Wood County MONITOR

www.woodcountymonitor.com

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Vol. 3 No. 1
Two Sections

50 cents

SHE'S NOT HORSING AROUND

Former Quitman resident Grider a national champ

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

A former Quitman resident is part of a Texas A&M national championship team which ended up at the White House being honored by President Donald Trump in November.

Sarah Kate Grider, daughter of Susie Grider of Sulphur Springs and Walter Grider of Cartwright, was a senior member of the Texas Aggie Equestrian team who won the National Collegiate Equestrian Association title defeating fellow Southeastern Conference foe Georgia 11-5 in the national final. The Aggies shut out Texas Christian University 16-0 in the semi-final which was held in Waco at Extraco Events Center this year. The Aggies opened with a 13-2 win over Delaware State and a 14-1 victory against Oklahoma State.

Grider was part of the reining event with three other teammates. The reining event is unique as reining patterns include spins and sliding stops performed by the horse and rider. In reining events, a score starts at 70 and goes lower or higher depending on the quality of the ride. Riders perform movements including fast circles, slow circles and sliding spots. Going off pattern results

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Texas A&M Aggie equestrian Sarah Kate Grider is shown here in reining competition. (Photo courtesy of Arrow A Photography)

Animal Protection League continues low-cost animal sterilization, shots

By DORIS NEWMAN
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

On a frosty Wednesday morning last week, a large, conspicuous van bearing the APL (Animal Protection League) logo in the Tractor Supply parking lot was surrounded with a flurry of activity.

The APL van comes to Mineola every other Wednesday. They offer low cost vaccinations and spaying and neutering for dogs and cats. The mobile unit's next trip here will be next Wednesday (Jan. 10). The van is in the south Mineola business' parking from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A shot clinic is offered outside and spaying and neutering are by appointments only.

Animal Protection League was formed in 1984 in Texas as an animal rescue and adoption agency. It reorganized years later with an additional goal of operating low-cost spay / neuter clinics and a vaccination program in Sulphur Springs. A Meadows Foundation grant in 2000 provided funds to buy a cargo van. A satellite program was opened in Longview in 2003 and in 2012; the league bought a 20-foot surgical trailer.

The two programs have sterilized more than 50,000 cats and dogs from a 25-county, three-state region. They are open to the public and take care of 35 to 50 animals per day of operation. A major goal of the low-cost pet sterilization programs is "to end the excessive `littering' and the needless euthanasia of animals in rural East Texas." In addition to Min-

See APL, Page 4

Cara Baldelamar holds Mitzi McCall of Quitman who has arrived on a cold winter morning for her shots. She is assisted by Kait Wright. (Monitor photo by Doris Newman)

Park host in the saddle at Preserve

By DORIS NEWMAN
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Linda D. Skinner was introduced at the last Mineola City Council meeting in 2017 as the new park host at the Mineola Nature Preserve.

She joins Trail Boss Nickey Minyard, who was hired in March, and Jeff Black of Swan who Minyard calls his "sidekick" in taking care of the preserve. Minyard noted they take care of "the whole 3,000 acres." Their responsibilities include mowing and upkeep of trails. "There's a lot of dead-fall," Minyard said, as well as "filling in holes, repairing bridges, clean-

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Jeff Black, left, and Trail Boss Nickey Minyard have been on the job at the Mineola Nature Preserve and now Trail Hostess Linda D. Skinner has joined the crew. (Monitor photo by Doris Newman)

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Tucker's Turf

By Larry Tucker

LARRY TUCKER

This is the time of year when high school basketball is finishing up tournament play and turning to district action. It is a time of year I genuinely love.

I remember when my Dad played in what was known as the Industrial League for one of the Ford Motor Company teams.

It was in the early 1950s and I was around four or five years old when Pop would let me tag along to the games. I would get to sit on the bench or behind the bench and take in every second. Those teammates of my dad's became my "uncles." There was Hall Knight, J.D. Carter, Otis "Pud" Hart and John Pershing Huggins.

When I was about eight or nine years old, Dad would take me to the annual Dr. Pepper High School Basketball Tournament held at sites all over Dallas. I would go early in the morning and stay until the lights were turned out. I remember the great Samuell teams of J.W. Black and their star John Paul Fultz.

When my Dad had to work during the Dr. Pepper tourney, I would sometimes get to hitch a ride with a man who became instrumental in my life. The first time I met Coach Hughes was when we all attended Bruton Road Baptist Church together in Pleasant Grove. The men of the church would sometimes play on Saturday's at the old S.S. Conner Gym which was the original home of the Pleasant Grove Bobcats.

Coach Hughes would become my eighth grade football coach and ninth grade basketball coach. In the 1960s in Dallas, ninth graders were in the last year of high school. We played tough schedules in the high school gyms like Forrester, Sprague and the ancient PC. Cobb Field House .

I learned a lot of basketball from Sherman Hughes. He was a teacher first and a motivator in a class of his own. I would go on to use what I learned from him when I became a teacher and a coach.

As we leave 2017 and head to 2018 I remember some of those things Coach Hughes taught me which still apply today. I will try to live by some of those in 2018.

As a Florence Gladiator, Coach Hughes taught me there was no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit. He taught us not to break rules, for rules were the foundation of the team.

He taught us the team must always come first, not the individual. We learned to communicate. You could not be successful on one of his team's if you could not communicate with each other. We were taught not to be part of the problem, but to be a part of the solution in all things, large or small.

We missed 20 free throws in an early season game. We met as a team every morning after that to shoot 100 free throws each before we went to first period. Coach Hughes was there to open the door at 6:30 A.M. We didn't miss many after that.

Coach Hughes taught us to respect the game of basketball, to respect others and to respect our teammates, playing for them and not for ourselves. He encouraged us to ask questions and to learn from our mistakes. He taught me to discipline myself so he would not have to.

He taught me to love my teammates and sacrifice for the greater cause. Most of all, he taught me to respect myself and to put others first.

