

The Weekly News of Cooke County

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The LARGEST and MOST READ Newspaper in Cooke County!

Gainesville Council Sends Overlay Back for Changes

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville City Council recently passed on first reading an ordinance adding a “Major Corridor Overlay District” to major corridors in the city. The action, which will allow city administrators to make adjustments before a second reading of the ordinance, came at the April

2 regular city council meeting.

Council chambers in the city’s municipal building at 200 South Rusk Street were packed with a standing room only crowd and at least ten individuals spoke against the corridor overlay proposal during a public hearing at the meeting.

The overlay district boundaries will, according to the ordinance, extend along Highway 51 (Cal-

ifornia Street), Broadway Street, Interstate 35, Highway 82, FM 372 (Grand Avenue), FM 3092 (Radio Hill Road), FM 1200, FM 1201, FM 1202, and FM 1306 and will prohibit mini-storage facilities, recreational vehicle (RV) storage facilities, trailer storage facilities, wind turbines, and solar farms in the district.

Some changes have already been made to the proposed or-

dinance following a March 12 meeting of the Gainesville Planning & Zoning Commission during which the board recommended to deny the ordinance.

County Road or FM 404 is no longer included in the district boundary and “warehouses” have been taken out of the ordinance, City Manager Barry Sullivan noted.

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Residents Speak Out against Major Corridor Overlay District – A crowd filled Gainesville City Council chambers for the April 2 meeting to voice their opinions on a proposed ordinance for a major corridor overlay district which would prohibit certain types of businesses along major corridors in and out of the city. The council passed the ordinance on first reading and city officials are expected to present the measure with changes at a future meeting. (The Weekly News Photo / Gainesville Map)

King Around Town

by Grice King

I was in the kitchen the other day talking with my younger son Cole. He’s trying to write something while I was cleaning up the kitchen. Bam a pen comes flying at me. I think nothing of it and keep sweeping. Then it happens again so I start paying more attention. What is this kid doing? He is trying to spin the pen on the top of his hand. “What are you doing Cole?” “Trying to look cool,” he said. I gave a probably too robust laugh at this but then would you believe it? He spins the pen 3 times and it falls right in his hand to start writing again. In a Cole-only fashion he cocked his head to the side and just smiled, “cool.”

Here is some more of what’s happening around town this week.

Terry Hutchison wanted me to spread the word that the GHS class of 1969 will meet Saturday April 13 from 12:00 (noon) to 4:00 pm at the Smokehouse in Lindsay. Meal and drinks are Dutch treat. Come and go for the 55th celebration!

North Central Texas College and Workforce Solutions Texoma are partnering together for a Health Science Career Fair. The career fair will be held at NCTC Health Science Center Building 2400 on the Gainesville campus on April 16, 2024 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Log into www.workintexas.com for more information.

Lake Kiowa Kiwanis are selling tickets for BBQFest on April 27, 2024! Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for children under 12. Tickets are only available until April 15 so don’t delay. Call Scottie at 682-232-5337 to get tickets. All proceeds will go to benefit CISD children and their major 2024 project renovating the CHS/MS Courtyard!

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NCTC Regents Approve 2024-25 Tuition, General Use Fee Increases

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

GAINESVILLE – North Central Texas College Board of Regents agreed at the March 25 regular meeting to raise tuition and fees for the coming year and to increase the general use fee. The proposal calls for a \$5 increase for both in-district and

branch tuition and a \$55 general use fee.

Vice Chancellor of Fiscal Affairs Dr. Van Miller noted in the five years he’s been on staff, NCTC has raised tuition and fees one time for \$5.

“We do feel like this year it’s just prudent for us to look at a tuition and fee increase for the upcoming school year,” Miller

said.

“In this case, we are actually raising the general use fee,” he said. “So, in-district [total per semester hour rates] would go from \$105 to \$110. Branch campus [total per semester hour rate] will go from \$125 to \$130.”

Out-of-district and out-of-state tuition will increase by \$15 per hour -- \$5 for general use fee

with the reminder built into the out-of-district fee.

“Just trying to be transparent with you,” Miller said, “We are doing some internal changes... It’s very helpful to me that we just go, ‘We have a flat tuition rate for all students.’ The flat rate is \$57.”

“In the past tuition was higher for out-of-district,” he said. “It was higher for out-of-state but my experience and what I think works best is keep that number the same. It’s the out-of-district that changes. If you are out-of-district, out-of-state that number is where the excess cost comes into play. The net impact is \$5 and \$5, \$15 and \$15.”

Prior to the vote Regent Dr. Lisa Bellows said she’d like to see the general use fee increase to \$55 rather than the proposed \$53.

“Everything we do for maintenance and operations really is impacted by that general use fee,” she said. “That’s why I would like to see that one bumped up just a little bit more if that were feasible.”

Chancellor Dr. Brent Wallace (Continued on Page 12)

Emerald Ash Borer Targets Cooke County Trees

By Delania Raney
The Weekly News

COOKE COUNTY – Heads up area homeowners. The Emerald Ash Borer has been identified in Cooke County and the persistent pest can kill ash trees.

Cooke County was added to a quarantine zone for the Emerald Ash Borer released last summer by Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller.

The EAB has been found to have infected at least two Ash trees in Gainesville, Glenn Ray Estes of Estes Exterminating Inc. said.

If it is not caught and treated in its early stages of infestation, the ash tree cannot recover and must be removed and burned on site, Estes, who is licensed in tree care, said.

“If 40 percent of the tree dies, it’s a goner,” he said. “And it dies

from the top down.”

EAB is a beetle that appears metallic with emerald green hardened front wings, according to information from TDA.

The adults are 7.5 to 13.5 millimeters [0.3 to 0.5 inches] long. The insect completes its development under the bark of an ash tree. In the spring, the new adults chew holes through the bark, leaving behind a distinctive “D” shaped

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Cooke County History

Advocating for a Better Future

By Shana Powell
Contributing Historian
The Weekly News

On December 31, 1918, Lillian Gunter strolled into an office in the Cooke County Courthouse and approached City Collector Rafe Piper. She was

bright, independent, forceful woman who people came to take very seriously.

Born on a large farm at Sivells Bend to Addison and Bettie Ligon Gunter in 1870, Lillian always loved Sivells Bend and felt a deep connection to it throughout her life as well as to all

vent, where she studied for three years between 1882 and 1885 and then went on to complete her education with two years at the Wesleyan Female Institute in Staunton, Virginia.

Returning to Texas, Lillian took over running the family's estate after her father died in 1892. She continued in that role until 1901 when she and her mother moved to Gainesville. It was at that point that Lillian began working for causes that mattered to her and that would consume her for the rest of her life.

She quickly joined the XLI Club, the first woman's club in town which, while primarily a literary society, also had a passion for causes and civic improvements. Members of the XLI Club had worked to establish a small subscription library in Gainesville. Gunter championed the expansion of that library. She successfully applied for a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation and with local support, a new Carnegie library building was constructed, and the Gainesville Public Library opened inside it in 1914. With the passage of a statewide county public library law, it would become the Cooke County Free Library. That building still stands, currently housing the Butterfield Stage Players.

Determined that everyone in the county deserved the opportunity for access to a library, not just those living in Gainesville, Gunter began to champion the idea of passing a county library law.

She earlier had traveled to New York to take a library science course and now she went to California at her own expense to study the county library system there and her report

on what she learned led the Texas Library Association to "seek a revision of the library laws of the Texas at the next Legislature."

As outlined in an entry about her in the Handbook of Texas, Gunter "enlisted the aid of legislators, the Texas Library Association, the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, newspapers, and townspeople in her quest. She helped write legislation, authored articles, and gave speeches and fought legal battles to establish service for all Texans. Her efforts brought about a new law passed in 1917 but then the courts overturned it." With the help of "Cooke County Representative George W. Dayton, who urged passage in the legislature, Gunter's continued efforts resulted in the passage of a new County Free Library Law in 1919."

The Cooke County Library, which opened in 1921, was directed by Gunter until her death. It "was the second such system established under the (Continued on Page 11)



there for a special reason. Piper later reported that "he issued the first poll tax receipt to a lady today ever issued in Gainesville" and that lady was Lillian Gunter. Paying a poll tax was necessary to vote.

Lillian advocated for many things during her lifetime, increased rights for women being just one of them. Over time, the sickly little girl Lillian once was developed into a

the farmers in the county. That appreciation and love for the people living in the rural communities in the county, in time drove her to advocate for a county library giving everyone access to books.

She attended a local school until she was twelve when illness forced her parents to send her away to a different climate. In St. Louis, Missouri "she entered Sacred Heart Con-

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216 W. Pecan • Gainesville, TX

Business Office - 940.665.2320

Fax - 940.665.2162

News Line - 940.665.0733

www.TheWeeklyNewsCC.com



Owner / Publisher / Advertising

Grice King

Grice.King@TheWeeklyNewsCC.com



Editorial Staff

Delania Raney

Delania.Raney@TheWeeklyNewsCC.com

Obituaries



Ken Coolen

Services

Ken Coolen, 84 years of age, passed away on Good Friday, March 29, 2024 in his home with his family at his bedside. Services planned at Temple Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 with a Visitation at 10:30 a.m., Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m., and a Graveside Military Service for family members at 1:30 p.m. in Fairview Cemetery.

