

Pausing to remember those who sacrificed all



A youngster passes out American flags at the Memorial Day ceremony held on the Wood County courthouse grounds Monday morning. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)

Service held at county courthouse

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Retired Army Lt. Col. Tom Gunn, a decorated Vietnam War helicopter pilot, spoke Monday in Quitman about duty and sacrifice and some of the men with whom he

served many years ago in Southeast Asia.

His Memorial Day address came on the lawn of the Wood County Courthouse in Quitman before a solemn crowd of about 125. Gunn said he's observed that people sometimes fail

to make the distinction between Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Veterans Day, he noted, is a time to pay tribute to those who served and survived war, whereas Memo-

See SERVICE, Page 4A

Bizzell and Kumm head of the class at Alba-Golden High School

Valedictorian for the Alba-Golden High School Class of 2019 is Madison Grace Bizzell. She is the daughter of Sean and Deitra Bizzell and will be attending Texas A&M University at College Station in the fall.

Throughout high school Bizzell has competed and represented Alba-Golden in five varsity sports. As a varsity cheerleader she was selected each year as an NCA All American. In basketball, she was selected 1st Team All-District all four years of high school, named A-G MVP, and selected to the All-Region team her senior year. She was selected Academic All-State in basketball and softball. Not only was Grace a member and officer of the National Honor Soci-



Grace Bizzell
Valedictorian

ety, Key Club, FCCLA, and FCA, but she also represented the graduating class as an officer throughout high school.

The salutatorian is Na-



Nathan Kumm
Salutatorian

thaniel James Kumm. His parents are mother Terri Kohn and step-father Curtis Myers. Kumm will be at-

See GRADS, Page 4A

Student's death in highway crash mars end of school at Alba-Golden

By HANK MURPHY
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A 17-year-old Alba-Golden student was among two people who died May 22 in a collision between a passenger vehicle and a semi rig on U.S. 69 in Wood County. Her father and two brothers were injured.

Tommie Elizabeth Spann,

17, of Mineola and Akm Shamsul Karim, 35, of Irving were pronounced dead at the scene by Judge Tony Gilbreath.

Tommie's father, 37-year-old Brody Spann of Mineola, and her brothers, ages 14 and 16, were transported to UT Health - Tyler, the DPS reported. Tommie and her brothers were passengers in

the back seat, and her father was a front-seat passenger, according to the DPS.

Karim was driving the family to their home after they had flown to the airport.

The crash occurred shortly before 6:40 p.m. on U.S. 69, 4.5 miles northwest of Min-

See CRASH, Page 5A

Quitman HS health science program prepares students for careers, college

By ZAK WELLERMAN
news@woodcountymonitor.com

In this school year alone, Quitman High School health science students have earned 108 career certifications. Additionally, they've gained invaluable hands-on experience at local medical facilities and some are ready for jobs out of high school.

Under the guidance of teacher Brittany Emerson, students start as sophomores and gradually become more knowledgeable

by the time they graduate.

"The health science program its whole purpose is to get kids interested in the medical field, help them get some certifications prior to entering the medical field and just help them get a plan to where they want to go after high school," Emerson said.

One of the major certifications students can earn is pharmacy technician, which they can receive by completing the Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT).

Having that certification allows them to get a well-paying job out of high school as well as a potential way of paying for college tuition. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual pay for a pharmacy technician in Texas was \$34,290 last year.

Emerson explained that the pharmacy students work hard all year to earn their certification. So far, five students have completed the exam this year.

See HEALTH Page 3A

Dobbs and Danner earn top spots for Quitman Class of 2019

Quitman High School's 2019 valedictorian is Abby Dobbs.

Dobbs has played on the volleyball, basketball, golf and cheer teams. She's involved in Student Council, Interact Club, and National Honor Society (NHS).

She will attend Texas A&M University in the fall to major in animal science. She plans to become a veterinarian. She is the daughter of David and Michelle Dobbs.

Lillie Danner is this year's salutatorian.

Danner has been involved in Quitman Proud Blue Band, Student Council, Interact Club, NHS, golf and pharmacy class.

She will attend Stephen F. Austin State University



Abigail Dobbs
Valedictorian

to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She also plans to get a pharmacy technician certification and work in a pharmacy while attending college.



Lillie Danner
Salutatorian

She is the daughter of Clint and Jenny Howle.

Quitman High School graduation is set for Friday, May 31 at 8 p.m. at Bud Moody Stadium.



Sister act

Salutatorian Maggie Hooker of Yantis High School turns her sister Maddie Hooker's graduation cap tassel during the graduation ceremony on Saturday at the high school gym. See story and photo on Page 10A. (Monitor photo by Zak Wellerman)



Above, from left, Jackson VanDover, Ling Dong and Rogelio Delapaz have a laugh as they give the class history for the Mineola High School Class of 2019 during Friday night's graduation ceremony. At right, Armando Veloz gives one of his teachers a hug after receiving his diploma. (Monitor photos by Sam Major)



Bright futures await

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

A total of 108 young men and women entered a new phase of life Friday night during Mineola High School's commencement at Meredith Memorial Stadium.

The evening was filled with hugs and smiles and tears, bittersweet farewells, light-hearted memories, words of wisdom, encouragement and feelings of accomplishment. The home crowd bleachers were nearly full with family and well-wishers.

Mineola High School Principal David Sauer looked out at the seniors assembled in chairs in front of him and

See MHS Page 10A

Proposed court order demands DPS video ahead of murder trial for Jason Walters

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

A proposed court order compelling the Department of Public Safety to produce a video sought by the defense in the Jason Walters murder case awaits the signature of Judge Joe D. Clayton.

The proposed order was filed last week at the Wood County District Clerk's Office. If Clayton signs it, the DPS has 10 days to bring the video to the court, which would provide copies to defense attorneys and to prosecutors.

Walters stands accused of murdering Christopher James Griffin the night of June 15, 2014, behind the EZ-Mart on North Pacific Street in Mineola.

At a pre-trial hearing on April 25, former Wood County District Attorney Jim Wheeler testified that DPS Trooper Stephen Nichols came to his office and showed him a video that

made reference to Mineola police Capt. Joyce Box as well as the words "meth oil," "protection" and "cartel." Upon hearing the officer's name, Wheeler immediately stopped viewing the video, he testified.

Wheeler testified that the video showed Nichols, a Hawkins police officer and a person reported to be a confidential informant. Box was the supervising officer in the Walters murder case and her affidavit served as the basis for Walters' arrest warrant.

According to Wheeler, after hearing Box's name on the video, he became obligated to share what he'd heard with Walters' defense team under the 2016 Michael Morton Act. The DPS, meanwhile, refused to turn over to him a copy of the video, Wheeler testified. Furthermore, after seeing the video, he potentially could be called as a defense witness, Wheeler testified.

He decided the proper thing to do was to recuse himself from the case.

The DPS informed Box that she had never been the subject of an investigation, she testified. The DPS also informed the Wood County District Attorney's Office that Box had not been the target of an investigation, according to testimony at the hearing. Thomas Cloudt, a state prosecutor in the case, suggested that the defense was attempting to impugn Box's character.

Nichols testified on April 25 that he did not recall showing the video to Wheeler but did have a separate conversation with him in regard to Box.

Near the conclusion of the pre-trial hearing, the defense told Clayton that it wanted a copy of the video, and the judge said he'd issue an order.

Walters' trial is scheduled to start July 8, and 15 days are set aside.



Musgraves contribution

Chris Brannan, MISD director of band and fine arts, presents Barbara Musgraves a thank you card Monday, May 20 at the MISD board meeting. Barbara accepted the card on behalf of her granddaughter, music star Kacey Musgraves, a Mineola High School grad who made a \$1,875 contribution to the school district music program. Pictured from left are Trustee Jay McGough, Barbara Musgraves, Trustee Daniel Louderman, Trustee Kyle Gully, Brannan, and Trustee Kellam Newell.

Camping singles group plans next weekend outing in Arkansas

The Border Lows, a local chapter of Loners on Wheels (lonersonwheels.com), will have its monthly camp out June 5-9 at White Oak Lake State Park, 563 Hwy. 387,

Bluff City, Ark.

Campers must make their own reservations at 870-685-2748 or reserveamerica.com.

All camping singles are welcome to camp or come

visit awhile.

For more info, call Ruth at 903-678-3714, Dorothy at 870-648-7118, Tina at 214-926-6144 or ruthann19508@aol.com.

Corner Column

The vehicles zoom past the window, dozens of times a day, for several days leading up to major holidays.

They are the members of the local Kiwanis Club, attending to their duties to place American flags in front of businesses and residences throughout the community.

It is a scene repeated in hundreds, maybe thousands of cities and towns across this great land.

They do it as a civic duty and I'm sure to raise money for some worthy cause like scholarships for local youth.

We get to see the work first-hand at our Mineola office because the flags are stored nearby.

It's a lot of work, and they can only hope that the weather holds during flag-raising and lowering periods.

The last time, they had to wait a few extra days for the flags to dry out before they could be hauled back into storage.

This time they were blessed with better days.



PHIL MAJOR

While the flags go up during several patriotic periods, none is more somber or reverent than the one just passed – Memorial Day.

