

Wood County MONITOR

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Three Sections

50 cents

Crumbling downtown landmark demolished

By DORIS NEWMAN
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With steady persuasion from cables hooked to a track hoe, the 1888 building at the corner of Johnson and Commerce Streets collapsed in a storm of bricks and dust Sunday morning.

Owners Tricia and Erik Carver had purchased the building late last year and had been working on renovation of it for some time when they discovered the damage done from years of neglect had gone too far. The Carvers intended to make the historic building, across the street from the railroad tracks and once a brothel, into a Cajun style steakhouse. But their engineer told them the building was unsafe.

When the Carvers notified the city, local officials asked the Texas Historical Commission to examine the building. The state commission came up with the same conclusion as the Carver's engineer.

In November, in a special called meeting of the Mine-

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From west of the gazebo, this is how the building demolition looked in a photo courtesy of Joyce Williams of the Landmark Commission.

Former MISD staffer arrested

Todd Allen Karch, 48, Lindale, turned himself in at the Wood County Sheriff's Department Thursday morning on a warrant obtained by the Mineola Police Department for online solicitation of a minor – a third degree felony.

Karch was arrested at 7:10 a.m. on Thursday at the Wood County Sheriff's Department. Bond was set at \$40,000 and Karch was been released from the Wood County Jail that day.

For the past couple of years, Karch has served as Mineola School District transportation director. He had previously served the district as its technology director for many years and prior to that, was an elementary school teacher. Karch has resigned from his job.

A press release from the Mineola Police Department states that an investigation was initiated in November after the department received a report from the Mineola Superintendent Kim Tunnell. During

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Todd Allen Karch

Commissioners approve county volunteer fire departments' funds

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

The Wood County Commissioners approved funds for county volunteer fire departments at Friday's meeting. A total of \$462,000 was given to 12 different departments in Wood County.

Quitman received \$51,663, Mineola \$52,529, Winnsboro \$43,853, Alba \$38,903, Hawkins \$42,513, Yantis \$37,593, Holly Lake \$32,833, Hainesville \$36,513, Coke-Pleasant Grove \$32,053, Lands End \$29,765, Ogburn \$32,303 and Perryville \$31,119. The money compensates the departments for rural firefighting.

In another matter commissioners approved the Wood County Sher-

iff's Department request for trade-ins on like-kind items for a 2009 Ford F150, 2011 Ford F150, 2012 Ford F150 two 2014 Dodge Chargers.

There were four personnel items approved by the commissioners. Those included the promotion of Deputy Sheriff Josh Davis to patrol sergeant at the rate of \$21.30 per hour and the hiring of Travis Pittman as a deputy sheriff at \$21.05 per hour filling the position left open by the promotion of John Cooper. In other personnel matters, Steven Savage was hired as temporary help in Pct. 3 at \$10 per hour and MaKayla Harrell was hired as temporary help at \$10 per

See Court, Page 5

Winnsboro man dies in fiery wreck

A Winnsboro man died Wednesday when a truck he was driving burst into flames after leaving a county road east of Quitman.

Robert Clifton Wattis, 52, Winnsboro, was driving a 2000 Dodge 1500 two and a half miles east of Quitman on Wood County Road 3230 a half mile south of Highway 154.

The Department of Public Safety investigated the accident and

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Caring & Sharing Volunteers Jack Jones, left, and Bill Blakemore, with the stop sign, direct recipients during the distribution day Saturday at the First United Methodist Church Ministries Center. (Monitor photo by Doris Newman)

Caring & Sharing serves 300 families Saturday

By DORIS NEWMAN
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

The well-oiled machine of Mineola's Caring & Sharing conveyed Christmas packages to close to 300 families during the campaign's distribution day Saturday at the First United Methodist Church Ministries Center.

Co-chairmen of this

year's campaign were George and Sonja Assaf. By about mid-morning, George Assaf said that 296 families were on the list to receive packages, with a total of over 1,200 people. That included everyone from infants up to senior citizens. However, there was a contingency in case

See C&S, Page 11

This Week in Your Neighborhood

- On Thursday Lake Country Playhouse in Mineola will offer a one-night showing "White Christmas" in the historic Select Theater on Johnson Street. The event is a fundraiser for LCP, Mineola's nonprofit community theater. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling the box office at 903-569-2300. The doors and box office will open at 6:45 p.m. and the movie will begin at 7:30.

- A Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight Service at First Christian Church will be held at 5 p.m. It is family-friendly and everyone is welcome to attend. Jennifer Dubbs Pisarcik, formerly of Mineola, will be the featured soloist and Ashley Jackson from Quitman will be the accompanist.

CHRISTMAS IN WOOD COUNTY



The down home warmth of the Christmas season is reflected in the front porch of the Stinson House at Jim Hogg Park in Quitman. It is just one of many cheerful and welcoming displays throughout Quitman and Wood County during the holidays. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

Early deadlines announced for Dec. 27 edition

The deadlines for next week's Wood County Monitor will be moved up to allow for our staff to celebrate the Christmas holiday. The same deadlines will be in effect next week for New Year's Day.

The deadline for all civic and society news is 5 p.m. today, Wednesday. The business advertising deadline will be noon tomorrow, Thursday, and classified ads will be due in by 10 a.m. on Friday.

Papers will be mailed so subscribers should receive them in their mailboxes on Wednesday.

Our office will be closed on Monday, Christmas Day. Merry Christmas from everyone at the two Wood County Monitor offices, both in Mineola and Quitman.



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Quitman's Emie Largent retiring after decades of service

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Quitman, Mineola girls among Academic All-State



Tucker's Turf

By Larry Tucker

My mom and dad both always worked hard so their three kids could have more than either of them ever had growing up. My mom worked for a Dallas insurance firm and would always take on extra jobs, while my dad not only worked security at the Ford Plant on East Grand Avenue in East Dallas, but he did part-time security work during the State Fair of Texas and at the Cotton Bowl for football games, pro and college.



LARRY TUCKER

Like so many of your parents, my folks did all this so we could have a good home and live in a safe neighborhood with a school only blocks away where we could safely walk to and from our daily classes.

Christmas was always a special time for our family. It was never a huge production, but there was never a time when the Tucker kids at 7715 Huttig

Street ever went without Christmas wishes fulfilled.

I do remember the first time my folks brought something other than a real Christmas tree home. I used to love to go to the Christmas tree tent on the parking lot at the Pleasant Grove Shopping Center. It was fun to walk among the trees and then watch them spray those trees and make them other colors. We never opted for anything other than green.

But this particular time, when I was about 10 years old, Dad brought home our new aluminum Christmas tree and it was in a box. It was silver and rather sparse looking. Mom got us some red and blue Christmas ornaments, but it just didn't seem like Christmas. I thought it was ugly and I missed the real tree. In my neighborhood, we would go around and get the trees after Christmas and build forts out of them.

Another time, we got our first color television. It was a brand new world to see color TV. Football became even a better sport when done in color. I

remember way back in the early 1950s when Dad brought home our first TV, a console Philco which had a record player built in the bottom of it. We got to buy new records at Christmas.

Christmas memories are filled with family and that's the way it should be. My memories include Bruton Road Baptist Church when Santa Claus would show up on a Sunday night and the kids would line up to visit with old Kris Kringle and getting a bag of fruit with peppermint sticks. We would go to East Texas and my Grandma and Granddaddy Stedry would give each grandkid a two dollar bill. Sure wish I would have saved those bills.

It was during my high school years, Christmas started to take on a whole new meaning for me. I was an active member in a service organization known as Key Club. The W.W. Samuell High School Key Club was sponsored by the Pleasant Grove Kiwanis and was one of the largest in the state.

We started doing a canned good drive to help families in need at Christmas. As a sophomore, I learned how important this food drive was to our community and our club. Each year it grew and grew. We had to rent a storefront at the Bruton Terrace Shopping Center to hold all of our collected canned goods. Our goals would be something like 10,000 to 15,000 cans, but by my senior year we were upward to close to 25,000.

We spent time sorting and getting ready to deliver. It was when we got to deliver, my life and the meaning of Christmas took a turn. Our club was able to feed hundreds of Southeast Dallas families. I had never been in a home where there were holes in the roof, some with dirt floors and others with only a small space heater for heat.

People would cry when we showed up and me and my fellow Key Clubbers would cry before we could get out of a house. I saw little ones who were hungry and who had only a thin blanket for warmth. Those three Christmases when I was a Key Club member stand out for me as I grow older. It gave me a perspective I would never have known had it not been for those years working on the food drive.

