

Judge: Committee Advises To Hold Off On New Jail Or Jail-Courthouse Combo

A select committee of residents from across Castro County, have, according to a story in the *Castro County News* reported by John Brooks, in the words of County Judge Carroll Gerber, "...advised to hold off on plans for a new jail or jail-courthouse combination.

"The consensus was to take care of what we have and wait until revenue comes in before doing anything major," said Gerber.

The revenue, which could be over \$1 million a year over the next ten years, would come from at least three wind energy farms planned and being built in the County. (However, *The*

Pulse notes that there are ten-year tax abatements in place for some of these projects.)

Gerber said that the Lincoln project is near completion in Deaf Smith County, and Castro County would be next. Tri-Global is working on its project near Nazareth and is conducting studies on the Easter project.

At a December committee meeting in the Courthouse, Gerber reported that the Jail is often over capacity, and inmates are farmed out to neighboring County jails.

And, the Courthouse itself, built in 1939 as a WPA project of the New Deal, presents prob-

lems because of its age and outmoded utility systems.

At the Jan. 27 meeting of the Commissioners Court, it was noted that the elevator had been out of service. And, a faulty valve, worn out after 75 years, caused part of the heating system to quit working.

Several of the restrooms in the courthouse are in need of repair. Gerber said Ken Gearn and David Gonzales of Hereford are working on retrofitting the bathroom plumbing. Gerber said that the fixtures in the bathrooms will be replaced or repaired.

In other business, the Commissioners signed off on a mu-

tual aid agreement between the Castro County and Swisher County Sheriffs' Departments.

Sheriff Sal Rivera said that the agreement will allow Castro County officers to go into Swisher County, and vice versa, to investigate criminal activity. The County has a similar agreement with Parmer County.

Commissioners agreed for Rivera to go out for bids for a new pickup or SUV.

"We really need a four-wheel drive pickup or SUV," said Rivera. He cited the need for such vehicles during snowstorms and weather causing muddy roads.

Rivera presented a required

racial profiling report. He said that the Sheriff's office doesn't have a problem with racial profiling. The report has to do with traffic stops. "When you stop somebody, you don't know what race they are."

The County voted to move a certificate of deposit from People's Bank to First United Bank. The CD, worth \$143,205.95, had been earning 1.14% interest over 12 months. The new rate for a 12-month CD at People's Bank would have been 0.40%, and First United offered 0.70%.

Commissioners are Steve Smith, Tom McLain, Tim Elliott and Dan Schmucker.

Six Weeks Honor Roll

A HONOR ROLL

12th grade
Anna Macias
Nathan Rincon

11th grade
Mayra Maldonado
Jaime Rivera

10th grade
Windy Menchaca

5th grade
Xochilt Cardoza

4th grade
Jaden Hall

2nd grade
Jeremiah Beanes
ToreeJo Evans
Celena Gonzales
Analys Jones
Hugo Perez
Nicole Torres

1st grade
Camila Corral
Carolina Flores
Enrique Isaguirre
Noah Marin
Alexah Niño

AB HONOR ROLL

12th grade
Adolfo Avila
Jessica Garcia
Chelsea Gonzales
Alexandra Guerrero
Brianna Lopez
Cailin Neudorf
Brianna Ramirez
Desearay Saucedo

11th grade
Nazavy Barron

10th grade
Yeiryanaly Minjarez
Camarie Neudorf
Lilibeth Nuñez
Dylan Ramirez

Julian Rojas
Erik Sotelo

9th grade
Abigail Rojas
Abigail Rosas

8th grade
Candyce Neudorf
Lilly Ramirez

7th grade
Jazmine Carrasco
Kate Perez
Alyxzander Smith
Eden Trevizo

6th grade
Alberto Macias

5th grade
Ramon Martinez
Leonardo Rodriguez

4th grade
Elizabeth Herrera
Karla Morales
Fabian Piedrabuena
Gracey Reyes
Antonio Rojas

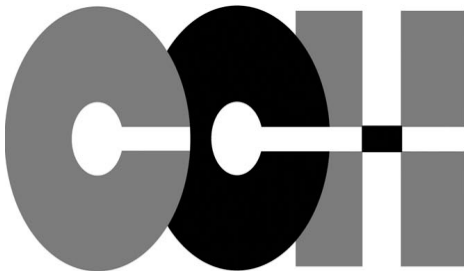
3rd grade
Marcilla Barron
Kaleb Chavez
Sherlyn Flores

Priscilla Gagnard
Jakoby Hall
Evelyn Martinez
Janae Medina
Victor Nuñez
Adamaris Ramirez
Emiliano Ruvalcaba

2nd grade
Estreya Hernandez
Diego Longoria
Ruby Madrid
Nadia Minjarez
Luisa Nevarez
Erick Piedrabuena
Leslie Sotelo

1st grade
Jord'n Carrasco
Aiden Chea
Dominic Dominguez
RoyLynn Gonzales
Mia Lopez
Maria Tapia
Jesus Tarango

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Healthcare**