Our flag is still up as I write this and has been for several days.

We paid a small subscription to have this done and are glad to do so.

Having spent most of my career in smaller Texas communities, I have marveled at the debt each of those communities owes to the men and women who helped forge those communities during the decades after the Second World War.

And it struck me that one of their motivations had to be those friends they left behind, those for whom we pause to remember each year on the fourth Monday in May.

We honor veterans, first responders and many others who help keep our society on a path toward progress.

But for this one day, it is for those who are not here. Those who did not get the chance to be fathers and husbands or mothers and wives and parents and contributing members of our communities.

Something I did not know growing up but am constantly reminded of as I read the obituaries of the parents – principally fathers – of my friends and classmates, was that I grew up among, and was influenced by, heroes.

They are, or were, the members of what Tom Brokaw once called "The Greatest Generation," a moniker that has stuck with them, and deservedly so.

They didn't talk about it too much, so you wouldn't know who they left behind, what buddy didn't make it back, or what classmate did not come home.

But I can't help but believe that honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice was a major motivating factor in the work that they did, to build families and churches and communities and much more.

They turned the United States of America into a country that, despite its many flaws, remains the single place in the world where others flock for a better life.

The least we can do is to pay tribute to the ones who didn't make it.

Without their sacrifice, who knows what we would have instead.

WOOD COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

This calendar has been updated as of April 16, 2019. If your group listing has been omitted, please email editor@woodcountymonitor.com or news@woodcountymonitor.com and include the correct information.

2nd FRIDAY ACOUSTIC 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.
 ALBALADIES CLUB - fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Alba Community Center. 765-2956
 ALBA LIBRARY/MUSEUM BOARD - third Monday every other month, 4 p.m., library building. Everyone welcome.
 ALBA-GOLDEN SCHOOL BOARD - second Monday, 7 p.m., high school library, 768-2472.
 ALBA-GOLDEN YOUTH FOUNDATION - second Tuesday, elementary gym, 7 p.m. All welcome.
 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Sunday and Monday, 7 p.m., Friday 8 p.m., Wednesday noon; Women's Group Monday noon.; 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.
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 296 and Auxiliary - fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m., Highway 80, three miles east of Mineola. 903-569-6481. All are invited.
 AMERICAN LEGION POST OF WINNSBORO - first Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., 201 West Broadway, in Winnsboro, 214-502-4496.
 APET (Animal Preservation of East Texas) Thrift Store - Dog Gone Good Stuff, 915 S. Pacific Street, Mineola, Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (903) 569-1250
 BOY SCOUT TROOP #36 QUITMAN - meets second and fourth Sunday, 4:30 p.m., Scout House behind First United Methodist Church. Joe Degorosiza, 903-763-4127
 Boy Scouts Troop 385 Mineola - Tuesdays 7 p.m., Mineola Methodist Education Bldg. third floor. New boys/alsums welcome! Chris Jennings 903-569-3531
 BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY - Humble Baptist, first & third Tuesday 1-4 p.m.
 CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a support group for those with various hurts, habits or hang-ups, every Monday, 6:30-9 p.m., Church on the Rock annex building at 302 S. Stephens. 903-497-6149
 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - first Saturday except June, July, August and December, 11 a.m. Harvest Acres Baptist Church, 460 NW Loop 564, Mineola. 903-343-1474.
 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, John Hogg, Sr. Chapter, 3rd Monday except June, July, August & December, 1 PM. Holly Hall, Holly Lake Ranch. 903-520-8697
 EASTERN STAR - Quitman Chapter 695, 3rd Tues., dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30. Flora Lodge in Quitman. 903-850-4822
 EAST TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - first Friday at 10 a.m. at Quitman Public Library
 UT Health 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, 10 a.m. Visitors welcome. Angela Thompson, president, 903-316-0875
 FLORA MASONIC LODGE #119 - first Tuesday at the lodge hall, Highway 37, Quitman. Covered dish - 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m. Study nights for members each Thursday, 7 p.m. at the hall.
 FOREVER YOUNG ACTIVITIES CENTER - Wednesday and

Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fitness exercises, educational programs, entertainment, fellowship, Bingo and card games. 903-763-8201
 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - second Tuesday at noon, Quitman.
 FRIENDS OF THE MINEOLA MEMORIAL LIBRARY - first Thursday, 1 p.m., Mineola Library, 569-2767.
 GED Test Support - each Thursday 4 - 6 p.m. concurrent with QISD calendar. Quitman Public Library, 202 E Goode St, Quitman 903-975-5745
 Girl Scouts Mineola Troop 3 - building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place! All girls kindergarten-12th grade welcome! Monday, 5:00-6:30 pm, September-May, Broad Street Church of Christ Annex, Crystal Arcand 903-705-2459
 HAINESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. - second and fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., Firehouse downtown Hainesville.
 HOLLY LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT - first and third Tuesday at the fire station at Holly Lake Ranch.
 KIWANIS CLUB - 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. 903-850-3858.
 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 - rehearsals Thursdays at Mineola Middle School Band Room. 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.
 Memory Café, a time for stimulating memory, meets weekly on Thursday in the craft room at Holly Brook Baptist Church from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch is provided. Various activities are offered each week, including games, moderate exercise, art, and music. People in the area are invited. There is no charge. For more information call 903 769-2091
 MINEOLA BAND BOOSTERS - second Tuesday, 6 p.m., in middle school band hall. All parents invited.
 MINEOLA LIONS CLUB - for information on meetings call 903-638-1596.
 MINEOLA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE Det. #1278, 3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. meeting. American Legion Building, 2015 E. Hwy. 80, Mineola. 903-497-3030.
 MINEOLA SCHOOL BOARD - third Monday, Admin. Bldg., Loop 564, 7 p.m. dependent on schedule changes

MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL - fourth Monday, 5:30 p.m., City Hall. Public welcome. Call City Hall for changes in November and December because of holidays.
 MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB - third Monday, 5:30 p.m., high school lobby.
 MINEOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD - third Tuesday, 4 p.m., city hall. 903-569-6183. 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 - every other Saturday, 11 a.m., 106 S. Line St. All Rebekahs welcome, 769-4024.
 MINEOLA ROTARY CLUB - Monday noon, Dogwood Room, Mineola Civic Center.
 MINEOLA ROTARY RECYCLING - third Saturday, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Walmart parking lot. Cardboard, paper and plastic accepted.
 MINEOLA SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER - 308 University, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday. 903-497-1162; Dominoes, cards, rummy cube.
 MLOTA LINE DANCE GUILD - Tuesday and Friday, 8 to 9 a.m. beginners, intermediate 9 a.m. to noon
 MLOTA FIBER/CRAFT ART GUILD - third Wednesday at 1 p.m. and first and third Thursday at 10 a.m.
 MLOTA QUILT GUILD - first Thursday at 10 a.m.
 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
 MLOTA SCULPTURE GUILD - first and third Tuesday, 1 p.m. Business meeting second Monday at 10:30 a.m.
 PARENTS ANONYMOUS GROUP - Saturday, 2-3:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, Quitman. Children's program provided. 903-629-2114
 PILOT CLUB OF MINEOLA - second Tuesday, 6 p.m. Mineola Civic Center. President Loraine Epps.
 Quilts of Valor group, Stitichin' Angels, meet the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m., 1118 N. Pacific St., Mineola, to make quilts for service members and veterans.
 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 - For meeting time and place call 903-763-4126.
 QUITMAN PILOT CLUB - third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., UT Health Quitman board room. 903-383-5075.
 QUITMAN ROTARY CLUB, Thursday, noon, UT Health Quitman Community Room, N. Hwy. 37.
 QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL - third Thursday, 5:30 p.m.; city hall.

