



City of Abilene

Parks and Recreation Board Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of City of Abilene to be held on May 17, 2022 at 8:30AM at the Abilene Public Library South Branch Conference Room, Mall of Abilene, 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments on Any Item on the Agenda

PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Service Award (Discussion)
 - Michael Abila - Parks - 5 years

MINUTES

2. Minutes (Discussion and Action)

AGENDA ITEMS

3. Election of Officers (Discussion and Action)
4. Request to Rename Lee Park (Final Reading, Discussion, Public Hearing, and Action)
 - An application to rename Lee Park to Robert and Sammye Stafford Park (Stafford Park)
 - An application to rename Lee Park to Coach James Valentine Park (Valentine Park)
5. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Discussion and Public Hearing)
 - Survey
 - Open House
6. Presentation of the Zoo 10 Year Master Plan (Discussion and Public Hearing)

7. Aquatics Report (Discussion)
 - Splash Pads
 - Adventure Cove
8. Seniors Report (Discussion)
 - Orca Day
 - Orthopedic Shoe Checks
9. Parks Report (Discussion)
 - Lake Kirby Ballfield Irrigation
 - Splash Pad Signage
 - Stevenson Park Sidewalk
 - Pine Street Bed Renovations
10. Recreation Report (Discussion)
 - Coloring and Conversation
 - Girls Night
 - Men's Basketball League
 - Pickleball League
11. Zoo Report (Discussion)
 - Animal Updates
 - Zoobilation
 - Zoolute

ADJOURNMENT

Notice

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 13th day of May, 2022, at 2:05 p.m.

Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City Secretary

Service Award



Approval of Minutes from April Meeting



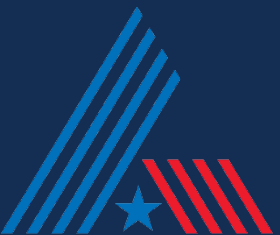
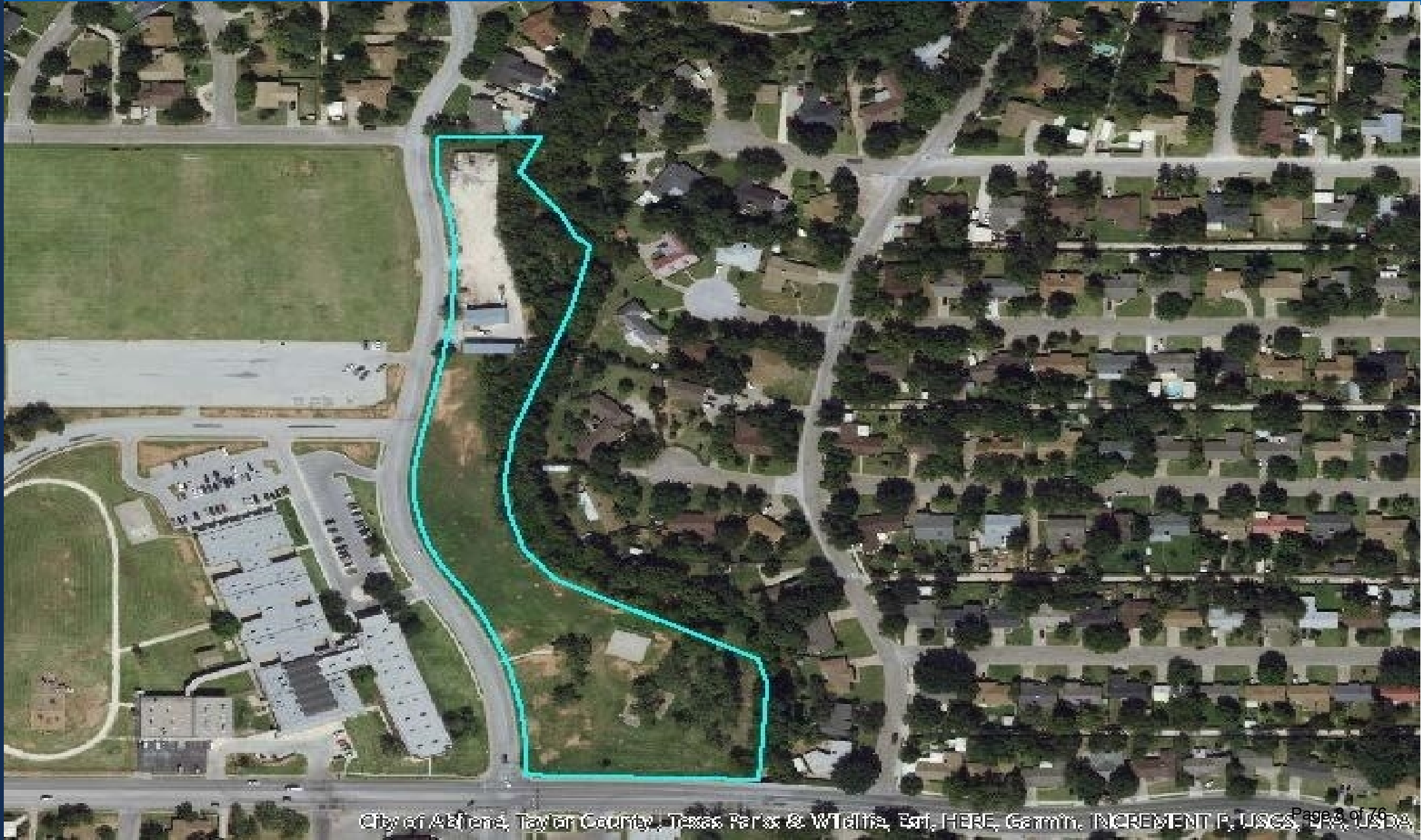
Election of Officers



Request to Rename Lee Park

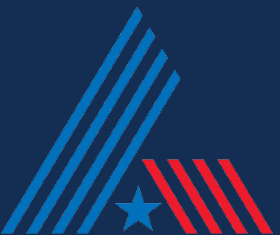


Lee Park



Lee Park Proposed Renaming Timeline

- December 21, 2021 - Park and Parks Facility Naming Policy Adopted
- January 18, 2022 - Application Presented for Name Change of Lee Park to Robert and Sammye Stafford Park (Stafford Park)
- March 15th - Application Presented for Name Change of Lee Park to Coach James Valentine Park (Valentine Park)
 - Parks Board Tabled Name Change to April Board Meeting and Appointed Subcommittee
- April 12th - Subcommittee met
- April 19th - First Reading/Public Hearing of Names Proposed to Rename Lee Park
- April 19th – Subcommittee made the recommendation to rename Lee Park to Coach James Valentine Park (Valentine Park)
- May 17th - Second/Final Reading and Public Hearing on Proposed Name Change



**City of Abilene, TX
Parks and Recreation
Park, Park Area, or Facility Naming Application**

Applicant Name: Tanya (Valentine) Johnson
Mailing Address: 1542 North Pioneer Dr City: Abilene Zip: 79608
Home Phone: 325-864-1024 Work Phone: 325-676-4032 Cell Phone: 325-864-1026
Email Address: Tanjohnson33@hotmail.com
Organization: _____

Proposed Park, Park Area, or Facility to be Named:

Lee Park

Address or Location of Park or Facility: _____

Coach

Suggested Name: James-Valentine - Valentine Park

Category:

- ☒ **Outstanding Individual(s)**
Acknowledges the sustained contribution that has been made by such individual(s) to the City of Abilene and/or the Parks and Recreation system.
- ☐ **Neighborhood Identity**
Acknowledges the geographic location or common name that gives a particular identity to a neighborhood.
- ☐ **Historical Event, Person, Place**
Preserves and honors the history of Abilene, its founders, other historical figures or local landmarks.
- ☐ **Natural or Geographical Feature to the Area**
Acknowledges a prominent or unique natural or geological feature in the surrounding area.
- ☐ **Benefit/Organization Acknowledgement**
Acknowledges the significant benefit of a major donation or gift.

RECEIVED BY: _____

Rudi Lesh Andrews Director
Printed Name and Title

DATE: _____

3/14/22 3:18pm

SIGNATURE: _____

Rudi Lesh Andrews

For Office Use Only

James E. Valentine (Coach Valentine)

James E. Valentine known to many as Coach Valentine/Coach Val was born and raised in Gonzales Texas, a small town in south Texas. He attended school in Gonzales. There he excelled in football. It was football that lead him to leave Edwards High School in Gonzales and move to Austin Texas where he attended, played football and graduated from Anderson High in 1941.

