

County judge issues disaster declaration

Quitman, Mineola
mayors author
similar designations

Wood County joined a growing list of Texas counties to declare states of emergency Friday in response to the spread of the virus causing COVID-19.

Wood County Judge Lucy He-

bron signed the order, effective for seven days following a special meeting of county commissioners.

They extended the disaster declaration during Tuesday's regular meeting to line up with the state's.

Similar actions were taken by Mineola Mayor Kevin White on Friday and Quitman Mayor Randy Dunn on Monday.

The Mineola City Council extended the declaration for the city an additional 30 days on Monday. Quitman will consider doing that Thursday.

Mayor White noted that the declaration essentially will be effective until the governor calls it off. Gov. Greg Abbott's order runs through April 3 unless extended.

The declarations have several impacts including activation of emergency plans and opening the door to more stringent steps, such as the shelter-in-place order that was issued Sunday by Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins. No other area counties had taken that drastic measure as of Monday. Jenkins also placed a limit on purchas-

es of toilet paper.

There were no confirmed cases of the virus reported in Wood County as of Monday. To the south, cases in Smith County had reached 10. One other adjacent county, Upshur, initially reported a case, but it was later removed. That case may have been the same that was reported later for Bowie County.

To the west, Van Zandt County reported a case, though it was in the far south end near the Murchison community.

The county has primarily been

impacted by the governor's declaration that includes closing schools; limiting restaurant service to drive through, curbside or delivery; stopping visitation at jails and prisons; and limiting access to nursing homes and similar facilities. Gyms, massage parlors and bars are also impacted.

It also limits social gatherings to no more than 10 persons.

The declaration also helps local government entities to qualify for any disaster relief funds from the federal government.



QISD trustees grant Turner power to act in board's place

The Quitman ISD school board met in special session last Friday and passed a resolution delegating Superintendent Rhonda Turner to act in place of the board during an emergency closure.

The resolution was adopted by trustees Jeremy Smith, Michael Hipp, James Hicks, Doug Cameron and Raymond Peek. Board members Royce Patterson and Jane Herring were unable to attend the noon meeting.

The resolution included giving Turner the authority to make all decisions regarding payment to employees during the emergency closure, to implement the provisions of board policy and make determinations regarding the purpose and parameters of any such payments.

Also, Turner was given the authority to make decisions regarding compensation of exempt and non-ex-



Parents lined up at Mineola schools Friday morning (above) to get what their students would need to begin at-home learning this week. With the spring break extended indefinitely, Blake Geary and Keely Riley took advantage of clearing skies for a little recreation. (Monitor photos by Sam Major)

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MISD develops plan to educate students from homes

By AMANDA DUNCAN
news@wood.cm

"We're finally getting to a point where we feel good about what our plan is," MISD Superintendent Cody Mize said of the schools adapting to educate students with campuses closed by the virus outbreak.

On Friday and Saturday, MISD distributed Chromebooks to middle, elementary and primary school students in preparation for all classes being taught online starting Monday, March 23. High school students already had their devices, but there was concern about not having

enough devices for primary students.

The biggest challenge is finding a way to service kids with limited access to internet. For those that do not have access, instructional packets were passed out as well.

"It's great to provide them an instructional packet, but we need to provide them a way to get them the content and instruction from the teachers," said Mize.

Teachers are using Google classroom and YouTube to record lessons, but they are being flexible with students who absolutely can't get their lessons completed.

"This is unprecedented time for us, our parents and our kids," Mize said. "We still want a high standard for our kids. We want to push them and we want them to receive an education. We want that to continue, but there is going to be a lot of flexibility on our end."

Since there aren't any confirmed cases in Wood County, staff has been given the option to come to the school or to do their lessons from home with Virtual Classroom and hold virtual office hours.

All school and administration offices will stay open by appointment, but the doors

will be locked.

STAAR testing and SAT testing has been canceled, and Texas law says high school students have to pass the five end of course tests to be able to graduate, but they have made a provision for school committees to create individual graduation plans to meet those credentials for students to graduate.

Middle, elementary and primary school teachers will look at students' work to determine placement groups as they move to the next grade.

"I can't brag on our folks enough. Our principals and staff have been fantastic,"

canceled its annual membership meeting March 30.

The Wood County Junior Livestock Show scheduled April 2-4 has been postponed two weeks, with broilers to show on April 8. If another postponement is needed it will be delayed two more weeks, and if needed, another decision made at that time.

The sheriff's tax sale of property at the county courthouse April 7 has been canceled.

The City of Mineola workforce development workshop April 8 has been canceled.

The annual Farm and Ranch Day for special kids that was planned April 24 in Golden has been canceled.

Mineola League of the Arts is closed and all events canceled until at least April 7. The annual spring Art Show has been rescheduled for Sept. 11.

Mineola Youth Foundation has closed the ballpark until further notice.

Mineola Friends of the Library book sale is canceled

for March.

Quitman Public Library is closed to the public as of March 17.

Mineola library programs are canceled. The library closed as of Wednesday, March 18.

Forever Young Activity Center in Quitman is closed until further notice.

Alba library and museum is closed until further notice.

The Mineola Historical Museum is closed until further notice.

Mineola Civic Center - Meredith Hall is closed. Outdoor spaces remain open. Carson and Barnes Circus April 2 is canceled.

Historic Select Theater and Lake Country Playhouse have suspended operations until further notice.

Mineola Railers square dancers have suspended activities.

Wood County Arboretum in Quitman mini-workshops are canceled but the gardens remain open.

Local service and civic clubs and organizations have suspended meetings.

going to be able to continue graduation," said Mize. "We'll come up with a solution, possibly a delayed graduation and prom."

Senior student Brianna Bethel says that she wishes she was back in class, but she's trying to be positive.

"As a senior, I don't have many days left. These are my final days to walk the halls. It hurts my heart to know that my senior year is basically canceled. Everyone's worried about prom being canceled and graduation being moved, but these are the days that we

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Letters to the Editor

Dear editor:

What we’re experiencing in our world today is nothing new.

We’re living in days like those of Daniel and Jesus – and the times are reaching their fulfillment.

Jokes and pranks are fun when life is calm, but now we need something more serious because our lives have taken a darker turn due to this terrible disease; yet, we can be confident God will do what He says.

Instead of becoming fearful and helpless, let’s turn to divine ordering – let’s leave the timing of God’s answers to Him – praying and not losing heart.

God’s power is available to strengthen his children. Our faith is then challenged to conform our understanding of His revealed plans.

Reading our Bible daily and praying will enable us to not become weary and discouraged.

Until that day, we must live a life “anxious for nothing,” as the peace of God guards our hearts and minds.

Geneva Walton
Mineola

Sales tax revenues continue to climb for county, cities

Wood County government entities that collect sales taxes have received an additional \$200,000 so far this year.

The March report from the state comptroller’s office shows that six cities and the county combined have collected \$1,849,052 as their share of the tax on retail sales for the first three months of the year.

By comparison the seven entities earned \$1,644,978 in three months a year ago.

The March report is primarily for taxes collected by businesses in January and reported to the state in February.

The March report is up 13.56% from March 2019 while for the three months, collections rose by 21.26% for the six cities that collect a retail tax.

The total tax rate for cities is 8.25% which includes the 6.25% state sales tax, the 1.5% tax collected by cities and a half-cent sales tax collected by the county.

Outside incorporated cities, the tax rate is 6.75%. The combined state maximum rate by law is 8.25%.

The six cities that collect a 1.5% tax include Alba, Hawkins, Mineola, Quitman, Winnsboro and Yantis.

All six are reporting higher income than a year ago, and four of the six received a higher rebate in March than a year ago.

Mineola’s share in March was \$173,151 compared to \$160,254 a year ago, a gain of 8%. For the year the city has booked \$610,436 compared to \$537,479 last year, up 13.57%.

Quitman sales tax income of \$65,379 for March is 7.11% ahead of last year’s March rebate for \$61,035. For the year the city has received \$203,489 in sales tax revenue, a gain of 12.04% from \$181,614 a year ago.

Alba’s sales tax income is \$58,333 so far this year, 63% ahead of last year when \$35,767 was received for three months.

Mineola bank hosts blood drive

City National Bank in Mineola is hosting a blood drive Thursday, March 26 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 200 N. Pacific St.

The Carter BloodCare bloodmobile will be on hand. Everyone who donates will receive a t-shirt and Chick-fil-A gift card.

A full questionnaire will be required as well as a health check prior to donating.

With the restrictions in place during the coronavirus pandemic, the need for blood is critical. Blood donation has been deemed an essential service.

Student pens first novel

By AMANDA DUNCAN
news@wood.cm

Brynna Williamson, a 17-year-old homeschooler from Mineola, is already a published author.

In her newly released book, “Over the River and Through the Woods,” a teenage girl faces many challenges as she and her family cross the entire Old West alone. After a catastrophe, the girl, with her younger siblings, must find a way across the harsh untamed wilderness to her grandmother’s home.

Williamson says the story parallels her life in many ways. Two and a half years ago, her family left their home in a camper to make their way to Texas. With no family, friends or employment at their destination, Williamson said they were relying on God to guide and provide for them.

Although she didn’t realize it at the time of writing, the teenage girl in the story is about the same age Williamson was when her family began their journey, and the main characters are based on her family to some degree. The grandmother in the book is even a reference to her grandmother who died of a rare form of cancer in 2017.

Williamson dedicated the book to her by writing at the beginning, “This book has a good ending..Every time she picked up a book, she said she wished it would just say on the title page whether or not it had a good ending - then she knew if she would read it or not.”

“Over the River and Through the Woods” began as a school project when Williamson was 14. After writing, she formatted, designed the cover and published the book herself, only printing enough for family and close friends.

“It took so long. Publishing a book is hard work. You have to really know your grammar and your audience,” she says.

It has since been published by Stones In Clay Publishing Company.

“I actually found this publisher at a convention I went to, where I literally went booth to booth asking authors for advice and if they knew anyone who was looking to publish a book. The people at her booth said the she actually was (looking) and gave me her contact information. She emailed me back several months later saying she wanted to publish it.”

Williamson said she had to do a lot of re-vamping, and the publisher changed the



BRYNNA WILLIAMSON

book cover and formatting. She had to learn to compromise with her publisher.

Williamson has had poems and short stories published in magazines and still has other book ideas that she is considering to expand upon. She has thought of writing a sequel to the book, but says as a senior in high school, she is very busy now.

She is planning to attend a local college before transferring to a larger Christian university. Her long-term goal is to be in Christian ministry, but she never intends to stop writing.

Writing is a form of therapy and an extension of her ministry.

“Whatever I write will be according to God’s standards, and is most often going to be about a Christian person or that gives glory to God in some way,” she said.

She thinks that people who are not Christians will enjoy her books and that they will lead people to the truth that God can be their light, their strength, their rock, their friend – their everything.

“Over the River and Through the Woods” is available for purchase through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and www.alongsideyou.org. All money Williamson makes from the sale of her book will go directly toward college funds.

Corner Column

With an abundance of caution.

It’s a term we’ve seen multiple times a day. It prefaces any announcement of impending changes wrought by the war we are waging against the spread of coronavirus.

Many other terms are oft-repeated, and I will be glad when that dissipates: monitoring, self-quarantine, recommendations, social distancing. Indeed it has changed our language in addition to our lifestyle.

We have also seen the full range of human emotions, from downright skepticism to full-on sky-is-falling panic.

We have seen businesses adjust their models to try and survive this through innovation. Their resilience will be a great testament to how we fare through all this.

We have seen educators and families adapt to a new reality in teaching without a classroom. Many of their efforts are truly inspiring.



PHIL MAJOR

We have seen organizations try to shift gears almost by the minute to try to craft the correct response. Meet or not. Open or close. Cancel, scale back or postpone events.

I do believe that everyone with whom I do business electronically has sent a COVID-19 email update of some sort – banks and credit card companies, department stores, delivery services, online shopping venues and many more. I’m convinced the same person wrote the first three sentences in all of them.

We have seen the best of humanity as neighbor pitches in to help neighbor, and the worst as the horror stories keep coming about the life-and-death struggle for toilet paper.

That neighbor-to-neighbor effort goes far beyond the folks next door to include an entire community pitching in to see that education continues, and that senior citizens and others have adequate food and other needed resources.