QUITMAN SCHOOL BOARD - third Monday, 6 p.m. Administration Building.
 REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF WOOD COUNTY - third Monday, 11:30 a.m., Caroll Green Civic Center, Quitman.
 SINGING AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAWKINS - fourth Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
 SCOTTISH RITE - Wood County Scottish Rite Club meets third Friday of odd month, 6:30 p.m., Richie's Café in Winnsboro. 903-253-3635.
 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL - Garden Valley chapter, Tuesdays on Mercy Ships campus, noon to 1 p.m. Call ahead for room details 903-939-7000 or gvtm@mercyships.org.
 TOPS GROUP - Thursday, 8-11 a.m., Harvest Acres Baptist Church, NW Loop 564, 569-1240, 569-2415.
 UPPER SABINE VALLEY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT - meetings are held quarterly, 5:30 p.m. on a Thursday to be determined at the Wood County Airport board room.
 VFW AUXILIARY #7523 - third Sunday, 1 p.m., Recruiting new members. 569-2228.
 VFW POST #7523 - third Wednesday, 6 p.m., Karaoke every Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. 569-2228.
 WHYTE DOVE WRITER'S GROUP - Second Tuesday, 6 p.m., Quitman Public Library. 903.967.7488, e-mail kayoung.wdp2001@gmail.com
 WOOD COUNTY 4-H HORSE CLUB - Business meeting, Monday, 2 p.m., Wood County Extension Office.
 Wood County Aggie Moms - 1st Monday, 6 p.m. at Speakeasy in Quitman (except in January, June, July and August), 903-539-7049 or Wood County Aggie Moms Facebook page.
 WOOD COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT - Quarterly, third Thursday, 8 a.m., appraisal district office. Open to the public.
 WOOD COUNTY ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS - garden workday each Wednesday 9 a.m. to noon, all levels of experience welcome. Come at 8:45 a.m. in the kitchen of the Stinson House for coffee. 175 Gov Hogg Pkwy, Quitman - the two-story white house behind the pavilion at Hogg Park.
 WOOD COUNTY CENTRAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT - third Monday, 5:30 p.m. in the UT Health Quitman hospital board room (every three months).
 WOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT - every other Friday, Commissioners Court, Quitman, 10 a.m. 903-763-2716.
 WOOD COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS - every other month, third Monday, 6 p.m., depending exceptions. Wood County Justice Center courtroom. The public is invited. 903-569-3711
 WOOD COUNTY DEMOCRAT CLUB - fourth Thursday, Quitman Public Library, at 6:15 p.m. www.woodcountydem.org 936-635-4656
 WOOD COUNTY TX 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 Pct. 2 Constable Explorers - first Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Armed Texans Training Facility, 369 CR 2784, Mineola.
 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.
 YANTIS CITY COUNCIL - second Tuesday, 6 p.m., city hall.
 YANTIS SCHOOL BOARD - second Monday, 6 p.m., school cafeteria.
 YANTIS/LAKE FORK LIONS CLUB - second Thursday, 6 p.m., Yantis Community Center.

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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Meme Dream Team

From left, Michael Spurgeon, Mateo Renaud and Emmitt Brown comprise Mineola High School's Meme Dream Team. They competed against 11 other East Texas schools at the UT Tyler East Texas Idea Challenge competition on May 17. They came in second place and each received a \$2,500 scholarship to UT Tyler. The Mineola Independent School District received \$1,000. (Courtesy photo).

Auditions scheduled for "Shrek the Musical" at Lake Country Playhouse in Mineola

Auditions for the Lake Country Playhouse's summer musical - "Shrek, the Musical" - will be held on May 30 at 6 p.m. at the Historic Select Theater in Mineola.

All roles are open and everyone attending auditions will be considered. Please prepare a short Broadway-Style solo (of your choosing) that will demonstrate your vocal strength and range. There will be a

piano available, and a CD player but no sound system. If you are a dancer and would like to be considered one of the lead dancers, please be prepared with a short dance routine.

Please be prepared to list all conflict dates as that may influence casting.

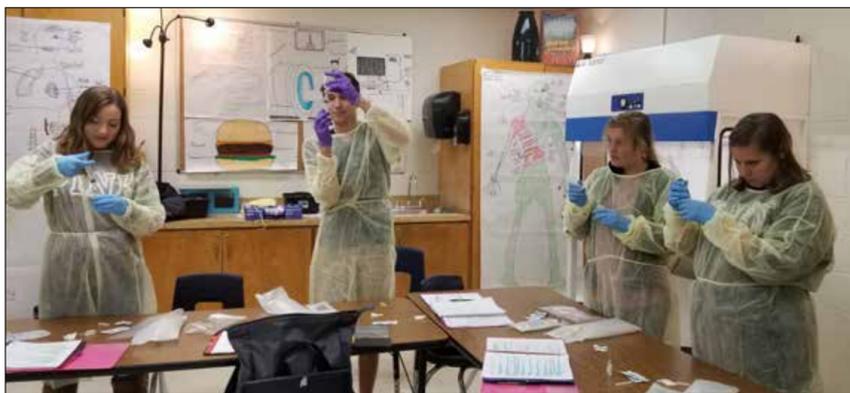
The following crew positions are also being filled: stage manager, light technician, sound technician, stage hand, make-up

artist, costume designer.

Rehearsals will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 to 8 in June and July. The show will run Aug. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11.

Tonya Slayton will be directing. Contact her for a private audition if unable to make one of the above dates: 903-850-4160.

The Historic Select Theater is located at 114 N. Johnson Street in Mineola.



Quitman High School health science students work on an assignment in class. (Courtesy of Brittany Emerson)

HEALTH

From page 1

Senior Dalton Brandon, who will attend University of Texas at Arlington this fall for a degree in urology, explained that the pharmacy course is definitely not easy.

"You work for your grades and it's not just given to you," he said. "If you're going into it you have to know it's okay to accept a B in a class or even a C because it's not an easy class, and do not expect an A. You're not going to get an A unless you work your tail off."

As many students have done in the past, Brandon plans to find a job as a pharmacy technician while attending college.

"Most students that I have don't stop, like pharmacy is not going to be the last thing they do. Most of them are using it as a stepping stone for a different career in the medical field," Emerson said.

Along with pharmacy, other certifications include Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) Healthcare, Optimization Policies for Adaptive Control (OPAC) Medical Terminology, Heartsaver from the American Heart Association and Stop the Bleed from the American College of Surgeons.

In addition to certifications, QHS health science program partnered with UT Health Quitman for a job shadowing course. Ten students rotate through 14 different hospital departments within four months in the spring.

UT Health Quitman CEO Patrick Swindle shared how the students working with the hospital allows the kids to see opportunities for their future.

"UT Health Quitman is proud to partner with Quitman High School to provide health science students valuable, real-world experience in our hospital," Swindle said. "Our goal, and it's part of the UT Health East Texas mission statement, is to educate and develop the caregivers of the future. We want to help build that foundation right here at home so that when these students have completed their studies and they're ready to enter the workforce, they

come back and practice at UT Health Quitman."

Students have shadowed in surgery, med surgery, radiology, medical records, case management and admissions, Swindle noted.

Senior Katelyn Coats enjoyed visiting the emergency room while at the hospital. She will attend Northeast Community College in Mount Pleasant and plans to go into nursing.

Seniors also have a chance to experience medical careers in the real world while learning at facilities, such as Quitman Therapy, Brookshire's Pharmacy, Scott's Pharmacy, Christus Trinity Clinic Quitman and Quitman Animal Clinic.

Emerson said the health science program is blessed to have local facilities in Quitman.

"Because we have a hospital down the road and because we have so many medical facilities in Quitman, that's the only reason that all this is possible. We're able to do it within school hours," Emerson said. "The practicum wouldn't exist - that wouldn't exist if we didn't have somewhere for our students to go."

Brandon has been working with Dr. James Dopson at Christus Trinity Clinic in Quitman this year, and the experience gave him the chance to see a doctor in action.

"Being with Dr. Dopson, it kind of gave me a real word situation of seeing what doctors actually prescribe to certain people and how those medications actually help," Brandon said. "Me walking out of high school with this information already, going into college I'll already have a step up compared to other college students."

Dopson assigned Brandon research papers to write on medicines and read medical textbook chapters.

Through all the rigorous work and training, Emerson wants her students to have direction of what they want to do after high school.

Although he chose not to go into medicine, Lane Blalock, 2018 QHS valedictorian, was able to use the skills learned in Emerson's practicum classes while attending Texas Tech University.

"During my junior year of high school, I took Mrs.

Emerson's health practicum course to explore the possibility of a career in the medical field. While I have discovered that the medical field is not for me, I have benefited tremendously from that class," Blalock said. "Even as an agribusiness major, the knowledge and skills I learned in the health practicum classroom have helped me greatly in college. Mrs. Emerson teaches passionately in hopes of preparing students for life. I hope that I can have half the impact that Mrs. Emerson has left on her students."

Students also learn to build resumes, basic first aid skills, CPR, communicating well with professionals, medical terminology, privacy laws in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and anatomy and physiology.

"That's my biggest seller - that when you come out of here you're just a smarter, well-rounded person," she said. "We build resumes as a junior and all these certifications go on there. Some kids don't have anything to put on their resume because they haven't had a job. We're able to fill in those holes with certifications."

Students also have skills from presentations and training to take with them, such as the Compression and Stop the Bleed presentations from UT Health. They've attended the Medical Scholars Academy, a UT Health student conference and presented at the Piney East Perkins Spring Consortium meeting and student showcase.

As a learning activity, the pharmacy students will work together to create lip balms for teachers and administration to be voted on in a classroom competition.

Looking to the future, Emerson is hopeful that the program can continue to grow for the better.

"We'll just do whatever we need to do to adjust to the demands of the job market because it's always changing," she said.

For next year, Emerson hopes to add a patient care technician certification. The program will also include a sports medicine practicum course taught by Quitman ISD athletic trainer Scotty Almon.



CTE donation

Warren Brown, left, and Waymon Ragsdale, right, both of the Mineola Foundation, present a check Monday, May 20 for \$4,999.24 to the school district for equipment for its CTE competition welding trailer. Between the two, from left, are school trustees Carlisle Brinkley, Jay McGough, Daniel Louderman and Kyle Gully. (Monitor photo by Hank Murphy)

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Local vets honor their brothers in arms.



Bob Quinn read the names of local veterans who recently passed.



A colorful crowd gathered for the ceremony.

