INDEX
Opinion 4
Obituaries 5
Sports 12
Classifieds . . . . .7, All Around Wise

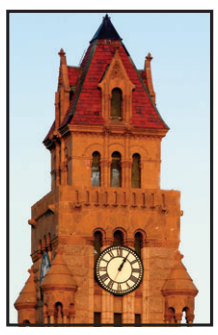
FACE 2 fb
Answer online at facebook.com/wcmessenger

Many school districts across the county are facing a budget crunch. Should school boards choose to raise taxes to balance the budget or dip into reserves.
See a related story on this page.

CONNECTING WITH PARENTS
Slidell elementary teacher Katy Hunter is using social media to better communicate with parents.
See page 8.

PLAY BY PLAY
Check out Friday-night highlights and the playmakers from last week.
See coverage beginning on page 12.





WISE COUNTY
MESSENGER

VOLUME 137 - NO. 70 | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2016 | DECATUR, TEXAS | 24 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS PLUS INSERTS | $1

WISE COUNTY

New numbers corroborate Parr's lack of service

BY KRISTEN TRIBE
ktribe@wcmessenger.com

Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Mandy Hays responded Monday to an open records request with numbers indicating the Wise County Sheriff's Office served almost all the court's civil papers on behalf of Constable Doug Parr over a two-and-a-half year period.

Between Jan. 1, 2014, and June 30, 2016, 271 cases requiring the service of Parr were filed in Precinct 3.

In the weekend paper, the *Messenger* reported that the sheriff's office had served 236 sets of papers out of Precinct 3 on Parr's behalf during that same time period.

That means Parr served only 35 sets of Precinct 3 papers over two-and-a-half years while spending $14,045.05 in gas, according to county gas card bills obtained by an open records request.

All other constables did up to eight times more work than Parr during this same time frame and spent considerably less in gas. Precinct 1 Constable Dennis Hudson served 225 sets of papers and spent $3,821.96 in gas. Precinct 2 Constable Larry Short served between 275 and 300 sets of papers, spending $3,720.51.



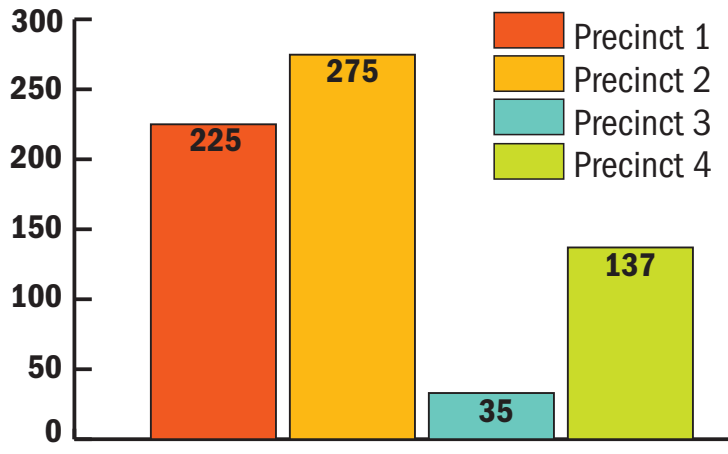
PARR

Due to a change in truancy law that required some cases be expunged, Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Craig Johnson said it was difficult to get the exact number because some cases that Short served are now removed from the system.

Precinct 4 Constable Kevin Huffman served 137 sets of papers during this time peri-

See Parr on page 6

Precinct papers served from Jan. 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016



Graphic by JOY CARRICO/WCMESSENGER

DECATUR

TRAIL DAZE



Chisholm Trail Days celebrations took over Decatur this weekend. Left, Emily Williams of Boyd, the rodeo's queen, cuddles with therapy dog Dutch at the NRS Meet the Clowns event. Below, Adam Strahan of Decatur leaps off his horse to tackle a steer in no time at the Chisholm Trail Days Rodeo.



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

WISE COUNTY

Women's Building remodel grinds to halt

BY KRISTEN TRIBE
ktribe@wcmessenger.com

Work on the Women's Building at the Wise County Fairgrounds is temporarily halted because the contractor did not seek the proper permits with the city of Decatur.

Planning and Development Director Dedra Ragland said a third-party inspector working for the city visited the site Aug. 9 and determined the level of work required permits.