Coach Valentine then attended Historical Black College or University (HBCU) Wiley College in Marshall Texas. There he played football until he left Wiley College and joined the army. After serving his country during World War II he was honorably discharged in 1945. He returned to Wiley College to complete his education where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Biology in 1952. It was also where he met and married Anna Wallick. He returned to Gonzales Texas where he taught and coached at Edwards High School as well as teaching Veterans.

He moved his wife and son to Abilene in 1956 (daughter born in Abilene) where he was offered a teaching and coaching position at Woodson High School (Colored High School) in Abilene ISD. In 1957 led his team to state playoff run where the Rams were three games away from a state championship. He coached Woodson to District Championship in District 1AA Negro High School Division in 1958, and his Woodson High track teams were always top competitors in the district. Outside of his teaching and coaching at Woodson in the summer Coach Valentine was the manager of the only city owned swimming pool – Stevenson Pool from 1956 to 1979. During the summer Coach worked closely with Coach Beverly Ball to teach swimming lessons to many children at Stevenson Swimming Pool. Coach Valentine continued teaching and coaching at Woodson until the school closed in 1968. He would also participate in coaching boy's youth flag football.

Upon closure of Woodson High, Coach Valentine was assigned to Jefferson Junior High where he taught history and coached 7th and 8th grade boys' football and basketball until his retirement in 1984.

It wasn't until his death in September 1994 that many in the community and many of his former students never knew his full name. He was simply Coach Valentine. A quiet father figure at Abilene's all black school... Woodson High School in the 50's and 60's and at Jefferson Jr High in the late 60's to his retirement in 1984. He pulled himself up through education and military duty. His biggest impact to many was being a father figure/mentor to many youths in the black community. He believed that education was important and implemented his own no pass no play rule to his athletes. Many say he was a disciplinarian if need be, and yet there was never a harsh word about him.

It is for these attributes, his dedication to education and love of sports for the youth in the community that I nominate my father James E. Valentine for the changing for Lee Park to Valentine Park

Thank you,

Tanya Valentine Johnson



Robert and Sammye Stafford
Educational Pathfinders in Abilene ISD History

Prepared by
Dr. A.C. Jackson 325-704-4658

Dr. A.C. Jackson
625 S. Bowie St.
Abilene, TX 79605

9-16-2021

Lesli Andrews
Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Abilene
633 Walnut PO Box 60
Abilene, Tx. 79604

Renaming City Park:
Renaming of Robert E. Lee Park

Dear Lesli Andrews,

The purpose of this letter is to discuss the renaming of Robert E. Lee Park to reflect historically excellent African American educators Robert and Sammie Stafford. See attached for additional information.

Enclosed is a petition of concerned citizens of total support in name change in recognizing these educators for their academic excellence in historically shaping the future of education in the Big Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. A.C. Jackson", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. A.C. Jackson

History and Development of the Abilene Negro High School

With the continuous growth of the population of the city of Abilene it is natural that her schools should grow. This has been the case of the Abilene Negro School which has grown from a two room frame building with bare facilities for teaching Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic to a fourteen room brick edifice with equipment for instruction in practically all of the courses offered in the Secondary Schools of Texas.

Professor L. D. Glover, Professor W. S. Collins and Professor R. B. Black guided the destiny of the Abilene School in its beginning years. These Principals did much to develop the school along with the growth of the City.

In the Fall of 1929, Professor R. B. Black who, for five years had struggled to place the Abilene School on a basis with other schools of Texas, turned the wheel over to Robert W. Stafford, a young man who was barely twenty-seven years of age. At that time the school was housed in a comfortable five-room building with an enrollment of 217 pupils.

Since that time the enrollment has doubled itself and so have the activities and faculty of the school. In 1936 the school was moved to a new campus of six and one-fourth acres and a ten-room brick building. In 1937 a cottage was rented and Home Economics was taught to both boys and girls. In the Spring of 1937 an all-girls Drum and Bugle Corps was organized and accepted as a part of the school activities. In 1938 the school was Accredited as a "Class A" School by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This was recommended by Mr. D. B. Taylor, Special Supervisor of High Schools in Texas. In 1939 the Library of the Abilene High School was recognized by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

In 1940 a four-room addition to the building was constructed with two of the rooms being convertible into an auditorium. One of the rooms is used for Manual Training and one for Home Economics. The last addition to the school was a twenty-five piece band, organized March 5th, with a full-time faculty instructor. Three new teachers have been added to the faculty this year; all are holders of the Bachelor Degree which gives The Abilene School one of the strongest faculties of Class "A" Schools in Texas. Principal R. W. Stafford gives the credit for the rapid development and unparalleled success of this school to the fine personnel of the faculty which is made up of graduates from the leading colleges of Texas. Many of the Teachers have credits toward the Master's Degree in some of the best Universities of the country. So we, the Faculty and Senior Class of 1941 present this Book; that when the coming generations view the heights and depths of the Abilene High School we can feel with them the thrill of determination and live these happy days anew.

In Loving Memory



Mr. Robert W. Stafford

Robert W. Stafford, 87, of 1848 Pasadena, a former Abilene school teacher and a former precinct chairman in Taylor County, died at 11 a.m. at Hendrick Medical Center.

Born March 11, 1898, in Hattiesville, he attended school in Yoakum. He graduated from Prairie View A&M college and completed advanced studies at the University of Southern California. He taught 40 years in Texas public schools and 11 years in New Mexico public schools. He was awarded teacher of the year in 1958 in the Abilene Independent School District.

He married Sammye Marie Cooper, June 4, 1928, in Dallas, and was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, where he served as deacon for 50 years. He was district president of Texas State Teachers Association, member of Kiwanis Club, Lions Club in Gallup, N.M., and Knights of Pythian Lords No. 77, and he was a master mason at Masonic Lodge in Abilene.

He served as chairman of Taylor County in Precinct 10 and was the director of West Texas Interscholastic League.

Survivors include his wife; son, Robert W. Stafford Jr. of Seattle, Wash.; a brother, Dr. George H. Stafford of Prairie View; one sister, Dr. Myrtle Stafford Clark of Dallas; and six nephews and nieces.

In Loving Memory of



Mrs. Sammye Marie Stafford

Mrs. Sammye Marie Stafford, 81, of 1848 Pasadena Drive died at high noon, Monday, July 14, 1990 at Humana Hospital.

Services will be held Friday, July 20, 1990, 1:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church with Rev. R.E. Carter, Pastor and Rev. M.T. Reed of Oxnard, California, her former pastor, officiating. Burial is entrusted to Curtis-Starks Funeral Home.

Sammye M. Cooper-Stafford was born to the late Bliss Benjamin Cooper and Mattie Lee Adams in Dallas, Texas in 1909. She was educated in the Dallas Public Schools; received her B.A. Degree from Wiley College, Marshall, Texas and her Masters from McMurry College, Abilene.

Sammye married the late Robert W. Stafford June 4, 1928 in Dallas and returned to Mexia, Texas where they were both employed.

A longtime educator, her career included teaching in the Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas; Abilene Independent School District; and the public schools in Gallup, New Mexico. Her teaching career spanned forty-five years. After retiring in 1974 from New Mexico, she and her husband returned to Abilene and to their home for rest and relaxation.

Retirement was short lived as she immediately became

7/20/90

Sammye Marie Stafford

Sammye Marie Stafford, who died Monday at the age of 81, was an amazing, strong and inspiring woman whose work made a difference in countless Abilene lives.

She and her husband, the late Robert W. Stafford, dedicated their lives to education in Abilene and elsewhere, and their contributions mustn't be forgotten.

The Staffords came to Abilene in 1929. Both had degrees in teaching and both were hired on the spot at Abilene's school for blacks; he was principal, she taught English and Latin in classrooms sometimes crowded with 90 students. Mrs. Stafford eventually earned a master of education degree from McMurry College; she was the first black full-time student admitted to an Abilene college.

In her later years she spoke of the difficulty of teaching at a segregated school during those years, when the students often were not furnished books by the school district, when the teachers were paid \$35 a month and not allowed to know what white teachers made, and when, at one point in the school's history, the principal could earn more as a janitor than he could as the school's leader.

But she inspired her students to overcome those and other senseless obstacles, as she had done. The Staffords never let a student go hungry, and they never let up in their determination to see that the children they taught set attainable goals and worked hard to reach them.