Our Key Club was honored at the international convention one of those years for Single Service Project of the Year. It was nice to be recognized, but nothing will ever take the place of actually going into a home and getting a hug and a tearful thank you from a family who really appreciated you being there. It sure made me thankful for my family and everything my mom and dad had done for me.

Have a wonderful Christmas and maybe, just maybe, you can do something for someone less fortunate this time around. If you do, I promise it will be you on the receiving end of the gift of giving.

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 350 words long. One letter per writer per topic will be accepted.

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. Submit letters to the editor to editor@woodcountymonitor.com or by mail to one of our offices (see staff box at bottom of page).

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.
 ALANON - Thursday, 7:30 pm; 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 Tuesday, 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 QUITMAN - meets Sunday, 4:30 p.m., Scout House behind First United Methodist Church. Danny King, 903-521-5930.
 BOYSCOUTS TROOP 385 MINEOLA - Tuesdays 7 p.m., Mineola Methodist Education Bldg. New boys/ alums welcome! Chris Jennings 903-569-3531
 BOY SCOUTS TROOP 180 WINNSBORO - Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Church of Christ. New boys/ alums welcome! Tex Willis 903-816-0638
 BOY SCOUTS TROOP 379 WINNSBORO - Tuesdays 7 p.m., City Bldg @ Walker Park. New boys/ alums welcome! Sherry McGovern 903-335-9744
 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@texascellnet.com.
 CUB SCOUTS PACK 391 HAWKINS - meets Sundays, 5 p.m., Scout Hut, FUMC. New boys, alums welcome. Scott Randall, 903-203-7901.
 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. 903-629-7837.
 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.
 DUPLICATED BRIDGE ACBL games - Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 882-1335.
 EASTERN STAR - Quitman Chapter 695, 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
 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - second Tuesday, Quitman.
 FRIENDS 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 Thursday, 7 p.m., at the church, 203 Meadowbrook Drive, Mineola. 903-569-3662.
 LAKE COUNTRY CLASSIC CAR CLUB - third Monday, 6:30 p.m. 903-850-2557.
 LAKE COUNTRY REPUBLICANS - fourth Tuesday, 6 p.m., Red Dome Smokehouse, Quitman.
 LAKE COUNTRY RV TRAVELERS - of Good Sam Int'l. Monthly, RV parks w/in 150 m. radius. 903-569-3677 or 3069.
 LAKE COUNTRY SYMPHONIC BAND - will resume rehearsals Aug. 6 at Mineola High School Band Hall. 7 p.m. 903-569-2300.
 LAKE FORK 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 LIONS CLUB - second and fourth Thursday, noon, Mineola Country Club, 903-638-1596; 903-569-3340.
 MINEOLA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE Det. #1278, 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. meeting. American Legion Building, 2015 E. Hwy. 80, Mineola, 903-497-3030.
 MINEOLA SCHOOL BOARD - third Monday, Admin. Bldg., Loop 564, 7 p.m.
 MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL - fourth Monday, 5:30 p.m., City Hall. Public welcome. Call City Hall for changes in November and December because of holidays.
 MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB - 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) - 1302 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
 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 1-3:30 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, Faith Student Center, 403 S. Main St., Quitman. 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.
 QUITMAN PILOT CLUB - third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Quitman Public Library. 903-383-5075.
 QUITMAN ROTARY CLUB, Thurs., noon, ETMC Com-

munity Room, N. Hwy. 37.
 QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL - third Thursday, 5:30 p.m.; city hall.
 QUITMAN SCHOOL BOARD - 2nd Monday, 6 p.m. Administration Building.
 REPUBLICAN CLUB OF WINNSBORO - fourth Monday, 7 p.m., 903-342-0575.
 REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WOOD COUNTY - third Monday, 11:30 a.m., Red Dome, Quitman, 903 383 2121.
 SINGING AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAWKINS - fourth Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
 SCOTTISH RITE - Wood County Scottish Rite Club meets third Thursday of odd month, 6:30 p.m., Red Dome Smokehouse meeting room. 903-253-3635.
 STROKE SURVIVORS & APHASIA CLUB OF EAST TEXAS - fourth Wednesday, 6-7 p.m., First Baptist Church Quitman, 903-878-2392.
 TEXAS INMATE FAMILIES ASSOCIATION - second Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m., First Christian Church Tyler, Broadway & Loop, 903-839-2349.
 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL - Garden Valley chapter, Thursdays on Mercy Ships property, 5:30-6:30 p.m. 903-882-0887.
 TOPS GROUP - Thursday, 8-11 a.m., Harvest Acres Baptist Church, NW Loop 564, 569-1240, 569-2415.
 UPPER SABINE VALLEY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT - every three months on third Monday, Wood County Courthouse, 5:30 p.m., 903-763-2123.
 UTU AUXILIARY MORNING STAR LODGE #851 - third Monday (except July and August), 11:30 a.m.
 VFW LADIES AUXILIARY #7523 - third Sunday, 1 p.m., Recruiting new members. 569-2228.
 VFW POST #7523 - third Wednesday, 6 p.m., Karaoke every Friday, 8 p.m. 569-2228.
 WHYTE DOVE WRITER'S GROUP - first Tuesday, 6 p.m., 407 N. Stephens in Quitman. 903-763-1210 or e-mail mkyoung97@peoples.com.net
 WOOD COUNTY 4-H HORSE CLUB - Business meeting, Monday, 2 p.m. Wood County Extension Office. Wood County Aggie MomS - 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m., 903-539-7049 or Wood County Aggie Moms Facebook page.
 WOOD COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT - Quarterly, third Thursday, 8 p.m., appraisal district office. Open to the public.
 WOOD COUNTY CENTRAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT - third Monday, 5:30 p.m. (every three months).
 WOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT - every other Friday, Commissioners Court, Quitman, 10 a.m. 763-2716.
 WOOD COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS - every other month, third Monday, 6 p.m., Wood County Justice Center courtroom. The public is invited. 903-763-2201 or 903-569-6294.
 WOOD COUNTY DEMOCRAT CLUB - fourth Thursday, Quitman Public Library, at 6:15 p.m. 903-383-7036 or www.woodcountydem.org.
 WOOD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - third Monday, January through May and September through November, 7 p.m., Quitman Public Library, Shamburger Community Room. For 903-763-4191 or 967-2458.
 WOOD COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. IMMUNIZATION CLINIC - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9-11 a.m., and 1-3 p.m., third Monday, 1-6 p.m. Public Health Department offices, 213 W. Bermuda, Quitman, 763-5406.
 WOOD COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT - second Monday, 7 p.m., hospital conference room in Quitman. Public invited.
 WOOD COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION - third Monday, September-December, and February-April, 2 p.m. and in May at 5 p.m., Forever Young Activity Center, 402 S. Main St., Quitman. All retired school personnel are invited.
 WOOD COUNTY TEA PARTY - first Monday, 7 p.m., Quitman Library
 YANTIS CITY COUNCIL - second Tuesday, 6 p.m., city hall.
 YANTIS SCHOOL BOARD - second Monday, 6 p.m. (executive session), 7 open meeting, school cafeteria.
 YANTIS/LAKE FORK LIONS CLUB - second Thursday, 6 p.m., Yantis Community Center.

200 N. Pacific Mineola 903-569-6161

To add a listing to the calendar, email editor@woodcountymonitor.com or news@woodcountymonitor.com or call 903-569-2442 or 903-763-4522

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Wood County MONITOR

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Noon on Friday

Community News deadline:
4 p.m. on Thursday
www.woodcountymonitor.com

Gooden

From page 3

Texas who understands the traditional values that we share, and who knows that our churches and our schools and our shops on Main Street are the lifeblood of our communities. Our way of life is sacred, and it is worth fighting to protect and defend for our children and our children's children. With your support and your prayers, I am ready to go to Washington and do the same thing that I did in Austin – roll up my sleeves, fight for you, and win for you."

Gooden says he has roots in Congressional District 5. He was reared in Terrell, graduated from Terrell High School and earned degrees from the University of Texas. He works in business development, and his wife, Alexa, is a real estate agent. They live in Terrell where they attend the Rockwall and Brin Church of Christ. The Goodens are expecting their first child, a baby boy, in February.



The demolition of the 1888 building was accomplished Sunday morning. Workers started very early and utilizing cables through windows tumbled the structure with a track hoe. During the demolition some bones were found in the building. Police were notified and said they appeared to be those of an animal. (Photo courtesy of Holly Herring, city of Mineola)

Baby, It's Warm Inside! Make sure your house is **WINTER READY!** Call us for delivery! **903-763-4000**

Wood County Automatic Gas
Operating Since 1952
Propane Residential & Commercial Route Deliveries
209 E. Goode • Quitman, TX 75783
Store Hours: Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Demolition

From page 1

ola City Council, permission was granted for the demolition of the building. The preceding week the Landmark Commission had convened in a special meeting on the subject.