I hope I was able to impart just some of those things when I was coaching before retiring in 2014. As we head to 2018, I will continue to value and live those principles I learned.

I want to dedicate these words to Coach Hughes, who lives just west of Grand Saline these days. I want to pay my respects to the Dallas City Champs of 1963, Conner Cubs, led by my heroes, Bobby Harrison and Joe Gary Smith, along with the 1965 Florence Gladiator city champs led by Steve Huey, Buddy Pierce, Bobby Thompson, Richard Moore and Mike Riley. And a big thanks to my 1966 Gladiators, I will always remember each of you fondly.

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.

AL ANON - 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.

DUPLICATE 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) - 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

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 Community 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.

CNB City National Bank
200 N. Pacific
Mineola
903-569-6161
Member FDIC

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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Subscription Rates:
■ **In County: $31.50 a year**
■ **Texas: $44 a year**
■ **Outside Texas: $50 a year**

Wood County Monitor (U.S.P.S No. 781-460) December 27, 2017, Vol. 2 No. 52, Published weekly by Bluebonnet Publishing LLC, 610 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662. Subscription price $31.50 a year (in county). Periodicals postage pending or paid at Mineola, TX and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to Wood County Monitor, P.O. box 1210, Kilgore, TX 75663.

Errors which may appear in the Wood County Monitor will be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the editor. Wood County Monitor is a member of the Texas Press Association, North and East Texas Press Association.

Main News deadline:
Noon on Friday

Community News deadline:
4 p.m. on Thursday

www.woodcountymonitor.com

Quitman Library Connections

BY LIBRARIAN DELENE ALLEN

Begin the New Year with a new career! The Quitman Public Library will host a hiring event on Thursday from 1 - 4 p.m. sponsored by Express Employment Professionals of Tyler. For more information, contact Vicky Walton at 903-592-9999.

January is National Get Organized Month, and the library has a media display filled with ideas to help you clear, or at least control, the clutter for the New Year. If your resolution is to exercise, diet, or just be a better person, this is the place to find the information and books you need to be successful.

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. Light refreshments are available and listeners are always welcome. Call 903-975-5745 for more information.

The library appreciates those businesses in our community who offer routine services at reduced or no charge throughout the year in support of our local library. Special thanks go to Budget Business Systems, Bulldog Computer, Haskett Electric, Hog Computer, Mercy Mall, Peoples, Pott's Feed Store, Ray Roberts Service, SuddenLink, Wood County Electric Cooperative and the Wood County Monitor.

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 each Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. 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 Jan. 4 "All About Penguins" – Jan. 11 "Free Craft Day" – Jan. 18 "Go to the Circus!" – Jan. 25 "Shadow Boxes" (b.y.o. shoebox).

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 of the Library will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at noon. A special audio-video presentation will be "A Look Back at 2017" arranged by QPL staff.

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.biblionix.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.

Quitman Pilots name Alexis O'Neal December Student of the Month

Alexis O'Neal, recipient of the Pilot Student of the Month for December. (Courtesy photo)

The Pilot Club of Quitman has selected Alexis O'Neal as the Student of the Month for December.

O'Neal is an eighth grader at Quitman Junior High, where she has enjoyed, competed, and placed for several years in several events in athletics, as well as Oral Reading, Spelling and One-Act Play. She is, and has been, a member and an officer of the Student Council, Builders Club, cheerleading and band. The December Student of the Month hopes to attend Louisiana State University to play softball and attend veterinary school.

This award recognizes eighth graders at Quitman Junior High School who have demonstrated good academics, involvement in school and involvement in the community.

The Quitman Pilot Club is an all-volunteer group with the mission of providing education for the prevention of traumatic brain injury, and offering services to those suffering from brain related disorders, such as Alzheimer's, stroke and autism. Bicycle safety, scholarships, Project LifeSaver and Special Olympics are just a few of those efforts important to the health, safety and quality of life for the club's community members.

Inside and Outside the Picket Fence

BY JAN WHITLOCK

Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Happy New Year to all our friends, neighbors, fellow gardeners and generous supporters. The weather may be chilly, but plans at the arboretum continue to perk along. Generous contributions helped us purchase and erect the hog fence that should deter our bristly neighbors from joining spring plans and planting.

We are excited about a new program that will be available to those who would be interested in a little bit of continuing education. "Nature U." will present the first of a series of classes on Saturday, Jan. 20. Holly Ross will present Organic Gardening 101. Sign in time is 8:30 a.m., a chance for some coffee and scones, with the class be from 9-12. The fee for this class is $35. You will find out more about this educational opportunity at quitmanarboretum.com. Registration may also be secured online at this website. I'll be the first to register . . . hope you will join me. What a great way to spend a cold Saturday morning.

As you walk the trails behind the Stinson House, you will notice the beautiful red berries on the nandinas growing there. With most of the leaves off the trees, this is an ideal time to take a leisurely walk through the woods, and see what nature has to offer on some of the 23 acres we maintain. This is also a good place to watch for signs of spring. So many plans, so little time. Come on out and join us on this adventure. Something new is just around each corner. The coffee is on.

Perkins resigns Ag post

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

Clint Perkins

Longtime Wood County Agriculture Extension Agent Clint Perkins has resigned his post with the department effective Dec. 31. In another personnel matter, part-time tax office employee Ashley Alexander was given a raise from $9 per hour to $11 per hour. Precinct #2 Commissioner Jerry Gaskill presided over the court in the absence of Judge Bryan Jeanes.

In two other matters concerning lots at Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision, Commissioners approved two requests. Both requests involved combining smaller lots making them into one larger lot in each case.

In other action at the year-end meeting, commissioners:

• Approved payroll of $348,303.18; health and dental payments of $99,068.41; accounts payable $436,561.24; direct claims $1,315.29.

• Acknowledged a notification letter concerning an update to Vital Statistics Remote Birth Access contract with the Wood County Clerk's office through Dec. 31, 2018.

• Acknowledged an order of assignment for a presiding judge, the Honorable Deane Loughmiller, to the 402nd District Court through Dec. 31, 2018.