One of her former students, Dorothy Wiseman, credits Mrs. Stafford with inspiring her to become an English teacher. She said she will

always remember "that determination she had and that love that she showed us, and that push that she gave us to study and to learn and to be productive and to make a contribution in life."

Mrs. Stafford resigned from teaching in 1956, and then changed her mind. But because her position had been filled, she secured a teaching job in Gallup, N.M. Her husband stayed in Abilene, and for seven years she commuted between Abilene and Gallup. When he retired in 1963, they both moved to Gallup, where she taught English as a second language to students on an Indian reserve.

They returned to Abilene in 1968, and their contributions continued. Mrs. Stafford served as director of the Day and Night Center for the Elderly, and was a member of the Council on Aging, the Abilene Chapter of Women Veterans and other organizations. She also worked hard for equal rights measures.

The Stafford home was a gathering place, and their relationship was so strong and meaningful that hundreds of friends and relatives gathered on the couple's 50th wedding anniversary celebration for a two-day celebration conducted on the front lawn of the Stafford home.

In 1984, when the local NAACP chapter placed an historical marker at the Center Recreation Center, site of the city's first black school, Mrs. Stafford called it "a great inspiration for the community."

She was right. But the school itself wasn't enough. People like Sammye Marie and Robert Stafford were the real inspirations, and their contributions live on in the lives of thousands of people and in every corner of this city.

**Robert Stafford, 1898-1985,
Former teacher and precinct chairman**

Born March 11, 1898, in Hattiesville, he attended school in Yoakum. He graduated from Prairie View A&M College and completed advanced studies at the University of Southern California. He taught 40 years in Texas public schools and 11 years in New Mexico public schools. He was awarded teacher of the year in 1958 in the Abilene Independent School District.

He married Sammye Marie Cooper, June 4, 1938, in Dallas and was a member of Mount Zion Baptists Church, where he served as deacon for 50 years. He was district president of Texas State Teachers Association, member of the Kiwanis Club, Lions Club in Gallup, N.M., and Knights of the Pythian Lords No. 77, and he was a master mason at Masonic Lodge in Abilene.

He served as chairman of Taylor County in Precinct 10 and was the director of West Texas Interscholastic league.

McMurry's first African-American Graduate

Mrs. Stafford was born in Dallas and lived in Abilene since 1929. She attended Dallas public schools.

She received her bachelor's degree from Wiley College in Marshall and did graduate study at the University of Southern California and Prairie View A&M College. She received her master of education degree from McMurry College.

She taught school in Texas and New Mexico for 45 years. She was director of Abilene Day and Health Care Center for Elderly for four years and also served on its board.

She served on the board of West Central Texas Council of Governments, RSVP and Meals on Wheels. She was president of West Texas District Teachers Association for four years.

She was a member of American Association of University Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Loyal No. 16 Club, Guy Chapter No. 290 Order of the Eastern Star and League of Women Voters.

7/20/90

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In her later years she spoke of the difficulty of teaching at a segregated school during those years, when the students often were not furnished books by the school district, when the teachers were paid \$75 a month and not allowed to know what white teachers made, and when, at one point in the school's history, the principal could earn more as a janitor than he could as the school's leader.

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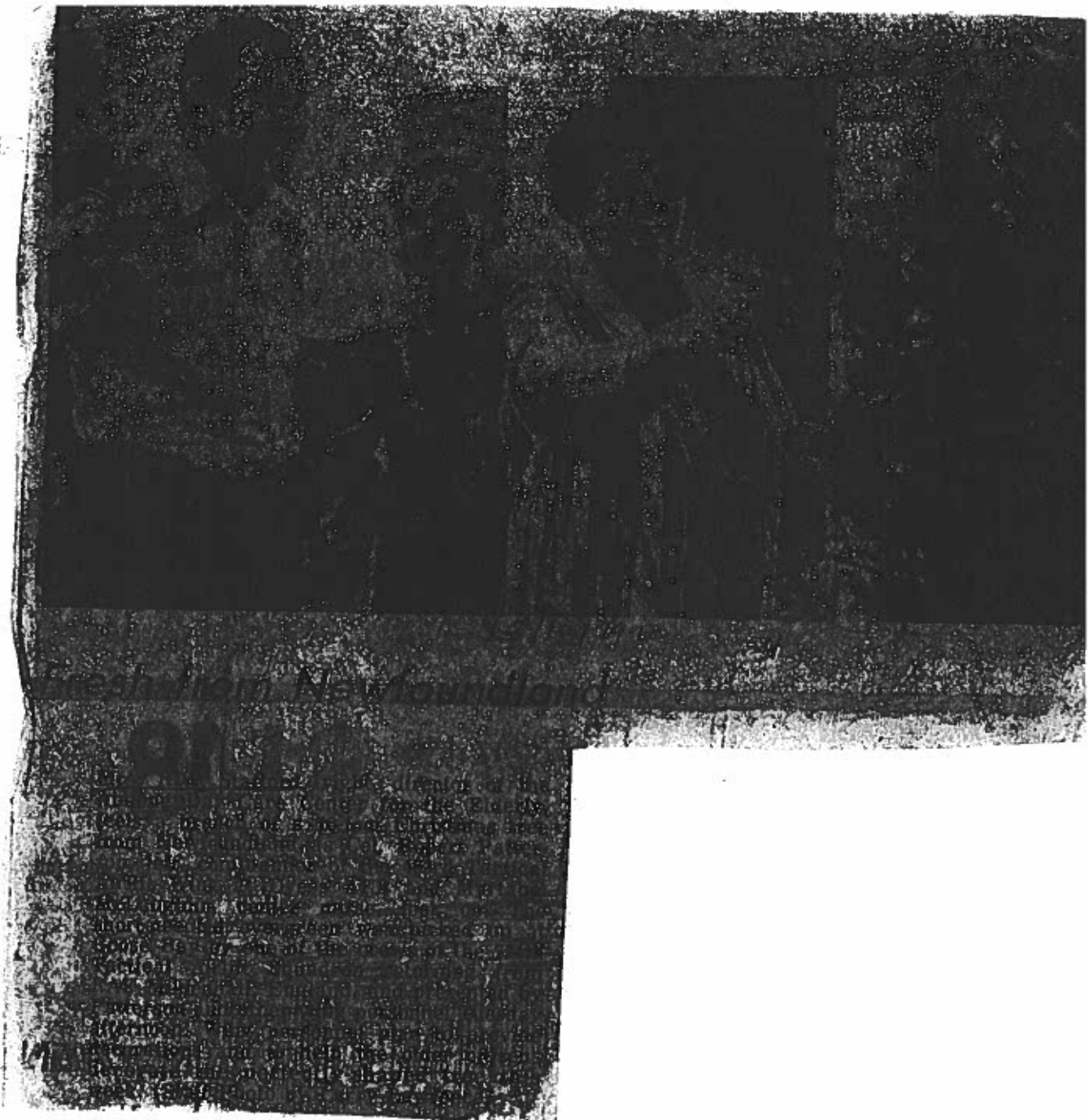
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They returned to Abilene in 1974 and their contributions continued. Mrs. Stafford served as director of the Day and Health Care Center for the Elderly, and worked with the Governor's Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, the League of Women Voters and other organizations. She also worked hard for equal rights measures.

The Stafford home was a gathering place, and their relationship was so strong and meaningful that hundreds of friends and relatives gathered on the couple's 50th wedding anniversary celebration for a twilight ceremony conducted on the front lawn of the Stafford home.

In 1984, when the local NAACP chapter placed an historical marker at the Oaker Recreation Center, site of the city's first black school, Mrs. Stafford called it "a great inspiration for the community."

She was right. But the school itself wasn't enough. People like Sammye Marie and Robert Stafford were the real inspirations, and their contributions live on in the lives of thousands of people and in every corner of this city.



Retired teacher working for

women's rights

By MERLE WATSON
Staff Writer



MRS. STAFFORD
to attend national meet-

ing.

A big change is taking place in everything," Mrs. Stafford said. "And women will be taking part. We'll be talking about women as agents of change — the changes of reading, recreation, work, church, politics."

Mrs. Stafford thinks women will eventually take over the politics of food. "We're already doing something in energy. If women don't save it, it won't be saved."

Another area of interest at the national meeting, according to Mrs. Stafford, will be the redefining of goals of education — a replanning and revamping of education to meet the needs of business.

