The monthly City Council meeting on Monday, January 9th, at Ranger City Hall brought a nice turn out of interested citizens as we are told.

In Citizen’s Presentation, Mr. Lindsey, gave a very heated, passionate, presentation to the City heads. Mr. Lindsey, informed the council of the cost of water from some 20 years ago when he moved to Ranger and how the price had gone up 60%. He was very dissatisfied with the price and the quality of the water. In an emotional plea to the council to do something about the water, he informed the council the kids cannot drink the water at school. Mr. Lindsey exhibited his arms to each of the councilmembers, displaying results, that according to his Dr. from the VA was caused by the water. Mr. Lindsey shamed Ranger’s present sitting council as well as the past councilmembers who have all failed the citizens of Ranger, for many years, on the water issue and he was tired of the excuses being made by the council.

In Announcements, Councilmember Gerdes stated the containers were still out for donations for the Ranger swimming pool. She stated they had $1,251 in their account. It was announced the City Library would be closed from January 13 thru the 20th because of vacation. It was noted that changes were being made at the Quarter Store and Betty Siver was recognized for all her hard work.

Council approved the minutes for the regular meeting on December 12, 2016. The council approved the monthly (Continued on Page 3)

MAIN STREET RESIDENCE DESTROYED BY FIRE

The residence at 424 West Main was totally destroyed by fire on January 7th around midnight. The occupants, Justin Wells and his family, lost all of their belongings. A Go Fund Me account has been set up for the family and if you would like to donate you can visit this link: https://www.gofundme.com/justins-family-house-fire-fund

PhotoCourtesy Donna Thackerson

Justin and his wife have 2 small boys, ages 3 years and 6 months. Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated. The Waggin’ Tongue does not have an official cause of the fire but according to some sources, ashes were placed in a plastic bucket and left for a period of time as the family had retired for the evening.
Ranger Resident Arrested for 29 Year-Old Cold Case Murder

In a strange twist of events going back 29 years, a Ranger resident, Ricky Lee Adkins was arrested at his home in Ranger on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 by the Weatherford Police Department in cooperation with the Texas Rangers.

Wendy Kae Robinson’s body was found July 12, 1987 in Parker County near a gated entrance of a Parker County ranch after she had been reported missing by her father. Robinson, 19, had been missing for 4 days and was seen sunbathing at Lake Weatherford at a common hangout called “The Wall.”

Robinson was a Weatherford College freshman and lived in Willow Park.

A suspect, Green, was arrested, on other murder charges, and it was believed at the time that he had also murdered Wendy Robinson who died from blunt force trauma.

It was later determined that Green was not the person that murdered Wendy Robinson and the investigation continued…for 29 years.

Adkins, 59, has a long history and run-ins with the law going back to 1981 with offenses ranging from DUI (Driving Under the Influence), Forgery, Criminal Non-Support, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Aggravated Sexual Assault, Assault Causing Bodily Injury, Family Violence and Possession of Marijuana. These offenses occurred in Johnson, Parker, Palo Pinto, and Eastland counties.

It is unknown, at this time, how the actual events unfolded for this 29 year-old cold case.

Adkins, arrested for capital murder, was indicted by a grand jury on December 1, 2016 but the investigation continues as investigators believe there may be more parties arrested that are either involved or have information relating to the murder.

The Weather Police Department is asking anyone with any information about this crime to contact:

817-598-4300

Smile for the Day

If you smile when no one is around you really mean it!

Arguing with a woman is like reading the Software License agreement.

My 2¢ Worth

by Smilin’ Marvin

Took a little drive thru Ranger the other day and it sure was a depressing site. I have never in my lifetime seen so much trash, garbage, rubble, scrap, junk, litter, muke, filth, and just plain worthless, no good for nothing stuff! Are there that many collectors in Ranger waiting for the prices to go up? Many of these places looked like wrecking yards; old cars and trucks and motor parts. Some even reminded me of our old dumping ground back home.

Is there is no pride about cleaning up a rat infested town then for God’s sake think about the health of the people living in all this, especially the elderly and the children. Are there ordinances in the city of Ranger? If so, why aren’t they being enforced?