• Approved a corrected travel policy.

• Approved a release of securities.

• Approved a timber contract for Wood County Road 2152 in Precinct #3.

MEALS ON WHEELS

THIS WEEK'S MENUS:

Thursday, Jan. 04 - Tuna Salad, Venetian Pasta Salad, Carrot and Raisin Salad, Saltine Crackers, Strawberry Swirl Pudding, Milk

Friday, Jan. 05 - Meat Loaf with Brown Gravy, Lima Beans, Hot Spiced Fruit, Wheat Bread, Milk

Monday, Jan. 08 - BBQ Rib Patty, Mixed Beans, Broccoli w/ Red Peppers, Wheat Bread, Seasonal Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, Jan. 09 - Beef Patty w/ Mushroom Gravy, Macaroni and Cheese, Hot Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple, Wheat Bread, Milk

Wednesday, Jan. 10 - Grilled Chicken with Spinach Sauce, Red Mashed Potatoes, Capri Vegetable Blend, Texas Toast, Frosted Birthday Cake / Milk

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SATURDAY
8:30AM—1:00PM

The Friends of the Mineola Memorial Library held a book drive for new children's books for Caring & Sharing during their Christmas open house. Shown are, from left, Head Librarian Mary Hurley, Caring & Sharing Co-Chairperson Sonia Assaf, and the library's Carolyn Hunziker, Angie Malone, Kathy Dunlap and Lou Steele. (Monitor photos by Doris Newman)

The arrival of Santa Claus at the the Mineola Civic Center Christmas celebration in December caused quite a stir in Meredith Hall as children flocked to the distinguished visitor.

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APL

From page 1

eola, the mobile unite visits Winnsboro, Gilmer, Waskom, Mt. Pleasant, Marshall, Henderson, Palestine and Mt Vernon.

The trailer is in Winnsboro on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., every other week and is scheduled to be there today.

Low cost spaying of female cats is $45 and for dogs $70; neutering of male cats is $35 and for dogs is $65.

The organization does not receive any public funds. It operates on small, individual donations, fundraising efforts within its communities and fees generated by sterilization services.

Among the people visiting the clinic last week was a couple who took eight dogs for services. The woman said they planned to return with eight more. A woman from Alba had at least two cats to receive shots and a man from Quitman had brought his four-month-old puppy for shots.

The telephone number to set up appointments is 903-753-7387. For further information on APL, the organization's website is aplspayneuter.org.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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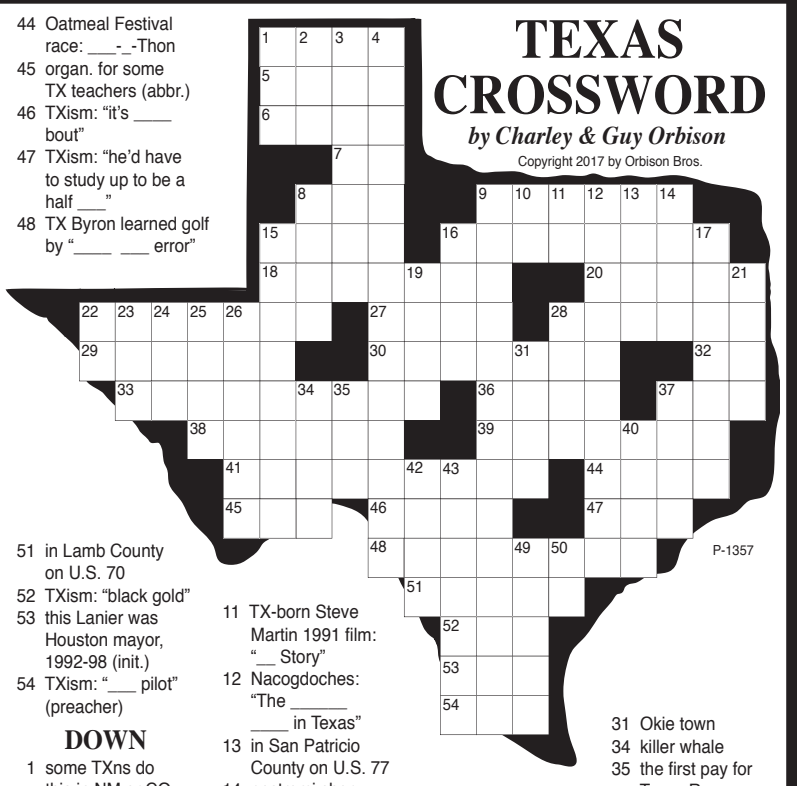

P-1357

ACROSS

1 TXism: "cold as an outhouse ____ in January"
5 San Antonio Christian AM
6 TX Tanya's "___ _ Cowboy-Lovin' Night"
7 Friday night objective (abbr.)
8 affirmative vote in the TX legislature
9 TXism: "_ _____ letting" (fight)
15 this Gallegos was in "The Champ" with Randall "Tex" Cobb
16 in the Valley: Lake __ ___ ___ Rey
18 seasoning herb
20 Alain of film "Texas Across the River"
22 Caribbean country
27 country where TX Rangers recruit: Puerto ____
28 capsule viewable at the Johnson Space Center
29 Hardy's sidekick
30 those who run away to get "hitched up"
32 Rice won "_ _ College Bowl" in 1966
33 these "play" on the range
36 TXism: "you can bet the farm __ __" (certain)
37 young man
38 TXism: "so many you couldn't ____ '__ with a stick"
39 TXism for "food"
41 grew larger
44 Oatmeal Festival race: ___-_-Thon
45 organ. for some TX teachers (abbr.)
46 TXism: "it's ____ bout"
47 TXism: "he'd have to study up to be a half ___"
48 TX Byron learned golf by "____ ___ error"
51 in Lamb County on U.S. 70
52 TXism: "black gold"
53 this Lanier was Houston mayor, 1992-98 (init.)
54 TXism: "___ pilot" (preacher)