History

Ken, the oldest of six siblings, was born to Arlene and Kenneth Coolen on June 14, 1939 in Junction City, Oregon. At the end of WWII, Ken's parents moved to Nebraska where Ken attended elementary and secondary schools.

After graduating high school in Table Rock, Nebraska, Ken served in the US Navy from 1956-1959. He then returned to Nebraska where he fulfilled his love of driving by moving mobile homes cross county. Eventually Morgan Drive-Away in Lawrence, Kansas hired him as a dispatcher, employment which opened up Ken's moving to Gainesville, Texas as service manager at the new mobile home factory, Bonnavilla Homes.

Ken soon enrolled at Cooke County College where he met and married Linda Hendry in 1975. Throughout much of their 49 years together they enjoyed camping and travelled by motorcycle or RV. After he retired from trucking as an owner-operator, Ken served on the NCTC board from 2008-2013 and drove a school bus for GISD until his final retirement in 2019. Ken loved his church, Temple Baptist, where he was a longtime member. His passions included racing, traveling, camping, motorcycling, rebuilding cars and working.

Survivors

Ken is survived by his beloved wife Linda as well as 3 children and their families: Ken Marie Richards, Robin and her husband John Brinkley, Daryl and his wife Laura Coolen. He has 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.



Bobby Ray Silmon

Services

Bobby Ray Silmon, 76, passed March 26, 2024 at approximately 3:00 a.m. A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life is to be scheduled at a later date.

History

Born Paris, TX to Lilly Mac Silmon (Seacy) Roy Silmon, moved to Gainesville, TX in 1955. Survivors is his loving wife Laura, Early in life Bobby some of great passion was fast cars, shooting pool and good hair.

He was a skilled professional painter starting out as Silmon Painting. He loved spending time family time every Sunday with a big loving family. Preceded in death by parents, Lilly Mae Silmon, Roy Silmon, sister Glenda Faye Barnett, Great niece Tiffany Serna.

Survivors

Survivors, Roy Gene Silmon and Betty Silmon of Gainesville, Sister Annie Silmon, Gainesville, brother Danny and Wife Ronda Silmon of Muenster, brother Jimmy Dale Silmon of Fort Worth, grandkids, Aunt Sue's children: Steven and Cheyrl Silmon, Luisa Templeton and will Gilchrist, Glenda Faye's children: Kellie and Ben Lauson, Robert Dino, Angie Silmon, Micheal Burnetts, Matt, Brandi, Silmon, Annie Cassie Smith, Adam Russell, Danny and Ronda, Nichols, Tanner, Jeremy Ray and Robin Silmon, Jimmy, Ryan, Austin Silmon five great nephews, five great niece, eight great-great-

nephews and fifteen great-great-nieces.



Sherry Biffle

Services

Sherry Ann Biffle, 61, of Lake Kiowa, TX, passed away March 25, 2024 in Gainesville, TX.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at First Christian Church, Gainesville.

History

Sherry was born and raised in Gainesville to Diane and Richard Neu on Easter Sunday in 1962. She grew up on a farm with three younger brothers, Kevin, Chris, and Doug; she attended school at St. Mary's and graduated from Gainesville High School in 1980.

In 1982, she met the love of her life, Chris Biffle, whom she shared 40-plus wonderful loving years together. In 1990, they became a family when she gave birth to her only child, Jordan. She worked as a property manager and bookkeeper, but she took the most pride in being a wife and mother. Like her father, Sherry had a green thumb and loved to be outside in her garden, growing beautiful plants, and fresh produce. She also loved to cook, and make delicious meals to share with people, as well as trying new recipes and flavors. Most of all though, Sherry loved to have a good time and live life surrounded by those she cared about.

Survivors

Sherry is survived by husband Chris Biffle of Lake Kiowa; son Jordan Biffle of Lake Kiowa; mother Diane Neu of Gainesville; brother Kevin and Susan of Coppell; brother Chris Neu and wife Gloria of San Antonio; brother Douglas Neu of Gainesville; Sister and Brother-in-law Karen and

Burke Barclay of Dallas; nieces and nephews Lauren Neu-Cayet and Grant Neu of Coppell, Sarah and Shane Neu of San Antonio, and David Biffle and Lindsay Tomlin of Gainesville.

She was predeceased in death by father Richard Neu.

You may register your condolences online at www.geojcarroll.com.

Forrestine Morrow

Services

Forrestine Morrow, 88, of Whitesboro, Texas was called to a glorious reunion in heaven with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the loved ones who had gone before her on Sunday, March 31, 2024. Graveside services honoring Forrestine will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at Dixie Cemetery in Whitesboro, officiated by Rev. Rick Carney. At this time no formal visitation is scheduled.

History

Forrestine was born on December 27, 1935 in Woodbine, Texas to Forest and Vesta (Jetton) Hickey. She married Billy Lynn Morrow on June 6, 1953 in Woodbine and they were married 61 years prior to his passing. She was a graduate of Gainesville ISD. Forrestine was a member of the Sandy Springs Cumberland Presbyterian church in Sandusky. She retired from Whitesboro ISD after many years of service with the school district. She enjoyed reading, working puzzles and crocheting. Forrestine loved her Lord and her family tremendously.

Survivors

She is survived by her sons, Forest Morrow and wife, Sheila of Lonoke, Arkansas; Scott Morrow and wife, Terry of Whitesboro; granddaughter, Stephanie Bledsoe and husband, Corey of Coleman, Texas; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Forrestine was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Lynn Morrow, parents, Forest and Vesta Hickey, brother, Hugh Hickey, and sister, Eloise Collins.

Donations

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to the Dixie Cemetery Association or to Sandy Springs Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.

Weldon Doughty

Services

Weldon Doughty, age 92, of Gainesville passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. A visitation will

be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at Scott Funeral Home in Muenster. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at the Funeral Home. Interment will be held at Coker Cemetery.

History

He was born in Marysville, Texas on August 2, 1931 to Joseph Richard and Vernie Edith (Hodges) Doughty.

Weldon married Louise Huggins on March 11, 1952. Together, they had 5 children. He enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Korean War, earning 3 Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. After serving his country, he worked as a mechanic for American Airlines until he retired.

Survivors

Weldon is survived by his wife: Louise Doughty; sons: Gary Doughty (Monica), Jerry Doughty (Donna), and Michael Doughty (Kathy); daughter: Denis Doughty; 9 Grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Joe and Vernie Doughty; twin brother: Sheldon Doughty; and brothers: Glen, Douglas, Jimmy, and Wayne Doughty.

Floyd Harold Parker

Services

A graveside service for Floyd Harold Parker, age 94, of Saint Jo will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at Mountain Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at Scott Funeral Home in Saint Jo. Mr. Parker passed away on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

History

Floyd was born on July 14, 1929 in Ardmore, Oklahoma to Charles Floyd and Etta Frances (Mangrum) Parker. He married Syble "Joline" Reynolds. The two were married until her passing in 1980.

Survivors

He is survived by daughter: Connie and husband Mike Stanley of Saint Jo; grandchildren: Michelle and husband Rusty Barker of Saint Jo, Michael and wife Liliana Stanley of Farmers branch, John Kelsey of Forestburg, Charles Kelsey of Valley View, Thomas Kelsey of Gainesville, Kim Burgess of Whitesboro, Karol Ellison Boaz of Whitesboro, Kathy Boaz of Denton, Sherri Parker Woods of Callisburg, Megan Rios of Nocona, Jennifer Jordan, and Michael Bailey; sister: Stella Newman; and numerous great and great great grandchildren, extended family, and friends.

Floyd was preceded in death by his wife: Joline

Parker; parents: Floyd and Etta Parker; children: Billy Joe Parker, Barbara Shugart, Pheobe Boaz, and Harold Parker; and multiple siblings.

Coy Ray Hadaway

Services

A graveside service for Coy Ray Hadaway, 90, of Valley View, is set for 11:00 AM Friday, April 5, 2024 in Valley View Cemetery with Rev. Hollis Parsons officiating. A visitation is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at Geo. J. Carroll & Son Funeral Home.

History

Mr. Hadaway passed away at his home on April 2, 2024. He was born April 5, 1933 in Pecan Gap to Ira Lee and Ollie Agnes (Garrett) Hadaway. He was an Air Force Veteran serving during the Korean War in Korea and France. He worked for Bell Helicopter for 30 years.

Survivors

Ray is survived by his daughter Dixalie Hogan; granddaughter Veronica Garza; great-grandson David Garza, Jr.; great-granddaughter Maria Garza.

Mr. Hadaway is preceded in death by his parents and his siblings.

You may sign the online register at www.geojcarroll.com.

King Around Town
by Grice King

(Continued from Page 1)

PenTex Energy Annual meeting is set for Tuesday, April 16 at Heritage Park in Muenster. Registration and Meal from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Business session at 6:30 pm. Members only.

+++++

Seventh-Day Adventist Church is hosting a MindFit Seminar starting April 11 at 7:00 pm. This free seminar focuses on helping cope with mental health challenges. To register call/text 844-313-1000. Seventh-Day Adventist is located at 3411 N. Weaver Street in Gainesville.