"It is not a choice," Community Development Director Holly Herring said Monday morning.

"Again, the building was in such bad disrepair that it had to be taken down." She said the city appreciates the cautionary efforts that were taken by the Carvers in the process.

As far as safety precautions in the demolition of the building, Herring said the city felt that the Carvers had done all that could be done. The police and fire departments were on standby when the demolition occurred. She said the Carvers did what

they and engineers told the city they would do concerning the neighboring buildings. "At this point moving forward anything between the property owners is between the property owners," Herring said.

The Carvers will rebuild the building, taking care not to try to copy but to create a similar structure utilizing elements of the old building. One element of the new design calls for a balcony for diners on the second floor.

Karch

From page 1

the investigation, the release states, it was found that probable cause existed for the offense and a warrant was issued.

Tunnell stated, "The top priority of Mineola ISD is to provide a quality education in a safe and secure learning environment. A student brought to the district's attention a possible inappropriate relationship between a high school student and an employee in the district. The district took swift actions to contact local law enforcement immediately as the investigation into the report began. Following immediate

interviews and the initial investigation, the employee was placed on administrative leave and the district has obtained the employee's resignation. The district has also notified the State Board of Education. This ongoing investigation is now under the full jurisdiction of the Mineola Police Department."

"We take any report seriously involving the safety and wellbeing of our students and are extremely grateful for

the student who came forward to report the concern," the superintendent stated. "We want our students to know how important it is to inform administrators when behaviors of other students don't seem right or things are happening that others know shouldn't be taking place. These allegations are behaviors that will not be tolerated in Mineola ISD and do not represent our faculty and staff."

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Select Theater to bring 'White Christmas' back to big screen

On Thursday Lake Country Playhouse in Mineola will offer a one-night showing of Irving Berlin's holiday film, "White Christmas."

In an era where Christmas movies flood the airwaves, one that seems to be overlooked is this 1954 film starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Allen.

"White Christmas" features great song and dance numbers, romance and comedy set against the backdrop of a Vermont lodge that is on the edge of financial ruin due to a lack of snow for the holidays. It was the first movie released in a wide-screen format called

VistaVision.

The event is a fundraiser for Lake Country Playhouse, Mineola's non-profit community theater that has been performing shows for 40 years. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance by calling the box office at 903-569-2300. VISA, MasterCard and Discover may be used for tickets, but concessions are cash only. The doors and box office will open at 6:45 p.m. and the movie will be at 7:30.

The movie will be shown at the historic Select Theater at 114 N. Johnson Street in Mineola, the home for Lake Country Playhouse.

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ACROSS

- TXism: "got misery ___ my armpits"
- Cowboys scheme: "game ___"
- TXism: "___ as a lap dog"
- "Let's call ___ early night"
- seat of Mills County
- TXism: "___ down"
- healing baths (2 wds.)
- Alamo fighter Davy's birth state (abbr.)
- TX singer Vikki
- TXism: "___ drowned rat"
- Osmond & Seals country hit: "___ in Montana"
- film "8 Seconds" was about TX bull rider ___ Frost
- "Facts of Life" TX actress Whelchel
- ex-Cowboy LB Norton (init.)
- TX actress of film "Biography of a Bachelor Girl" (1935)
- TXism for carry
- TXism: "trust everybody ___ always cut the cards"
- TXism for "underwear"
- TX Roy Orbison tune
- actress Drake of "Son of Belle Starr"
- Galveston event: "Dickens' Weekend ___"
- kitchen basins
- pie ___ mode
- river rider

DOWN

- TXism: "locked ___ a drum" (secure)
- TX Forest Whitaker was "Big Harold" in this 1986 war film
- "husky" Tex-Mex entree
- TXism: "it'll make your hair stand ___ (scary)"
- TXism for "thing"
- TXism: "skedaddle out of ___"
- if at first you don't succeed, go to ...
- ex-Ranger pitcher, Robb
- TXism: "he could fall ___ well" (clumsy)
- "Six Flags Over Texas" has a ___ Tunes ride
- a regular on TX Carol Burnett's TV show
- TX Patrick Swayze 1987 film: "___ Dancing"
- TXism: "heap of"
- TXism: "___ was any better I couldn't stand it"
- TXism: "___ some gravel" (fell)
- TXism for "wire"
- Ladd of TX-based "The Big Land" (init.)
- TXism: "treat ___ kid gloves"
- TXism: "new to ___ parts"
- TXism: "como (How are you?)
- this Gov. Ferguson was impeached
- TXism: "got ___ the tail" (trouble)
- TXism: "happy as a kid on ___ lap"
- TXism: "he ___ sitting down" (big ego)
- wife of 18-down
- TX Perot's first naval rank (abbr.)
- name before Exxon
- TXism: "wound up tighter ___ 8-day clock" (tense)
- this Mickey hit 1st Astrodome homer tall TX tales
- TXism: "take a ___ off" (sit)
- TX Tanya's "Texas When I ___"
- camping canvas
- "Supreme" Ross 40 swiftly
- Houston Astros replay: ___-motion
- TXism: "___ up" (pay)
- famous TX female gambler Deno
- TX musical duo Seals & ___ who sang "Summer Breeze" in 1972

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A rocking library party was held at Mineola Memorial Library Thursday evening with a special performance by Elvis tribute artist Gib Maynard of Alba. His number one fan, 5-year-old daughter Bella, is by his side and her 2-year-old sister, Presley, was also present. (Monitor photo by Doris Newman)

Wood County Sheriff's Report

Reports from the Wood County Sheriff's office from Dec. 6-12 include:

Dec. 12 - Deputies were dispatched to Country Road 1670 near Alba at 10:42 p.m. on a disturbance. When officers arrived it appeared an assault had occurred. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Dec. 11 - Deputies were dispatched to Highway 80 near Mineola at 4:14 p.m. on criminal mischief. Suspects damaged a lawn mower on the property.

Deputies went out on a warrant service to CR 3840 near Hawkins at 9:37 a.m. John McCann, Jr., 34 of Hawkins was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Dec. 10 - Deputies spoke a person at 9:36 a.m. on a theft that occurred on CR 3832 near Hawkins. Thieves stole diesel fuel out of a tractor trailer.

Deputies went out a warrant service to Winnsboro Police Department at 1:30 a.m. Stormie Vance, 33, of Winnsboro was arrested for an outstanding war-

rant. **Dec. 9** - Deputies went out on a warrant service to Washington St. in Winnsboro at 10:36 p.m. Rodrick Carter, 33 of Winnsboro was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Deputies went out on a warrant service to CR 3992 near Winnsboro at 8:43 p.m. Cleveland Harrison, 26 of Winnsboro was arrested on outstanding warrants.

Deputies were dispatched to Valley Wood Trail near Hawkins at 12:11 p.m. on criminal mischief. Suspects damaged a window on a vehicle. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Dec. 8 - Deputies went out on a warrant service to Private Road 7850 near Hawkins at 9:21 p.m. Jason Williams, 38 of Hawkins was arrested for outstanding warrants.

Deputies were dispatched to CR 2660 near Mineola at 6:25 p.m. on an assault. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to Holly Trail West near Hawkins at 8:32 a.m. on an inquest.

A male, 65 was found deceased in his residence. The justice of the peace arrived and an autopsy was ordered.

Dec. 7 - Deputies were dispatched to CR 2660 near Mineola at 10:10 p.m. on a disturbance. Officers reported that an assault had occurred. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies spoke with a person at 8:15 p.m. on reported a dog bite that occurred on CR 1681 near Alba. The owner of the dog was advised of the quarantine protocol. This case is active.

Deputies were dispatched to PR 5228 near Quitman at 7:10 p.m. on an inquest. A male, 78 was found deceased in his residence. The justice of the peace arrived and no autopsy was ordered.

Deputies went out on a warrant service to Main St. in Yantis at 11:46 a.m. Kimberly Fisher, 34, of Yantis was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Dec. 6 - There was a report of a theft that occurred on CR 3860 near Hawkins. A thief stole an electric impact driver from a property. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Mineola Police Report

Mineola police reports for the past week included:

Dec. 13 - At 2:15 p.m. a woman reported she accidentally pulled out in front of another vehicle on North Pacific Street. The other party became irate and started following her to her location and then aggressively confronted her. The vehicle was gone upon the officer's arrival.

At 4:45 p.m. a man called in, only telling the dispatcher that he was at Newsom and Cage Streets. An officer found him and noted he was possibly drunk. He was taken into custody, and then released to emergency medical services personnel for medical reasons.

