and matching tie decorated with Christmas trees. (Photo by Tommy Anderson)

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UIL STATE CHAMPS

REDEMPTION:

Perkins and Crawford shore up unfinished business, defense dominates in title game

By EVAN DUDLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

It was not like any other game he had experienced. Chantz Perkins, only a sophomore, was playing in the 2014 state title game against two-time defending champion Cameron Yoe. The Yellowjackets found themselves in Cowboys Stadium riding a Cinderella run after beginning the season with three straight losses. And Perkins felt destiny was on their side.

Unfortunately, contractual TV timeouts reared their ugly head.

What was only a couple of minutes seemed like an eternity to Perkins. Standing at the 10-yard line, his thoughts drifted and he found himself alone in a giant stadium with the ball traveling straight towards him.

Perkins froze as the ball hit the turf in front of him and bounced backwards – opposite of the direction he was expecting – and onto the field where a Yoe player pounced on the ball for a recovery. Three plays later the Yoemen cashed in on Perkins' mistake and never looked back.

Only one thing has been on Perkins' mind since the moment beat him.

"The only word I can think about is redemption," Perkins said. "I've been shown a lot of grace this season and my team has been shown a lot of grace the

See CHAMPS, Page 3B



(Above) Head Coach Joe Drennon, flanked on each side by Tracy Murphy (62) and Aaron "Bubba" Stanford (1), holds Mineola's first State Championship Trophy high enough that all of East Texas can see. Senior quarterback Jeremiah Crawford (8) finds running room around the edge with blocking from senior Tracy Murphy (62). (Photos by Chad Parrish)



Senior running back Chantz Perkins (9) escapes a shoe-string tackle from a flying Yoakum defender during Mineola's victory over Yoakum in the 2016 title game. (Photo by Chad Parrish)



Junior defensive back Cameron Sorenson (15) spreads his wings to fly after intercepting Yoakum's Bryson Hagan near the end of the fourth quarter. Seniors Frankie Meason (12) and Kourtland Sinches (2) flank Sorenson on each side. (Photo by Chad Parrish)

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS



Defensive MVP: Senior DL Kourtland Sinches; 4 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, 0.5 sacks, 1 fumble recovery



Offensive MVP: Senior QB Jeremiah Crawford; 27 carries, 276 yards, 4 TDs, 2-3 17 yards

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**Leader of the band**

By TOMMY ANDERSON
tommyanderson@suddenlink.net

Sitting in the capacity crowd at Sunday afternoon's Lake Country Symphonic Band Christmas Concert one might get a very different opinion of a young flute player from Mineola High School than one might have drawn seeing him perform just 65 hours earlier. The 250 plus in attendance Sunday were lavish with their applause for this young flutist and his companions on the stage of the Select Theater.

He enjoyed playing in that concert very much, but if you asked him to tell you what his biggest thrill ever had been, no doubt he would tell you what he was doing just 65 hours earlier topped the list.

Yes, for a high school senior not much could exceed the thrill of your football team winning the state football championship, and that is what Mineola High



MHS Drum Major Brian Lyke took center stage as he led the band in front of more than 20,000 people during halftime of the state championship football game at AT&T stadium. A friendly and outgoing young man, when he leads the band he is all business. (Photo by Chad Parrish)

School did Thursday night. But just winning that most important game ever was just a part of his biggest thrill.

You see, Brian Lyke was not just a part of the Mineola High School student body at the Class 3A Division I state football championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, he was the leader of the band. That's right, Brian Lyke is the drum major of the Mineola High School Band and leading that proud, talented, and spirited band onto the field in front of over 20,000 fans in that professional stadium was something very special to him.

"I started thinking about being a drum major when I was in junior high school," Lyke said. "I would go to all the football games I could and watch the drum majors, see what they did, how they conducted the band, how they held themselves up as a leader."

This is the second year Lyke has been the MHS drum major and he has been honored several times at competitions for his performance of those duties.