Newsday Crossword

ECHO CHAMBER by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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Opinions

Jamie Stiehm

A Key to Baltimore's Broken Heart



By Jamie Stiehm

A week ago, while Baltimore slept, the Francis Scott Key Bridge stood, its gorgeous and graceful truss lighting and spanning its busy global port. It is -- was -- a beloved landmark.

When the city woke in the dawn's early light, the bridge was not still there. A massive 21st-century cargo ship rammed it and it all fell down, severing a vital artery to the city's heart. Six workers, immigrants all, lost their lives in the frigid river.

A "cathedral of architecture," a Baltimore congressman, Kweisi Mfume, told *The New York Times*.

Bridges belong to everyone, and the deep loss is shared by all who crossed and viewed it shaping the skyline, core to the city's identity.

"Repeat that, Chief," the stunned mayor, Brandon Scott, said at 1:30 a.m. when the fire chief told

him the bridge was "gone."

Knowing Baltimore almost by heart once as a newspaper reporter, I feel the insult to its infrastructure, history and everyday working-class economy, the port a hive for stevedores and longshoremen.

Abolitionist great Frederick Douglass once worked on the waterfront as an enslaved young caulker.

Key, the wealthy lawyer, poet and enslaver who wrote the verses of the national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," witnessed the 1814 British bombardment of Baltimore near the 1977 bridge's site while floating on a boat. His subject, the American victory, helped end the War of 1812.

"The flag was still there," flying over the star-shaped Fort McHenry on the water's edge.

Key's inspired verses, which he dashed off that day in Baltimore, gave the young nation symbolic new meaning. Flagmaker Mary Pickersgill, with her daughter, niece and an enslaved servant girl, Grace, had made the huge banner in record time.

I'll come back to why it would be wrong to name a new bridge after Key. We're starting to see him in antebellum light, not a pretty sight.

Unlucky Baltimore did not need this tragedy.

It was shaking off a recent spate of mayors sent to prison, stretches of empty rowhouses and a high murder rate. The HBO series set there, "The Wire," painted a dark Dickensian canvas. It's often seen as a country cousin to Washington, an hour south on I-95.

But there's much more to its story, I found on the beat.

I met the city griot, a storyteller in the African tradition. The museum of art has the country's largest collection of Henri Matisse paintings, thanks to a pair of sisters who knew the artist. Johns Hopkins' family invited me over to discuss Quaker history.

Baltimore has a surprising store of literary talent.

On assignment, I visited the tiny house where Edgar Allan Poe lived. From poet Ogden Nash to novelist Anne Tyler to filmmaker John Waters, unconventional creators roam there. The curmudgeon columnist, H.L. Mencken, was called the Sage of Baltimore.

The nation's first Catholic Basilica is perched downtown near the harbor. The vibrant Jewish community's mark is just as clear. I think of Terry, the interior painter who listened to opera while working.

Maryland was a slave

state, so Baltimore has a stain on its soul. The Civil War's first blood was spilled there, when a mob attacked a Massachusetts regiment.

Gov. Wes Moore and Mayor Scott are both Black, charismatic new leaders.

Camden Yards, a beautiful brick ode to old baseball parks of lore, led the way back to cities for a generation of baseball clubs.

The city is a mosaic of ethnic enclaves: Italian, Greek, Polish and Ukrainian all have their parts. Former House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi grew up in Little Italy as the Baltimore mayor's daughter. Baltimore was second only to New York as a destination for Ellis Island arrivals. The Black majority is tight-knit over time.

Back to Key. Author F. Scott Fitzgerald was named after his ancestor and lived in Baltimore for a troubled spell.

The aging Key hated the budding abolitionist movement and prosecuted leaders as Washington's U.S. attorney. Worse, he got President Andrew Jackson to name his brother-in-law

Roger Taney chief justice.

Taney ruled Black people could never be citizens. His 1857 Dred Scott opinion enraged the North and helped set off the Civil War.

An avowed racist must be "gone" from bridge-building in the 21st century.

The author may be reached at JamieStiehm.com. To find out more about Jamie Stiehm and other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, please visit Creators.com.

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Stephen Moore

Planes, Trains and Automobiles... ...and Trucks



By Stephen Moore

The Biden administration has announced in recent weeks new stringent emissions requirements for virtually the entire American transportation system.

The Environmental Protection Agency will mandate by the year 2035 that virtually every car made and sold in America must be an EV. No more gas cars. The *New York Times* comically declared that motorists don't have to worry because this "is not a ban on gasoline-

powered vehicles." Sure it isn't.

Today less than 2% of cars use the electric power grid for fuel. So soon we will see 50 times more demand for electricity from autos.

Then the EPA announced new rules for trains in California to go electric -- even as the Association of American Railroads has declared the mandate infeasible.

But wait. The climate change lobby is just getting started. There is now a new scheme to mandate that the long-haul trucking industry convert to electric battery operation from diesel fuel.

This is a technological and financial nightmare for our trucking industry. A 10-ton long-haul truck is going to carry cargo across the country on an electric battery? Really?

Planes haven't been mandated by the climate lobby to stop using fossil fuels. But stick around.

Even if the technology existed to meet these mandates, this added strain on the electric grid system comes at a time when power production is already in short supply. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that power demands are expected to double over the next decade due to artificial intelligence and other technologies that use multiple times more energy than does the internet.

It also comes at a time when the Left has insisted that more than a dozen coal and gas plants need to be shuttered. Nuclear plants continue to get shuttered, too. Locally, greens also have started a movement to stop transmission lines and pipelines from being built.

What is the likely outcome of vastly expanding electric power demand at the same time the Biden administration is reducing supply? An energy calamity. Prices could as much

as double. In California, which is at the forefront of the go-green movement, residents pay electric bills 29% higher than the U.S. average.

California is also second in the nation in power outages, with 221 from 2019 to 2023, according to Payless Power. This leaves schools, hospitals and millions of homes without electricity.

Some of the more honest green groups concede that a power shortage is coming as a result of their radical "decarbonization" agenda. Their solution is rationing energy. The government will tell you how much power you can use and when you can use it. There is also a move afoot to conserve energy by abolishing air conditioners and "nonessential" air travel -- as well as gas stoves and power lawnmowers.

Energy is the master resource. Everything we have is derivative of cheap

and reliable energy. The more energy a country uses, the richer it is. If you want to disrupt a nation's progress, take away its energy sources.

This is usually a tactic that nations use against their enemies when they are at war. We are foolishly and self-destructively turning the lights off on

ourselves.

Stephen Moore is a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation and a senior economic advisor to Donald Trump. His latest book is: "Govzilla: How the Relentless Growth of Government Is Devouring Our Economy."

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The Weekly News of Cooke County Letter Policy

The Weekly News of Cooke County invites its readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. No letter will be printed without confirmation from the author. Letters should be brief and to-the-point. Lengthy letters may require condensing. Confirmed letters will be printed as space allows. Letters that are not signed, contain personal attacks or ask that the author's name be withheld will not be printed.

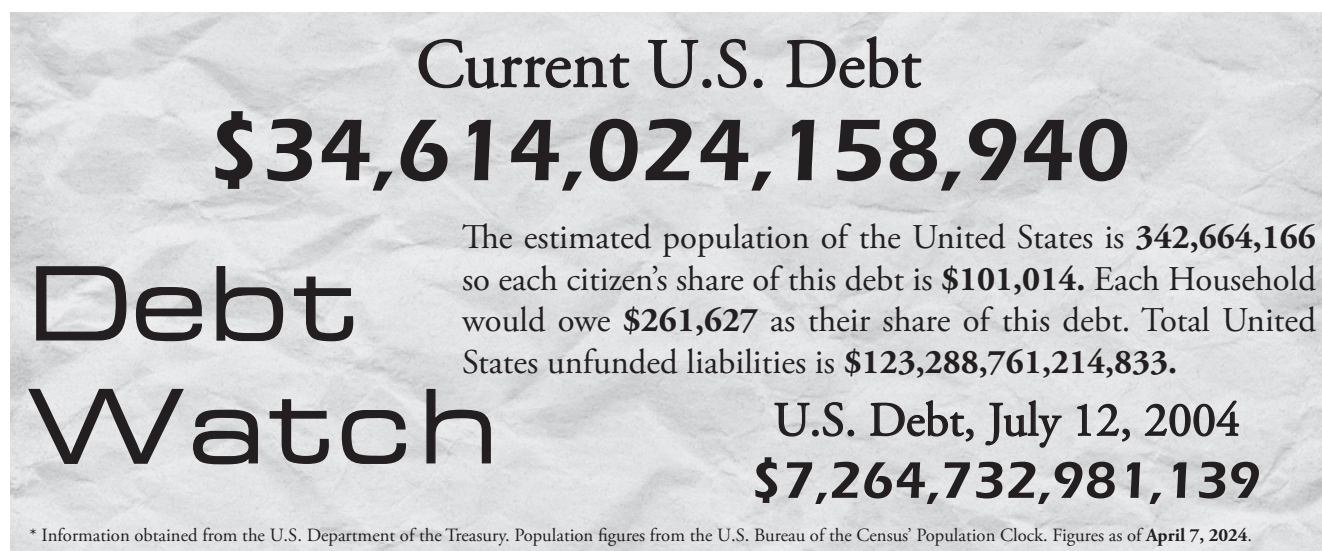
Letters to the Editor will be printed without corrections of spelling or grammar. Inappropriate language will be removed.