I would venture bet, if I was a betting man, I saw 50 or more vacant, dilapidated mobile homes, overgrown with weeds and brush, broken and missing windows, animals using them for shelter. I’ve heard these places make good drug drops. Wonder how many people buy a cheap lot in Ranger, bring an uninhabitable mobile home and set it up with the pretense of living in it. Storage on a cheap lot and taxes are cheaper than demolition or having it hauled away.

Does anyone think that Ranger will ever grow with this huge eye-sore growing year by year? Who would want to buy a lot and build a home? I can tell you, NO ONE! Why do you think more and more people are headed to the sticks? Outside the city limits, away from it all. Who would want to start a new business in Ranger? If anyone does, I bet it doesn’t last too long.

If you want to see growth, clean up your God Forsaken City! Although not quoted in the Bible, but referred to, is the old quote, “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” Take that however you interpret it and how it may apply to the cleanliness and godliness in Ranger.
During his report, Councilmember Gerdes questioned if the city was losing water. Gerdes stated, “I think it would be a really good idea to let them (contractors) do our work, just the contractors come in and do our work.” Public Works Director, Drews, stated “we’re still restricted by budgetary funds. Their cost is somewhere around $160 an hour for a 3 man crew.” Gerdes went on to state, “We should really think about that really hard and get the contractors to do it, they’ll come in and do it and cover it up and go home. We don’t have to pay them anymore. And I think we should do that and even start thinking about getting rid of some of the employees.” The City Administrator, with a quick come back, replied, “I disagree, we can’t keep up with our work orders that we have now. We don’t have the money to pay a contractor.”

Drews, stated, “2 employees working water leaks cost the city about $180 a day, contractor will cost us about $160 an hour. Gerdes, questioning Drews on other issues and voicing her opinion on water issues, went on for an extended length of time before the Mayor politely stated, “Let’s move on here,” where Gerdes quickly replied, “Well, I still have the floor here, I think, I’m not completely finished.” Mayor Pilgrim indicated to Gerdes that she needed to finish up.

“Editor’s Note: It was Mr. Drews, who actually had the floor and was giving his report. No one had called for questions or comments from the commissioners.

Gerdes went on and stated “I think we should start looking into letting the contractors do more of our work and possibly letting some of the employees go.”

After the Animal Control Report by the City Administrator, Mayor Pilgrim informed the council there had been a rumor that the city had given Connie Hovey a 30 day notice and she had to be out. Pilgrim stated this was nothing but a rumor and that there was no way the city would do away with the animal shelter and all the good work Connie was doing and saving the city money.

Pilgrim went on to state the city did not have the money to operate an animal shelter and this was a great service to the city that she was doing and appreciated her dedication and work she did.

In a very detailed Airport Report, Mr. Calvert informed the council that he had not acted in an official capacity at the airport, as far as the city is concerned, since 2011. Calvert updated the council on all the work that had been done at the airport and was optimistic on the future of the events to be held at the Ranger Airport.

Agenda item # 6 listed the approval of reimbursement for November’s flushing from burnout at Eastland County Water Supply District. The council took no action due to the absence of Maria Beck.

The council approved the change in employee status for Jamie Steinman from Interim City Secretary to Full-time City Secretary. Ms. Steinman was stated to have been there 3 months and was doing quite well with her duties.

The council approved a resolution ordering a Municipal Election on May 6, 2017 for the election of Mayor and two City Commissioners; for Place 1 and Place 3 to a term of two years.

Thank You to Julie Elrod with Microplex News for the use of the audio file for the January 9 2017 Ranger City Meeting.
The Waggin’ Tongue has not heard from Mr. Sides on his Bible Lesson this week and we are concerned there are issues with him or his family.

Without knowing, we would like to ask that everyone keep Doak Sides and his family in their prayers for what appears might be an issue with him or his family.

If he has just taken a trip out of town and forgotten his Bible Lesson this issue, the way we figure it, Mr. Sides could always use the prayers and we all need the practice.

On a short notice, The Waggin’ Tongue contacted one of our subscribers and asked if he would be willing to fill in with the bi-monthly Bible Lesson for Mr. Sides. He was reluctant at first but finally gave in, asking that we not mention his name. So it is, with our gentle persuasion, we have a substitute, a Godly man, who has agreed to provide us with our Bible Lesson.

