



Haley Baker of Canton goes eye to eye with Molasses the sloth last week during a kids camp at Mini S Exotic Zoo just outside Mineola. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)

Mini S Exotic Zoo hosts summer camp for kids

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Animals belonging to some of the planet's most endangered species live and breed on nine acres just outside Mineola at the Mini S Exotic Zoo. Last week, a dozen first- through fifth-graders attended a weeklong camp at the zoo, where they interacted with many of the unusual creatures and learned about their traits and behaviors.

Among their activities,

the kids fed black and white ruffed lemurs and black capped capuchin monkeys, they learned how sloths evolved into nature's slo-pokes, observed fennec foxes and sand cats, and generally soaked in knowledge about some of the animal kingdom's most exotic subjects.

Mini S Exotic Zoo is situated along FM 1799 near Lake Holbrook. The zoo is home to 200-300 animals representing 48 species, including some of the rarest

and most endangered, according to the zoo's founder Michelle Smith. She mentioned gibbons, ruffed lemurs and cotton-topped tamarin monkeys as a few of the endangered species found at Mini S Exotic Zoo.

Smith, a retired neonatal nurse practitioner, moved from the Metroplex with her husband to their place near Mineola about 10 years ago. "We moved here to have animals and be out in

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Former Mineola school official on trial

By ZAK WELLERMAN
news@woodcountymonitor.com

The teenager at the center of the Todd Karch sexual misconduct case testified Tuesday morning at the 402nd District Courthouse in Quitman.

Karch, 50, former director of transportation for the Mineola ISD, was indicted in April 2018 on a charge of

sexual solicitation of a minor over the internet, a third-degree felony.

According to his testimony, the teen began communicating with someone unknown to him through an online dating app, Grindr, in January 2017. As the conversation progressed, the person asked to meet for sex.

The teenager testified that he had signed up for a Grindr

account as an 18-year-old; however, he later revealed to the person he met online that he was actually 16 before sexual details and pictures were exchanged.

The minor described the online relationship as a friendship for the most part to discuss sexuality concerns. In September 2017, he

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This Week in Your Neighborhood

- American Legion Post 296 in Mineola is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner from 5-7:30 p.m. on Saturday at 2015 E. Hwy. 80 to support the many veterans living in the community. The donation is \$8 per plate. The dinner will consist of spaghetti with

homemade Italian beef sauce, a garden salad with dressing, garlic bread, dessert, and coffee, tea or water.

- The Mineola Farmers Market will be open Saturday morning at the pavilion near Iron Horse Square.

Mineola pair work to complete unique book project

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Two Mineolans have embarked on a mission that, they believe, will offer insights into the interconnectedness of lives.

Amanda Duncan and Joshua Pogue are working to complete "Eye See You for You," a publication that will combine photographs of subjects' eyes with words straight from their hearts. They hope to have a book out early next year.

"We feel like the eyes are the window to the soul, and potentially you can see the struggles, trials and tribulations that these people have been through, as well as the hope and inspiration they have," explains Pogue, a

29-year-old native of Alba and proprietor of County Road Film Company.

The concept for "Eye See You for You" rests on letting people tell their stories anonymously. Only an image of the people's eyes, captured by Pogue or Duncan, will be shown.

Duncan, a native Louisiana who moved to East Texas about 10 years ago, acts as the conduit between her subjects and the words as they will appear in "Eye See You for You."

Behind the veil of anonymity, she interviews people young and old from all walks of life in this region. Some of their stories are long, some are short. "They vary depending on how open someone is and what they

want to talk about," Duncan says. "The anonymity gives people the freedom to open up and starting talking a lot more about things they typically wouldn't. So it's very personal, it's very intimate. I don't change their story in anyway."

Along with lengthy and brief first-person accounts, the book's visual element will consist of as many as 300 to 400 pairs of eyes peering from the pages, according to Pogue.

Duncan says she's interviewed about 50 people so far. Some find it liberating to talk to someone — someone who truly wants to listen — about their lives, about their triumphs and joys, their hardships, heartaches, regrets, fears. She believes

Former police captain files federal suit against officials

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Former Quitman police Capt. Terry Bevill has filed a federal civil suit alleging that he "became the target of a vindictive campaign of retaliation and punishment" over an affidavit he signed in June 2017, a violation of his First Amendment rights.

Named as defendants are the City of Quitman, Quitman Police Department, Sheriff Tom Castloo, former Quitman Mayor and current Mayor Pro Tem David Dobbs, former District Attorney Jim Wheeler, 402nd District Judge Jeff Fletcher and Wood County. The lawsuit, filed June 3 at the

U.S. District Courthouse in Plano, seeks compensatory and punitive damages for "severe emotional distress, personal humiliation, mental pain and suffering, embarrassment, lost income and damage to reputation."

Fletcher, Dobbs and Wheeler did not respond to messages seeking comment. Castloo said he could not comment on the matter.

Bevill alleges he was fired from his job with the Quitman Police Department and subject to arrest and aggravated perjury charges in retaliation for signing an affidavit in support of a motion for a change of venue sought by former Wood County Jail Administrator David

McGee. At the time, McGee stood accused of tampering with a governmental document by changing the release date of a female inmate who he eventually took to Las Vegas. The affidavit, which had been prepared by McGee's lawyer and signed by Bevill, claimed McGee could not receive a fair trial in Wood County due to pre-trial publicity and because of a "close personal relationship" among Fletcher, Castloo and Wheeler. Fletcher denied the change of venue motion. A Wood County jury convicted McGee on June 28, 2017, and sentenced him to two years

See SUIT, Page 5A



First-responders stand near the crash of a single-engine aircraft Thursday morning near the Holly Lake Ranch Airport. Two adults were injured and transported to the hospital. (Monitor photo by Hank Murphy)

Two injured in plane crash near Holly Lake

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

The National Transportation Safety Board has taken over the investigation of a two-passenger, single-engine plane crash that left two people injured on June 13 near Holly Lake Ranch Airport.

Authorities have not released the names of those injured in the crash, which occurred just behind the Holly Lake Car Care Center

and several hundred yards from the airport. The Er-coupe 415C crashed under unknown circumstances, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

According to Holly Lake Ranch Assistant Fire Chief Bill Bollinger, the department was paged at 8:55 a.m. about a plane crash behind the Holly Lake Car Care Center.

"We responded and there were two people trapped in the airplane. We extricated

them and both of them were transported to the hospital," Bollinger said.

A fire crew remained on standby because of a minor fuel leakage from the aircraft, he said. Local first-responders waited for representatives from the FAA to arrive.

The aircraft is registered to Willie Herman Vawter, 88, of Hawkins, according to the Tyler Morning Telegraph.



Amanda Duncan and Joshua Pogue intend to publish a book next year based on the eyes and stories of people from East Texas.

small eyes coming together as one large eye. For various reasons, however, the project fell by the wayside.

Then in September 2018, Duncan and Pogue bumped

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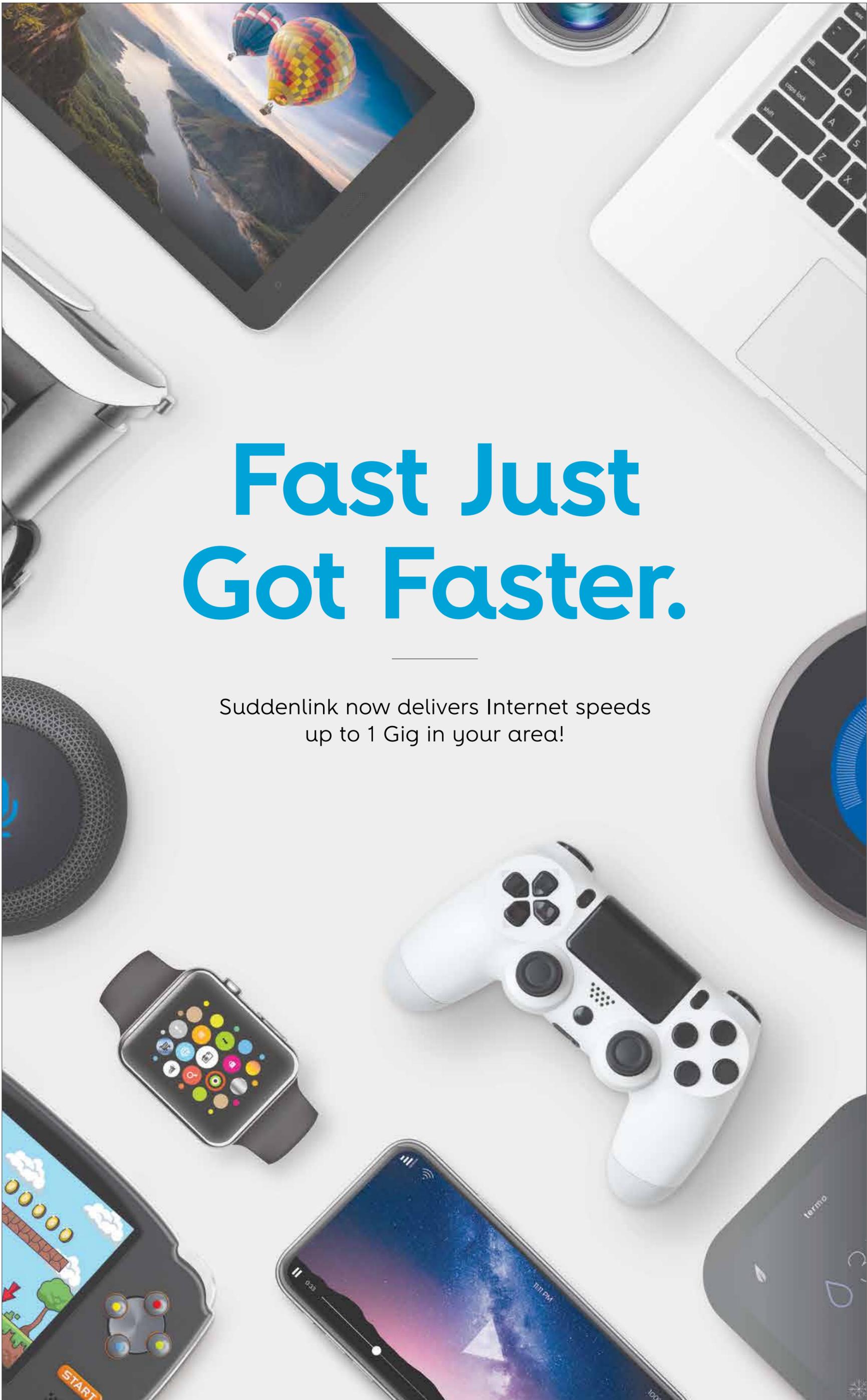
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Quitman, Mineola band students successful at state solo and ensemble competition

Quitman and Mineola band students earned several medals after competing in the state solo and ensemble contest on June 2.

Mineola brought home 18 gold and silver state medals. Gold medalists were Lena Hughes, Joneth Esquivel, Anna Westberry, Megan Holt, Taylor Ihlenfeldt, Annalee Cook, Tish Yates, Bree Williams, Anjel Garcia and Isreal Rivera. Silver medals went to Valerie Garcia, Michael Troccoli and Armando Veloz.

Mineola ISD band director Chris Brannan said they had their best showing in the solo contest, and their ensembles also did well.

For Quitman, senior Mike Fry received a gold medal for a first division on his tenor saxophone solo. Freshman Tristan Cheek



Left to right: Mineola band students Tish Yates, Annalee Cook, Bree Williams were some of the gold medalists at state solo and ensemble contest.

also received a gold medal for a first division on his marimba solo.

Bonnie Vander Schaaf, Emily Roman, Vincent

Ogg, Ashton Goss, Tristan Cheek, Aiden Corrior and Diego Orsonio received a second division on their percussion ensemble.



Left to right: Quitman band students Tristan Cheek, Ashton Goss, Mike Fry, Vincent Ogg, Bonnie Vander Schaaf, Aiden Corrior, Diego Orsonio and Emily Roman competed at the state solo and ensemble contest.

QISD board reviews district goals, indicators

By ZAK WELLERMAN

news@woodcountymonitor.com

Quitman ISD trustees Monday discussed the district's goals and indicators used to measure success in achieving those goals.

The three goals are as follows: QISD has monitoring systems and supports to ensure appropriate academic growth and prepara-

tion of all students; recruit and retain quality teachers; foster a positive work environment for professional growth, teamwork and high morale.

Superintendent Rhonda Turner presented polling data from teachers on how satisfied they are with their work environment and other aspects of the job. Trustees also spoke about the

need to be competitive in regard to recruiting and retaining teachers.

