

DEWITT BRIEFS

Attention Class of 2020 Graduates

Project Graduation has been scheduled for Sunday, June 14. Please arrive at the school at 9:45 p.m. to check-in. They will depart at 10 and return by 8 a.m. on Monday. Any Cuero High School senior of the Class of 2020 may attend at no charge. If you are still needing registration forms, please contact Laura Patek at 361-275-4048.

RWOYA meeting

Dr. Phylis Canion of Victoria will speak to the Republican Women of Yoakum Area on June 11. She is sharing her knowledge about nutrition and making healthy choices. Dr. Canion has a Master's Degree in Nutrition, is Certified in Holistic Nutrition and is a Board Certified Nutritional Consultant. The meeting will include a question and answer session. Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Yoakum Community Center, 105 Huck Street, Yoakum. Light snacks will be provided. It is open to the public at no charge.

Trotters meal fundraiser

The Cuero High School Trotters dance team will have their meal fundraiser on June 14. Pick up is at the CHS Gobbler Getaway (enter behind tennis courts), from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The \$10 meal will be catered by Werner's and include chicken fried steak with gravy, green beans, macaroni and cheese, a roll and apple cobbler. The Trotters will honor all tickets previously purchased.

Farmer's Market Days

Cuero Main Street tentatively plans to go forward with the July-October Markets on the fourth Saturdays of the month, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. under the Downtown Market Pavilion, subject to change to meet the needs of the community.

New cases reported in DeWitt County

DeWitt County is reporting six new cases of COVID-19 as of Monday afternoon, June 8, bringing the total to 23. Case number 18 is a female in her mid-40s. She is a rural resident living northwest of Yoakum. The case appears to be the result of community spread. The patient

is under orders to isolate herself at home.

The last reported case of COVID-19 was announced on the May 11.

A total of 18 cases have been diagnosed in DeWitt County since Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency on

March 13. Currently, one other patient is under orders to isolate at home. One patient with underlying medical issues died in April following a diagnosis of COVID-19.

Case number 19 is a female and household member of case 18. Case number 20 is a male

and family member of case 18. Case 21 is the wife of case 20.

Case 22 is a male that lives in DeWitt County, acquired from a co-worker in Victoria County. Case 23 is a female from Cuero, community spread; she's being hospitalized. All the rest are isolated at home.

BUILDING BLOCKS



The Boys and Girls Club of DeWitt County received donations from Devon Energy and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation which provided STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) kits for members. Pictured above, a member assembles building blocks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boys And Girls Club Members receive STEM kits thanks to partnership between Devon Energy and Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation

BY ALLISON FLORES
THE CUERO RECORD

The Boys and Girls Club of DeWitt County (BGDC) may be closed, but that won't stop children from stretching their imaginations.

Thanks to a partnership between Devon Energy and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, every kid from the BGDC received a special science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) kit to keep at home.

The Record had the opportunity to speak with Cal Ripken, Jr., co-founder of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and former baseball shortstop and third baseman for the Baltimore Orioles.

Founded to honor the legacy and life of Cal Ripken, Sr., a longtime coach and mentor, the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation prepares at-risk youth for life's challenges by teach-

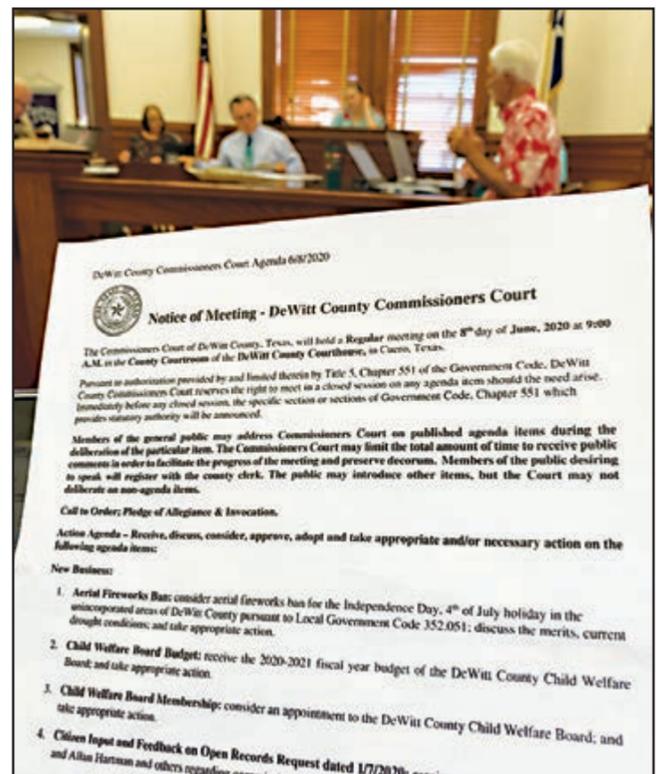
ing them critical life skills such as teamwork, communication, work ethic, and respect.