One area in which Mrs. Stafford plans to participate is trying to see that the black women have a bigger part in the changes of the world affairs — including the educational process. "The black woman needs to be encouraged to take part," she emphasized. She added that she is up-to-date on black women not taking part in various aspects of

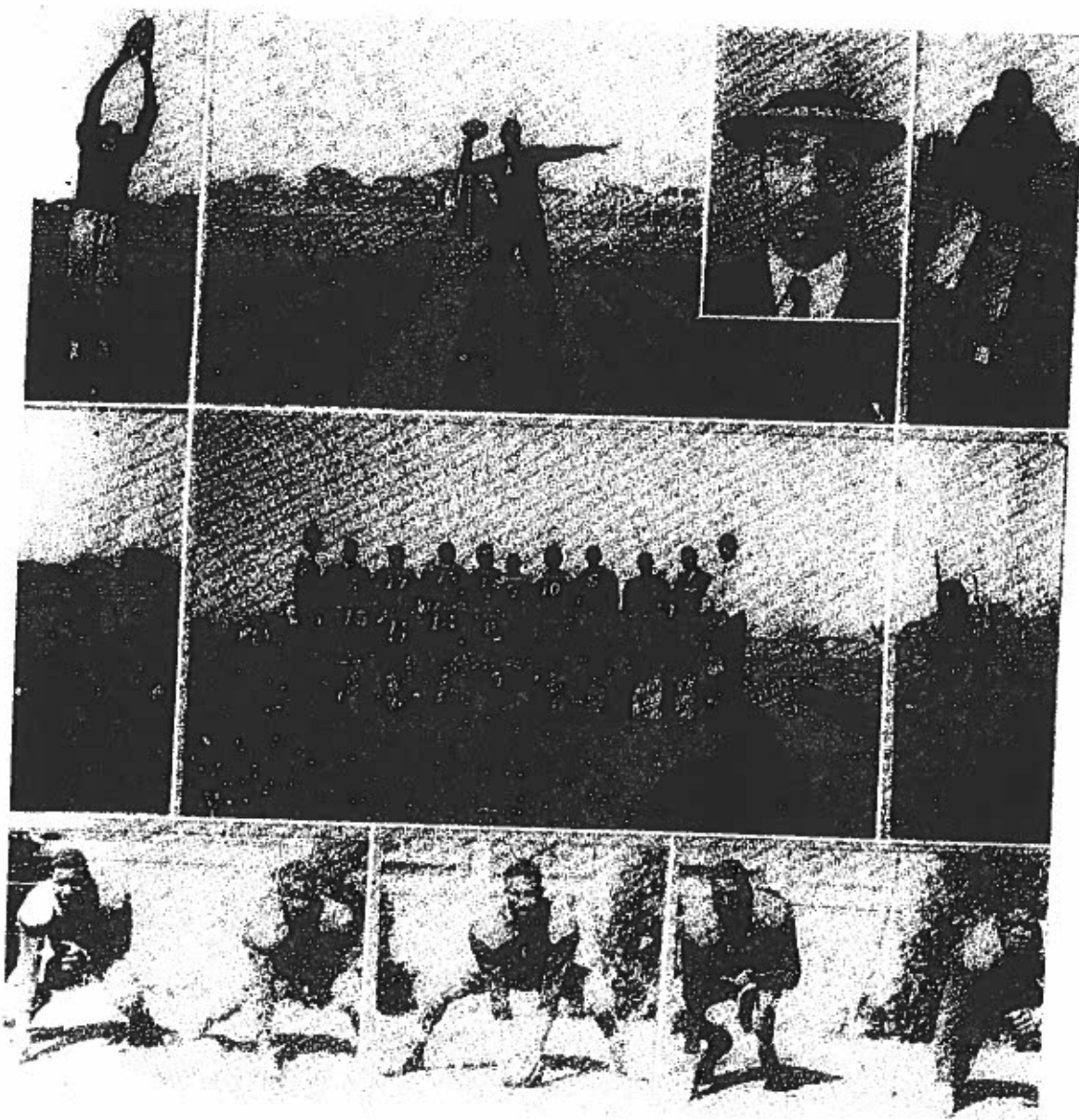
Women and their rights. This is something Mrs. Robert W. Stafford strongly believes in and actively works for.

"Women have come a long way but they still have a long way to go," she said in a recent interview.

As an individual, Mrs. Stafford attended the June 24-26 Texas Women's Meeting in Austin where she was elected one of the 25 delegates from Texas to the National Women's Conference in Houston Nov. 19-21.

Mrs. Stafford said that one of the main issues at the national meeting will be reaffirming support of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Too, an outline of what women are doing as agents of change will be

WEST TEXAS CHAMPIONS



OFFICIALS

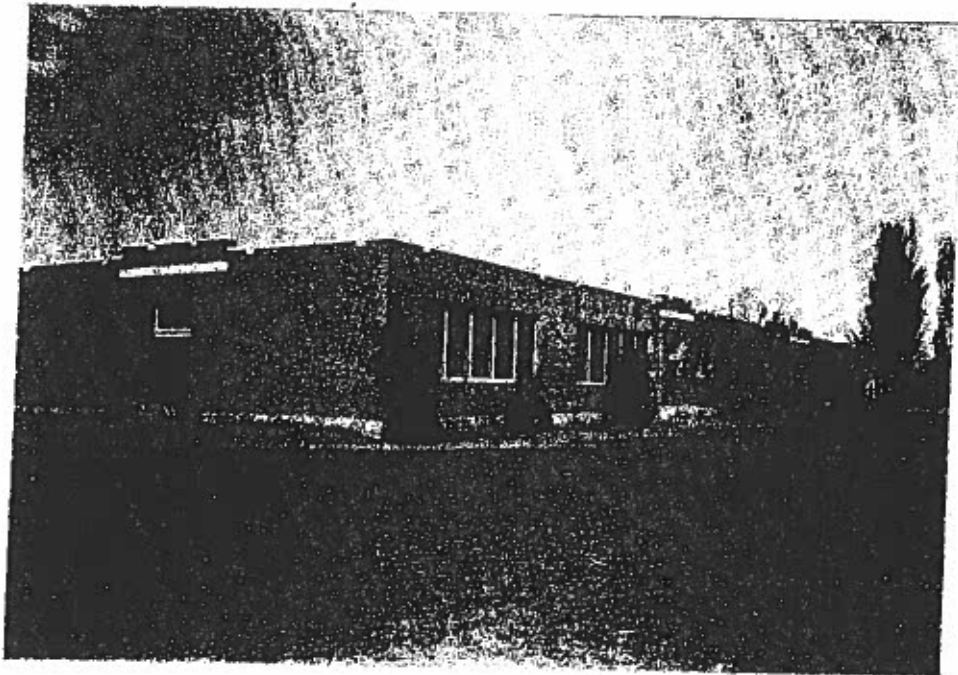
Mr. R. W. Stafford, Mr. R. B. Hayden, Mr. Earl Graves,
Mr. Harding T. Deon

CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD

1940
 M—Robert Wilcox, Joe Brown, Jessie Morland, Aubrey Vaughn,
 E. Graves, Ellis Rogers, Nathaniel Davis, Horace Carson, Titus
 Percy, Zebbie D. Bailey, Henry Ben Wiley, Grady Wiley, Charlie
 Mose Hollie, Alfred Carter, Willie McCowan, John D. Bailey,
 McCowan, Raymond Pikes, Henry Cumby, Connie Jones, Luther
 Joseph Washington, Lisure Yeidell, Edwin Baker, Simon Body,
 e Hester, John Henry, L. W. Johnson.

1940	
Abilene 18	Mineral Wells 0
Abilene 14	El Paso 0
Abilene 19	San Angelo 6
Abilene 24	Fonis 0
Abilene 19	Marlin 0
Abilene 19	San Angelo 0
Abilene 13	Wichita Falls 0
126	6

OUR SCHOOL



Located in the heart of West Texas, the Abilene High School for Negroes has served not only its own community but many of the small towns of West Texas have found it convenient to send their Graduates to Abilene to complete their high School Training. "The best in Secondary Education for every Negro Boy and Girl is its aim."



PRINCIPAL R. W. STAFFORD

Without his understanding and consideration and his patient dealing with all, the Abilene High School would fall far short of the scholastic heights which it has reached.

His invincible determination to give the boys and girls of Abilene the best in Secondary Education, and his unquestionable fairness toward all with whom he comes in contact, is the foundation of the growth and development of the Abilene High School.



OUR FACULTY

No where in Texas do we find a more competent group of men and women making up a single faculty. It has taken time and careful Study to select the capable group making up our faculty.