Memorial Day services conducted in Hawkins

The Greater Hawkins Veterans Memorial Association (GHVMA) honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country by conducting a Memorial Day ceremony on May 27. The event drew around 70 people, many of whom were veterans.

Following an opening prayer, a detail from the Alert Academy posted the colors. Glenda Farrell sang the national anthem, and performed a moving rendition of Amazing Grace.

With the crowd standing out of respect, GHVMA's Bob Quinn read a list of local veterans who had recently passed. Those honored were Richard M.

Clifton, USMC; Buford L. Cunningham, USA; Johnny Ray Jones, USA; Dalton Jack Lee, USAF; John Charles MacIvor, USN; Ernest Maples, Jr., USN; Derbert Drew Mooney, USN; William Davis Pritchett, USN, and Sylvester "Ves" Townsend.

Two volunteer buglers from the Hawkins High School band, Skylar Fenton and Dalton Wages, played an emotional rendition of Taps. The color guard then retired the colors and the ceremony concluded.

Despite high temperatures, an overcast sky and a steady breeze provided a perfect setting for the well-orchestrated and fitting event.



Bobby Grant, president of the Wood County Military Veteran's Committee, offers a handshake and a flag to Carrol Schwing, widow of John Schwing during Memorial Day services Monday in Quitman. Mr. Schwing was an original member of the veterans committee. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)



Air Force Lt. Col. Benjamin Gunn, left, and his father, retired Army Lt. Col. Tom Gunn, Monday's keynote speaker, bow their heads during the playing of Taps during Memorial Day services in Quitman. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)

SERVICE

From page 1

Memorial Day is to honor those veterans who did not survive. Throughout the nation's history, an estimated 1.39 million Americans have lost their lives in war.

"As a combat veteran, I feel quite comfortable to speak for the living survivors," said Gunn. "I don't feel so comfortable speaking for those who died in the line of duty. But since they can't speak for themselves, I'll try my best to be a voice for them today, because we're here to honor them."

Gunn served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam from August 1969 to January 1971. He described being "shot at, shot up, shot down and shot." Getting killed is something every serviceman contemplates after getting a firsthand look at the

carnage of battle, he noted.

He relayed a story about his first day of flight training at Fort Walters in Texas. The commander walked in and the men stood at attention.

"Gentlemen, be at ease," he told the would-be pilots. "But before you sit down, I want to ask you to turn and introduce yourselves and shake hands with the man on your right and on your left."

The men did as they were told, and the commander continued.

"Gentleman, here's the plan. Over the next several months you'll undergo some of the most intensive flight training anywhere. Sometime next summer you'll graduate, get your aviator wings, take (leave) and then you'll all go to Vietnam to fly helicopters for a year. Then at the end of that year, one of those two men you just shook hands

with will be dead. And if not one of them, it'll be you. Because right now, one out of every three helicopter pilots we send to Vietnam dies there."

Said Gunn: "Even though being a pilot was strictly voluntary, and we had been told in no uncertain terms that maybe a third of us would be killed in the upcoming months, not a single one opted to withdraw from the course. Not a single one voluntarily withdrew and shrank away from our commitments and our duty."

Gunn told several heart-wrenching stories about men he knew who were killed in Vietnam. The phrase often used was they were "killed in the line of duty."

For those men, they would want the emphasis to be on the word "duty," Gunn said. "That's what they'd want you to remember this Memorial Day."

Church hosts block party

Faith Baptist Church invites the Quitman community to attend the Faith Outside the Walls End of School Year Block Party on Friday, June 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the parking lot, 405 S. Hart. The celebration block party is free to attend.

"Our plans are to provide activities that the whole family will enjoy, and there is no cost to attend," said Jarrod Yeager, associate pastor and youth minister and worship leader for Faith Baptist. "Quitman ISD has had a great school and Faith Baptist wants to celebrate with the students of a job well done by them in the classroom."

Faith Baptist Sunday school classes will sponsor special activities that include a cake walk, bounce house, silent free auction and petting zoo. Free food and drinks along with popcorn, lemonade and cotton candy will be served as well. Door prizes will be awarded during the celebration.

Vehicles and personnel from the Quitman Police and Volunteer Fire Department, as well as an ambulance from UT-Health East Texas, will be at the block party for everyone to view. People will be able to ask questions to those who serve the community in times of emergency, said Faith Baptist Pastor Mike Midkiff.

The block party is also a kickoff event to promote Vacation Bible School June 10-14, from 6-8:30 p.m. nightly for children age 4 through completed fifth grade.

Holly Brook declares June 3-7 Love Week

Holly Brook Baptist Church has declared the week of June 3-7 "Love Week" in the Hawkins community and surrounding area.

The week will be one when Holly Brook members serve the community. On Monday and Tuesday, members will help a local resident by painting a house. On Tuesday, members also will install smoke detectors in homes. On Wednesday, members will assemble packages of cookies for delivery on Thursday to local businesses. On Friday, members will offer free car washes and a check of fluids and tires on vehicles.

"This week of outreach and service is an important part of our mission as a church, engaging everyone to be God focused, people focused, and transformed by the gospel," said Pastor David LeFlore.

Call the church office for more information at 903-769-2091.

GRADS

From page 1

tending the University of North Texas in the fall.

He has participated in varsity tennis for two years, and he received the best newcomer award in theater as a senior. Kumm has also served the Alba-Golden school and community as a member and officer of student council for the past two years and as a member of Key Club for three.

The graduation ceremony will be held Friday, May 31 at 7 p.m. at Tyler Junior College Wagstaff Gymnasium.

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Hubbard Chapel Baptist Vacation Bible School
 Please join us as we consider important questions regarding the Biblical basis for friendship. Our prayer is to help students understand how important it is to develop and maintain God honoring friendships.
Won't you be my friend?
 Sat. June 8th 9:30am - 1pm

Mineola Police Report

May 16

1:55 a.m. A resident on West McDonald Street reported having fuel stolen from his vehicle.

12:01 p.m. Officers assisted on a road rage incident that occurred in Wood County. Officers were able to locate the vehicle on Wood Street and detain the suspect until Wood County could take over.

1:13 p.m. An officer assisted EMS on a medical call on Goodson Circle.

6:23 p.m. A disturbance was reported on North Newsom Street. The caller reported someone was trying to kill her and her father. Officers responded and spoke to all parties. The disturbance was determined to be a verbal altercation with the complainant's boyfriend. The two were separated for the night.

7:33 p.m. Walmart reported a shoplifter who had merchandise in her purse and left the parking lot before an officer arrived. A Wood County deputy stopped the vehicle just outside the city limits. When a Mineola police officer approached the suspect, she gave a name not on her driver's license. The officer was able to confirm her identity and found that she had an outstanding probation violation warrant out of Wood County. Vicki Payne, 57, of Alba, was arrested for a violation of probation warrant, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, and theft with a previous conviction.

8:49 p.m. Loud music was reported on North Newsom Street. An officer spoke with the resident and the music was turned down.

11:51 p.m. A resident on Graves Street reported she had just got home from the hospital and someone had broken into her residence. The officer determined the call to be a civil issue with another roommate.

May 17

11:19 a.m. A dog bite was reported by UT Health in Quitman. The bite occurred at a residence on East McDonald Street. A woman had a minor injury to her face. The German Shephard was placed in quarantine at the shelter for 10 days.

3:41 p.m. A burglary was reported by a resident on North Newsom Street. A juvenile known to the victim admitted to committing the crime. The juvenile will be processed through Wood County Juvenile Probation.

11:10 p.m. A woman on Sycamore Street heard a noise and noticed a gate was open at the residence where she was staying. Officers responded to the residence and checked around the area but did not locate anything suspicious. The officers patrolled the area during the night.

May 18

12:59 a.m. During routine patrol an officer heard a man screaming on West Kilpatrick Street. The officer tried to find out what was wrong with him. Officers located some friends and transported the man to their residence. The man was written a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia, which was found on his person.

11:08 a.m. A man reported a welfare concern when his sister called him and told him she was locked up in a bedroom because she and her boyfriend were fighting. The man reported when he tried to call his sister back she did not answer. Dispatch attempted contact with her as well, with no answer. An officer went to the location and spoke with the tenants of the residence. The residents denied that anyone else was there besides the small children. The officer found the woman in a bedroom with her bags already

packed. She was transported to the office to be picked up by her family. No charges were filed.

3:48 p.m. Aaron's reported a theft of service when a customer rented some property but did not pay for it and did not return the property.

7:02 p.m. A resident on East McDonald Street had a cable line down in the driveway and needed to leave, but she did not want to drive over the cable. An officer went out and checked the line, and then moved it out of her way.

9:02 p.m. A vehicle was reported stolen at the VFW and was located a few hours later on West Kilpatrick Street. The suspect has been identified and charges are pending.

May 19

1:12 a.m. A man knocked on the door of a residence on Phillips Street and asked the reporting party if they lived there and said a friend had sent him. The man continued to stand in their yard talking on the phone. The male subject was known to officers. He did not commit a crime. The man was transported to his residence.

9:29 a.m. A welfare concern was reported by EMS at a residence on North Newsom Street. EMS was contacted by the family for a medical call, but the female would not come out of a locked bathroom. An officer spoke with her and calmed her down. She was not transported and everything was fine.