Only one (1) letter will be published per month that are written by the same person.

Published letters reflect only the opinion of the author and not of *The Weekly News of Cooke County*.

Letters should be submitted to:
The Weekly News of Cooke County
216 W. Pecan Street
Gainesville, Texas 76240

or e-mail letters to:
Grice.King@TheWeeklyNewsCC.com



Gainesville Police Reports

GAINESVILLE – Gainesville Police Department received the following incident reports.

A mobile phone and wallet were found in the 600 block of East California Street.

Class C Forgery was reported at Braum's Ice

Cream & Dairy store. An unknown white female attempted to pass a fake \$50 bill according to a GPD incident report.

Keon Jaquint Holland reported theft of property less than \$750 in the 1400 block of Belcher Street.

Preston Richard Portesi reported assault by threat in the 100 block of West California Street.

Clint Jackson Jones reported theft in the 4300 block of North Interstate 35.

Joni Starr Skiles reported assault causes bodily

injury in the 800 block of Olive Street.

Obstructing highway or other passageway was reported in the 800 block of Olive Street.

Arrest Log

Alonzo J. Sanders, 22, warrant arrest for delivery of marijuana to a minor

(motion to revoke probation).

Noel C. Tomblin, 44, warrant arrest for tampering/fabricating physical evidence (motion to revoke probation).

Miriam Torres, 35, Dallas, public intoxication.

Cheri L. Workman, 48,

Gainesville, public intoxication.

Dora M. Salinas-Sanchez, 36, misdemeanor warrants.

Richard R. Huerta, 35, Aubrey, outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

Toni R. Leverett, 37, Gainesville, driving while intoxicated.

Marriage License Requests Received

COOKE COUNTY – The following applications for marriage were received by the Cooke County Clerk's Office.

Jose J. Torres, 56, Gainesville, and Prissilla Ann Bruno, 53, Gainesville.

Jean Carlos Bondarczuk Paliche, 43, Gaines-

ville, and Keilyth De Los Angeles Marin Ging, 35, Gainesville.

John Clinton Carter, 34, Gainesville, and Brittany Kay Putman, 35, Gainesville.

Matthew Dakota McElhannon, 32, Plano, and Emily Christine Simons,

27, Dallas.

Kevin Dewayne Morgan, 37, Cartwright, Okla., and Monica Marie Hernandez Johnson, 32 Sherman.

Michael David Brown, 45, Oklahoma City, Okla., and Kelli Machellemmonds, 48, Oklahoma City.

NTMC Appoints New Chief Financial Officer

GAINESVILLE - North Texas Medical Center in Gainesville has a new Chief Financial Officer.

On Wednesday, NTMC Chief Executive officer announced that Mike Ducote has accepted the full-time role of CFO at NTMC after serving as the interim CFO since November.

"Mike is an experienced strategic finance executive with more than two decades in healthcare, most recently as the Principal with MD Advisors, LLC, a strategic management and consulting firm for healthcare businesses," Sledge said. "Mike has also served at a variety of healthcare facilities and systems, including the VP of Revenue and Reimbursement at The Schumacher Group, Hospital CFO at Health Management Associates, Inc., CFO at Asheville Cardiology Associates and Assistant CFO at Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center."

Ducote earned a Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Business Analysis from Louisiana State University and a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare from the

ment Association.

"I am blessed to be part of a great team here at NTMC," Ducote said. "The community has been very welcoming and encouraging. I am really ex-



Sentences Issued for Felony Indictments

COOKE COUNTY – The following sentences were issued for felony indictments and filed in the 235th District Court.

Maria Vitoria Vela, 36, was convicted of the July 29, 2023, second degree

felony offense of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to two years of probation and a \$1,000 fine plus court costs.

Joshua Alan Grier, 37, was convicted of the May

23, 2023 third degree felony offense of assault of a family/household member with previous conviction if at trial and was sentenced to 3 years of confinement and court costs.



The following is a nationally syndicated crime and conduct column written by Matthew T. Mangino. Mangino is of counsel with Luxenberg, Garbett, Kelly and George, P.C. He is the former district attorney of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. He also spent a six-year term on the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. He is an adjunct professor at Thiel College. Mangino's book, "The Executioner's Toll, 2010," was published by McFarland & Company. He has provided legal commentary for ID Discovery, A&E, CNN, MSNBC, FoxNews, Al Jazeera-America and National Public Radio.

Cooke County Sheriff Logs Incident Reports

COOKE COUNTY – The following incidents were reported to the Cooke County Sheriff's Office.

Forgery of a financial instrument less than \$750 if at trial and terroristic threat cause fear of imminent serious bodily injury was reported at a gas station in the 300 block of North Frontage Road.

Criminal trespass was reported at Duquesne Street residence.

Arson-reckless damage to a building was reported at a residence on Alden Drive.

Reckless emission of air containment was reported at a residence in the 200 block of Alden Drive.

Criminal trespass was reported at residence in the 3000 block of County Road 218.

Manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance less than one gram was reported in the 1500 block of Lynwood Street.

Arrest Log

Bradley Harold An-

draws, 53, Valley View, criminal trespass.

Shad Warren Brightwell, 42, Valley View, criminal trespass.

Misty Dawn Burkhart, 44, Muenster, driving while intoxicated, second, Fannin County hold.

Robert Anthony Caniero, 63, Valley View, reckless emission of air containment.

Kenneth Wayne Davis, 54, Krum, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Johan Alejandro Delarosa, 21, Gainesville, injury to child/elderly/disabled-reckless bodily injury.

James Kyle Godwin, 25, Shady Shores, forgery financial instrument less than \$750 if at trial, terroristic threat cause fear of imminent serious bodily injury.

Alexandra Jo Jumisko, 29, Valley View, criminal trespass.

Kara Nicole Martin, 35, Gainesville, driving while license invalid, failure to maintain financial respon-

sibility, failure to appear county civil service subpoena.

Deven Andre Kelly Mosman, 24, Gainesville, possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, parole hold Pueblo County, Colorado.

Michael Anthony Pollard, 67, Haltom City, driving while intoxicated.

Zachery Dewayne Roberts, 34, Gainesville, burglary of building.

Daniel Emil Rosenauer, 35, sunset, unlawful possession of firearm by felon, prohibited weapon, possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

Sergio Alejandro Ruiz-Almanza, 34, Carrollton, intoxication assault with vehicle serious bodily injury.

Stephanie Lynn Sparks, 36, Gainesville, abandoned/endanger child individual with intent to return.

Marcus Andrew White, 21, Whitesboro, assault family/household member impede breathing/circulation.

Gainesville Chamber Summer Sounds Lineup

GAINESVILLE - The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce (GACC) is excited to unveil the artist lineup for the 2024 Gainesville Summer Sounds Concert Series! Three incredible concerts will take place at the Farmers Market on the last Friday of each month from May to July, each with a different vibe to enjoy.

Kicking off on Friday, May 31st, Elevation Band will set the stage with hits from the 70s to the 00s, followed by the headlining performance of Eagles cover band, Desperados. On Friday, June 28, country sensation Cameron Hobbs

will get the crowd moving, leading up to the highly anticipated Taylor Swift cover band, Lover, who will headline the evening. Closing out the concert series on Friday, July 26, local favorite Blackout Betty will once again captivate the audience, with the return of fan-favorite Infinite Journey headlining the final concert. Make sure to mark your calendars for these incredible musical events!

Gather your family and friends, grab your chairs or blankets, and get ready for unforgettable evenings of music under the stars at the Farmers Market lo-

cated at 201 N Chestnut St in Gainesville. Admission is free for the Gainesville Summer Sounds Concert Series. Please note that coolers are not permitted on-site. Drinks will be available for purchase with cash only at the pavilion. The concerts will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 10:30 pm on Friday, May 31, June 28, and July 26. Stay updated with the latest information by following the Gainesville Summer Sounds Facebook page at facebook.com/GvilleSummerSounds. Get ready to enjoy some fantastic music and create lasting memories at this exciting event!

Life Without Parole Cruel and Unusual Punishment

A fundamental tenet of Anglo-American jurisprudence, dating back to the Magna Carta, is that all those accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Today, about four out of five people sitting in local county jails and municipal lockups have not been convicted of the crime that brought about their detention.

Every day across the country, thousands of people are locked up because they don't have money. The idea of "debtors' prison" has long been repugnant. However, the concept of "pay or go to jail" is still around. Whether it's getting locked up for not paying fines or penalties after a conviction, or not having the wherewithal to post bail pending trial - there are still a lot of poor people in jail.

In most jurisdictions, the difference between being charged with a crime and walking the street pending trial, or sitting in jail awaiting trial, comes down to cash. Those who have it stay out of jail; those who don't, stay in jail. Those unfortunate people without money for bail are at risk of losing their jobs, their homes and their families.

Every year, about 11 million people funnel through local municipal and county jails. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, between 1970 and 2017, the number of people incarcerated in the nation's 3,000-plus local jails ballooned — from 150,000 to about 720,000 per day.

The millions of people who go to jail each year are there, generally, for brief periods of time. Most are released in days or hours after their arrest, while others are held for months or even years — often because they can't afford to make bail, are unable to get a speedy trial, or can't gain timely access to a public defender.