One of the great drawbacks to social distancing is that we

are, by and large, social creatures. While we attend church to have certain needs met and civic groups for another and community events for another, they all fall under the same category of “getting out to see folks.”

Facetime and live streaming are good substitutes but can go only so far.

This may be the greatest loss during the pandemic, more than economic losses, which could prove to be staggering, the loss of most human contact.

(It should be noted that the governor did not include churches in his 10-person limit declaration due to freedom of religion, but churches are being necessarily cautious.)

One of the numerous unknowns is the question, “How long can we stand this before cabin fever sets in?”

Let’s hope it’s long enough.

In the mean time we will soldier on to produce a weekly newspaper. If you buy it from the various locations where it is sold retail, please practice all precautions.

WOOD COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings alternated on a weekly basis

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, Mineola Country Club.

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 ROTARY CLUB, Thursday, noon, UT Health 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., Carol Green Civic Center, Quitman.

SINGING AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAWKINS - fourth Sunday, 2-4 p.m.

SCOTTISH RITE - Wood County Scottish Rite Club meets third Friday of odd month, 6:30 p.m., Richie’s Café in Winnsboro. 903-253-3635.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL - Garden Valley chapter,

Tuesdays on Mercy Ships campus, noon to 1 p.m. Call ahead for room details 903-939-7000 or gvtm@mercyships.org.

TOPS GROUP - Thursday, 8-11 a.m., Harvest Acres Baptist Church, NW Loop 564, 569-1240, 569-2415.

UPPER SABINE VALLEY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT - meetings are held quarterly, 5:30 p.m. on a Thursday to be determined at the Wood County Airport board room.

UT HEALTH QUITMAN - needs volunteers. Great opportunity to meet people while helping your community. Contact Beverly Haynes, 713-447-6903.

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 January, June, July, 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 Tuesday, Courthouse, 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 EXPLORERS – first Monday, 6 p.m., Armed Texans facility.

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 PREC. 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, Sept.-Dec. and Feb.-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 or change a listing to the calendar, email editor@wood.cm or news@wood.cm or call 903-569-2442 or 903-763-4522



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Mineola man makes pro rodeo hall of fame

The Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame announced its Class of 2020 inductees on Feb. 1 and will include a former Mineola resident and 1979 graduate of Mineola High School.

Jerry P. Hill was born in Quitman and raised in Mineola by the late Johnny P. and Mary J. Hill. He worked his way through high school and studied business at Tyler Junior College.

Jerry worked for the late Dr. Carter McCorkle and Dr. Jack McCorkle in the early 1980s managing a small chain of convenience stores, eventually purchasing the business in 2001. Jerry has been a resident of Wills Point since 1988 and still owns and operates a Texaco station there. His ties to his Mineola family are close. His sisters and extended family are lifelong residences of Mineola, Tina Hill Wade and Cheryl Hill Wood.

Jerry got involved in the rodeo industry in 1990, serving as sponsor and assistant coach to the Wills Point High School Rodeo Association. He served as president of the Wills Point Riding and Roping Club and was elected to the board of the Texas Professional Rodeo Association in the mid 1990s. He was also a member of the North American Rodeo Commission.

In 1996 while serving as president and general manager of the Texas Professional Rodeo Association (TPRA), he led the board to merge assets with the Central Rodeo Association (CRA); the result was the creation of the United Professional Rodeo Association (UPRA). Jerry was elected as chief operating officer.



JERRY HILL

The CRA was created in 1956 and the TPRA was created in 1959. Both associations served as sanctioning for rodeos across Texas and Oklahoma. The annual Mineola Fire and Rescue Rodeo has been sanctioned with the CRA and now the UPRA for many years.

The UPRA began in 1996 with almost 300 members, 37 rodeos and a yearly contestant payout of \$250,000. In 1999 Jerry, along with representatives of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, the International Professional Rodeo Association and other groups from across the country met in Colorado Springs to create the first rodeo industry "Code of Practice for Animal Welfare and Use." This Code of Practice was adopted by the PRCA, UPRA, IPRA and other leading associations across the country. The Code of Practice or modified version is still the most accepted set of rules and regulations regarding animal welfare and use in the rodeo industry today.

In 2014, Jerry again led a team of directors to merge assets from the Texas Cow-

boy Rodeo Association (created in 1987) with the UPRA bringing additional rodeos and contestant members across West Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Colorado.

In 2005 Jerry was elected president of the UPRA and served as chief operating officer and president of the UPRA Executive Board of Directors, titles he continues to hold today. In 2019 the UPRA had almost 1,800 members and 287 rodeos across Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas. The 2019 contestant payout was over \$5.1 million dollars.

"I'm honored by the induction into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame. I've spent 30 years working to improve the sport of rodeo," Jerry said, "I will be forever grateful to the Hall of Fame for recognizing the body of work. I've had the privilege of working with some of the most talented people through the years. This wouldn't be possible without them; I've had great teams."

Jerry can often be found at the annual Mineola Fire & Rescue Rodeo each July as he continues to work in the rodeo industry to improve rodeo and preserve the western heritage. He has also served on the Wills Point Chamber of Commerce and serves as a commissioner on the Van Zandt County Emergency Services District #4 Board.

The Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame inductions were planned April 4 at the Stockyards in Fort Worth but have been postponed until June 27.

Emergency plans in place with disaster declaration

By LARRY TUCKER
editor@wood.cm

According to the disaster declaration signed Friday by Wood County Judge Lucy Hebron, the continued spread of COVID-19 presents a threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of Wood County.

"The declaration allows measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to the illness, mitigate risk, and promote health and safety of Wood County residents," Hebron said.

The World Health Organization declared Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic. A pandemic is a disease epidemic that has spread across a large region, for instance multiple continents or worldwide.

The disaster declaration activates Wood County's Emergency Plan and remains in effect for no more than seven days unless con-

tinued or renewed by commissioners.

The Wood County Emergency Operations Plan defines a disaster as the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause.

The measure must be taken to contain COVID-19 in an attempt to prevent its spread throughout Wood County, potentially requiring individuals, groups of individuals or property to undergo additional measures to prevent or control the spread of the disease.

Wood County follows the lead of President Donald Trump and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott in their emergency declarations in an attempt to mitigate and reduce the risks of exposure to COVID-19 in communities.

The Small Business Association has designated COVID-19 as a qualifying event for the provision of Emergency Injury Disaster

Loans for businesses and private non-profits in affected communities.

Prior to the declaration Friday, commissioners met in a special session and heard from Emergency Management Coordinator Tully Davidson who went over the county emergency plan. Commissioners also approved line item transfers and budget amendments related to COVID-19.

Due to restrictions on the number of people gathering in one spot, only commissioners and the county clerk and county auditor were in the courtroom.

The meeting could be listened to by going to the county website at www.mywoodcounty.com and following instructions to the GoToMeeting app.

"It is because of the urgency of the situation and social distancing requirements that we are doing this. If someone does have a comment they will need to submit it in writing," Hebron noted.

Commissioners ratify county disaster declaration

By LARRY TUCKER
editor@wood.cm

Wood County commissioners unanimously ratified the disaster declaration Judge Lucy Hebron issued last Friday.

Emergency Management Coordinator Tully Davidson said, "The declaration is good for seven days. What we are asking today is your approval to extend the disaster declaration. In line with this with the order of the governor, the expiration time is the same as to whatever he does, whether he extends it or shortens it, whatever he does. It does take effect immediately after this meeting."

Hebron added, "This is also something that prob-

ably on an administrative basis we have to do in order to qualify or apply for reimbursement for federal and local funds that might be issued for disaster relief."

The declaration gives the county judge authority to take any and all necessary and extraordinary measures to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid and cooperative response to the emergency throughout Wood County. It further states if commissioners are unable to convene, the court may conduct the meeting via telephone. The location shall, whether the court members are physically present or if via telephone, be the Wood County courthouse court room.

In another matter, commissioners approved a resolution for a donation for repairs to the docks at Lake Holbrook.

"Every year we do a fund raiser with the Friends of Lake Holbrook. The money goes back through the association and they always do different projects," Precinct 2 Commissioner Jerry Gaskill said. "The association has agreed to a certain amount of money and I will take the rest out of my budget."

The donation from the Friends of Lake Holbrook is \$3,227. In a letter, Friends of Lake Holbrook President Greg Hollen said, "We are collaborating with County Commissioner Gaskill to help defray the costs on this project."

Quitman mayor addresses community

Quitman Mayor Randy Dunn has reached out to Quitman residents concerning the ongoing battle due to the coronavirus pandemic spreading throughout the state and country.

"How much can the world change in a few weeks? A lot! I appreciate our citizens doing the best they can to prevent spreading the virus. It is new to all of us and we learn something nearly every day, like 'social distancing.' I encourage everyone to be thoughtful of their neighbors and not purchase more than you need. It is easy to panic but does not help anyone," Dunn said. "Check on your neighbors, especially those that are in a higher risk category, and offer to pick necessities up for them while you are out. Just a call to check in with them would brighten their day."

According to Dunn the city will proceed with Spring Clean-Up Days March 27 and 28.

"Since students are not in school, let's all work hard to clean up around our place and carry it to the city yard located at the west end of Cliff St.," Dunn noted. "This activity will allow you the opportunity to get outside without creating any risk of spreading the virus. When you pull into the yard our city crews will direct you to the correct container. Everyone needs to remain in their vehicle until you pull up to the container and unload. This will allow social distancing to prevent potential spread of the virus."

Dunn added his support for local businesses. "I want all business owners to know that the city will be working everyday to expedite any relief that is included in the

federal government relief program. I encourage our citizens to think about our businesses. If you are able to purchase birthday or Christmas gifts in advance it would be a huge boost for our businesses," Dunn said. "They will be more than happy to issue gift cards that can be used when this is all behind us and you can get out and shop. Our restaurants are all offering takeout curbside service and deliveries to a location in order to prevent gathering concerns. Order a meal when you can. We can help our town more than you may have thought."

The council plans to meet Thursday and consider postponing the May city election. Dunn also issued a disaster declaration on Monday which the council plans to consider extending at Thursday's meeting.

Quitman Library Connections

BY LIBRARIAN DELENE ALLEN

You may have heard that the Quitman Public Library building was temporarily closed on Monday, March 16 and will remain as such until mandates are lifted.

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions the library staff has received:

- How long will the library be closed? The library will be closed until the most current mandate is lifted.
- What will happen to library programs? All library programs are suspended until further notice. Friends of the Library will reconvene in September as will QFL Story Time. Summer Reading and Summer Lunch for Kids has been planned to begin in June, but that is subject to being postponed.
- I have materials checked out or that need renewing.



Some are overdue, so what should I do? Please return your materials when they are due by leaving them in the book drop near the east entrance or just hang on to them and consider them renewed. All overdue fines will be waived.

- How can I read the next bestseller? Although physical materials cannot be checked out right now, there are alternatives. Now may be the perfect time to explore digital materials if you have a computer, tablet, phone or reading device using OverDrive, Libby and TexShare Databases. Call the library if you need help.
- What about Wi-fi and e-services? Wi-fi is available 24/7 for patrons and can

be accessed from the front parking area.

- How can I get a library card? Call the library. We can renew or assign you a temporary card number over the phone.
- Is the library staff OK? Yes, we are doing just fine. The staff will be busy cleaning and disinfecting the entire building and books. We also have some other projects to work on as well.

Contact the library by phone at 903-763-4191 or by email at quitmanlibrarian@gmail.com and we will respond as quickly as possible. Check out the library's Facebook at www.facebook.com/quitmanpubliclibrary and our website at www.quitmanlibrary.org to keep up to date.

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Cooking Classes at Mineola League of the Arts


Learn how to prepare delicious meals with a dessert in 30 minutes. Classes begin on **Wednesday, April 15th 7 PM to 8:30 PM** and runs for 4 weeks. Cost is \$40.00/member \$50.00/non-member. Class size is limited; registration ends on April 1st. For more information contact the League at 903-569-8877.