Turner mentioned having exit interviews with the teachers not returning to QISD, and to keep track of the data for the future.

In other business, trustees approved a four-year contract with Document Solutions for district-wide copiers.

Mineola council looks at annexation in city's north

By HANK MURPHY

editor@woodcountymonitor.com

The city of Mineola is considering annexation of several properties on the north side of town, including a seven-parcel enclave along Minwood Street that, decades ago, was left outside the city's jurisdiction.

The matter was broached Monday evening as part of a wide-ranging city council workshop that also included discussion about the city's tax rate and packaged liquor sales.

Regarding annexation, City Manager Mercy Rushing identified the Minwood properties – seven lots and four houses – as ones that should be brought into the city's jurisdiction. Although the properties are immune from city taxation, they are served by city water, city trash services and city police, she said.

"They may think it's unfair to be annexed, but the neighbors don't think it's fair that they're not," Rushing remarked.

The council expressed support for quickly bringing the properties into the fold. "Let's do it sooner rather than later," said Alderman Greg Hollen.

Other properties considered for annexation include a drainage strip next to Walmart, a piece of land owned by Southwestern Electric Power Co. just north

of NE Loop 564, and Southwest Steel Buildings along NE Loop 564.

Rushing told the council that she preferred all the annexations be done in one fell swoop. Should the council formally move to annex, property owners would be sent a letter informing them of the city's intention, and two public hearings would be held before the council could take final action.

Another matter of council interest was the prospect for packaged liquor sales in Mineola. As part of a budgeting request for fiscal 2019-20, Hollen urged administrators to begin fact-finding on the process for bringing packaged liquor sales to Mineola, the potential financial impact and the experiences of nearby cities.

Hollen, a former city secretary in Quitman, noted that Quitman saw \$40,000-\$60,000 in new revenue when a liquor store opened there. That number, he speculated, might be significantly higher now. Packaged liquor sales "would seriously impact our revenue," he noted.

Bringing packaged liquor sales to Mineola would require a successful campaign by citizens. First, someone would have to petition for an election. To force a referendum, a petition would require valid signatures from 35 percent of registered voters who casted ballots in the

most recent gubernatorial election, according to state law.

Alderwoman Jayne Lankford said she initially was opposed to opening up the city to sales of wine and beer. "But I was wrong. It has not hurt our community," she added.

Mayor Kevin White said, "My conviction is I'm against it," but he noted the decision would not be his.

The council Monday also looked at preliminary taxable value numbers as members gear up for summer budget deliberations. A preliminary estimate provided to the city at the end of April showed taxable value at \$270.73 million. (The Monitor received preliminary values from the appraisal district last week that indicated \$274.41 million). Last year's certified values came in at \$249.63 million.

This year's certified values are sure to be less than preliminary figures. Still, the city is expected to have considerably more taxable value at its disposal. White said he's confident that the city's tax rate of 56 cents per \$100 valuation will have to drop to keep the city out of roll-back territory.

Rushing noted that another revenue source, sales tax receipts, is up 7.7 percent over the same period last year, attributing the gain, in part, to new construction in the city.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Nanny State:

Now that you've passed a law increasing the smoking age from 18 to 21 based on the pronouncements of mental health professionals that 18-year-olds' "brains are not fully developed," why are we still al-

lowing these undeveloped brains to vote or to drive? These activities can result in harm to people other than the 18- to 21-year-olds themselves.

Dr. Greg Smith
Mineola

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 BINGO every Thursday, 7 p.m., doors open 5:30, 2015 E. Hwy. 80, Mineola, snack bar, 903-569-5965
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 Degorostiza, 903-763-4127
Boy Scouts Troop 385 Mineola - Tuesdays 7 p.m., Mineola Methodist Education Bldg. third floor. New boys/alums 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 CAFE, 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 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, Stitchin' 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 Cafe 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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From the depths of meth addiction, a ministry rises

By PHIL MAJOR
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Kevin Moree had turned his life around once. But it did not last.

Moree, who founded the Life After Meth Ministry in Wood County, had experienced the detrimental impact of drugs and crime when he left Fort Worth. He came here to try to break away from that more than three decades ago.

"I wound up in the same mess," he said.

Eventually he got clean for several years. But some personal tragedies led him back to his bad habits, culminating in a sentence in the Texas prison system.

Combined with time in the county jail, he spent about 15 years behind bars.

It was there that he admitted his way was not working, and it was time for a change.

"You hear about jailhouse religion," Moree said. He had grown up knowing God and going to Sunday school.

He began a personal and private relationship, taking inventory and beginning a journey.

That led to discussions with a cellmate, who was overbearing. But after he left, Kevin looked at the Bible the man had left behind and opened it.

It was saying to him, "Read me again." He opened it, and the words literally leapt off the pages.

"I was broken right there," he said.

"There was no fighting it; no arguing with the Spirit."

But prison is a rough place, he said, a tough place to proclaim the word of God.

"In prison, you fight," he said, and he fought the toughest battles of his life. It took a couple years for the other inmates to realize he was serious about his faith, and the physical confrontations subsided.

It was while imprisoned in the Allred unit near Wichita Falls, working at his prison job as a welder, that he began to ask the Lord what it is that he can bring to the table, to be a blessing.

That's when it began to become more clear, that the Life After Meth ministry began to take shape.

Moree had some reluctance at first.

"I'm not the one for this," he thought. "I'm not worthy."

He began to write in a journal and spell out short- and long-term goals for what a potential ministry might achieve.

He envisioned toy drives and providing food and clothing for those in need.

There were needs in the prison, too.

He discovered while gathering the trash that Bibles had been thrown away. So he retrieved them and gave them to inmates who wanted one.

Through his contacts in Wood County, he expressed the need for Bibles in the prison.

One day he was called in about some Bibles that had been delivered.

"You're gonna need a cart," he was told. The folks here had sent 500. The chapel in the Allred unit is still providing Bibles.

Coincidentally, or perhaps not, one of his supporters in Wood County is a relative of the prison's namesake, the 33rd governor of Texas, James V. Allred.

The next target was the prison infirmary, which had a section of closed off units. It was essentially what passed for hospice for dying prisoners.



Kevin Moree mans the dunking booth during the Life Without Meth Ministries family event in Alba June 8. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)

Moree had an older friend there and visited him. It was then that he realized those men were dying alone.

So he went to the chaplain with the idea to start a prisoner-led hospice program.

The initial reactions were less than favorable. But Moree went to work, eventually meeting with the prison warden.

To Moree's surprise, the warden agreed to consider the program.

A couple months later he was called back to the warden's office and learned that the prison committee had agreed unanimously to his request.

He put together a team of five men to serve.

Some of the inmates wanted to pray, others just wanted to tell their story. Some, who could not read, wanted letters they had received to be read to them.

One man, who said he was not religious, just wanted to be able to get out in time to die at his brother's home – which seemed a hopeless request.

Moree asked if he could pray about it.

The next time the team came to visit, this man, who had been unkempt and unbathed, had shaved, bathed and wore clean clothes.

There must be something to this prayer, he told Moree. The parole board had granted him leave to go home and die.

Still, Moree questioned the path he was taking – from the life he had come from, to be used this way.

"I'm rough around the edges," he said, evidenced by tattoos down both arms.

But at that point he knew this was something much bigger.

He left prison in May 2016.

He began speaking around the area and got involved with Celebrate Recovery in Quitman as a facilitator.

But still, he said, something was missing.

That's when he connected with the jail administrator in

Hopkins County, who had heard about his ministry through a family connection with Celebrate Recovery.

That led to two teams, one men and one women, who visit the jail weekly.

Around 45-50 men and 20 to 30 women come to the meetings, which have been held about a year.

Next came the first of what has grown into three recovery groups. The first meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the civic center in Alba.

The ministry recently sponsored a family event in downtown Alba, modeled after its first event a few weeks ago in Canton.

Moree and the Life After Meth team work one-on-one with addicts and conduct interventions. And those toy drives doubled from the first year to the second.

The group will hold its second fan drive soon, and Moree said he hopes to add a couple air conditioners this year for someone who needs them.

Word continues to spread.

Moree heard from a retired Dept. of Public safety chaplain who connected him with the law enforcement community in Van Zandt County.

Moree explains the importance of connections with the law enforcement community for recovering addicts. They can see that law enforcement is not the enemy, but a partner in their recovery.

Officers do not want to kick down doors and take children from families, but as one explained to him, sometimes the addicts leave them no choice.

The ministry has worked with Child Protective Services and has seen families reunited and children returned to their homes, Moree said.

"It's such a blessing at the end of the day," he said. "Sometimes you don't have words for what you've seen."

One key to the ministry is that those seeking recovery will find love, not judgment. And they find it from folks who have been down the same road.

"You guys get it," Moree said they have been told. "You don't reject us."

He is quick to point out that while they do provide love to the addicts, they also step on toes and are tough when needed.

Every addict has been hurt somewhere, somehow, Moree explained. It's necessary to get to the root of the pain and detox from that anger and rejection before recovery can begin from the chemical dependency.

Moree knows first-hand. He was brought up with good values but lost his way. It was a long journey back, but that journey made him what he is today.

"I just became obedient," he said.

The ministry team now includes about 600 supporters and an active group of around 25. They are all over-comers, he said.

One of their next goals is to meet with state lawmakers to see if they can change the dialogue about addiction and recovery, different from a clinical and statistical view.

"Hopefully they'll listen," Moree said.

The methamphetamine crisis – widespread in East Texas – has turned into something ugly, he said. It breaks up families and ruins lives, and it clogs the justice system.

The ministry is non-profit and is supported by donations. It is attracting interest from around the country, Moree said. He had a recent call from New Mexico asking to provide training in his methods. And people are wanting to know where Alba, Texas is.

(Follow the Life After Meth Ministry Facebook page, including videos from visits to the Hopkins County jail.)

MEALS ON WHEELS

THIS WEEK'S MENUS:

Friday, June 21 - Parmesan Chicken, Mixed Vegetables, Spiced Pears, WG Breadstick, Milk

Monday, June 24 - BBQ Beef, Mashed Red Potatoes, Mixed Fruit Cobbler, Hamburger Bun, Milk

Tuesday, June 25 - Oven Fried Chicken Thigh (2), Macaroni & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Dinner Roll, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, June 26 - Sliced Turkey Breast, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Corn Salad, Wheat Bread (2), Graham Crackers, Milk, Mustard, Mayo

Thursday, June 27 - Chicken Spaghetti, Spinach, Cinnamon Peaches, Biscuit, Milk

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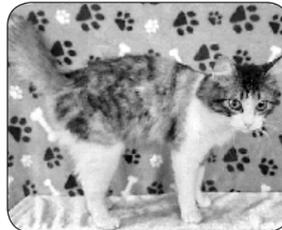
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Wood County Sheriff's Report

JUNE 5

Deputies went out on an arrest/warrant service to Highway 11 at 3:04 a.m. Brangie Barton, 40, of Winnsboro, was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 4985 off of FM 1643 in Winnsboro at 7:20 a.m. in reference to an abandoned vehicle. Deputies located a burned and abandoned vehicle, which had been stolen out of Hopkins County. The appropriate parties were notified.

Deputies went out on an arrest/warrant service to W. Bermuda in Quitman at 8:09 a.m. Steven Lumpkin, 48, of Pittsburg, was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1515 at 10:43 a.m. in reference to a suspicious person. Deputies located the individual and issued a criminal trespass warning.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3847 in Hawkins at 12:23 p.m. in reference to an assault. The case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to Highway 80 in Mineola at 4:17 p.m. in reference to an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Deputies concluded that this issue was a civil matter. During the investigation, additional theft charges were alleged. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were contacted by phone at 4:57 p.m. in reference to a theft that had occurred on Private Road 5553 in Alba. The reporting party wished to add an additional missing item to his previous report.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1912 in Yantis at 6:41 p.m. in reference to a disturbance. After talking to each of the parties, the deputies determined that an alleged assault had actually occurred two weeks prior. A family violence packet was provided to the reporting party. In the course of the call, deputies discovered three marijuana plants growing on the front porch. Both parties denied ownership so, since they both resided at the home, Christopher Glenn King, 43, of Yantis, and April Dawn Robinson, 42, of Yantis, were arrested for alleged possession of marijuana, two ounces or less.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1513 in Alba at 8 p.m. to an individual wishing to speak to an officer about a criminal trespass issue. Deputies located the individual in question and issued a criminal trespass warning.

Deputies were dispatched to FM 515 near A.J.'s Fish House at 8:50 p.m. in reference to a criminal trespassing issue. Deputies located the subject and issued a criminal trespass warning.