And, Lyke is a show when he takes command of the MHS marching band, no doubt about it, whether he band in the stands or on the field. And while the show is important and impressive, that isn't the major portion of his duties as a drum major.

"I was told early on that being a drum major was 90 percent leadership and 10 percent conducting. I have never been afraid to step up in front and do something but it takes a lot of nerve to gain the trust of our peers. I am glad I had

good willing bandmates to help me be successful as a drum major," Lyke said.

His leadership is evident and that is key to his success but one cannot overlook his performance on the field, or in the stands, if you want to see the complete, and very entertaining picture of Lyke as the drum major.

"My first year, last year, I didn't go to a drum major camp, I just had a clinician come in for three days to help me and I pretty much had to develop my own style as a drum major. This year I went to a camp and that has helped me grow as a drum major," Lyke observed.

Whether Lyke is leading the band onto the field in all his calculated measured marching steps and moves, or just having fun as he conducts the band as it plays in the stands during games, there is never any doubt that he knows what he is doing and that he is really the leader of the band.

One of Lyke's signature moves is to fling off his cape while conducting the band during the halftime performance.

"I came up with that one myself," he said.

After graduation, next spring Lyke plans to attend Texas A&M at Commerce and hopes to continue his drum major career. As for the immediate future, Lyke has auditioned with Drum Line International and has received a call back from The Guardians, a Texas Drum Line International group.

If things go well at that call back, he might be spending his time this summer as drum major of that group.


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CHAMPS

From page 1B

past three years being able to get the chance to come back here and do what we're supposed to do."

The Mineola Yellowjackets (14-2, 6-0) exorcised the demons of the past two years and brought home the UIL Class 3A-Division 1 State Championship with a 35-14 victory over the Yoakum Bulldogs (11-5, 4-2) Thursday in AT&T Cowboys Stadium.

"We won the state championship and it feels great," said Head Coach Joe Drennon. "I'm proud for our kids, proud for our school and proud for our community. It was a sea of Orange up there tonight and I'm awful proud to see that. We've been wanting this, our team has been wanting this, our fans have been wanting this and we played like we wanted it."

The game was hard-fought in the first half but the Yellowjacket offense scored on all but two of their possessions and the defense shut the Bulldogs out in the second half. It was a convincing performance due to lessons learned from the past.

The Mineola offense went to work early with a 10-play drive that covered 60 yards and ended with a Jeremiah Crawford touchdown. Yoakum responded with a long drive of their own that was capped with a halfback pass from Henry Enoch to receiver Jordan Moore for 25 yards.

It would only take 40 seconds and a turnover for Perkins to capture his redeeming moment.

Following the Yoakum score the Yellowjackets drove 68 yards before the end of the first quarter thanks in part to a 16-yard scamper by Perkins and a 51-yard burst by Crawford. On the first play of the second quarter, Perkins found room around the right side and walked his way into the end zone for a 6-yard touchdown and a 14-7 lead over the Bulldogs.

Perkins, who finished the game with 20 carries for 128 yards and a touchdown, provided his defining moment of the game after the Bulldogs fumbled following the ensuing kickoff. Perkins took a handoff at the Yoakum 34-yard line and cut to the left side before coming into the focus of Yoakum's Tyron Brooks.

Perkins did not hesitate. He lowered his shoulder and bulldozed Brooks to the ground before stepping out at the 25-yard line. Mineola would turn the ball over on downs after Perkins came up one yard short on a fourth-and-one situation but he made it clear and simple that the Yellowjackets would not be denied.

"This year was a completely different vibe," Perkins said. "My sophomore year I just felt like

I was in a completely different world and it was the craziest thing but now it's not. It's just any other field, man. It's just our game; we just got to play our game. And that's what we did. We came out here and we played our game."

Cameron Sorenson was just a freshman in the 2014 title game. He was tasked – along with several underclassmen that made up of the defense that year – with slowing down a well-oiled Yoe offense that consisted of Aaron Sims, a former University of Oklahoma walk-on receiver and current track and field star at Texas A&M, and quarterback Reid Nickerson.