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Mon. March 30 - Baked Chicken Breast, Spinach Sauce, Penne Pasta, Parmesan Tomatoes, Wheat Bread, Sugar Cookie, Milk

Tues. March 31 - Turkey Tetrizzini, Green Peas, Sliced Carrots, Whole Wheat Breadstick, *Banana Pudding (new menu item)*, Milk

Wed. April 1 - Beef Frito Pie, Roasted Ranch Potatoes, California Vegetables, Fresh Banana, Corn Chips, Milk

Thur. April 2 - Smoked Sausage, Brussels Sprouts, Apple Crisp, Hot Dog Bun, Milk, Mustard

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Local governments wade through ever-changing landscape

Local governments have had to adjust on the fly as orders have come from the state on how to deal with everything from elections to restrictions on businesses and gatherings.

With some provisions of the state's open meetings laws waived to allow government bodies to hold meetings via teleconference, Wood County and the city of Mineola have jumped in to hold their meetings using a call-in or log-in teleconference service.

Wood County held a special meeting Friday at which County Judge Lucy Hebron added the county to a grow-

ing list of those to declare a public health emergency.

Commissioners continued using the teleconference service for the regular meeting Tuesday.

The city of Mineola utilized the same service for its monthly meeting Monday night.

The governor's waiver requires the bodies to include access instructions when posting the meetings.

Governments are also looking at delays to upcoming elections.

Gov. Greg Abbott postponed the party primary runoff elections, set to be held May 26, until July 14.

That impacts two Wood County races, the runoffs for county sheriff and Precinct 1 commissioner.

Tom Castloo and Kelly Cole are in the runoff for sheriff while Virgil Holland and Keith Gilbreath made the commissioner's runoff.

At the city and school district level, entities have been given the opportunity to postpone the May 2 elections until the November 3 general election.

If entities take advantage of that opportunity, the persons already serving on the boards and councils would continue to serve until the November election results.

Businesses navigating the brave new world

Businesses have had to change as more restrictions are approved to stem the spread of the viral disease COVID-19.

Food establishments have been restricted to delivery or take-out service only.

In response, the Mineola Economic Development Corp. had signs made for take-out parking only for several downtown restaurants.

Chambers of commerce have worked to share businesses' changes with the

community.

Many businesses have adopted scaled back hours, with major retailers using the time to sanitize stores and restock bare shelves.

Some retailers have also shifted to delivery and online business models.

Banks have restricted access to their lobbies, with drive throughs remaining open.

Some electric utilities have suspended service shut offs temporarily.

Mineola City Council adopts contract for cost of specialty police training

By PHIL MAJOR
publisher@woodcountymonitor.com

Mineola City Council approved a contract Monday for members of the police department who undergo specialized training.

After some discussion, the measure was approved 5-1 with Greg Hollen opposing.

The matter was brought up in an effort to keep the department from being a training ground for officers who move on to other jobs.

Hollen said the department's turnover rate is not bad, and the contract adds a negative to what is otherwise a positive working environment.

Other council members supported the idea, noting that it shows a commitment

on the part of the officer.

The contract would require the officer to remain two years after receiving specialized training. It does not apply to standard training, for example, for a new officer.

The specialized training, for example as a criminal investigator, costs the city \$2,000 to \$2,500.

In researching the matter, city staff did not find another area department that requires this, the closest being Benbrook on the west side of Fort Worth.

Hollen said that would put the city at a disadvantage in recruiting.

The council also approved an engineering agreement for work to extend city utilities to a planned housing de-

velopment on FM 1254 just south of the Mineola Youth Foundation ballpark.

The project includes a sewer lift station, and total estimate for the project is up to \$315,000.

City Manager Mercy Rushing said the 10 acres would be up for annexation at the next council meeting.

The meeting was held via teleconference, and a computer issue prevented Rushing from updating the council on the ongoing efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Kevin White said the amount of effort put in by city staff the past two weeks is beyond description. He added that there are more long days ahead.



Your Appetites owner Ingrid Hightower works with one of the Naval Sea Cadets on an order during the group's training at the business. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

Sea cadets receive hands-on look at restaurant operations

By LARRY TUCKER
editor@wood.com

If you happened to be in downtown Quitman March 13 you may have seen several uniformed cadets buzzing around busily in and out of Your Appetites on N. Main Street.

Your Appetites owner Ingrid Hightower opened the doors of her business operation, from running the cash register to baking in the kitchen, for young people from throughout North Texas involved in the Sea Cadet program.

The program is run through Hood National Guard Armory in Tyler. The cadets involved in the program in Quitman ranged from middle school to high school age.

The cadets were in culinary training during their spring break time from their respective school districts. Sergeant Gena Dry, who is from Lindale, was the commander of the cadets for their time at Your Appetites.

"This is the US Navy Sea Cadet program and it's sponsored by the US Navy and the Navy League. It is for kids 11 to 18," Dry said. "We have two different programs; the first is for the younger kids 11 to 13. They come in and learn the ways of the Navy and customs, military uniform. They move up to the Sea Cadet program where there are more learning opportunities. Our unit from Tyler drills once

a month, just like the military, every third weekend of the month at the Hood Armory. They work toward their goals, rank up and go to advanced trainings.

"What we are doing here is an advanced training. These six cadets are doing culinary training. They are learning operations of restaurant management and basic cooking techniques," Dry noted. "Today we are here to see how a real kitchen works. They came in on Sunday, March 8 and graduate tomorrow morning (March 14)."

Hightower was happy to have the cadets at her business. "They have been doing very, very good. I would take them all full-time if I could," Hightower added.

Dry was appreciative of Hightower, "Ingrid came out to our facility earlier this week and shared a lot of techniques in our kitchen and offered to for us to come here today."

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) is comprised of two programs, the Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) and the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The junior cadet program is for ages 11-13. The NLCC and the senior program for ages 13-17. The programs are different, but vary in training sessions which are age-appropriate.

Cadet Colby Hendricks of Aubrey was enjoying the training. "I want to be in the Navy someday and I really enjoy everything about the

program. We learn so much about many different things we can use in our daily lives, not just in the future," Hendricks said.

This junior cadet program introduces its members to naval life through instruction in basic seamanship and leadership. NLCC members are able to participate in monthly drill sessions and during school breaks and in a one-week orientation class as well as in specially-designed annual training sessions.

The purpose of the NLCC program is to prepare its cadets for success upon entering NSCC by exposing them to the fundamentals of seamanship and leadership. The training program is less arduous than NSCC's but still includes a wide variety of away-from-home, one-week training opportunities designed to give cadets exposure to Navy life.

The senior cadet program exposes its cadets to the full rigors of a military training program. Cadets are required to attend a mandatory two-week recruit training camp. After this requirement is met, cadets are eligible to participate in a variety of advanced training sessions. These sessions serve to expose cadets to seamanship and seagoing subjects. They also focus on developing an appreciation for our country's rich naval history, customs and traditions.

MISD

From page 1

are still kids. Once we have that diploma, it's the start of a whole new world. It's becoming very stressful, sad and heartbreaking to know that I don't get to have that senior conversation with my teachers. The underclassmen don't understand. They are out having the time of their lives while seniors are sitting back and wondering what will happen next.

"My band and FFA events have been moved around or canceled. Band is basically my life. It's been my number one thing since 6th grade. It

makes me want to cry when I think about having one less day with the best band director in the world, less laughs and less memories to make with everyone. We were supposed to get our state rings this Friday, but since this virus is canceling everything, we can't. I want to perform again. I don't want it all to end now. I'm going to miss band once I've graduated. I hope that this virus calms down soon. I really am missing out on my senior year."

Mize says things on one end of the operation have continued as normal, but the instructional piece has been flipped upside down.

Food service and maintenance workers are preparing for a summer schedule, but if students can continue virtually, the school plans to continue the traditional calendar set in place.

Big events will be pushed later in the spring or first part of summer. For now, the administration doesn't see a need for an extended school year or running into summer, and things should start as normal in the fall.

"You learn the kind of people you have in your organization, and we have fantastic people. We're all in the process of learning something new. We're all adapting and overcoming," boasts Mize.

Home Sweet Home

BY ANGIE MONK, WOOD COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT



Top reasons to love avocados

Americans are eating more avocados than ever. In 1985, the average American ate one pound a year. Now it's more than 7.5 pounds per person.

Why do we love avocados? There are some very good reasons.

- Avocados are a perfect example of nutritious and delicious.
- Avocados are rich,

creamy and high in fat. However, this fat is mostly monounsaturated - so, heart healthy. People who eat avocados every day can raise their HDL (good) cholesterol and lower their LDL (bad) cholesterol.

- Avocado-eaters get 20 vitamins and minerals and they also get the nutrients that most Americans need more of - magnesium, po-

tassium and vitamins K and E.

- Avocados have many phytochemicals. These help protect our cells from damage. In fact, eating avocados may keep your eyes healthy and lower your cancer risk.
- Talk about versatile. You can use avocados in dips, sandwiches, salads, smoothies, on toast...the possibilities are endless.



Only one lone bin of potatoes was available on a recent shopping day at Walmart as many food items and health supplies have been in high demand. Supply chains are reported to remain robust. Many citizens like the one above have starting using masks in public. (Monitor photo by Lesa Major)

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Quitman, Texas

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00AM-6:00PM
SATURDAY
8:00AM-1:00PM

Mineola Police Report

MARCH 12

9:37 a.m. A man reported he had a gun taken from his vehicle, but he had been at a location in Tyler and Mineola. The complainant was instructed to get more information and contact the police department back. No further information has been obtained.

2:02 p.m. A vehicle was parked in the lane of traffic on N. Pacific St. An officer had the vehicle moved.

3:24 p.m. Officers were requested at the Andrews Center on Patten Street in reference to a female causing issues. The female was transported by officers to the UT Health Emergency Room in Quitman for an evaluation.

4:00 p.m. An officer assisted a resident on Heritage Drive by changing her smoke detector batteries.

4:26 p.m. A theft of a phone was reported at a restaurant on N. Pacific St. An officer assisted and the phone was returned to the owner.

10:09 p.m. A disturbance was reported on Welch St. among siblings. Officers responded and things settled down. The three older siblings were separated for the night.

11:20 p.m. Johnny Lee Davis, 37, Mineola, was arrested for public intoxication and parking in a fire lane after he came to the police department complaining about his wife. Officers determined he was intoxicated possibly on medication.

MARCH 13

1:14 a.m. A resident on Newsom St. reported her ex-husband's friend broke a window on her front door. A criminal trespass warning was issued to the resident's ex-husband and a criminal mischief report was completed.

11:39 a.m. An open 911 line to Wood County S.O., with a male and female counseling and a child crying in the background, had officers trying to find the call, which was pinging in the northwest corner of Northgate Plaza on N. Pacific St. Officers were unable to locate the callers. Dispatch continued to try the number with no answer.

1:36 p.m. Officers responded to a call that was sent to a family member through social media to call 911 for her. Officers responded to Chaparral St. and spoke with a teenager. The teenager advised that her ex-boyfriend had been at the residence where she was staying with a friend on Chaparral St. and he tried to force his way into the residence. The ex-boyfriend was not present when the officers arrived. The resident wanted the ex-boyfriend trespassing from that residence. Officers attempted to locate him but were unsuccessful.

3:20 p.m. A landlord for a residence requested to have a person trespass. An officer met with the complainant and advised her if the tenant invited the person, the trespass warning was void.

MARCH 14

7:53 a.m. A resident on Hogg St. reported a welfare concern for her husband when he left home after they had a verbal argument. After speaking with the wife, the officer did not feel there was an immediate threat which would constitute sending out an attempt to locate.

3:12 p.m. A man found a debit card at a local bank parking lot. The man reported he would return the card to the bank on Monday.

7:56 p.m. Loud music was reported on Stone Street. An officer attempted to locate the music but was unsuccessful and reported it was coming from a vehicle.

8:28 p.m. A man requested to speak with an officer in reference to a person bothering him while eating at a restaurant in town. After the officer spoke with the man, he was going to go speak with the person that has been causing him problems.

8:58 p.m. A reckless driver was reportedly headed toward the city from Hwy. 80 East. The vehicle ran off the road and almost hit a mail-

box. Officers waited at the city limits but did not locate the vehicle.

9:46 p.m. EMS requested assistance from an officer when a man was reportedly laying in the road at Front and Stone Street. The male was transported to the hospital by EMS.