DOWN

1 some TXns do this in NM or CO
2 Fort Worth Kay Granger's time in Wash. (abbr.)
3 Van _____, TX
4 "T" & "A" of NAFTA
8 "putting on ____" (snooty)
9 TXism: "he could put _ ____ ____ _ ____ on a mule's back" (good roper)
10 long-time Dallas sportswriter, Sherrod (init.)
11 TX-born Steve Martin 1991 film: "__ Story"
12 Nacogdoches: "The _____ ____ in Texas"
13 in San Patricio County on U.S. 77
14 pastrami shop
15 what UT coach Darrell Royal called the "Alumni Line"
16 TX-based Humble Oil had this name before Exxon
17 TXism: "____ __ _ country mile"
19 TXism: "it's good for what ____ you"
21 Duncanville pitcher David who was drafted by Rockies
22 Cowboy Lilly (init.)
23 Friona H.S. class
24 Attila the ___
25 Denton's TWU was once College of Industrial ____
26 TXism: "Sunday go to _____' clothes"
28 Glen Campbell was a Texas Ranger in 1969 film "True ____"
31 Okie town
34 killer whale
35 the first pay for Texas Rangers: $1.25 ___ day
37 ex-Cowboy Leon, "The Big Cat"
40 TXism: "never ____ eyes on it"
42 Houston has large ____space industry
43 extras in TX Ginger's "Follow the Fleet"
49 candy in England
50 TXism: "bend __ elbow" (drink)

Mineola Fire Report

Mineola Fire Department reports for the past week included:

Vehicle accidents with injuries

Dec. 21 – Vehicle accident with injuries at 1900 Broad Street at 7:47 a.m.;

Vehicle accidents without injuries

Dec. 27 – County Road 2230 at 4:58 p.m. involving a cattle trailer pulling out of Big Country Feed and attempting a U-turn at the cross through. A woman driver was blinded by the sun and ran into the trailer and was transported by ambulance from the scene;

Grass fires

Dec. 26 at 1:20 p.m. on CR 2503;

Medical assists

Dec. 27, 2:58 p.m. on Pat Drive, 9:38 a.m. on Pamela; Dec. 25 at 2:27 p.m. on CR 2311, at 11:25 a.m. on CR 2220; Dec. 23 at 9:29 p.m. on CR 2298, Dec. 21 at 4:19 p.m. on North Pacific Street and at 6:13 a.m. on Farm-to-Market 1253.

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Mineola Police Report

Stolen city vehicle recovered in Terrell

A city vehicle that was reported stolen on the morning of the Saturday before Christmas was located on Christmas Eve in Terrell.

Mineola Police report that an employee with the city's Public Works Department reported a 2008 Dodge Dakota was stolen from the Public Works yard overnight. However, the truck was later found in the parking lot of the Waffle House in Terrell on Dec. 24.

The stolen vehicle was entered in the stolen vehicle database and Mineola Police received a call from Terrell that the vehicle, with a damaged steering column, was there. The matter is under investigation and police do not have any suspects.

Other Mineola police reports for the past week included:

Dec. 27 – a man reported he lost his wallet and thought he had left it on a gas pump at E-Z Mart. An officer reviewed a store video and didn't see a wallet left there.

Personnel at Whataburger reported a large W ornament was taken from inside the store, as well as other number tents (corresponding to customer orders) and two trays. A person returned the property, police noted, but the case will still be filed and some of those involved have been identified. Charges are pending and the investigation continues.

An assault and criminal mischief were reported at 8:43 a.m. on Second Street when a man reported another man broke his door and assaulted him. During the investigation it was found a threat was made over nonpayment of money.

Police received a call on a welfare concern from family members of an 87-year-old man on Pamela Street. The man was found dead at his home and a death investigation was conducted. Pct. 2 Justice of the Peace Wes Criddle ordered an autopsy. The cause of death has not been determined at this time, but is believed to be from natural causes.

Dec. 25 – At 1:12 a.m. a disturbance was reported on Kings Lane by a wife who said her husband hit her. The two were separated for the night and she did not want to file charges.

Just after 10 p.m. a mother reported her 18-year-old daughter missing after not returning for a few hours. The daughter was entered and then canceled missing the next day when she was located and was fine.

Dec. 24 – A disturbance was reported on Landers Street between a woman and her boyfriend. They were separated for the night and no charges were filed.

At 10:32 p.m. a vehicle accident was reported at the end of Sycamore Street when a 2005 Nissan hit a parked 18-wheeler. The driver, Kenneth Lloyd Barnes of Mineola, was transported to the hospital by ambulance for injuries sustained in the crash. The 18-wheeler was legally parked and the driver lives close by.

Dec. 23 – Police arrested Kenneth James Davis, 59, Mineola, for public intoxication at 7:42 p.m. after an officer witnessed him parking in the fire lane at Walmart.

There was a report of a vehicle being hit on North Johnson Street, but no other information was available. Another report was received of a damaged mailbox on Goodson Circle.

Dec. 22 – Personnel at Southwest Metal on Loop 564 reported at 8:43 a.m. a man on their property who was wet from being outside all night. An ambulance was called and the man was transported to a hospital.

A woman on Goodson Circle reported to police that she was being harassed by another woman. The responding officer advised the offending woman not to go back to the reporting party's apartment.

At 3:53 p.m. police received multiple calls about shots being fired on Wigley Street and a vehicle racing off. During their investigation they found that a 16-year-old boy was with his mother, had displayed a handgun and shot toward the ground while arguing with his girlfriend, then left the scene as the passenger in the vehicle. The teenager was processed by law enforcement on Dec. 27 for the charge of deadly conduct with Wood County Juvenile Probation. This case is still under investigation, as far as what part the mother played in it.

A man on Peachtree Street reported a suspicious person and that he was being harassed at his home by someone.

Dec. 21 – At 8:49 a.m. police received a report of a man slumped over the steering wheel of his car. An officer checked on the man and there was a woman in the vehicle as well, and found they were sleeping. However, the driver, Cedric Eugene Talley, 33, Canton, was arrested for an outstanding warrant from Van Zandt County for possession of a controlled substance.