At 5:52 p.m. police received a report of young people on the roof of the building at Broad and Line Streets. Officers found four juveniles and they were all released to their parents.

A disturbance was re-

ported on Patten Street between a father and son. No charges were filed.

Dec. 12 - Personnel at Air Mart on South Pacific Street reported someone broke into the building and stripped some wires.

A woman reported that she and her children were being harassed. An officer spoke with the suspect and feels it is resolved.

Dec. 11 - Personnel at Walmart reported that a man stole four tires from the store on Dec. 6.

Police arrested 22-year-old Hannah Nicole Stacks of Mineola for theft at Walmart. They reported she was trying to leave the store without paying for clothes and makeup.

At 6:21 p.m. several people called about a fight that was happening on McWhorter Street. When police arrived there was no one there, but they report they are aware of who was fighting.

Dec. 10 - At 9:46 p.m. there was a report of young people on roofs throwing lights off the buildings on West Broad Street. Officers weren't able to locate the young people involved.

Dec. 9 - At 5:33 p.m. someone reported a reckless driver on South Pacific Street and that the driver had a gun. An officer determined that no offense had been committed.

At 11:35 p.m. personnel at Dairy Queen reported a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot for hours, which concerned the employees. Officers found it belonged to someone conducting paranormal work on a house nearby.

Dec. 8 - A woman reported unauthorized charges to her credit card.

Personnel at Walmart reported at 7:27 p.m. two thefts when a person walked out with a shopping cart with items not paid for.

Mineola Fire Report

Fire reports in Mineola for the past two weeks have included:

Vehicle fire: Dec. 1 at S. Highway 69;

Forrest / grass fire: Dec. 13 at 767 County Road 2775; Dec. 12 at 2973 N. Highway 69; Dec. 11 at 916 CR 2375 in Alba; Dec. 10 at 23442 Live Oak Drive; Dec. 4

at County Road 2236; Dec. 3 at 623 CR 2425; Dec. 2 at 27345 Farm-to-Market 1253;

Medical assist: Dec. 11, 517 Hart Street; Dec. 10 at 878 CR 2220; Dec. 9 at 178 CR 2298 and 102 Maxine Drive; Dec. 8 at 234 Lakeside Place; Dec. 5 at 5850 FM 1801; Dec. 4 at 300 Private

Road 6338; Dec. 3 at 623 CR 2425;

Vehicle accident without injury: Dec. 5 at 2:16 p.m. at 135 Northeast Loop 564;

Motor vehicle accident with injuries: Dec. 9 at 3:29 p.m. at the intersection of N. Graham Street and E. McDonald Street.

Wreck

From page 1

according to their report, Wattis was traveling south on CR 3230 at a high rate of speed, entered a right curve and started skidding to the left. The truck hit a small tree and then a large tree on the front right side of the vehicle. The vehicle then caught fire.

Justice of Peace Pct. 1 Tony Gilbreath declared Wattis dead at the scene. The body was taken to Lowe Funeral Home in Quitman.

Court

From page 1

hour by the county auditor.

In other matters, commissioners approved:

- payroll of \$340,082.45;
- health and dental \$115,690;
- accounts payable

\$885,322.63;

- an inter-local agreement with the City of Mineola for street materials and repair through Dec. 31, 2018;
- logging permits for Wood County Roads 3180 and 3181 and

- a concession stand agreement with Daniel Meta at Lake Hawkins for five years.

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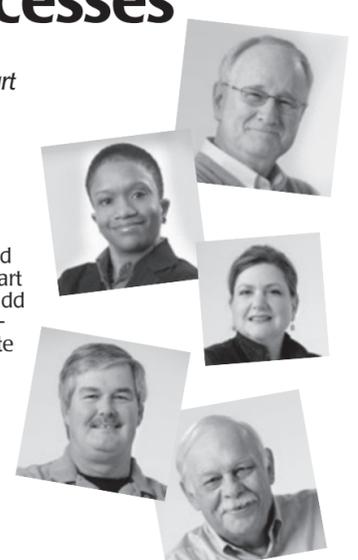
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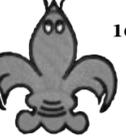
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Quitman Library Connections

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Join us for "Christmas with Elvis" on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Quitman Public Library. Elvis tribute artist Gib Maynard will perform holiday songs backed by Rafael Espinoza and the Rockabilly Railroad. There may also be a surprise guest, so don't miss it! Tickets are \$10 and are available at the library, Quitman City Hall, Dunahoe Insurance Agency - Mineola, or may be purchased at the door. The Friends of the Library is hosting the event and concessions will be available.

The library will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26. However, public Wi-Fi and all online databases including OverDrive will continue to be available 24/7.

A holiday collection of books for pleasure reading, movies with a holiday theme, and books with recipe and decorating ideas to make Christmas extra special are displayed near the check-out desk. Check it out!

The next 2nd Friday Acoustical Music Jam is Friday, Jan. 12, in the library's community room. Acoustical musicians of all ages and musical levels are invited to this informal jam from 6 - 9 p.m. An open mic is set up for those who wish to perform. Listeners are al-

ways welcome. Call 903-975-5745 for more information. Patron cards are available for those residents who can provide proof of residence in Wood County and photo identification. A guardian must sign for children ages 5 - 17. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Visit the library's website at www.quitmanlibrary.org and keep up with current events at www.facebook.com/quitmanpubliclibrary.

Adult services

GED class meets Thursday, from 4 - 6 p.m., and then will be on holiday break until Thursday, Jan. 4. The class is designed to prepare adult students for the test in an environment that is motivational. Sign up for this free class at the library's front desk, or call 903-763-4191.

Rebekah Yeager and Virginia Hoffpauir invite students of all ages and skill levels to join the group for free crochet and knitting instruction each Thursday 2 - 4 p.m. in the library's main gallery.

Children's services

Story Time meets each Thursday

at 2 p.m. Lillian Gray plans an educational hour filled with stories, crafts and plenty of fun. Upcoming themes are Dec. 21 "All Aboard the Polar Express!" (bring pillows and blankets) - Dec. 28 "Building Snowmen." Story Time is designed for young readers and home-schooled students, but anyone who wants to hear a great story is welcome. Call 903-763-BOOK (2665).

Friends of the Library

The Friends are selling their brand new 95-page cookbook, "Tried and True Recipes from the Friends of the Quitman Public Library." The books are available at the front check-out desk for \$10 each. The Friends of the Quitman Public Library is an active group of volunteers dedicated to the growth and improvement of the library.

New Arrivals

The latest books, audiobooks and movies that have been added to our collection can always be found by visiting our online catalog at <http://quitman.bibliotix.com/catalog>. Download the OverDrive® app for access to countless eBooks and audiobooks from the Quitman Public Library. You may check out up to five online items for your choice of 7 or 14 days.

Obituaries

CHRISTIANE BROOK FULCHER-DODILLET
1969-2017

MINEOLA - A memorial service for Christiane Fulcher-Dodillet will be held Friday, December 22, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Mineola with Rev. Mark Neely officiating.

Mrs. Fulcher-Dodillet died November 27, 2017. She was born March 23, 1969 in Tyler. She graduated from Texas State College and was a third grade teacher in Bastrop Elementary for 15 years. She was named Most Innovative Teacher at Bastrop this year.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Joyce Carroll.

Survivors include her father, Col. John T. Fulcher and stepmother Nita Fulcher of Mineola; husband Andrew Dodillet and two stepchildren, Kelsey and Neally of Austin; sister, Elizabeth Fulcher of Miami, Florida and brother, John Fulcher and Mineola.



JOZSEF JANOS IHA
1939-2017

QUITMAN - Funeral services for Jozsef "Joe" Iha, 78, of Quitman were held December 16 at Lowe Funeral Home with Rev. Sam Walker officiating.

Burial was at Quitman City Cemetery.

Mr. Iha died at his home on December 7, 2017. He was born August 21, 1939, in Pecs Hungary, the son of Jozsef and Krisztina Iha. He came to the United States when he was 17 and served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1962, attaining the rank of sergeant.

He retired from Texas Instruments. He loved to fish and after a move to New Jersey, came back to Texas and Lake Fork. He was an active member of the Lions Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Andre Lee Iha; parents and brother, Ferenc Iha.

Survivors include two sons, Mike Iha of Sachse and Steve Iha of Dallas; one grandchild, Daniel Christopher Iha of Sachse.



JAMES EDWARD MALONE
1932-2017

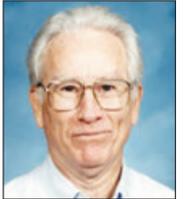
MINEOLA - Funeral services for James Edward Malone, 85 of San Angelo, formerly of Mineola, were held December 15 at Beauty Funeral Home, Mineola with Craig Rhoton officiating.

