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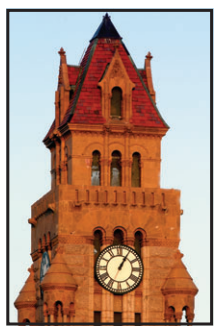
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Answer online at facebook.com/wcmessenger

The city of Boyd is putting a committee together to plan community events. What types of events work? What events would you like to see in your hometown?
See a related story on page 11A.

ALCOHOL VOTE
Decatur City Council Monday ordered a special election for Nov. 8 for voters to consider the sale of all alcoholic beverages.
See page 4A.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
The 2016 football season kicked off Friday night. Check out how your team fared on the gridiron.
See page 1B.





WISE COUNTY
MESSENGER

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WISE COUNTY

Arrest made in stabbing case

BY BRIAN KNOX
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A Boyd man has been arrested after stabbing a Paradise man during a fight.

Wise County Sheriff Lane Akin said officers responded to a call around 10 p.m. Tuesday when a woman called to say her boyfriend had been stabbed. Officers found Douglas Robinson Jr., 29, with stab wounds in his stomach and back.

An ambulance was called to transport Robinson to Wise Health System in Decatur, where he was then flown to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

Investigators determined that Robert Thompson, 48, went to Robinson's home in the 100 block of Private Road 3250 near Paradise where Thompson's ex-girlfriend was living. Robinson told him to leave, but Thompson refused, according to the arrest affidavit.


THOMPSON

Robinson then fired a round from a shotgun into the ground as a warning for Thompson to leave and then put the shotgun in the house.

Robinson came back outside to confront Thompson, and the two began to fight.

"During the fight, the two went to the ground," the affidavit states. "While on the ground, (Thompson) stabbed (Robinson) in the abdomen with a pocket knife. The wound caused a portion of (Robinson's) intestines to go outside of his abdomen."

The two men stood up, and Robinson began to walk away when Thompson stabbed him in the back with the knife, the affidavit states.

Akin said investigators spoke with Thompson, who admitted to being involved in a fight with Robinson, but he said the stabbing was in self-defense.

The sheriff said Robinson remained in the hospital Friday.

"It appears his injuries are not life-threatening, and he is expected to recover," Akin said.

Thompson was arrested Wednesday and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a second-degree felony. He remained in the Wise County Jail Friday with bond set at $50,000.

DECATUR



School spirit

Cheerleader Angelina Spragg leads her class in a chant at the Decatur High School pep rally Friday. It was the school's first pep rally of the year.

Photo by JOE DUTY/WCMESSENGER • Buy reprints at wcmessenger.com/reprints

WISE COUNTY

UNSERVED

Questions arise over constable's work and expenses

BY KRISTEN TRIBE
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Precinct 3 Constable Doug Parr's county charge accounts remain frozen because he has not addressed issues with inventory as he promised earlier this summer.

Commissioners expressed concern at their Aug. 15 meeting that although Parr had his county vehicle inspected, the registration had not yet been renewed and he did not have a light bar or permanent markings installed as instructed.


PARR

Auditor Ann McCuiston presented an invoice to commissioners from H-3 Oil Pad in Boyd dated June 28, for an oil change and inspection. She said this account had not been suspended and "we did decide, since he got it inspected, to go ahead and pay this one."

Treasurer Katherine Hudson said Parr had not brought proof of inspection to her office so she could register the vehicle. It has been expired since May.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Danny White asked if Parr had been told to bring the inspection paperwork to Hudson.

"Multiple times," she replied.

County Judge J.D. Clark added that Parr has not been to McCuiston's office since late June, and he also had not heard from the constable since that time. McCuiston noted the oil change was the second in recent months, and according to the invoices, the vehicle had been driven only about 300 miles between the two.

Parr's county charge accounts were frozen the week of June 13, with the approval of county commissioners, because McCuiston reported Parr was not coming to her office to sign bills, which delays payment to vendors.

Asset Manager Diana Alexander also noted at that time that Parr had not produced a light bar and GPS system during recent audits, and his vehicle was not permanently marked. His inspection and registration also were expired.

Although Parr signed invoices June 24,
See Parr on page 13A

WISE COUNTY

Enrollment increases across county

All but two Wise County school districts saw an increase in enrollment numbers from the first day of school last year to the first day this year.