Chevron reported disorderly conduct by a female because they wouldn't sell her alcohol. The police issued her a criminal trespass warning from the property.

Police arrested Mark Edward Johnson, 32, Mineola, for terroristic threat and resisting arrest. The department received a call from his father saying the son was trying to get into his bedroom to assault him.

Dec. 20 – There was a report of telephone harassment at 6:58 p.m.

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Obituaries

BEULAH MAE CHISHOLM
1915-2017

QUITMAN - A graveside service for Beulah Mae Chisholm, 102, Quitman, was held on December 26 at Red Oak Cemetery in Red Oak, Texas.

Mrs. Chisholm died December 22, 2017 in Quitman. She was born November 3, 1915 in Pittsburg, Oklahoma to Raddie and William Moser.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard Chisholm; sister, Vivian Richards; brother, Elmer Moser and sons, William Thomas and David Chisholm.

She is survived by a daughter, Karla Wilson of Quitman; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. To sign the guest book visit bozemitchellmckibbin.com.

PATRICIA "PAT" DALTON
1947-2017

EMORY – A funeral service for Patricia "Pat" Dalton, 70 of Emory was held December 28 at Lake Fork Baptist Church in Alba with Tracey Bartley officiating.

Ms. Dalton died December 23, 2017, in Quitman. She was born July 28, 1947, in Estherville, Iowa to the late Irvin and Lillian Bathe. She attended Santa Ana College, worked for JC Penny, Angelus Pacific Decal Company and Carmel Architectural Products as well as doing contract billing, etc. for Bay Area Rapid Transit for San Francisco. She was also a member of the National Association of Women in Construction in which she held various offices.

Ms. Dalton taught youth groups and children at a Baptist church in Huntington Beach, California and later taught children's group at Lake Fork Baptist Church where she was a member.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant sister, Karen Irene Bathe and brother, Jerry Gene Bathe. Survivors include her brother, James Bathe of Emory and 10 nieces and nephews.

ANNETTE ROGERS LONG
1945-2017

QUITMAN – A funeral service for Annette Rogers Long, 72, Quitman was held December 23 at Lowe Funeral Home with Ken Goodson and Gary Gage officiating. Burial was at Rock Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Long died December 21, 2017 at her home in Quitman. She was born April 17, 1945 in Quitman to Erastus C. and Melverta Rogers. She spent most of her life in Wood County and was a bookkeeper in her husband's sand and gravel business. She was a member of Rock Hill Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and several brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her husband, Sam Long of Quitman; one son, Lee Allen Long of Yantis; a daughter, Debra Long of Northlake, Texas; two brothers, Billy Earl Rogers of Mineola and Kenneth Hughes of Quitman; three sisters, Glenda Coker of Yantis, Beverly Pinson of Quitman, Mary Rogers of Quitman; two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

DANNA RUBI MESINAS
2006-2017

WINNSBORO - Funeral services for Danna Rubi Masinas, 11, of Winnsboro were held December 29 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro with Bobby Davidson officiating. Burial was in Smyrna Cemetery in Winnsboro.

Danna died December 22, 2017, in Winnsboro. She was born March 28, 2006 in Mount Pleasant to Nicholas Mesinas and Ruby Navarro. She was a student at Memorial Middle School and was loved by her teachers and fellow students.

She is survived by her mother, Rubi Navarro; father, Nicolas Mesinas; grandmother, Paullete Craddock and sister, Elya Jaimes.

ROBERT ANTHONY (TONY) WALLACE II
1952-2017

Robert Anthony Wallace, II, died Thursday, Dec. 21 at his home. He was born on January 8, 1952 in Muleshoe, Texas.

For 30 years Mr. Wallace worked for the Ft. Worth Police Department before retiring and then moving to Mineola. He loved to golf, fish and spend time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Wallace Sr., Virginia Ray and step-father Joe Ray.

Survivors include fiancé' Shelly Birdsong; sisters TJ Wallace and Jeri Sears; sons Trey Wallace and Kyle Barton; daughters Kylie Hardcastle, Katie Barton and Courtney Smith; several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

ROBERT WATTIS
1965-2017

The location of a memorial service for Robert Clifton Wattis, 52, of Winnsboro, has been changed Lowe Funeral Home Chapel. It will be on Jan. 6 at 1 p.m.

Mr. Wattis died on December 13, 2017 in an automobile accident near Quitman. He was born August 10, 1965 to Bette Kay and Edmund Orsen Wattis in Austin. Mr. Wattis was an avid hunter, a master carpenter and worked in the construction field most of his life.

He was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his daughter Erica Bednarz of Bullard, a granddaughter, close friend and former son-in-law Randolph Reel of Ore City, and former wife and lifelong friend Melissa Williams of Bullard.

He is also survived by his mother, Bette Kay Warren, stepfather Daryl Warren, stepmother Betty Neasham, brothers Eddie Wattis and Andrew Warren, sisters Lisa Carter and Paige Farber, and fiancé Terri Strickland and her son Landon of Quitman.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to SPCA of Texas or the charity of your choice.

H.L. WOODARD
1921-2017

WINNSBORO - Funeral services for H.L. Woodard, 96 of Winnsboro were held December 22 at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro with Rev. Fred Morrow officiating. Burial was at Sharon Cemetery in Winnsboro.

Mr. Woodard died December 18, 2017, in Winnsboro. He was born July 14, 1921, in Wood County to the late Virgil and Lona Tinney Woodard. He was a retired dairy farmer, member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. He was a longtime member of Sharon Baptist Church and was a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Mineola.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Claudine Woodard and 10 brothers and sisters.

Survivors include two sisters, Wanda Pinson of Winnsboro and Betty Sims of Oak Grove and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cartwright Community Center, Post Office Box 203, Winnsboro 75494.

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Host

From page 1

ing around the ponds. You name it. We do it." They have big boots to fill, following Buster Green who served as the trail boss for several years.