Burial followed in Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Mr. Malone died December 9, 2017, in San Angelo. He was born in Fort Worth on January 10, 1932, to H.L. and Vera Mae Malone. He graduated from Mineola High School in 1949. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on February 13, 1951. He was aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and later served as flight engineer on C-130s during the Vietnam War. When he retired from the military after 30 years, he earned a masters degree in education from The University of Texas at Tyler. He went on to teach science at Mineola Elementary School.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Gloria Ray and brother, Don Malone.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Dorothy Patrick Malone; children Sina Walker, Cynthia Hicks, Harry Malone and Holly Jean Malone; sisters, Sissie Malone Phillips, Linda Allen; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and many other relatives.



Inside and Outside the Picket Fence

BY JAN WHITLOCK

I would like to begin by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season from the Friends of the Arboretum. We are the group that rakes the leaves, raises the money, hosts the open house, sweeps the front porch, pulls the weeds and installs the hog fencing.

If you are one of the many who joined us for the annual open house, we are so glad you came out to celebrate another year at the Stinson House and in the gardens. It has been a most unusual year, but we have been blessed with the hard work and active support of many new friends. Their energy and enthusiasm are endless, and their fresh ideas have opened many doors. The "Barn Boys" have completed the beautiful storage facility next to the house and are busy working on new projects both inside and outside the picket fence.

With the guidance and expertise of Todd Neuens, owner and



Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

operator of Lone-Star Remodeling, T-posts have been spaced and installed around the perimeter of the cultivated gardens. The hog-wire fencing will be unrolled and attached this weekend. Watch for the hogs trotting along Highway 154 as they seek greener pastures in other locales.

It is now time to thank the many, many friends and supporters who have stepped up and helped us fund the installation of this fence. We have also received some donations toward the rebuilding of the gardens, many of which had been in place for close to 10 years. It is this out-pouring of faith and finances that keep us goin' and the plants growin'. Please come out and share the adventure. The coffee is on.

Jasmine Russell earns Master's at UNT

James and Rosalind Russell announce the graduation of their daughter, Jasmine Russell, from the University of North Texas in Denton.

Russell received her Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Journalism, a minor in Library Science and Rehabilitation Counseling Friday.

In 2012 Russell earned her bachelor of science in English at Texas College in Tyler. While at UNT, Russell was a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and Society of Professional Journalists. She was a member of Mt. Pilgrim CME Church in Denton and participated in



many community organizations.

Russell plans to pursue her Ph.D. in social work or Christian counseling.

Holly Brook Baptist sets holiday schedule

Holly Brook Baptist Church has announced its schedule for the Christmas-New Year's holidays.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, morning worship will be at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School. There will be a candlelight service at 5:30 p.m.

Church offices and Family Life Center will be closed Friday, Dec. 22; Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26 and New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1.

There will be no Wednesday evening services today or next Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Beginning Jan. 10 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., an 11-week Beth Moore Bible study will reveal what John the disciple most wanted people to know about Jesus. Joyce Grisham will lead the study and has the workbooks.

In conjunction with Texas Baptist Men, Holly Brook Baptist men and women will help families in the Orange area restore homes that were damaged by flood waters from Hurricane Harvey. Crews will hang sheetrock, tape and bed walls, replace trim, hang cabinets, and paint. Donations of money will also be accepted.

On New Year's Eve at 6 p.m. Holly Brook Baptist Church will show a movie, "The Case for Christ." The public is invited. The movie is the story of Lee Stroebel, a former atheist, and his journey to faith in Christ through investigative reporting. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the show.

Women of Holly Brook Baptist Church have set Feb. 17 for their annual Ladies' Retreat, open to all women in the area. Program and other details will be announced.

Call the church office for more information on any of the activities at 903-769-2091.

Bake sale planned for historic cemetery

Supporters of Shady Grove Cemetery in Wood County, a Texas Historic Cemetery, will hold a Baking Spirits Bright Christmas Bake Sale Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot at JEB Sales, located at the corner of Highways 515 and 37 across from Family Dollar in Winnsboro.

The bake sale will be sponsored by the Shady Grove Cemetery Association. Various holiday sweets and treats such as cakes, cupcakes, cookies, breads, pies and candies will be available for purchase. This fundraiser will benefit various improvements to the historic cemetery and church building. Donations will be accepted.

This is also an opportunity to order and reserve

a cemetery commemorative keepsake cookbook with generational recipes.

Contact Sherry Finney at 903-438-7455 for more information.



Leta Scalf Westbrook 1928-2017

Leta Scalf Westbrook, age 89, of Mineola, TX, formerly a long time resident of Dallas passed away peacefully into God's hands on Friday, November 17, 2017 after battling an illness. She was born in Denison, TX to the late Taylor B and Hazel Ritter Scalf on September 26, 1928. She married the love of her life, Roy A. (Milton) Westbrook in 1948. The couple were happily married for 65 years and had two children, Roy Ann

and James "Jim".

Leta was a graduate of the Methodist Hospital Nursing School where she received her registered nursing degree, eventually retiring after over 40 years of nursing. She accomplished much in her life but she was most proud of her family; her pride and joy. She was a dedicated wife, involved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She welcomed three grandchildren and four great grandchildren into her heart over her lifetime. Leta loved being close to her family and especially looked forward to spending holidays and Sunday dinners with them. Keeping close to her family and spending time with them was always very important to her. She was also a member of Rosemont Christian Church in Dallas and later First Christian Church of Mineola and a lifetime member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Leta was the beloved wife of the late Roy A. Westbrook who doted on her and loved her more than anything. She was the proud mother to Roy Ann Miller, her husband Wayne of Mineola; her son, James "Jim" Westbrook who predeceased her, and his wife Lindee of DeSoto. She was also the loving "Granny" to granddaughter Nancy Phonsnasin, her husband Gar and their daughter Emily of Mineola; grandson Jack Baird and his wife Jill and their daughter Makenzie of Rockwall; and grandson James Westbrook, his wife Megan and their two daughters Haley and Hannah of Waxahachie. She is survived by her sister Doris Parker and brother T.B. "Sonny" Scalf, his wife Margaret; and Roy Curran, her loving brother in law. She also leaves behind a host of family relatives and friends that touched her life throughout the years. She will be missed by all those who loved and respected her but never forgotten.

Memorial service was held at the First Christian Church in Mineola on December 15, 2017 and her loved ones appreciated the presence of her friends and family to help celebrate her life.



Happy Holidays
From our family to yours

There will be no trash service on
Monday, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
Monday trash pickup will take place
on following Tuesday.

REPUBLIC SERVICES

Miscellaneous

Garage Sales

INSIDE GARAGE SALE: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8a.m. 910 E. Broad, Mineola. Watch for signs.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing has been set for revision on the plat of Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision. The revision includes lots 299 & 300, Section 9, within Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision. The public hearing is set for Friday, January 12, 2018, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Courtroom. All persons interested in revision to this plat may appear at the public hearing with opposition should they so desire.
Bryan Jeanes
Wood County Judge

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Dallas Lewis, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2017, under Docket Number 13,230, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to John Douglas Lewis. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:
John Douglas Lewis, Independent Executor
Estate of John Dallas Lewis, Deceased
c/o Ben J. Kerr III
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1029
Quitman, Texas 75783
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. DATED the 11th day of December, 2017.
Respectfully submitted,
Brown, Kerr, & King
By: Ben J. Kerr, III

Real Estate

Mobile Home for Rent

3BR 2BA Mobile Home for rent in Quitman. No Pets Allowed. 903-850-3570

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Master: Hollis Bridges

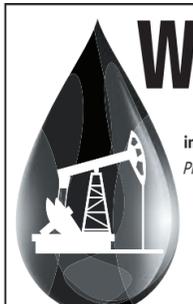
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Bright Star-Salem Special Utility District is accepting applications for a Full Time water plant operator. This position will be responsible for the daily operations of both Surface Water and Ground Water Treatment, and distribution systems. Applicants must be highly motivated and have dependable transportation. Working on holidays and weekends is required. Ground Water Operator or Surface Water Operator License is preferred but not mandatory. Applicants are subject to a pre-employment drug and alcohol screening and criminal background check. Some heavy lifting and handling of chemicals is also required. Interested applicants can apply at Bright Star-Salem SUD 238 N. Osborn Street, Alba, TX. No phone calls please. Bright Star-Salem SUD is an equal opportunity employer, and offers an excellent benefit package including paid employee health insurance and retirement.



