

Poor Farm Is Topic Of Discussion At Marshall Co. Board Meeting

by MJ Langner

The County Poor Farm Cemetery was a main point of discussion at the Marshall County Board meeting last Thursday, March 12th.

Pat Sloan spoke to the board regarding the County Poor Farm Cemetery located in rural Sparland. Sloan told the board the cemetery is the resting place of a man who was lynched in 1898.

Sloan approached the board after several years of research conducted by Sloan and his wife Donna Augustyn-Sloan, regarding the lynching, sparked by an interest in social justice issues. Sloan presented the information to the board and discussed the installation of a sign, which was paid for by the Marshall County Peacemakers, identifying the location on the burial site.

The County Poor Farm Cemetery is the resting place for several people who were buried by the county in the event that the individual did not have the funds to provide for a burial. The cemetery was operated from 1857 to 1942. It was then sold by the county in 1943 and is currently owned by the Probyns of rural Sparland.

Terry, Justin and Josh Probyn were in attendance at this meeting and spoke during public comment.

They said they were made aware of agenda item the evening before, with Terry saying he felt the timing was on purpose and personal. His concern was that the board was being asked to take control of his family's land.

The family outlined their maintenance practices, noting how they mow the cemetery. Justin Probyn also noted his concerns for road maintenance should the installation of the sign occur. He said the sign could present challenges for mowing in the ditches and snow plowing.

The Probyns had given permission to personally visit the site and for the installation of a small plaque. They said they did not give permission for such a large sign to be installed. Terry also stated he would not agree to a fence, trees or wildflowers.

Sloan said this was not personal by any means and did appreciate that the Probyns were in attendance at the meeting. He emphasized that they were not asking for the county to take the property by eminent domain. The sign he was proposing would fall in the township's right of way along the road and approval for the installation had been provided by Stueben Township.

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Midland Elementary Sets Kindergarten Screening

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten? The Midland School District will be holding a Kindergarten Screening for the 2006-07 school year at the Midland Elementary School on Fri., April 17.

To qualify for Kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2026 and must reside within the Midland School District

Why Screening Is Important

Kindergarten screening helps assess your child's readiness for

school and provides valuable information to ensure a successful start to the upcoming school year.

Appointment Information

Appointments are required for all students. Current in-person preschool students at Midland Elementary do not need an appointment. A parent or guardian must attend with the child.

What to Bring

Please bring a certified copy of your child's birth certificate

(obtained from the county courthouse where your child was born). Hospital-issued certificates are NOT accepted.

Schedule Your Appointment

Call the Midland Elementary School Office weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 309-463-8010

If you are unable to attend the screening, please contact the school to inform us of your intent to register your child.

MES Celebrates Students That Are Brave



This week, the Midland Elementary School is celebrating students that are brave.

K-4 students picture in back from left to right: Silas Schaefer, Camden Benitez, Oakley Steele, Avery Benitez, Cohen Baca and Hailey Anderson. Front row: Peter Wilson, Lillith Stephens, Parker Spahn, Tucker Spicer, Dakota Forbes, Dominic Lucas and Selena Bustamante-Mason.



Pre-K PM: Ronnie Lange



Pre-K AM: Brecken Schmitt & Baylor McCall

Lacon City Council Approves Requests For Events At The Marina

The Lacon City Council met in regular session at the City Hall on Wednesday, March 11th.

Stephanie Gilkerson was on hand to request an outdoor music permit on their covered patio at Fro Smokes Meatery for the afternoon of Saturday, April 18th from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Council granted the request.

The Council also approved a request to hold a flea market at the Lacon Marina for the first Saturday of each month from April through October. It was noted that the Gypsy Kitchen would like to serve food on the dates of the flea market. The market would set up on the concrete pad on the south side of the marina. Rain dates for each month would move the event to the second Saturday.

The Board also approved a request from the Lacon Chamber to close one lane of the Lacon Bridge for the annual Bridge Walk scheduled from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on

Saturday, May 2nd. The Council recommended that the closure start at 8:30 so cones could be placed on the bridge as well as some barricades. Walkers generally walk about halfway up the bridge and then turn around and head back.

The City also approved a mowing bid of \$9,000 from McMahan Lawn Service for the annual lawn maintenance. The City received three bids ranging from \$7,000 to \$13,500. The bid calls for cutting the grass at the Lacon Marina, Webber Park, Johnson's Park and the lot adjacent to the Elementary School.

Finally, the Council gave the go ahead to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt again this year to be held on Saturday, April 4th at Johnson's Park starting at 1:00 p.m. The Council authorized that \$850 be allotted for the event.

It was noted that the North Main Street street project would be getting underway on Monday, April 6th.

MAGNOLIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SPRING CHICKEN SUPPER & HAM DISTRIBUTION  **SATURDAY, MARCH 21** 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. **MAGNOLIA FIRE STATION** Dinner Includes Fried Chicken with Mastaccioli, Salad, Bread, Coffee, Lemonade or Tea and Dessert. Adults - \$15.00; Children Age 6-12 - \$8.00; Children 5 Under: Free

As always, we will be raffling Amish country hams and turkeys during the dinner. We will have a 50/50 drawing, a door prize, and other raffles as well.

Varna Fire Department  **FISH FRY** Friday, March 27 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. \$12.00 Fish (Pollock), Fries, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert, Water, Lemonade, Coffee

- ◆ Raffle Tickets
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ 50/50
- ◆ Carry- Outs Available

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