Mr. W. D. Harris, Math. and Science
 Mrs. O. L. Berry, Home Making
 Mrs. Marie Ward, Home Making
 Mrs. Leola Hammond, English, Spanish
 and Typing.
 Mrs. R. W. Stafford, History and Social
 Science
 Mrs. Sam Ella Smith, Music
 Miss Janet Edmondson, Bible

Elementary Teachers

Mr. R. B. Hayden
 Miss Henri M. Slaughter
 Mrs. G. A. Coles
 Mrs. Eryn Harris
 Mrs. Juanita Thomas
 Mrs. Ester Lott
 Mrs. Allie V. Ward
 Mrs. F. R. Hayes

"BIBLE IN OUR SCHOOL"

• • •
May 1945 closes the third year in which Bible has been taught in the Negro High School. It has only been the past year, however, that it has been offered as a regular credited course.

The Bible is the most wonderful of all books, because it is God-given and deals with the conduct of man and his destiny. Someone has well said, "The study of the Scriptures is an essential part of a modern education." This is true for "the Bible has had such an influence upon the course of human events that we must have a knowledge of it to understand history; literature is so full of quotations from and references to the Bible that a student must know the Scriptures to understand the statements of authors; the King James Version of the Bible must be credited with holding the English language to its present high position among the languages of the world."

Another has said, "This wonderful volume contains waters so shallow that a child may wade therein, and so deep that the most profound philosopher, be he ever so good a diver, can never touch bottom."

"The Bible is not a treatise on science, and yet it took science centuries to learn that 'the life is in the blood'."

"It is not a work of astronomy, but it took astronomy several thousand years to catch up with its statement that there is an 'empty place' in the northern sky."

"It is not a book on sociology, nevertheless it is far ahead of the present social order of the most civilized nations."

"It is not a treatise on law, but, although every just law upon earth is drawn from it, it is still far ahead of the laws of the most enlightened country."

"It is not a textbook on government, but no modern nation even approaches its high standards. It has the best solutions for every governmental problem, including that of labor and capital."

"It is not a treatise on psychology, and yet it discloses more about the soul than any other book, and its teachings are safer to follow."

"It is not a work on philosophy; however, it contains the soundest philosophy," founded on facts, not hypotheses, that ever engaged the minds of men."

How true all these statements are; therefore, we believe that no more worthwhile book could be studied by High School students in our modern system of Education. This Book of Books cannot be taught without its truths bearing fruit in the lives of those who study it, and each year this has been the case in the lives of some of the students. One girl said at the end of the first year in which it was taught, "This is just what I want to do for my life work—teach Bible."

We believe that the Negro High School has made a great forward step in adding this course to its curriculum. As the great Educator, the late Wm. Lyon Phelps, said, "I'd rather have my child have the knowledge of the Bible without a college education than to have a college education without the knowledge of the Bible."

Miss Janet Edmonson

"GIRL SCOUTS"

♦ ♦ ♦
 "To play fair, To play in your place
 To play for your side and not for yourself"

Juliette Sow
 1880-1927

Founder of Girl Scouting in the United States
 Girl Scout Troop 30 was created in January 1944 through the never-ceasing efforts of Prof. R. W. Stafford in character building for Negro Youth in Abilene.

The original organization consisted of the following leaders:

Leader, Mrs. G. A. H. Coles; Asst. Leader, Mrs. W. D. Harris; Committee Members, Mrs. Jane Nixon, Mrs. R. W. Stafford, Mrs. Forest Berry, Mrs. Alice Gilford, Miss Suella Cole, Miss Lois Matthews. At the first Investigative Program a ceremony at which Girls show a knowledge of the Girl Scout Laws, Promise and Salute, the following girls were made Tenderfoot Girl Scouts and received a Girl Scout Pin: Willie Maxine Pikes, Rachel Wigfall, Norma Jean Bradley, Juanita Bradley, Doretha Garrett, Edna Earl Parks, Savoy Nixon, Willie Pearl Williams, Delois Hayes, Bettye Jean Dean, Gwendolyn Jordan, Novelle Goodlow, Versie Stephens, Doris Goodson, Sarah Cumby, Anna Hamilton, Mary Francis Williams, Eloise Lester, Willie Mae Jackson, Ruby Fay Smith. Each of the Tenderfoot Scouts who engaged in one activity in each of the Ten Program Fields received a second class badge. This activity took about a year. In January 1945 after some had left the troop, New Tenderfoot members and committee members made, and Second Class Badges given, the troop stands as follows:

Leader, Mrs. G. A. H. Coles; Asst. Leader, Mrs. W. D. Harris, Mrs. Allie Ward; Committee Members, Mrs. R. W. Stafford, Miss Henri Mae Slaught-er, Mrs. Forest Berry. Troop 30 Edna Earl Parks, President and Second Class Savoy Iona Nixon, Secretary, and Deloris Hayes, Bettye Jean Dean, Willie Pearl Williams, Mary Francis Williams, Doris Goodson, Anna Hamilton, Sarah Cumby, Versie Stephens, Novelle Goodson, Ruby Fay Smith, Gwendolyn Jordan, Eloise Lester, Willie Mae Jackson. These are all Second Class Scouts. Tenderfoot Scouts are Dorothy Dean, Christine Lott, Margaret Jackson, Geraldine Williams, Billie Jean Bigham, Suecinda Royal, Billie Estes Williams, Annette Robinson.

The Troop has enjoyed the following activities: Making Girl Scout Ties, Mending torn garments, Embroidering, Volunteer help in the Day Nursery, Hosted at the Annual Girl Scouts Teas, cooking and making sandwiches. Picnic at the Negro Park, a picnic at Cobb Park, Weenie Roast at Whitehill, Visiting Junior Missionaries, Participation in War Chest Drive, Red Cross, Program at the Paramount Theater, Theater Party at the Grand Theater, Participation in the Scout Drive and Old Clothes Drives. Designing and Drawing invitations, Learning games, collecting plants and things of interest on hikes.

The success of this organization is due to many working together for one common cause.

OUR CLUBS

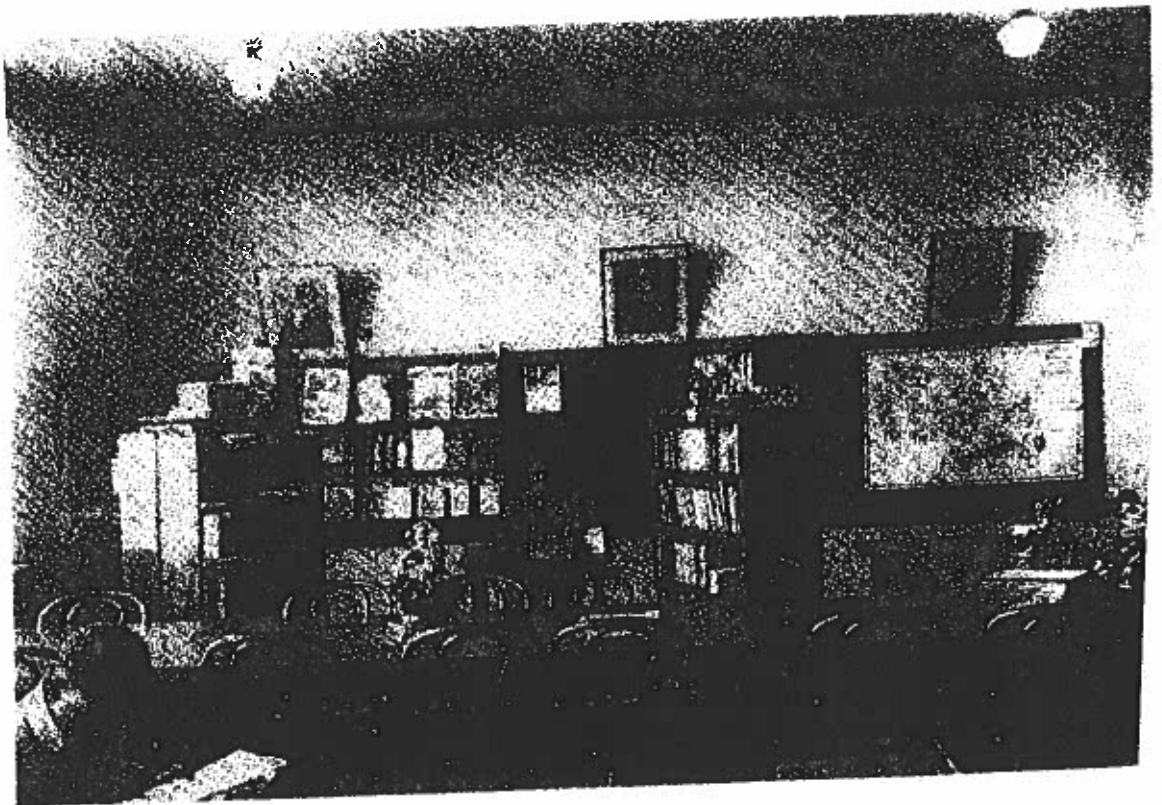


Student Council Alfred Carter, President
 Aim: "To develop in students a sense of responsibility."