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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing has been set for revision on the plat of Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision. The revision includes lots 13 & 14, Section 1, within Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision. The public hearing is set for Friday, January 12, 2018, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Courtroom. All persons interested in revision to this plat may appear at the public hearing with opposition should they so desire.
Bryan Jeanes
Wood County Judge

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of B. L. Woodard, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2017, in Cause No. 13,221, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: LANCE WAYNE WOODARD.
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: Kyle G. Waggoner
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1152
Mineola, TX 75773

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Mobile Home for Rent

3BR 2BA Mobile Home for rent in Quitman. No Pets Allowed. 903-850-3570

2BR, 1 1/2BA Mobile Home for rent in Quitman. No Pets Allowed. 903-850-3570

Real Estate

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2BR, 1 1/2BA Mobile Home for rent in Quitman. No Pets Allowed. 903-850-3570

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MINEOLA has opening for financial assistant, part time (10-12 hours/week). Full-charge bookkeeping, including receivables, payables, payroll, general ledger, journal entries, reports, etc. Reports to pastor. Send resume to mineolafumc@suddenlinkmail.com or mail to 612 N. Newsom, Mineola 75773.

Part time secretary. Filing, customer service, & light computer work. Mornings 4-5 days a week. Call 903-856-8228.

JOB OPENINGS: Full time custodians at Mineola ISD. For information contact Rickey Browning at 903-569-2448.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Without public notices in the newspaper, you're left guessing.



Public notice is your right to know about the issues that directly affect your life. And, you can easily find public notices in your local newspaper. Without public notices in the newspaper, you're left to guess about what the government is doing in your community and how elected officials are spending your tax dollars.

Your local newspaper fulfills an essential role in serving your right to know. After all, it shouldn't be your responsibility to know how to look ... where to look ... when to look ... and even what to look for in order to be informed about public information. It is the government's responsibility to notify you of public information, and your local newspaper is the most accessible place to find it.

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Persons interested should contact Doris Newman at the Wood County Monitor office.
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LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Mesothelioma may occur 30 to 60 years after exposure to asbestos. Industrial and construction workers and their families may have been exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Call 800-460-0606 for professional insight or visit www.asbestoslaw.com.

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may occur 30 to 60 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.

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Lady Bulldogs start district 1-1

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

A solid defensive effort gave the Quitman Lady Bulldogs an opening 45-36 district win on the road at Kemp but cold shooting haunted them at home Friday against Scurry-Rosser.

Things did not go so well Friday night at home. A hot shooting Scurry-Rosser hit seven three-pointers, five of them in the first half, leading them to a 47-10 win over the Lady Bulldogs. Quitman was down 21-8 at the half and did not score again until 2:47 remained in the

game when Brannon hit on a short jump shot. Compton led Quitman in scoring with four points, followed by Brannon, Tanner and Spears who each had two points.

In the game at Kemp, Madalyn Spears led the Lady Bulldogs with 15 points and Molly Tanner added 10 points to led the way offensively for the Lady Bulldogs. Other scoring came from Shelby Hayes with six points, Abby Dobbs four, Lucy Brannon three, Shelby Compton, Utopia Henry and Julia

See QUITMAN, Page 10



Quitman's Lucy Brannon looks inside for an open teammate in Friday's game against Scurry-Rosser. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Local v-ball players earn recognition

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

Five Quitman girls and one Mineola volleyball player were named to the Texas Girls Coaching Association's Academic All State team. The athletes must be a senior and maintain a 94 or above average.

Quitman's Kaci Raley, Molly Tanner, Cammie Hicks, Rebekah Corrior and Cassidy Corrior and Mineola's Kiley Banks were named to the elite team.

Quitman Volleyball Coach Ashlee Lingo is proud of her athletes. "This is such a great honor. I am so proud of these five young ladies. Not only were they outstanding on the court, but also in the classroom," Lingo said. "Each one of them are active in many other activities, but were able

See HONORS, Page 11

Sneed propels Jackets to win over Wills Point

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

Davion Sneed's dominant inside performance helped the Mineola Yellowjackets beat the Wills Point Tigers Friday night.

Sneed tallied a team-high 13 points and seven rebounds, helping the Jackets win 57-45.

The Jackets used a strong first half to take a 16-point lead in to half-time when the score was 35-19 at intermission.

See MINEOLA, Page 11



Dean leads Lady J's to 1st district win

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

The Mineola Lady Jackets overcame an early deficit to win their first district game last Tuesday against the visiting Grand Saline Lady Indians 61-51.

Sophomore point guard Sabria Dean was easily the best player on the court as she finished with a game high 26

Jessiah Riley shoots a fade away jump shot in the first quarter of Mineola's game against Grand Saline. (Monitor photo by Quinton Lilley)

points and team high 12 rebounds.

The Lady Indians came out on fire as they raced out to a 7-2 start less than three minutes into the game. Grand Saline was led during the first quarter by Brooklyn Bolin who had eight early points hitting two three pointers. However the Lady Jackets rallied late in the first frame cut Grand Saline's lead to just two at 15-13.

Sophomore forward Jessiah Riley, who fin-

See LADY J'S, Page 11

Brewington twins hope to impact ladies hoops this season

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

For most people seeing a pair of twins play a sport together is normal, however the Brewington twins, at Mineola High School are unique because many people don't even know they're twins at all.

Sophomores Kelsey and Meghan Brewington are fraternal twins which make them slightly different from one another. These differences are not only shown in their appearance but also in their personalities and their on-court abilities.

Kelsey was born just a minute before Meghan and they each play a variety of sports together. Both girls compete in volleyball, basketball and track. When asked what's their preferred sport, Meghan quickly said basketball.

"In basketball I get to use my speed and my aggressiveness. I'm smaller so that helps with my speed on defense," Meghan said.

Kelsey then responded saying, "I like volleyball a little more, I think my skills are better suited for volleyball when it comes to hitting."

During this basketball season in which the Lady Jackets are now 10-6, with a 1-0 start in district, the Brewingtons have played a big role in helping the Lady Jackets this season. Meghan has played the role as a back-up point guard off the bench, who also helps Mineola tremendously in their full-court pressing defense.

Kelsey who has started and come off the bench this season has been one of the team's best three-point shooters. Kelsey's found a lot of her success when teams play a zone defense or key in on leading scorer Sabria Dean.

Both the twins feel that the experience of playing without Dean early this season allowed other players - themselves included - to gain more confidence in themselves.

"Coach Riley is always telling us that 'Sabria isn't our only player' so while she was injured Cyndi (Butler) and me and others had to step up and now that she's (Dean) back we're a better team overall," Meghan said.

First-year girls varsity Head Coach Tony Riley has been a big influence on the improved play of the Lady Jackets this season and one of the biggest reasons both twins believe the team has improved has been their

See TWINS, Page 11



The Brewington twins, Kelsey (left) and Meghan, are currently playing together on the Mineola Lady Jackets basketball team. They also both play volleyball and run track together. (Monitor photo by Quinton Lilley)

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Will Graham (12) and J.C. Nolen (3) defend against Fannindel in last week's big home win for the Owls who are now 16-2 on the year. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

Lady Owls survive rally in 45-35 win

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

The Yantis Lady Owls raced to a 31-6 lead over Fannindel before holding on after a furious Lady Falcon fourth-quarter rally to win 45-35.

An Ashton Burnett three-point shot gave Yantis a 34-9 lead with six minutes to go in the third quarter at the 6:13 mark. Fannindel used the rest of the quarter to go on a 10-2 run and close the gap to 36-20.

Behind the ball handling of Burnett and Montana Wetzel and



Yantis Lady Owl Maddie Hooker drives under the basket against Fannindel. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

the intense hustle on the boards from Maggie and Maddie Hooker, the Lady Owls held on in the final quarter for the 10-point win. A Sidney Williams bucket with less than two minutes to go gave Yantis a 45-32 lead and put the game out of reach.

Burnett led Yantis with 15 points followed by Wetzel's 13, and Maggie Hooker with nine, Williams four and Macy Starrett two.

The Lady Owls were at home against Christian Home Educators Tuesday after Monitor presstime.

Yantis boys take down Fannindel

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

The Yantis Owls continued their winning ways last Tuesday night thrashing Fannindel 74-41 moving to 16-2 on the year.

The Owls came out firing with J.C. Nolen popping in a three-point shot just 20 seconds into the game. Will Graham put in a 12 foot jumper and Jayden Madrall hit a trey and a field goal to give Yantis an early

10-2 lead. Graham hit two more buckets and Modrall added a thundering dunk to give the Owls a 16-5 cushion just two minutes to go in the first quarter. Dallas Scott ended the period with another Owl triple to give the home team a 19-10 lead.