While Alvord ISD's growth was smaller than some other districts, with just six students separating last year's first day count of 705 to 2016's 711, Superintendent Randy Brown said that's how he prefers it.

"This way it's manageable," he said. "This has been our pattern for the last few years, just gradual increases."

Brown said the district didn't have to add any staff to account for the slight uptick in students.

Boyd ISD jumped from 1,148 on the first day of school in 2015 to 1,189 this year, one of the largest percentage increases in the county. Superintendent Ted West said the growth didn't stop there — another 36 students joined the district in the first week of school.

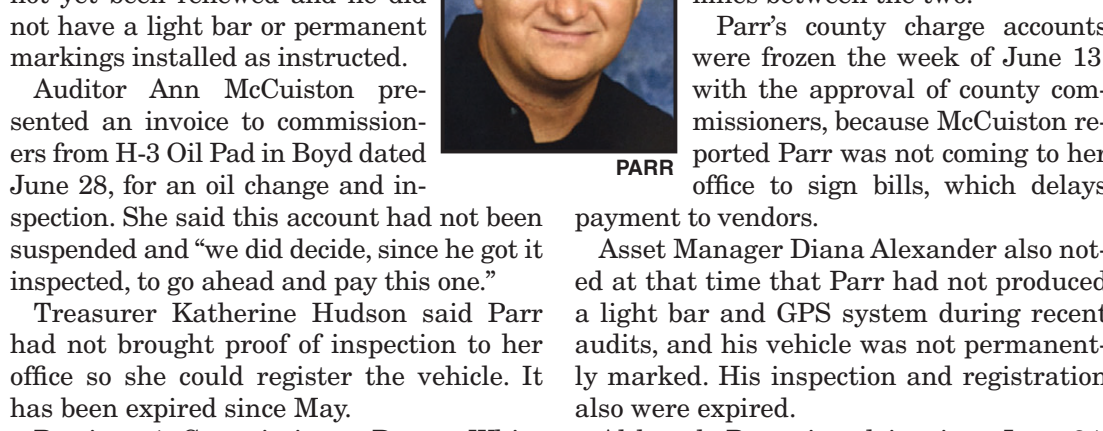
"We had expected more than 1,200," West said. "We'll keep enrolling past Labor Day, so there may be just a few more come in."

West said the enrollments aren't putting the district in a personnel bind and no additional staff is needed to help with the extra students.

"Increased enrollment is always a good thing," he said. "We're always happy to have a few more."

Bridgeport schools saw a slight increase in enrollment numbers from the first day of the 2015-2016 school year to the first day of 2016-2017, going from 2,042 to 2,060 students.

Superintendent Eddie Bland said that the number of students was right about where the district had pre-
See Schools on page 4A



Graphic by JOY CARRICO/WCMESSENGER

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Parr: Constable's workload and fuel purchases don't add up

Continued from page 1A

commissioners decided June 27 that his accounts would not be reactivated until he complied with their requests related to his vehicle.

"It seems like this is an ongoing problem," White said. "I'm not trying to blow it out of proportion, but you've got a vehicle running around with the tags expired on it. That's not right to begin with."

> **It seems like this is an ongoing problem.**
>
> *Precinct 1 Commissioner Danny White*

Workload questioned

Parr told the *Messenger* Wednesday that Hudson texted him about the proof of inspection paperwork Aug. 15, and he mailed it to her immediately. But as of Thursday afternoon, Hudson's office had not received it. It was hand-delivered by a third party about 3 p.m. Friday.

Parr said he did have the permanent graphics installed on his vehicle last month but admitted the light bar is not yet on the pickup.

The light bar and its installation were paid for in September 2015, and he said in June he would get both of these things done while he was on vacation in July.

Parr said he hadn't been worried about it because the vehicle has other emergency lights on it.

"It's been that way since I got it," he said.

Parr's county vehicle, an F-150 pickup, was purchased in April 2013 from Caldwell Country Ford in Caldwell.

In July 2014, commissioners decided all constable vehicles should be marked in accordance with the Texas Transportation Code.

At the time Parr was the only constable with an unmarked vehicle, and he argued vehemently to keep it that way, claiming it was safer for him and less embarrassing for citizens if he was serving papers from an unmarked vehicle.

Since that time, there have been questions about how many papers Parr actually is serving. According to information obtained through an open records request of the sheriff's office, deputies have served 236 sets of papers from Jan. 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016, out of Precinct 3 on Parr's behalf.