THE BOY SCOUTS

"For individual identification see the class sections."
 Isaac Walker, Will Henderson, R. B. Hayden, R. W. Stafford:
 "For individual identification see the Class Sections."

THE LIBRARY



The School Library and Reading Room

Equipped with reading tables and comfortable chairs. Pictures of outstanding Negroes adorn the walls. A study of the typical Negro with a graduate of the High School as model occupies a conspicuous place.

MRS. ELTA C. ROBERT AND OUR LIBRARY

By Mrs. R. W. Stafford

Our School is proud of its modernly arranged library in the east end of the building. The number of books have increased rapidly during the last few years. We owe much of the progress of our library to Mrs. Elta Campbell Roberts, who in the memory of her sister, Willie Beatrice Campbell, has given many books to our library. During this school year Mrs. Roberts has given several volumes of books by and about Negroes to our school. Mrs. Roberts, not only has given Negro books to our school but she has started a shelf of Negro books in Hardin-Simmons University, her Alma Mater. If you would like to know Mrs. Robert better, I would like for you to read her articles in the July '44 issue of the Crisis Magazine "What one white woman would say" and her pamphlet on "Why we feel as we do" which has not yet been published. These articles serve as a window to her Godly heart, without bitterness, without prejudice, and with love for all.

If I had only one prayer to offer it would be:
"God give my Race more friends like Mrs. Elta C. Robert."

"SPEECH DEPARTMENT"

1944-45

"Readers of Choice Writings"

By Hazel Lee Turner

If our school can boast of any one achievement it must refer to the progress made in the Speech Department under the Supervision of Mrs. R. W. Stafford. During the last fifteen years the school has been represented in the State Interscholastic League and has won more medals and pennants in the Speech Department than any school in its Class. Our Speech Department takes in Junior and Senior declaiming and Debating. The School year of 1944-45 has been no exception for good Speakers in our school. This Department has rendered several colorful Programs.

Hazel Lee Turner, Willie J. Jackson, Bernetta Andrew, and James Cleveland Williams will represent our school this year in the state meet at Prairie View College. Others in the Department are: Helen Bryant, Mary L. Barnes, Irene Smith, Fay E. Friday, Elliott Gibson, Jane Pearl Turner, and Deltesser Rogers.

We are grateful to the Press for waiting on the result of the State Class AA contest.

Willie J. Jackson—Junior Declamation, First Place
James C. William—Senior Declamation, Second Place
Hazel Lee Turner and Bernetta Anderson—Debate, First Place

ARMISTICE DAY PROGRAM

Abilene Colored High School

Friday, November 10, 1944 11:30 A. M.

1. Silent Prayer • •
2. Invocation Rev. T. J. D. Simms
3. America The Beautiful High School Glee Club
4. Recitation Margaret Jackson Armistice Day Vision
5. Recitation November The Eleventh
Maecelle Barnes
6. I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag Group Song
Third Grade
7. Recitation Billy Fay Kindle My Flag
8. Recitation Dephora Childers
First Grade
9. When Johnny Comes Marching Home High School Glee Club
10. The Short Term Armistice Faced
(Written and Prepared by Mrs. R. W. Stafford)
1. Kenneth McCaughey 2. Harvey Reed
3. Clarence Bowen 4. Heman Jones
5. Hallie Ruth Gindratt
11. Buy A Stamp Group Song
Fifth Grade
12. Declamation Soldier
Bobby Royce Boyd
13. A Reading Armistice
Willie Pearl Williams
14. Funiculi Funicula High School Glee Club
15. The First World War Truce Faced
(Written By Mrs. R. W. Stafford)
1. Willie Jay Jackson; 2. Helen Mryant;
3. Lela Mae Nobles; 4. Lillian Nell McNeal
16. Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones High School Glee Club
Mrs. R. W. Stafford, Program Sponsor
Mrs. O. W. Smith, Music Director
R. W. Stafford, Principal



ATHLETICS

The first all-school football team was organized in the fall of 1937, under the tutcrship of Coach R. B. Hayden. The team was named the Abilene Black Eagles. The team's record for this season was two games won, one tie, and three losses. The aggregate points were 121, against 74 for the opponents. This was an indication that the local squad would develop into a fair machine in the future. Robert Wilcox was the nucleus around which the team was built. Wilcox was a back, and scored the highest number of points for the season.

In 1938 Mr. Earl Graves Jr. was added to the recreation department, and assisted as Coach, along with Mr. Hayden. During this year, the brain trust of Hayden and Graves, produced a team that was undefeated, and scored on only twice during an eight-game schedule season. The Eagles amassed a total of 10 points, against 12 for their opponents. The high scorer for this year was Wilcox again.

During the 1939 season, the team won six of eight games played. The total scores for the season were 113, against 46 for the opponents. Wilcox was high scorer again, scoring 53 points for the top place, while h's nearest competitor Joe R. Brown scored 19 points.

The 1940 season was another undefeated, untied year for the Eagles. The games played this year were seven, and the team's goal line was crossed only once during the season. The aggregate scores for this year were 126 against 6 for the opponents. The scorer for this season was Joe Brown, who scored a total of 60 points, while his nearest competitor scored only 34 points. Robert Wilcox received honors for being the second highest scorer.

The first footballers of any Abilene High School team to receive jackets and letters were as follows: Robert Wilcox, Jessie Moreland, Nathaniel Davis, Ellis H. Rogers, Donald Graves, and Aubery Vaughn. These were the first Senior Varsity Lettermen to receive this distinction. This came at the end of the 1940 season.

During the four years, the Eagles have lost 5 games, tied one and won 23, which is a nice four year average for any high school football team.

The basket ball teams, under the tutorship of Coach R. W. Stafford have won four District Tournaments. The teams won in 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1938. The girls' sextet won the District Championship in 1939. Their team is coached by Mrs. R. W. Stafford.

Robert Wilcox has won the Tennis Championship at the State Inter-scholastic Meet. for four straight years. Donald Graves and Loyd George Matthews won the boys' double State Championship in 1939.

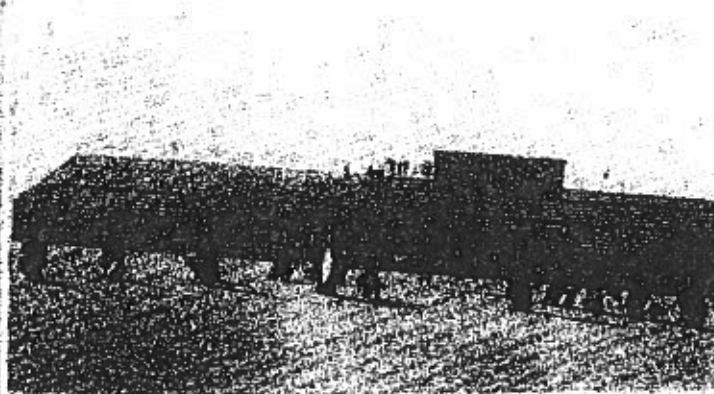
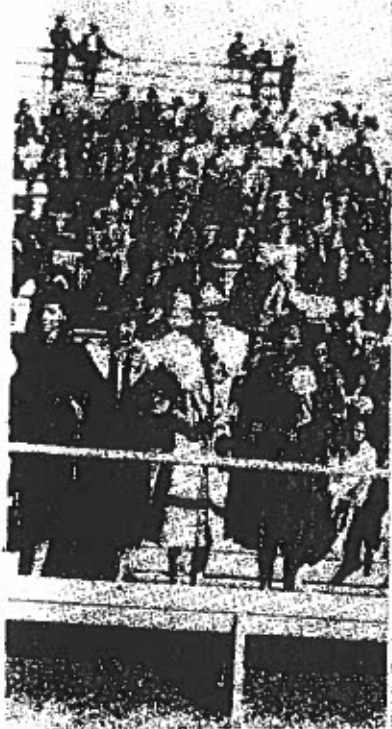
In the Track and Field events, the teams have won several District Championships. The boys have also placed in the broad jump, pole vault, and shot put at the State Meet. Tennis, Track and Field events were under the Supervision of Coach R. B. Hayden.