Defendants accused of particularly serious violent crimes or who pose a credible threat to public safety may be detained in jail while awaiting trial. However, most defendants are entitled to pretrial release. Judges may impose conditions on a defendant's release, such as electronic monitoring or supervision through a pretrial services agency, but

they are entitled to bail if they can afford it.

Correcting the bail crisis is not out of reach. This isn't about being tough on crime. It's about being fair. For some, even a nominal bond is out of reach. When an accused has no money, \$1,500 might as well be \$150,000.

Cash bail was historically intended to provide a financial incentive for defendants to show up at required court dates, but reforms adopted in the 1970s and 1980s allowed judges to also consider potential risks to public safety when making bail decisions. Cash bail can, under the right circumstances, be an appropriate tool for ensuring defendants cooperate throughout the pretrial period.

However, in most instances, cash bail creates a wealth-based, two-tiered system of pretrial detention. Those who can't afford bail suffer a "poverty penalty." No system of justice can endure when a person's wealth, or lack of it, can determine their freedom. Mariam Krinsky, executive director of the nonprofit Fair and Just Prosecution, said in 2019, "Common sense dictates that people should not be held in jail simply because they cannot afford a monetary payment." Yet the widespread use of cash bail continues.

Keeping an accused in jail for an extended period of time without trial creates other grievous problems in the criminal justice system. For instance, some inmates being detained pretrial, without the resources to post bail, see a guilty plea as their only path to freedom. Some defendants sitting in jail will take a plea offer, even if they're innocent, just to get out of jail. What could be worse than being locked up because you can't afford bail?

Pleading guilty to a crime you didn't commit to regain your freedom.

Matthew T. Mangino is of counsel with Luxenberg, Garbett, Kelly & George P.C. His book "The Executioner's Toll, 2010" was released by McFarland Publishing. You can reach him at www.mattmangino.com and follow him on Twitter @MatthewTMangino.

Cooke County United Way - Thanks the 2024 Community Investment Volunteers



2024 CIV Volunteers - Pictured back row, left to right are Wayne Twiner, James Hennigan, Leaha Sweeney, Chris Garner, Dustin Helm, Jason Hooper, Tim Turbeville, and Scott Dougherty. Front row, left to right are Tracy Machado, Pablo DeSantiago, Amanda Hughes, Megan Anderlee, Maria Torres, Andrea Grangruth, Haley Hughes, Crystal King, Lauren Eggert, and Darin Allred. Not pictured are Cameron Aston, Crystal Filbeck, and Monica Melgar. (Courtesy Photo)

COOKE COUNTY - Cooke County United Way (CCUW) wants to thank their 2024 Community Investment Volunteers (CIV). These selfless and giving individuals deserve a much-needed and public thank you.

Approximately 20 Community Investment Volunteers from across Cooke County donated their time and expertise to determine how funds would be distributed to 21 local non-profits in Cooke County that applied for grant funding. These volunteers review agency grant applications, financials and agency operations, listen to agency presentations, and attend in-person site visits to determine grant funding recommendations. Community Investment Volun-

teers donate hours of work to recommend the distribution of funds. Wayne Twiner, the CCUW Community Investment Volunteer Chair, helps to organize the committee and interviews. Andrea Grangruth, CCUW Executive Director, stated that volunteers did all the work for the recommendation of funds to Cooke County United Way's 2024 Partner Agencies. "Every volunteer walks away with a renewed appreciation of the work accomplished each year through United Way dollars. We can't thank our volunteers enough for their time and thoughtfulness through the entire process".

The CCUW Board of Directors approved the CIV Committee's suggested total of \$290,000 to be awarded to 17 lo-

cal agencies during the board meeting on Tuesday, March 19th. These funds were raised during the 2024 Campaign, where local businesses and thousands of individual donors pledge funds to CCUW so that agencies can receive these funds in unrestricted grants.

The 17 agencies receiving Cooke County United Way funding for 2024 are: Abigail's Arms, American Red Cross, Boys & Girls Club of Cooke County, Boys Baseball of Cooke County, CASA of North Texas, Cooke County Jr. Livestock Show, Cooke County LOSS Team, Girl Scouts-Texas Oklahoma Plains, Home Hospice of Cooke County, Meals on Wheels, Red River Sea Battalion Sea Cadets, Stanford

House, Camp Sweeney-SW Diabetic, TAPS, Texas Ramp Project, VISTO, and Women Rock.

To learn more about Cooke County United Way, visit the website: www.cookeuw.org.

Thank you to each of you and your company for sharing you with YOUR United Way.

1-10
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 4.004, 4.006, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, Texas Election Code
9/2023

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS (AVISO DE ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS)

To the registered voters of the County of Cooke, Texas:

(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Cooke, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 05 /04 /2024 for voting in a special election to elect:

School Board Trustees
(Notifíquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citados abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 05 /04 /2024 para votar en la elección especial para elegir:

Fideliocomisario de la Junta Escolar
List Offices/Propositions/Measures on the ballot (Enumere los puestos/proposiciones/medidas oficiales en la boleta)
Matthew Saller
Jorden Weaver

On Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election. (El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en el precinto donde están inscritos para votar, a menos que el programa de sitios de votación del condado se está utilizando en la elección.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación el Día de Elección) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s) (Número de precinto)
Callisburg Community Center, 95 McDaniel St. Callisburg, Tx	4, 6 & 7
Callisburg Elementary School, 648 FM 3164 Gainesville, Tx	8,10 & 22

During early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below: (Durante Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los sitios de votación nombrados abajo.)

Location of Main Early Voting Polling Place Include Name of Building and Address (Sitio principal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
CISD Admin Office, 148 Dozier St. Callisburg, Tx	Abril 22 - April 30, 2024, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Locations for Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Dora Lozano
Name of Early Voting Clerk
(Nombre del Secretario(a) de la Votación Adelantada)

148 Dozier St.
Address (Dirección)

Callisburg 76240
City (Ciudad) Zip Code (Código Postal)

940-665-0540
Telephone Number (Número de teléfono)

dlozano@cisdtx.net
Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)

www.callisburgisd.net
Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario(a) de Votación Adelantada)

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBMs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

04 /23 /2024
(date)(fecha)

Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on:
(La Tarjeta Federal Postal de Solicitud deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

04 /23 /2024
(date)(fecha)

Issued this 5 day of March, 20 24.

(Emitida este día 5 de marzo, 20 24.)

Dora Lozano
Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Dirigente que Preside)

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V. Glenn Sears, MD	Family Practice
Larry C. Sears, MD	Family Practice
T. Haileslassie, MD	Pediatrics
Christie Gibson, PA-C	Family Practice
Renate Pagel, FNP-C	Family Practice

The Weekly News
of Cooke County
Because LOCAL News Happens!

Gainesville Council Sends Overlay Back for Changes

(Continued from Page 1)

“What this ordinance does is it only impacts people that have mini storage or want to do mini storage, recreational vehicle storage, trailer storage, wind turbines or solar farms on the property,” Sullivan said. “The ordinance specifically says if you’re in a single family residential area this will not impact what you do. So, if you’re here about your home, if you’re still using that as your home now, this will not impact you because you cannot build commercial storage facilities on your location.”

Sullivan acknowledged the notices received to residents could be perceived as harsh, adding the notice was written to meet state requirements and was designed using specific type sizes and fonts.

“We want to let people know that, right now, un-

less you plan on building or have mini storage right now, recreational vehicle storage, trailer storage, wind turbines or solar farm this basically does not impact your property,” he said.

Sullivan also said the ordinance is aimed at making “the best use out of the land” available and having land available for “the most valuable types of businesses that need that traffic off these main roads to survive because ultimately that will bring in more taxes which allows us to keep taxes lower on everyone else.”

Speakers in the public meeting were limited to three minutes.

Some residents who initially thought their property was included in the ordinance were relieved to find out they will not be affected by the overlay district after all.

Others were concerned

about the size of easements, potential loss of property values and not being able to expand their storage businesses.

Todd Hollar of Big Blue Storage owns property along Highway 82 and is concerned about future plans for expansion.

He said as he understands it, he could ask the city for a variance, but the request might not be granted.

“I ask that at the very least you vote down this ordinance and go back to the drawing board ...,” Hollar said. He said he believes owners of storage facilities and warehouse landlords should be able to maintain and operate their rentals as long as their commercial footprint remains the same.

He also said he believes a 1,000-ft easement is “too aggressive.”

“In some areas that’s almost three blocks off of the easement of [Highway] 82 and [Interstate] 35,” he said. “I would recommend somewhere in the neighborhood of 400-ft...”

Johnny Thompson, president of J.R. Thompson Inc. – a ready-mixed concrete and crushed stone supplier – told the council his family has property on Interstate 35 and on North Grand Avenue.

“I would encourage y’all to vote against this ordinance,” Thompson said. “I’m certainly not anti-growth. You know, the stuff that I do, the business I’m in, we have to have growth to keep the business going. I do not think this ordinance will help the city of Gainesville achieve any kind of growth.”

Thompson said he understands efforts to make the city appear more high-end.

“I understand about where you’re wanting more upscale stuff coming in through the corridor,” he said. “I understand that. But all the corridors can’t have upscale businesses on the full length of the corridors y’all are lining out. There has to be something for someone to receive revenue off of their property until something else comes in that will have a great cash flow coming in to where they can tear something down and build another facility that will be greater revenue generating – the mini warehouses – they fit that mode. You can go in and build these; you will get revenue from your property until something else comes along [that would] be a better use. Then they

can buy the mini warehouses, tear them down and put a different facility there.”