MARCH 15

2:26 a.m. Gerald Wayne Jacobs, 26, of Mineola was arrested for driving while intoxicated after he fell asleep in the Whataburger drive through.

7:08 a.m. A couple stopped by the police department requesting an ambulance for a medical condition. EMS was contacted and the person was transported to the hospital by EMS.

8:55 a.m. Two vehicle burglaries were reported at a residence on Molly Lane. Items were taken from both vehicles. The vehicles were left unlocked.

9:45 a.m. EMS requested assistance from an officer on Boundry St. when the subject they were called about took off running down Boundry and Wren St. The subject was checked out by EMS.

10:20 a.m. A purse with identification was found in a yard on Molly Lane when an officer was taking a burglary report. The purse was later returned to a complainant on Molly Lane when she discovered her vehicle was left unlocked and someone took the purse. All contents were still in the purse when found.

11:01 a.m. A laptop was stolen from a vehicle on Pamela Street during the rash of vehicle burglaries on Molly Lane. The vehicle was left unlocked.

12:51 p.m. A welfare concern was reported by a family member when a resident on McDaniels St. was attempting to unsafely light a fire in the fireplace. Another family member was contacted and helped the elderly couple.

1:18 p.m. A resident on Mimosa Street reported their unlocked vehicle had been ransacked but nothing was found to be missing.

6:00 p.m. A resident on W. Patten St. reported a person at their residence trying to start trouble. The subject left before the officer arrived. The officer located the subject at his residence and issued him a criminal trespass warning for the residence on Patten St.

7:22 p.m. A man reported he was supposed to take his child back to her mother's in Winnsboro, but he was now headed toward Tyler because his wife is in labor. His ex-wife refused to meet him at Walmart for the exchange. An officer explained to the man that the custody issue is a civil matter and to contact an attorney.

7:43 p.m. A teenager reported losing a cell phone while playing basketball at the courts at Wren and Front St. An officer spoke with the suspect in an attempt to get the phone back but the suspect advised he did not have the phone.

9:24 p.m. A resident on McWhorter reported a male subject banging on his door, attempting to speak with his daughter, but she does not wish to speak with him. The subject was issued a criminal trespass warning and released to his parents.

MARCH 16

2:26 a.m. An officer assisted Wood County S.O. on warrant service at a residence on Turman St.

8:21 a.m. A resident on Molly Lane reported their newspapers were coming up missing. A directive patrol was issued for the street and area.

11:35 a.m. Mailboxes were damaged by a vehicle at two locations on W. Broad St.

12:05 p.m. An officer assisted on a medical call at the Mineola Civic Center parking lot. EMS was called, but a family member decided to transport the person to the ER.

3:31 p.m. A shoplifter was reported by Walmart. The woman had taken \$50 of merchandise from the store and took off running out

to the back of the store and hid. Officers were able to find her in a storage bin at the back of the store. She was given a citation for theft under \$100.

5:11 p.m. A resident on W. Broad St. reported mailbox damage.

8:44 p.m. Dollar General requested assistance when the delivery truck arrived at the back of the store. An officer stayed until the delivery was complete.

MARCH 17

7:53 a.m. While a Valero employee was conducting a routine check of the gas pumps, a skimmer was found on the gas pump at Cross Country Foods on S. Pacific St. Investigators recovered the skimmer and this is under investigation.

11:42 a.m. A woman reported her credit card was sent to an old address and the card was activated and used. This is under investigation.

4:26 p.m. A reckless driver was reportedly passing vehicles in an unsafe manner. An officer was able to locate and stop the vehicle on N. Pacific and Good St. The driver appeared to be ill. A family member was contacted to pick up the driver of the vehicle.

6:00 p.m. A welfare concern was reported at a residence on McDaniels St. when a wife reported she needed help with her elderly husband. A family member was contacted to assist her.

6:24 p.m. An officer checked on the welfare of a woman that continued to call the department and hang up. It was determined the woman lives in Quitman.

10:54 p.m. A man called from Clarksville and reported his friend called stating she was being assaulted by her boyfriend in the Walmart parking lot. Officers responded and determined the woman and her boyfriend had a verbal argument. The woman was transported to a motel for the night.

MARCH 18

6:06 a.m. A Brookshire's employee reportedly locked the store keys in her vehicle and needed assistance to get the keys to open the store. An officer and a fireman opened her vehicle to get the keys.

12:25 p.m. A woman reported a possible scam. After an officer spoke with her, she was advised the male speaking with her was definitely a scam and to cease all contact with him.

1:06 p.m. A man requested a welfare concern for his ex-wife since he had not heard from her since the day before. An officer went to the motel she was staying at and she had already left. The officer relayed the information to the complainant.

2:25 p.m. A parked vehicle was hit while parked in front of a residence on W. Patten St.

3:36 p.m. Two suspicious males were reportedly going door-to-door attempting to sell cleaning supplies at Sue and Newsom St. An officer located them and issued a warning.

5:35 p.m. A woman reported her father had assaulted her while at her grandmother's residence on Landers St. An officer responded and spoke with all parties. A witness reported the incident to be mutual combat between the daughter and father. No injuries were noted and a family violence report was completed.

5:46 p.m. A resident on Pamela reported someone attempted to break into his vehicle and damaged the door and the lock mechanism.

7:19 p.m. An officer assisted a stranded motorist when the man's wheel came off his vehicle at Loop 564 and Hwy. 69 North. Wood County was contacted to assist since the incident occurred outside the city limits.

9:14 p.m. A disturbance was reported inside Walmart when a man was reportedly riding a bicycle inside Walmart. A manager asked the man to leave and the man refused and became irate. Officers responded and had the man leave the store.

Wood County Sheriff's Report

MARCH 4

12:18 a.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle on Hwy. 154 near Quitman. Deputies located the vehicle and cleared the incident.

3:33 a.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle on Hwy. 69 near Alba. Deputies located the vehicle and cleared the incident.

2:07 p.m., Deputies were dispatched to Hwy. 154 near Quitman concerning found property. Deputies were able to locate the owner and return the property to them.

3:10 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 1613 near Alba concerning a dispute. Deputies spoke with all parties involved and cleared the incident.

3:28 p.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious person on FM 49 near Mineola. Deputies located the individual and cleared the incident.

6:13 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to College St. in Alba in reference to a disturbance. Deputies spoke with all parties involved and cleared the incident.

7:32 p.m. James Hough, 53, of Alba, was arrested for an outstanding warrant on CR 1545 near Alba.

11:09 p.m. Deputies conducted a traffic stop on CR 1975 near Yantis. Jasmyrn Williams, 35, of Yantis, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

11:44 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to FM 2869 near Hawkins concerning a disturbance. Deputies spoke with all parties involved and cleared the incident.

MARCH 5

9:15 a.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 2840 near Mineola in reference to criminal trespass. Alondra Perez, 20, of Quitman, was arrested for assault Class C.

12:53 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to Peaceful Woods Trail near Hawkins about forgery. Someone attempted to use the reporting party's check without authorization. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

10:25 p.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious person on FM 2869 near Hawkins. Deputies located the individual and cleared the incident.

11:57 p.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle on FM 2869 near Hawkins. Deputies located the vehicle and cleared the incident.

MARCH 6

3:47 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to PR 6963 near Alba

concerning criminal mischief. Deputies talked to the reporting party and determined it was a civil matter.

5:15 p.m. Deputies spoke with the reporting party about a theft on FM 1801 near Mineola. A known actor stole and used the reporting party's checks without authorization. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

6:59 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 2640 near Mineola concerning suspicious circumstances. Deputies located the suspicious activity and cleared the incident.

8:07 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 3148 near Quitman concerning an abandoned vehicle. Deputies located the vehicle and cleared the incident.

8:44 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 3440 near Hawkins in reference to theft. Someone stole several items from the reporting party's property. This case is forwarded to investigators.

11:21 p.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious person on CR 2262 near Mineola. Deputies located the individual and cleared the incident.

MARCH 7

3:27 p.m. Deputies conducted a traffic stop on FM 778 near Quitman. Howard Nunnally, 57, of Alba was arrested for driving while license invalid with previous conviction.

5:51 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to Center St. in Alba about suspicious circumstances. Deputies located the suspicious activity and cleared the incident.

MARCH 8

10:21 a.m. Deputies were dispatched to FM 2869 near Winnsboro concerning an assault. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

11:09 a.m. Deputies responded to a suspicious person on CR 3600 near Hawkins. Deputies located the individual and cleared the incident.

11:47 a.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 1885 near Yantis in reference to a disturbance. Deputies located the individuals and cleared the incident.

5:19 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to FM 1254 near Quitman concerning criminal trespass. Deputies located the individual and cleared the incident.

5:27 p.m. Deputies spoke with the reporting party about a possible theft on CR 1835. Deputies gave the reporting party advice

and cleared the incident.

9:43 p.m. Laci Davault, 31, of Mineola, was arrested for an outstanding warrant on CR 2223 near Mineola.

MARCH 9

9:55 a.m. Deputies were dispatched to Peaceful Woods Trail near Hawkins in reference to a burglary. Someone stole a television from the reporting party's residence. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

3:41 p.m. Deputies spoke with the reporting party in reference to a scam on Hwy. 154 near Quitman. This case has been forwarded to investigators.

5:24 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 3802 near Hawkins concerning criminal mischief. Someone damaged the reporting party's mailbox. This case is active.

5:56 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 2175 near Quitman about a reckless driver. Deputies located the ATV, gave the individuals advice and cleared the incident.

6:25 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 2166 near Quitman concerning criminal mischief. Deputies located the individual and cleared the incident.

MARCH 10

8:20 a.m. Deputies spoke with the reporting party in reference to possible theft on FM 1647 near Winnsboro. Deputies gave the reporting party advice and cleared the incident.

12:42 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to Wayside Dr. in Quitman concerning a theft on FM 779 near Alba. A known actor activated the reporting party's credit card and used it without authorization. This case is active.

3:57 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to CR 1900 near Yantis in reference to criminal trespass. Deputies spoke with all parties involved and cleared the incident.

11:07 p.m. Deputies were dispatched to Hwy. 154 near Quitman about a disturbance. Deputies spoke with all parties involved and cleared the incident.

Wood County Sheriff's Deputies responded to multiple agency assists that included the following: Emergency Medical Services, Attorney General's Office, Mineola Police Department, Winnsboro Police Department, Hawkins Police Department, Quitman Police Department and Upshur County Sheriff's Office.

Quitman Police Report

MARCH 1

Officer Corbin Hanner initiated a traffic stop in the area of Tamy St. and Horton St. after witnessing a vehicle with a defective third stop lamp. Hanner noted the strong smell of marijuana. The driver confirmed there was marijuana in the vehicle. A search revealed a marijuana smoking pipe, grinder and small amount of marijuana. The contraband was confiscated and the driver issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

MARCH 2

Officer Joe Andrade was dispatched to the Lane Street Apartments in reference to a disturbance. A woman advised that her boyfriend was yelling at her and she was afraid he was going to hit her. According to the woman, no violence had yet occurred. After speaking with both parties, it was decided the man would leave for the night.

MARCH 3

Officer Linda Williams was dispatched to the Texaco station in reference to a man witnessing another man strike a woman in the parking lot. The witness advised the couple were now located in the parking lot of the hospital across the street. Williams made contact with the couple and was told by the woman that no assault had taken place. The male subject was yelling in pain and stated he needed medical attention. Williams summoned medical personnel to help and a wheelchair was brought to the man. He then proceeded to show the three members of the ER staff his groin injury and re-

quested he be allowed to finish his cigarette before going for treatment.

MARCH 6

Cpl. Austin Milbourn initiated a traffic stop on Paul Street after witnessing a vehicle travel the wrong way on the one-way section of the street. Milbourn noted the man had glassy, bloodshot eyes. There was a strong odor of burned marijuana. The driver admitted there was a small amount of marijuana in the vehicle and claimed it belonged to the back seat passenger. Precinct 2 Constable Kelly Smith and his canine Juma were called to assist. A glass pipe with suspected methamphetamine residue was found under the driver's seat and metal smoking pipe with suspected burned marijuana residue was found in the back seat. The back seat passenger, Jimmie Charles Grimes, 59, of Hawkins, was found to have an active fraud warrant out of Smith County. The driver, Charles Ray Abbott, 36, of Hawkins, was arrested and charged with driving while license invalid and possession of drug paraphernalia. Both men were transported to jail.