11:21 a.m. A church on West Broad Street reported a suspicious male acting strangely inside the church. The responding officer knew the male, and he left the church on foot.

11:56 a.m. A resident on North Newsom reported his pickup was stolen. The resident reported he left the keys in the vehicle. The vehicle was recovered at EZ Mart by an officer in the early morning hours of Monday, May 20. The male driving the vehicle reported that he had borrowed the vehicle from someone and had text messages to prove it. The case is still under investigation and charges are pending.

12:25 p.m. A man called from a convenience store on South Pacific Street and wanted to meet with an officer in reference to his daughter's stolen cell phone. The officer was delayed due to a train, and the man was gone upon the officer's arrival.

12:51 p.m. A resident on Molly Street reported tools stolen from his garage overnight. The stolen tools were believed to be linked to the stolen vehicle on Newsom Street, but when the pickup was recovered the tools were not located.

1:12 p.m. A man reported being harassed by someone that kept leaving notes on his vehicle in the Walmart parking lot, claiming that he had hit their vehicle. The man said this is the second time someone left a note. The note had a name to call. When the number was called the caller advised they did not leave a note.

3:27 p.m. Walmart reported two females in the store and had knowledge that one was shoplifting. The other female they thought had been trespassing from the store. Jaunte Nakesha Hawkins, 28, of Mineola was arrested for alleged theft over \$100 and under \$750.

5:18 p.m. A restaurant on West Broad Street reported that a man was inside yelling and screaming at himself and making a scene. The man was gone upon the officer's arrival.

8:22 p.m. Autumn Winds reported that a female had left the

facility by foot and they were concerned for her safety. An officer located the woman at Loop 564 and North Pacific Street. The officer transported her back to her home, and EMS then transported her to UT Health for a medical situation.

May 20

6:43 a.m. A suspicious male was reported walking around the old gym on University Street and was standing in the roadway. An officer responded and identified the man. The man was not in the roadway and was not committing a crime, so a family member was contacted to pick him up.

2:14 p.m. A caller reported a man knocking on doors at South and Elliott Street. An officer responded and found the man to be the same man from other calls. The officer tried to give the man a ride home but he refused.

2:45 p.m. Royal Village Apartments on North Newsom Street reported several mailboxes broken into.

3:36 p.m. A caller reported a man standing in the roadway at South and Elliott Street. An officer responded and found it to be the same man as identified on other calls, but he was not standing in the roadway at the time the officer's arrived. The man was instructed to stay out of the roadway.

6:26 p.m. An elderly man with medical issues was reported missing from his home on Landers Street. An officer went to the man's old address and found him there. He was returned to his family.

4:30 p.m. Adrian Lavoy Williams, 21, of Mineola was arrested for having no driver's license when the officer witnessed him driving on East Broad Street.

9:08 p.m. A resident on Phillips Street reported that her dad had let a man stay with them, but after he started acting strange he was kicked out. The man was reportedly back at the residence standing in the yard. Officers responded and identified the man. He was given a place to stay at a motel by Ministerial Alliance.

9:37 p.m. A restaurant on West Broad called and reported that a man who they had already called about had returned. An officer responded and identified the man as being the same one reported in several calls. He was issued a criminal trespass. While the officer was present, the man would not listen to the officer's commands and was walking in traffic. Kenneth Leon Jackson, 34, of Mineola was arrested by the officer for not using the sidewalk.

May 21

1:32 p.m. A restaurant on East Broad Street reported a man getting into an employee's vehicle. Officers responded and detained the man. He was transported to the police department and later released.

2:55 p.m. A man reported fraud when someone used his check that had been made out to the electric company. The check was used at Walmart. The man said he placed the check in the mail to pay his electric bill.

5:22 p.m. A woman reported her sister's ex-boyfriend will not stop calling her at work. She was advised to send a final notification to him to cease calling, and if he continued, to file a harassment report.

May 22

8:45 p.m. A man reported his wife had walked off from their residence on Padgett Street and that she had medical issues. The man called back and reported his wife was home and okay.

Wood County Sheriff's Report

May 15

Deputies were dispatched to PR 6536 near Mineola at 9:09 a.m. in reference to an animal complaint. Deputies located some neglected animals but were unable to locate the owners. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies spoke with a reporting party at 10:15 a.m. in reference to a scam on FM 778 near Mineola. Deputies gave the reporting party advice and cleared the incident.

Deputies were dispatched to HWY 37 near Quitman at 2:09 p.m. in reference to a burglary. Someone stole several items from the reporting party's storage building. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop on FM 514 near Yantis at 6:06 p.m. Julie Knight, 44, of Quitman, was arrested for alleged possession of a controlled substance.

Deputies were dispatched to CR 2820 near Mineola at 9:52 p.m., in reference to criminal trespass. Deputies located the individuals and cleared the incident.

Deputies were dispatched to CR 2330 near Mineola at 10:06 p.m. in reference to a welfare check. Fernando Lagunas, 25, of Mineola, was arrested for alleged possession of drug paraphernalia.

May 16

Deputies conducted a traffic stop on FM 778 near Quitman at 12:12 a.m. Jerry Frazier, 43, of Quitman, was arrested for allegedly driving with an invalid license and an outstanding warrant.

Deputies were dispatched to CR 2260 near Mineola at 11:57 a.m. in reference to shots fired. Coleman Sistrunk, 23, of Quit-

man, was arrested for alleged aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Deputies were dispatched to PR 6645 near Mineola at 3:37 p.m. in reference to a theft. A known person stole several items from a reporting party's property. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

May 17

Deputies were dispatched to CR 1676 near Alba at 2 p.m. in reference to theft. A known person allegedly stole the reporting party's phone. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to Kiowa near Quitman at 7:35 p.m. in reference to an assault. The case has been forwarded to investigators.

May 18

Deputies were dispatched to CR 2164 near Quitman at 1:54 a.m. in reference to a disturbance. Deputies spoke with all parties involved and forwarded the case to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to PR 6338 near Mineola approximately 3:24 p.m. in reference to deadly conduct. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to CR 2840 near Mineola at approximately 10 p.m. in reference to a disturbance. Kane Phelps, 23, of Alba, was arrested for alleged criminal mischief and assault causing bodily injury and family violence.

May 19

Deputies were dispatched to FM 17 near Alba at approximately 5:00 p.m. in reference to a welfare check. Tony Williams, 62, of Alba, was arrested for alleged public intoxication.

Deputies were dispatched to CR 4660 near Winnsboro at 8:38 p.m. in reference to a disturbance. Wesley Bingham, 52,

of Winnsboro was arrested for alleged possession of marijuana and assault.

May 20

Deputies spoke with a reporting party at 9:18 a.m. in reference to a scam on Cottonwood Cove near Hawkins. Deputies gave the reporting party advice and cleared the incident.

Deputies spoke with the reporting party at 12:29 p.m. in reference to harassment on CR 3253 near Quitman. Deputies gave the reporting party advice and cleared the incident.

Deputies spoke with a reporting party at 2:34 p.m. in reference to a scam on CR 3155 near Quitman. Deputies gave the reporting party advice and cleared the incident.

Deputies went out on an arrest/warrant service to FM 514 near Yantis at 9:58 p.m. Ricky Scott, 44, of Point, was arrested for an outstanding warrant. Samuel Threadgill, 39, of Yantis, was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

May 21

Deputies spoke with the reporting party at a 11:35 a.m. in reference to scam on FM 2966 near Quitman. Deputies gave the reporting party advice and cleared the incident.

Between the dates of May 15 and May 21, Wood County Sheriff's Deputies responded to multiple agency assists that included the following: Hawkins Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Hawkins Police Department. Between the dates of May 15 and May 21, Wood County Sheriff's Investigators obtained four arrest warrants and arrested the individuals and filed four cases with the District Attorney.

Mineola Fire Report

Medical assistance: May 16, 8:20 a.m., 524 Dubose St., Mineola; May 17, 9:55 p.m., 110 CR 2466, Mineola; May 21, 3:29 a.m., 121 CR 2610, Mineola.

Motor vehicle accident with injuries: May 18, 4:50 p.m., FM 779, Alba; May 22, 1:22 p.m., N Hwy 69 & N Loop 564, Mineola; May 22, 6:50 p.m., N Hwy 69 &

N FM 779, Golden.

Motor vehicle accident with no injuries: May 20, 6:36 p.m., FM 1804, Mineola.

Power line down: May 21, 4:06 a.m., 1862 FM 1801, Mineola.

Smoke or odor removal: May 18, 3:45 p.m., 1102 Dawn Drive, Mineola.

Public service: May 18, 1:09 p.m., N Pacific Street and Greenville Hwy., Mineola.

Dispatched and canceled en route: May 19, 12:43 a.m., 310 PR 6338, Mineola.

Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO: May 20, 12:59 a.m., 183 CR 2771, Mineola.

Speed limit lowered to 60 mph along stretch of Hwy. 37 north of Mineola

The speed limit on Texas Hwy. 37 just north of the Mineola city line has been lowered from 70 mph to 60 mph for an extra 1.257 miles.