City Administrator Mercy Rushing introduced Skinner at the council meeting on Dec. 18, noting she would work 20 to 30 hours a week. Her duties will include greeting guests at the preserve and assisting in groundskeeping, daily opening and closing, campground maintenance, litter control, general facilities maintenance, trail maintenance, providing guided tours and other specific park functions and projects as determined by the city.

Skinner, who took early retirement from Richardson School District, told the council she had had a home in Wylie where she owned horses until her daughter "lost interest in the horses and the droughts came and hay prices skyrocketed." After her daughter graduated she decided to downsize and recently bought a travel trailer. "And that's what I'm living in at the derby out at the nature preserve," she said. "Right before that I was a park host at Cooper Lake State Park in Sulphur Springs."

"I'm just thrilled to be out here. I love what I've seen in the town of Mineola so far. It's just so historical," she said. Skinner taught elementary physical education in Richardson and has also taught some science in Christian schools. Skinner's resume also shows she worked at Heavenly Hooves Ranch in Farmersville and Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc in Greenville.

"I have a lot of interest in nature and it's just amazing to see what's been done out there at the preserve. It's got a lot of potential for other things too," she said.

City Administrator Mercy Rushing said that she and Public Works Director William Crump interviewed Skinner and said she thought she would be a good fit for the area.

"It's a new thing for the city of Mineola," Rushing said, noting that Minyard is grateful for having Skinner working with him. Rushing said she has met the city hall staff and they informed her "it's kind of quiet" now, but she has offered, when she's not busy at the preserve, to help at city events.

"She's very eager, and we appreciate that," Rushing said.

Skinner took the opportunity to ask if the city would be receptive to her looking into having some horses to rent at the preserve. "Some of the state parks do that through a vendor," she said. Rushing said "if you know somebody, we're game." Skinner said she would check in to it. Rushing said one of the first questions asked when people call about the nature preserve is if they have horses for rent. She said they also ask about bicycles. "I just tell them that's part of our future plans," she said. "We certainly can't afford to buy horses just for that on the city's dime," the city administrator said. "But we certainly are willing to partner with a business to be able to do that." Both options are on the city's master plan, Rushing said.

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Pastor - Reggie Day
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Pastor Kelly B. Burton
Lake Fork Baptist
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Pastor Perry Crisp

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Colossians 3:1-4

Miscellaneous

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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

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Jackets hold on late to win, 54-49, in Spring Hill Tourney

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

The Mineola Yellowjackets boys basketball team held on late in the fourth quarter giving them a much needed victory against the Atlanta (TX) Rabbits Thursday morning.

The match up pitted the 3A Jackets against the 4A Rabbits as a part of the 2017 Spring Hill Holiday Tournament.

The game was played at an odd time for most high school athletes at 10 a.m. Thursday serving as the first round of bracket play during the tournament.

Mineola came in to bracket play as the fourth seed after a solid showing against both the host team, Spring Hill, and Carthage the previous day.

The Jackets' game against Atlanta was a tale of two halves as Mineola seemed to have been shot out of a cannon as they raced out to a 12-2 lead in just under four minutes.

The Yellowjacket defense was spearheaded by senior forward Sean Dennis' excellent rim protection as he blocked three shots in the first quarter and on offense senior guard Cameron Sorenson was red hot as he scored eight points in the opening frame. Sorenson hit two threes during the quarter to lead Mineola.

After going up 12-2 midway through the first quarter Atlanta was forced to call timeout. However the Rabbits responded late in the first as they scored the last six points of the quarter as Mineola held a 16-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

See JACKETS, Page 10

Kadavion George (23) goes up for a tip in during the second quarter against Atlanta. (Monitor photo by Quinton Lilley)

Quitman ladies shut down Como

By LARRY TUCKER
news@woodcountymonitor.com

The Quitman Lady Bulldogs used a strong defensive effort to completely shut down Como-Pickton in earning a 32-13 holiday break victory. The tenacity of the Lady Bulldogs defense under the bucket was superb led by Molly Tanner, Utopia Henry and Shelby Compton who took away the Lady Eagles short range game. Como-Pickton was only able to get off three shots in the lane the entire game.

The Lady Eagles took an early lead with a three point shot in the opening minute, but Quitman came back on shots by Tanner and Henry to go up 4-3. After Como-Pickton went ahead 6-4, back to back buckets by Madalyn Spears in the final 46 seconds put Quitman ahead 8-6 after one

See LADY BULLDOGS, Page 10

Hawkins trio leads fast break victory, 63-49, over Harmony

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

In the final game on day one of the Hawkins Basketball Classic, the host team put on a fast-paced show to earn a 63-49 win over the 3A Harmony Eagles on Wednesday.

The trio of Everin Gipson, Tristian Garrett and Camron Taylor all scored in double figures.

The game started off somewhat slow as both teams scored only seven points each in the first five minutes. However, Hawkins scored eight straight points in the final two minutes to lead 15-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Harmony, a team who was slightly less athletic than Hawkins, relied on a 2-3 zone to try to keep the Hawks away from the basket. That strategy eventually backfired as the Hawks hit back-to-back threes late in the first quarter.

In the second quarter Harmony responded on offense as they went on a 5-1 run to cut Hawkins' lead from 19-9 to 20-14.

Harmony continued its solid play late in the second as Hawkins would end the half up 24-19.

In the second half Hawkins switched from a half-court 1-3-1 zone to a 2-2-1 trapping defense. Harmony consistently had problems bringing the ball up-court against the Hawks which led to multiple tipped passes and turnovers leading to lay-ups for Hawkins.

Late in the third quarter Garrett and Gipson hit back-to-back three pointers extending the Hawkins lead to 38-23. Gibson hit a three-pointer from NBA range as the buzzer expired giving the Hawks a 50-37 lead. The Hawks would not relinquish it in the fourth as they kept the Eagles at bay.

Taylor would score four of his game-high 19 points on fast break lay-ups in the fourth quarter. Garrett chipped in with 18, while Gibson had 17 for Hawkins.