JUNE 6

Deputies were dispatched to the Lake Fork Cabins at 9:57 a.m. Someone had reserved a room over the phone with a false credit card number. The subject never showed up for the reservation.

Deputies were dispatched to Private Road 6232 in Mineola at 2:42 p.m. in reference to an assault. The reporting party reported an assault by a person known to him but did not wish to pursue any charges.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1340/FM 2966 at 3:14 p.m. in reference to dead cows. Deputies discovered the carcasses of three decomposed cows, which appeared to have been dead for several weeks. The deputies checked the condition of other cows on the property and determined them to be in good condition.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2210 in Mineola at 4:23 p.m. in reference to indecency with a child. Deputies spoke with the reporting party, and the case was to be forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to Highway 37 South, north of 2330, at 5:55 p.m. in reference to a person driving a riding lawnmower on the shoulder of the road. Deputies advised the subject that he was not allowed to ride his lawnmower on the roadway.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 4870 at 6:35 p.m. in reference to someone attempting to steal a dog. These incidents had been happening over the last several days and the deputies advised they would give extra patrol in the area.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3802 in Hawkins at 6:46 p.m. in reference to the possible fraudulent use of a credit card. A reporting party advised that his credit card company had notified him that someone was trying to use his information to open a new credit card account. Deputies advised him to also notify his bank.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2332 in Mineola at 9:30 p.m. in reference to an assault. Zachary Ramirez, 29, of Mineola was arrested for alleged

assault causing bodily injury of a family member and alleged aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2169 in Quitman at 10:13 p.m. in reference to a disturbance. Brandon Lee Keen, 33, of Quitman was arrested for allegedly evading arrest and/or detention and escape from custody and transported to the Wood County Jail.

JUNE 7

Deputies were dispatched to FM 69 and County Road 4940 in Winnsboro at 11:04 a.m. in reference to a criminal trespass warning. Deputies issued criminal trespass warnings against two individuals.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1479 in Como at 11:30 a.m. in reference to a burglary of a habitation. The reporting party advised that his rifle was missing from his home.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3689 in Hawkins at 11:31 a.m. in reference to a theft. A reporting party advised that a few items were missing from her yard.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1912 in Yantis at 1:58 p.m. on a welfare check. The subject was located and transported to the hospital.

Deputies were dispatched to W. Highway 80 in Mineola at 3:58 p.m. on a theft case. Deputies spoke to the reporting party and will forward this case to investigators.

Deputies met with a citizen in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office at 4:35 p.m. in reference to a past sexual assault of a child. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3689 in Hawkins at 8:11 p.m. regarding a theft of property. Deputies met with the parties and issued a criminal trespass warning to one of the individuals.

Deputies made a traffic stop on Cheyenne in Holiday Villages at 8:22 p.m. Jimmy Joe Heiman, 63, of Quitman was arrested for alleged possession of a controlled substance (Penalty Group 1) less than one gram, tampering with physical evidence, and fleeing or attempting to elude police.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3250 in Quitman at 9:07 p.m. regarding criminal mischief. Deputies observed damage to a flat screen TV, Xbox, window blinds and linoleum flooring.

JUNE 8

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3400 in Hawkins at 7:25 a.m. regarding a burglary of a building. Deputies met with the reporting party, who stated that multiple items had been stolen from his shop located behind his residence.

Deputies were dispatched to Private Road 7912 in Hawkins at 8:16 a.m. regarding criminal mischief. Somebody had broken two windows and kicked in the back door to his unfinished cabin.

Deputies went out on an arrest/warrant service to Highway 154 at 10:56 a.m. James Long, 54, of Quitman was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Deputies were dispatched to Private Road 6673 in Mineola at 11:24 a.m. regarding gun shots. Deputies met with the reporting party who wanted to confirm that the shooter was aiming in a safe direction, away from her residence. Deputies met with the subject and confirmed that he was shooting safely.

Deputies were dispatched to S. FM 14 in Hawkins at 12:28 p.m. regarding shots being fired. The deputies arrived on scene to find a female shot in the neck being attended by EMS. While deputies were interviewing witnesses, the shooter came back to the scene and stated the shooting had been accidental. He was transported to the Sheriff's Office to be further interviewed. This is an active case.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop on Patten in Quitman at 4 p.m. The passenger, Adrienne Nicholle Loyd, 26, of Hawkins was arrested for alleged possession of a controlled substance (penalty group 1) under one gram. She also made a report of an assault that had occurred previously in Mineola.

Deputies were dispatched to Wigley in Mineola at 8:50 p.m. to assist Mineola P.D. on an assault in progress.

JUNE 9

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2121 in Quitman at 9:33 a.m. in reference to the win-

dow of his car being broken.

Deputies were dispatched to Brown Bow in Quitman at 11:53 a.m. in reference to a theft. A reporting party stated that his boat was missing and was last seen in March of 2019.

Deputies were dispatched to U.T. Quitman Hospital at 2:59 p.m. in reference to a dog bite. The victim stated that he had been bitten at Little River Bend in Quitman while trying to put his friend's dog on a chain in the yard. The dog will be quarantined for 10 days.

Deputies were dispatched to E. Highway 80 in Mineola at 6:35 p.m. in reference to a terroristic threat. A reporting party stated that he had been in a fight with someone, who then began making threats against the reporting party and his family. This case remains active.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2377 in Alba at 6:46 p.m. in reference to an alarm. Deputies met with the Alba-Golden superintendent and, while checking the school, discovered that one of the vending machines had been opened and vandalized.

Deputies were dispatched to a major accident on FM 2869 in Winnsboro at 8:17 p.m. Deputies stayed with the driver and passenger until they were transported to the hospital.

JUNE 10

Deputies were dispatched to Private Road 5551 in Alba at 8:51 a.m. in reference to terroristic threats. The victim reported that known individuals are sending e-mails and voice mail messages with threats, and wanted a report made.

Deputies were contacted by phone at 11:02 a.m. in reference to a dog bite that had occurred on County Road 1416 in Quitman. The caller described the dog, but deputies were unable to contact the owner. The deputies will continue to attempt contact to obtain proof of a rabies vaccination.

Deputies were dispatched to Highway 80 E in Mineola, at 11:59 a.m. in reference to an assault. Someone came home to find a person known to him inside his home without permission. The intruder then assaulted the homeowner and left the residence.

Deputies were dispatched to FM 778 in Hawkins at 5:15 p.m. in reference to a disturbance. A juvenile was arrested for assault causing bodily injury and family violence.

Deputies were dispatched to E. Highway 80 in Mineola at 9:25 p.m. in reference to a burglary. Deputies observed that someone had forced entry into the home and stolen a large amount of items, along with a trailer.

Deputies initiated a traffic stop on County Road 1912 in Yantis at 11:25 p.m. Christopher Glenn King, 43, of Yantis was arrested for allegedly driving while license invalid with a previous conviction, driving without financial responsibility and possessing drug paraphernalia.

JUNE 11

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 3340 in Hawkins at 8:09 a.m. in reference to identity theft. The reporting party advised that he was contacted by a bank regarding a new bank account that had been opened in his name without his knowledge.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 1452 in Quitman at 10:57 a.m. in reference to a theft. Deputies met with the parties who advised that they had paid a contractor to purchase supplies to build a house and shop, but these supplies were never brought to the location and the work never performed.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2660 in Mineola at 6:49 p.m. in reference to a missing person. The reporting party advised that her husband had not returned from his daily walk and had been missing for three hours. Additional deputies were dispatched to search for the subject, including Sheriff Tom Castloo. The subject was located by the sheriff and transported back to his residence.

Deputies were dispatched to County Road 2774 in Mineola at 9:25 p.m. in reference to a theft. The reporting party stated that someone had stolen multiple items from her property.

Between the dates of June 5 and June 11, Wood County Sheriff's deputies responded to multiple agency assists that included the following: Department of Public Safety, Quitman Police Department, UT Health Quitman, Hawkins Police Department and the Mineola Police Department.

Mineola Police Report

JUNE 6

8:45 p.m. Walmart reported a theft after reviewing video.

JUNE 7

10:08 a.m. William Ellis Abrams, 34, of Hawkins was arrested for alleged possession of drug paraphernalia after he was stopped for his vehicle obstructing the roadway on Harris Street. Abrams allegedly was in possession of a pipe with suspected methamphetamine residue.

10:31 a.m. A resident on South Street reported being harassed by a neighbor, who reportedly would yell at her every time she went outside.

2:57 p.m. A resident on West Blair Street reported that his neighbor put his leaves and brush in his yard, so he put the leaves and brush back in the neighbor's yard. The neighbor showed up at that time and an argument ensued. An officer spoke with both parties and everything calmed down. The brush was picked up.

9:51 p.m. Officers responded to a call of a man in the roadway with a cell phone light, pacing back and forth on Country Club Drive. When officers arrived, they found the man lying on the ground. They determined he was intoxicated. A friend picked the man up and took him to his mother's residence. At 10:41 p.m., Carlos Hernandez, 19, of Mineola came into the police department to speak with an officer. It was determined that he was the same intoxicated man from an earlier call who had been released to his mother. Hernandez was arrested for public intoxication.

10:24 p.m. A burglary of a vehicle was reported on Carolyn Street. The resident reported that when he walked out into his garage, a man was in his wife's vehicle and took off running. At the end of the driveway, the resident located his wife's debit card and cash taken from the vehicle. Its doors were unlocked.

11:03 p.m. A resident on Krause Street reported that someone drove by his residence and accused him of stealing something from them, and they pulled a gun on him. An officer responded to the residence and spoke with the male. He told the officer that two females had pulled up in front of his residence and pointed an or-

ange tip BB gun at him. The male refused to provide any further information.

JUNE 8

7:05 a.m. A man was reportedly sleeping on a picnic table under the pavilion at the Civic Center for a couple days. An officer responded to the area and identified the subject. He was asked to leave the park.

2:46 p.m. Walmart reported a shoplifter leaving the store. The male left before an officer arrived. A report was filed and this is under investigation.

8:37 p.m. An assault was reported at a residence on Wigley Street. Cary Eugene Lane, 20, of Mineola was arrested for alleged assault causing bodily injury when he assaulted a 15-year-old who resides at the same residence. The 15-year-old male also stated he was pushed by an adult female in the residence. Charges were not filed on the female due to the victim signing a non-prosecution.

JUNE 9

10:03 a.m. Andrea Shiloh McClain, 33, of Mineola was arrested at her residence for a parole violation warrant and a Lindale Police Department warrant for theft with two or more previous convictions.

10:33 a.m. A woman called and said she had video of a male burning her property at a residence where she had been staying on Wigley Street. Arrangements were made with another resident to allow the woman to retrieve her property from the residence.

JUNE 10

10:31 a.m. A welfare concern was reported in reference to a woman sitting in a vehicle in the Walmart parking lot. She was extremely hard to wake up. An officer spoke with her. EMS was contacted to check her out. She turned out to be OK, but she went to a friend's residence to get someone to drive her vehicle.

10:58 a.m. A business on West McDonald Street reported a theft, reporting that an ex-employee took a laptop. This is under investigation. The business requested that two individuals be banned from the property.

JUNE 11

10:15 a.m. A business on West

Broad Street requested an officer to remove a customer who was cursing and causing a scene.

5:44 p.m. A verbal disturbance was reported at a residence on North Newsom Street. When officers arrived, marijuana was found in plain view inside the residence. Jarvis Tyrese Lee, 30, of Mineola, was arrested for alleged possession of marijuana under two ounces.

JUNE 12

10:17 a.m. Cheryll Denise Hunt, 45, of Mineola was arrested on South Street for a traffic violation.

11:04 a.m. Carrie Vance, 46, of Mineola was arrested for an outstanding Wood County warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and an on-site charge of possession of a controlled substance under one gram after an officer observed her walking on North Johnson Street and knew she had a warrant. Vance was allegedly in possession of baggies with methamphetamine residue at the time of her arrest.

12:13 p.m. A business on North Pacific Street reported two fraudulent checks that had been written for groceries and fuel in June. The two checks were determined to be fraudulent.

2:57 p.m. Donald Christopher Buchanan, 46, of Mineola and Marvin Lee Carr, 62, of Mineola were arrested after Buchanan was stopped on East McDonald Street for an expired registration. Buchanan was arrested for alleged possession of a controlled substance under one gram (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana under two ounces, and driving while license invalid (enhanced). Carr, the passenger, was arrested for alleged possession of a controlled substance under one gram (methamphetamine), and possession of a controlled substance under 28 grams (pills).