MARCH 9

Cpl. Milbourn and Lt. Mike Chilson responded to an address on Walker Ave. in response to a call for help from the residence. The officers arrived to find a man, clad only in underwear, who was apparently having a mental health crisis. Witnesses at the scene were unsure if the man had ingested any narcotics but stated that it was possible. An Emergency Detention Warrant

was obtained and the man was transported to the hospital.

MARCH 14

Officer Hanner initiated a traffic stop in the area of E. Goode Street after witnessing a vehicle fail to drive in a single lane. Hanner noted the man had bloodshot eyes and severely slurred speech. At the completion of sobriety tests, Jeremy Lynn Jackson, 28, of Gilmer was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

MARCH 15

Officer Hanner initiated a traffic stop on S. Main Street after witnessing a vehicle traveling 12 mph above the posted limit. Hanner noted the man had bloodshot, glassy eyes and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. At the completion of field sobriety tests, Jose Emigdio Perez, 37, of Lindale was arrested for driving while intoxicated, with open container.

MARCH 15

Cpl. Milbourn met with a complainant who advised she felt threatened by comments made in relation to a social media post. Milbourn, along with Lt. Chilson read through the comments and found none that met the criteria for a criminal offense. An incident report was completed for documentation purposes.

Officer Andrade responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Lane St. A woman reported that she had been dragged inside the apartment. Andrade observed injuries to the woman's legs. Paul Rodriguez, 38, of Quitman, was arrested and charged with assault, family violence, with prior convictions.

Mineola Fire Report

Building fire: March 15, 6:03 a.m., 18597 N. Hwy. 69, Lindale.

Medical assist, assist EMS crew: March 14, 4:11 a.m., 407 N. Line, Mineola; March 15, 9:40 a.m., 691 Boundry St., Mineola; March 15, 6:17 p.m., CR 2265, Mineola; March 16, 4:21 p.m., 5580 FM

1804, Mineola.

Motor vehicle accident with injuries: March 14, 4:51 p.m., 3986 FM 1254, Mineola.

Arcing, shorted electrical equipment: March 18, 9:01 p.m., 616 N. Pacific St., Mineola.

Dispatched & canceled en

route: March 12, 7:57 p.m., 7482 FM 779, Mineola; March 14, 3:05 p.m., 605 Wren St., Mineola; March 15, 3:59 a.m., 1136 N. Newsom St., #13, Mineola; March 17, 7:25 p.m., FM 1804, Mineola.

Help with utility bills available for East Texans

The COVID-19 crisis is creating major financial concerns for many families in rural East Texas.

Individuals may have their work hours reduced or be experiencing lay-offs. Many are already living on a limited income.

Families may qualify for energy assistance through federal LIHEAP funding. Eligibility is based on household income, citizenship and circumstances. The program targets elderly, disabled and the working poor.

Assistance with electric or gas bills may occur multiple months depending on eligibility.

Greater East Texas Community Action Program administers the program in Wood County and surrounding counties.

Individuals may apply by mail or online. The website is www.get-cap.org. Community Action offices are not seeing individuals face to face. However, the on-line and mail-in process is in place and works well.

When the information is mailed or completed online that individual is contacted by telephone and the case is completed. A face-to-face appointment is not required.

According to local Case Manager Shelia Dutton, "There are many who are experiencing reduced hours or layoffs due to COVID-19. We are making a special effort to reach people who have never applied. Community Action is very concerned for people in our area."

Karen Swenson, executive

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Obituaries

JULIA LEDESMA CERRITO
1950-2020



Julia Ledesma Cerrito, 69, of Alba, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in Tyler. She was born on Dec. 20, 1950 in Knox City to Elpidio Ledesma and Lorenza Ledesma. She was a retired seamstress with American Recreation and Lambeth's Upholstery and a member of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Mineola.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Nieves, Antonio, Herbie and Ralph Ledesma; and sisters, Josie Ledesma, Ydelia Ledesma and Elpidio Ledesma.

She is survived by her husband, Antonio Cerrito of Alba; daughters, Angela Garcia of Mineola, Rachel Lugo of Mineola and Jeanette Jones of Alba; son, Marco Cerrito of Mineola; sister, Agnes Alvarez of Florence; brother, Juan Ledesma of Round Rock; and eleven grandkids.

Private family funeral mass was held on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Mineola at 10 a.m. with Rev. Father Lawrence Love conducting. Interment followed at Golden Cemetery.

VICKI LEE NELSON
1948-2020

Vicki Lee Nelson, 71, born on Dec. 23, 1948, gained her eternal wings on Sunday March 15, 2020 where she went to her permanent home with our Lord and Savior.

Vicki was born in Dallas. She lived the last 14 years in the Hainesville community where she and her late husband attended Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church. Vicki was an insurance adjuster and worked with the Lindale Police Dept. and

the Texas racing board.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Larry Wayne Nelson.

Left to cherish her precious memory are her three sons, Timothy Nelson of Fort Worth, David Sheffield of Mineola and Tommy and Christi Bashioum of Texas; daughter, Shannon and husband Daniel Wood of Carrollton; six grandchildren, Joslynn Bayless, Nikki Farmer, Bailee, Wyatt and Harper Bashioum and Megan Sheffield; great-grandchildren, Dyson and Dylanie Leach, Haygen Powell and Kate-lynn Farmer; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Visitation for Vicki was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at Lowe Funeral Home from 3-5 p.m. and before the service at Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church on Thursday, March 19 from 12-2 p.m. Service followed at 2.

LENA MCCANN
1941-2020



Lena McCann, 78, of Mineola, passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2020 in Tyler. She was born on July 15, 1941 in Tyler to the late Charlie McCuin and Helen McCuin. She was a homemaker and a member of East Chapel CME. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilmor McCann.

She is survived by son, Derick Wayne McCann of Mineola; daughter, Kathie Ilene Durley of Riverside, Cal.; brother, Gilmer McCuin of Dallas; sister, Charline Smith of Dallas; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Visitation was held on Friday, March 20, 2020 from 4-6 p.m. at Beaty Funeral Home in Mineola. Service was held on Saturday, March 21 at East Chapel CME in Mineola at 1 p.m. with Rev. Randy Harris

conducting. Interment followed at Mineola City Cemetery.

BETHANY LYNN BAILEY
1990-2020



Bethany Lynn Bailey, 29, of Quitman passed away on Saturday, March 21, 2020 in Mount Pleasant. Bethany was born on July 16, 1990 in Tyler. A graveside service was to be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. Considering current restrictions on gatherings, it is asked that only invited guests attend. Visitors were welcome to stop by Lowe Funeral Home during the hours of 2-8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, in small groups, those who would like an opportunity to view, and sign the register for Bethany. For those who desire you are welcome to leave condolences for the family on our website – www.lowefuneralhome.net. The Bailey family wishes to thank you for your understanding and support in these difficult times.

Bethany is survived by her father and mother, Jeff and Jennifer Bailey of Quitman; her mother and best friend, Lana Harper Chance of Winnsboro; daughter, BaeLynn Duff of Winnsboro; sister, Breanna Bailey of Quitman; brothers, Aston Chance of Austin, Izaak and his wife Lindsey Chance of Hainesville and John David Gibson of The Colony; grandfather, Doyle Ray Bailey of Quitman, grandparents, Leroy and Ann Harper of Quitman; as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Bethany will be laid to rest next to her "Nana," Paula Bailey, her grandmother, at the Clover Hill Cemetery.

For those who desire, memorials in Bethany's name may be directed to Morgan's Mercy Mansion, Rehabilitation Center for Women, PO Box 83, Winnsboro, Texas 75494.

Meredith Foundation awards almost \$1.5 million in grants

By **AMANDA DUNCAN**
news@wood.cm

In 2020, the Meredith Foundation has granted \$1,475,378 to 14 qualified organizations. Receiving funds this year are the following:

Addie McFarland Foundation	Grace Community Health-care	Mineola Community Chest
APET/SPCA	Lake Country Playhouse/Select Theater	Mineola Senior Citizen Center
City of Mineola	Mineola Civic Center	To qualify for a grant, an organization must be a 501(c)(3) and must benefit the people of Mineola within the Mineola Independent School District. The one exception to a beneficiary being located in MISD is the Methodist Children's Home
	Mineola ISD	
	Mineola ISD Education Foundation	
	Mineola Memorial Library	
	Mineola League of the Arts	
	Mineola Youth Foundation	
	Methodist Children's Home	

The home was of special interest to Harry W. Meredith.

The Mineola Independent School District and the City of Mineola are excluded from the 501(c)(3) certification requirement.

MISD received \$206,099 in grants. Of the money donated, they have allocated \$50,000 for senior scholarships, \$77,166 for interactive flat panels at all four campuses, \$30,320 for primary school Chromebooks, \$12,600 for a sound system at the high school, \$9,594 for virtual reality technology at the middle school, \$4,495 for a poster and banner machine at the elementary school and \$21,924 for high school band instruments.

The City of Mineola was granted \$371,839. It will be

using \$182,718 for a new leaf truck, \$49,000 will be dispensed to the fire department, \$54,721 to the police department, \$47,400 to the Landmark Commission and \$38,000 to the Mineola Historical Museum.

By Feb. 1, organizations requesting assistance must send a copy of its 501(c)(3) certification, a prioritized list of needs with applicable bids, and a signed copy of board minutes of the meeting in which the request was approved.

Additionally, a list of the current board members must accompany the request along with current financial statements including the income statement and balance sheet of the organization.

The written requests for donations and assistance

are normally considered at the February monthly meeting, and are reviewed and awarded annually.

"It's a lot of work on our part and their part," says Chairman Lou Wagner.

Since the Meredith Foundation was created and a board organized in July 1958, the trust has invested \$34 million in the community that Meredith loved.

The only project he lived to see accomplished was the Mineola Memorial Library being built. The land for the library was a gift to the foundation from James C. and Anna Butler Judge, funded by the sale of 200 shares of El Paso Natural Gas stock.

On July 21, 1959, Meredith broke ground for the library, stating that he was giving the building to pay Mineola back for all it had done for him.

He stayed active until his health did not allow him and served as chairman of the board until his death in 1962.

Meredith had arranged for a sizable part of his wealth to go to the Meredith Foundation with the stipulation that it was to help the people of Mineola.

Current trustees of the foundation are Lou Wagner (chairman), Bob Smith (vice chairman), Joe Williams (secretary and treasurer), Freda Madsen and Jerry Phillips.

Lou Wagner grew up in Mineola, was a Mineola high school graduate and knew Meredith personally. She said things in Mineola have changed significantly because of the contributions he made.

"We have what we have because of Mr. Meredith," she said.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE TARIFF FILING

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) on March 16, 2020 its Petition requesting approval of its proposed Military Base Surcharge Tariff.

Section 36.354(a) of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), at Texas Utilities Code § 36.354, provides that each electric utility in an area where implementation of full customer choice has been delayed by the Commission in accordance with PURA Section 39.103 shall discount charges for electric service provided to a military base. Section 36.354(b) of PURA establishes the discount to be provided to military installations as a 20 percent reduction of the base commercial rate that the electric utility would otherwise charge the installation.

Section 36.354(c) of PURA provides that the electric utility may assess a surcharge to all its Texas retail customers to recover the difference in revenue between the revenues from the discounted rate for military bases and the base commercial rate. SWEPCO's Tariff Sheet No. IV-16 provides the Military Base Adjustment Factor per billing kWh as reflected below:

MONTHLY FACTOR	
Major Rate Classes	\$/kWh
Residential	\$0.0000924
Commercial & Small Industrial	\$0.0000651
Industrial / Large Lighting and Power	\$0.0000352
Municipal	\$0.0000741
Outdoor Lighting	\$0.0001173

SWEPCO has requested that the tariff become effective with the first billing cycle of June 2020. The Petition has been assigned Tariff Control No. 50670. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon this proceeding must notify the Commission within 21 days of SWEPCO's filing of the Petition. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The Company can be contacted at 428 Travis Street, Shreveport, LA 71101, or by calling (888) 216-3523 during normal business hours.