The change comes as the result of recent speed studies conducted on the roadways, according to TxDOT. The new speed limit is designed to promote a more

efficient traffic flow and is now in effect.

New speed limit signs have been installed, according to TxDOT.



Native plant expert visits arboretum

Sonnia Hill, a native plant expert from Tyler, visited the Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens on May 22 to locate native or non-native plants in the area north of George Bridge. The area is the site for the Arboretum's monarch butterfly demonstration garden. It must have only native plants for the butterflies to thrive and survive there. Hill and volunteers spent Wednesday tagging and collecting a list of plants to be removed for the butterfly garden. Lin Grado, garden manager at the Arboretum, said volunteers have spent four weeks working on the garden by planting native plants in starfish area and tracking down native plants. In this photo, Hill explains one of the plants to the Arboretum volunteers in the butterfly garden area. (Monitor photo by Zak Wellerman)

Woman hospitalized after being bitten by pit bull

A woman was taken to the hospital in Tyler on May 21 with serious dog bites, according to police.

Police responded to a call from a residence on Krause Street in Mineola at 12:53 p.m.

Officers found a female at the residence with seri-

ous bites to her body and in need of immediate medical attention, according to police.

She was transported to a Tyler hospital, where she underwent surgery.

She suffered serious bites on her fingers, upper thigh, knee and buttocks, accord-

ing to police. She told police she was trying to keep a pit bull from attacking her son during an altercation with her boyfriend.

The dog was placed in quarantine and the woman was in stable condition last week, according to police.

CRASH

From page 1

eola. A preliminary crash investigation revealed that Karim, the driver of a 2018 Cadillac XTS, was stopped on FM 779 at the intersection of U.S. 69 facing northeast.

At the same time, the driver of a 2013 Peterbilt truck towing a semi-trailer, Jairo Tejeda Limonte, 25, of Baytown was traveling southeast on U.S. 69 approaching the same intersection. Karim entered the intersection and the Cadillac was struck by the Peterbilt, the DPS reported.

Tommie, a sophomore, was a fine student who routinely made the honor roll at Alba-Golden. She was involved in FFA, softball, basketball, and cross-country. She was a member of numerous clubs, including the Student Council.

Last week's fatal crash was not the first at the intersection. In 2014, a collision between a SUV and an 18-wheeler claimed the life of a 9-year-old girl from Grand Saline.

The Texas Department of Transportation has proposed constructing an interchange with U.S. 69 bridging over FM 779. FM 779 would be accessed by ramps, and

Texas turnarounds would be constructed under the overpass. As part of the project, FM 779 would be widened to include left-turn lanes and U.S. 69 would be widened to four lanes with a depressed median. Median crossovers would be constructed on U.S. 69, north and south of FM 779, according to TxDOT.

The agency originally targeted construction for 2019. However, the project is not yet funded and is competing with others statewide. TxDOT was preparing plans for the project with the goal of having it shovel-ready when funding becomes available.

Hubbard Chapel to host Vacation Bible School

Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church will host its Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 8. The theme will be "Won't You Be My Friend?"

The class will consider questions on the Biblical basis for friendship. The church hopes for students to understand the importance of developing and maintaining God-honoring friendships. Hubbard Chapel Baptist is located at FM 778 at CR 2590. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. with pizza at noon and check out at 1 p.m.

Hooked on Fishing tournament for youth Saturday at Lake Fork

The annual Hooked on Fishing youth tournament in Wood County is set for this Saturday, June 1 at the Sabine River Authority

headquarters at Lake Fork.

The tournament starts at 8 a.m. and runs until noon. Contestants must be registered by 8 a.m.

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Obituaries

TOMMIE ELIZABETH SPANN 2002-2019



Funeral services for Tommie Elizabeth Spann, 17, of Mineola, were Tuesday at Sand Springs Baptist Church in Mineola with Brother Nick Kerry officiating. Services were under the direction of Wilson-Bartley Funeral Home, Alba. Burial was at Pilgrim Rest No. 2 Cemetery, Golden.

Tommie passed away Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in Golden.

She was born March 27, 2002, in Alexandria, La., to John Brody and Amanda Lola Burnett Spann. Tommie was a sophomore at Alba-Golden High School and was involved in FFA, softball, basketball, and cross-country. She was a member of numerous clubs, including the Student Council.

Survivors include her parents, Brody and Amanda Spann of Mineola; brothers, Bryce Spann of Mineola and Caleb Spann of Mineola; grandparents, Roger and wife Stephana Spann of Arlington, Trina Spann of North Richland Hills, Richard and wife Tina Burnett of Rosepine, La., and Inita Maricle of Leesville, La.; great-grandmother, Peggy Spann of Mineola; and aunts and uncles.

Tommie was preceded in death by her great-grandfather, Delmar Spann; great-grandparents, Alfred and Tommie Burnett James; and great-grandparents, Hubert and Eddie

(T.D.) Maricle.

Memorials can be made to the Alba-Golden FFA, 1373 CR 2377, Alba, TX 75410.

DAVID C. BASS 1952-2019



Funeral services for David C. Bass, 66, of Mineola were Friday, May 24 at Sand Springs Baptist Church in Mineola with Rev. Steve Prestridge conducting. Burial was at Sand Springs Cemetery in Mineola.

Mr. Bass died Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in Tyler. He was born Aug. 15, 1952, in Gilmer to Billy and Codell Bass.

He was a coach and teacher for 39 years and received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Texas A&M - Commerce. He helped start the Rains ISD Fishing Team and was a member of Northside Church in Mineola.

He was preceded in death by father, Billy Bass.

He is survived by his mother, Codell Bass of Mineola; loving wife, Vinnie Sue Bass of Mineola; sons, David Bass Jr. of Edom, Joe Bass of Amarillo and Garrett Bass of Emory; daughters, Shawna Blalock of Mineola and Natalie Turlington of Longview; brothers, Bill Bass of Tyler and John Bass of Gilmer; sisters, Zelma Bass of Luling and Mary

Ledbetter of Gilmer; and three grandchildren.

JERRY "J.D." MORGAN 1945-2019



Graveside funeral services for Jerry "J.D." Morgan, 74, of Quitman were Sunday, June 2 at the IOOF Cemetery in Farmersville.

Mr. Morgan died May 19, 2019.

He was born Dec. 25, 1945, in Alba to Macie Dee and Georgie Morgan. He was married to his wife, Sara Morgan, for 55 years. They resided in Duncanville, where they raised two daughters, Shannon and Jodi. Upon retirement, they moved to Quitman in 1995. J.D. was a Navy veteran and a retired Dallas firefighter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, his father and mother-in-law, and many beloved family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Sara Morgan of Quitman; daughter, Shannon Morgan Wheeler of Kerens and Jo-Dion (Jodi) Morgan Otto of Quitman; four grandchildren; and one brother, Bobby Morgan.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to various firefighter charities. You can mail donations to his address: 410 County Road 3170, Quitman TX 75783.



Learning bicycle safety

Diane Holmes, chair of the bike safety program for the Mineola Pilot Club, stands with the winners of new bikes, Brody Hill and Sunshine Viguera, at right. Recently, members of the Mineola Pilot Club and MHS Anchor Club, with assistance from the Mineola Police Department, held their annual bicycle safety program for second-graders at Mineola Primary School. Each second-grader received a helmet from Mineola Pilots in conjunction with their brain injury safety program called "BrainMinders." Students receive instruction on bike hand signals and bike rules and then ride through the safety course. Two students are selected to win new bikes. (Courtesy photo)



Mineola Memorial Library Notes

BY LIBRARIAN MARY HURLEY

School is out and summer break has arrived. So have the more seasonal temperatures. The Library's air conditioner is working and we have cool books and movies to check out as well.

The Friends of the Mineola Memorial Library will meet on June 6 at 1 p.m. This will be the last meeting until Sept. 5. June's program is presented by Janice Wolford of Wolford's Travel. This program is free and open to the public. Stop by and learn about the benefits of travel and hear some travel ideas.

The Library book club will not meet over the summer months but the East Texas Library Friends Book Club will meet. Their next meeting is at the Mineola Memorial Library on Saturday, June 15 at 2 p.m. They will be discussing "The Radium Girls" by Kate Moore. It is the story of girls who painted the very advanced "glow in the dark" numbers on watch dials. What made the paint glow? The newly discovered radium. What happens after prolonged exposure to this new item? Read and find out then join us to discuss.

Summer Reading Programs begin. Space Explorers will be for children ages third to fifth grade. Those children under the age of 6 will need a parent present and participating. Reading logs will be passed out weekly for the children to record their summer reading efforts. Stars will be hung over the children's department to mark their efforts. Each week will have a different space themed activity and will meet on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the Meredith Room until the last meeting on July 9.

TNT Summer Edition will be hosted by Mrs. Pam for children in the sixth grade and older. So if you completed



fifth grade and are ready to move up, join her, or you can stay with Space Explorers for the summer. Mrs. Pam has lots of awesome activities planned for this group. They will meet on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. over by the large print books.

Play to Grow workshops will be offered on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. for children birth to age 3 with a caregiver beginning June 12. Join this fun group for playtime, music, and information about child growth and development.