8:38 p.m. A woman reported that her ex-boyfriend pointed a gun at her when she drove by on Read Street. This is under investigation.

10:13 p.m. A business on North Pacific Street reported a man to be in the restaurant who appeared to be intoxicated. Officers responded and determined through a field sobriety test that the man did not display signs of intoxication.

Mineola Fire Report

Medical assistance: June 12, 1:49 a.m., 802 University St., Mineola.

Motor vehicle accident with injuries: June 6, 8:12 p.m., 100 NE Loop 564, Mineola.

Smoke or odor removal: June 7, 5:34 p.m., 1836 Park Place, Mineola.

Dispatched & canceled en route: June 8 11:39 a.m., 249 CR 2317, Mineola; June 10,

12:09 p.m., 110 PR 6646, Mineola.

No incident found on arrival at dispatch address: June 10, 1:21 p.m. W. US Hwy 80, Mineola.

SUIT

From page 1

in prison.

At the conclusion of McGee's trial, Fletcher signed a warrant for Beville's arrest. The judge asserted that in signing the affidavit, Beville had essentially lied under oath. Beville had offered an opinion with no basis in fact, Fletcher stated in June 2017. "For Mr. Beville to make a statement that we have close relationships that are somehow detrimental to somebody getting a fair trial, that's just a blatant misstatement and a plain lie," Fletcher stated in 2017.

The lawsuit claims that

Beville signed the affidavit believing it to be true.

In his lawsuit, Beville also alleges that Castloo, Wheeler and Fletcher pressured former Quitman Mayor Dobbs and Police Chief Kelly Cole to terminate his employment. The suit claims that Castloo, Wheeler and Fletcher threatened retaliation against the city by withholding resources unless the police department fired Beville.

Castloo addressed the Quitman City Council on June 22, 2017, the day after Beville was fired. The sheriff expressed disappointment in the city's lack of a public response to Beville's affidavit, according to the law-

suit. Castloo stated that he believed the Quitman City Council should have refuted Beville's statements and done more to support the sheriff's office, the district attorney and the district judge, according to the lawsuit.

On Oct. 31, 2018, 16 months after he was charged and approximately 10 days after Wheeler had left the district attorney's office while under investigation by the Texas Rangers, a Wood County grand jury found insufficient evidence to indict Beville.

Beville seeks a jury trial and is represented by attorneys Laura Benitez Geisler, Sean J. McCaffity and Jody Rosenberg of Dallas.

Early holiday deadlines set

The July 4 edition of the Wood County Monitor will be published one day early to accommodate press and postal schedules.

The newspaper will be sent to the press on Monday, July 1.

All news submissions, advertising and classifieds should be submitted

no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, June 28.

Monitor offices in Quitman and Mineola will be closed for the holiday on Thursday, July 4.



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Obituaries

GLEND A HOWLE OWEN 1939-2019



Glenda Howle Owen, 79, of Longview died Tuesday, June 11, 2019. She was born in Longview to C.R. Howle and Sarah Pauline (Dial) Howle on Sept. 23, 1939. She was a Longview resident for eight years, living in Wood County many years prior. She was a Christian and visited many churches. She enjoyed spending her free time with family and with her lifelong best friend of 50 to 60 years, Janece Chandler Baldwin.

She is preceded in death by her parents, C.R. and Pauline Howle; husband, Don L. Owen; and grandson, Hunter Wilson.

Survivors include her daughter, Karla Wilson Smith of Longview; son, Wesley Keith Wilson of Longview; stepchildren, Mike and Greg Owen; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and other friends and relatives.

LINDA BRADSHAW 1947-2019



Memorial services for Linda Bradshaw, 71, of Quitman were Thursday, June 13 at Lowe Funeral Home with Brother Fred Morrow officiating.

Mrs. Bradshaw died June 11, 2019.

Linda Sue (Jackson) Bradshaw was born in Winnsboro on Oct. 4, 1947, to J.R. and Audrey (Usrey) Jackson. On Sept. 20, 1967, she married the love of her life, Johnny Bradshaw, in Grice, Texas. The two lived in Dallas several years before moving back to Quitman in 1982. She worked for Western Electric and later for Airborne Inc. for 10 years, but her greatest accomplishment was being a homemaker. She was a devoted wife for 51½ years and a role model to her children and grandchildren. She selflessly raised her grandchildren, teaching them to cook, keep house, and how to raise a family. She enjoyed making porcelain dolls and sewing, but

after her great-grandchildren arrived, she could be found spending time and loving on them.

Mrs. Bradshaw was a Christian and a member of Little Hope Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, J.R. and Audrey Jackson; brother, Bobby Jackson; sister, Eva Bradshaw; daughter, Shelly Bradshaw; and son, Kevin Bradshaw.

Survivors include her husband, Johnny Bradshaw of Quitman; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Linda may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Hospitals for Children.

ESMERALDA VILLAFUERTE VARGAS 1985-2019



Esmeralda Villafuerte Vargas, 33, of Andrews and Odessa, passed away on Friday, June 14, 2019 in Midland.

Family and friends gathered to celebrate her life at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at the First Baptist Church, 201 NE 2nd Street, in Andrews with Pastor Brant O'Connor, officiating. Interment followed in the Andrews North Cemetery under the personal care of McNett Funeral Home. Please visit www.mcnettfuneralhome.com for obituary information, visitation and service details, and family pictures or videos.

Esmeralda was born on Sept. 24, 1985 in Andrews. She was raised in Andrews and graduated from Andrews High School in 2003. She graduated from Odessa College in Andrews with her LVN degree and had been working toward her RN degree. She had worked for several nursing homes in the area for about nine years. She had lived in Andrews and Odessa, and she married Jose Miguel "Michael" Vargas on Sept. 1, 2017 in Andrews. She loved working and caring for others, scrapbooking, writing in her journal, pizza and burgers, and spending time with her family, especially her children. She had attended First Baptist Church

in Andrews, and she was preceded in death by her brother, Domingo Esteban Villafuerte.

Esmeralda is survived by her husband, Michael Vargas of Odessa; parents, Esteban and Ermelinda Villafuerte of Andrews; two sons, Luis Julian Villafuerte and Michael Esteban Vargas of Andrews; grandfather, Luis Villafuerte of Mexico, six siblings, Lisa Williams and husband, Keith, of Houston, Toni Wilson and husband, Kevin, of McAllen, Earlene Moreno of San Antonio, Estella Villafuerte and Kimberly Villafuerte of Andrews, and Esteban Villafuerte, Jr. and wife, Stephanie, of Astoria, N.Y.

ELYSE LARUE REED 1923-2019



Elyse LaRue Reed was born July 1, 1923, in Quitman to Addie Bernice Hausenfluke Reed and John Lofton Reed. She was one of four children including her big sister Marie, brother Marion and baby sister Mary Helen. Elyse married William Thomas Folowell in 1946 and had one daughter Jana, and two sons William and John. Those children have blessed her with grandchildren and

great-grandchildren whom have known Elyse as their Gigi. She was a woman before her time, a fearless businesswoman and role model. She was independent in spirit enjoying her family, the church, gardening, cooking and was active in softball, bowling, golfing and fishing while spending her summers on the coast. Elyse passed from this world, at her home, in Sulphur Springs, on June 7, 2019, just shy of her 96th birthday on Juneteenth. Elyse was preceded in death by her brother, Marion Reed, and sister Marie Hartsfield. Survivors include her sister, Mary Helen Lawrence of Rockwall; daughter, Jana Folowell Randall of Sulphur Springs; son, William Folowell of Albuquerque, N.M.; son, John Randal Folowell of Quitman; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The family plans a memorial service at Rock Hill Cemetery in Quitman Saturday, June 22 at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate Elyse's 96th birthday in heaven. Food at family Quitman home follows.

Mineola Memorial Library Notes

BY LIBRARIAN MARY HURLEY

It is summer time! We are very busy at the Library and that is great!

Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m. you can find Space Explorers for the children ages 3, 4, and 5 with their parents and kindergarten through fifth-graders hearing a story and participating in an activity. They earn a star for attending a program and a star for every five books read. These stars are placed on the ceiling of the children's department. Come visit and see our reading galaxy!

Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m. is when TNT—summer edition—meets. This group of sixth-graders to high school students gathers by the large print books and complete activities such as film canister rockets and paper light sabers that really light. Many other fun activities are planned.

Wednesday mornings at 10:15 is the time for Playing to Grow for infants up to 3 years old and their parents. Children hear a story, sing a song, and play with each other and their parents. Parents also have an opportunity to learn different things related to their child's development from guests with knowledge in child-related fields.

Thursday mornings are for Baby Bounce at 10 a.m. for children ages infant to 18 months and their parents. Here they learn songs, hear stories, and find ways to incorporate learning and literacy in ways that are fun.

Fourth Saturday (June 22) at 10 a.m. will be time for crochet. If you can crochet, then bring a project or participate in a



group project. If you don't know how to crochet but want to learn, then come on down and the group will help you. If crochet is not your thing but crafting is, then bring your project and work on that. This group is for fellowship and crochet.

Heads up that the Library will be closed on July 4. Realizing that is a little ways out but wanted to go ahead and advise.

The Bookmobile traveled to summer school for kindergarten through second grade and for third through fifth grade. Each meeting had information or a story about space and an activity. The children also had an opportunity to check out a book for pleasure reading during the week. The Bookmobile also travels to Addie E. McFarland Community Center for a weekly program during the lunch hour. A story is read and an activity is presented. We enjoy visiting both of these places and interacting with the children. It is a lot of fun!

Perhaps you have seen things moving around the Library. Maybe you have noticed things being removed from the Library. In August, we will receive new shelving and furniture. To make this as easy as possible, we are attempting some prep work between library programs. Keep watching for these changes.

The Mineola Memorial Library received a memorial donation for Margaret Steele from Linda Rhodes and a donation for the Bookmobile from the Pilot Club. We do appreciate all donations. Remember, the Mineola Memorial Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Widows, widowers group to meet June 28

The second meeting of a recently formed group of widows and widowers has been set for June 28 at Holy Brook Baptist Church,

Hawkins.

There will be a movie and snacks for the 2 p.m. event in the Family Life Center. All widows and widowers

are invited. There is no admission charge.

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

Winnsboro Councilman Mellenberger found dead

Winnsboro City Councilman Mel Mellenberger died Tuesday morning at the green station in Winnsboro. No foul play is suspected, according to Winnsboro Police Chief Andy Chester.

Mellenberger, who was elected for the first time to the Winnsboro City Council in May, went through the gate to the site in Winnsboro where people dispose of brush and tree limbs.

He was found a little bit later deceased, said Chester. "He's was a super nice guy," Chester said of Mel-

lenger.

He described him as an outstanding volunteer for the city who had just attended his first city council meeting.

"We're pretty shook up here," Chester said. "It's a great loss, that's for sure."

Mellenberger was a native of Kentucky who moved to Texas shortly after his honorable discharge from the U.S. Marines in 1967, according to biographical information on the City of Winnsboro website.

He married Joan Rhoad-



MELLENBERGER

es, a native Texan, who passed away in 2016 shortly after the couple's 54th anniversary.

The couple moved to Winnsboro in 2008, and Mellenberger was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for Winnsboro in 2017.

EYES

From page 1

into one another again at a different coffee shop – the Speakeasy Coffee House in Quitman. The two were "both coming out of some low points in our lives and looking for some hope and inspiration and something to focus on," Pogue recalls.

He asked if she'd ever completed the collage project – a question that set wheels in motion.

"We got to talking about how each eye is so unique," says Duncan. "No one else has your eyes, and each one tells a story. As we were talking about that, this whole project developed."

Both love to brainstorm, but "I don't have a lot of stick to it-ness. I tend to have a lot of great ideas all the time, so I run from one thing to another," Duncan confesses.

Asked if Pogue serves to anchor the project, she re-

plies: "I don't know that he's the anchor; I just think that together we're holding each other accountable."

"She's the brain, so I guess I'm the face," interjects Pogue with a smile.

It's Pogue who promotes the project and makes initial contacts with people and businesses.

"He's much more personable than me," Duncan says laughing.

"She's really good with the one-on-one and getting the in-depth stuff, and I'm kind of breaking the ice with people," Pogue notes.

Duncan, a wife, mother, step-mother and grandmother of soon-to-be six, runs a natural remedies and expressive arts business (Peaceful Warrior Creations) from her home. At age 42, Duncan has outlived the average life expectancy – age 38 – for a person with cystic fibrosis. It dawned on her last year that she'll probably live a good deal longer than

expected, she notes.

And for the foreseeable future, much of her time will be devoted to "Eye See You for You."

