



OFFICER INJURED APD OFFICER INJURED IN TRAFFIC STOP

An Amarillo Police Department officer was injured, following a traffic stop on Tuesday, according to APD.

On Tuesday, at 12am, an officer stopped a brown Mercury Grand Marquis at Southeast 10th and Vernon Street, for a violation.

Carlos R. Benitez, the driver, had seven municipal warrants. The officer asked Benitez to step out of the vehicle. Benitez rolled up the window and locked the door. Benitez had a small child in the front passenger seat, and officers did not want Benitez to drive erratically with the child.

Benitez rolled down his window to speak with the officer and made a motion to put the car into gear. The officer reached in the car, to remove the keys, and Benitez began assaulting him. Benitez revved the engine and went forward, with the officer halfway through the window. Benitez hit a curb, and the officer fell out of the window, hitting his head on the pavement.

Officers did not pursue Benitez, because they did not want him driving erratically with the child in the car.

Officers searched for the vehicle, and found it at the Grand Street Wal-Mart. Benitez was found inside Wal-Mart and was arrested for Aggravated Assault on a Public Servant, Evading Arrest or Detention in a Motor Vehicle, and the seven local municipal warrants.

The child was safe and was released to a family member. The officer was treated for a head injury at the local hospital.



Source: police.amarillo.gov

Capital Improvements Project View: Cole Camp

Cole Camp: I believe that many of them are needs. There are also many wants. We need to be cautious not to throw the baby out with the bath water.

Danny South was right on with some of his points [at Tuesday's meeting] about many items being regular budget items. It is really imperative that the council pare down the list so that we can have a clear understanding of what is at stake in any vote.

To delay some of these repairs any longer continues to risk further extent of damage to our infrastructure. We are on a slippery slope.



Cole Camp is an environmental specialist, and was an applicant for Amarillo City Council, Place 2.

Note: For the next few weeks, the Amarillo Pioneer will bring you different citizen views on the proposed capital improvements project.



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Texas to Change Voter ID Law Before November

Following a court ruling striking down Texas' controversial voter identification law, Texas has created a new version of the law before the November 8th election.

The new proposal by the State is an agreement between the State, civil rights groups, and the Justice Department. The proposal will need to be approved by a district court judge.

Under the former law, a Texan had to show one of the several types of photo identifications approved by the State.

With the new proposal, Texas would have to show one of the forms of photo identification, but could still vote without a photo ID, if they had their voter registration card, a birth certificate, and a government document with their name and address.

Voters would have to sign an affidavit stating that they did not produce a photo identification.



Amarillo College Payment Deadline Approaching

For Amarillo College students, the payment deadline for Fall classes is approaching.

August 12th is the deadline to pay for the registration for Fall classes.

Rangers Lose Again to Orioles

The Texas Rangers suffered another series loss to the Baltimore Orioles, last night, 2-3.

Rangers' pitcher Cole Hamels threw six strikeouts in seven innings, for a total ERA of 2.89.

The Rangers' Adrian Beltre hit the sole homerun of the game.

The Rangers will complete their series with Baltimore tonight, and then head to Houston to play division rivals, the Astros.

Professors Seeking Court Help to Ban Campus Carry

A group of University of Texas professors are seeking a U.S. Judge's help with giving them the option to ban guns in their classrooms.

Professors Jennifer Glass, Lisa Moore, and Mia Carter say the academic freedom could be limited by campus carry.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is the defendant in the suit, called the lawsuit frivolous, and filed papers to halt the injunction.

The professors say that plan on hearing a decision before August 24th.

Former AISD Superintendent Named Interim Midland ISD Superintendent

Rod Schroder, the former AISD Superintendent, was named Midland ISD's interim superintendent, earlier this week.

Schroder was superintendent of Amarillo ISD for fifteen years and he worked at Amarillo ISD for forty-two years.

Schroder was the Region 16 Superintendent of the Year in 2014.



Amarillo Historical Museum Reopened

"The Amarillo Historical Museum was reopened to a large crowd, last Friday.

The museum was excited to display its new acquisitions and its new space to its patrons.

We would also like to thank the community for its generosity during our silent auction.

We are now keeping regular hours at our new location of 10am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Please come and see us!"

-Amarillo Historical Museum

QUOTE of the DAY

"Don't find fault, find a remedy."

- Henry Ford

Quotes from brainyquote.com

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Editorial: Mayoral Straw Poll

Last night, for members of the Amarillo group on Facebook, I added a "Mayoral Straw Poll" asking for your picks for Mayor if the election was held today. And I found some very interesting results.

The results from the Amarillo group looked like this:

- Randy Burkett - 7
- Sandra McCartt - 4
- Tom Warren II - 3
- Craig Gualtiere - 2
- Victor Leal - 2
- Thomas Warren III - 1

(I'm flattered by the vote for myself, by the way.)

But, I understand that this was a very small sample, so on our Facebook group, The Amarillo Pioneer Discussion Group, I will be adding a similar question with a polling feature. Please vote if you can.

May is just around the corner, and we need to be thinking about what our city should look like, next year.

- C. Thomas Warren III

VIEWPOINT

Andrew Holley: Amarillo's Struggle

Amarillo is struggling with its destiny. The city is precipice of greatness and technology has given city the ability to grow wildly if it chooses to seize it. Gigabit internet and almost unlimited space to grow out into. What that looks like is up to Amarillo. Budgets are boring but the citizens of the city are going to be asked to pony up a huge tax increase, sticking to the facts.

The council according to city published documents is going to be asked to approve a tax package to be placed on the ballot a \$.04 increase per year for the next five years. Keep in mind that the city is growing each year bringing in additional tax dollars and the city council would not have to include a voter approved annual tax in its rollback rate accounting. For the next fiscal year Amarillo without "raising" taxes is predicted to see a \$1.4 million dollar increase in property tax returns along with an additional 1% increase in sales tax proceeds. The city is also proposing over 20 new fees, increasing many, and again increasing the rental fee of the civic center. These in total are estimated to take in just under a \$1,000,000 in increased fees. The city also under the proposed budget is raising water sewer rates again totaling an increase of \$2.38 million dollars. The airport parking rates are proposed to go up bringing in just over another half million dollars. The cities budgeted revenue projection stands at a \$4,817,386 million increase from this year's revised estimate. The civic center complex and both golf course complexes continue to operate at million dollar losses. The zoo continues to operate at \$200,000 expense on \$270,000 in revenue.

The cities current outstanding debt as of October 1st will be \$274,211,198 dollars. The majority of that debt is attributed to water/sewer and the Water Authority. The city continues to take on capital improvement projects related to the MPEV site without any firm resolution of the future outcome.

With the city growing each year wouldn't making the city more attractive to new businesses. It would be wonderful if the investments in economic development yielded real growth. If the desire is to increase the tax base it seems prudent to grow Amarillo towards that goal instead of adding to the burden of citizens and businesses.

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"The Amarillo Pioneer Discussion Group"