He also said the language of the ordinance is a little vague.

“How do you define a mini storage facility?” Thompson said.

Following the public hearing, the council discussed the proposed ordinance before agreeing to pass the item on first reading and return it to staff for possible changes.

Mayor Pro Tem Ken Keeler urged caution.

“Should we be looking at this ordinance again to see if there’s modifications that we can make to it to better address some of the concerns we heard here tonight?” he said.

“Y’all can do that,” Sullivan said. “...If you approve first reading you can give staff direction to make any necessary changes and then you can go to a second reading and [bring] it back with those specific changes you request.”

The ordinance will return on a future agenda.

The council approved the following consent agenda.

Approve minutes of March 19, 2024 city council meeting.

Consideration of and action on a resolution appointing the presiding judge and alternate judge for the general election to be held May 4, 2024 and establishing the rate of pay for election workers.

Consideration of and action on a resolution approving appointments to the Gainesville Housing Authority of the City of Gainesville, Texas.

The council approved an improvement area reimbursement agreement with Lackland Liberty Pointe Development LLC for the construction and acquisition of public improvements within Improvement Area #1 of the Liberty Pointe Improvement District.

The city has been working on the PID for more than a year, Sullivan said. The project will add amenities to the development with funds from the developer. Individual home owners will take over the PID payments as property is sold. The city only has to reimburse what it collects, he said.

Councilmember, Ward 1, Keanna Franklin abstained from the vote.

The council also approved surplus of some older equipment and awarded a bid for a Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Plan and Parks & Trails Plan.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



AMENDED NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR QUALITY STANDARD PERMIT REGISTRATION RENEWAL

AIR QUALITY REGISTRATION NO. 74614

APPLICATION Walterscheid Construction, Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Registration No. 74614, for an Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants, which would authorize continued operation of a Concrete Batch Plant located at 16334 Farm-to-Market Road 1630, Muenster, Cooke County, Texas 76252. **AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.** El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/newsourcesreview/airpermits-pendingpermit-apps>. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility’s general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.4325,33.575833&level=13>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: particulate matter including (but not limited to) aggregate, cement, road dust, and particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on February 12, 2024. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Dallas/Fort Worth regional office, and the *Cooke County Library, 200 South Weaver Street, Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas* beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility’s compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Dallas/Fort Worth regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after the final newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ’s jurisdiction to consider in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response to comments, along with the executive director’s decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to the Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056(o) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant’s compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission’s decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues submitted during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant’s name and permit number; (3) the statement “[I/we] request a contested case hearing;” (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests which the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the Office of the Chief Clerk, at the address below.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission’s jurisdiction to consider in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices for this specific application mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk by sending a written request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency’s public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Walterscheid Construction, Inc., 16334 Farm-to-Market Road 1630, Muenster, Texas 76252-5160 or by calling Mr. Josh Walterscheid, Owner at (940) 736-4375.

Amended Notice Issuance Date: March 25, 2024

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- ADN
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Questions? Call Career Services at (940) 498.6259 or Email: careerservices@nctc.edu

Classifieds

Classified deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Payment is required at the time the order is placed. Cash, check or MasterCard/Visa/Discover is accepted. Call 940.665.2320 or e-mail Grice.King@TheWeeklyNewsCC.com.

Animal Adoption

Hi, friend! I am Cal-liman, a cute Australian Shepherd mix boy who is here waiting for my new home. I am young, and friendly with kids, other dogs, and I'm very smart. Australian Shepherds are known for being very intelligent and easy to train. Did you see the cute freckles on my nose? I am a very darling boy. If you are looking for a companion to hang out with you, go on walks (or runs), spend time playing, and making you laugh, then I am the boy for you! I love to play ball and when I'm on leash, I practically prance! I have a beautiful, soft coat and I'm just all around a great boy! I would like to meet you in person so I can show you what a nice dog I am. Come see me Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm (closed Thur and Sun). You won't find anything quite like the love of a shelter pet, come find out! I am neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped and ready to go home. I also come with a free health exam at a local vet. My adoption fee will only be \$50 this week so hurry in now! Noah's Ark, 2501 N. Weaver, 940-665-9800. <http://www.Noahsarktx.com>.



Legal Notices

NO. PR 18384 IN THE ESTATE OF TEDDIE FAY KYLE RAMSEY, DECEASED IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW OF COOKE COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Fay Ramsey, Deceased were issued on April 2, 2024, in Cause No. PR18384, pending in the County Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: Kyle Ramsey.

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to submit them, to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o James L. Moss
104 West Main Street
Gainesville, Texas 76240
Telephone: 940-665-5697
Facsimile: 940-665-5698

DATED the 2nd day of April, 2024.

James L. Moss
Attorney for Executor of the
Estate of Fay Ramsey
SBN: 24049592
james.moss@robertsonmoss.com

04/10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

By order of the Commissioners Court of Cooke County, Texas, a public hearing to deliberate and consider possible action on the Specific Use Permit request by 5-Fifty-Five Vineyard & Winery for a Winery and tasting room located on 17.65 acres in the D. King Survey at 655 Triangle Road, Valley View, Pct. 2, will be held on Monday, the 13th day of May, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.

04/10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

By order of the Commissioners Court of Cooke County, Texas, a public hearing to deliberate and consider possible action on the Special Exception (Road frontage variance) request by Terry Shires located on 30.982 acres in the WF Melton Survey at 890 Harpole Road, Valley View, Pct. 2, will be held on Monday, the 13th day of May, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.

04/10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

By order of the Commissioners Court of Cooke County, Texas, a public hearing to deliberate and consider possible action on the Rezoning request from agricultural to residential by GDHI Homes LLC located on 49 acres in the FL Green Survey, at East Lone Oak Road, Valley View, Pct. 2, will be held on Monday, the 13th day of May, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.

04/10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

By order of the Commissioners Court of Cooke County, Texas, a public hearing to deliberate and consider possible action on the Specific Use Permit request by Piercesvine LLC for a wedding venue at at Edge of the Lake Vineyard located at 872 CR 231, Valley View, Pct. 2, will be held on Monday, the 13th day of May, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Cooke County Courthouse, 101 South Dixon Street, Gainesville, Texas.

04/10

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Joseph Schmitz, Deceased, were issued on April 4, 2024, in Cause No. PR18425, pending in the County Court of Law of Cooke County, Texas, to: Shirley H. Dieter.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Comer Law Firm, PLLC
P.O. Box 973
109 E. California Street
Gainesville, Texas 76241

DATED the 4th day of April, 2024.

Derrell L. Comer
Attorney for Shirley H. Dieter
State Bar No.: 24036386
P.O. Box 973
109 E. California Street
Gainesville, Texas 76241
Telephone: (940) 665-4111
Facsimile: (940) 665-4114

04/10

Animals Found

Remember: *The Weekly News of Cooke County* runs found animal classified word ads for FREE in an attempt to help reunite the animal and the owner. For more information, call 940-665-2320.

Boat For Sale

Four Winns 180 Candia fiber glass deck boat, 21' long, in board/outboard on dual axel Roadrunner trailer. 940-641-0969.

04/03

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03/27

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Help Wanted

Callisburg ISD is accepting applications for Bus Drivers and Field Trip Drivers for the current school year. Applicants must be 21 years of age, must have a Class A or B CDL with passenger and school bus endorsement and be able to have a current or pass a DOT medical exam. Applicants must also pass a background check, driver's record check, and pre-employment drug test. Average morning and afternoon routes run 60-75 minutes. All buses are equipped with security cameras. Interested applicants may obtain an application at the Callisburg ISD Administration Office located at 148 Dozier Street, Callisburg, TX or at the Transportation Office located at 308 Dozier Street, Callisburg, TX. Interested parties may also contact Cory Huddleston at 665-0961 extension 365. We look forward to hiring new drivers who want to work for a district that respects the job they do!

The Weekly News of Cooke County Classifieds. 940.665.2320.

04/10

Use *The Weekly News* for all of your legal notice needs. We service the largest number of clients of ANY paper in the Cooke County Area. Our legal notices are a low, flat rate price to help you fulfil your legal obligations. Give us a call to find out more, 940-665-2320 or visit us online day or night at www.TheWeeklyNewsCC.com.

K-9 Klips and Kountry Klub is seeking Part-Time and Full-Time Help including Weekends and Holidays. Apply In Person, 7450 E US Highway 82, Gainesville (Oak Ridge).

Trucks Drivers Needed. Class A CDL with Tanker Endorsement. Must have Truck Driving Experience. Tank Truck Experience Preferred. 401K, Health, Dental and Vision. Call 940-284-7059.

04/26

Neu Ranch House is now hiring Host/Cashier, Wait Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers/Busers. Apply in person to 1825 E. Hwy 82, Gainesville, TX 76240.