As of Tuesday, they were still not in place. County Judge J.D. Clark said the project had not been red-flagged, but contractor Basic IDIQ quit working so "they don't get in trouble with the city."

Clark lays the blame on the contractor.

"It's up to Basic IDIQ to get the permits," he said. "You assume that when you come to do a project, you talk to the municipality."

Clark said Basic IDIQ's excuse was that the bulk of their work is for schools and government entities, and in most cases, they're not required to get permits.

"IDIQ screwed it up and should have done it in the week before they started the demolition and didn't," he said.

Ragland said this isn't the first time her department has had problems with the county.

See Building on page 7

BRIDGEPORT

District raises tax rate 2 cents

BY RACEY BURDEN
rburden@wcmessenger.com

Bridgeport School Board voted Monday to increase the tax rate by 2 cents.

The board discussed the 2016-2017 budget and tax rate for nearly two hours before voting on the increase. Three separate tax rates were discussed, and two proposed, before the rate of $1.24 per $100 valuation passed.

Superintendent Eddie Bland recommended that the board keep the 2015-2016 rate of $1.22 per $100 valuation, with the maintenance and operations rate left at the maximum of $1.04 and the debt service (or interest and sinking) rate at 18 cents.

The debt service rate pays off the district's bonds. At a rate of 18 cents, Bridgeport ISD would have $194,694 left to pay for the 2016-2017 bond payment, which would have come out of the district's $760,000 debt service fund. Bland said the purpose of the debt service fund was for a "rainy day" occasion, such as the recent drastic loss of taxable mineral values.

Trustee Marci Craddock made a motion to set the rate at $1.23 per $100 valuation, increasing the debt service rate to 19.5 cents. Craddock said that rate could ease the public into an increase, and it would be easier to defend

See Tax on page 3

ON THE WEB ...
Scan this QR code with your smartphone to go to our website.

6 89076 43284 9
Wise County Messenger
P.O. Box 149 • 115 South Trinity
Decatur, Texas 76234
www.wcmessenger.com

1205 HOVEY BRIDGEPORT 940-683-9663 US 287 SOUTH DECATUR 940-627-2099
Find Eyecatching School Cars at
LABOR DAY SALE
WE FINANCE!
Neighborhood AUTOS
NEIGHBORHOODAUTOS.COM
AZLE ~ DENTON ~ GAINESVILLE ~ LEWISVILLE ~ SANGER ~ WATAUGA

Parr: Constable's work and expenses questioned

Continued from page 1

od. A clerk in the Precinct 4 justice of the peace office said it's common for their office to have fewer cases filed than the other precincts. Huffman spent $8,120.47 in gas. All of the above information about numbers of papers served was obtained through open records requests to the justice of the peace offices in each precinct.

In the weekend *Messenger*, it was reported that Hays had not responded to an open records request made by the paper last Thursday, but she alerted the *Messenger* Monday that her office never received the request in writing.

The *Messenger* spoke with Hays last Thursday, explaining the request, and she asked that it be submitted in writing via email to one of her clerks. The *Messenger* did so, but discovered Monday it was accidentally sent to the wrong email address.

After Hays contacted the paper Monday, the request was sent again, and her office responded just before 5 p.m. the same day.

It should be noted that although the bulk of the constables' work comes from within their precincts, they do serve some papers for other entities. They may also choose to patrol their precincts.

■

A more in-depth story, "Unserved: Questions arise over constable's work and expenses," ran in the weekend *Messenger*. Hard copies are hard to find, though. Clerks at 21 of the 48 stores that carry the newspaper confirmed Tuesday that an individual purchased every copy from their newsstands Saturday morning. The story is still available online at wcmess.com/parr.

Online Comments

Published Aug. 27
UNSERVED: QUESTIONS ARISE OVER CONSTABLE'S WORK AND EXPENSES
— 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.

Paul Agnew: Hahahahahahahahahaha!!!

Brad and Judy Adamson: Sounds fishy enough for me. Follow the money and you will catch a big fish.

Anthony Ray Bartoo: Charge, arrest and convict him.

Ruben Fonseca: They won't.

Amanda Strine: Thank you for the article.

Devon Lee Billings: I believe this article is preemptive of an internal audit commissioned by Judge Clark specifically on the use of the fuel card in recent years. I speculate there is much to be learned.