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Wood County Church Directory

<div>Lake Fork Baptist Church <i>A lighthouse on the lake</i> 9483 W FM 515 • Alba, Tx 75410 (903) 473-9523 Fax: 903-474-9045 Website: www.lakeforkbaptist.org email:info@lakeforkbaptist.org</div>		<div>Alba</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD Gunter Assembly of God 4578 North FM 17, Alba (903) 765-9981 BAPTIST Bright Star Baptist Church 2795 Co Rd 3480, Alba 903-473-4064 Pastor Jerry Jackson Jr. Enon Baptist Church 7133 TX-182, Alba (903) 765-2014 Pastor - Reggie Day First Baptist Church of Alba 219 E. Holly, Alba 903-765-2471 Pastor Kelly B. Burton Lake Fork Baptist 9483 W. FM 515, Alba 903-473-9523</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Alba Church of Christ Off Hwy. 69, Alba John Ratliff Church of Christ of Alba 105 W. Holley St., Alba 903-765-9450 George Filpansick</div> <div>METHODIST Alba United Methodist 170 E Holley St, Alba 903-473-2411 Rev. Beverly Tune</div> <div>NON-DENOMINATIONAL Amazing Grace Fellowship Church 7405 US Hwy 69 E, Alba Pastor Byron George Open Door Church 633 CR1560, Alba (903) 765-3587 B.D. Bohanno</div>		<div>Golden</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD Cottonwood Assembly of God 8481 FM 779, Golden (903) 765-2675 Pastor: Otis Lee</div> <div>BAPTIST Golden First Baptist Church County Road 2940, Golden 903 768-2258 Pastor Robert Mounce Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church 205 County Road 2376, Golden 903-768-2653 Pastor Jason Walters</div> <div>BIBLE INDEPENDENT Golden Bible Church CR 2290, Golden (903) 768-2700</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Golden Church of Christ FM Rd. 779, Golden 903-768-2712 James Stringer</div> <div>METHODIST Golden United Methodist 658 FM 1799, Golden 903-768-2268 Pastor Jim Pickens</div>		<div>Hawkins</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD First Assembly of God 102 Hams St., Hawkins 903-769-3835 Pastor Don Majors</div> <div>BAPTIST Liberty Baptist 288 CR 3650, Hawkins 903-769-2250 Pastor Bob Sexton</div> <div>LUTHERAN Trinity Lutheran Church 3718 FM 2869 • Hawkins 903-769-4065 Kyle Kirk</div> <div>PENTECOSTAL Pine Mills Pentecostal Church Hwy. 14, Hawkins 903-857-2527 Pastor M.D. Thornhill</div>		<div>Holly Lake</div> <div>CATHOLIC Holy Spirit Catholic Church 1612 S. 2869, Holly Lake Rev. Michael T. Snyder 903-769-3235</div>		<div>Mineola</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD First Assembly of God 1917 N US Hwy 69 (903) 569-9882 Pastor Jerry Williams Iglesia Primera Asamblea de Dios 511 N. Second, Mineola 903-569-5537</div> <div>BAPTIST Calvary Baptist Church 779 FM 49, Mineola (903) 768-2313 Pastor Donald Masters Central Baptist Church 602 N Line St, Mineola (903) 569-3203 First Baptist Church 204 N Johnson St, Mineola (903) 569-3873 Phillip Casper Freedom Baptist Church 155 CR 2201, Mineola 903-638-8555 Pastor Al Dusek Hainesville Baptist Church 3368 FM 49, Mineola 903 569-3212 Pastor Terry Davis Harvest Acres Baptist Church 1062 W State Loop 564, Mineola 903-569-5351 Pastor David W. Burcham Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church Hwy. 778, Mineola Pastor: Rick Ellington Legacy Baptist Fellowship 415 W. McDonald, Mineola 903-316-0552 Macedonia Missionary Baptist 1555 County Road 3875, Mineola (903) 769-5618 Pastor Thomas Ricks Mt. Enterprise Baptist Church 3331 S St. Hwy. 37, Mineola (903) 569-2124 Jonathan Allenw Mt. Pisgah Baptist 4995 FM 49, Mineola Pastor Tim Nall</div> <div>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 3855 FM 1801, Mineola (903) 569-3760 Pastor Michael Mize Northside Baptist Church 1718 N. Pacific, Mineola 903-569-3872 Steve Prestidge, Pastor Rose Hill Baptist Church 1420 CR 2460, Mineola (903) 569-5746 Pastor Jeff Thompson Sand Springs Baptist Church 3208 C.R. 2330, Mineola (903) 569-9350 Pastor Nick Kerry Silver Lake Baptist Church 150 E Hwy. 80, Mineola (903) 569-2433 Pastor Mike Sullivan St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church 304 S. Stone St., Mineola (903) 569-8722 Pastor Demethruis T. Boyd</div> <div>BIBLE INDEPENDENT Lake Country Bible Church 1402 N Pacific St, Mineola (903) 569-5730</div> <div>CATHOLIC St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church 203 Meadowbrook, Mineola 903-569-3665 Pastor Lawrence Love</div> <div>CHRISTIAN CHURCH First Christian Church Disciples of Christ 209 North Pacific, Mineola 903-569-2537 Pastor Rick Son</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Broad St. Church of Christ 440 West Broad, Mineola 903-569-2046 Golden Church of Christ Golden 903-768-2712 North Loop Church of Christ 326 W FM 564, Mineola 903-569-3117 Clark Dugger Jamestown Church of Christ 22022 FM1253, Mineola (903) 569-0516 Mineola Church of Christ 1621 N. Pacific, Mineola 903-569-5571 Southside Church of Christ 527 Read St., Mineola 903-569-6812 Malcolm Duncan</div> <div>EPISCOPAL St. Dunstan's Episcopal 800 N. Johnson, Mineola 903-569-2478 Right Rev. Frazier Lawton</div> <div>JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES Jehovah's Witnesses Hwy. 69 South, Mineola 903-569-6370</div> <div>METHODIST/ CHRISTIAN EPISCOPAL East Chapel CME Church 723 South Pacific, Mineola 903-569-3624 Pastor - Leonard Spurling</div> <div>METHODIST 1st United Methodist Church 612 N Newsom St, Mineola 569-5426 Rev. Paul Thomasson Smith Chapel Methodist 670 FM 1804, Mineola 903-569-9187 Pastor Jim Pickens Johnson Chapel Methodist 224 Elliott, Mineola 903-569-9536 Pastor Clara Gilbert</div> <div>NAZARENE First Church of the Nazarene 503 N. Line, Mineola 903-569-3057 Rev. Randy Larpenteur.</div> <div>NON-DENOMINATIONAL Bethel Worship Center 2973 St. Hwy 80 E., Mineola 903-569-8708 Rev. Kenneth Teo Church of the Lakes at Enchanted Lakes 22410 County Rd 455, Mineola (903) 569-5101 Holy Ghost Central Church Hwy. 69-10 N of Mineola 903-768-2262 Pastor Rick Childers Mineola Christian Fellowship 2207 W US Hwy 80, Mineola (903) 569-8884 Safe Harbor Prophetic Ministries 5411 Hwy 37, Mineola 569-8388 Pastors: Andy & Irene Madding Spur on Ministries 2670 S. State Hwy 37, Mineola 863-697-0469 Pastor Mike Fletcher</div> <div>PENTECOSTAL UNITED New Life Pentecostal 201 W F M Rd 564, Mineola 903-569-5750 Pastor David Bethel</div> <div>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST Seventh Day Adventist 1904 Old Tyler Hwy., Mineola 903-569-6930 Pastor Richard Rose</div>		<div>Forest Hill Baptist Church 1880 TX-37, Quitman (903) 967-3420 Pastor Fred Morrow Mt. Calvary Baptist 1119 E. G Goode St., Quitman 903-967-2392 Darrell Pixley Muddy Creek Baptist FM 69, Quitman 903-967-3384 Jerry Williams Myrtle Springs Baptist 2185 FM 2225, Quitman David Cook 903-878-2504 New Life Baptist Fellowship 7365 Main St., Quitman 903-763-1405 Charles Brewster Rock Hill Baptist 3543 FM 2966, Quitman 903-878-2762 Ken Goodson Whispering Hope Baptist Church 155 S Farm Road 14, Quitman (903) 967-3149 Pastor Eddie Slaton</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Church of Christ 111 Winnsboro, Quitman 903-763-5544 Del Ussery</div> <div>Church of God in Christ Mt. Calvary Church of God in Christ 209 Bookman St., Quitman TX (903)780-097 Pastor Bobby H. Jones</div> <div>JEWISH Bethel Temple Fellowship 680 CR 2150, Quitman, Texas (940) 206-5830 Rabbi Linda Gutierrez</div> <div>LATTER-DAY SAINTS Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1128 E Goode St, Quitman (903) 967-3533 Bishop Dean Brown</div> <div>METHODIST Brock's Chapel Methodist 207 Clark Street, Quitman 903-763-4062 Linda McCullough First United Methodist 406 E Lane St, Quitman (903) 763-4127 Rev. Keefe Cropper Liberty Methodist E. Goode St./Hwy. 154, Quitman (903) 967-7691 Rev. Keefe Cropper</div> <div>NON-DENOMINATIONAL Church on the Rock 302 S Main St, Quitman (903) 763-4588 David Jackson Country Fellowship of Wood County 709 Oakwood Dr • Quitman Andrew McQueen Living Water Fellowship 2574 FM2088, Quitman (903) 967-2000 David Hartley Wood County Cowboy Church 3435 FM 2088, Quitman 903-535-9155 Chase Pope</div> <div>PENTECOSTAL UNITED Victory Fellowship United Pentecostal Church 1600 N. State Hwy. 37, Quitman (903) 967-2628 Pastor Keith Clark</div>		<div>Sulphur Springs</div> <div>LUTHERAN Our Savior Lutheran 1000 Texas St, Sulphur Springs (903) 885-5787 Timothy Eden</div>		<div>Winnsboro</div> <div>BAPTIST Cartwright Baptist 267 CR 4896, Winnsboro 903-967-2818 Pastor: Bro. Cody Mize Crossroads Baptist 1314 CR 4870, Winnsboro Pastor Terry Bolton East Point Baptist 5029 FM 2088, Winnsboro Bro. James Scott Perryville Baptist Church 9429 E. FM 851, Winnsboro 903-725-7729 Little Hope Baptist Church CR 3990 and CR 3984, Winnsboro 430-502-5855 Pastor James Young Jr. Sharon Baptist 176 CR 4890, Winnsboro 903-629-7202 Perry Shirley</div> <div>CATHOLIC St. Ann's Catholic 1010 W. FM 515, Winnsboro 903-629-7889 Mani Mathai</div> <div>CHRISTIAN Central Christian Church 110 Sage St., Winnsboro 903-342-5883 F. Kevin Hollowell</div> <div>METHODIST Perryville Methodist Church FM 852, Perryville 8 Miles SE of Winnsboro Glenda Mendoza</div> <div>PRESBYTERIAN First Presbyterian 302 S Chestnut St, Winnsboro (903) 342-3011 Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter</div>		<div>Yantis</div> <div>BAPTIST County Line Baptist 6380 FM 2966, Yantis 903-383-2148 Pastor Rodney Christ Covenant Reformed Baptist FM 515 & 852, Yantis Pastor Tony Jackson First Baptist, Yantis 100 Church St., Yantis 903-383-2393 Pastor Craig Vance White Oak Baptist 116 PR 5922, Yantis (903) 383-2310 Pastor Jimmy Rogers</div>		<div>Tiffany's Restaurant</div> <div> "My-O-My the Pie" 271 CR 1558 • Alba 903-765-2087 Open Daily 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.</div>		<div>The Employees of</div> <div>Watkins Insurance Group urges everyone to attend the church of their choice!</div>		<div>Lowe Funeral Home</div> <div>1102 E. Goode • 763-2242 Dwayne & Lucy Lowe Quitman, Texas</div>		<div>Hughes Appliance & Air Conditioning</div> <div>1305 W. Broad - Mineola 903-569-5440 or 903-569-6903</div>		<div></div> <div>DISCOUNT BUILDING MATERIALS</div> <div>602 E. Goode • 903-763-2931 BUILDING MATERIALS - FLOORING SHINGLES - SHEET METAL DOORS CABINETS - WINDOWS Open Monday-Saturday 8 a m to 5 p m</div>		<div>Wood County MONITOR</div> <div>903-569-2442 • 715 Mimosa St. • Mineola, Texas 75773 903-763-4522 • 211 N. Main • Quitman, TX 75783</div>		<div>Autumn Wind Assisted Living of Winnsboro</div> <div>903-342-3388</div>		<div></div> <div>MINEOLA • 903-569-5437</div>		<div></div> <div>COVENTRY FINANCIAL GROUP</div> <div>903-763-4711 • www.coventryfinancialtexas.com</div>		<div>"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2</div>		<div>SUPPORT OUR AREA CHURCHES WITH AN AD IN THIS LOCATION</div>		<div></div>		<div>DOW AUTOPLEX</div> <div>Full Service GM Dealer Sales Mon.-Fri. 8 - 6 Sat. 9 - 5 1313 Hwy. 69 S - Mineola 903-569-2621</div>		<div>Compliments of</div> <div>Kemp-Meek Manufacturing Co. Inc. Mineola, Tx. "Strong churches make strong communities"</div>		<div>"For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 4:15</div>		<div>"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." Psalm 28:7</div>	
<div>Lake Fork Baptist Church <i>A lighthouse on the lake</i> 9483 W FM 515 • Alba, Tx 75410 (903) 473-9523 Fax: 903-474-9045 Website: www.lakeforkbaptist.org email:info@lakeforkbaptist.org</div>		<div>Alba</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD Gunter Assembly of God 4578 North FM 17, Alba (903) 765-9981 BAPTIST Bright Star Baptist Church 2795 Co Rd 3480, Alba 903-473-4064 Pastor Jerry Jackson Jr. Enon Baptist Church 7133 TX-182, Alba (903) 765-2014 Pastor - Reggie Day First Baptist Church of Alba 219 E. Holly, Alba 903-765-2471 Pastor Kelly B. Burton Lake Fork Baptist 9483 W. FM 515, Alba 903-473-9523</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Alba Church of Christ Off Hwy. 69, Alba John Ratliff Church of Christ of Alba 105 W. Holley St., Alba 903-765-9450 George Filpansick</div> <div>METHODIST Alba United Methodist 170 E Holley St, Alba 903-473-2411 Rev. Beverly Tune</div> <div>NON-DENOMINATIONAL Amazing Grace Fellowship Church 7405 US Hwy 69 E, Alba Pastor Byron George Open Door Church 633 CR1560, Alba (903) 765-3587 B.D. Bohanno</div>		<div>Golden</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD Cottonwood Assembly of God 8481 FM 779, Golden (903) 765-2675 Pastor: Otis Lee</div> <div>BAPTIST Golden First Baptist Church County Road 2940, Golden 903 768-2258 Pastor Robert Mounce Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church 205 County Road 2376, Golden 903-768-2653 Pastor Jason Walters</div> <div>BIBLE INDEPENDENT Golden Bible Church CR 2290, Golden (903) 768-2700</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Golden Church of Christ FM Rd. 779, Golden 903-768-2712 James Stringer</div> <div>METHODIST Golden United Methodist 658 FM 1799, Golden 903-768-2268 Pastor Jim Pickens</div>		<div>Hawkins</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD First Assembly of God 102 Hams St., Hawkins 903-769-3835 Pastor Don Majors</div> <div>BAPTIST Liberty Baptist 288 CR 3650, Hawkins 903-769-2250 Pastor Bob Sexton</div> <div>LUTHERAN Trinity Lutheran Church 3718 FM 2869 • Hawkins 903-769-4065 Kyle Kirk</div> <div>PENTECOSTAL Pine Mills Pentecostal Church Hwy. 14, Hawkins 903-857-2527 Pastor M.D. Thornhill</div>		<div>Holly Lake</div> <div>CATHOLIC Holy Spirit Catholic Church 1612 S. 2869, Holly Lake Rev. Michael T. Snyder 903-769-3235</div>		<div>Mineola</div> <div>ASSEMBLY OF GOD First Assembly of God 1917 N US Hwy 69 (903) 569-9882 Pastor Jerry Williams Iglesia Primera Asamblea de Dios 511 N. Second, Mineola 903-569-5537</div> <div>BAPTIST Calvary Baptist Church 779 FM 49, Mineola (903) 768-2313 Pastor Donald Masters Central Baptist Church 602 N Line St, Mineola (903) 569-3203 First Baptist Church 204 N Johnson St, Mineola (903) 569-3873 Phillip Casper Freedom Baptist Church 155 CR 2201, Mineola 903-638-8555 Pastor Al Dusek Hainesville Baptist Church 3368 FM 49, Mineola 903 569-3212 Pastor Terry Davis Harvest Acres Baptist Church 1062 W State Loop 564, Mineola 903-569-5351 Pastor David W. Burcham Hubbard Chapel Baptist Church Hwy. 778, Mineola Pastor: Rick Ellington Legacy Baptist Fellowship 415 W. McDonald, Mineola 903-316-0552 Macedonia Missionary Baptist 1555 County Road 3875, Mineola (903) 769-5618 Pastor Thomas Ricks Mt. Enterprise Baptist Church 3331 S St. Hwy. 37, Mineola (903) 569-2124 Jonathan Allenw Mt. Pisgah Baptist 4995 FM 49, Mineola Pastor Tim Nall</div> <div>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 3855 FM 1801, Mineola (903) 569-3760 Pastor Michael Mize Northside Baptist Church 1718 N. Pacific, Mineola 903-569-3872 Steve Prestidge, Pastor Rose Hill Baptist Church 1420 CR 2460, Mineola (903) 569-5746 Pastor Jeff Thompson Sand Springs Baptist Church 3208 C.R. 2330, Mineola (903) 569-9350 Pastor Nick Kerry Silver Lake Baptist Church 150 E Hwy. 80, Mineola (903) 569-2433 Pastor Mike Sullivan St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church 304 S. Stone St., Mineola (903) 569-8722 Pastor Demethruis T. Boyd</div> <div>BIBLE INDEPENDENT Lake Country Bible Church 1402 N Pacific St, Mineola (903) 569-5730</div> <div>CATHOLIC St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church 203 Meadowbrook, Mineola 903-569-3665 Pastor Lawrence Love</div> <div>CHRISTIAN CHURCH First Christian Church Disciples of Christ 209 North Pacific, Mineola 903-569-2537 Pastor Rick Son</div> <div>CHURCH OF CHRIST Broad St. Church of Christ 440 West Broad, Mineola 903-569-2046 Golden Church of Christ Golden 903-768-2712 North Loop Church of Christ 326 W FM 564, Mineola 903-569-3117 Clark Dugger Jamestown Church of Christ 22022 FM1253, Mineola (903) 569-0516 Mineola Church of Christ 1621 N. Pacific, Mineola 903-569-5571 Southside Church of Christ 527 Read St., Mineola 903-569-6812 Malcolm Duncan</div> <div>EPISCOPAL St. Dunstan's Episcopal 800 N. Johnson, Mineola 903-569-2478 Right Rev. Frazier Lawton</div> <div>JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES Jehovah's Witnesses Hwy. 69 South, Mineola 903-569-6370</div> <div>METHODIST/ CHRISTIAN EPISCOPAL East Chapel CME Church 723 South Pacific, Mineola 903-569-3624 Pastor - Leonard Spurling</div> <div>METHODIST 1st United Methodist Church 612 N Newsom St, Mineola 569-5426 Rev. Paul Thomasson Smith Chapel Methodist 670 FM 1804, Mineola 903-569-9187 Pastor Jim Pickens Johnson Chapel Methodist 224 Elliott, Mineola 903-569-9536 Pastor Clara Gilbert</div> <div>NAZARENE First Church of the Nazarene 503 N. Line, Mineola 903-569-3057 Rev. Randy Larpenteur.</div> <div>NON-DENOMINATIONAL Bethel Worship Center</div>																																									