Raeli Smith (24) shoots and makes one of her two three-pointers during Hawkins' game against the Tyler HEAT Wednesday. (Monitor photo by Quinton Lilley)

Everin Gibson (3) drives past two defenders during Hawkins game against Harmony on Wednesday. (Monitor photo by Quinton Lilley)

Hawkins varsity girls cruise to 59-43 win over Tyler HEAT

By QUINTON LILLEY
sports@woodcountymonitor.com

The Hawkins Lady Hawks dominated both inside and outside on their way to a 58-43 victory over the Tyler HEAT Wednesday as a part of the 2017 Hawkins Basketball Classic.

A 9-3 run during the first quarter propelled Hawkins' Lady Hawks to a 17-11 lead at the end of the first frame. Hawkins' Alyssa Eddington scored six straight points late in the first quarter during the 9-3 run.

Early in the second quarter Emily Moore opened up the scoring with a three, then the HEAT came back and hit a three of their own as the Lady Hawks led 20-14.

After another three by the HEAT the Lady Hawks relied on junior forward Jaycee Chesire for offense. Chesire scored on back-to-back possessions, first with an elbow jumpshot, then with a lay-up plus the foul.

Chesire's individual 5-0 run led to Hawkins' first double-digit lead of the game at 27-16. Raeli Smith hit a three-pointer just before the half to give the Lady Hawks a 30-18 lead at Halftime.

In the second half the Lady Hawks essentially traded baskets with the Tyler HEAT as the lead never got below 12 for Hawkins.

Raeli Smith scored eight points total and added five rebounds. Also chipping in for Hawkins were Emily Hodges with a near double-double with nine points and 12 rebounds; Harlie Conover scored nine points while grabbing three rebounds. Alyssa Eddington also had a solid game with eight points, four rebounds, and two steals. Emily Moore pulled down seven rebounds.

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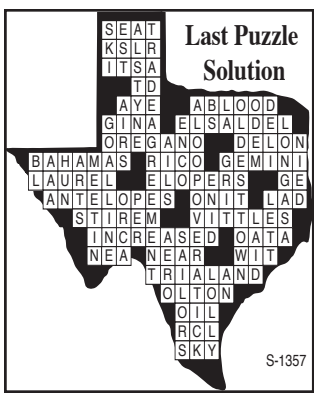

Grider

From page 1

in a zero. Over or under spinning by more than just a quarter of a turn can also result in a zero.

A unique thing about this competition is that riders are assigned horses. They do not compete on their own horses and only learn which horse they are riding after arriving at the competition location.

"Each school in the competitions brings horses. In our final round I don't believe we even used any horses from the SEC (Southeast Conference)," Grider stated. "I believe most of the horses when we went against Georgia in the final were from the Big 12. It's tough on the horses, but they are all willing and want to please you. They have to deal with many riders. That's the point of our competition, we are supposed to get on any horse and make them look good."

Her coach, Tana McKay, was proud of her team. In a press release after the championship McKay said, "This is a coach's dream, to have all of their athletes at the top of their game. The team dug deep and that is exactly what they needed to do to win. I am very proud of them."

Grider started in equestrian competitions in 2004 when she was just a young girl. "I started showing my horse in 2004. I got to compete all over Texas. I used to show in 4-H and in National Reined Cow Horse Association events," Grider said.

She has always been around horses. "My dad was a trainer. I was on top of a horse before I could walk," I guess I got my first horse when I was about two or three. We had a horse, Chili Pepper, who my Dad made a video to sell, but he decided I needed a horse and he became mine," Grider said. "Me and Chili Pepper grew up together and he taught me a lot. I would not have gone to college and ridden if not for him and Dad. He's about to be 18, he's still sassy and doesn't act his age."

Grider had been riding and competing for many years when she got to Texas A&M. She spent a year at North Central Texas College in Gainesville after graduating from Rains High School where her mother worked for the district.

"I was on scholarship there and took my own horse to show for a year. I did not understand the whole recruiting process at first for equestrian teams. In college they recruit for the equestrian team like they do for football or any other team. I understand now they start looking at sophomores and freshmen in high school."

Grider decided to contact A&M. "I didn't know about all of the recruiting process until the second semester of my senior year in high school. So I contacted A&M and she had already given out her scholarship money for that year. I decided to go to a junior college and get my feet under me and get used to college," Grider explained. "In the summer of 2012 A&M hosted their first equestrian camp. I got to go to that and that was when the coach got to see me ride in person on school horses. A week later she called and offered me a scholarship if I wanted to transfer and it was then I got an athletic scholarship to A&M."

She had four years of eligibility to compete at the collegiate level. Grider has a bachelor's degree in agriculture communications and journalism. She also has certification as an event planner.

The Texas A&M National Champion Equestrian team was honored by President Donald Trump at the White House in November. Sarah Grider, formerly of Quitman, is on the second row behind the President's left shoulder.

Competing and going to class was time consuming. "We had to make sure we went to class and it's not just practice on a horse during the week. We also have team meetings and study halls we have to go to," Grider said. "We actually go all year. We start in September and go until Thanksgiving and we start back in January and go through April."

She says her dad has been a big inspiration.

"We do share a passion for horses, but he never pushed me and I appreciate that. I have seen too many kids be pressured by their parents and my mom and dad have been great about letting me pursue what I wanted to do," Grider added. "I have just always loved it and never felt pushed into anything."

On the team's trip to the White House, Grider got to meet the president. "It was actually pretty cool. I got to meet him and shake his hand. I was already working six days a week when we got to go," Grider said. "The team called to let me know about being invited to the White House. It was great to be able to do one more trip with the team. We got to meet the President and go to the Oval Office."

What is her favorite memory from her time at A&M? "My senior class, our record that first year was two and seven. We got beat out the very first round of nationals. The greatest thing for me was getting to see my class go from the very lowest the program had ever been in its history to making history at nationals," Grider contended. "Our total score was 54 to eight. We only lost eight points that whole meet and it was unheard of and we shut out TCU 16-0. We were the first team that didn't have a bye the first round to win nationals. It was amazing to be a part of."