Some time back, a major Biblical discovery rocked the world with an archeological find, when the Royal clay seal, known as a bulla, was unearthed near the wall surrounding Jerusalem’s Old City; there is now Biblical proof that the Jews ruled Israel.

After 5 years of research, the text was deciphered as “Belonging to Hezekiah.” King Hezekiah ruled around 700 B.C.

This discovery not only has Biblical significance, but is relevant to the Palestine conflict today. This means there is tangible proof that an Israelite King ruled the area, known as Israel, long before anyone mildly considered a Palestinian living in the area.

All the claims of Islam being the true ancestral owners of the land that Israel now occupies that they claim Israel stole the land given to them by “Allah” are all false.

One thing for sure, what happens next is going to be an awesome manifestation of Biblical prophecy unfolding right before our very eyes.

In Genesis 15:18, God made a covenant with Abram, “To your descendants I have given this land…” and the land given was described from point to point.

Again in Joshua 1:4 there was a detailed description of the land God had promised.

Could this be the first original Land Grant?

Today Israel currently possesses a small fraction of the land God had promised to them and their descendants.

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It is unclear to me why our current president would send a U.S. representative to assist with a two-state solution only 5 days before the new president takes office when it is clear the president-elect has a different perspective in solving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

We wait in faith for God to fulfill his promise and return all the lands promised to Israel.

2016 Ranger Obituaries

Rita Ann Vinson Munoz
Jim Wallace
David “Doc” Sutton
Loran Ely Black
Imogene Newton Haun
Steven Wells
Myrtle Lucille Ainsworth O’Neill McGough
Majorie Jean Pearsall Gordon
Jane Hardy Blacklock
Geraldine Jerry Pirdle Hoots
Ruth Donowho Supulver
Alice Ruth Cole
Robert Bob Samuel Balsh
Paul Stanley Harper
Dale Lynn Fox
Billy Gene Lee
Scott W Forney
Ira Gaston Gray
Alice Dodd Lenzini Frailey
Hazel Marie Stevens Dempsey
Marilyn Rae Coleman Jackson
Avis Jones May
Betty Solene Williams
Gene Franklin “Bo” Deaton
David James Mineah II
Jack Allen
Robert Edward “Bob” Johnson
Arturo “Art” G. Jimenez
Charles W “Toad” Tibbles
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Charles W “Toad” Tibbles
Lloyd Capps
Walter Ray “Shorty” Mann

Eva Kathleen Reese Poynor
Verna Ellen McNabb Graham
Jerry Don Cantrell
Laura Nell Wiesen Forbes
Delma Bargsley Cantwell
Betty L Hagaman
Frances Harrell Collins
Wanda Castelberry Rapp
Frances Almeta Woodruff Simien
Ines Falls Hunt
Alan Ray Fambro
Orval Blankenship
Oma Lee Parish
Patsy Marie Vinson Martin
R L Miller
Janie Fisher Hogg
Fay Lenora Bargsley
Amy Jo Miller Thompson
Nick Bachis
Jimmy Keith Puryear
Marjorie Faye Lamb
Nancy Vasquez Mayo
Oral Andrew Fox
Alice Henry Powell
Dean “Peeewe” Dorman Poynor
Libby Eleanor Cleveland Whitmire
John Wayne Caraway
Charles H White
Rheta Beth Perstein Prager
Elvin Wayne “Bill” Warner

Gone But Not Forgotten
Rest In Peace
The Nose Knows

“If the nose knows everyone should know”

- Anyone notice the city hauled in material and repaired the employee parking lot at City Hall? How nice. We have a great parking lot but Ranger streets look like hell.
- Hearing some scuttlebutt around town about several people running for city councilmember positions in May.
- Anyone noticed that all is quite on the plans for the new dorms and remodeling the cafeteria at the Ranger College? One would think there would be bounds of information being put out to the public other than thanks for voting for the bond.
- Looks like we’ll be getting some summer weather hitting the 70’s mark this Friday and Saturday. Enjoy!

ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT
DECEMBER 2016

Picked up 12 Strays for Ranger
Adopted Out: 2 Dogs & 6 Cats
Transferred to Rescues: 4 Dogs
Lost one litter of 6 due to hookworm
Remaining in Shelter: 35 (17 nursing puppies)
Expenses:
   $1,032.66   Shelter Expenses
   $533.52    Vet Bills
Donations: $974.27 (Raffle Proceeds & WestGo Donations)

UPCOMING EVENTS:
ADOPTION AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER
EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (JANUARY)

CONNIE’S CRITTERS
The core of the Democratic Party is having a major crisis. The politicians and the main stream media are proving to be extremely poor losers and they make up lies about Trump and the election at every turn in order to keep from losing even more of their base. Unfortunately, they will not get over the loss and they will spend the next four years bashing Trump. They will find some fault with everything that is done regardless if it is good or bad. Ex-President Obama will continue to be the chief basher. Unlike G.W. Bush, Obama will not quietly go away. He will stay in Washington spending every waking hour stirring up something against the Trump Administration and trying to protect his nonexistent legacy. He will have groups like Black Lives Matter, Code Pink, and other radical groups that George Soros can buy to raise Hell. It is a good thing that Trump has thick skin and does not mind blasting back. In my opinion, America is going to get very tired of the Democrats and they will be even weaker by 2020. The real tragedy of all of the turmoil is the permanent damage that has been done to our poor, fragile little snowflakes in colleges that will never be able to recover and are condemned to life in their parent’s basement, with no job and spending their life on social media crying about how bad they have it.

Unfortunately, Trump or anyone or any group is not going to be able to help with those millions of people that live from pay check to paycheck or on a fixed income. Prices and taxes are going to go up and benefits will stay about the same. It is to the point when it comes to paying for items like taxes, doctors, medicine, and utilities; people are forced to make choices as to what bills they can afford to pay and what items they have to let go. To use a worn out Ronald Reagan term, “Trickle Down” now has a new meaning. Today it means that this month you are going to have to “rob Paul to pay Peter.” It is a vicious cycle with no upside in sight. More and more people are not able to pay property taxes and just try to outlive the foreclosure notice, and more and more people are not able to afford insurance and just have to give it up. Items such as eating out, turning up your thermostat on a cold night, paying for your medicine, buying extra gas to go on a day trip to visit a relative, etc. have all become a rare luxury.

The new “bugger bears” have become the County Tax Appraiser who raised the value of your property even though you cannot sell it for the appraised value, the City Council that voted to raise your utility bill, the utility companies that overcharge just so their stock holders can get a bigger return, the credit card companies that charge excessive interest rates and $35 late fees, and the oil companies that want $60 a barrel for oil and $3.00 a gallon at the gas pump and then import oil instead of using American oil.

So the question is how do you fight it? Unfortunately, you don’t. You just have to buckle under, give up, or fall off the grid. Anyone surprised at the increasing numbers of people that are homeless, living in Government housing, existing on food stamps, etc.? Damn, I am going to stop for this issue. I am depressing myself by writing this.

On a positive note, Ranger can sure be thankful that there are groups like the Quarter Store and Connie’s Critters that are really providing a service rather than making a profit.

On a closing note, the main stream media likes to say that Obama has a 53% approval rating. Either the media is lying, using vague polls to ask the question, or we have a much uninformed group of Americans.
Ranger Exes Deceased In 2016

Libby Cleveland Whitmire
Warren Cozby
Frances Harrell Collins
Inez Falls Hunt
Wanda Castleberry Rapp
Bob Johnson
Eva Reese Poynor
Ruth Donowho Supulver
Geraldine Pirkle Hooks
Ira Gray
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Marjorie Pearsall Gordon
Doris Perlstein Lipkin
Elvis Warner

Laura Wiesen Forbes
Orval Blankenship
Bob Balch
Dean D. Poynor
Loran Black
Gene Deaton
Nick Bachis
Jane Hardy Blacklock
R.L. Miller
Betty Hagaman
Doebbler
Ruth Cole Harper
Rheta Perlstein Prager
Jack Allen
Scott Forney
Jerry Cantrell
Charles Tibbels
Frances Woodruff Simien

RHS Faculty & Staff
Stanly Harper
Imogene Newton
Haun
Marilyn Coleman

GONE
BUT
NOT

Info from Ranger Exes and Mac Jacoby
Movin’ on up...in this day of hurry up and wait, we all have stood in that proverbial line that never seems to move and slows to the speed of a snail’s crawl, especially during the holidays, at that checkout line. Something I don’t think anyone enjoys doing and more so now than in years before since we now live in a face paced world. Movin’ on up in that line makes us smile. Maybe even as kids when there was ‘King of the Hill’ we thought we were movin’ on up when we finally reached the top.