"The main focus of this project – the main focus of our mission is connection. That is what we're about. It's connecting people with each other – with struggles, with hopes and perseverance and overcoming," she asserts.

Pogue and Duncan speak of being humbled and moved by other people's stories.

"She'll sit with the people and then come out all teary eyed," says Pogue.

"And then I'm crying while writing," adds Duncan. "It's very emotional. It's very raw."

It's a product of connect-

ing. "When someone is looking in their eyes and they feel like they matter, they will open up," she says, later adding, "We need to feel heard."

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 903-765-9450
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 Rev. Beverly Tune

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Open Door Church
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 B.D. Bohannon

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 (903) 765-2675
 Pastor: Otis Lee

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 903 768-2258
 Pastor Robert Mounce
Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church
 205 County Road 2376, Golden
 903-768-2653
 Pastor Craig Kearby

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 James Stringer

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 903-768-2268
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 903-769-2250
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 Rev. Michael T. Snyder
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 903-569-5537

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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

Wood County Monitor classifieds

Merchandise for Sale

Garage Sales

Yantis, 7153 FM 2225, Fri.-Sat., June 21-22, 8a.m.-4p.m., 5 miles east of 154 and 515 intersection. Lots of items for sale, including trailer and fishing items.

Golden, 725 FM 1799, Fri.-Sat., June 21-22, 8a.m.-5p.m. Yard Sale in downtown Golden.

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Real Estate For Sale

Homes

House for Sale, Clear Lakes, 1232 CR 2140, Quitman. Contact Darren Harvey, 903-274-2816.

Lots

Lot for sale, Clear Lakes. Contact Darren Harvey, 903-274-2816.

Rentals

Homes

1-2-3 Bedrooms for rent. No pets. M&M Property Management. 903-569-9881.

Mobile Homes

Mobile homes for rent 3 bedroom 2 bath single wide, 3 bedroom 2 bath double wide, 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath single wide. No pets allowed. 903-850-3570.

ALBA GOLDEN ISD HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals for this project will be received until Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m, by email to bids@jacksonconstruction.com.

Construction Documents may be viewed online via SmartBid.net. For information on receiving plans, contact Bryan Parma at 214-998-9274 or bids@jacksonconstruction.com.

Alba Golden ISD and Jackson Construction Co., Inc. reserve the right to award the contract on any basis deemed in their best interest. They also reserve the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any formalities.

QUITMAN ISD TENNIS COURTS, AUDITORIUM ENTRY, AND ARTS RENOVATIONS INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals for this project will be received until Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 2:00 p.m, by email to bids@jacksonconstruction.com.

Construction Documents may be viewed online via SmartBid.net. For information on receiving plans, contact JD Hale at 214-998-9276 or bids@jacksonconstruction.com.

Quitman ISD and Jackson Construction Co., Inc. reserve the right to award the contract on any basis deemed in their best interest. They also reserve the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any formalities.

CAUSE No. 13,414

IN THE ESTATE OF CHARLES DONALD MALLICOTE DECEASED § IN THE COUNTY COURT § OF § WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES DONALD MALLICOTE, Deceased, were issued on June 3, 2019, in Cause No. 13,414, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: Melody A. Lundquist.

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.

Melody A. Lundquist, Executrix
c/o: Law Offices of Melissa O'Neal
Melissa O'Neal
5361 South State Hwy 37
Mineola, Texas 75773

DATED the 17 day of June, 2019.

Melissa O'Neal
Melissa O'Neal
Attorney for Melody A. Lundquist
State Bar No.: 24047821
5361 South State Hwy. 37
Mineola, TX 75773
Telephone: (903) 638-6897
Facsimile: (903) 705-6438
E-mail: oneal.law@live.com



Mineola Police Department is accepting applications for the position of POLICE OFFICER

APPLICANTS MUST

- Be 21 years of age
- Possess a high school diploma or G.E.D
- Hold a basic certification from TCOLE
- Be of high moral character
- Be able to pass a thorough background investigation

Applications can be obtained from Mineola City Hall, 300 Greenville Highway. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Mineola is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing has been set for revision on the plat of Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision.

The revision includes lots 2 and 3R, Section 8, within Holly Lake Ranch Subdivision.

The public hearing is set for Friday, July 12, 2019, 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.

/s/ Lucy Hebron
Wood County Judge

Divide & Conquer Sale

Thurs., June 20 ~ 7:00-5:30 • Fri., June 21 ~ 8:00-5:30
Sat., June 22 ~ 8:00-2:00
Flat Creek Ranch at 810 FM 2493 West
Bullard, TX 75757

From SSW Loop 323 by the Brookshire Warehouse, travel south on the Old Jacksonville Hwy (FM 2493) straight to Bullard, Pass Brook Hill, the Bullard 4-way stop, the high school, the admin. building, the 1st Bapt. Church. The next driveway is the Flat Creek Ranch (across from a cemetery). Turn right onto the ranch property.

A house on this 1200-acre ranch has some remodeling to be done, so we are having a verrrry unique sale! (JoAnna Gaines and Round Top combined); antq. quilt chest; antq. sofa (as is); tole tray; vintage chairs; Heywood Wakefield furniture; farm tables; Swedish workbench; framed art; bamboo side table; cherub lamps; Quimper dishes; chests; trunks; Pottery Barn organizing unit; linens; vintage doll houses; doors; shutters; ice cream table & chairs; twig room divider; child's table & chairs; planters; wicker rocker, chest, daybed base; folding chairs; iron bed; bird houses; baskets; textiles; shabby chic; primitive; wardrobes; daybeds; concrete statues; antq. tools; books; easel; antq. wheelbarrow; statues; country selections; weathered wooden boxes; antq. shaving stand; industrial stools; antq. twin bed; windows; mirrors; vintage children's clothes; sooooo much more!

Pictures: DivideAndConquerOfEastTexas.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Cleo William McComas, Deceased, were issued on June 10, 2019, in Cause No. 13,485, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: BRITNEY CLOUD.

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

c/o: KYLE G. WAGGONER
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1152
Mineola, TX 75773

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joan Marie White, Deceased, were issued on June 10, 2019, in Cause No. 13,486, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: ROBERT BARRETT WHITE.

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

c/o: KYLE G. WAGGONER
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1152
Mineola, TX 75773

Public Notice

Requesting Public Comment

Habitat for Humanity of Smith County known as HFHSC is requesting public comment about HFHSC applying for a "Section 533 Housing Preservation" grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. The grant will be used to repair homes of low to very-low income families in rural Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Rusk, Van Zandt, Wood and Smith Counties, Texas. This project involves the rehabilitation of one to twenty homes in rural Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Rusk, Van Zandt, Wood and Smith Counties, Texas. Typical ReHabitat projects will involve roof replacement, bathroom repair, kitchen repair, window repair, flooring replacement, safety issues, etc. All comments should be sent to Raimund Gideon, Habitat Humanity of Smith County, 822 West Front Street, Tyler, Texas 75702 by July 1, 2019.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of George G. Pewitt, Deceased, were issued on June 10, 2019, in Cause No. 13,484, pending in the County Court of Wood County, Texas, to: Garry Michael Pewitt.

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

c/o: Garry Michael Pewitt
4185 CR 1600
Alba, Texas 75410

DATED the 11 day of June, 2019.

Garry Michael Pewitt
Bradley S. Campbell
Attorney for Garry Michael Pewitt
State Bar No.: 04694040
228 W. Broad Street
Mineola, TX 75773
Telephone: (903) 569-0000
Facsimile: (903) 569-1122
E-mail: bsc@clfpc.com

ALBA-GOLDEN
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOW HIRING
FULL TIME
Custodians
Maintenance
Workers
Bus Drivers

Applications are online at agisd.org or can be picked up at Alba-Golden ISD, Administration Office 1373 CR 2377, Alba, TX 75410
Phone (903)768-2472 x 1105 or FAX (903)-768-2130.
Applications to be turned in to Jamie Lennon, Human Resources.

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Contact Candy Janes HR
Clark Spencer Adm.
903-962-7595
1638 VZCR 1803 • Grand Saline, TX 75140
EEOC/M/F/D/V

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P.O. Box 1188 Mineola, TX 75773 (Across from WAL-MART)
903-569-5115
www.watkinsinsurancegroup.com

Jonathan, Rodney & Nic Watkins

Discounts up to 40%

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2019 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- TXism: "at the drop of _ _ _" (impulse)
- ice cream holder
- instrument seen at the Texas Renaissance Festival
- TXism: "the fat _ _ _ the fire" (trouble)
- TX "Buddy" Minyard (init.)
- rainbow shape
- TXism: "spittin' _ _ _ of" (identical)
- baby shoes
- married woman in Mexico
- Astro or Ranger game divisions
- this James was Marshal Matt Dillon
- toilet for a bedridden patient
- Bigfoot
- TX Audie Murphy 1959 film: " _ _ _ a Long Shadow"
- multinational aircraft manufacturer
- in Fannin County on highway 56
- TXism: "sneaky as _ _ _ sucking dog"
- TXism: " _ _ _ of a different color" (odd)
- elevated play area for kids (2 wds.)
- across from Laredo, TX: " _ _ _ Laredo"
- Dungeons & Dragons villain in several modules (2 wds.)
- TX Guy Clark wrote "Desperados Waiting for _ _ _" (1973)
- TXism: "it's root hog _ _ _ die"
- "Lost Maples State Natural"
- Alamo's William Travis: "I _ _ _ never surrender or retreat"
- the co. that TX Ross Perot started
- snaky Gulf fishes
- Houston Oilers played in this NY Stadium
- TXism: "saddle sores eventually _ _ _" (keep trying)
- tax agcy.
- univer. major
- TXism: "thinking _ _ _ doing"
- "Pride of America" is this in the U.S. (2 wds.)
- designation for a Confederate ship
- TX King Vidor's autobiography: "A Tree _ _ _ Tree"
- "Lord Have _ _ _ Working Man" (1992)
- Santa _ _ _ TX
- TXism: "that _ _ _ against my grain"
- archaic "long ago"
- cowboy's bolo, e.g.
- TXism: "old _ _ _ dirt"
- _ _ _ gun (air gun)
- genus of moth
- TXism: "sticks out like _ _ _ thumb"
- not urban
- "Summer Breeze" duo: " _ _ _ and Crofts"
- wicked
- early film actress, TX Vinson (init.)
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave _ _ _"
- persons who dress stylishly
- TX has _ _ _ with a lone star encircled by live oak and olive branches
- fighting toe to _ _ _
- hoop
- "fender bender" result
- jetties
- San _ _ _ TX
- TXism: "honest _ _ _ the day is long"
- this nat'l agcy. has medical centers throughout TX for veterans
- TX Roy Orbison's " _ _ _ Pretty Woman"
- 36 fighting toe to _ _ _
- hoop
- TXism: "sticks out like _ _ _ thumb"
- not urban
- "Summer Breeze" duo: " _ _ _ and Crofts"
- wicked
- early film actress, TX Vinson (init.)
- TX Buddy Holly hit: "Rave _ _ _"
- persons who dress stylishly
- TX has _ _ _ with a lone star encircled by live oak and olive branches
- fighting toe to _ _ _
- hoop

Under \$200/ MONTH buys land at Lake Fork. 50x100'. Perfect for site built homes, mobiles/ RV's. (903)878-7265.

Buy lot 50x100' near Lake Fork, RV ready, \$1500 down and monthly payments under \$200 (903) 878-7265

The City of Mineola 2018 Annual Water Quality Report is available upon request at Mineola Municipal Complex 300 Greenville Hwy. Mineola, Tx 75773, by calling (903) 569-6183 or on the City of Mineola website, www.mineola.com.

The Jalapeno Tree 25 YEARS
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Pepper Posse is hiring **ALL POSITIONS**
Apply in Person
2pm - 4pm Mon-Thur.
416 Broad St, Mineola

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF BILLY R. LAMINACK, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of BILLY R. LAMINACK, Deceased, were issued on June 3, 2019, in Cause No. 13,482, pending in the Probate Court of Wood County, Texas. All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present same within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims should be addressed in care of "MARC A. LAMINACK, Estate of BILLY R. LAMINACK, Deceased" and may be presented to the Representative at the following address: 3910 Kazak Street, Garland, Texas 75041.

Approved as to form

The Vermillion Law Firm, LLC
12655 N. Central Expressway, Suite 250
Dallas, Texas 75243
972/386-4560
Fax: 972/386-6075
Email: Jennifer@vermillionlawfirm.com

/s/ Jennifer C. Vermillion

JENNIFER C. VERMILLION, SBN. 24063976
ATTORNEY FOR THE EXECUTOR

County commissioners approve bids for properties struck off tax rolls

By ZAK WELLERMAN
news@woodcountymonitor.com

Wood County commissioners last week approved high bid offers for three tax sale struck off properties, which will be placed back on the tax rolls.