Nickerson threw for more than 300 yards and five touchdowns against the young Jacket defense that night with Sims hauling in 150 yards and three scores. The Yoemen also gutted the Jackets for more than 200 yards rushing.

Sorenson started at cornerback that night and remembers the feeling of helplessness as Yoe had

no problem driving the ball at will. It was through the physical and emotional pain of such a performance that inspired and drove this defense to aspire to be a dominant unit.

After tying the game at 14 the Bulldogs of Yoakum kicked off to Mineola who returned the ball back to the 40-yard line. Perkins ran for a first down on the first play of the possession but the Yellowjackets bogged down after an untimely block in the back penalty. That led to a fourth and short situation with two minutes left in the first half and the Bulldogs set to receive the ball after halftime.

Crawford went back out on the field for the fourth down play, took the snap and blasted through the line untouched for 40 yards and the go-ahead score that would prove the game winner.

"On fourth down we just buckled down and knew we had to get it. With me and Chantz in the backfield, we look at that sideline every time before we run and look at how far we got to go," Crawford said. "We are going to get that no matter what, and we're just going to keep running hard. They can't stop somebody that gives it all the whole time in the game."

And Crawford made sure he gave it all before walking off the turf this time.

And Sorenson would find a little redemption himself in the fourth quarter when he intercepted Yoakum's Bryson Hagan at the 10-yard line and returned it for 21 yards to end the Bulldog's final drive of the game.

"The past three years we've accepted nothing less than this level of excellence from ourselves," said Sorenson, who was perfect on all of his PATs and finished with five tackles and the game-sealing interception. "Coming out here and doing this

is just everyday business for us. But that doesn't take away the elation that it brings at the same time so we definitely want to get back here and do it again."

Kourtland Sinches was named Defensive MVP with four tackles, one and a half tackles for loss, half a sack and a second quarter fumble recovery.

It was not the game he had envisioned he would have. Walking off the turf of Cowboys Stadium in 2014, Jeremiah Crawford knew he left it all on the field but still had an unsatisfied hunger.

The quarterback had a decent game with more than 150 yards rushing and three total touchdowns but was intercepted twice and had to leave the game in the fourth quarter due to a leg injury. Crawford was hounded all night and seemingly ran for his life against a bigger and faster Yoe team.

"Everybody doubted us, saying we weren't going to do it this year, but we came out on top," said senior defensive lineman Drason Terner, who fin-

ished the game with three tackles and one for a loss. "I knew that with the talent that God has blessed my team, we could use it to the best of our ability and come out here and win it."

But the work is never finished. Coach Drennon will have to rebuild a large portion of his team but has key players to build around. Sorenson and linebacker Michael Drennon will return for their senior seasons having played in two title games and boast big game experience that will aid them in leading a fresh face defense.

Crawford and Perkins will graduate with their record-setting numbers but a new crop of play-makers will slide in and continue to run through, over and around the region. It's all about putting the work in and doing the job in Coach Drennon's nine years at Mineola.

"We're going to do what we always do," Drennon

pointed out. "We're going to go to practice in the spring and the first day of two-a-days and strive to be back here."

The standard has been set in Mineola and making the playoffs is simply not enough for a program that has competed for a championship the past three years. Although half this team will graduate in a few short months, the goals will remain the same for the Jackets when they return to the field in 2017.

Only time will tell if the new batch of Yellowjackets will respect the Process and buy in to the hard work and determination it takes to walk a similar path that the 2016 team traveled. After three years of learning what it takes to win a championship, Mineola now has a map to guide them through the coming years.

"It's a long journey," Drennon said. "But a journey worth traveling."