07/26

Crossword Puzzle Answers

H	E	A	L	S		C	A	F	E		F	E	L	L
U	N	H	I	P		A	W	E	S		A	R	I	A
B	Y	E	B	Y	E	B	L	A	C	K	B	I	R	D
S	A	M	E		P	A	S	T		A	R	E	A	
			R	E	I	N			W	I	I			
	C	A	N	C	A	N	D	A	N	C	E	R	S	
F	L	A	T	S			I	N	R	E		G	O	O
L	A	N	E		S	P	L	A	T		I	G	O	R
E	C	O		K	E	E	L			S	M	O	K	E
A	Y	E	A	Y	E	C	A	P	T	A	I	N		
			L	O	P			R	U	N	T			
	B	A	I	T		O	P	E	N		A	D	D	S
B	O	N	B	O	N	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N
A	N	T	I		T	H	A	I		P	E	P	S	I
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12/27

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10/25

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11/01

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08/16

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2024 Texoma Earth Day Festival Set for April 20

GRAYSON COUNTY - The 16th annual Texoma Earth Day Festival will be April 20, 2024, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The festival is a fun, family-oriented event with a broad range of things attendees can participate in and enjoy. The event is at the Sherman Municipal Ballroom, Lucy Kidd-Key Park, and surrounding streets. The event offers children's activities, educational workshops, vendors, music, demonstrations, displays and recycling. Registration for Vendors and sponsors will close on April 10, 2024.

Children's activities are in the Municipal Ballroom. The Welcoming Team from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church will host the third annual free clothing swap on the Municipal Ballroom stage. It is not necessary to bring clothes to swap, but please make sure anything brought to the swap is clean and free of stains and holes. The Texoma Quilters Guild will provide a sewing project using upcycled materials. The Boys & Girls Club of Sherman will provide a flower planting activity. Bluestem Master Naturalists will offer several activities, including fossil digging, identifying pelts and skulls, and information about birds found in our area. Recycled sculptures from Perrin and Fred Douglass Early Childhood Centers will be on display during the festival.

Five workshops will be held in the kitchen of the Municipal Ballroom. Byron Compton of STG Farms will offer a workshop on Bee Keeping, including how they live, how they make honey, and their importance to our food chain. There will be products and a live hive on display during the workshop. Paul Kuhar of Champion Waste & Recycling will present a workshop on composting. Champion is a commercial composting company based in Pottsboro. Members of the Bluestem Master Naturalists will present three workshops, All About Fossils, Identifying Types of Butterflies and Native and Endemic Plants. Matt DeLozier will talk about fossils, including defining what fossils are, how they are formed, and how to find them. He will also talk about the types of fossils found in Grayson County. Sue Abernathy will conduct the butterfly workshop. She will help the attendees understand the life cycle of a butterfly, the functions of their body parts, how they spend their day. Attendees will learn simple ways to attract butterflies to their yards. Mavis Sauer will speak about native and endemic plants. Attendees will learn how beautiful native plants can be while also offering a local food pantry for wildlife. She will focus on local favorites, give tips for use in

your landscape, and identify local sources for native plants.

Vendors on the lawn (Lucy Kidd-Key Park) will sell their wares, give information about services they provide or their nonprofit organizations. Two Austin College environmental groups, Austin College Climate Summit and Austin College Thinking Green, will help bring awareness to the work they do and current environmental issues. In addition, three vendors will accept recyclables at their booths. The Sherman Noon Lions Club will accept donations of eyeglasses, sunglasses and reading glasses. Function 4 will collect used printer ink cartridges so they can be refilled or recycled. Holmes Family Rustic Kitchen will accept donation of canning jars. The jars must be clean and dry. Anyone who wants to recycle these items will need to bring them onto the grounds while visiting the vendors. New to our vendor area are booths for young entrepreneurs, sponsored by SCRAP Sherman Creative Reuse. Any young entrepreneurs who want to sell their goods should contact SCRAP Sherman Creative Reuse to learn how to participate. Attendees will be able to shop for original art, jewelry, handmade soaps, canned goods, upcycled craft items, Tupperware food storage and more. Food vendors are

on Rusk Street adjacent to Lucy Kidd-Key Park. They include Tacos Hondumex, Lemonade Depot, Sugar & Spice State Fair Donuts & Dipping Dots, Rollin' Woodfire Pizza and Old Man Kettle Corn.

While visiting the vendors make sure to visit our photo props and displays. New this year are a series of displays about the benefits of trees to our environment, physical health, and mental health. You will also be entertained by demonstrations from Legend Martial Arts, Little Goddess Trybe, The CAMP Military School of Boxing, and Sapphire Lotus Belly Dance. Musical entertainment includes Children's

Chorus of Greater North Texas, Neon Toboggans, Band on Grand, Sherman High School Jazzcats Band, Keepers of the Sound and Canyon Creek Players.

Recycling continues to be a major attraction at the Texoma Earth Day Festival. All recycling will be on Elm Street between Mulberry and Elm Streets. Anyone with recycling must enter the south end of the street from Pecan Street. We request everyone study our website for detailed instructions, lists of materials accepted, and the rules. No trailers will be allowed to enter the recycling area. We are accepting electronic waste (no tube style televisions or monitors), latex

paint, plastics 1,2, and 5, plastic bags, bubble wrap and shrink film, paper, flattened cardboard, Styrofoam and bagged Styrofoam peanuts, and textiles. A shred truck sponsored by First United Bank will be in the recycling area from 9:00 am to noon for shredding of sensitive documents. Patrons are limited to 10 boxes of paper. Cardboard boxes will be flattened and added to the cardboard recycling bin.

The Texoma Earth Day Festival is an official outreach project of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church. For more information, please study our website <https://www.earthday-texoma.org>.

MindFit Seminar Set at Seventh-day Adventist Church

GAINESVILLE - Researchers estimate that one in five North Americans suffers from a mental health condition. Furthermore, between 2007 and 2017, the number of those grappling with mental health conditions and substance use disorders grew by 13% and rose even more in the wake of COVID-19.

What's causing this epidemic of mental illness? And more importantly, what can be done to combat it?

Debuting on April 11 at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3411 North Weaver St, Gainesville, TX 76240, in a four-part documentary-style series, MindFit will shed light on the current mental health crisis racking our continent. By breaking down harmful stigmas and highlighting effective treatments, the seminar aims to provide hope for those who are struggling

with mental health challenges, as well as for their loved ones.

This series, hosted by Voice of Prophecy Associate Speaker Alex Rodriguez, addresses questions such as:

- What are the most common mental health challenges people face?
- How has the history of treating mental illness shaped society's perceptions of it? How does that history inform the cutting-edge treatments of today?
- Do the Bible and spirituality have any role in the treatment of mental disease?

Following each documentary presentation, local moderator Nathan Nedley and Todd Reiter will lead a study and discussion on the session's topic. Admission is free. At each session, attendees will receive a special edition of Vibrant Life magazine that provides more details and

life application tips.

"Millions of people throughout North America are battling mental health issues every day. It's clear our homes need healing, but the problem can be overwhelming to even think about," Rodriguez says. "In MindFit, you'll join us on a journey to find answers and hope. Along the way, we'll meet men and women who have struggled with mental conditions and discover the encouraging breakthroughs that have helped them find health and stability."

MindFit begins Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. in the Seventh-day Adventist Church located at 3411 North Weaver St in Gainesville. It will continue Friday April 12 at 7 p.m., and Saturday April 13 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. You may register to attend this free in-person event by visiting MindFitEvent.com/2977 or by calling/texting 844-313-1000.

Emerald Ash Borer Targets Cooke County Trees

(Continued from Page 1)

exit hole. Newly emerged adults survive for about a week eating ash leaves before mating. Defoliation may not be noticeable.

Females typically live around six weeks and lay between 60-90 eggs with some females surviving long enough to lay up to 200 eggs.

The EAB larva look white and flattened with brown pincher-like appendages on their last abdominal segment. Larvae feed on the vascular cambium (a thin layer beneath a tree's bark where new wood and conductive tissues are produced.) The larvae's feeding creates long tunnels that disrupt transport of water and nutrients leading to the death of the tree.

The damage may not be immediately apparent but over the course of one to two years, the EAB larvae develop through four growth stages, shedding their skin between each stage.

In autumn, mature fourth-stage larvae dig chambers about a half inch into the sapwood or outer bark where they fold into a "J" shape. The J-shaped larvae shorten into prepupae before converting into 0.4 to 0.6 inches long pupae and emerging as adults the following spring.

The EAB targets all species of ash including those native to Texas, according to TDA.

The EAB is native to Northeast Asia and was discovered in the United States in 2002.

The pest proliferated in the United States entering Lake Michigan via boat in 1999, Estes said.

"It took 16 years to get to Cooke County," Estes said.

The pest can spread up

to 12 miles in a year but may also be transported much faster via firewood or other infested wood products that contain ash bark.

TDA noted preventing the movement of infested firewood is a critical tool to impede the spreading of the highly destructive EAB.

"If you cut [an infested ash tree] down, the wood cannot leave Cooke County," Estes said. "It has to stay here. Has to be burned here."

Estes said EAB infestation is addressed with a systemic treatment but timing is critical.

"But I have to catch it early," he said. "If 40 percent of the tree is gone, I tell [customers] don't waste your money. Just go ahead and cut it down."

Estes said he's observed two 40-50-ft. tall trees with EAB infestation in Gainesville.

"It just looks like somebody came along and starting ripping the bark off of it," he said.

He said more local ash trees may show signs of EAB as plants continue leafing out.