ATHLETICS



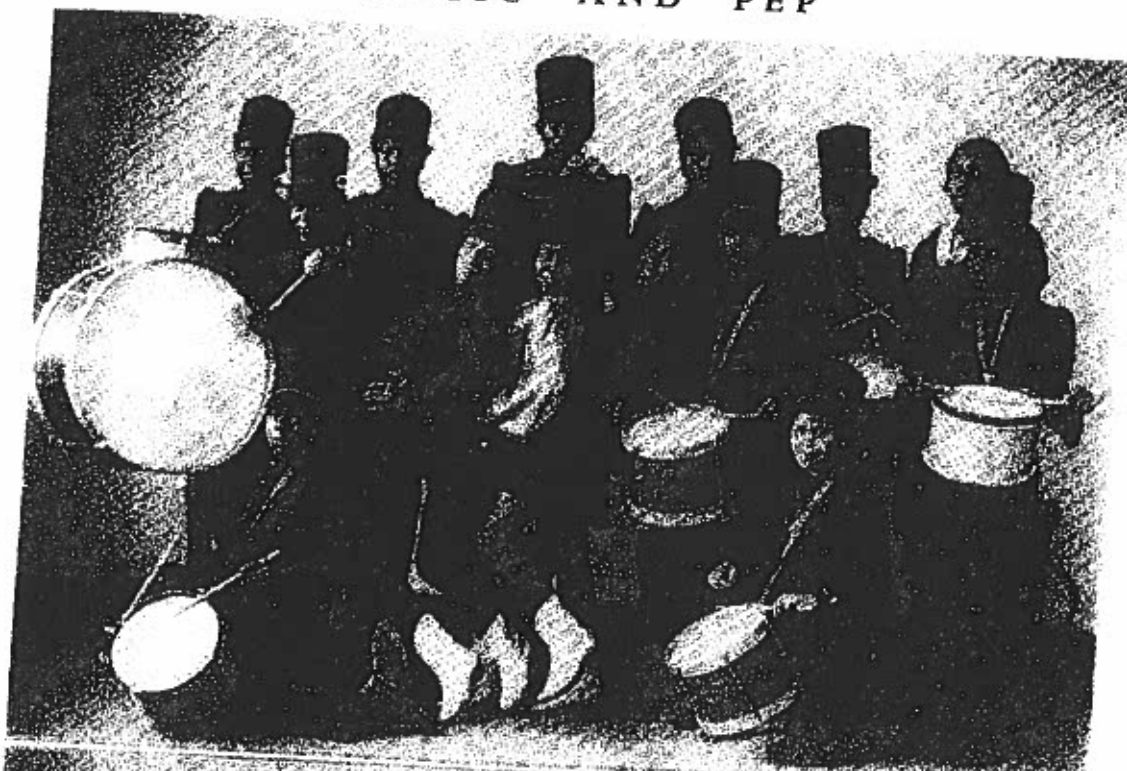
"For Individual identification see the class sections"

ATHLETICS



"For Individual identification see the class sections"

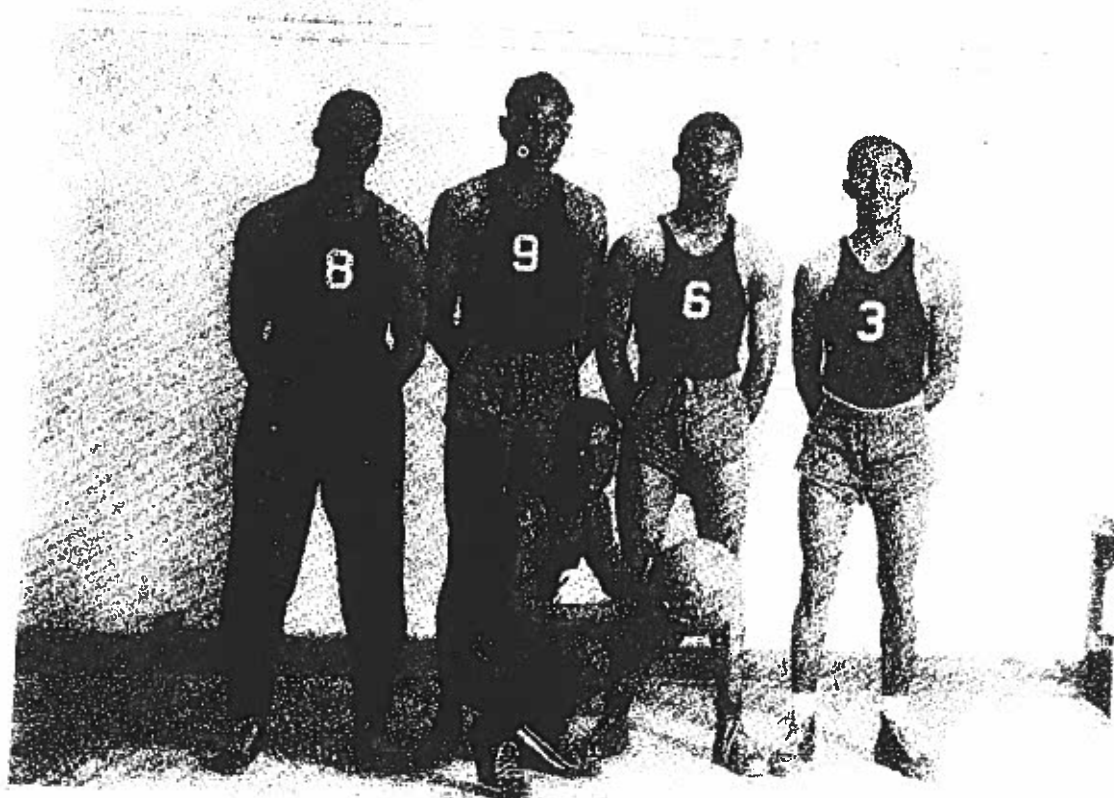
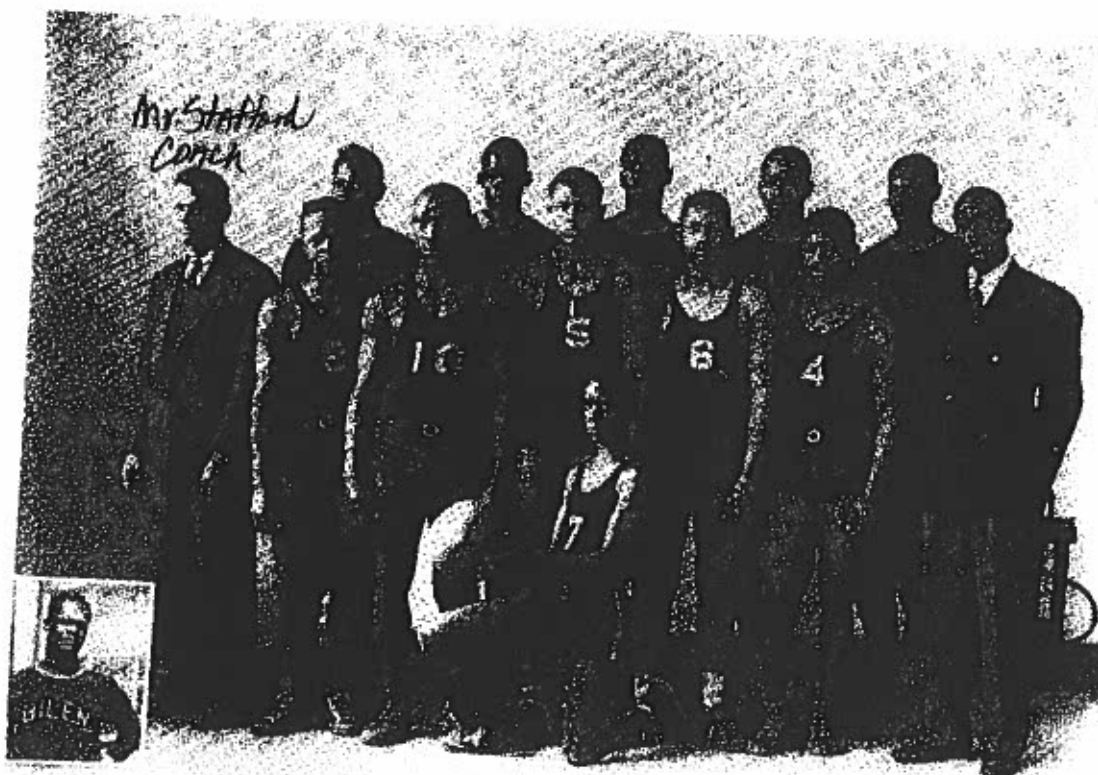
MUSIC AND PEP



The Drum and Bugle Corps and the Pep Squad grew out of a need for Field Athletics participation. The same was organized and directed by Mrs. J. L. Thomas.