The second quarter belonged to Modrall as he posted 17 of the Owls' 23 points to give Yantis a 42-25 lead. Point guard Bradley Potts controlled the tempo of the game

with his steady navigation of the Owls' offense and numerous assists leading to scores.

The Owls put the game away in the third quarter with a 23-12 run giving them a 65-37 advantage. In a three-minute span in the middle of the third quarter the Owls hit five consecutive three-point shots on two from Modrall and one each by Potts, Nolen and Scott.

Head Coach Mike McMinn rested most of the starters in the final quarter as the Owls scored nine points while playing solid defense holding Fannindel to just four points.

Modrall ended the contest with 34 points followed by Scott with 14, Graham 10, Nolen six, Potts five and Josh Moreland two.

The Owls were at home Tuesday (after Monitor presstime) hosting Christian Home Educators before the holiday break.

Quitman

From page 9

Simpkins each with two.

Quitman raced out to a 15-10 first quarter lead, but a sluggish second quarter had Quitman down 28-25 at the half. The Lady Bulldog defense took charge in the second half holding Kemp to just six points in the entire second half while scoring 18, giving them the 45-36 final.

Coach Amanda Rucker was pleased with the effort. "We have had good quarters and good halves, but I have been stressing with them we must play a full four quarters to be successful and I feel like that is what we did at Kemp, I'm proud of the effort I saw out there against Kemp," Rucker said.

The Lady Bulldogs were on the road Tuesday night at press time to take on district favorite Edgewood in a 6 p.m. tip-off. They will take a holiday break and return to play Friday Dec. 29 with a 2 p.m. home game against Como-Pickton.

Lady Panthers win 1st Hwy. 69 rivalry game

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

The Alba-Golden Lady Panthers got a huge win over the Mineola Lady Jackets 52-49 on Friday night.

Head Coach Blake Hamrick said he was extremely pleased with how well his team responded after losing to Edgewood 57-44 just three days prior.

"(We) played a heck of a game against a good Mineola team. (My team) was very coachable and did exactly what they needed to do," Hamrick said.

Ginny Carson and Macie Pendergrass had great defensive games and did little things throughout the course of the game that don't always show up in the box score.

Grace Bizzell and Kenzie Chadwick carried the team offensively. Chadwick poured in 19 points and added 10 rebounds, while Bizzzell added 13 points going 2-2 from three-point range.

"(There was a) night-and-day difference between the Edgewood game and Mineola game. So I'm happy we were able to get the win on Friday," Hamrick said.

For Mineola, Sabria Dean led all players in scoring with her season high of 39 points. Dean also added four rebounds and four steals in the losing effort.

Lady Hawks' comeback falls short at Gladewater

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

After storming back in the fourth quarter the Hawkins Lady Hawk's comeback fell just short as they lost to Gladewater 48-44 last Tuesday night.

Hawkins finished strong, adding 14 points in the final quarter. However, it was not enough to close the gap.

Emily Hodges led the Hawkins offense with 16 points, including six points in the third period. She also contributed nine rebounds, one steal and one block.

Raeli Smith went into double digits, scoring 11 points for Hawkins and grabbed 12 rebounds, one steal, and one block.

Also contributing for Hawkins was Jaycee Cheshire who had five points, seven rebounds and two blocks. Alyssa Eddington also had a great game on the boards with eight rebounds, three points and a block. Alexis Burns added two point and Carolyn Searer had two points five rebounds and a steal.

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Lake Fork Weekly Fishing Report

By JOHN MORRIS
bassmr@geusnet.com

Happy holidays everyone. This article today is about cold water fishing here at Lake Fork. The water temperature is 54 degrees and the water clarity is lightly stained.

This week was the time to bring out the jig and Joe Spaits flutter spoon. When the water temperature gets below 60 degrees, I switch trailers on my jigs from plastic to pork rind. The fish will hold on to the jig longer and it feels more natural to them.

I get the question all of the time, what color is the best here at Lake Fork. I use a black and blue jig most of the time. When the water clears up, I switch and use a green pumpkin or a bluegill color jig. On the subject of the Joe Spaits flutter spoon, I use nothing but the five-inch chrome with chartreuse scale pattern on the back spoon

this time of year. The secret of this flutter spoon is keeping it as close to the bottom as along as possible. The way to do that is make a very long cast and give it plenty of time to flutter down to the bottom. In either method, either the spoon or jig, you have to really slow down in the colder water. You will love the results!

The crappie fishing started to slow down, however the crappies we caught were huge. The white with orange tail Bubba's Bait 1/8 ounce jig tipped with a minnow worked the best.

As the year closes, we have to reflect on another great fishing year here at beautiful Lake Fork. It is also time to get all of your equipment out of your boat and clean reels, put new line on them, go through your tackle boxes and sharpen all of your hooks, always something to do.

Everyone have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



ABOVE: Roy Gushwa took his turn keeping track of the Caring & Sharing recipients who drove through the Ministries Center parking lot Saturday morning.



LEFT: Elizabeth Hayes helped organize outgoing boxes for Caring & Sharing recipients Saturday at the Ministries Center.



LEFT: Caden Mosher was one of many young people who volunteered to help keep the Caring & Sharing recipients moving in an organized fashion.

Twins

From page 9

overall style of play.

Riley said one of the best qualities about the twins is that they always give their best effort. "Both twins bring a lot of hustle and heart. Every time they step on the floor they give me everything they've got," Riley said.

Both players said Riley's affect on the team's mindset has been a huge part of the team's early success.

"This year we've done a lot of running, we run all the time so it's definitely helped our team's conditioning. And another reason we've played better has been our up-tempo style, we press a lot more now and try to force the other teams to be uncomfortable on offense," Kelsey said.

"Our main goal right now is to win the district and make it to the state playoffs," both twins said.

Any sports fan would notice that many times twins have a special connection with each other on the court and the Brewington twins are no different.

"Most of the time I know where she is on the floor and she knows where I'll be. It's really cool because we even sometimes can communicate with each other without having to say a word," Meghan said.

The only drawback both girls said comes from being a twin who you play sports with, is that there's not a lot of free time to yourself and people get your names mixed up.

"We usually know when the other twin is upset or needs space so we just try to avoid them for a while but we love

each other and nothing will change that," Kelsey said.

Meghan and Kelsey hope their connection on and off the court continues to improve this season as the Lady Jackets will need both players to continue their solid play if they want to remain in the top spot in the district. While the Brewingtons have proved to be two of the best athletes on campus one of the most impressive things about them is that they've also excelled in the classroom.

"They are tremendous off the floor, both are straight-A students and just really great kids," Riley said.

The Lady Jackets will be back in action a week from today as they travel to face the Malakoff Tigers, tip-off is set for 12:30 p.m. Both teams will still be out of school so all games have been moved to the early afternoon.

Lady J's

From page 9

ished with 13 points and seven rebound, scored a layup while being fouled then made the ensuing free-throw giving Mineola its first lead of the game at 19-17. In the first quarter Mineola played on their heels and seemed a bit out of rhythm, however in the second quarter roles reversed as Grand

Saline was the team struggling to score on offense as Mineola had a 7-0 run of their own to start the second quarter. Mineola then took a 27-20 lead midway through the second quarter. Mineola finished the first half leading 32-27.

Bolin led all first half scorers with 13 points.

The third quarter then became a mirror image of the second quarter as Mineola again raced out early to a 48-39 lead by

the end of the third quarter. Dean scored eight points in the quarter forcing Grand Saline to double team the sophomore point guard essentially every time she touched the ball. In the third quarter the Lady Indians used a 1-2-2 trapping zone defense to try and slow down Dean after getting off to a hot start but the effort wouldn't be for not as Dean found Riley open in the lane and dished two fantastic assists to Tahjae Black for easy layups as well.

In the fourth quarter Grand Saline responded as they cut the Mineola lead to two with three minutes left in the game. Riley then made a layup with less than two minutes to go in the game pushing Mineola's lead back to four. Cyndi Butler also came up huge in the fourth quarter as she hit her only shot of the game with just under 40 second left and Riley hit another layup plus the foul to earn the Lady Jackets first double digit lead in the game.

The Lady Jackets went on to win by 10 points. Black finished with six points and six rebounds, Tiara Stephens finished with four points and eight rebounds and Vanessa Spurgeon finished with four points.

ethic is one coaches and teachers wish they could instill in all athletes and students. I'm very proud of all that she has accomplished and have no doubt her future will be one of greatness - I'm going to miss this kiddo." Requirements for Academic All State include being a graduating senior. The honorees must be a varsity participant or member of the support staff of volleyball in good standing and be of good moral character.

Honors

From page 9

to perform at a high academic standard."

