Lee Chapman named Panola Citizen of the Year

BY MARSHALL DOUGLAS

Watchman Editor

Carthage Mayor Lee Chapman was named the Panola County Citizen of the Year. The award was presented at a banquet following the First National Bank of Carthage's annual banquet.

Chapman, a lifelong resident of Carthage and a prominent business leader, was honored for his contributions to the community and for his leadership in local affairs. The award was presented by the Panola County Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his dedication to the betterment of the community.

The citation read, in part, "Lee Chapman has been a driving force in the development of Carthage, both in public and private sector initiatives. His leadership has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of our community." Chapman accepted the award with a speech highlighting his commitment to community service and his vision for the future of Carthage.

Carthage Chamber of Commerce President Pat Byrd presented the award, saying, "Lee Chapman exemplifies the spirit of community service and dedication that our Chamber of Commerce strives to promote." The event was attended by local dignitaries, business leaders, and community members who came together to celebrate Chapman's achievements.

Lee Chapman is a native of Carthage and has been involved in various aspects of the community for many years. He is a member of several local organizations and has served on numerous boards and committees. Chapman is known for his philanthropic efforts and his commitment to improving the quality of life in Carthage.

Witness says Parker admitted firing a shot

By Marshall Knight

"Billy Bob" Parker, a resident of Carthage, testified that he had fired three shots at the scene of the shooting. He described the incident as a self-defense situation where he felt his life was in danger.

According to Parker, he was asleep when he was awakened by a loud noise. He heard someone outside his house yelling and limbs. He said he grabbed his .38-caliber revolver and went outside to investigate. When he saw someone running away, he fired three shots, hitting the man in the back.

Parker admitted to the crime and was charged with attempted murder. He said he believed it was necessary to use force to protect himself and his family.

Commissioners Court to consider reopening extension office Sept. 1

Panola County Commissioners Court will consider reopening the extension office in the county effective Sept. 1.

At the meeting Tuesday evening, commissioners will be asked to approve a motion to reopen the office, which was closed last fall due to budget cuts. The office provides a range of services to local farmers and ranchers, including crop and soil tests, pesticide and fertilizer recommendations, and other technical assistance.

Houston County Judge Roy Bolden said the court had received a number of complaints from farmers and ranchers in the county, who were concerned about the loss of the service.

The extension office is a vital resource for local agriculture. It provides valuable information and advice to farmers, helping them to make informed decisions about their crops and livestock. The office has been closed for several months, and many farmers have expressed concern about the impact of the closure on their business.

The commissioners will consider the motion to reopen the office during their regular meeting on Sept. 1. If approved, the office will begin accepting appointments the following day, and staff will be available to assist farmers and ranchers with their questions and concerns.

In other news, the court has approved a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which includes funding for various county departments. The budget was approved during a special meeting held last week, and will be presented to the county commissioners for their final approval.

The court also discussed the possibility of implementing a new tax to support the county's infrastructure, including roads and bridges. The matter will be further discussed at a later date, and a decision will be made on whether to proceed with the tax at that time.

Finally, the court approved the appointment of several new county employees, including a new office manager and a new maintenance worker. The appointments were made after a thorough interview process, and the court is confident that these new hires will bring new energy and expertise to the county's operations.

Byline: Marshall Knight

The Panola Watchman

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Biography of the Citizen of the Year

Lee Chapman, winner of the 2023 Panola County Citizen of the Year Award, has been a prominent figure in Carthage for many years. Chapman, a native of Carthage, has served in various capacities in the community and has been involved in numerous local initiatives.

Chapman was an active member of the Carthage Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes the growth and development of the community. He was also a member of the Carthage Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president several times.

Chapman's contributions to the community have been recognized with numerous awards and honors. He received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Carthage Chamber of Commerce in 1992, and the Outstanding Service Award from the Carthage Lions Club in 1998.

Chapman is a retired businessman and has been involved in various business ventures throughout his career. He is a member of several local boards and committees, including the Carthage City Council and the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chapman is a dedicated family man and has been married for over 50 years. He is the proud father of four children and has nine grandchildren. Chapman is a devoted Christian and has been active in local churches throughout his life. He is an active member of the Carthage Masonic Lodge and a member of the Knights Templar EKKA Foundation.

Chapman's leadership and commitment to the community have been recognized by numerous local leaders and organizations. He is a true example of the spirit of community service and dedication that the Panola County Chamber of Commerce strives to promote.
Watchman Opinion Forum

--- Editorials ---

Fireside chat a success

Recently, the local fire department hosted an event where they invited residents to come and chat with firefighters about their roles and responsibilities. The event was a huge success, with many community members eager to learn more about the work that firefighters do and the challenges they face.

A look behind cabinet doors

With the frequent contact between local officials and cabinet members, it's important to have an understanding of their personal lives and how it affects their professional duties. By taking a look behind the doors, we can gain a better appreciation for the dedication and hard work they do for the community.

Program cuts won't be easy

As the budget cuts continue to impact local programs, decision-makers must find ways to prioritize and allocate resources effectively. It's a challenging task, but one that requires careful consideration and a commitment to finding solutions that benefit the community as a whole.

--- Marshall's World ---

A Matter of Respect

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a community meeting where the topic of respect was discussed. It's important to understand that respect is more than just a word; it's a fundamental principle that we should all strive to uphold in our daily lives. Whether it's showing respect to others, ourselves, or the environment, we can all benefit from making respect a priority.

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The dignitaries...

35th Annual Panola County Chamber Banquet

The award winners...

The Citizen of the Year...

And the capacity crowd
M.P. Baker looks back at Panola Junior College

Sports Watch

Hats off to the ladies!

Lady Bulldogs speak out...

Playoffs are special for seniors

Nation's cow herds increasing

Baker shares insights about PJC

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Tourney defeat buries Fillies

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Tourney defeat buries Fillies

Tourney defeat buries Fillies
Injuries doom Elysian Fields gals in playoff with Broaddus

Gary junior varsity wins at Tenaha but varsity whipped by turnovers

Ladyjacks split on tennis court

Youngsters learn at clinics

Bass fishing

Angler hunters for victories

Transfer rule voted down

Crowds decline in Philadelphia

Carthage bowling leagues

Record bass causes outcry

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Tips on controlling rodents are offered

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School Menus
Beckville
GARY

School department sponsoring play school

Church slated for carnival at old bank building

Hall says 87 million phone coop loan OKed

Scholarship series is established at LSUS

Obituaries

New Arrivals

Social Security tips

FRIENDS, BROTHERS, Sister, Primal How, and Members of the Social Security Administration for Louisiana and was dedicated to a group of individuals who have been retired from Social Security Administration for the past 30 years, including Henry Burt, Will Kilgore, and Mike Jordan.
Commission sets production rate

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Head-on collision kills 2 at Bethany

Accident at Bethany Sunday left two dead, one critically injured, two cars demolished

Prosecution has 2 surprise witnesses in Parker trial

County okays hiring investigator, special prosecutor