"For individual identification see class sections."

ATHLETICS



Top: The Eagles Team, Bottom: The Y.M.C.A. Team

ATHLETICS



OFFICIALS

Mr. R. W. Stafford, Mrs. R. W. Stafford, Mr. Earl Graves, Mr. R. E. Hester, Mr. Harding T. Deon.

Girls Team—Dorothy Carson, Captain; Clover Gilmore, Co-Captain.

Boys Team—James Hammonds, Captain; Robert Wilcox, Co-Captain.

Y. M. C. A. TEAM

Read left to right: Harding T. Deon, William Ammons, Cleota Hawkins, Earl Graves; Bottom, Lenord Hester.

(For further identification see the class section)

MAJOR SCHOOL ACTIVIES THAT BECAME PART OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

BIBLE, in 1942 the Bible was offered as a regular credited course.

ABILENE BLACK EAGLES, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK AND FIELD, GIRLS BASKETBALL. THE STAFFORD WERE THE FIRST COACHES IN THE HISTORY OF BLACK EDUCATION. IN AISD HISTORY.

**Addtional documentation,
contribution and development of
student curriculum with
community and school activities of
Robert and Sammye Stafford from
the Abilene Black Eagle Year
Books (1941 and 1945).**



John Gilbert Barns

ACCOMPLISHED IN MUSIC

State Class AA Piano Solo

FIRST PLACE 1945



Girl Scouts

Petition #1

To City of Abilene Parks & Recreation Board

We, the undersigned support the efforts of the Abilene Heritage Committee and Dr. A.C. Jackson.

Requesting the city of Abilene and Abilene Park Board in Renaming

- Rename the old Lee Park to Robert and Sammye Stafford Park

Do The Right Thing

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update



Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Upcoming Survey
- Open House – June 16, 2022
5:30PM – 7:30PM
Convention Center
Upstairs Conference Room



Zoo 10 Year Master Plan



Zoo 10 year Master Plan















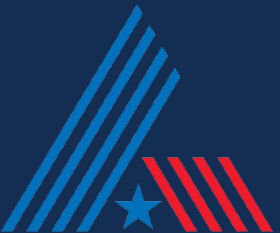
Aquatics



Splash Pad during a busy weekend



Preparing Adventure Cove for the season



ADVENTURE COVE, AHOY!



ADVENTURE COVE OPENS MAY 28TH

Hours

Sunday - Monday

1:00pm - 7:00pm

Tuesday - Saturday

11:00am - 7:00pm

Admission

Kids 2 & Under Free!

Kids Under 48" \$4.00

Kids 48" & Over \$6.00

Adults (18 & Older) \$7.00



ABILENETX.GOV/ADVENTURECOVE

SWIMMING LESSONS

AT
Adventure
COVE



SESSION 1
JUN 7 - 17

SESSION 2
JUN 21 - JUL 1

SESSION 3
JUL 12 - 22

SESSION 4
JUL 25 - AUG 5

\$45 Per Participant
Per Session

2-Week Sessions
3 Skill Levels

30 Minutes per Lesson

Lessons held Tuesday - Friday
Between 8:30 & 10:30am

THREE LEVELS
PRESCHOOL
LEVEL 1 & 2
LEVEL 3

abilenetx.gov/adventurecove



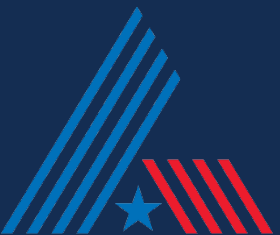
Seniors



Orca Day

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 15TH
10 AM
ROOM B**

COME LEARN ABOUT
ORCAS AND OTHER
OCEAN LIFE FROM
REBEKAH RAUX,
A PROFESSIONAL
MARINE NATURALIST.
THIS IS A FUN
OPPORTUNITY TO
LEARN SOMETHING
NEW!



Orthopedic Shoe Checks

**Do you have Medicare?
Medicaid?**

**You may qualify for
orthopedic shoes at no
cost to you!**

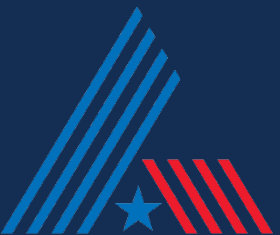
**Pro Comfort Medical
will be visiting to
provide the information
you need.**



Thursday, May 26th

11:15 AM & After Lunch

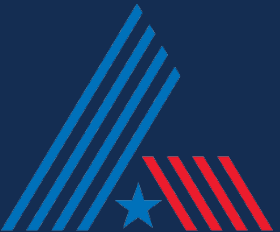
Lobby/Dining Area



Parks



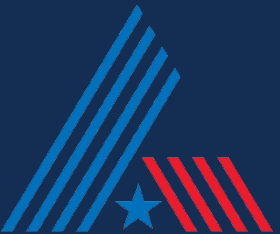
Lake Kirby Ballfield Irrigation Valve Leaks



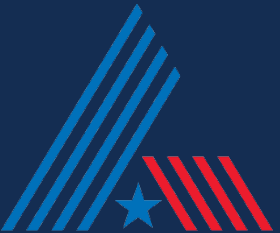
Splash Pad Signage Replacements



Stevenson Park Sidewalk Repair



Pine Street Bed Renovations



Recreation





COLORING & CONVERSATION

COBB RECREATION CENTER
TUESDAY NIGHTS IN MAY
6:30 - 8:00 PM
ADULTS 18+





GIRLS

night

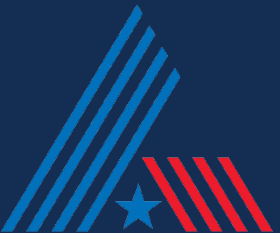
PARTY IN YOUR PJ'S WITH SPA CRAFTS, MOVIE, SNACKS, & MORE

ROSE RECREATION CENTER

MAY 21

6:00 - 9:00 PM

\$10 PER PERSON





Men's

BASKETBALL LEAGUE ..

MY PARKS & RECREATION

**GAMES ON TUESDAYS
6:00-9:00 PM
JUNE 28TH - AUGUST 16TH**

Rose Park Recreation Center
www.abilenetx.gov/signup

\$45 PER PLAYER


CITY OF ABILENE

PICKLEBALL LEAGUE



Whether you're learning to play or
want to challenge a seasoned player,
ALL AGES & SKILL LEVELS ARE
WELCOME!



Rose Park Rec Center
NEW! Outdoor Lines at
Will Hair & Vaughn Camp



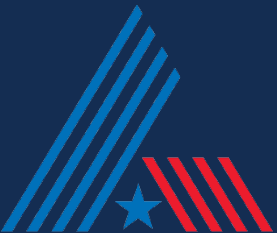
Open Gym @ Rose Rec
Monday Nights
6:00 - 9:00 pm
Outdoor lines open sunrise-sunset



No registration required!
Paddles are available at
Rose Rec Center if needed



Questions? Contact
Rose Park Rec Center
(325) 676-6445



myabileneparksandrec.com



Animal Updates

1.1 Crowned Lemurs



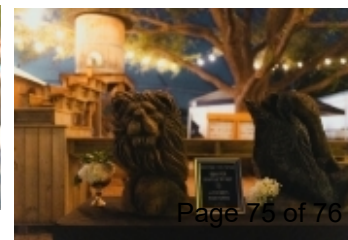
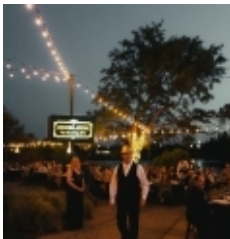
0.1 Prehensile-tailed Porcupine



0.1 Howler Monkey



Zoobilation!



Zoolute - May 21st

WELCOME TO

H-E-B
HelpingHere
PRESENTS


Zoolute
AT THE ABILENE ZOO

**FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL ACTIVE, VETERANS,
RETIRED MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES**



CHECK-IN WITH MILITARY ID