Debi Tapp Williamson: Oh my my, Doug!!?? Good grief!

Update for Monday, Aug. 29
CONSTABLE DOUG PARR UNDER FIRE — The work of Precinct 3 Constable Doug Parr is under scrutiny after he repeatedly refused to comply with orders of Auditor Ann McCuiston and the Wise County commissioners.

Rick Bowling: Time for Texas Rangers to investigate Doug Parr.

Justin West: Good Lord. After reading that article, how could he not be under fire? Sounds to me he was using the gas card on every vehicle in his family. The numbers don't lie.

Carlos Mendez: Another crooked politician. Wow. What a surprise!!!

Frank Espinosa: Someone voted into public office can refuse an audit?? That alone sounds illegal.

Ernest Morales: Hehe. You're so busted dude. Them numbers don't lie.

Lavina Kent: Let's not forget that the tags have been out on that truck for three months. That is one of the very things he could stop any of us for. He is supposed to enforce the law even upon himself, and it's not like he had to pay for the registration.

Ricky Kerr: He's a crook. What goes around comes around!

Sarah Martin Diaz: Uh-oh!

Cathy Wells: I have met Doug Parr and really like him. I don't know what has been going on, but I do know that I have done many, many things that I have regretted, as I am sure we all have. I hope everything works out for everyone involved.

Russell D. Tomson: I would like the *Messenger* to re-run the "Unserved" story again if the run on the papers has been bought out and stolen out of the coin vending machine. There's more than a rumor.

Cyndi Aluisa Dodson: Everyone is really missing the point. This is on the county auditor hands down. If there was an issue, it should have been addressed years ago. Isn't that what an auditor is for? Guess not.

Debbie Ezzell: This is true, how did it even get to this point? Eyes may have been closed.

Cyndi Aluisa Dodson: She's too busy trying to bully someone because they don't see eye-to-eye, and they stand up to her when necessary. There are two sides to the story but everyone is judgmental from the get-go, believing the *Messenger* doesn't have an agenda. Somehow the full stories are never told. They just need to sell papers, and scandal sells. The *Messenger* should be ashamed of themselves for not getting the whole story.

Brad Mitchum: Well good.

Debra Vaughn Jackson: I bet you Judge Clark will get it taken care of if the auditor let it slide and Parr used county money to fuel personal vehicles. Judge Clark won't sweep it under the county rug!!!

The Messenger Classifieds...
Measuring up to your expectations one ad at a time.

We've Got Team Spirit!
Good Luck to All
Wise County Teams
Rosenbaum DENTAL
2201 S. FM 51, Suite 300 • Decatur
Double Creek Capital Building
940.626.0003
www.rosenbaumdental.com


Proudly Supporting All Wise County Teams
GTC
GUARDIAN TITLE COMPANY
1451 W. Business 380, Bldg. #1 | Decatur, Texas 76234
(940) 627-5888 • www.guardiantitleco.com

LIVE UNITED™
UNITED WAY
2017 CAMPAIGN
KICK-OFF LUNCHEON
Come Learn How to Lend a Hand to Help Your Neighbors in Wise County!
Thursday, Sept. 8 • 10:30 a.m.
Decatur Civic Center
RSVP: Civic Center: 940-393-0280
Fax: 940-627-2600
or by email: lsherwood@decaturtx.org
Serving Wise County for 37 Years!
Information from affiliated agencies will be displayed
EVENT SPONSORS:
First State Bank
GTC Guardian Title Company
Simpson Boyd Powers & Williamson
Stephens Bastian & Cartwright, L.P.
Wise Health System
First Financial Bank Bridgeport • Boyd • Decatur
Decatur Town Square
devon
SeniorCare Health & Rehabilitation
Legend Bank
Noel & Lee Ann Ruddick
PrimeWest Mortgage
United Way of Wise County
"Look Local -Give Local"
Find us on Facebook
LOOK LOCAL

Subscribe Online.
www.wcmessenger.com/subscribe

YOUR CAR CARE TEAM!
Flusche Auto Repair Company
Since 1936 Complete Auto Repair, Diagnostics, Maintenance & Tires
ACDelco
802 N. Miller • Decatur
940-627-5121