Mineola Volleyball Coach Kerry VanCleave had praise for her player. "Kiley is more than deserving of making Academic All State. She has balanced academics and athletics all four years of high school. Her hard work has been seen on the court and in the classroom. Her work

Mineola

From page 9

While the Jackets were outscored in the second half, they made just enough plays in the final quarter to hold off the Tigers for a 12-point win. Cameron Sorenson also scored in double fig-

ures for the Jackets as he poured in 12 points while hitting three three-pointers adding four rebounds as well.

Shaw Franklin rounded out the Jackets' double-figure scorers as he scored 10 points hitting two three's before fouling out.

Sean Dennis also added eight points.

C&S

From page 1

others showed up who hadn't been notified.

"We have 145 seniors," at that point, he said after conferring with senior gift coordinator, Pam Horton. The senior citizens received a combination personal heater and fan.

"Everybody gets lots of dry food, a turkey, and a hen depending on the size of the family," he said. Children under 10 received toys. The teenagers got teen gifts such as passes to the theater for movies or plays, personal pan pizzas and age-appropriate cologne. "So the teenagers get something different from the little ones," Assaf said.

"It took a whole lot of people to put this thing together and people continued to call as late as this morning, 'can I come in,'" he said.

"Thanks to the people who have been doing this for a while. People like Ed Castro and Art Gould. Man, they know how the system works. Beautiful. Syntha Dromgoole (Pierce) is fantastic with children's gifts. They all have worked so hard to make it happen.

"The churches have been very good in supporting this project. The Sunday school classes. Individual donations have been fantastic. The asphalt plant, they have been so fantastic with

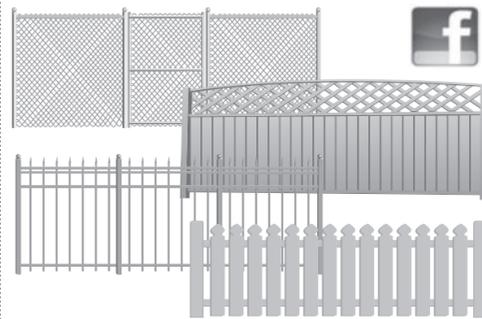
financial and food donations. They sent like two tons of cans. The schools have been fantastic."

In addition to days with help from the Alba-Golden and Mineola Key Clubs, Assaf said one day last week the volunteers were afraid they were

going to run out of helpers so a call was made to Mineola Superintendent Kim Tunnell. "She sent 40 kids," he said with a laugh. Things were slow in their classes due the approaching holiday and she sent the students as volunteers.



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Books for East Texas gardeners

I love reading about gardening almost as much as I love gardening. I have an ever-growing library of gardening books, many previously-owned, with notes and marks from previous gardeners in the text. One note may read "try this with lilies," while another may say "didn't work in sun." Used books – pennies on the dollar; advice from a gardener- priceless! Since I haven't found a used book store nearby, my sources are estate sales, library sales, and websites (Thrift Books and Amazon are two I frequent). My garden library has long since spilled out of its small bookcase in my office to occupy a reading corner in my sunroom.

I feel I may be alone in collecting gardening books - most think it's easier to search the internet for anything they need to know. After all, the answer is just a Google away. Well, actually, 10,000 answers are just a Google away. How do you know which answer is the best for East Texas? I prefer to keep on hand some reference books by authors I trust as my first source of information.

The first reference book I bought after moving to Texas was written by local

In East Texas Gardens

By Lin Grado

organic guru Howard Garrett, the "Dirt Doctor." My copy of his "Organic Manual" is just about worn out from use over the past 20 years. His common-sense approach to gardening - to feed the soil, not the plants - and use of feed-store amendments, has struck a chord with me: I'm gardening like my grandma did. His "Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening" focused on growing plants "the natural way" - with no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Some of his other books, like "The Texas Bug Book" and "Texas Trees," have also earned a place in my library - they are comprehensive and totally Texan.

Once I covered the basics in my library, I branched out to books that appeal to my gardening passion. I happen to be a bulbophile - I'm obsessed with bulbous plants - so I have several books on bulbs. The best references for Southern bulb growers are "Bulbs for Warm Climate"

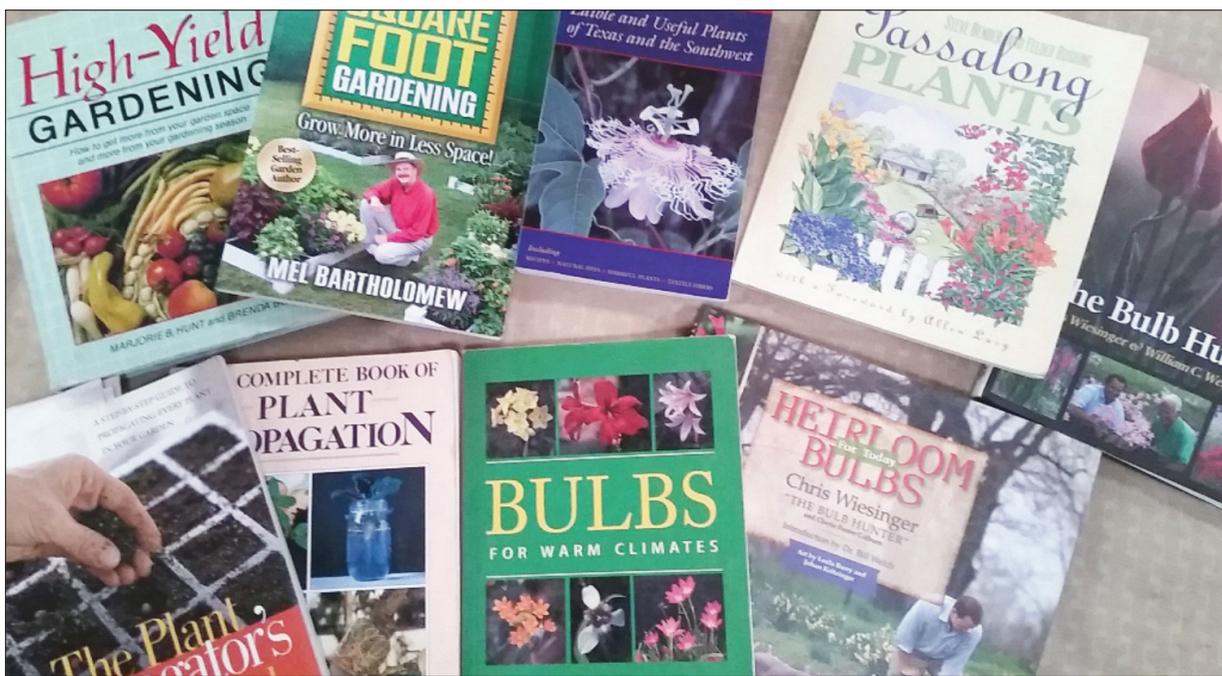
by Thad Howard and "Garden Bulbs for the South" by Scott Ogden. But my favorite bulb books to read are written by Chris Wiesinger. His latest, "The Bulb Hunter," was co-authored by Dr. William C. Welch. Chris's books tell stories of his adventures in finding bulbs at old homesites in Texas and are great reads, providing a sense of history as well as being great resources for Texas gardeners.

There are certain Southern authors who entertain as well as inform. I would read a cereal box if it were written by Felder Rushing. A friend gave me Felder's book, "Tough Plants for Southern Gardens," and I love his advice to gardeners: "Find and plant things that grow themselves." Felder also collaborated with another outstanding Southern garden writer, Steve Bender, on "Passalong Plants," a fascinating guide to heirloom plants that have graced Southern gardens for decades - many of which now grow in my garden. Steve also writes for Southern Living as the Grumpy Gardener, and I look forward to purchasing his book of the same name.

In addition to my home library, I keep



A gardener's bookcase is as colorful as the garden. LEFT: There are a wide array of gardening books that can be purchased second-hand.



field guides in my car - after all, who doesn't need to look up a wildflower while they're out and about? My favorite wildflower field guide is "Wildflowers of Texas" by Geyata Ajilvsgi - the plants are arranged by color of the flowers, and that makes it easier to identify a plant. (Ajilvsgi also wrote "Butterfly Gardening for Texas," another comprehensive work for the Texas gardener.) The other field guide that I keep with me at all times is Stan Tekeila's "Trees of Texas Field Guide": two pages per tree provide all the information you'll need to identify many different Texas trees.

So whether you're looking for a gift for a gardener, or for a gardening book for yourself, head to a used book store or log on to your favorite website. You'll be sure to learn more about your East Texas garden.

About the author: Lin is a Texas Master Gardener in Wood County. Email her at txgardengal@gmail.com for a list of all of her favorite gardening books. Join her and other volunteers each Wednesday morning at 9, at the Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.



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