GAME STATS

Scoring Summary

First Quarter

Mineola – Jeremiah Crawford 1-yard run, Sorenson kick, 7:17

Yoakum – Henry Enoch to Jordan Moore 25-yard pass, De La Santos kick, 0:56

Second Quarter

Mineola – Chantz Perkins 6-yard run, Sorenson kick, 11:53

Yoakum – Jordan Moore 1-yard run, De La Santos kick, 5:09

Mineola – Jeremiah Crawford 40-yard run, Sorenson kick, 2:20

Third Quarter

Mineola – Jeremiah Crawford 5-yard run, Sorenson kick, 8:26

Fourth Quarter

Mineola – Jeremiah Crawford 5-yard run, Sorenson kick, 8:41

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE STATS

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE STATS

Aaron Stanford	10 tackles	Jeremiah Crawford	27 carries	276 yards	4 TD	2-3 17 yds
Kortney Hampton	8 tackles	Chantz Perkins	20 carries	121 yards	1 TD	
Curtis London	4 tackles	Kourtland Sinches	2 carries	34 yards		
Kourtland Sinches	4 tackles	Michael Drennon	1 carry	6 yards		
	1 fumble recovery	Jamichael Brown	1 carry	1 yards		
Cameron Sorenson	5 tackles	Noah Sneed	1 rec	11 yards		
Drason Terner	3 tackles	Michael Drennon	1 rec	6 yards		
Michael Drennon	3 tackles	Preston Lankford	1 tackle			
Devon Goguen	3 tackles	Frankie Meason	1 tackle			
Noah Sneed	2 tackles	Dalton Harris	1 tackle			
Ian Thompson	1 tackle					

Mineola

Yellowjackets

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Mineola Notebook

SCHOOL DISTRICTS MATCH CHARITY DONATIONS

The Mineola and Yoakum school boards decided to get in on the championship fun and festivities and presented each other with a charity donation to an organization within the opposing community as part of the state championship competition held Thursday at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Superintendent Kim Tunnell presented Yoakum Superintendent Tom Kelley with a \$500 contribution to a Yoakum organization supporting students and Mr. Kelley like-wise agreed to match the \$500 contribution with it going to Kindness Kottage in Mineola. Cheerleaders exchanged the checks during halftime at the game Thursday.

"We are so proud of our team and excited about this State Championship game, and yet we also want to remember the reason for this season of giving. Mineola has chosen to recognize the success thus far of the Yoakum team and community of Yoakum through our contribution of \$500 to the Bluebonnet Youth Ranch, a nonprofit organization committed to providing children with a safe, loving home and hope for a bright future," stated Tunnell. "While we are competitors on the field, both districts share the same passion for public education and the children we serve."

WATKINS WINS MAYORAL BET

Mayor Rodney Watkins of Mineola will now have to punch a few extra holes in his belt over the holidays.

Yoakum Mayor Annie Rodriguez proclaimed her confidence in the Bulldogs by offering a State Championship wager with Rodney Watkins last week who eagerly accepted the challenge.

Rodriguez bet a sampler pack of all-natural beef from Yoakum-based Augustus Ranch. Texas Monthly described the all-natural beef program of Augustus Ranch as "innovative and astoundingly good." The \$250 package contains strip, ribeye and tenderloin steak; skirt, flank and flat iron steaks; and chuck roast, stew meat and ground beef.

Not to be outdone, Watkins responded with an overnight package for two, beginning with an Amtrak Texas Eagle rail trip (donated by local revenue management team) which included a sleeper car and meals from Austin to Mineola. After a night at the historic Munzesheimer Manor bed and breakfast and a walking tour of historic downtown Mineola, the couple would be treated to breakfast from Kitchens Hardware & Deli, lunch at the acclaimed East Texas Burger Company and dinner by award-winning Cowburners BBQ. The value of the package exceeded \$500.

With the Yellowjackets bringing home the title, there will be no new visitors to Mineola beyond the large case of meat that Watkins is excited to see.