During that same period, they served less than 10 for the other three precincts — one for Precinct 1 Constable Dennis Hudson, five for Precinct 2 Constable Larry Short and three for Precinct 4 Constable Kevin Huffman.

Parr said during 2014, he was under a doctor's care for back problems, and he approached Sheriff David Walker about deputies helping him.

"David said, 'No problem. We'll cover until you're ready,'" Parr said. "I still took care of court, and when I was ready, I took it back over. If (Justice of the Peace) Mandy (Hays) had something urgent, I'd do it."

Parr could not recall the exact time frame of his back injury. He was also unable to tell the *Messenger* how many sets of papers he had served.

While the bulk served on his behalf were during 2014, it didn't appear to slow down in 2015. Sheriff's records indicate 105 sets were served in 2014, followed the next year with 92.

More than two dozen were served in 2016, the latest being mid-June.

After questions were raised about Parr at the June 13 commissioners meeting, the sheriff's office returned all papers to the constable and said they would no longer serve them on his behalf.

"I would find it hard to believe there were that many papers," Parr told the *Messenger* Wednesday. "I'm shocked if that's the case."

The *Messenger* requested Thursday afternoon the total number of cases filed in Precinct 3 from Jan. 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016. Neither Justice of the Peace Mandy Hays nor her staff had responded by press time Friday.

Parr said he "never had a problem until Troy Gregg."

Gregg was promoted in March to lieutenant of special services, which handles civil service, by newly elected Sheriff Lane Akin.

Most of the papers served were forcible detainer and writ of possession, which are related to the eviction process.

"The writs of possession we kept sending up there because I've never served them by myself," Parr said. "Until a few months ago, my agreement with the sheriff's office was they would take the writs of possession. That changed with Troy.

"The sheriff's office doesn't do writs without two people, but we are expected to do it by ourselves."

Constables Hudson and Short often serve these types of papers together, but Parr said it isn't easy to coordinate schedules. He expressed frustration that commissioners wouldn't approve unpaid reserve officers for the constables' offices.

"We've made them aware there's an issue with our safety, but they won't do anything about it," Parr complained. "[One constable] has asked armed people off the street to go with him because we don't have people to back us up. It's strange how this has all boiled down to this."

Akin said Thursday his department helps the constables as needed.

"We do provide backup for them, but they're still responsible for the service," the retired Texas Ranger explained. "We're available to assist them when there could be some related danger.

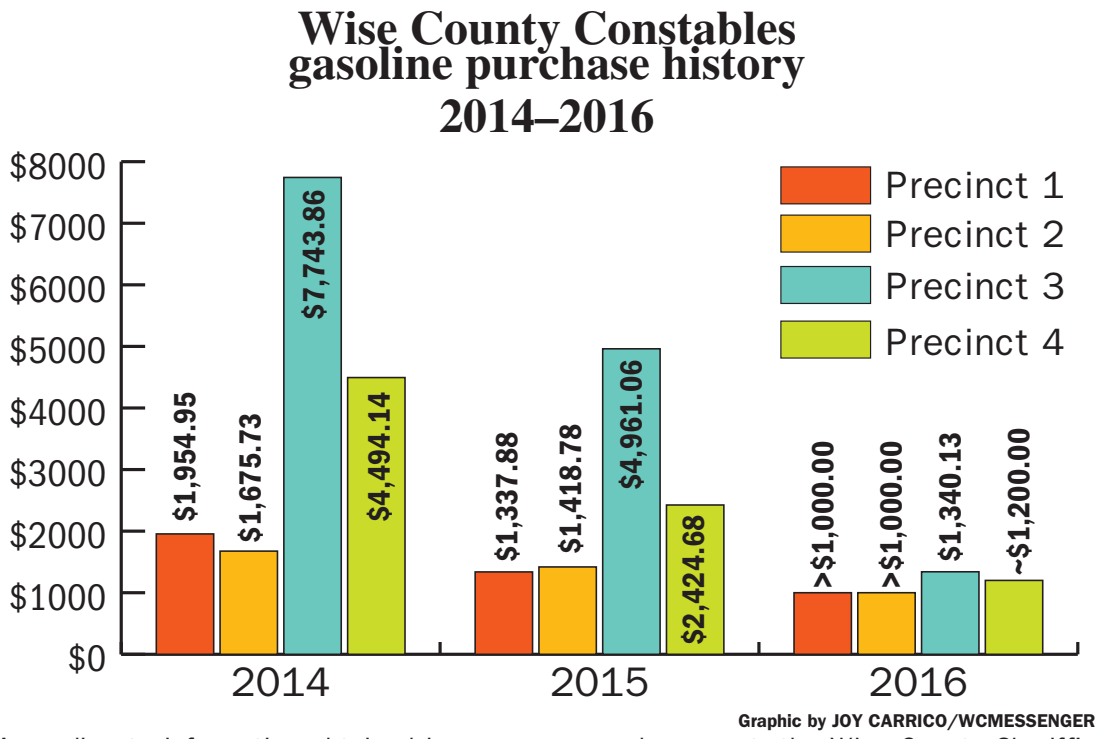
"All the other constables are taking that responsibility, and they know we will provide the assistance they need."

