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Clinton Hospital lawsuit settled with no money exchanged

A legal dispute over the failed sale of Clinton Regional Hospital has concluded with a settlement agreement that requires no financial payments between the involved parties, according to the *Clinton Daily News*.

The City of Clinton and the Clinton Hospital Authority reached the agreement with Rural Hospital Solutions and several individual defendants, including Loren Brink and Jennifer Sethre. The settlement resolves two lawsuits filed in late 2025 that alleged a breach of contract regarding an Asset Purchase

Agreement originally dated April 2025.

According to records obtained by the *Clinton Daily News* through an official request, the settlement terms dictate that all parties "walk away" without exchanging funds to resolve their various claims and counterclaims. The agreement also includes a strict non-disparagement clause, prohibiting all involved parties from making negative or defamatory comments about one another. However, city leaders clarified that this restriction does not apply to comments made by private citizens.



Clinton Regional Hospital

While the settlement leaves many questions regarding the failed hospital sale unanswered, officials noted it prevents a lengthy and expensive legal battle. Moving forward, the

hospital is expected to begin receiving federal funding as a Rural Emergency Hospital starting in January, which local leaders hope will stabilize the facility's financial future.

New commissioner sworn in for Ward 2

Kyra Huckabay/WDN



Brad Yoder, right, is sworn in by City Attorney David Duncan Tuesday evening for the Ward 2 seat of the Weatherford City Commission. Yoder, who officially began this position January 1, succeeds former commissioner Jimmy Ingram who served nine years on the commission.

City commission moves to resolve Prairie West Golf Course flooding issues

Kyra Huckabay
WDN City Editor

During Tuesday's Weatherford City Commission meeting, commissioners approved funding to address water runoff issues at Prairie West Golf Course.

The commission approved a \$25,000 professional drainage study to address significant water runoff issues that have plagued the course since recent infrastructure improvements were made to nearby roads.

The flooding issues were an unintended side effect of the Lyle Road construction project. While the road improvements were necessary for the city, the redesign effectively redirected a massive volume of water onto the

golf course.

"We kind of caused it," Mayor Mike Brown said, noting that at the time of the road project, a total fix for the water issues was estimated at \$5 million. The current study is seen as a strategic step to find a more cost-effective, specialized solution.

The commission heard from representatives of the golf course including Richard Ratcliffe and Jordan Marlow, who explained that the \$25,000 fee is a discounted rate from a specialized golf course architecture firm — a service that typically costs upwards of \$50,000.

The study will focus on two primary trouble spots including runoff from the nearby soccer fields that washes out the

northeast corner of the course, and new drainage patterns caused by the road reconstruction that overwhelm the area during heavy rains from the south side.

The goal of the study is to create a master plan that incorporates retention ponds and strategic landscaping. Officials hope this will not only slow the flow of water but also beautify the course.

While the \$25,000 for the study was approved, the commission opted to table a request for an additional \$4,000 monthly maintenance fee. Commissioners asked the golf course team to return next month with a more defined list of how those recurring funds would be spent on drainage operations.

Meet your hero

Kyra Huckabay
WDN City Editor

For Douglas Hale, the Weatherford community is more than just the place he grew up — it's a place he has dedicated himself to protecting and serving.

Hale is an officer with the Weatherford Police Department, where he continues to give back to the town that shaped him. After graduating from Weatherford High School, Hale completed the law enforcement program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Soon after, he applied for an opening with the



Douglas Hale

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Chatterbox

Do you have information for the WDN Chatterbox? Call (580) 772-3301. Happy Birthday to Megan DeLeon, Ellen Mol, Kylie Howell, Tami Romans-Rowland, Jayne Harris, Ben Gooch, Charlotte Nance, Wally Stillwell, Gary Meeks, Catherine Bruner, Linda Baker, Jason Kidd, Bruce Walker, Betty Leighton and LaDonna Stocking.



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