Trinidad Benham Corporation's offer of \$5,000 for a property in Mineola was approved by the court. The property value today is \$5,260, according to the bid analysis.

Jeremy Johnson's offer of \$3,500 for a property in Mineola was approved as well. Current property value is \$4,950, according to the bid analysis.

Kenneth and Kimberly Chapman's offer of \$32,000 for a property in the Yantis area was approved by the court. Property value for the land today is at \$28,380, according to the bid analysis.

In other action, Melanie Whitehurst was promoted from assistant chief juvenile probation officer to chief juvenile probation officer effective June 3. Rebecca Monk was hired as a clerk in the Wood County district attorney's office effective June 3.

An order of exemption from inscription requirements for county-owned vehicles was approved to include Whitehurst and Wood

County District Attorney Angela Albers.

Commissioners acknowledged the assignment of Lauren Parish, 115th District Court senior judge, to the 402nd District Court for Cause No. 2019-310, which is a civil case.

Revision of lots 150, 151 and 152, section four of Holly Lake Ranch subdivision was approved. A public hearing to revise lots 29 and 30 at Hidden Hills subdivision was set for July 26 during commissioner's court.

Road permit No. 2188 for Precinct 3, May constable reports and release of securities were each approved as well.

TRIAL

From page 1

wanted to know who he was communicating with online and requested a photo.

Karch eventually responded with a school yearbook photo of himself, the teen testified. The victim recognized Karch and then asked a series of questions, which confirmed Karch's identity, the teenager testified.

The boy's friends later encouraged him to stop communicating on the app, he testified. Karch's online relationship with the alleged victim eventually was reported in October 2017.

An investigation into the matter ensued.

The teenager testified that he spoke with Mineola ISD Superintendent Kim Tunnell, High School Principal David Sauer and Police Capt. Joyce Box. The teen told them during those initial interviews that there had not been any sexual communications between him and Karch, he testified. The teen testified that he didn't want to get Karch in trouble.

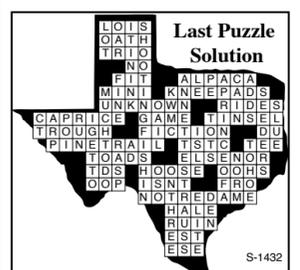
However, in a subsequent interview with Box, he told her about the sexual nature of the online conversations, the witness testified. He testified that he wanted that interview to be his last.

Karch's attorney, Tab Lawhorn, asked the witness about his time on the app and his interviews during the investigation.

The teenager confirmed that he had two accounts on the app during his communications with Karch. The first was deleted because app operators determined he was underage, the witness testified. When asked why he didn't reveal this information earlier, the teen said he didn't think it was important.

Under questioning by Lawhorn, the teen said he was not influenced by police or school officials about what to say as they questioned him. In response to a question by Lawhorn, the teenager said Box told him that she had talked to Karch, and he admitted that his communications with the teenager were sexual in nature.

Testimony in the trial continued Tuesday afternoon at the county courthouse in Quitman.



NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2011, a certain Adjustable Rate Home Equity Conversion Deed of Trust ("Reverse Mortgage") was executed by MARIE J SENNIKOFF, as mortgagor in favor of Bank Of America, N.A., A National Banking Association, as mortgagee and G. TOMMY BASTIAN, as trustee, and was recorded on February 10, 2011 under Clerk's Instrument Number 2011-00001750 in the real property records of Wood, Texas.

WHEREAS, the Reverse Mortgage was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the "Secretary") pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Reverse Mortgage is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated November 22, 2016, and recorded on December 12, 2016, under Clerk's Instrument Number 2016-00012054 in the real property records of Wood County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Reverse Mortgage in that the Mortgagors are now deceased; and

WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of July 2, 2019 is \$252,445.06; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Reverse Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on October 15, 2007 in Dallas County under Clerk's File Number 20070369306, notice is hereby given that on July 2, 2019, at 10:00 AM local time or no later than three hours thereafter, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder:

LOT NO. THREE (3) OF ACRES BONITA ESTATES, A SUBDIVISION OF WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SUBDIVISION FILED IN VOLUME 9, PAGE 222, PLAT RECORDS, WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS.

Commonly known as: 176 COUNTY ROAD 3282, QUITMAN, TX 75783.

The sale will be held in Wood County, Texas at the following location: EAST DOOR (FRONT DOOR) OF THE WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE OR AS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE or as designated by the County Commissioners Court.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid \$252,445.06.

There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorated share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.

When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$25,244.51 in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$25,244.51 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them.

The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due.

If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extension of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed.

The amount that must be paid if the mortgage is to be paid in full prior the scheduled sale is \$252,445.06, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement.

Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below.

Date: June 5, 2019

L. Keller Mackie
Foreclosure Commissioner
Mackie Wolf Zientz & Mann, P.C.
Parkway Office Center, Suite 900
14160 North Dallas Parkway
Dallas, TX 75254
(214) 635-2650
(214) 635-2686 Fax

Wood County Monitor classified ads

WOOD COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION SHARED SERVICE AREA ARRANGEMENT

The Wood County Special Education Shared Service Arrangement will be destroying confidential student information on special education students who have graduated, moved or were dismissed during the 2013-2014 school year. This will include records of special education students from the 5-member districts: Alba-Golden ISD, Hawkins ISD, Mineola ISD, Quitman ISD, and Yantis ISD. These records may be needed by your child or you in the future for the purpose of filing social security benefits or for other purposes. Parents of these students or the adult student may come to the Special Education Department located at 109 Earlene in Quitman, Texas, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to claim the file. Proof of identification will be required. Parents/adults students unable to come to the Special Education Office may send a written request for records to: Wood County Special Education: Tammy Willis; 109 Earlene, Quitman, Texas, 75783. Written request must include proof of identification. Written request must be received before June 27, 2019. The remaining files for the 2013-2014 school year will be destroyed as per state directives 30 days from the date of this notice. The district will retain on permanent record the student's name and other identifying information. If you have any questions, please call 903-763-2253.

MADERA COUNTY ESPECIAL EDUCACIÓN COMPARTIDA ARREGLO DEL ÁREA DE SERVICIO

La madera County educación especial compartido servicio arreglo será destruir información confidencial en los estudiantes de educación especial que se han graduado, movido o fueron despedidos durante el año escolar 2013-2014. Esto incluye registros de estudiantes de educación especial de los distritos de 5 miembros: Alba oro ISD, ISD Hawkins, Mineola ISD, Quitman ISD, y Yantis ISD. Estos registros pueden ser necesaria por su hijo o usted en el futuro con el fin de presentar los beneficios de seguro social o para otros fines. Los padres de estos estudiantes o el estudiante adulto pueden llegar al Departamento de educación especial ubicado en 109 Earlene Quitman, Texas, del lunes al jueves de 8:00 a 16:00 para reclamar el archivo. Prueba de identificación será requerido. Los padres/adultos estudiantes incapaces de ir a la oficina de educación especial pueden enviar una solicitud por escrito para los registros: educación especial del Condado de madera: Tammy Willis; 109 Earlene St, Quitman, Texas, 75783. Solicitud escrita debe incluir prueba de identificación. Solicitud debe ser recibida antes del 27 de junio de 2019. Se destruirán los archivos restantes para el año escolar 2013-2014 según las directivas de estado 30 días desde la fecha de este aviso. El distrito mantendrá un registro permanente el nombre del estudiante y otra información de identificación. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame 903-763-2253.

CLERK OF THE COURT
DONNA HUSTON
PO BOX 1707
QUITMAN, TX 75783

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY OR PETITIONER
Philip Alexander
P.O. Box 38
Emory, TX 75440

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Unknown Father and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s), Greeting:

"You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The Petition of, Petitioner, was filed in the 402nd Judicial District Court of Wood County, Texas on this the 11th day of June, 2019, against, Respondent(s), numbered 2019-343 and entitled 'IN THE INTEREST OF WALKER CARTER ELLIS'. The suit requests:

THE SUIT SEEKS TERMINATION OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's (children's) interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's (children's) adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and Seal of said Court at office in Quitman, Texas, on this the 14th day of June, 2019.

ATTEST:
DONNA HUSTON- CLERK
402nd Judicial District Court of
Wood County, Texas

Signed: 6/14/2019 9:28:46 AM

By: Jennifer Mosher, DEPUTY
Jennifer Mosher



CITATION ISSUED

Quitman High School Honor Roll

SIXTH SIX WEEKS ALL A'S

9th Grade – Delaney Flanagan, Mitchel Fry, Elizabeth Herring, Drake Lee, Nehi-Nehemiah Llast-Durst, Reiny Luman, Madysen Miller, Diego Osornio-Rios, Mackenzie Ragan, Jazmin Rojas, Carlos Roman, Matthew Smith, Rebecca Wood; 10th Grade – Kaitlynn Barnett, Lucy Brannon, Hayden Cook, Aiden Corrior, Suriah Decoske, Kathryn Hudman, Emma Ingram, Katelyn Manuel, Landon Peckham, Lillian Roberts, Oscar Roman, Lexie Wilson; 11th Grade – Heather Adanson, Jordyn Blalock, Savannah Breeding, Shelby Hayes, Jentri Jackson, Bryanna Parish, James Reid, Bryan Sims, Kaylee Whited, Cheyenne Williams; 12th Grade – Dalton Brandon, Lillie Danner, Jacob Day, Abigail Dobbs, Baylee Eberhart, Mikayla Hubbard, Matthew Lord, Joshua Medlin, Vincent Ogg, Jeremy Peek, Jakelin Silva; A/Bs

9th Grade – Christian Adanson, Isaiah Aymond, Seth Bettis, Jordan Burmann, Ava Burroughs, Olivia Callaway, Lindsey Champion, Francisco Chavarria, Tristan Cheek, Dakota Coleman, Karli Cowart, Sara Cross, Hannah Curry, Kiersten Elliott, Tristen Huffman, Bailey Hughes, Meadow King, Malaysia Lankford, Brooklyn Marcee, Alexis O'Neal, Gavin Oakes, Carolina Ortiz, Sydney Reid, Mason Reynolds, Angelina Rodriguez, Karla Roman, Elizabeth Roth, Jackson Svozitaro, Marissa Wilson-Hughes; 10th Grade – Brianna Baker, Hunter Batchelder, Gatha Davis, Citlaly Flores Franco, Kaitlynn Geremonte, Keeley Glidewell, Harlie Haney, Cody Hawley, Tyler Holland, Lindsey Hornaday, Christian James, Kaitlin Kelley, Moriah Lee, Vaneza Mendoza, Anthony Mooring, Blake Morris, Kenneth Murphy, Jenna Rackel, Cristina Ramirez, Michael Richey, Ashlynn

Tarno; 11th Grade – Javien Anderson, James Bambeck, Benjamin Burroughs, Alyson Carpenter, Hunter Cline, Jaci Coley, Alyssa Creed, Grace Danner, Cheyenne Fleece, Ashley Hammer, Hunter Huggins, Alexis McPhearsen, Devon Owens, Hannah Patterson, Maria Ramirez Ruiz, Caleb Reynolds, Maria Rowland, Joanna Santiago, Julia Simpkins, Karlee Taylor, Eliseo Turcios, Whitney Weiher, Ethan Whitaker; 12th Grade – Jasmine Bell, Justin Blalock, Riley Cameron, Mason Clanton, Katelyn Coats, Ashlynn Cockerham, Allyson Corrior, Kasey Davis, Gavin Derryberry, Kaytlen Eiles, Garrett Fields, William Fry, Ashton Goss, Abigail Hasten, Utopia Henry, Halee Hightower, Madison Jacobs, Courtney McCollum, Destiny McGee, Brayden Miller, Max Peddy, Stephanie Ramirez Flores, Brayden Sessions, Emma Vanbecelaere, Brenley von Reyn, Justin Wood.