Fuel purchases

Although Parr said his workload was limited in 2014 due to back problems, he continued to use the county gasoline card, spending almost more than all other constables combined, according to county gas card bills obtained by an open records request to the auditor's office.

In 2014, Parr spent $7,743.86 for gas, compared to $1,954.95 in Precinct 1, $1,675.73 in Precinct 2 and $4,494.14 in Precinct 4.

> **I would find it hard to believe there were that many papers. I'm shocked if that's the case.**
>
> *Precinct 3 Constable Doug Parr*



Graphic by JOY CARRICO/WCMESSENGER

According to information obtained in an open records request, the Wise County Sheriff's office served 236 sets of civil papers out of Precinct 3 for Constable Doug Parr from Jan. 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016. For comparison, they served less than 10 for the other three precincts combined. Yet, Parr's fuel costs were significantly higher than his counterparts' until this year.

In fiscal year 2015, Parr continued to buy more fuel than his counterparts with $4,961.06, again with multiple purchases outside the county. That same year Precinct 1 spent $1,337.88, Precinct 2 spent $1,418.78 and Precinct 4 spent $2,424.68.

In fiscal year 2016, he has purchased less gas, and it's comparable to the other constables. Through the month of May he had spent $1,340.13. Precinct 4 had spent about $1,200 and Precincts 1 and 2 had spent less than $1,000 each.

Parr said he didn't recall exactly what he was doing in the Metroplex during 2014.

"Sometimes I go meet with other law enforcement officers," he said. "I've got a lot of associates that I've been involved with for many years, and sometimes I go seek counsel from them.

"I spent most of my career in Farmer's Branch. I went to the police department, and we'd meet up with the guys and we'd go to the range and various things," he said. "I was in my county truck."

According to records at the Wise County auditor's office, Parr purchased 6,467.38 gallons of gas from May 2013 to May 2016, but the June 28 receipt from H-3 Oil Pad when the vehicle was inspected indicates the mileage is only 11,584.

That would mean Parr's Ford F-150 was getting 1.79 miles per gallon.

Parr could not recall the mileage of his vehicle when he spoke with the *Messenger* Wednesday afternoon, but he said he would look it up. As of press time Friday, he had not produced that number.

He did email the *Messenger* a written statement early Friday morning stating these issues stem from a dispute he had with McCuiston in 2015 over "repetitive reporting and a difference of opinion of the government code."

"The auditor has overstepped her duties in attempting to cause harm to my reputation by looking for anything outside the scope of her own duties to take issue with," he said.

Parr claimed Wednesday that the auditor has requested documentation that he is not required by state law to provide. When asked to which documents he was referring, he said he didn't know.

"I have always done what is right, and anyone who knows me knows that this is nothing more than a political witch hunt," he said in the written statement. "I do take issue with anyone attacking my character and integrity, which I have always worked hard to uphold and protect."

Parr was first elected in 2008, and he's hoping to be re-elected to a third term in 2016. In addition to being constable, Parr is a home builder, operating Doug Parr Custom Homes out of Boyd.

He has more than 20 years experience in law enforcement, having started his career in Wise County at the Bridgeport Police Department and then serving as a deputy sheriff.

He also worked at Farmers Branch PD, serving as a field training officer, detective, corporal and sergeant.

"I encourage anyone with any questions about any of this silliness to call me or meet with me to discuss it," Parr's statement says. "I hope and pray that we can move on to things that truly matter, such as helping people and serving others."