Grider's love and passion for horses continues. She currently works in Pilot Point at a horse training facility. "I'm just trying to learn all I can from my boss right now. I live there in a house on the property," Grider said. "I graduated from college and I had a place to move and I had a job. So many of my friends had no idea what they were going to do. I'm happy to be where I am."

Grider has had quite a year including a team national championship, a trip to the White House, getting to meet President Trump, graduating from A&M and working at her passion, horses. Dreams do come ture.

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Game Warden Notes

Texas Game Warden Field Notes for late December included the following reports:

Getting off to an early start

On opening day of deer season a Smith County game warden was visiting a local meat processor when a young man showed up with a nice buck he claimed to have harvested earlier that morning. What he failed to mention was just how much earlier. A month later, the warden received an anonymous tip that the deer the young man shot had been harvested well before legal shooting hours on the season opener. The warden tracked down the hunter and after a short interview, the young man admitted he had shot that deer at about 3 a.m. while hog hunting. The antlers and remaining deer meat were seized and multiple citations were issued for illegal harvest at night and hunting deer out of season. The cases are pending.

Failure to hide the evidence

Officers with the Marion County Sheriff's Office were at a residence serving warrants for a recent burglary when they noticed a large amount of deer guts scattered all over the front yard, and notified game wardens. A warden responded to the residence to investigate. After collecting evidence and conducting a lengthy interview, the warden obtained confessions from two individuals who admitted to shooting two deer from a public roadway on two different occasions. Charges for felon in possession of a firearm, hunting from the public roadway, waste of game, hunting with illegal means and methods and no hunting license are pending.

Good cell phone coverage

On Thanksgiving night, Henderson County game wardens were on patrol when they heard a shot fired near their location around 10:30 p.m. Initially, no violators could be found, but they did locate a damaged cell phone in the road. A vehicle was soon observed stopping along the side of the road near the wardens' location. The wardens spoke with the vehicle's occupants, a man and a woman who initially denied shooting the buck from the road. When the wardens produced the cell phone and asked if it belonged to them, the couple eventually admitted to the crime. They had taken their gun home before returning to get the deer and the cell phone that was dropped by the female suspect, which ended up being run over and destroyed. The charges are pending.

Not a duck hunter video game

While patrolling Limestone County, a game warden heard several shots coming from a nearby tract of land. Upon further investigation, the warden located an individual who was using his .30-30 rifle to shoot at ducks as they flew past. The subject did not possess a hunting license. He was given a brief lesson on bullet trajectory and firearm safety, among other things. The cases are pending.

Quitman JH tournament this weekend

The Quitman Bulldog seventh and eighth grade boy's basketball teams are each hosting a four team round-robin tournament this Saturday. Participating teams are Quitman, Alba-Golden, Edgewood and Brownsboro.

The eighth grade tournament will be held at Delbert Ballard Memorial Gym while seventh grade action will be at the secondary campus gym. The times are exactly the same for the seventh and eighth grade squads, just at the different gyms.

Quitman and Alba-Golden tip off the action at 9 a.m. followed by Brownsboro and Edgewood at 10:15 a.m. The Quitman teams will be facing off against Edgewood at 11:30 a.m. followed by

Alba-Golden teams taking on Brownsboro squads at 12:45 p.m.

The Quitman teams return to their respective courts at 2 p.m. against Brownsboro and Alba-Golden will cap the day at 3:15 p.m. with games against Edgewood.

Places at the end of the tournament will be determined by overall record, head to head competition and point differential up to 15 points per game.

Quitman's Molly Tanner fights off defenders to score two of her eight points in the Lady Bulldogs' 32-13 win over Como-Pickton Friday afternoon. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

Lady Bulldogs

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quarter. Quitman was never behind again. The Lady Bulldogs led 13-9 at the half.

The Quitman defense picked it up in the second half holding the Lady Eagles scoreless in the third quarter and holding them to just four final quarter points. Quitman had a 19-4 second half advantage on the scoreboard.

Spears had an excellent effort scoring 15 points, getting seven rebounds, four assists and numerous steals. Tanner put another workman performance in the books with eight points and 10 rebounds. Henry ended the afternoon with seven points. Lucy Brannon added two points and played superb defense out front. Shelby Hayes did a great job getting the ball up the court and playing defense.

The Lady Bulldogs and Bulldogs returned to District 12-3A action at press time Tuesday night against Eustace. The girls and boys teams have big Friday night contests traveling to Alba-Golden for their cross county rival games.

Jackets

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In the second quarter Mineola continued to use their 2-2-1 full-court press to stymie the Rabbits on offense leading to repeated turnovers and fast-break opportunities.

In the opening minutes of the second quarter freshman guard Jonah Fischer hit a three to push Mineola's lead to 11 before Dennis and Kadavion George took over the offensive load. Dennis had eight points of his own in the quarter while George contributed eight points and four rebounds during the same span. The half was capped off when George hit a buzzer-beating fade away jump shot just as the first half expired. At halftime Mineola led 35-18.

However after a hook shot by Davion Sneed and a steal and lay-up by Sorenson, the Mineola offense began to stall out. Mineola, who was up by 21 points early in the third quarter, began to do exactly what their opponents had done in the first half – turn the ball over repeatedly.

Desperate and in search for options the Atlanta defense went to a full-court press of their own. The Rabbits used their solid defense and great length to bother the smaller Mineola guards.

Atlanta cut Mineola's 21-point lead to 17 by the end of the third after a 4-0 run and that trend continued in to the fourth quarter.

In a change of roles the fourth quarter was completely the opposite of the first half as Mineola began to miss free throws, layups and turn the ball over again and again. Atlanta was able to cut Mineola's lead to single digits after hitting a three. Mineola led 48-39 after the Rabbits' 10-2 run.

Later in the quarter Atlanta would cut the lead again to five after another three, however the Rabbits would inch no closer as Mineola would go on to win by five 54-49.

No stats were available by early deadline last week.

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