THAT BOY IS A RUNNIN' FOOL

Seniors Jeremiah Crawford and Chantz Perkins are arguably the best offensive players in school history. The Jackets' scheme has allowed the duo to rush for 13,835 yards together in their four-year career. That's more than seven miles in rushing yardage.

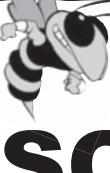
Crawford has been stalwart for the offense since his freshman year. The quarterback has played in 58 games dating back to his ninth grade year and finishes off a spectacular career with 7,935 yards rushing (9.2 yards per carry) and 118 touchdowns. He also threw for 4,264 yards and 45 touchdowns. In all, Crawford has accounted for 12,199 yards of offense and been accountable for 163 touchdowns.

Perkins, who missed seven games in a four-year span, has played in 51 games and accumulated 5,900 rushing yards (8.8 yards per carry) and 76 touchdowns. He also caught 507 yards in receptions with three touchdowns. The running back has, in total, accounted for 6,407 yards and 79 touchdowns.

See NOTEBOOK, Page 5B

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ON AN AMAZING SEASON!**

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**Congrats
Yellowjackets!!!**



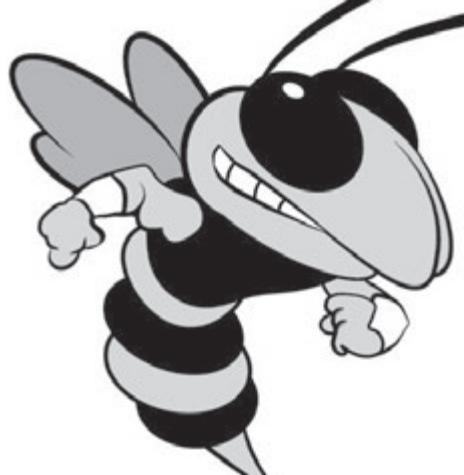
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**Congrats
to the
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We are so proud of you Seth Hudgins!

Kyle Weedon, DDS & Staff
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(Next door to the Mineola Post Office on Hwy 80)

Congratulations from Mayor Rodney Watkins, Mineola City Council and the City of Mineola.



City of Mineola
Mineola Economic Development Corporation
P.O. Box 179 - 300 Greenville Hwy. - Mineola, Texas 75773

Notebook

From page 4B

DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The old saying is true. The Jacket defense has been a model of consistency for three straight years culminating in this year's stingy 15.5 points per game allowed in the regular season, 8.0 ppg during district play and 13.2 ppg in the six-game playoff run.

Those numbers are comparable to the previous two seasons. In 2014, Mineola allowed 13.9 ppg in the regular season and 13.6 ppg during district play. The unit allowed 17.8 ppg during their playoff run leading up to a 70-40 drubbing at the hands of Cameron Yoe. In 2015, the Jackets allowed only 12.3 ppg during the regular season and 8.0 ppg in district. In the five playoff games, including a 38-22 loss to Brock, the Jacket defense allowed only 19 ppg.

The 2016 edition allowed more ppg during the regular season than the previous two years but clamped down in the playoffs allowing six less points from 2015 and four less points from 2014.

BEST RUN IN SCHOOL HISTORY

This senior class will go down in program history as arguably the best. During their three-year run, the Yellowjacket seniors – with the exception of a couple of players who played their freshman year – have amassed a 40-7 record.

The second best three-year run in terms of success belongs to the class of 1968, who amassed a 30-3-1 record from 1965-1967 under Head Coach Phil Jones who went 31-11-2 in four seasons.

Head Coach Joe Drennon has led his teams to the playoffs in six out of his nine seasons at Mineola and currently holds a 74-37 record with the Yellowjackets.

Chevron



Young's Chevron

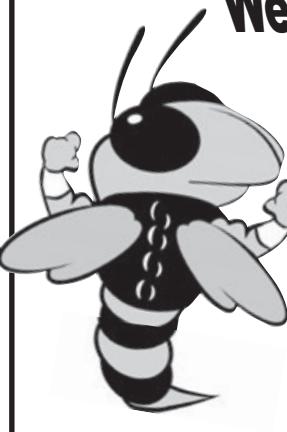
Would like to congratulate our boys on an outstanding season!