Wood County Monitor classifieds

Rentals

Apartments

For rent one bedroom apartment, W&D connections. No pets. 903-967-3415.

Homes

One bedroom furnished house on private lake near Alba School, large garden. \$500/mo. 903-258-2686.


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CITY OF MINEOLA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

City of Mineola will be discussing and holding a Public Hearing on an annexation request from property owners off of FM 1254, Mineola Texas. Legal description is Lot 6, 7 Cowan, 10.27 acres.

To be held at a Special Called City Council Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Mineola City Hall, 300 Greenville Highway.

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "changes his mind as often ____ does socks"

5 train for boxing

6 seed covering

7 grow weary

8 this heads the party for TXns Bush, Cruz, and Cornyn (abbr.)

9 TX Laura Bush is a member of this patriotic org.

12 TXism: "just ____ in the bucket" (paltry)

17 a TX wildflower that Indians once used for yellow dye

19 this Danny was a Cowboy defensive end (1987-92)

21 Tel Aviv resident

22 founded in Dallas: "Steak ____"

23 TXism: "____ beer and no foam" (genuine)

28 first TX female Secretary of State, Meharg

29 Hamilton bills

30 happy (2 wds.)

31 USMCA will replace this trade pact

35 Madagascar primate

36 TXism: "____ music" (lively music)

42 it's still illegal in TX

44 this Warren was in "The Border" with TX Valerie Perrine

DOWN

46 inner tube on the Guadalupe (2 wds.)

48 TX Audie Murphy's "40 ____ Apache Pass"

49 golf ball holder for the drive on a par 5

50 Rising ____, TX

51 San Jacinto buried treasure: "Santa ____ Paychests"

52 UT grad actor, Wallach

53 this TX Williams was an All-American football end at Baylor (1951)

54 Pittsburg is the seat of this county in East TX

56 Grand ____ Opry org. for Mavs, Rockets, & Spurs

58 a word that means the same as another (abbr.)

1 TXism: "tough ____ steak"

2 Sulphur ____, TX

3 TX Comer Cottrell founded Pro-Line Corp., a ____ company (1970)

TEXAS

CROSSWORD


by Charley & Guy Orbison

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Ramey Water Supply Corporation

Members Annual Meeting has been canceled for March 30, 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak.



Call our office with any questions

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit with FB & a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit by Wild Mae Concepts LLC, d/b/a The Line, to be located at 124 S. Line St, Mineola, Wood County, TX 75773. Managers of said LLC are Channing Bush Jr., Manager and Trisha Bush, Manager.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC's Nationwide Programmatic Agreement. Union Pacific Railroad intends to construct a communications facility at approximately .39 miles west of intersection County Road 2659 and Hwy 80, Hawkins, Wood County, Texas (Latitude: 32.58515 and Longitude: -95.17362). The facility will include a monopole telecommunications tower with an approximate overall height of 85 ft. and associated equipment. Union Pacific Railroad is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We respectfully request that parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties or with questions on the proposed facility should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103 within 30 days of the posting of this notice. (GSS #W20212)

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S-1472

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF WOOD

TO: ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF STEPHEN RAY LAVANDOSK.I, DECEASED, Cause No. 13,636, in County Court in and for Wood County, Texas


James Francis Gorman, applicant in the above numbered and entitled case, filed on the 9th day of January, 2020 in Wood County, an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in Wood County. Applicant requests that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of Decedent and their respective shares and interest in this Estate. And that the Applicant be granted such other relief to which he may be entitled to receive.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration often (10) days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Court in and for Wood County, Texas, Courthouse, One Main Street, Quitman, Texas 75783, Wood County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at, said above mentioned time and place by filing, a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Quitman, Texas, this the 10th day of March, 2020.



KELLEY PRICE, County Clerk

Wood County, Texas

By: 

Dachele Haggerty Deputy

Public Service Announcement:

Fair Housing, It's the Law

To promote fair housing practices, the Town of Yantis encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the Texas Workforce Commission at (888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-7473.

Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

The Town of Yantis does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. The Mayor has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8).

Citizen Participation & Grievance Procedures Notice

The Town of Yantis has adopted complaint and grievance procedures regarding its Texas Community Development Block Grant Programs (TxCDBG). Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at 103 City Circle Yantis, TX, 75497 during regular business hours. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling the Mayor, Civil Rights Officer at (903) 383-2610. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a complaint or grievance about TxCDBG activities.