"When they start putting on their leaves, people are going to start noticing there's something wrong with their trees," he said, adding "That's when they need to call. They don't have to call me, but they need to call someone who is licensed in lawn and ornamental [pest management]."

"The treatment is Merit injected in a drip line down in the ground," he said. "The roots pick it up, they carry it up through the cambium layer and it kills the larvae that are sitting there chewing the wood."

He also said the infestation has wiped out tens of millions of ash trees between Texas and Michigan.

Once again, Estes noted speed is key in saving one's ash trees.

"It's one of those games where you have to find it quick," he said. "That's the reason I want to tell homeowners, if you see your tree start dying at the top or limbs start dying toward the top, they need to call a professional immediately."

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Cooke County History

Advocating for a Better Future

(Continued from Page 2)

new law but the first established by petition.”

The county library would be her greatest success, but Lillian Gunter was not just interested in libraries. Because of her fascination with local and regional history, in 1925 she became a charter member of the Red River Valley Historical Association. She set up the first museum in the county inside of the library.

Hoping to write a history of the county, she began to collect materials for a book. Sadly, she died before she was able to complete that, but the materials were gathered into the Lillian Gunter Papers by a relative and preserved. She also was a great supporter of the Good Roads movement as she knew firsthand how bad the roads were as she drove over the county establishing and then checking on the branches of the library that she launched in towns throughout the county.

Gunter was also “an active member of the Texas Library Association and served as its first vice president in 1915-16, president in 1918-19, and treasurer in 1914-15. She was a co-founder in 1922 and first treasurer of the Southwestern Library Association. She was a member of the Federated Clubs of Texas, the Texas Woman’s Suffrage Association, and Texas Farm Women.”

In March 1919, a letter appeared in a local newspaper from Professor John Hardy who once taught at the Gainesville High School but who by that time was in the military stationed in France. It was a copy of a letter that he had sent to Lillian Gunter.

In the letter he commended Lillian for purchasing that poll tax. He wrote, “I noticed an article last night in one of our home papers where you were the first woman to purchase a poll tax in Cooke County. I want to

congratulate you. And I hope hundreds of others have followed your example.” Hardy continued, “when I think of the big part our women played in the war and since I have seen the condition of other countries besides our own, I am even more convinced that equal suffrage is proper than I used to be when we debated the question in our schools.”

Surely, Lillian, the advocate for women, for libraries, for history, and for rural communities, smiled when she received that let-

ter. She died on October 10, 1926, at her mother’s home in Gainesville and was buried in the family cemetery at Sivells Bend. Coincidentally, it was the twelfth anniversary of the opening of the Carnegie Library in Gainesville which occurred on October 10, 1914.

On March 9, 2024, the Rebecca Crockett Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will honor the memory of Lillian Gunter with a Women in American History award.



Gainesville Lions Club hosts annual spaghetti dinner – Guests and members of the Gainesville Lions Club are pictured entering the First Baptist Church activity center for dinner. The event featured a meal and country store. The first mission of the Lions Club is to furnish eye glasses to children in need. (The Weekly News Photos)

235th District Court Cases Filed, Decided

COOKE COUNTY – The following cases were filed and decided in the 235th District Court.

Cases Filed

Monica Marie Perez vs. Jan Fernando Perez, divorce.
Teresa Gail Blank vs. Michael Joseph Blank, divorce.
Madison Diane Alford vs. Johnathan Thomas Zielinski, divorce.
Cesar Augusto Ixcotoyac Poz and Manuel Enrique Salguero Rivera vs. Alija Nukic, injury or damage with a motor vehicle.

Naybel Catellano Miranda vs. Osvaldo Luis Montero Rosa, divorce.

Carrie A. Moncier vs. Mark Allen Moncier, divorce.
Kimberli Ann Creswell vs. Blake Mathew Creswell, divorce.
Juana Miriam Esobedo vs. Juan Lopez, divorce.
Carrington Mortgage Services vs. Jesse Rhea Bell, Jacobs Loius Slade and the unknown heirs of Tara Nicole Bell, real property-other real property.
Frances Medina Lopez vs. Johnny Parra Lopez, divorce.

Cooke County et al. vs. Devin Williams and Cheryl L William, tax cases.

Cases Decided

Wells Fargo Bank vs. JPMorgan Bank, final judgment/non-jury, all other civil cases.
Elizabeth Leeann Whittington vs. Charles Boyd Whittington, all other dispositions, divorce.
David Vanvelzer vs. Gursharn Singh Grewal and Alberta LTD and Gary Transport, all other dispositions, injury or damage with a motor vehicle.



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NCTC Regents Approve 2024-25 Tuition, General Use Fee Increases

(Continued from Page 1)

noted the general use fee for in-district enrollment has increased statewide an average of 11 percent in the last ten years.

Miller said in setting a proposed new fee structure, administrators looked at things like the effect a substantial fee increase in fall 2019 may have had on enrollment where the number of students registering for classes declined.

mittee is considering bringing to the board in future meetings.

Dr. Bellows presented a report from the Board of Trustee Institute conference.

The conference included a briefing about Artificial Intelligence from Josh Wynner of the Aspen Institute, a non-profit think tank.

"He expressed several positive uses for IA with examples," she said. "[He] showed some things that he had developed in just a

few minutes. The audience expressed mixed acceptance of AI throughout really the entire conference."

The board must ultimately decide how it will address AI issues.

"Our board will need to determine if they, as a board, want to take the position of active involvement or passive gate keepers with the administration leading the charge on our direction of change, competition and

fundings," he said. "This year, we're at almost \$16 million. Yes, there has been a slight increase in our appropriation for this year, but as much as anything there has been a radical change in how we are paid. It used to be ten payments that were spread out during ten of the 12 months during the year. Now, we get half of it in October. We get a quarter of it in February, so here we are, the end of February, half-

way through the fiscal year. We've already collected 75 percent of our state appropriations... That's a good thing... But that is a word of warning for you and for me as we go through these next few months. It may look like we're losing money... because our balances are going down."

He said administrators believe NCTC is well prepared for the state's adjusted allocation schedule.

In addition, the cash flow report is positive for cash available, Miller said.

Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Debbie Sharp reported on efforts to help students with emergency assistance including textbook funding. She talked about the upcoming NCTC Centennial Gala, the employee giving campaign planned for April 15-22, Red River Promise, fundraiser programs and community service.

Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management Melinda Carroll's report indicated the most recent enrollment data has 7,161 unduplicated students.

"This number that I just mentioned is a 3.2 percent increase compared to last spring," she said. "It does really just represent a positive trend in the direction we're wanting to look toward in the future."

She also noted 81 percent of students are paying in-state or out-of-district rates of \$185 per semester credit hour.

Consent agenda items approved were minutes of the January 29 board meeting, the second quarter 2023-24 investment report and consideration of personnel.

The board discussed revisions to the Texas Association of School Board Update 46 and approved the update with changes regarding a physician's note to return to work. The policy will be updated to reflect "primary care provider" in place of "doctor."

All board of regents members were present for the meeting.



April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month - County officials and staff members from Court-appointed Special Advocates of North Texas stand outside the Cooke County Courthouse in support of CASA of North Texas. Staff members set up the organization's annual display April 1 and the display will continue through April 30. The shoe signs are reminders of the children served last year by CASA. Pictured, left to right, on the left side of the sign are County Clerk Pam Harrison, Meagan Arrington, 235th District Judge Janelle Haverkamp, CASA executive director Dora Erwin, County Auditor Shelly Atteberry. On the right side, back row, are County Judge John Roane, Amber Martindale, Precinct 4 Commissioner Matt Sicking. Front row, left to right, are Gail Wilde, CASA Community Outreach & Operations Manager Amberly Caldwell, Amberly Sanborn, District Clerk Marci Gilbert and Administrative Assistant Chelsea Terry. (The Weekly News Photo)

Wallace said, "And that comparative analysis is in two or three buckets. First of all, we compare ourselves to equally sized colleges, and that's a hard comparison because we are far less on the tax revenue side than they are and that keeps in-district down. We also look at regional, we look at North Texas colleges. Well, that's also a very difficult comparison because you have very wealthy, some of the wealthiest in the state of Texas compared to [colleges in less wealthy districts.]"

Wallace said he doesn't believe a small tuition increase will drive students away, especially students who are eligible for Pell grants.

"I don't think the average student necessarily is thinking in terms of \$5 is going to break me," he said.

Miller said more focus will be placed on the general use fee "moving forward."

He also noted NCTC changed its dual credit fees last year due to comply with HB 8.

"If we wanted to participate in the state reimbursement system we had to meet certain criteria - it's no fees and maximum of \$55 tuition," Miller said. "So that's why those are set and we're keeping those."

The regents also voted to increase the residence hall room and meal rate by \$100 for 2024-25. The increase is linked to a hike in food prices, Miller said. He also noted most of the students who live in the dorms are student athletes on scholarships.

The board also agreed to accept the Pearson PTE Academic Exam for international students.

In his chancellor's report, Dr. Brent Wallace announced the names of NCTC student athletes named to the NTCAC All-Academic Team.

He also noted the NCTC music department was highlighted in the February edition of the Texas Jazz Educators Association newsletter and reminded the regents the NCTC Centennial gala is set for April 6.

Board of Regents Chair Karla Metzler presented the executive committee report. She said the committee discussed HB 8, enrollment, various programs the com-

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