303 E. Broad - Mineola, TX 75773

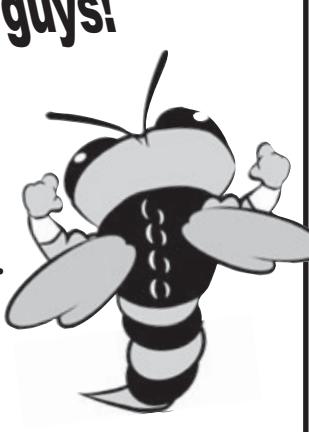
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Mineola
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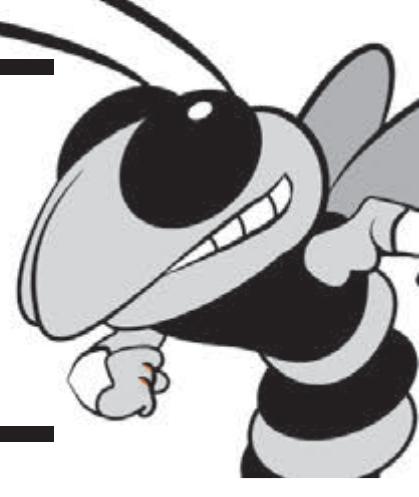
**Way to go team!
We are proud of you guys!**



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You boys have had an amazing season!

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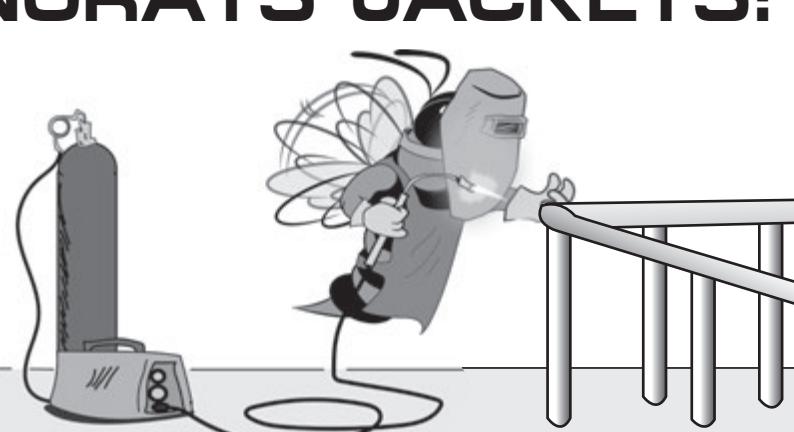
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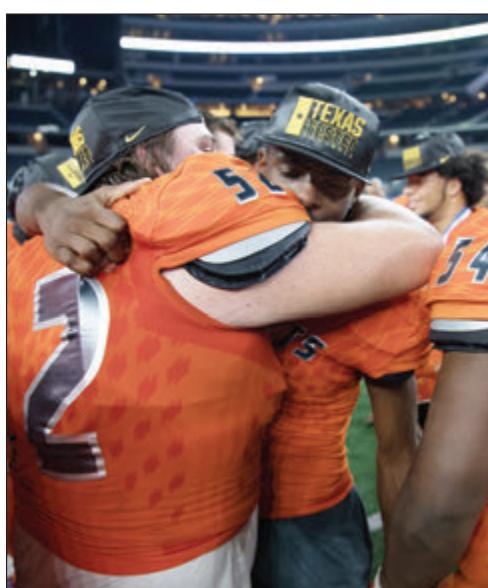
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The dynamic duo of Jeremiah Crawford (8) and Chantz Perkins (9) meet at the mesh-point during the UIL title game Thursday night. The duo has accounted for more than 13,000 rushing yards in their careers. (Photo by Chad Parrish)