A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the TxCDBG project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the City Secretary, at P. O. Box 245, Yantis, TX 75497 or may call (903) 383-2610. The Town of Yantis will make every effort to respond fully to such complaints within fifteen (15) working days where practicable.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

The Town of Yantis does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.



A large group of Mineola High School band students has qualified for the state solo and ensemble contest May 31 and June 1. Like all sanctioned public school competitions, it remains up in the air. (Courtesy photo)

Students advance to state solo and ensemble music competition

These students will be advancing to the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest in Austin on June 1.

They advanced from the region level in Longview and earned the state honor.

MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL
Ensembles Advancing (with grade)
Brass Ensemble – Brian-na Bethel (12), Megan Holt (12), Ramiro Mata (11), Toni Brannan (11), Cam Ramos (11), Jonath Esquivil (11), Al-

ana Galaz (11), Lanie Yager (11), Gaby Wolf (10), Jenna Haggerton (9)

Flute Quartet – Leslie Alejo (10), Gisel Delgadillo (10), Keren De La Garza (11), Jimena Chavez (11)

Saxophone Quartet – Taylor Ihlenfeldt (11), Madeline Tucker (9), Leonica Villeda (11), Riley Woodward (9)

Solos Advancing
Trombone – Megan Holt (12), Gaby Wolf (10)

Percussion – Israel Rivera (12), Anjel Garcia (12), Val-

erie Garcia (11), Valeria Veloz (10), Bianca Delgadillo (10), Corban Mize (9), Cris Alejo (9), Cillian Russell (9), Aubree Bedford (9), Vanessa Veloz (9)

Music Theory Advancing
Megan Holt (12)
Hannah McNeil (12)
Makayla Skinner (11)
Toni Brannan (11)
Bradley Rockwell (11)
Riley Castle (10)

QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL
Marimba Solo – Tristan

Cheek
Clarinet Solo – Oscar Roman

Clarinet Ensemble – Oscar Roman, Jazmin Rojas, Tristan Wood, Angelina Rodriguez and Diego Orsonio
Flute Ensemble – Rayann Rowland, Kaitlynn Barnett, Madysen Miller and Lorena Sorreno.

Students advancing to state must perform a Class 1 solo from memory and receive a first division rating.



Justin Atkins hauled in this 10.8 pound bass at Lake Fork during the Major League Fishing (MLF) event last week. The fish set a record for the biggest bass caught in MLF competition. (Courtesy photo)

Bass sets major league record

Ott DeFoe of Blaine, Tenn. had a remarkable 66 minutes during the championship round that will live on in Bass Pro Tour history for many years to come.

DeFoe completed an improbable run of 18 bass for 57 pounds, 4 ounces to give him his first Bass Pro Tour Stage Championship trophy in the last hour of the day. The final day of the competition was at Lake Athens Sunday after starting at Lake Fork earlier in the week.

After a record-breaking week on Lake Fork, it should

come as no surprise that the MLF pros totaled a whopping 80 bass over the weight of six pounds: 36 six-pounders, 22 seven-pounders, 13 eight-pounders, seven nine-pounders and two 10-plus-pounders. Justin Atkins caught the largest bass ever caught in MLF competition at Lake Fork.

DeFoe took home the \$100,000 first prize followed by Alton Jones Jr. who came in second and won \$42,000 with Mark Daniels Jr. winning third place money of \$34,000.

High school athletics value more evident now that it's gone

By JOHN ARBTER
woodctystringer@gmail.com

The ballparks are silent at the moment as scholastic competition has been shut down for the balance of the spring, so far. Often in the absence of an activity, it serves us well to consider the impact and vitality of that activity.

A rough count of the 2019-20 high school athletic rosters reveals about 540 Alba-Golden, Mineola and Quitman roster spots were filled by local athletes this school year. Although that number does not account for those students who played multiple sports, it is still impressive to consider. Throughout the school year, 540 individuals wore the jerseys of the three schools in athletic competition.

Viewed from this perspective, the importance of athletics in area schools is monumental. With the large number of participants, it is of little wonder why schools invest so heavily in athletic programs.

The objective is simple: to build productive members of society.

As Drew Webster, athletic director at Alba-Golden school described, "We want our kids to be great husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. We want our

kids to be able to handle the highs and lows of life and always be positive, contributing members to the community."

Mineola Athletic Director Luke Blackwell added, "The ultimate goal of our athletic program is to teach kids to be successful in life outside of high school."

The sports available in local high schools are then simply different mechanisms to teach those traits and share in the experiences, which will give youngsters the best possible chances for life success.

The array of sports is impressive: football, volleyball, cross-country, soccer, basketball, powerlifting, softball, baseball, track, golf and tennis. Most of the sports feature varsity and junior varsity squads.

Managing an athletic program creates many requirements. Building a coaching staff, maintaining facilities and equipment, establishing policies, codifying expectations and requirements are just a few of the responsibilities of athletic directors. It is essential for those leading the program to never forget the reason it all exists.

As Webster stated, "Despite the many hats we wear, we are here for the kids."

Blackwell describes creating a culture that allows

kids to grow, learn and be successful.

"Surrounding our kids with men and women of high character who consistently exhibit strong positives examples to our kids through their words and actions," is a mainstay of the Mineola program, related Blackwell.

There are many paths to success and many characteristics on which to build a program.

For the Panthers of Alba-Golden, the young student-athletes are indoctrinated into the concepts of accountability, character and roles. Young Yellow-jacket athletes will become very familiar with the mantra of effort, attitude and toughness.

Both coaches shared amazing examples of young people who have demonstrated superior qualities of perseverance and humility in the course of their high school athletic careers. Whether it was a promising athlete who fought back twice from major injury to become a symbol of achievement or an athlete who overcame physical impairments to be among the best in the state, the power of athletics is boundless. The impact of their athletes on the two head coaches was obvious and heartfelt.

"We have chosen this road



The excitement of high school sports is demonstrated by the Alba-Golden volleyball team earlier this school year. (Monitor photo by John Arbter)

(as coaches) to impact and influence our kids through athletics," summarized Webster. He related how athletics provide purpose in young people's lives and often becomes a very real family to many young people.

Blackwell concurred, remarking, "You never know what single event or series of events may change a kid's

life!"

Often the achievements of local athletes leave spectators in awe. The emotional rollercoaster of high school competition can awaken emotional reactions.

We share in the wins and defeats of our children, and are reminded thereby of our humanity.

For those having grown

up in East Texas, high school sports was always a part, a big part, of the natural environment. We likely never considered the passing seasons without it. A pause without the sights and sounds of sports may give us all time to reflect on the impact we have over each other, especially young people, in a trying time.

Small Business Administration honors Luttrells

Deb Luttrell and Clay Luttrell have been named the District 2020 Small Business Person of the Year by the Dallas-Fort Worth Small Business Administration. The national winner will be announced in early May during National Small Business Week.

The mother-son team operates Stitchin' Heaven, Texas' largest quilt shop and online destination for quilters.

Deb Luttrell founded Stitchin' Heaven in 1996 and has grown the quilt shop from a small storefront into a multimillion-dollar family-run business that provides quilters around the world with unique fabrics, supplies and projects, plus creative outlets for education and group travel. Involved from the brand's inception, her son, Clay, officially joined Stitchin' Heaven full-time in 2017. As co-owner, he was instrumental in recent growth and facilitating the opening of a new 17,500 square-foot shop in Quitman in October 2019. Plans

for additional construction to further expand Stitchin' Heaven's e-commerce capabilities and offer on-site lodging for an all-inclusive immersive experience are in the works for later this year.

"We are very honored, grateful, and appreciative for the SBA award. We are excited for the growth that will be happening in Quitman for years to come," Clay said.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Small Business Administration will make an official announcement that includes all 2020 award winners during National Small Business Week May 3-9. For more than 50 years, National Small Business Week has celebrated the inspiring achievements of America's small businesses and the countless contributions they make to local communities and our nation's economy.

"Being recognized for all of the hard work, creativity and resiliency it takes to build and sustain a small business is so rewarding,"



Deb and Clay Luttrell of Stitchin' Heaven in Quitman. (Monitor file photo)

said Deb. "Clay and I would like to thank all of our loyal customers who have been faithful to the business, our dedicated employees who work hard every day to provide exceptional service, our family who have played such a key role in the success of Stitchin' Heaven, and the City of Quitman for their continued support.

We have big plans for 2020 and beyond and can't wait to continue growing as a household name for quilters around the country."

The Luttrells and other winners will be recognized at a luncheon May 8 at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel. National award winners will be honored in late May in Washington, D.C.

Jackson awarded scholarship from Fort Worth Stock Show

An \$8,000 scholarship was recently awarded to Jentri Jackson of Quitman FFA by the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo's Calf Scramble Scholarship Committee. She is the daughter of Jerry and Tracie Jackson.

Jackson participated in the 2019 Fort Worth Stock Show Calf Scramble program making her eligible for the scholarship program. Seventy-two youth shared in \$390,000 in Calf Scramble scholarship dollars.

Jackson's scholarship was the result of the hard work and dedication necessary for participants to complete the rigorous Calf Scramble

program. The moment they caught a calf during a 2019 Stock Show rodeo performance their Calf Scramble journey began. These youth utilized Stock Show funds toward the purchase of a calf that they cared for in 2019 and exhibited at this year's livestock show. Her Limousin heifer project was sponsored by Jenny Baker of Fort Worth. Besides showing their heifer, monthly reports and a final essay were required to remain eligible for scholarship consideration. Meeting shortly after the 2020 Show, the Scholarship Committee awarded Jackson her scholarship.

QISD

From page 1

empt employees during an emergency closure, including premium payments for certain employees and to implement those decisions.

The superintendent will further be able to alter the Quitman ISD school calendar by changing and/or adding school/instructional hours and work/school days as necessitated by any emergency closures or related concerns.

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Reid ranked among nation's leading long-range shooters

By **LARRY TUCKER**
editor@wood.cm

Quitman basketball ace, senior Jace Reid, ended a superb career as a Quitman Bulldog averaging 24.6 points per game this season. Reid was one of the nation's top three-point shooters making 114 long range shots. He finished 26th in the nation in made three-pointers. Not only has Reid been a prolific scorer, he has high academic achievements. Reid has been named to the Texas High School Coaching Association's (THSCA) Academic All State Elite team and the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) All State team as well. He was also named to the UIL's Class 3A Region 2 All-Region team. Reid was also named the District 12-3A offensive Player of the Year. The opportunity to play at the next level has always been a dream of the 6'3" Bulldog star. With the spread of the coronavirus, college recruiting has slowed. Reid is being recruited by Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville, Okla. "They have not officially offered me anything yet, but they have shown that they want me to play for them," Reid said. "I think it would be a great opportunity for me to play at the next level. I'm just trying to figure out where I want to go at the moment. If I don't go play college basketball somewhere I want to go to Texas A&M to study kinesiology and become a teacher and coach." He played for his father, Coach Jim Reid, at the varsity level during his high school career. "It was tough at times



Jace Reid takes a long shot against Grand Saline earlier this year. (Monitor photo by Larry Tucker)

when we weren't doing so hot, but it was all worth it to be able to play for my dad and with good friends I have had since the eighth grade," Reid added. "It has been a great time for me and I am glad I got to do it." The current status of the spread of the coronavirus has been hard on Reid. "I'm getting really bored, I'm ready to get started working out again and playing basketball," Reid said. "I'm trying to stay ready and right now just hang out with my family and spend more time with them." Reid had been invited to play in three all-star games where college scouts had a chance to watch players who have yet to sign a letter-of-intent. Those all-star contests were the Azalea Orthopedic, Hoops for Autism and Scouting Report Tournament. The Azalea Orthopedic game has been canceled while the Hoops for Autism has been scheduled for April 14 at Spring Hill. The Scouting Report game is postponed. In Reid's stellar senior season, he not only averaged 24.6 points per game while being double-teamed most games, he also averaged 8.6 rebounds per game, 3.1 assists and 3.2 steals. He had one stretch during the Quitman Tournament where he scored over 40 points three games in a row. "I have had players who scored 40 in a game, but never one who did it three games in a row," Jim Reid said.