Baby Bounce will resume on Thursday June 13 at 10 a.m. for infants up to 18 months and their parents. This group hears stories, learns songs with motions, and has a fun time being together.

Tonya Slayton is the director of this summer's Lake Country Playhouse musical: "Shrek, the Musical." On Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 p.m., she will be teaching children basic theater in what is titled Summer Musical Theater Class. Classes will begin June 5 until July 31, which will have a special performance by the children. School aged children may participate. Parents will sign the children in and out of each session. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Slayton 903-850-4160.

In addition to in-house programs, the Bookmobile will visit the Mineola Primary and Elementary Summer Schools. There a short-program will be presented, book logs will be offered, and there will be an opportunity for children to check out a book to read for fun. We will also be stopping by Addie E McFarland Community Center on Wednesdays with an activity and a story.

Remember, the Mineola Memorial Library is a 501(c)3, non-profit.

Inside and Outside the Picket Fence

BY JAN WHITLOCK

The grounds may be a bit on the "squishy" side so wear your walking shoes, no open toes this week, as you admire the beautiful blooms and rapid growth that many of the Arboretum plants are now experiencing.

Watch for the magnificent blooms on the hardy hibiscus to appear. These are picture worthy and could be a nice addition to your home garden. With the proper growing conditions, these perennials will reappear to add their beauty each growing season. There are several varieties of hibiscus available at local nurseries. Perennials are a onetime purchase that can reward the gardener with many years of bloom and beauty.

If you attended the last Nature U. presentation for this calendar year, Allen Smith entertained and educated you on Friends and Foes in the insect world. The last Creative U.



Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

presentation is scheduled for Saturday, June 22. Barb Williams will be instructing on the many ways one can customize their terracotta pots. As we did with our yard art class, let your imagination soar. Registration has begun for this session. See the Arboretum website for details at wood-county-arbo.org.

If you are a long or short distance runner, make sure you circle July 20 on the calendar. The Ima Hogg Fun Run is scheduled for that date. You may begin your training, as I am about to do, at any time. I look forward to seeing you in the gardens. We are there every Wednesday, and the coffee is on.

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Enon Baptist Church
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 (903) 765-2014
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 903-473-9523
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Church of Christ of Alba
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 903-765-9450
 George Filpansick

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 903-473-2411
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 B.D. Bohannon

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 Cottonwood Assembly of God
 8481 FM 779, Golden
 (903) 765-2675
 Pastor: Otis Lee

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 903 768-2258
 Pastor Robert Mounce
Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church
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 903-768-2653
 Pastor Craig Kearby

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 903-857-2527
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 903-769-3235

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 903-569-5537

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 Pastor Al Dusek

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 903 569-3212
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Harvest Acres Baptist Church
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 903-569-5351
 Pastor David W. Burcham

Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church
 Hwy. 778, Mineola
 Pastor: Rick Ellington

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 415 W. McDonald, Mineola
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 Steve Prestridge, Pastor

Rose Hill Baptist Church
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 (903) 569-5746
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 150 E Hwy. 80, Mineola
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 903-629-7889
 Mani Mathai

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 903-342-5883
 F. Kevin Hollowell

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 (903) 342-3011
 Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

Yantis
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 903-383-2148
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*Blessed are those who
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Psalm 128:1

*Behold, the Lord comes to
 save his people;
 blessed are those prepared
 to meet him.*
Matthew 25:6

Quitman offers plenty of summer rec opportunities

Each town in East Texas seems to be blessed by a place that is the center of the community. It may be the square, or the courthouse or a favorite café. In Quitman it must be the Governor Jim Hogg City Park. The 23 acres in the middle of town are central to nearly all community events, including the annual Old Settlers Reunion celebrations.

HOGG CITY PARK

A review of summer sports activity in Quitman begins at Hogg Park. The rationale is simple: Hogg Park has probably the best children's playground in the county. A variety of slides and swings, safe and ample climbing devices, a splash pad, and above all else — shade.

Fortuitously, the park adjoins the Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The property is administered by the board of the Friends of the Arboretum. A long-term lease solidifies administration of the 38-acre tract.

Deanna Caldwell, president of the arboretum, describes the land as a "public garden focused on horticultural education." This year, the arboretum is sponsoring a 5K run and kids fun run on Saturday, July 20. The event is a fundraiser for which sponsorships are still available. Athletics, once again, provide the vehicle for a community endeavor.

QUITMAN CITY POOL

The Coach Delbert Ballard Memorial Pool represents another jewel of the Quitman community. The pool opens June 1 and closes one week before the start of school. Certified pool operator and technician Susan Rogers, now in her fifth year running the pool, voices enthusiasm regarding the water quality. She summarizes the pool in one word: "clean."

Her efforts and those of the city council have resulted in re-plastering, a new chlorinator, a new filtration system, and new CO2 and enzyme systems on her watch. "The technical aspects of water quality must be in

place first," stated Rogers. The pool opens for two sessions daily: noon to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Swimming lessons are also available, with two morning options. Local residents may book the pool for private events. It remains a popular option.

"It is a wonderful asset for Quitman, especially the youth," commented Rogers. On an average day 50-75 youngsters will enjoy the facility. A stable of six life-guards provide oversight. The plaque naming the pool for Coach Ballard states: "He devoted his life to his family, community and the youth of Quitman." It is a most appropriate comment to adorn the entrance to the pool.

QUITMAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

Spring and summer would not be complete without baseball and its cousins, softball and Tee-ball. The Quitman Youth Foundation manages 21 teams participating in all age groups. An additional eight teams are in the learner's league.

The foundation maintains four playing fields on the edge of town just south of Farm to Market Road 2088. The girls teams compete on



One of the two Quitman JV teams in East Texas Hoops league.

Monday and Thursday evenings, and the boys on Thursday and Friday evenings. Parking will cost you \$2 for hours of entertainment.

Foundation president Rodney Kieke spoke highly of the formative effects of youth baseball on the local kids. As both the city administrator and a Rotarian, he described the foundation's efforts to "maximize the fundraising results" to ensure long-term program viability.

The league offers spring ball within the Texas Teenage Baseball/Softball As-

sociation. Based on the competitive fire evident in youngsters' faces on a recent Monday night, the league promotes those qualities of competition which nurture young folks into adulthood.

QUITMAN SELECT BALLERS

In its second year of operation, the Quitman Select Ballers have doubled their participation. The program operates as a part of East Texas Hoops. The mission of East Texas Hoops is to provide an outlet for youth of all ages to develop and hone their athletic skills on the hardwood.

Tania Kernes, president of Quitman Select Ballers, explained youngsters are grouped together by school grade, starting with grades 3 and 4, through varsity. Quitman fielded two junior high teams this season, one of which won the four-team tournament in Edgewood May 4.

East Texas Hoops coordinates play days and tournaments at area locations. Schools rent their gymnasiums out to the organization. A review of scheduling for June reveals local events: June 1 in Wills Point, June 8 in Greenville, June 15 in Min-

neola, June 22 in Winnsboro, and June 29 in Greenville. Separately-scheduled Monday, Tuesday and Thursday leagues are also available.

Kernes explained the genesis of her group, "We are just a group of parents who got together so our boys could play basketball during the spring and summer. The boys love having the opportunity to play in the off season and have a chance to better their game."

As the adjacent photo attests, young athletes are having a great time partici-

OZTAG

A new sport devised in Australia to train youngsters in the basic techniques of rugby may soon be making an impact in Quitman. Oztag is a remarkably simple game based on the rules of rugby; however, it is a low-impact sport using Velcro strips such as in tag-football.

As Kieke explained, the game teaches proper tackling positioning on defense and running to daylight on offense. It is also a self-regulating game, with the simple rules of the game being taught by a single referee.

The sport has taken hold in the Austin area. According to Kieke, schools and coaches are beginning to see the benefits of the sport, as the skills are directly transferable to American football.

OFF-SEASON STRENGTH TRAINING

Quitman Bulldog Athletic Director Bryan Oakes is pleased to recognize the doubling of off-season strength training participants over the past two years. The weight facility is open 6:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Monday through Thursday for athletes in grades 7-12.

NEW ADDITIONS

New tennis courts at Quitman High School are becoming a reality. The six new lighted courts should be ready for next year's spring season. The courts will be built at the same location, just behind the high school between the school and the softball field.

Discussions are underway to convert part of the old rodeo grounds in the ballpark and pool complex to multi-purpose playing fields. The 11-acre city-owned grounds could be used for a variety of sports and recreation.

SUMMARY

Several new initiatives have joined time-honored institutions, such as the Ballard Pool, to provide Quitman residents a wide variety of sporting options. The common thread in all these initiatives is a sense of community.



Enjoying a slide at Hogg Park.