"When we started this foundation in the honor of my dad, it really was to capture his legacy," said Ripken during a phone interview. "He helped so many kids through baseball—using sports to get in front of them, and usually talking about life and opportunities and positive direction that sports can provide."

He continued, "When we lost him to lung cancer, a lot of people thought we were going to jump into lung cancer [organizations], but I think that his value on this Earth was in the ability to make kids feel good—to use sports in a professional way, but also in a philanthropic way, and to help kids that don't have all the same advantages."

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County hears from citizens on road construction



Pictured, DeWitt County Commissioners met Monday, June 8 for a regular meeting where they received feedback from citizens, approved plans to move forward with the County Annex building, and much more.

PHOTO BY ALLISON FLORES/THE CUERO RECORD

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THE CUERO RECORD

A full county courtroom Monday morning would lead to multiple members of the community addressing Commissioners regarding precinct equipment and operations.

Gus Leck and Allan Hartman spoke to Commissioners with concerns regarding quality of Precinct 4 road construction and competitive contract bids for projects over \$50,000.

"We are concerned about the strength and durability of the roads that we're seeing done within the county itself," stated Hartman.

Hartman explained that in a letter addressed to County Commissioners, he questions how the different precincts appropriate funds, as they differ for each.

The discussion continued on between Hartman and Commissioners with Hartman addressing various areas where the roads seem to be in harsh conditions, and how Richard Randle, Commissioner Precinct 4, is utilizing employees, supplies, and equipment.

The County received feedback from Leck and Hartman, along with a letter about their concerns, and as Judge Daryl Fowler explained, Commissioners will consider budget changes, or re-distributions between precincts in their upcoming budget workshops.

As for the questions asked on state laws for competitive construction bids, the county explained that it does receive multiple bids from construction companies, and has continued to renew its contract with ABN Construction for roadwork.

DeWitt County Child Welfare Board addressed Commissioners in regards to their annual budget for 2020-2021. The Welfare Board requested \$5,000 from the County. Of that, \$2,500 will work to benefit the Rainbow room for foster children; the room helps with purchasing care bags, hygiene products, clothing, diapers, wipes, and other items children may need when they are removed from homes, along with providing items to children for special events like birthdays, Christmas, and graduations.

The County approved the request and budget.

Moving along the agenda, Commissioners approved to

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

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The Ripken Foundation has installed a total of 64 centers nationwide through its STEM initiative, which aims to increase opportunities for at-risk youth pursuing higher education and careers in STEM-related fields.

In partnering with Devon Energy, Ripken explained that the company was on the same page as the Foundation in wanting to help children.

“Devon Energy is that big partner that we’re aligned in our thinking in how to help kids. They want to produce good minds and good thinking for the future generations in the science area. It just seemed like it was a natural fit.”

“Devon is committed to providing educational opportunities for kids in our operating areas, even during a pandemic,” said Becky Escott, community relations supervisor for Devon in a press release. “These interactive STEM sets provide an exciting supplementary activity for students, and we hope it’s a great addition to their at-home learning.”

Steve Salem, Ripken Foundation president and CEO, said the organization’s partnership with Devon is helping children discover important life lessons like teamwork, respect and resilience.

“Our relationship with Devon is bringing positive experiences and new learning opportunities to young people in DeWitt County,” Salem said in a press release. “We’re glad to continue to provide a way for kids to spark their creativity.”

“The STEM kits—the science part really opens

up a lot of the kids’ minds,” stated Ripken. “It’s really interesting to go in there and to see the different kits that are available [that] produce the thinking and the logic that goes along with it.”

The kits — Sphero Bolts, Maker ROK Blocks and Snap Circuits — help children learn principles of coding, build devices and bring unique ideas to life. Each child received one of the three items that was most age-appropriate.

With kids at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these STEM kits will allow for a challenging and fun learning experience all from home.

“Devon helped distribute the home STEM kits—it is one of those things that you don’t need to be in a group or a classroom to do. [The kids] can just sit down and immerse themselves into it and there’s a lot of learning and logic that takes place,” said Ripken.

“It is an honor to be able to partner with the Cal Ripken’s Sr. Foundation and Devon Energy team,” said BG CDC Executive Director, Megan Boehl. “This was a huge opportunity for our Club as well our community. Being able to distribute these kits gave us a chance to do something special for our members. In addition, this is a way for our Club members to continue learning science, technology, and math in their own home since we are unable to provide programs in the club at this time of uncertainty.”

According to a press release from Devon Energy, when the COVID-19 crisis is over, the Boys and Girls Club of DeWitt County will unveil a new STEM center — also provided by Devon and the Ripken Foundation — that will allow even more exciting ways to experiment and learn.