Assistant Coach Stephen Almuete can't stand still following Mineola's thrilling 35-14 victory over the Yoakum Bulldogs in the state title game at Cowboys Stadium. (Right) Assistant Coach Charlie Feller gets animated coaching up the Yellowjackets Thursday night in Cowboys Stadium. (Photos by Chad Parrish)



Senior defensive back and receiver Kartney Hampton can't help but smile after his team's win in the state title game Thursday at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. (Right) Sophomore Cameron Wise (52) congratulates senior defensive lineman Kourtland Sinches (2) with a large embrace after their victory in the Class 3A-Division I Championship Game on Thursday night at Cowboys Stadium. (Photos by Chad Parrish)



Senior quarterback Jeremiah Crawford gets pushed into the end zone with help from junior Hugo Sanchez (61) during Mineola's title game victory. (Photo by Chad Parrish)

INSTANT REACTION



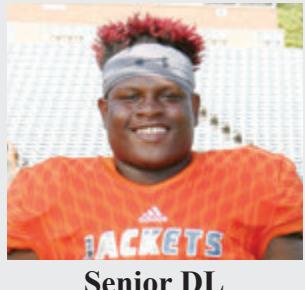
**Senior DB
Aaron Stanford:**
"IT'S THE BEST THING EVER. WE MADE SCHOOL HISTORY AND THERE'S NOTHING BETTER THAN THIS."



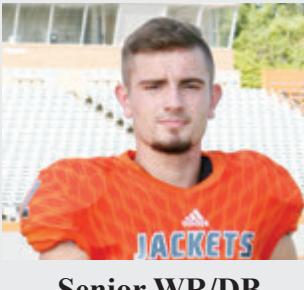
**Senior RB
Chantz Perkins:**
"IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. WE'VE SET CENTURY MARKS FOR THIS SCHOOL AND I'M SO PROUD TO BE FROM MINEOLA AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I LOVE THIS TOWN."



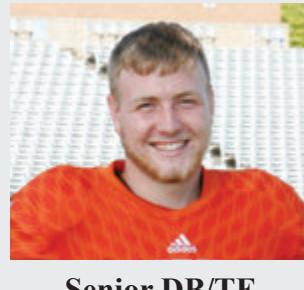
**Senior DL
Devon Goguen:**
"IT FEELS AMAZING. I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN MY LIFE."



**Senior DL
Drason Tenner:**
"IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, RIGHT? I AM SO EXCITED. THIS IS THE BEST FEELING EVER."



**Senior WR/DB
Frankie Meason:**
"IT FEELS GREAT. WE'VE BEEN WANTING THIS FOR SO LONG SINCE THAT CRUCIAL LOSS TO CAMERON YOE. WE JUST HAD THE HEART AND DRIVE AND WEREN'T GOING TO LET ANYONE STOP US."



**Senior DB/TE
Noah Sneed:**
"I'M SPEECHLESS RIGHT NOW. OUR TEAM CAME TOGETHER, WHEN WE LOST TO YOE TWO YEARS AGO, AND SAID WE WERE COMING BACK AND WE WERE GOING TO WIN IT. AND WE DID IT. I'M JUST GLAD WE CAN REPRESENT MINEOLA AND PUT IT ON THE MAP."



Senior running back Chantz Perkins (9) refuses to drop the intensity level in his eyes as he scores a touchdown early in the second quarter against Yoakum in the 3A-Division I State Championship Game at Cowboys Stadium. (Photo by Chad Parrish)



The Mineola faithful make their presence known during Thursday night's Class 3A-Division I State Championship Game at Cowboys Stadium. The announced attendance was 20,344. (Photo by Gene's Photography)

COACHES CORNER



Mineola Head Football Coach
JOE DRENNON

WE WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!
..and it feels great. I'm proud for our kids, proud for our school and proud for our community. It was a sea of Orange up there tonight and I'm awful proud to see

that. We've been wanting this, our team has been wanting this, our fans have been wanting this and we played like we wanted it.

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