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ARNOLD'S AUTO SALVAGE AUCTION

Saturday, June 1, 2019 @ 10 AM

914 US Hwy 259 South • Daingerfield, TX 75638

Auctioneer's Note: Mr. Arnold was in the auto business for over 30 years in the Daingerfield area. He passed away too early in life & this was a working business when he passed away. Mr. Arnold was loved & respected by many. He loved his tools, shop & career. This shop is full of great tools of all types! Anything you might need as a mechanic. There is also one large building full of things mostly pertaining to cars from the 1970's & 1980's! Some cool vintage antique stuff! There are 50 plus cars & car bodies & the majority of these have titles. We will be working with Texas Heritage Bank to help settle the estate & they will be handling title work. Bring CASH to the sale to leave with title that day OR title will be held until the following Wednesday. There are around 15 classics, maybe over 20 usable cars that just need a little TLC. Around 20 wrecked cars & tons of salvage around the edges so there will be a lot of scrap iron as well! We will have TWO auctioneers going at one time thru out the day because there are so many items! there is NO Way all of this can be moved out in one day. We have until Wednesday, June 5th to get it all removed from the property. We look forward to working with everyone & we are excited to conduct this auction.

For Information: srsauctions.com
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration in the estate of Tabatha Lorraine Collier, Deceased, were issued on May 6, 2019, in Cause No. 13,411, pending in the County Court at Law, Wood County, Texas, to: John C. Collier.

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 to:

John C. Collier
560 Airport Dr.
Mansfield, TX 76063

TWO Divide & Conquer Sales — Same Dates

Thurs., May 30 ~ 7:00-5:30 ■ Fri., May 31 ~ 8:00-5:30

Saturday, June 1 ~ 8:00-2:00

Sale #1 Moving Sale for Pat & Tom Fernandez

1438 Hollytree Place, Tyler, TX 75703 (off Hollytree Drive)
Outside SSW Loop 323 & off S. Broadway turn west onto Grande and left onto Hollytree Dr. Pass the clubhouse and tennis courts to Hollytree Place on the right; you may need to park on Hollytree Dr. (3rd house from Hollytree Drive)
The house has sold; contents and consignments must go: elegant formal din. rm table, chairs, & china cabinet; custom club chairs & ottoman; fab. rug; Span. Baroque sterling silv. flatware; fur coats; brk table & chairs; garden stool; Depression glass; bedding; lamps; vintage oval frames; anti. armoire; barley twist chair; Welsh dresser; & pie safe; end tables; coffee table; settee; lovely home décor; roosters; brass chandelier; vintage Snow White lamp; patio furn.; kitchen selections; silv. plate & sterling selections; floral arrangements; bamboo selections; gold plated flatware; costume jewelry; clothes; shoes; purses; golf clubs; tools; chain saw; monopod; ramps; rods & reels; sooooo much more!! Don't miss it!!
Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

Sale #2 Moving Sale for Blanche Perkins

1202 Rice Road, #106, Tyler, TX 75703
Outside SSW Loop 323 & off S. Broadway turn west onto Rice Road; left onto Hollytree Dr. -- right across from Glenwood Ch. of Christ; please park at the church - Hollytree Dr. @ Rice Road; (walk to 3rd house from Hollytree Dr.)
The house is for sale; contents and consignments must go: dining table & chairs; sofa; channel back chairs; drum table; end table; misc. lamps; sew. machine; fabric; notions; holiday selections; "Fairmont" china; full bed, dresser, nightstand; lots of quilts; clear dessert plates; crystal; decanters; cost. jewelry; clothes; vintage toys & dolls; typewriter; frames; iron skillets; refrigerator; freezer; hammock chairs; office supplies; can. jars; tools; sooo much more!! (3-4 minutes from sale #1) Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

Lake Fork Weekly Fishing Report

It was a great week on beautiful Lake Fork. The water is stained over most of the lake and water temperatures are in the upper 70s.

The bass fishing was very good this week. Several techniques are working, such as medium running crankbaits, Carolina rigs, wacky rigs, and even the good ole Texas rigged worm. This week we used a sexy shad Strike King XD 8 on main lake points early in the mornings while the bass are active and putting on the feedbag. As the day went on, we relied on the Carolina rigged Zoom California 420 Baby Brush Hog.

I found that the best water

depth to fish the Carolina rig was 18 to 22 feet of water on main lake points that have old timber on the side of the points. As the day went on and we ventured back into the creeks, we went to a Texas rigged Zoom California 420 Mag II worm with the tail dyed chartreuse. We found that creek sub points were the best place to pick up good quality fish. One thing you have to do is work the Texas Rig really slow. You cannot work the worm slow enough!

The crappie anglers were having good success with Bubba's baits crappie jigs. The crappie have moved out into the deeper wa-

ter. The crappie are being caught in 22 to 24 feet of water over isolated brush piles and around the main lake bridges. I found that the straight chartreuse crappie jig worked the best. When the crappie get stubborn, tip the jig with a minnow!

The white bass have gone crazy this week. They are stacked up on main lake humps and sharp creek bends. I found the best way to catch the white bass this week was to use Joe Spaits chrome and chartreuse Flashtail 1/2 ounce jiggling spoon. Have fun!

The catfish anglers struggled this week. What few catfish that were caught

were caught on punch bait in 18 to 22 feet of water. There are still a few in the shallow water spawning.

On our equipment list, this week is our Ranger Z520c powered by Mercury 250 Pro XS, Lowrance electronics, Duckett rods, ABU Garcia reels, Stren line, Strike King hard baits and Zoom soft plastics.

Here at J & M Guide Service we have a few dates open in June to help you get ready for the Skeeter Bass Tournament. Give us a call at 903-413-6919 or e-mail us at bassmr@geusnet.com. Have a safe fishing week and be courteous to your fellow anglers and guides.

QUITMAN COMMUNITY INVITED



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Friday, June 7
7-8:30 p.m.

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From page 1

told them "You are the reason we are all here tonight."

He cited the class of 2019 for its many accomplishments, including amassing \$700,000 in combined scholarships "with more coming in every day."

Sauer hugged each and every graduate as they walked on stage to receive their diploma.

He urged them to "have a servant's heart" and allow themselves to "love others" for who they are regardless of their personal beliefs or the color of their skin.

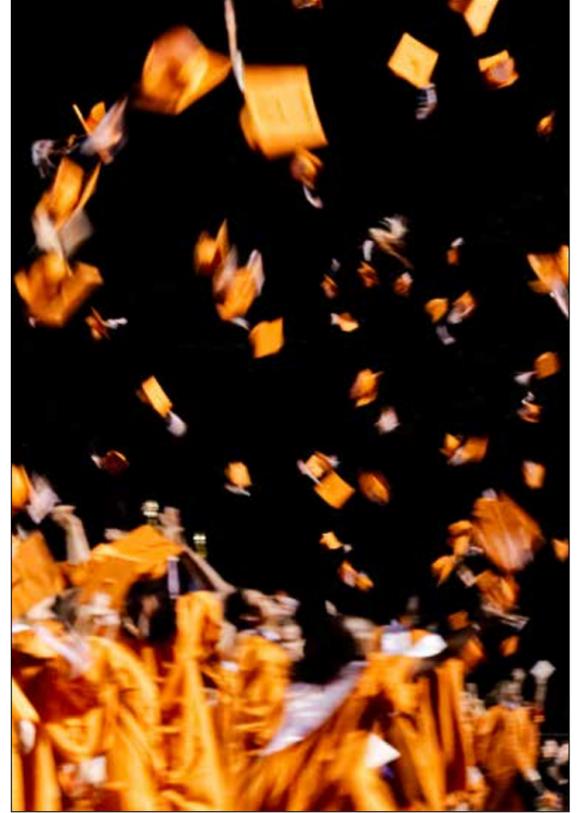
Class Salutatorian Alaina Lopez choked back tears as she addressed her fellow graduates.

"My Mineola High School experience was amazing," she said. "Through every friend I made, through every secret, every band and sporting event and just through the pure joy I got from just coming to school. Now for the graduating seniors, I know this can be a very emotional day as you want to dwell in the past about high school days. I know all the memories we made will carry over into our futures."



Valedictorian Lena Hughes cautioned her fellow grads that "we like the idea that some form of ultimate happiness can be obtained, or that we can be fulfilled and satisfied with our lives forever, but we cannot."

But ultimate happiness, she said, requires struggle. "Pure joy does not just sprout out of the ground like daisies and rainbows. If you want to find meaning in your life, choose your struggle. What will determine your success is not what you want to enjoy, but rather what pain do you want to sustain."



Sydney Johnson, above left, prepares to make introductions at the Mineola High School graduation Friday night. At left, valedictorian Lena Hughes gives her address. Above, students toss their caps upon completing the ceremony. (Monitor photos by Sam Major)



Yantis 2019 graduate Zachary Shearer smiles after walking off the stage with his diploma in hand. (Monitor photo by Zak Wellerman)

Yantis Class of 2019 conducts graduation

By ZAK WELLERMAN
news@woodcountymonitor.com

Family, friends and community members came together to celebrate the 24 Yantis 2019 graduates on Saturday in the high school gym.

Before the ceremony, graduates each gave a rose to someone they were thankful for. Valedictorian Ashten Burnett and Salutatorian Maggie Hooker made remarks to the gradu-

ating class, and a slideshow featuring each graduate was played.

Reverend Paul Blue of Family Life Baptist Church in Greenville served as the commencement speaker for the ceremony. He gave the graduates some advice on life after high school.

"You can be comfortable or courageous, but you can't be both," Blue said. "What the world needs more of are people who are kind and considerate."

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