Alba-Golden seniors earn scholarships

Grace Bizzell – Harold Simmons Scholarship \$5,000, Lake Country Neighbors \$1,500, Stephen F. Austin State University Academic Excellence \$12,000, Texas A&M Opportunity Fund \$1,000, Mineola Masonic Lodge \$1,000, KTBB Scholastic All Stars \$1,000, UT Health Quitman Auxiliary \$1,000, Kiwanis Club of Mineola \$1,000, Pilot Club of Quitman \$2,000, Power My World Wood County Electric \$1,000, Peoples Education Fund Scholarship \$2,000, City National Bank \$500. Nathaniel Kumm – Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$100. Ginny Carson – Harold Simmons Scholarship \$5,000, Lake Country Neighbors \$1,500, Pilot Club of Quitman \$1,000, W.J. Potts Family Scholarship \$1,000, Mineola Community Bank \$1,000, Trinity Valley Volleyball Officials \$500, Golden Sweet Potato Festival \$500, Alba-Golden Ministerial Alliance \$100, Texas State Distinguished Scholar, \$2,000, University of Mary Hardin Baylor Honor Scholarship \$5,000, University of Mary Hardin Baylor Crusader Scholarship \$8,565. Kaden West – Tyler Junior College Presidential Honors \$10,000, Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$300. Macie Pendergrass – Golden Sweet Potato Festival

Queen \$2,600, American Council for the Blind \$4,500, Tyler Lone Star Umpire Association \$500, Wood County Electric Cooperative \$1,000, Pilot Club of Quitman \$1,000, Alba-Golden Ministerial Alliance \$500. Kyle Hammond – Tyler Junior College Presidential \$10,000, Harold Simmons Scholarship \$5,000, Lake Country Antique Tractor \$500. Gabriel Mullen – Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$300. Byron Wade – National Honor Society \$200. Zane Smith – Tyler Junior College Presidential Honors \$10,000, Abilene Christian University Dean's Award for Academic Excellence \$48,000, Abilene Christian University Community Servant Award \$10,000, Abilene Christian University Engineering Grant \$13,000, Team Doulos Scholarship \$3,000, Sean and Jo White Memorial \$1,000. Dylan Arenas – Harold Simmons Scholarship \$5,000, Golden Sweet Potato Festival \$500, Love What Matters – Connor Curts Memorial \$500. Destiny Baker – Harold Simmons Scholarship \$5,000, Mineola Masonic Lodge No. 502 \$1,000, Golden Sweet Potato Festival \$500. AshLyn Rogers – Peoples Educational Fund \$2,000,

Alba Ladies Club \$500, Alba-Golden Ministerial Alliance \$100. Ramsey Curts – Golden Sweet Potato Festival \$500, Alba-Golden Ministerial Alliance \$100, Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$300. Lauren Crump – Mineola Community Bank \$1,000. Anthony Ramirez – Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$100. Avry Wood – State Fair of Texas \$6,000, Farm Bureau Board of Directors Memorial \$750, Alba-Golden Young Farmers \$1,000, East Texas Cattle-ettes \$800, Wood County Junior Livestock \$1,500. Tom Mitchell – Mike Poston Memorial \$1,000. Stormy Britton – Northeast Texas Community College Rodeo Team \$2,500, Texas High School Rodeo Association \$1,000, Sandy Smith Scholarship \$500, Ford Meter Box Company \$1,500, Kilgore Vet Clinic 50% Tuition. Koerth Ragsdale – Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$100. Adam Warren – Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$100. Brianna Gokel – Alba-Golden Red Curtain Company \$100. Talon Howard – Stephen F. Austin State University Academic Excellence \$12,000, Alba-Golden Young Farmers, \$1,000.

Quitman Junior School Honor Roll

SIXTH SIX WEEKS ALL A'S

6th Grade - Emilee Baker, Kash Davis, Kendall Davis, Daniel Kernes, Tylin Oakes, Austin Reid, Jairo Salinas, Larkin Spears, Sadie Vander Schaaf, Nicholas Williams; 7th Grade –Keiana Davis, Lila Park, Cadence Runyan; 8th Grade –Alan De Gorostiza, Kameron Farnham, Brady Floyd, Emma Hatcher, Reagan Hornaday, Elizabeth Sabedra, Sarah Smith, Joisaly Tarno, Bonnie Vander Schaaf, Dalton Walters; ALL A'S/B'S 6th Grade – Amanita Bautista-Mathias, Hayden Breeding, Breanna Bell, Aidan Bringard, Brooklyn Bustad, Lillian Callaway, Gabby Chaney, Armando Chavarria, Tyrus Choate, Jesse Clark, Isabel Corbat, Kate-

lyn De Gorostiza, Alexandra Derryberry, Nehemiah Faulkner, Saul Flores Franco, Lukas Goodman, Aaron Hearn, Peyton Kruckner, Brooke Lee, Armando Mendoza, Enrique Olvera, Nicholas O'Neal, Madee Pennock, Leah Pruden, Sophia Reynolds, Anthony Rojas, Carolina Roth, Averi Ryan, Janelle Tellez, Jamie Thompson, Colden Wilson, McKenna Wood. 7th Grade – Kinlee Baker, Lawson Ballard, Benjamin Barnett, Ruby Bringard, Faith Council, Ashley Davis, Abigail Day, Sean Derryberry, Madelyn Fetterolf, Johnathan Gonyea, Annika Henry, Michael Hipp, Kiley Hood, Kallie Hoover, Ella Johnson, Addison Marcee, Charlie Matthews, Mykenzy Miller, Alexandria Molina, Jace Peek, Weston Pence,

Dalton Poppenhusen, Alexus Richey, Logan Simpkins, Carter Smith, Mattison Smith, Austin Tanner, Mirri Watley, Jerry Williams, Kaylie Wood. 8th Grade –Mackenzie Banda, Hayden Batchelder, Jayden Carson, Jennifer Castillo, Carson Dickens, Caitlyn Elliott, Alexa Flores-Franco, Macy Frazier, Hunter Hart, Brandon Hayes, Hunter Jacobs, Cason Johnson, Jacob Johnson, Maurion Lankford, Travis Matthews, David Osornio, Kaysi Parker, Madysen Pence, Carlos Plata, Trinity Purdin, Juana Ramirez, Jillyan Reid, Landon Richey, Celine Rodriguez, Emily Roman, Joslyn Russell, Joseph Sabedra, Daniel Santos, Lorena Serrano, Kenneth Stanley, Sierra Williams, Tristan Wood.

Blood donations set for June 30 at Holly Brook

Qualified area residents are invited to donate blood to the Carter Blood Center June 30 at Holly Brook Baptist Church, Hawkins, immediately following the morning worship service. The blood center will draw blood from all qualified donors, and blood donations are available to anyone who uses the blood bank. Quarterly blood drives are a continuing project of Holly Brook Baptist Church and the blood center. The blood drives began in 2012 when a

serious need arose for blood for a church member. Since then, the church has hosted periodic blood drives. The blood drive is on the fifth Sunday of each quarter. Staff from the Carter center draws blood from noon to 3 p.m. To give blood, a donor must: • Be at least 16 years of age (with parental approval); • Be at least one day symptom-free of colds, flu, or not feeling well; • Weigh a minimum of 110 pounds;

• Not be taking antibiotics and certain other medications. Acceptable medications include vitamins or allergy medicine, blood pressure medicine, thyroid replacement, female hormones, anxiety or high cholesterol medications and many others. A list of guidelines is on the Carter Blood Center website: www.carterbloodcare.org/pdf/DonorGuidelines.pdf Call the church office for more information: 903-769-2091.

Three earn degrees at LeTourneau

Three students from Wood County recently graduated as a part of the 2019 spring class at LeTourneau University in Longview. Jammie Love of Hawkins earned a Bachelor degree in interdisciplinary studies. Love also graduated magna cum laude, which is award-

ed to those who maintained a GPA between 3.6 and 3.79. MyKayla Thibodeaux of Hawkins earned a Bachelor of Science in sports communication. Jonathan Westing of Quitman earned a Bachelor of Science in engineering technology.

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Castleberry fires perfect game in summer league baseball

"It was all working," stated Mineola's Cole Castleberry as he described the perfect game he hurled June 1 to open the American Sporting events (ASE) summer baseball season.

The perfect game achievement, which is defined by not allowing a single opposing baserunner, contained all the elements of quality pitching: great control, excellent pitch selection and the ability to make each pitch. A perfect game is among the most renowned achievements in baseball.

Castleberry was throwing for the team Performance Baseball in the opening game of the 18-and-under ASE tournament at UT Tyler. Behind Castleberry's stellar performance, the team took the opening game 6-0 and went on to win the tourney.

Castleberry chucked 84 pitches in the complete seven-inning game, with 61 being strikes. He recorded eight strikeouts while setting down 21 consecutive hitters.

Quick to compliment his teammates, Castleberry lauded his catcher, Chase Amick of Hallsville, on his pitch calling and target placement. Remarkably, it was the first time that he and Amick had teamed as battery mates. "He kept the hitters off balance all night," Castleberry remarked.

As happens in any closely pitched game, the team was challenged a couple of times in the field, but the defense came through with plays to keep the bases empty. Castleberry noted that Spring Hill's Ryan Lepire, the second baseman, made an outstanding over-the-shoulder catch in short right field to spear a potential Texas Leaguer and preserve the perfect game.

Castleberry knew in the



Mineola's Cole Castleberry fires a pitch last spring for the Yellowjackets. He threw a perfect game on June 1 in the opening game of the American Sporting events (ASE) summer baseball season. (Monitor file photo)

second inning that it could be a special night.

"The curveball was working, and there was movement on my fastball," he stated.

Once the team began to appreciate that something special was happening, the old adage of not talking about it in the dugout was strictly enforced.

This is Castleberry's second year playing select summer league ball. The Performance Baseball team features players from across East Texas - Brownsboro, Mineola, Mount Pleasant, Spring Hill, Tatum and Van. The team practices twice a week, once in Kilgore and once at a rotational field.

The son of Chris and

Sheree Castleberry, Cole was a stalwart of the Mineola High School baseball team this season, and he also competes as a defensive back on the football team. His father, Chris, has coached his son in baseball since tee-ball.

As the perfect game ended, Castleberry admitted that the meaning of the achievement began to set in. "The key to pitching is to move the ball around," he summarized in an understated manner.

As a proud grandfather and former Mineola standout athlete, Charles Castleberry, pointed out, "The thing about Cole that makes me most proud is that he is an All-District Academic."

MISD wades into budget amid changes from HB 3

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

With the onset of House Bill 3, school officials in Mineola face budgetary uncertainty as they begin to navigate through uncharted financial waters.

The school board on Monday began initial budget proceedings and learned of some of the bill's implications for the district. House Bill 3, which was passed by the Legislature this year, includes \$6.5 billion to improve public education and pay teachers, plus \$5.1 billion to lower school district taxes.

William Bjork, MISD's assistant superintendent for business, said that under the bill, he projects MISD's tax rate will be lowered from \$1.17 per \$100 valuation to \$1.06. The school district is expected to receive an additional influx of state aid amounting to about \$1.5 million. However, 30 percent of that new money must go toward increases in staff pay, with most going for teacher raises. The raises are aimed at retaining educators.

The boost in teacher pay includes a rise in the minimum starting pay for teachers. In the MISD, that amounts to about \$5,000-\$7,000 per teacher, depending on the position. According to Superintendent Kim Tunnell, just increasing the starting wages for new teachers will swallow that entire 30 percent.

The MISD has about 120 teachers, and those with five or more years of service will receive a greater proportion of new money directed at teacher salaries, according to Tunnell.

"We don't know how this is going to play out," she said prior to Monday night's meeting.

A wild card in the district's budget scenario is its taxable value. Preliminary figures show the district gaining 20.88 percent in value, from the \$451.39 million certified in 2018 to \$545.57 million preliminary in 2019. This year's preliminary values, however, are certain to be adjusted downward.

"It's usually way off base," Bjork said of preliminary values. MISD has significant oil-related value, which is subject to big fluctuations, according to Bjork.

Were the district's values to remain where they were last year, Bjork estimates, the district would lose an estimated \$500,000 in property tax revenue because of its lower tax rate.

At Monday's meeting, Bjork presented preliminary budget numbers for all four campuses as well as athletics, fine arts, transportation, maintenance, administration and technology. Employee payroll, which makes up the lion's share of the budget, was not addressed Monday. The other expenses, however, added up to \$3.89 million, roughly a 12 percent increase over last year.

Some of the increase is attributed to expanded CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs, computer and software upgrades, expectations for a return trip to state for the band, and higher building maintenance costs due to aging facilities. Much of the increase for CTE will be offset through grants and expected income from other school districts sending

students to Mineola.

Mark Parkerson, the man in charge of CTE at Mineola, offered an update on the MISD's push to become a regional CTE hub. The district, he said, has received memorandums of understanding with each partnering school district: Lindale, Grand Saline, Yantis and Alba-Golden. He described the latter as "100 percent on board."

He also mentioned that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has offered encouragement for Mineola to venture forth as a pilot program. The vote of confidence from the TEA, he said, gives reassurance "that we're not just being thrown out here on our own."