I guess you would call getting a promotion a way of movin’ on up or even moving into a bigger or nicer house or car. I guess everyone today calls it an upgrade. I think of a TV show in the 70’s and 80’s that my kids watched, called Movin’ On Up. Of course I ended up watching a lot of television shows that I wouldn’t normally do as we only had one television.

Movin’ On Up was a sitcom about George and Louise Jefferson, a successful black couple who moved from Queens to Manhattan due to the success from George Jefferson’s dry cleaning business chain. If I remember right, George and Louise were neighbors of Archie and Edith Bunker during All in the Family. Movin’ On Up, as I remember, addressed a lot of social issues, especially during the early years, such as racism, gun control, adult illiteracy, suicide and alcoholism. I don’t really remember teenage pregnancy or single mother issues being on the list of social issues at that time.

I thought how clever it was to address social issues, during that time, right in the middle of a comedy. Looking back, I think this show was on the cutting edge of shaping the future of our country.

When I think of movin’ on up, I think of a ladder and how we move up on the ladder of success. I wonder, when do we know we’ve reached the last rung?

Just how high do we continue to climb? Is there a point in time when we actually arrive at the place we want to be?

I guess many of us do and some never feel like they got there but at any rate we accepted where we were at and moved on. Not so with the presidential election. The country is so divided, that for the life of me, I can never remember a time in history when our country was so divided but for the Civil War.

The Civil War was fought over ideology and politics, pitting brother against brother, who had opposing views on politics and found themselves facing each other on the same battlefield, on opposing sides. Many times, this difference in personal politics resulted in the death of a sibling. Families were torn apart and destroyed by political differences.

President Lincoln stated, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," in his address to the Republican Convention of 1858. Is this where we’re headed in the not so near future?

This country is divided by ideology and politics and it appears there is way too many who won’t give in and accept. Much like the end of the Civil War, where many knew the war had officially ended but did not give up the fight. Giving up the fight meant defeat! Something so many refused to accept.

Lincoln also stated in his first Inaugural Address in 1861, “In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect, and defend it.”

So, does history actually repeat itself? It has been said by many historians that history does repeat itself. For our country’s sake, I surely hope it does not.

Using Lincoln’s statement, everyone knows this country has its share of “dissatisfied fellow-countrymen,” and it is in those hands the future of our country lies. If the “dissatisfied fellow-countrymen” continue on their path of vowing to take President-Elect Trump down and destroy him, they are the “aggressors” and have created a conflict of ideology and political beliefs within our own country.

These “aggressors” are now creating civil unrest in our country which will not and does not benefit anyone or any political party. It is my belief, this civil unrest and line of protesting will only hurt their perspective political party.

Moreover, a group of young people, now called the ‘Millennial’ are not only watching but participating in a learned behavior that will be carried on throughout their lifetime. A behavior that without a doubt be passed down to the next generation. Where does this destructive behavior end?

I believe it would behoove those who claim to love this country to devote themselves and their followers to accepting the fact, the war is over, accept defeat and move on.

Without mentioning political parties, let’s remember first and foremost, that we are ONE. ONE people, ONE government, ONE NATION, under GOD.

No ONE person can control the future events that disrupt and divide our country but IF every ONE remembers Lincoln’s statement, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” our country will unite, as ONE, and will understand the real meaning of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA and move on. Who knows, the country may just be Movin’ On Up.

With the election behind us, we are only days before the Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States. I can see the scenario clearly as President Trump and First Lady, Melania, start up the stairs to the White House and President Trump leans over and whispers in her ear, “It’s alright honey, it’s only a rent house, we’ll only be here 8 years and then we’ll move back to the mansion.”

Charles Retro
1-15-17

"The Waggin' Tongue welcomes all e-mail contributions; obits, personal stories and letters to the editor."