Out he said he expects enrollment from other participating districts to grow as the CTE hub begins to mature.

Warren Brown, president of the Mineola Foundation, a major supporter of CTE in Mineola, addressed the board and thanked members for accepting TEA grants totaling more than \$650,000 to benefit Mineola's CTE program.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the kids" and he is getting positive feedback from members of the community. He called the Mineola Foundation's support for CTE "a labor of love and we're trying to make a difference. We're here to support it and support you in any way we can."

He urged the school board to establish a physical presence for its CTE program that will be identifiable to the public as the site of a CTE regional hub "to where when people drive by they'll see it, see a name on it and know what it's about."

Lake Fork Weekly Fishing Report

It was another awesome week to fish Lake Fork. The water clarity is stained, but the clarity is improving. The water temperatures are in the lower 80s.

The bass fishing was very good this week with three distinct patterns leading the way to success. The best way to catch these Florida strain bass was with a Carolina rigged watermelon/candy/red Boss Hog from Buddy's Custom Baits here at Lake Fork. Note: we dyed the tails of the Boss Hog chartreuse. The best water depth was 16 to 18 feet of water around creek channel bends and creek sub-points. You can use this pattern in the early morning hours on main lake points that have some brush on it. The second pattern was using a Strike King KVD 1.5 and a 8.0 square

bill crankbait on main lake points and around creek entrances that have weeds on them. The sexy shad pattern on the crankbaits work the best. Third but not the least is the wacky rig. We continue to use the Zoom chartreuse/pumpkin trick worm rigged wacky style and put a nail in the head of it. This pattern works the best around docks that have weeds around them.

The crappie fishing remained good this week. The Bubba's Bait 1/8 ounce chartreuse crappie jig worked the best in 20 to 24 feet of water over the top of isolated brush piles. The crappie fishing around the bridges slowed down this week.

The white bass fishing remained good. The best bait to use for the white bass this week was the chrome

and chartreuse 1/2 ounce Joe Spaits Flashtail jiggling spoon. The white bass remained in 20 to 24 feet of water on main lake humps.

The catfish anglers had good success this week on punch bait in 18 to 20 feet of water around baited old trees.

On our equipment list this week is our Ranger 520c powered by our Mercury 250 Pro XS, Duckett rods, ABU Garcia reels, Stren Line, Eagle Claw hooks, Strike King hard baits, Buddy's Custom Baits, and Bubba's crappie jigs.

Here at J&M Guide Service we have two dates left open in June for guided bass trips. Give us a call at 903-413-6919 or e-mail us at bassmr@geusnet.com. Have a safe fishing week and stay hydrated.



Children peer in through the cage as a ruffed lemur enjoys a snack at the Mini S Exotic Zoo last week. (Monitor photo by Sam Major)

ZOO

From page 1

the country," she said, noting that the zoo "is really my passion."

Mini S Exotic Zoo, licensed by the USDA and Texas Parks and Wildlife, is not a public zoo. It offers people private encounters with rare animals, the majority of which are mammals. It takes in some rescue animals, though that's not its primary focus.

The summer camps for children, the first of which was last week for kids in first through fifth grade, are meant to be educational in scope and teach children "respect and appreciation" for animals they may never see elsewhere, according to Smith. Mini S Exotic Zoo would like to have an association with local scouting

programs too, she noted.

"We'd love to work with scouts. Really our goal is education. Teach kids about animals, teach appreciation," Smith explained.

One kid who does appreciate the animals at Mini S is 9-year-old Micah Castorena of Watauga. Among the additions to her base of animal knowledge is that "some monkeys can laugh, and they eat rose petals," she said. She is especially fond of fennec foxes and otters. "Otters are definitely my favorite animal," she noted.

Haley Baker, 9, of Canton also is a big fan of the tiny fennec foxes, observing, "I think they're real energetic." Haley said she learned much about the animals at Mini S Exotic Zoo and enjoyed seeing them all.

"I'm an animal person," Haley explained. "I want to be a zookeeper when I grow up."

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The Blueberry Farm offers tasty berries free from insecticides

The rows and rows of blueberry bushes give one a certain calmness. Well-tended and pruned for access as well as production, the bushes are a pleasure to view. Only after looking more closely does one see the jewels in the crown – the delicious bunches of deep-blue ripe berries.

Less than a half mile north of Quitman on Highway 37, The Blueberry Farm offers visitors a chance to collect the delicious berries and reconnect with the agricultural past. If food always tastes better when one is hungry, then it surely always tastes better when one exerts energy in harvesting it.

In January 2007, Gary and Lisa Parish planted 3,000 young blueberry bushes on the northwest slope of their 19-acre holding. "It was 28 degrees and sleeting," Gary recalled.

"My help quit due to the cold, so we did it all ourselves." Lisa added, "That first year, we picked them ourselves and graded them on the kitchen table."

A hearty plant, the blueberries under the Parish's care had the full array of East Texas threats to deal with. The family has never used insecticide on the farm, opting for natural methods of pest control. To be able to state that they are insecticide-free, the extra labor is worth it, Gary commented.

The concept of hard work is not foreign to Gary Parish. He developed this trait under the tutelage of his grandfather, J.B. Wallace. The Wallace family raised a variety of sustenance crops on their farm in the bottom-land, which would become Lake Tawakoni. His grandfather planted the slope with him on that cold January day in 2007. Although Wallace has now passed, the

man who left school in the second grade to pick cotton, instilled a "work every day" mentality in his grandson.

The early years of the farm found the Parishes traveling as far as Rockwall, Terrell and east to Longview to advertise. With production steadily increasing, in 2010 they turned to a "pick your own" method to distribute the fruit.

As Gary explained, Texas farms have a mere 1,000 acres of blueberries under cultivation annually, with most blueberry farms 8-15 acres. The demand is large, but local growers must contend with imports, largely from Mexico.

The Star variety grown at The Blueberry Farm is noted for its sweetness and large output and quickly became a favorite of customers traveling from Dallas and Fort Worth.

Lisa described the initial years of the business as "five to six years of magic" as they realized moderate success with the farm. Each year, the Parishes augmented their blueberry production with other offerings, including tomatoes, butternut squash, peas, watermelon and okra. Lisa produced jams one year, and they had a successful foray into blueberry ice cream.

The challenges facing specialty growers in East Texas are formidable. Gary noted that most of the land that was once under seed has been turned to pasture. As a result, transportation costs increased dramatically for those farmers left still tilling the soil.

Transportation difficulties, when combined with unpredictable precipitation, threaten East Texas growers. For blueberries especially, early summer rains can be disastrous. Deer, cedar waxwings, stinkbugs, and

spore-born afflictions, such as mummy berry, remain concerns all year round.

Challenges aside, Lisa recalled that one of the very first customers in 2010 told her, "It was the prettiest field they had ever seen." Lisa added, "99 percent of our visitors truly appreciate the energy and investment we make into our berries."

Picking season is mid-May through mid-July. Due to the sensitivity of blueberries to weather fluctuations, it is recommended to consult the website www.the-blueberry-farm.com, or call the farm at 903-497-6028 or 903-763-2801 to plan a visit. Don't forget that blackberries are also available as a "pick your own."

The sense of pride at The Blueberry Farm reveals itself as soon as customers are greeted by the Parishes. It is pride built from labor and toil, and producing by their own hands. The product of this labor is arguably the most delicious fruit available.



A young handful of blueberries, fresh from the orchard near Quitman.



Gary and Lisa Parish, above, own and operate The Blueberry Farm outside Quitman. The Blueberry farm is located just north of Quitman on Highway 37.



Commercial construction projects nearing completion in Mineola

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Two commercial building projects are taking shape in Mineola, one on East Broad Street near downtown and the other on North Pacific Street across from Walmart.

At the corner of East Broad Street and Graham Street, builder Tommy Warren is constructing a strip mall with spaces for four businesses. The building

permit estimates the cost of construction at \$380,000.

One unit will house a barbershop operated by the Warrens' daughter, said Tommy's wife, Brandy. The other three units will be available for businesses yet to be determined, she said. They're hoping to have the building completed by January.

Across Hwy. 69 from Walmart, Car Wash USA Express, one of the nation's

largest exterior car wash companies, is building a Mineola location at an estimated construction cost of \$1.5 million. Project engineer Darrell Taylor said the car wash may be completed in August or September.

Car Wash USA Express, which uses biodegradable soaps, allows customers to remain in their vehicles during the wash and offers them free use of car vacuums.

Preliminary figures show growth in property values countywide

By HANK MURPHY
editor@woodcountymonitor.com

Preliminary numbers suggest that cities and school districts across Wood County will see growth in their tax bases as their leaders plow through summer budget deliberations.

After property owners have the opportunity to protest valuations, however, certified values are sure to be less than what preliminary figures show. Several local officials were reluctant to comment on how valuations will impact their tax rates and budgeting process until they have certified values in hand near the end of July.

Wood County Chief Appraiser Tracy Nichols said he would not hazard a guess on how much less certified values will come in. Each

year is different. Generally speaking, the more valuations rise, the more property owners protest. When values are stagnant, the appraisal district sees fewer protests, according to Nichols.

Preliminary valuations show an almost 13% gain over 2018's certified taxable property value for Wood County, according to the appraisal district.

When asked the reason behind the growth in values, Nichols said, "Those values are reflective of the market."

At more than 23%, the city of Hawkins could experience the biggest jump among Wood County's taxing jurisdictions. The Mineola ISD could also see double-digit growth in valuation with early numbers showing a nearly 21% increase. Preliminary numbers

show Hawkins ISD up more than 18% over 2018.

Those big increases are tied to mineral wealth in those jurisdictions, namely oil, according to Nichols. The average closing price for a barrel of oil in 2018 was \$64.90, compared with \$50.84 in 2017, according to Macrotrends. So far in 2019, oil was closing at an average price of \$57.53 per barrel.

Although preliminary values come in lower than certified values, the appraisal district provides early numbers to taxing jurisdictions to give them a heads up as they begin budget deliberations, according to Nichols.

Unless preliminary numbers are significantly curtailed through the review process, most taxing jurisdictions will have more tax base with which to work.

Congratulations to Larry Sandifer



After 41 years of dedicated work at Wood County Electric Cooperative, Metering & Power Quality Foreman, Larry Sandifer, is retiring on June 28th, 2019.

Larry hired on in 1978 as a groundman. In his latest position he worked to assist members with power quality issues and helped them with energy conservation. For almost a decade, he served on a committee with the

Electrical Meter Association. An expert in energy efficiency, Larry has helped thousands of members lower their bills by analyzing their usage and giving them specific advice unique to their residences or businesses.

Easy going and unflappable, Larry has never met a stranger. With reclosers, lightning arresters, sneaky critters, tree limbs, or numerous other causes for blinks and outages, his job often required detective work. Through his extensive knowledge of how an electrical distribution system works, and sheer determination, Larry never found a problem he couldn't eventually solve. And at times it wasn't what you, or he, would expect.

We think a few of our employees hung the moon. But Larry, for many years, hung the co-ops lighted Christmas star high above Quitman each year. This delighted all passersby....and Santa.

A graduate of Quitman ISD, he and his wife of 38 years, Shirley, still reside in his hometown. They have two children, Stephanie and Steven, and are the proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren. In his retirement, all of us wish him contentment and the time to richly experience his favorite pursuits: golf, gardening, karaoke, and pool time with his extended family.

Best Wishes Larry!

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Smyrna Baptist Church COMMUNITY EVENT

2216 CR 4420 @ 5pm on June 29th

MUSIC | QUILT RAFFLE | BAKE SALE | DONATIONS

Benefit for brother David Osborne

David, a member of Smyrna, was hit recently by a run-a-way car when walking. The car pinned him against a wall, broke his femur, hip and pelvis in 3 places. To date, David has gone from the Level 4 Trauma Center to Rehab over a 40 day span. **Our prayer is to provide some relief to this family** for insurance deductibles, out of pocket expenses and lost wages.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

Thank you to first responders & good samaritans

Our community would like to thank the responders with a dinner and entertainment. Police, Sheriff's and Volunteer Fire Department, Phone & Electric Co - and all who support us in times of need. We appreciate you for being there when disasters strike - **let us thank you!**

Fellowship with communities hit by the storms

We never know when the storm will come or how it will affect us. If you have experienced hardships during these weather related incidents, **we open our doors to you** for a fun meal, fellowship and music that will lighten your heart.

Churches, please join with us on this day to bring music to the event! We welcome all of you to sing or play and have a meal with us.

For more info call David Hendricks: 903-474-3373 or 903-768-2815